

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

James 4:3
Lesson #27
Healing Prayer
09/05/2021

Jesus and Healing

1. Healing Prayer was a big part of Jesus' ministry.

(37 incidents in the NT)



1

Miracles in Acts

TEXT	TYPE OF	PERFORMED BY
2:43	Sign	The twelve
3:67	Healing	Peter & John
5:12	Sign	The twelve
5:15-16	Healing	Peter
5:19	Release from prison	Angel
6:8	Sign	Stephen
8:6	Sign	Philip
9:40-41	Resurrection	Peter
12:7	Release from prison	Angel
13:11	Blinded	Jesus
14:3	Sign	Paul & Barnabas
14:9-10	Healing	Paul
16:18	Exorcism	Paul
19:11-12	Healing & exorcism	Paul
20:9-10	Resurrection	Paul
23:11	Appearance of Christ	God
27:23	Appearance of angel	God
28:5	Immune to poison	God
28:8	Healing	Paul
28:9	Healing	Paul

2. Healing prayer was a part of the Apostles' ministry.

Acts 2:43

"And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place **through the apostles.**"

2

3. Healing power was a gift given to the church.

1 Corinthians 12

"28 And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then **gifts of healings**, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues."

But there is very **little instruction** for its use and **few examples** of its practice outside the Apostles and their close associates in Acts.

3

Healing ministry today



4. Healing ministry is a popular but controversial part of Christian ministry today.

4

A popular teaching on healing prayer

✓ Sickness is of **Satan** not God.

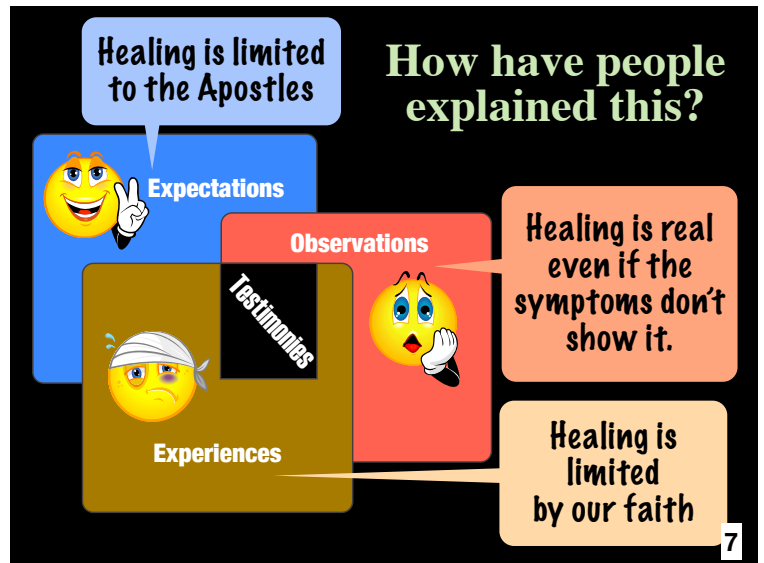
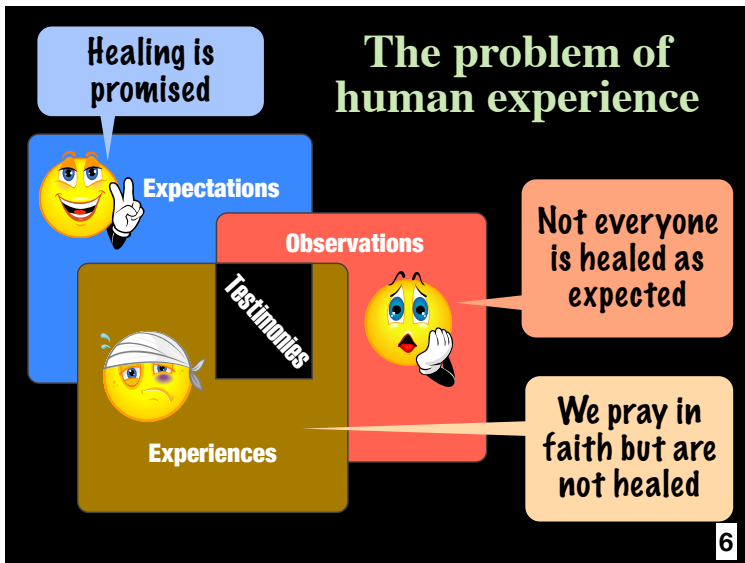
✓ God's **love** for His people assures their healing.

✓ God's **promises** assure their healing.

✓ Experience of God's healing is only limited by their **faith**.

✓ Those who criticize this teaching are **robbing** saints of God's blessed inheritance, joy, and peace.

5



The problem of Biblical teaching

- ✓ Illness is linked to Death, the **fulfillment** of God's promise to all who are in Adam.
- ✓ God's promise of deliverance, is not healing now but in a coming **resurrection**.
- ✓ The peace and power of God are offered **in the midst of suffering** more than through removal from it.
- ✓ Physical healing is not a salve or solution but a **sign** of authority and the Gospel message.
- ✓ Those who ignore this teaching are **exchanging** the Word & Way of the Cross for the world's temporal values.

8

Three things we should know about healing prayer.

1. Its relationship to Christ's atonement.

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 spiritual curse of sin is gone.
- **Present** - The power of sin is broken.
- **Future** - The resurrection removes sin.

9

Healing prayer (like Christ's resurrection) is a **"sign"** indicating Christ's authority over sin and death.

Matthew 9:6

"5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, and walk'? 6 But **in order that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins**' — then He said to the paralytic — 'Rise, take up your bed, and go home.' 7 And he rose, and went home."

Healing prayer is only temporary and insufficient (not an end in itself).

10

John 20

"30 Many other **signs** therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 **but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.**"

Healing prayer is a part of Jesus credentials as the Messiah.

11

Three things we should know about healing prayer.

2. Its relationship to our heart and God's.

Psalms 37:4

“Delight yourself in the Lord,
and He will give you
the desires of your heart.”

“**the desires of your heart**” = a **peace** this world
cannot give or take away.

“**Delight yourself in the Lord**” = be **in sync** with His
Spirit, values, priorities, etc.

“**He will give you**” = God can **satisfy** our deepest
desires and the world cannot.

12

**God's Spirit knows the desire of our heart
and syncs our anxiety with His agenda.**

Romans 8

“²⁶ And in the same way the Spirit also helps our
weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we
should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us
with groanings too deep for words; ²⁷ and He
who searches the hearts knows what the mind of
the Spirit is, because **He intercedes for the
saints according to the will of God.** ²⁸ And we
know that God causes all things to work
together for good to those who love God, to those
who are called **according to His purpose.**”

13

**The key to healing prayer is not our “faith”
so much as being in sync with God's will.**

1 John 5

“¹⁴ And 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.”

1 John 5 (paraphrase)

“¹⁴ We can have confidence that God grants
our requests when they are in sync with His
Kingdom's purpose, priorities, principles,
plan, etc.”

14

**God's will is found on the far side
of our renewed mind.**

Romans 12

“¹ I urge you therefore, brethren, by the
mercies of God, to present your bodies a **living
and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which
is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do
not be conformed to this world, but be
transformed by the renewing of your mind,
that you may prove what the will of God is,
that which is good and acceptable and perfect.”

John 3

“²⁹ . . . So this joy of mine has been made full.
³⁰ He must increase, but **I must decrease.**”

15

**As “living sacrifices”
we don't call the shots,
just raise the subject.**

1 Peter 5

“⁶ Therefore humble yourselves under the
mighty hand of God, so that He may exalt
you at the proper time, ⁷ having **cast all
your anxiety on Him**, because He cares
about you.”



**God asks for our cares
not our counsel or
commands as to how
He should respond.**

16

Three things we should know about healing prayer.

3. Its relationship to the Way of the Cross.

1 Corinthians 15

“⁴² (this physical body) is sown a **perishable**
body, it is raised an imperishable body; ⁴³ it is
sown in **dishonor**, it is raised in glory; it is
sown in **weakness**, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is
sown a **natural** body, it is raised a spiritual
body. . . . ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth,
earthy; the second man is from heaven. . . . ⁵⁰
Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood
cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does
the perishable inherit the imperishable.”

17

John 15:16

"You did not choose me, but I chose you, and appointed you, that you should **go and bear fruit**, (not live the American dream), and that your fruit should remain, that **whatever you ask** of the Father in my name, He may give to you."

As ambassadors for Christ we have his authority to ask anything that is in sync with God's values and priorities (not ours).

James 4:3

"You ask and do not receive, because you ask with so that you may **spend it on your pleasures**."

18

James 4

"3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with **wrong motives**, so that you may spend it on **your pleasures**. 4 You adulteresses, do you not know that **friendship with the world** is hostility toward God?"

- **Why** would God not always grant our requests to remove our trials?
- Could it be that He knows we will see our healing as a gift for our pleasure more than a **sign** for His purpose.
- Could it be that He knows we might, like ancient Israel and Corinth, be tempted to **worship the gift** and not the Giver.

1 Corinthians 1:18-4:21

19

The Golden Calf is not unique to Israel.

God's gifts & signs can become idols.



20

As Aliens, we must abstain from worldly perspectives, priorities, and passions.

1 Peter 2:11

"I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul."



21

A theology of death and suffering

Way of this World

Hope is in this world

Way of the Kingdom

Hope is beyond this world

Baptism

moves our reference from this world to God's kingdom.

The Way of the Cross

is the normal way God calls us to reflect the life of Christ in this world.

Signs and Wonders

can be a temporary change in circumstances but more so a change in perspective and attitude.

22

1 Corinthians 1

"26 For consider your calling, brethren, that there were not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble; 27 but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to shame the wise, and God has chosen the **weak** (Jas.5:14 "sick") things of the world to shame the things which are strong,"

God chooses to bless those who are not blessed by the world's standards - not by changing their outward condition but by giving them power in and through their weaknesses to mock the world.

23

Paul's testimony is an example.

2 Corinthians 12

"7 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! 8 Concerning this **I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.** 9 And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness." . . . 10 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.**"

**Paul's thorn was both
from Satan and an instrument for God.**

24

Bodily illness was referenced by Paul without surprise or apology.

1 Timothy 5:23

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

2 Timothy 4:20

"but Trophimus I left **sick** at Miletus."

Galatians 4

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

25

**What looks like
a great defeat**



**can be a
great victory.**

26

James 1;2

"2 Consider it all joy, my brethren, **when you encounter various trials;**"

1 Peter 3:21

"For you have been **called for this purpose**, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,"

1 Peter 4

"1 Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, **arm yourselves also with the same purpose**, . . . 12 Beloved, **do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you**, which comes upon you for your testing, **as though some strange thing were happening to you;** 13 but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing,"

27

Lessons for us

- **Healing prayer is not about our comfort.** It is about a witness to the resurrection hope.
- **Take our baptism seriously** - We are aliens in this world and ambassadors for Christ.
- Know yourself, accept yourself, **get over yourself**, and give yourself - Jesus came for the purpose of freeing us from this body of death unto a hope through resurrection with Christ.

- **Should we pray for healing - Yes!**

But from what?

- Bring our anxieties to God, not our agenda for His response.

28



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