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*This is the 1<sup>st</sup> edition. October 2009.  
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# **Part 1**

# **Healing Principles and Practices**

## Principles and Practices

Reading through all the scriptures pertaining to healing in the gospels and Acts is a pretty amazing exercise to do – I am sure you will enjoy doing it the following pages. Faith comes from hearing and hearing the word of God so prepare to get full of faith! I have noted the prevalent principles and practices of healing to be as follows:

**Certifies Lordship:** healing certifies the resurrection, lordship, glory and the message of Jesus. It is part of the kingdom of God being near. Proclamation is accompanied by demonstration.

**Willing:** God is always willing to heal

**Faith:** The importance of faith

**Compassion:** The importance of compassion

**The Name:** The importance of the name of Jesus

**The Cross:** There is a definite link between the cross and healing

**Intimacy:** The importance of intimacy with the Holy Spirit

**Our Authority:** We have been commissioned to heal

**Demonic Sickness:** Sickness is often (always?) from Satan

**Gradual Healing:** Some healings are gradual healings

Matthew	Mark	Luke	John	Acts & Beyond
4v23-25	1v21-28	4v31-37	2v11	1v7f
8v1-17	1v29-34	5v12-16	2v23-24	2v22f
9v1-8	1v40-42	5v17-26	4v43-54	3v4
9v18-34	2v1-12	7v1-10	5v1-15	4v29
10v1,7-8	3v1-5	7v11-17	9v1-41	5v12
15v21-28	3v13-15	7v18-23	11v1-45	8v5f
17v14-21	5v21-43	8v40-56		14v3f
20v29-34	6v1-6	9v37-45		14v8f
21v12-16	6v7-13	10v17-24		19v10f
	6v53-56	13v1-17		20v9f
	7v24-30	17v11-19		28v7f
	7v31-37	18v35-43		
	8v22-26			Jms 5v13f
	9v14-29			Ps 103v3
	10v46-52			
	16v15-20			

### **Mt 4v23-25 Preaching and healing all**

*MT 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. <sup>24</sup> News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them. <sup>25</sup> Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.*

- **Certifies Lordship**
- **Willing**

### **Mt 8v1-4 The leper**

*MT 8:1 When he came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. <sup>2</sup> A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>3</sup> Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy. <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "See that you don't tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."*

- **Willing**

### **Mt 8v5-13 The Centurion's great faith**

*MT 8:5 When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. <sup>6</sup> "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering." <sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him." <sup>8</sup> The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>9</sup> For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." <sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. <sup>11</sup> I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>12</sup> But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>13</sup> Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.*

- **Faith**
- **Willing**

### **Mt 8v14-15 Peter's mother-in-law**

*MT 8:14* When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. <sup>15</sup> He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

- **Willing**

### **Mt 8v16-17 Healing all and fulfilling Isaiah 53**

*MT 8:16* When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. <sup>17</sup> This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."

- **Willing**
- **The Cross**

### **Mt 9v1-8 The Paralytic**

*MT 9:1* Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. <sup>2</sup> Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." <sup>3</sup> At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

*MT 9:4* Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? <sup>5</sup> Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? <sup>6</sup> But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>7</sup> And the man got up and went home. <sup>8</sup> When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to men.

- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Mt 9v18-34 The ruler's daughter and the bleeding woman**

*MT 9:18* While he was saying this, a ruler came and knelt before him and said, "My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live." <sup>19</sup> Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples. <sup>20</sup> Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. <sup>21</sup> She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." <sup>22</sup> Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment. <sup>23</sup> When Jesus entered the ruler's house and saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, <sup>24</sup> he said, "Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep." But they

laughed at him. <sup>25</sup> After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. <sup>26</sup> News of this spread through all that region.

- **Faith**

### **Mt 9v2-31 Two blind men**

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" <sup>28</sup> When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. <sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; <sup>30</sup> and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, "See that no one knows about this." <sup>31</sup> But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.

- **Faith**

### **Mt 9v35-10v1, 7-8 Healing all**

*MT 9:35* Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field."

- **Willing**
- **Compassion**

### **Mt 10v1-7 Giving disciples authority to heal**

*MT 10:1* He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness...<sup>7</sup> As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'<sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

- **Our authority**
- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Mt 15v21-28 The Canaanite Woman**

*MT 15:21 Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>22</sup> A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession." <sup>23</sup> Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." <sup>24</sup> He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." <sup>25</sup> The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. <sup>26</sup> He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." <sup>27</sup> "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." <sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.*

- **Faith**

### **Mt 17v14-21 The father and his son**

*MT 17:14 When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. <sup>15</sup> "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. <sup>16</sup> I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him." <sup>17</sup> "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." <sup>18</sup> Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment. <sup>19</sup> Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" <sup>20</sup> He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you. "*

- **Faith**

### **Mt 20v30-34 Two blind men**

*MT 20:30 Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" <sup>31</sup> The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" <sup>32</sup> Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. <sup>33</sup> "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." <sup>34</sup> Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.*

- **Compassion**
- **Faith**

### **Mt 21v12-16 Cleansing the temple**

*MT 21:12* Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. <sup>13</sup> "It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it a 'den of robbers.' " <sup>14</sup> The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup> But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant. <sup>16</sup> "Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him. "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, " 'From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise' ?"

- **Willing**

### **Mk 1v21-28 In the synagogue**

*MK 1:21* They went to Capernaum, and when the Sabbath came, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed at his teaching, because he taught them as one who had authority, not as the teachers of the law. <sup>23</sup> Just then a man in their synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit cried out, <sup>24</sup> "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!" <sup>25</sup> "Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> The evil spirit shook the man violently and came out of him with a shriek. *MK 1:27* The people were all so amazed that they asked each other, "What is this? A new teaching--and with authority! He even gives orders to evil spirits and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> News about him spread quickly over the whole region of Galilee.

- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Mk 1v29-v34 Peter's mother-in-law**

*MK 1:29* As soon as they left the synagogue, they went with James and John to the home of Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told Jesus about her. <sup>31</sup> So he went to her, took her hand and helped her up. The fever left her and she began to wait on them.

- **Willing**

### **Mk 1v32-33 Healing many**

*Mk 1:32 That evening after sunset the people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered at the door, <sup>34</sup> and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons, but he would not let the demons speak because they knew who he was.*

- **Willing**

### **Mk 1v38-42 The Leper**

*Mk 1:38 Jesus replied, "Let us go somewhere else--to the nearby villages--so I can preach there also. That is why I have come." <sup>39</sup> So he traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and driving out demons. <sup>40</sup> A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>41</sup> Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" <sup>42</sup> Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cured.*

- **Willing**
- **Compassion**

### **Mk 2v3-12 The paralytic and friends**

*Mk 2:3 Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. <sup>4</sup> Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. <sup>5</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." <sup>6</sup> Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, <sup>7</sup> "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>8</sup> Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? <sup>9</sup> Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? <sup>10</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins . . . ." He said to the paralytic, <sup>11</sup> "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>12</sup> He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"*

- **Faith (of friends)**
- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Mk 3v1-5 The man with the shrivelled hand**

*Mk 3:1 Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. <sup>2</sup> Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. <sup>3</sup> Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, "Stand up in front of everyone." <sup>4</sup> Then Jesus asked them, "Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?" But they remained silent. <sup>5</sup> He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. <sup>6</sup> Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.*

- **Willing**

### **Mk 3v13-15 Calling the twelve**

*Mk 3:13 Jesus went up on a mountainside and called to him those he wanted, and they came to him. <sup>14</sup> He appointed twelve--designating them apostles--that they might be with him and that he might send them out to preach <sup>15</sup> and to have authority to drive out demons.*

- **Our Authority**

### **Mk 5v21-43 Jairus and the bleeding woman**

*Mk 5:21 When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. <sup>22</sup> Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet <sup>23</sup> and pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." <sup>24</sup> So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around him. <sup>25</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. <sup>26</sup> She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. <sup>27</sup> When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup> because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." <sup>29</sup> Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. <sup>30</sup> At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" <sup>31</sup> "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" <sup>32</sup> But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup> Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and,*

trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup> He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."

*Mk 5:35* While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?" <sup>36</sup> Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe." He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. <sup>38</sup> When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup> He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." <sup>40</sup> But they laughed at him. After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup> He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). <sup>42</sup> Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. <sup>43</sup> He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.

- **Willing**
- **Faith**

### **Mk 6v1-6 In his hometown**

*Mk 6:1* Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. <sup>2</sup> When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. "Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles!" <sup>3</sup> Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. <sup>4</sup> Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." <sup>5</sup> He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.

- **Faith (lack of)**
- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Mk 6v7-13 Sending out the twelve**

<sup>7</sup> Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. <sup>8</sup> These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff--no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. <sup>9</sup> Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. <sup>10</sup> Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town. <sup>11</sup> And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." <sup>12</sup> They went out and preached that people should repent. <sup>13</sup> They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

- **Our Authority**

### **Mk 6v53-56 Healing all**

*MK 6:53* When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret and anchored there. <sup>54</sup> As soon as they got out of the boat, people recognized Jesus. <sup>55</sup> They ran throughout that whole region and carried the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. <sup>56</sup> And wherever he went--into villages, towns or countryside--they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.

- **Willing**

### **Mk 7v24-30 The Syro-Phoenician Woman**

*MK 7:24* Jesus left that place and went to the vicinity of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know it; yet he could not keep his presence secret. <sup>25</sup> In fact, as soon as she heard about him, a woman whose little daughter was possessed by an evil spirit came and fell at his feet. <sup>26</sup> The woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia. She begged Jesus to drive the demon out of her daughter. <sup>27</sup> "First let the children eat all they want," he told her, "for it is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." <sup>28</sup> "Yes, Lord," she replied, "but even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." <sup>29</sup> Then he told her, "For such a reply, you may go; the demon has left your daughter." <sup>30</sup> She went home and found her child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

- **Faith**

### **Mk 7v31-37 The deaf and mute man**

*Mk 7:31 Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. <sup>32</sup> There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. <sup>33</sup> After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. <sup>34</sup> He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). <sup>35</sup> At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. <sup>36</sup> Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. <sup>37</sup> People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."*

- **Willing**

### **Mk 8v22-26 The blind man**

*Mk 8:22 They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. <sup>23</sup> He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?" <sup>24</sup> He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around." <sup>25</sup> Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. <sup>26</sup>*

- **Willing**
- **Gradual healing**

### **Mk 9v14-29 The father and his son**

*Mk 9:17 A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. <sup>18</sup> Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not." <sup>19</sup> "O unbelieving generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me." <sup>20</sup> So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. <sup>21</sup> Jesus asked the boy's father, "How long has he been like this?" "From childhood," he answered. <sup>22</sup> "It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." <sup>23</sup> "If you can?" said Jesus. "Everything is possible for him who believes." <sup>24</sup> Immediately the*

boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"<sup>25</sup> When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. "You deaf and mute spirit," he said, "I command you, come out of him and never enter him again."<sup>26</sup> The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead."<sup>27</sup> But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.<sup>28</sup> After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"<sup>29</sup> He replied, "This kind can come out only by prayer. "

- **Willing**
- **Compassion**
- **Faith**

### **Mk 10v46-52 Blind Bartimaeus**

*Mk 10:46* Then they came to Jericho. As Jesus and his disciples, together with a large crowd, were leaving the city, a blind man, Bartimaeus (that is, the Son of Timaeus), was sitting by the roadside begging.<sup>47</sup> When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"<sup>48</sup> Many rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!"<sup>49</sup> Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." So they called to the blind man, "Cheer up! On your feet! He's calling you."<sup>50</sup> Throwing his cloak aside, he jumped to his feet and came to Jesus.<sup>51</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."<sup>52</sup> "Go," said Jesus, "your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

- **Willing**
- **Faith**

### **Mk 16v15-20 The Commission**

*Mk 16:15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. <sup>16</sup> Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." <sup>19</sup> After the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, he was taken up into heaven and he sat at the right hand of God. <sup>20</sup> Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.*

- **Our Authority**
- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Lk 4v31-37 Preaching and Power**

*Lk 4:31 Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath began to teach the people. <sup>32</sup> They were amazed at his teaching, because his message had authority. <sup>33</sup> In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an evil spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, <sup>34</sup> "Ha! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are--the Holy One of God!" <sup>35</sup> "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him. <sup>36</sup> All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out!" <sup>37</sup> And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.*

- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Lk 5v12-16 The Leper**

*Lk 5:12 While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." <sup>13</sup> Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" And immediately the leprosy left him. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus ordered him, "Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them." <sup>15</sup> Yet the news about him spread all the more, so that crowds of people came to hear him and to be healed*

of their sicknesses. <sup>16</sup> But Jesus often withdrew to lonely places and prayed.

- **Willing**

### **Lk 5v17-26 The Paralytic and Friends**

*LK 5:17* One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. <sup>18</sup> Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. <sup>19</sup> When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus. <sup>20</sup> When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven." <sup>21</sup> The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" <sup>22</sup> Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? <sup>23</sup> Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?" <sup>24</sup> But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." <sup>25</sup> Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. <sup>26</sup> Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."

- **Faith**
- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Lk 7v1-10 The Centurion's Servant**

*LK 7:1* When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. <sup>2</sup> There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. <sup>3</sup> The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. <sup>4</sup> When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this, <sup>5</sup> because he loves our nation and has built our synagogue." <sup>6</sup> So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: "Lord, don't trouble yourself, for I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. <sup>7</sup> That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed. <sup>8</sup> For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my

servant, 'Do this,' and he does it." <sup>9</sup> When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, "I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel." <sup>10</sup> Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

- **Faith**

### **Lk 7v11-17 The Widow at Nain**

*LK 7:11* Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. <sup>12</sup> As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out--the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. <sup>13</sup> When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."

<sup>14</sup> Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" <sup>15</sup> The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. <sup>16</sup> They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." <sup>17</sup> This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country.

- **Compassion**
- **Willing (taking initiative)**

### **Lk 7v18-23 John the Baptist's question**

*LK 7:18* John's disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, <sup>19</sup> he sent them to the Lord to ask, "Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?" <sup>20</sup> When the men came to Jesus, they said, "John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, 'Are you the one who was to come, or should we expect someone else?' " <sup>21</sup> At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. <sup>22</sup> So he replied to the messengers, "Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cured, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is preached to the poor. <sup>23</sup> Blessed is the man who does not fall away on account of me."

- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Lk 8v40-56 Jairus' Daughter and the Bleeding Woman**

*LK 8:40 Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. <sup>41</sup> Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house <sup>42</sup> because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying. As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. <sup>43</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. <sup>44</sup> She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. <sup>45</sup> "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." <sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." <sup>47</sup> Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. <sup>48</sup> Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."*

*LK 8:49 While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher any more." <sup>50</sup> Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed." <sup>51</sup> When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother. <sup>52</sup> Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep." <sup>53</sup> They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. <sup>54</sup> But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" <sup>55</sup> Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. <sup>56</sup> Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.*

- **Willing**
- **Faith**

### **Lk 9v37-45 The Convulsing Boy**

*LK 9:37* The next day, when they came down from the mountain, a large crowd met him. <sup>38</sup> A man in the crowd called out, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son, for he is my only child. <sup>39</sup> A spirit seizes him and he suddenly screams; it throws him into convulsions so that he foams at the mouth. It scarcely ever leaves him and is destroying him. <sup>40</sup> I begged your disciples to drive it out, but they could not." <sup>41</sup> "O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you and put up with you? Bring your son here." <sup>42</sup> Even while the boy was coming, the demon threw him to the ground in a convulsion. But Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, healed the boy and gave him back to his father. <sup>43</sup> And they were all amazed at the greatness of God. While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, <sup>44</sup> "Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men." <sup>45</sup> But they did not understand what this meant. It was hidden from them, so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it.

- **Faith**

### **Lk 10v17-24 The Seventy-Two**

*LK 10:17* The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name." <sup>18</sup> He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup> I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. <sup>20</sup> However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." <sup>21</sup> At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. <sup>22</sup> "All things have been committed to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is except the Father, and no one knows who the Father is except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him." <sup>23</sup> Then he turned to his disciples and said privately, "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see. <sup>24</sup> For I tell you that many prophets and kings wanted to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it."

- **Our Authority**

### **Lk 13v10-17 The bent-over woman**

*LK 13:10 On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, <sup>11</sup> and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. <sup>12</sup> When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." <sup>13</sup> Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. <sup>14</sup> Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, "There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath." <sup>15</sup> The Lord answered him, "You hypocrites! Doesn't each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? <sup>16</sup> Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?" <sup>17</sup> When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.*

- **Willing (taking initiative)**
- **Compassion**
- **Demonic sickness**

### **Lk 17v11-19 The Ten Lepers**

*LK 17:11 Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup> As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup> and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" <sup>14</sup> When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup> He threw himself at Jesus' feet and thanked him--and he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> Jesus asked, "Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine? <sup>18</sup> Was no one found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?" <sup>19</sup> Then he said to him, "Rise and go; your faith has made you well."*

- **Faith**
- **Gradual healing**

### **Lk 18v35-43 The Blind Man**

*LK 18:35 As Jesus approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. <sup>36</sup> When he heard the crowd going by, he asked what was happening. <sup>37</sup> They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." <sup>38</sup> He called out, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>39</sup> Those who led the way rebuked him and told him to be quiet, but he shouted all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" <sup>40</sup> Jesus stopped and ordered the man to be brought to him. When he came near, Jesus asked him, <sup>41</sup> "What do you want me to do for you?" "Lord, I want to see," he replied. <sup>42</sup> Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." <sup>43</sup> Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.*

- **Willing**
- **Faith**

### **Jn 2v11 The first miracle**

*JN 2:11 This, the first of his miraculous signs, Jesus performed at Cana in Galilee. He thus revealed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him.*

- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Jn 2v23-25 Miracles causing belief**

*JN 2:23 Now while he was in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, many people saw the miraculous signs he was doing and believed in his name. <sup>24</sup> But Jesus would not entrust himself to them, for he knew all men. <sup>25</sup> He did not need man's testimony about man, for he knew what was in a man.*

- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Jn 4v43-54 The Royal Official's son**

*JN 4:43 After the two days he left for Galilee. <sup>44</sup> (Now Jesus himself had pointed out that a prophet has no honor in his own country.) <sup>45</sup> When he arrived in Galilee, the Galileans welcomed him. They had seen all that he had done in Jerusalem at the Passover Feast, for they also had been there. <sup>46</sup> Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. <sup>47</sup> When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. <sup>48</sup> "Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." <sup>49</sup> The royal*

official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." <sup>50</sup> Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed). <sup>51</sup> While he was still on the way, his servants met him with the news that his boy was living. <sup>52</sup> When he inquired as to the time when his son got better, they said to him, "The fever left him yesterday at the seventh hour." <sup>53</sup> Then the father realized that this was the exact time at which Jesus had said to him, "Your son will live." So he and all his household believed. <sup>54</sup> This was the second miraculous sign that Jesus performed, having come from Judea to Galilee.

- **Faith**
- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Jn 5v1-15 The Pool of Bethsaida**

*JN 5:1* Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. <sup>3</sup> Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. <sup>5</sup> One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. <sup>6</sup> When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" <sup>7</sup> "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." <sup>8</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." <sup>9</sup> At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, <sup>10</sup> and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat." <sup>11</sup> But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.'" <sup>12</sup> So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?" <sup>13</sup> The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there. <sup>14</sup> Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." <sup>15</sup> The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.

- **Willing**

### **Jn 9v1-41 The blind man and his testimony**

*JN 9:1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup> His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup> "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. <sup>4</sup> As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup> While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup> Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. <sup>7</sup> "Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. <sup>8</sup> His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup> Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." <sup>10</sup> "How then were your eyes opened?" they demanded. <sup>11</sup> He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." <sup>12</sup> "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. <sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. <sup>14</sup> Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath. <sup>15</sup> Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner do such miraculous signs?" So they were divided. <sup>17</sup> Finally they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup> The Jews still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. <sup>19</sup> "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?" <sup>20</sup> "We know he is our son," the parents answered, "and we know he was born blind. <sup>21</sup> But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for already the Jews had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Christ would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup> That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup> A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup> He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" <sup>26</sup> Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup> He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples, too?" <sup>28</sup>*

Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses!<sup>29</sup> We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from."<sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes."<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly man who does his will.<sup>32</sup> Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."<sup>34</sup> To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"<sup>36</sup> "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."<sup>37</sup> Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you."<sup>38</sup> Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him.<sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind."<sup>40</sup> Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?"<sup>41</sup> Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.

- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Jn 11v1-53 Lazarus**

*JN 11:1* Now a man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.<sup>2</sup> This Mary, whose brother Lazarus now lay sick, was the same one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair.<sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick."<sup>4</sup> When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it."<sup>5</sup> Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.<sup>6</sup> Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.<sup>7</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."<sup>8</sup> "But Rabbi," they said, "a short while ago the Jews tried to stone you, and yet you are going back there?"<sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? A man who walks by day will not stumble, for he sees by this world's light.<sup>10</sup> It is when he walks by night that he stumbles, for he has no light."<sup>11</sup> After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up."<sup>12</sup> His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better."<sup>13</sup> Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep.<sup>14</sup> So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead,<sup>15</sup> and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."<sup>16</sup> Then Thomas (called

*Didymus) said to the rest of the disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." 17 On his arrival, Jesus found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. 18 Bethany was less than two miles from Jerusalem, 19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.*

*20 When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. 21 "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. 22 But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask." 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." 24 Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; 26 and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" 27 "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world." 28 And after she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary aside. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is asking for you." 29 When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to him. 30 Now Jesus had not yet entered the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. 31 When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her, supposing she was going to the tomb to mourn there. 32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. 34 "Where have you laid him?" he asked. "Come and see, Lord," they replied. 35 Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"*

*37 But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" 38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 "Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days." 40 Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?" 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."*

*43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." 45 Therefore many of the Jews who had*

come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. <sup>46</sup> But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. <sup>47</sup> Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. <sup>48</sup> If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." <sup>49</sup> Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! <sup>50</sup> You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." <sup>51</sup> He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, <sup>52</sup> and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. <sup>53</sup>

- **Certifies Lordship**
- **Compassion**
- **Faith**

### **Acts 1 Receiving power**

*AC 1:7* He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

- **Our Authority**
- **Intimacy**

### **Acts 2**

*AC 2:22* "Men of Israel, listen to this: Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him, as you yourselves know. <sup>23</sup> This man was handed over to you by God's set purpose and foreknowledge; and you, with the help of wicked men, put him to death by nailing him to the cross. <sup>24</sup> But God raised him from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.... <sup>31</sup> Seeing what was ahead, he spoke of the resurrection of the Christ, that he was not abandoned to the grave, nor did his body see decay. <sup>32</sup> God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. <sup>33</sup> Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. *V43:* Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Acts 3 Peter and John at the Beautiful Gate**

*V4f: Look at us! Silver & gold I do not have but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk, leap and praise God....and they were all filled with wonder and amazement. V12 Men of Israel, why does this surprise you? Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his servant Jesus.....gospel message...you killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this. By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see. 5v7: By what power or name did you do this?....It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed. Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved. When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus. But since they could see the man who had been healed standing there with them, there was nothing they could say.....everybody in Jerusalem knows that they have done an outstanding miracle, and we cannot deny it.....v21 all the people were praising God for what had happened. For the man who was miraculously healed was over forty years old.*

- **Our Authority**
- **The Name**
- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Acts 4 The Famous Prayer**

*Sovereign Lord...the first 2 requests are: V29: Now Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to (1) speak your word with great boldness. (2) Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. V33: With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus.*

- **Certifies Lordship**
- **The Name**
- **Our Authority**

**Acts 5 Healing all**

*V12 The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. V15 People brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bring their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.*

- **Willing**
- **Our Authority**

**Acts 8 Philip in Samaria**

*V5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city. V15: Simon (the Sorcerer) himself believed and was baptised. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.*

- **Certifies Lordship**
- **Our Authority**

**Acts 14 Paul and Barnabas in Iconium**

*V3 So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there (Iconium), speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders.*

- **Certifies Lordship**

**Acts 14 Paul and Barnabas in Lystra**

*V8 In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, 'Stand up on your feet!' At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.*

- **Faith**
- **Certifies Lordship**

### **Acts 19 Paul in Ephesus**

*V10 Hall of Tyrannus – Proclamation. V11 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them - Demonstration.*

- **Certifies Lordship**
- **Our Authority**

### **Acts 20 Paul pulling an all-nighter**

*Paul preaching long into the night... V9 When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. 'Don't be alarmed' he said. 'He's alive'.*

### **Acts 28 Paul on Malta**

*V7 There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.*

### **James 5**

*JAS 5:13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. <sup>14</sup> Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a man just like us. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. <sup>18</sup> Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.*

### **Ps 103v3**

*I am the Lord who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases*

## **Part 2**

# **Great Articles on Healing**

## **FIRSTLINE**

### **TERRY VIRGO**

I have wondered very seriously about the appropriateness of publishing an issue on the subject of healing. We are such novices. Our experience is so limited. There are so many mysteries. So much emotion can be involved in the subject because of the sufferings of those not healed and the related anguish involved.

But the point arises, when will we be qualified? When will we feel we know it all? When will anyone experience 100% success? Paul prayed three times for his thorn in the flesh to be removed but God said that His grace was sufficient (2 Cor. 12:7-9). To be honest, because of the context I sincerely doubt that Paul's thorn had anything to do with sickness. Nevertheless, he did leave Trophimus behind sick (2 Tim. 4:20). One would expect he probably prayed for his healing.

#### **Only experts may speak?**

The fact is that we often teach on subjects that we rarely feel thoroughly qualified to address. Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones published a book *Preaching and Preachers*, but claimed that only twice in his life did he really feel that he preached, and on both occasions found that he was actually dreaming! (Having had the privilege of hearing him on many occasions, I would have to say that he was not a good judge of his own preaching!).

I remember stumbling on a tape by A W Tozer on the holiness of God. I steeled myself for the challenge that I would inevitably encounter by listening to the great man, but was disarmed by his opening remarks that anybody who set himself to speak about God's holiness was a fool! Which of us is truly qualified to address any theme with its roots in the majesty and mystery of God and His ways?

#### **What are our fathers saying?**

I have been personally challenged by one of our young pastors in the UK who has observed our recent breakthrough in the experience of healing and our public exhortations to 'go for it'. He asked where should he look for our theology on the theme and went on to say, 'We need to know what our fathers are saying or we shall look elsewhere for insight and a basis for faith.'

Of course, there is nothing wrong with looking elsewhere, but certainly it is no time for us to keep silent about such a theme. We certainly have

some conviction and, for us, unprecedented success. We hear news of people being healed almost weekly, which is something we have never experienced before. You will find testimonies scattered through this magazine but they are just a selection of many more that have come to our attention. We could fill a magazine with testimonies.

Having said that, we live in a fallen world and the perfect has not yet come (1 Cor. 13:10). Life is full of unanswered mysteries and the book of Job instructs us that there is an unseen world, and unperceived battles are being fought and victories won that are far from obvious on the surface. God is greatly glorified not only by robust faith as we see breakthroughs but also by our submissive trust when nothing seems to be happening.

### **A two-edged sword**

Hebrews 11 includes the enigmatic opposites that by faith some 'escaped the edge of the sword' and by faith some 'were put to death by the sword' (Heb. 11: 34, 37). Endeavours to oversimplify God's ways are doomed to failure. Nevertheless, this is no reason to throw in the towel and retreat. God is looking for faith.

God is inviting us to engage with Him and to learn lessons. He is undoubtedly glorified by many who refuse to be offended by their lack of healing who, like Job, resist the counsel to turn against God in bitterness and anguish. Some of us have had the privilege of being close to a man such as Frank Gamble whose life brought great glory to God but whose body remained frail and dependent on a wheelchair until the Lord called him home. He never stopped praying or trusting, and he actually experienced several miracles of deliverance during his years of suffering and limitation.

I know that Frank himself would have encouraged us to pursue God for further breakthrough in the matter of healings, signs and wonders. Actually, honest submission to Scripture leaves us with no choice. Our gospel was never meant to be in Word only but also in demonstration of power.

### **Amazed at their unbelief**

God delights in faith. Jesus seems staggered at the disciples' unbelief when he asks, 'How is it that you have no faith?' (Mark 4:40). In Mark 6:6 it says, 'He was amazed at their unbelief' (my italics). In Mark 9:19 he said, 'O unbelieving generation, how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you?' Was Jesus having a bad day? Was he

demonstrating some true humanity by getting fed up? No! Jesus was innocent and perfect, the exact representation of God. He was wholly consistent with his Father who complained in Numbers 14:27, 'How long shall I bear with this evil congregation ...?' and 'How long will this people spurn Me? How long will they not believe Me?' (Num. 14:11 NASB). Jesus was weary of his unbelieving followers. He could not be indifferent or complacent. He could not passively accommodate their failure. As J I

Packer says, 'Moral indifference would be an imperfection in God.' When Jesus rebuked their unbelief it was a revelation of his heart. He was not like an indulgent uncle or grandfather. He expected better from them! He wanted better from them! He found their unbelief unacceptable! His anger was pure, holy and appropriate! If their unbelief was not worthy of his reproach, Jesus would not have given it.

Jesus served his Father with red hot zeal and holy passion. He looked for the same in his disciples. When, in Mark 9:28, the disciples asked, 'Why couldn't we drive it out?' Jesus replied, 'This kind can come out only by prayer' (Mark. 9:29). Notice that he didn't say, 'This kind only comes out if it is God's will.' He said that they only come out if you pray. If you pray it will happen. If you don't it won't! Jesus could be very scary sometimes! The fact is that Jesus trained these feeble followers and made them into great disciples. What is a disciple? Surely he is a learner. So, with our L-plates securely attached, let's take to the road!

## **EXPECTING THE MIRACULOUS**

### **LEX LOIZIDES**

David, who could barely see, miraculously regains his sight! Ken amazes us by saying that as he was listening something adjusted in his back and a 50yr long back condition was healed! Peter, a man with three severed ligaments, leaves a telephone message saying that what doctors had told him would take surgery has been healed in seconds!

Supernatural healings like these are happening regularly! We need to understand from Scripture that they are wonderful expressions of God's grace that authenticate the gospel message.

Sometimes people label you 'charismatic' because you have a certain personality type: You're an extrovert; you're someone who enjoys the volume on 'LOUD'; you don't appreciate the hallowed ground of centuries of tradition. However, I'm convinced that I am a charismatic not because of my nature, but because of the nature of God! I believe in miracles because I believe in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity!

The word 'Trinity' does not appear in the Bible. It is theological shorthand to describe that the One true God consists in three persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The reality of the Trinity pulsates through the whole Bible like the heart beating. You're not always conscious of your heart beating but when you check for a pulse you are immediately aware of its consistency. So it is with the Trinity in Scripture. The Holy Spirit is to be obeyed, trusted, loved and worshipped because he is God. He is no less God than the Father or the Son. It is through him that great acts of God take place.

Those who have been converted in churches like ours may be puzzled as to why 'non-charismatic' brothers and sisters struggle with the presence of supernatural phenomena in Christian ministry when it is so prominent in the Bible. Our openness to the supernatural is not emotionalism; our understanding and our expectation of God acting supernaturally is rooted in the being and character of God – not in us!

Even aside from manifestations like healing, every revelation is essentially supernatural. In every conversion there is a divine interaction; as Spurgeon said, 'a putting forth of divine power'. So, as we consider the nature of Christian ministry, the question really is, 'How

does God authenticate His Word?’ or, perhaps even to ask, ‘How does God establish orthodoxy?’

### **Moses**

God’s commissioning of Moses to lead the people of Israel out of Egypt was overtly supernatural. The first sign was fire in a bush that wouldn’t burn out (Exod. 3 and 4). Then God audibly spoke to him. In a stunning piece of biographical realism, the Bible records that Moses resisted God’s call five times! So don’t be discouraged if, on the threshold of a new season of ministry, you feel that you need convincing! Look at how God deals with him:

#### **Objection 1: ‘But ... who am I?’**

God’s Answer: ‘But I will be with you!’ (Isn’t this surely God’s best promise to us?)

#### **Objection 2: ‘But ... if they ask, “What is His name?” what shall I say?’**

God’s Answer: ‘I am Who I am! I am the God of your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.’ God reminded Moses of His dealings with Abraham and the fathers – so He pinned His Name to previous (historical) experience.

#### **Objection 3: ‘But ... they won’t believe me! They’ll say, “God didn’t appear to you!”’**

God’s Answer: ‘Throw your stick on the ground!’ And it turned into a snake ‘that they may believe that the Lord, the God of their fathers ... has appeared to you’. Then his hand also became leprous! Then, just in case they still wouldn’t believe, God gave Moses a back-up promise that if he took some water from the Nile it would turn to blood. All unashamedly supernatural.

#### **Objection 4: ‘But ... I’m not a very good speaker!’**

God’s Answer: ‘Who made the mouth?’

#### **Objection 5: ‘Oh ... can’t you just please send somebody else?’**

God’s Answer: The text says that ‘the anger of the Lord was kindled against Moses’, yet He graciously offered Aaron to him as the primary speaker. So Moses finally feels he has enough assurance to attempt what God has asked him to do.

**Note three things:**

1. The incredible patience of God in the way He deals with Moses' reluctance. Stunning! Similarly, God doesn't accept our reluctance to step out in faith either! Fears, vulnerability, nerves – none of these seem to deter Him from leading us into more of the supernatural. There's a world to be reached and suffering to be relieved.
2. Moses' reluctance should encourage everyone who feels he is an unlikely candidate to minister the miraculous. But if God is speaking to you, turn aside to Him and hear His voice.
3. When God desired to 'authorise' His purpose, He decided (not Moses) to use supernatural means. Who thought of a stick becoming a snake? Why the leprous hand? Or water becoming blood? Why a demonstration of the Spirit's power rather than wise and persuasive words? God's desire is that our faith rests not on men's wisdom but on His power (see 1 Cor. 2:4-5).

**Elijah**

One of many miracles in Elijah's life was his triumph over the alternative religion of his day, the worship of Baal (1 Kings 18).

The people and the prophets of Baal gathered at Mount Carmel. Elijah challenged them, 'If the Lord is God, follow Him. But if Baal, then follow him.' So again the issue is, 'Is the God of the Bible really God?' Elijah is seeking to bring Israel back to the true God. The prophets of Baal have a bull that needs to be supernaturally ignited and sacrificed. So does Elijah. The prophets of Baal were unable to produce supernatural fire. 'No one answered; no one paid attention' (v29).

Then Elijah took twelve stones and built an altar 'in the Name of the Lord'. He was saying, 'This is the God of our fathers. I am re-establishing orthodoxy this day!' Then 'the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt offering ... And when the people saw it, they fell on their faces and said, "The Lord He is God!"' (vv38-39).

It may not be as dramatic as Mount Carmel but it is undeniably Biblical to say that God authenticates His word by supernatural means. Even the non-charismatic preacher goes home thrilled when he learns that as he preached God worked in the heart of a hearer and brought him to Christ!

### **Some New Testament encouragements**

1. Jesus regularly performed miracles. Jesus granted sight to the blind and healed the sick. He even raised the dead. 'Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness ...' (Matt. 4:23-24). The encouragement as we consider moving in the miraculous and, frankly, the challenge, comes as he tells us to continue in the same style of ministry. He said, 'I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing' (John 14:12). In certain situations, the answer to the question 'What would Jesus do?' could well be, 'Cast it out!' 'Take authority over it!' 'Lay hands on the sick and they will recover!' Remember, God's desire to act supernaturally is often a clear manifestation of His grace. No wonder He wants to lead us forward in desiring the greater gifts! (1 Cor. 12:31).

2. The early church followed in Jesus' pattern of ministry. No one could have doubted that a major feature of Christian ministry was the miraculous. The book of Acts was not written by any denomination or faction within the church. It is an objective description of the church's growth and ministry.

Acts 5:12 says, 'Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people' (ESV). In fact, the church in Jerusalem, in addition to other roles, became a kind of healing centre (see Acts 5:15-16).

A key passage that helps me as I approach healing meetings is Hebrews 2:3-4, 'This salvation, which was first announced by the Lord, was confirmed to us by those who heard him. God also testified to it by signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.' Certain persons who had actually heard Jesus, were able to say, 'This is the real gospel,' when it was preached by others. We love testimonies in our meetings because they communicate authenticity. Those verses also show me that God is eager to testify through 'signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit'. Our desire for Him to testify in this manner is not a departure from Biblical evangelism.

### **It is in God's nature to do the miraculous**

We cannot change Him – we must change to become more like Him. In fact, because we are made in His image, there is, in that sense, something in our nature (not personality type but likeness to God) that makes us long for Him to move in power. But He promises to move in power because of who He is.

Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones said, 'The great and constant danger is that we should be content with something which is altogether less than that intended for us.' Let's not make that mistake. Feed your mind and heart with promises from His Word that will increase your faith and press on to more adventures in the Spirit! If you need a healing in your body right now, why don't you pray this prayer?

'Dear Lord Jesus, I come to you in faith, believing that you are the God of the Bible; a mighty wonder-working God. Come to me now and release a gift of healing into my body. Come upon me, Holy Spirit. Send your power, say the word, and I will be healed. In Jesus' name, Amen.'

**These Scriptures demonstrate the Holy Spirit's crucial role in God's purposes:**

**In creation**

Gen 1:2, Job 33:4, Ps 104:30.

**In redemption history**

Num 11:17, Judges 6:34, 1 Sam 16:13, Isa 42:1, Zec 4:6, Matt 1:18, 12:28, Luke 4:14, 18, Acts 1:8, 10:45, Eph 3:5, Rev 22:17.

**In the recording of God's Word**

2 Sam 23:2, Zech 7:12, John 14:26, Acts 28:25, 1 Cor 2:12-13, 2 Tim 3:16.

**In prophecy**

Ezek 11:5,24, Luke 1:67, Acts 1:16, 2:17-18, 4:25, 11:28, 19:6, 1 Pet 1:11, 2 Pet 1:21.

**In conversion**

John 3:6-8, Acts 11:24, Rom 2:29, 8:15-16, 1 Cor 6:11, 2 Cor 3:6, 1 Thess 1:5, Titus 3:5, 1 Pet 1:12.

**In miraculous healing**

Acts 10:38, Rom 15:19, 1 Cor 12:9-10, Gal 3:5, Heb 2:4.

## **Christus Victor**

### **Andrew Wilson**

He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, triumphing over them in him (Col. 2:15)

There's only ever been one victory. Literally. In all of history, there has only ever been one contest that you could look back to centuries later and agree it was won, permanently and definitively, by one side. Just one. In millions of attempts.

#### **Empires come and go**

Think about the contenders. The Assyrians beat all their rivals in the eighth century BC, but then lost to the Babylonians in the seventh, who lost to the Persians in the sixth, who got wiped out by the Greeks in the fourth, who crumbled in on themselves in the third, and so on. The Romans crushed all before them for four centuries, but they eventually lost too – just like the Vikings, the Mongols, the Spanish, the British, and everybody since. IBM were dominant for a generation, but then lost to Microsoft, who now look like they might well lose to Apple. England defeated all comers in the 2003 rugby World Cup, and then lost pretty much to everyone. True victory – conquering rivals completely and lastingly – is unheard of.

With one exception. In AD 30, a three-day campaign was waged by God against all of his most powerful enemies, sometimes referred to as 'rulers', 'authorities', 'principalities' and 'powers'. The main confrontation took place on a rubbish dump outside Jerusalem, where God, in his son Jesus, met Satan, sin and death head on. A mocking enemy, who since Eden had been used to humans capitulating to his taunts, was met by a defiant 'Go ahead, make my day' from the Son of God, and within six hours the one-sided battle was over, the victory was triumphantly announced with the words 'It is finished.' On the third day, the victory parade began, as the risen Champion came out of the tomb to the amazement of earth and the applause of heaven. As Paul describes it in Colossians 2:15, God obliterated his enemies in Jesus, took away their armour, and made a public spectacle of them by parading their corpses through the streets.

#### **The stranglehold broken**

The Latin phrase for this – although why theologians continue to use Latin words for this sort of thing is a mystery – is 'Christus Victor', which

means 'Christ the winner', or perhaps 'the Conquering Messiah.' You may remember the opening battle scene of *Gladiator*, where the Romans fight the Barbarian armies of Germania. It is a far from even contest, so vast is the might of Rome, but when the cavalry arrives the Barbarians' fate is sealed, and as the camera pans round the dead bodies, a bloodied Russell Crowe raises high his sword and cries, 'Roma Victor!' The cross was such a moment, only more so, because it still lasts today, sixteen centuries after the collapse of Rome. At Calvary, the stranglehold of sin was so smashed, and the dominion of death so decimated, that all those watching could do nothing but raise high their arms in triumph and cry, 'Christus Victor! Christ has conquered!'

### **The Cross - an act of conquest**

Strangely, considering how often this picture of the gospel appears in Scripture, it is not one that many of us are used to thinking about. In England, we traditionally preach a gospel of individual forgiveness, and a cross that saves us from the wrath of God. This explanation of Jesus' death, of course, is completely true, as you will see from the other articles in this magazine. But there is more to the cross than that. It can be described not just in terms of the law-court, but in terms of the battlefield. We can worship God not just for his act of compassion, but for his act of conquest. And we can focus not just on what Jesus did to us (made us right with God), but on what he did to Satan, sin, and death itself (conquered them utterly). Such an understanding of the cross will not only keep us in line with the Bible, but it will also help us make sense of what Jesus is doing now. 'For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet' (1 Cor. 15:25).

We must be careful not to underplay the victory of Christ. Because we continue to live in a world where the rule of Jesus is not yet seen as it will be – a world where sin continues, and sickness exists, and people die – it is easy to live as if Colossians 2:15 were not true. We can think of the cross as God's opening gambit, the means by which we will defeat Satan rather than the means by which he already has. So everything in our lives, from our evangelism to our growth in personal holiness, becomes a question of completing a victory that has not yet been achieved. A widely-used illustration of this idea presents the cross as like the D-day landings in 1944: the battle is not over, but the result is virtually assured, and all that remains is for us to press on until victory is complete.

That picture can be a helpful one, and I have used it myself in the past. But I think it underplays the picture of *Christus Victor*, Christ the winner.

After all, the New Testament's theology of evangelism, let alone of sanctification, is not based on completing a victory but on recognising one. Paul's exhortations to live holy lives in, for instance, Romans 6:15–23 and Ephesians 5:7–10 are not founded on completing Christ's victory over sin, but on acknowledging it. And Peter's preaching of the gospel in Acts 2:32–36 is not about establishing Jesus' dominion over the nations, but about announcing it.

### **Don't live under a false world view**

As such, the gospel of Christus Victor means that our evangelism is less like defeating the last few battalions of the Axis army, and more like proclaiming the end of the war to the last Japanese soldiers hidden in the Philippine jungle. You may have heard about Lt. Hiroo Onoda, who refused to believe that World War II was over, and remained in hiding from 1945 until 1974, when he was finally reached by a college dropout called Norio Suzuki. He had lived under a false view of the world, pledging allegiance to a long-defeated power, for twenty-nine years. Suzuki proclaimed to him the good news that the war was over (another term for this is 'preaching the gospel'), and Onoda finally brought his life and his behaviour in line with the truth. That proclamation of the truth – that the war is over, that the enemy is defeated, and that all men can now live in the good of the victory of Jesus – is what evangelism is all about.

So if you feel the responsibility of establishing Christ's victory over darkness in the lives of your unbelieving friends, or if you are struggling with whether or not you will ever be able to overcome the ongoing power of sin in your own life, you need to lift your head, and reflect for a while on Christus Victor, the only true winner in the whole of history. In other words: 'Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered' (Rev. 5:5).

## **A JOURNEY INTO HEALING**

### **TERRY VIRGO**

After a while I got used to the pain. I couldn't stand for any length of time without my lower back and sometimes the sciatic nerve in my leg experiencing serious discomfort. I had been to my doctor, who sent me to the hospital. Xrays were taken, which provided no answers.

Next, I visited an osteopath, who explained that my pain was due to my having one leg longer than the other. I have since read in The Times and Readers Digest that 70% of back pain is due to this problem. For a few months, I attended regular sessions for manipulation to try to solve the problem but the pain didn't stop, so I quit going.

#### **The pain completely disappeared**

The glorious day came when a visiting preacher attended my church, clearly described my pain and prayed for me so my shorter leg immediately lengthened and the pain completely disappeared. The following Saturday, I stood for two hours watching Brighton and Hove Albion play football without pain and, as any Brighton fan will tell you, that is a miracle!

Not only was I healed, a number of other people testified to having similar pain and were prayed for. I was encouraged to pray for some who were immediately healed as I had been. From then on, every time I prayed for anyone with a similar problem, they were healed.

Later, I began to have some misgivings, not with my own healing or indeed the healings that were taking place when I prayed, but simply with the rather unusual nature of the healings and also that I rarely prayed for other pains or sicknesses with the same confidence or success. After a while, I dialed down on the subject and hardly prayed for anyone to be healed. Then a series of events released me from my reluctance. A man greeted me when I arrived at Spring Harvest with, 'You're Terry Virgo aren't you? You prayed for my back some years ago. I've never had any pain since.'

A few days later, a neighbour told Wendy that her husband was locked up with back pain and could not move. Wendy told her that I would pray for him, which I did. He was immediately healed. The next day he was digging concrete slabs out of his garden.

I felt that God had freshly commissioned me to pray for the sick and, instead of being confused by the rather strange and narrow area of confidence, I should simply press through it. I immediately began to offer

to pray for people with back problems at the end of nearly every meeting and witnessed scores of people being healed.

One woman immediately testified that she could now reach to put on her own shoes for the first time in 21 years. A man who was preparing to be fitted with a built up shoe to compensate for his shorter leg no longer needed it.

### **A breakthrough**

One day I was laying hands on a number of people at the end of a meeting. Many testified to immediate relief. Then a young man asked for prayer for his knees, both of which were damaged. This was a new frontier for me but I laid hands on his knees and he was immediately healed. He started jumping on and off of chairs to celebrate his new-found freedom.

The next guy said, 'My shoulder blade is broken in three places,' adding that he had a metal plate in his shoulder and experienced severe pain. I laid my hands on him; the pain immediately disappeared.

This represented such a breakthrough that I have since prayed for numerous different sicknesses and pains and have been thrilled to see many healed from things as diverse as arthritic pain, bed-wetting, severe head pain, and shoulder and arms damaged in car accidents. One woman felt all the pain disappear when I prayed for her arm that was in a sling. She removed the sling there and then. All pain had gone. Another left the meeting carrying over her head the walking stick that she had needed prior to prayer. I was thrilled recently when a couple told me that after years of inability to conceive, they had found that after prayer they were now expecting!

I experienced more healings after a meeting at which Rambabu prayed for impartation of healing gifts to all who responded on that particular evening.

### **Do all get healed?**

That is not my experience. One week a woman was healed from ME and wrote to me that she was thrilled to be back on the daily school run and pushing her shopping trolley around the supermarket. A few weeks

later, I prayed with another woman who began to sob after I prayed for her because nothing had happened. What do you do? I told her that I was so sorry. I hate it, but I still feel that I must press on.

Some seem not only to get healed but at the same time have beautiful encounters with the Holy Spirit. I know that when I was healed from my back pain I was also very emotionally moved by the sense of God's amazing kindness and love in healing me. Many people were enduring

far more serious sicknesses and disabilities than I, but I had been freed from my pain. God's personal tenderness toward me seemed amazing. I have seen several shed tears because of the awareness of God's intimate love for them. One man recently wrote to me saying that he was so overcome that he cried like a baby when he was healed.

One girl testified that she was baptised in the Holy Spirit at the same time and subsequently found she was speaking in tongues. Another wrote the most magnificent letter describing her personal encounter with the Lord's love through the whole experience that had transformed her even more than the healing.

### **Wearing L-plates**

The L-plates are most definitely still on, but some things I've learned are: Jesus never prayed for a healing. I have thoroughly searched every healing in the gospels. He spoke, touched, announced or commanded but did not pray. The nearest he came to praying was at Lazarus' grave where he simply thanked his Father that he was always heard. He then commanded Lazarus to come forth. Jesus also said, 'Truly, truly the things I do you shall do also and greater things shall you do because I go to the Father.' I have found this to be the most powerfully encouraging verse.

I have been inspired by watching and listening to Rambabu, Lex Loizides, Adrian Holloway and Rob Rufus. I have been impressed by the Biblical arguments of John Groves' excellent study, which I asked him to include as our Leaders' article in this Magazine.

I have noticed how faith seems to grow among a group of people where healings are happening. As I approached one lady and asked what the problem was, she said, 'I have back pain but I won't have it in a moment.' She was right, she was immediately healed. I have noticed a greater intensity of Holy Spirit power on some occasions where it seems to be 'easier'. One lady testified, 'It's OK, I've just been healed while you

were praying for the others.’ Some people attend a meeting having already prayed and with an expectation that they will be healed. This seems very effective.

I am convinced that faith comes from hearing the Word. Paul reminded the Galatians that miracles had been performed among them through hearing with faith (Gal. 3:5). They must have heard things said that inspired faith. Preachers must speak so as to inspire faith. I know that for many years I have spoken with faith to inspire people to receive the Holy Spirit, and also to be free and released to give large sums of money in faith. I want to learn to do that effectively with regard to healing also.

I have noticed that the English are more cynical than most and that in my experience healings seem to happen more readily, for instance, in the USA.

Some people testify that the full healing seemed to take place a few days after the laying on of hands and not immediately. Two or three people have said that pain has returned after a few days. My counsel has been to tell it to go away again. This seems to work.

I love to enjoy the presence of the Lord Jesus, who promised that he would not leave us as orphans but would himself come to us. All the time I am laying hands on the sick I am aiming to enjoy his presence and make room for the Holy Spirit’s activity.

I have noticed that sometimes I experience a surge of compassion for the sick person that seems to supersede my own personal emotions. This seems to bring with it an urgency and energy in laying hands on the sick person and a greater expectation for healing.

Some ask, ‘Is healing in the atonement?’ Surely all mercy, healing and grace flows from the cross, but the accounts of healings in the New Testament don’t include preaching based on that argument. Although Jesus referred to healing as ‘the children’s bread’ (Matt. 15:26) and therefore accessible and to be hoped for, it does not seem that healing should be regarded as inevitable and merely ‘to be claimed’ as your ‘covenant right’.

Personally, I am much more comfortable to regard healing (among other things) as a demonstration of the presence of the advancing kingdom of Christ, which includes some degree of mystery, since the kingdom is ‘now’ and ‘not yet’. It is present but not yet fully manifest. Sometimes it

seems more present with power. However, we Brits should not see this as an excuse for our characteristic pessimism and unbelief, anticipating an inevitable 'not yet' application.

### **Not a reward for holiness**

Jesus has all authority in heaven and on earth. His name has power. The man at the temple gate was healed through faith in Jesus' name, not through any power or holiness in Peter or John (see Acts 3:12). We tend to think that if we can accumulate some more holiness we will experience more power, but that does not seem to be the Bible way. Power is a gift. It flows from the Lord Jesus. Samson was very powerful but not very holy. I don't say that to encourage carelessness but to discourage our search taking us down the wrong path. Power is evidently not a reward for holiness, nor a proof of theological correctness. It is God's gift given in Jesus' name and, correctly channeled, can bring great glory to Jesus.

There seems to be ample proof in Scripture that Jesus, who is the same yesterday, today and for ever, is more than willing and able to heal. Furthermore, we seem to be experiencing more healings than ever before. Given the terrible need of our unsaved contemporaries and their utter failure to glorify the God who made them in His image, let me encourage you to pray, search the Scriptures, believe the promises, obey the Holy Spirit's promptings, be channels of God's compassion, break out of your comfort zones, lay hands on the sick and prove the Lord for His great praise and glory.

# **A HEALING KING AND A HEALING KINGDOM**

## **JOHN GROVES**

God is restoring New Testament principles of church life that have been lost over the years. This process of 'restoration', which has been going on for some centuries, has accelerated over the last 100 years or so. We are building on the basis of what others have restored and in some areas the church has become very strong; but other areas are still in process, and one of these is the restoration of healings, signs and wonders.

### **Restoration of healings, signs and wonders**

For 100 years God has been restoring to His church a full belief in the gifts of the Holy Spirit and associated faith for healings, signs and wonders. We have been learning that God has not stopped doing these things and that He wants them to have a central place in the life and witness of His church. For centuries the vast majority of Christians were ignorant on this subject but we live in a very privileged time when God has clearly been getting us back towards a New Testament quality of church life.

We have benefited from previous phases of restoration in church life. Often big battles were fought that cost men of God dearly at the time. Yet the things that were restored would have been happening in New Testament times when the church was first born. They had simply been lost through human frailty and demonic attack. We can take for granted some 'restored' things that the church generally accepts today.

However, all of these periods of restoration involved upheaval and paradigm shifts. Expectations had to change and the church itself had to change! When you look at these periods of history from our perspective, you can see that it took many years for these changes to be absorbed into normal church life. Yet to us they now seem totally Biblical and we cannot understand how the church had neglected them for so long.

I believe that we are living through a similar period with regard to healings, signs and wonders. It is a period of 'restoration', of a faith battle, of transition, of theology changing, a period in which we are learning how to line up with God's Word.

### **Faith battles**

We may not have much of a faith battle over issues which were restored by previous generations. However, we have got battles in the area of healings. Can we expect everyone to be healed? Do we still think healings are just extraordinary exceptions to the rule? Why isn't everyone healed when we pray for them?

We have a battle with the models of healing ministry. For example, is it about a man or woman of great faith and anointing? Can we expect local church elders to anoint people with oil and regularly see healings? Can every disciple of Jesus lay hands on the sick and pray for them and expect them to recover? How decisive is faith in the issue of healing?

On top of these theological battles we have other mental battles to do with our modern culture. Many of us have been brought up with a materialistic and rationalistic mindset. Is praying for the sick something that makes sense to a scientific, materialistic world view? Are our senses the final arbiters in all that goes on around us? How much do we trust in science and medicine as opposed to prayer and the Holy Spirit?

Even amongst Christians who believe that healings, signs and wonders are for today there can be significant confusion. What do we make of the 'Faith Theology' that would encourage us to name it and claim it? How does this fit in with a 'Kingdom Theology' which teaches us how the kingdom of God has a 'Now' and 'Not Yet' expectation? What about the sovereignty of God and human responsibility? Is sickness from God or from the devil?

All this simply illustrates that we are in a transition time, contending for something against the stream of religious tradition, humanistic philosophy and satanic opposition. Every time of restoration had these characteristics.

### **Lessons from history**

When we read a history book we have to realise that we are reading a particular view on the history of the period. So it is always helpful to read a number of different history books and even to look at writings of secular historians about periods of church history. As one studies periods such as the Reformation, the Great Awakening, or the rise of World Mission, we realise that massive battles were going on to establish different attitudes in church life. Great men and women of God could be very clear on certain things and yet quite confused about things that we would see as obvious in Scripture. It often took many years for

clarity to filter down to the church at large and for a proper paradigm shift to go on.

Looking back at these eras helps us to understand the turmoil and battles that we are going through in our own time. We can still expect changes and shifts.

### **Back to the Bible**

Faith comes as we hear the Word of God. We are adamant that our church life should be rooted in the authority of God's Word, so it is important that we keep our eyes on the New Testament as we tussle with the issues of healings, signs and wonders. For an example, I want to concentrate on Matthew chapters 8, 9 and 10, from which I will highlight ten important facts. Please let the truth of God's Word minister to you and do something in your spirit.

#### **1. There is a lot of healing in the gospels**

Matthew chapters 8 and 9 contain ten miracles, and nine of them are acts of healing or exorcism. This is not exceptional; 90% of Jesus' miracles are healings or exorcism for wholeness. Frankly, even a superficial reading will tell you that there is a lot of healing in the gospels!

#### **2. In the gospels Jesus appears to treat sickness as an enemy**

The book of Acts describes Jesus' mighty ministry of healing and deliverance like this: 'God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him' (Acts 10:38).

Jesus appears to treat all sickness as a bad thing and to get rid of it! Some sicknesses are dealt with as the specific manifestation of demonic spirits. Of course, this is not to say that sicknesses are always the result of demonic spirits. However, there is an attitude towards sickness here that we need to look at and absorb.

Jesus is the highest revelation of the heart of God; 'I and the Father are one' (John 10:30). It seems pretty clear that God is for healing and against sickness. We must remember there was no sickness in the Garden of Eden before the Fall and there will be no sickness in heaven in the age to come. God is a healing God!

### **3. Jesus appears to be very willing to heal people**

If we were to take just Matthew 8 as an example of this we would find the following:

Jesus replies to the hesitant faith of the leper with the words, 'I am willing' (vv 2, 3), obviously referring to his willingness to heal the man. In verses 5 and 7 of the same chapter, when the centurion asks for help because his servant lay at home paralysed, Jesus readily said, 'I will go and heal him.' Then in verse 16 we are told Jesus healed ALL the sick that came to him.

Where are our grounds for thinking either God the Father or the Son have changed their attitude towards sickness? Do we not believe that 'the Lord changes not' and 'Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever'? Yet religious tradition still generally encourages us to accept sickness as God's will and to have an expectation that God is reluctant to heal people.

Of course, if we truly believe that sickness is God's will we ought to accept it and not fight it tenaciously as we all do. Why do we go to the doctor and make endless efforts to get well? The fact is that we know sickness is bad and we want it to go; we want to be healed. This is not unreasonable and it is also not out of harmony with the heart of God as we see it in Jesus Christ.

### **4. Jesus relates healing to the message of the kingdom**

Jesus and the gospel-writers specifically link healings with the good news of the kingdom of God; the message Jesus is proclaiming (Matt. 9:35).

Jesus Christ is unique, the Son of God, and it is true that his signs and wonders were linked to his unique Messiahship. However, Jesus carefully commissioned his disciples to carry on the same healing and deliverance work that he had begun. First the Twelve, then the seventy-two and finally all of his disciples in the great commission, are sent out with the mission of bringing the good news of the kingdom, healing the sick and delivering people from demons.

Jesus commissions his disciples to do the works he has done and gives them authority. If the healings, signs and wonders were purely to prove Jesus' uniqueness this would be confusing. However, they are clearly linked to the message that in and through Jesus Christ the kingdom of God has broken in on earth in a unique way! In fact healings did not

merely authenticate the message of the kingdom, they were part of the message itself. Healing is part of the good news! Salvation is about wholeness!

Jesus appears to see sickness in the body as part of the dominion of darkness that he has come to destroy. When the kingdom of God and dominion of darkness clash, at one level this is manifest in healing versus sickness. The gospel of the kingdom is good news for everyone at every level.

### **5. Compassion was a strong motivation in Jesus' healing ministry**

Matthew 9:35-38 states that Jesus was motivated by compassion for the helpless and harassed crowds of people. It was love and compassion that brought Jesus to earth in the first place, and was undoubtedly a major motivation in his healing ministry. He was not some cold being from another realm eager to prove he was God. Rather, out of his infinite compassion he brought answers to the agonies of human life. Surely this is still the heavenly view of sin-sick humanity? Jesus is still the good shepherd full of compassion.

### **6. Jesus cares for individual needs**

You see this fact all through the gospels but repeatedly in our chosen chapters:

- Matthew 8:2-3: an individual leper is touched by Jesus.
- Matthew 8:5-7: Jesus had time for the politically awkward case of the centurion and his servant.
- Matthew 8:14-15: Jesus' care for an older woman with an ordinary illness.
- Matthew 8:28-33: Jesus appears to go specifically to meet two socially excluded mad men and to bring healing to them.
- Matthew 9:18-26: Jesus touches and heals a woman with chronic bleeding, and a dead girl.

This is our Lord, our Saviour, our God! He values individuals, whoever they are, and meets their needs.

### **7. Jesus never condemns people for being sick**

We do not find Jesus teaching that sickness is a result of a person's sin or is blameworthy in the same way that sin is. Although sometimes in the gospels there are hinted links between sickness and sin (John 5:14), generally there is no link made that suggests a person's sickness is a result of their sin. Indeed attempts to make that link are specifically contradicted by Jesus (see John 9:1-3).

### **8. Rejoicing in suffering generally refers to persecution**

Jesus warned his disciples that they would suffer for following him and should not avoid that suffering but rejoice in it. However, we never find Jesus using the same argument for sickness. Jesus did not avoid saying hard things if necessary, so, if this had been appropriate, Jesus would have been prepared to say it. The fact is he healed those who came to him sick.

### **9. Healings are glorifying to God**

Jesus and the gospel-writers see God glorified in the healing of sick people, eg Matthew 9:8, 26, 33. Of course, healings also stir up controversy (Matt. 9:34). Nevertheless, in the gospels God gets glory from healings, signs and wonders.

So I suggest that it is unlikely that usually God wants us to stay sick for His glory! Of course, good Christian character is glorifying to God and is made evident in enduring faithfully in any suffering or difficulty, including sickness.

### **10. Jesus has already won our deliverance from sickness**

In Matthew 8:16-17, the writer, led by the Holy Spirit, quotes Isaiah 53:4 and obviously interprets it to mean literal sicknesses and diseases. This is the Holy Spirit's interpretation and we must acknowledge that. This appears to make a clear link between Jesus' work on the cross and physical healing.

D.A Carson helpfully comments, 'This text and others clearly teach that there is healing in the atonement; but similarly there is the promise of a resurrection body in the atonement, even if believers do not inherit it until the Parousia. From the perspectives of the New Testament writers, the cross is the basis of all the benefits that accrue to believers but this does not mean that all such benefits can be secured at this present time on demand...' (Craig S Keener, Matthew, New Testament Commentary Series, IVP, page 178).

Throughout eternity we will have a new body that is totally free from sickness because of Jesus' death on the cross 2,000 years ago! The issue we have to tussle with is how much do we get now and how much do we have to wait for?! The truth is, we can 'taste' the powers of the age to come now and we are encouraged to do so in the New Testament. The truth is, we have the Holy Spirit with us now to actualise and apply the benefits of the cross in our lives. The truth is, the risen Lord Jesus passed on his authority to his disciples, including the

authority to heal in his name (Matt. 10:1; Mark 16:15-18).

As disciples of Jesus, we are to go into all the world with the good news of the kingdom of God. We are to assault the dominion of darkness in all its manifestations including demonic oppression and sickness of body.

This is an enormous contemporary battleground. But healings, signs and wonders are on God's agenda for us, and it is the devil who is determined to try and keep us in doubt and defeat. Let us determine to keep laying hands on the sick with an increasing faith and expectation that they will get well!

## **CONFESSIONS OF A HEALING SCEPTIC**

### **ADRIAN HOLLOWAY**

If we are honest, some of us feel uneasy about raising expectations that God will heal. Our great need is to be sure of what God has and hasn't said about healing. I cannot deny that often my experience has been of people not being healed. If only we could start with nothing but the Scriptures in front of us! For many years, I occasionally prayed for people to be healed, but with no real expectation that anything supernatural would happen. I even felt tempted to make people's expectations 'more realistic' by telling them that God seldom or very rarely heals today.

But about four years ago, I asked myself, 'Where is this kind of thinking coming from?' It's certainly not coming from Scripture. No one has yet produced a convincing case from the Bible that we should not expect God to heal today.

#### **Three common objections**

So, when we say, 'God seldom heals today,' we're making a comment based on our experience. And as soon as we start arguing from experience, rather than the Bible, we are putting our weight on a very wobbly stool. Imagine a stool with three legs: a first objection or leg of the stool would be to say, 'OK, Jesus has given his followers all authority to heal the sick. In fact he commands them to heal the sick. But the disciples saw 100% success and we don't. So maybe, these days, God doesn't want to heal as high a percentage of people as he did in the New Testament. And that would explain why we don't see more healings today.'

This argument is based on a false premise, because, in fact, the disciples did not have a 100% success rate. After the twelve disciples have been given all authority (Mt. 10v1) we find that they could not heal the demonised boy who 'has seizures and is suffering greatly' because they had so little faith (Mt 17v20). So it is undoubtedly possible to have all authority to heal and yet fail to see everyone healed whom you lay hands on. Faith can release the power and authority we have been given.

A second reason some of us struggle with this business of healing today is because we wrongly think that, in the New Testament, healing was automatic. We think that Jesus, Peter, Paul and the rest could

automatically heal people, and we don't see that happening today. We don't know of anyone alive today who can just lay their hands on absolutely anyone they like and see them healed. And that again may bother us. Again we're tempted to wonder whether God really is as keen to heal now as he was in the first century.

But if we were to read our Bibles more carefully, we'd realise that healing in the New Testament was not automatic at all. In fact, not even Jesus could heal automatically. We know that because when Jesus went back to Nazareth, 'He did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith' (Mt 13v58). Jesus wanted to perform more miracles at Nazareth than he actually did. Mark's gospel tells us that Jesus 'could not' (Mk 6v5) perform more miracles at Nazareth because of their lack of faith. Mark tells us that Jesus was 'amazed at their lack of faith' (Mk 6v6).

If healing was 'automatic', then Jesus would have healed the Nazarenes anyway, simply because he was Jesus. But Jesus 'did not'. In fact, Mark 6v5 tells us he 'could not do any miracles there'.

A third leg of the stool is the objection that the quality of miracles we see today is not as impressive as those we find in the New Testament. But you'll find evidence in this magazine of New Testament-quality miracles that do happen today, even in darkest Europe!

### **Degrees of gifting**

But let me also say that in the New Testament there is a distinction between different degrees of healing gift. It does seem that Paul and Peter moved in a greater measure of the gift of healing than the other apostles. But did the other apostles therefore not bother with healing? No, Acts 2v43 tells us they did many wonders and miraculous signs. Nor were the twelve apostles the only people to work miracles. Stephen and Philip were not apostles, but they performed 'signs and wonders'.

### **So what is the biblical position?**

If we really want to know what God's will is concerning physical healing we should expect to find that will revealed in the life of Jesus. And, if Jesus truly reveals the character of God to us, then we can stop debating God's will in sickness and healing. Jesus healed people because he loved them. He had compassion for them. He wanted to solve their problems. He was on their side.

Jesus frequently healed all who were brought to him. We know of no one Jesus sent away. And notice that Jesus never sent people away saying it would be good for them to remain ill for a bit longer!

Sending out the Twelve, Jesus 'gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick' (Lk 9v1-2).

Therefore, it is truly amazing that we Christians are often reluctant to 'pray for each other so that you may be healed' (James 5v16), especially as the Bible explicitly tells us 'you do not have, because you do not ask God' (James 4v2).

In summary, God heals because of...

- a) His eternal desire to glorify Himself and His Son
- b) His deep compassion for those who are suffering
- c) His constant willingness to respond to those who have faith
- d) His response to His own command and promise to the church

None of these has changed since New Testament times. 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever' (Heb 13v8). Death and disease have no part in God's original purpose for us, and they play no part in his ultimate purpose for us in the new heaven and new earth. God is against sickness and disease. And Jesus has now inaugurated the kingdom.

### **Two challenges**

First, I must be much more Biblical in my thinking about the role of faith in healing. Like it or not, the fact is that faith levels do have a very important and, often, decisive role in Biblical miracles. Actually, the Bible is so clear about faith levels that we can say almost categorically that, if you and the person you're praying for both think nothing's going to happen, it is extremely unlikely that a healing will take place. Sometimes the faith of the sick person is decisive. For example, the woman who touched the hem of Jesus' garment, thinking, 'If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed' (Mark 5v28). Sometimes the faith of the people doing the praying is decisive. For example, when Peter and John were going up to the temple, a crippled beggar asks them for money and Peter replies, 'I haven't got any money, but 'in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk' (Acts 3v6). How do I get more faith? Well, faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom 10v17). I have found that when I read what the Bible says about healing, faith comes!

Second, I must stop saying 'I think God wants me to be ill.' We have no scriptural grounds for thinking, 'I think God wants me to go through this.' I'm not saying this is never the case, but we are far too fatalistic about this and not Biblical enough. What's really ironic is that most of us who say, 'God must want me to be ill,' then go off to the doctor, which shows us that in our heart of hearts we do think God wants us to be physically well. Otherwise we wouldn't ever take an aspirin or go to the doctor. Whenever we seek any kind of medical help, we prove to ourselves that we genuinely think it is God's will that we seek to be well.

There are doctors in our church who would have something to say to you if you tried to argue that they were actually opposing God's will by helping sick Christians get better! It is true that God can bring increased sanctification to us through illness and suffering, but I suspect we have paid far too much attention to this. Actually, the emphasis of the New Testament, both in Jesus' ministry and in the ministry of the disciples in Acts, encourages us to seek God eagerly and earnestly for healing in every case.

We have found that many people are delighted to be prayed for, and though we do not see everyone healed, more and more are. So let's go for it!

## **ON HEALING**

### **JOHN G LAKE**

#### **Who was he?**

Having a mighty evangelistic and healing ministry in both America and South Africa, Lake stands as one of the healing giants of history. Although he himself suffered the loss of his wife to sickness, he remained steadfast in God's willingness and ability to heal.

He founded the Divine Healing Institute in Spokane, Washington. It became known as The Healing Rooms where over 100 000 supernatural healings were eventually documented. According to US Government statistics, Spokane had become the healthiest city in the world, thanks to Lake's healing ministry. He became known as Dr. Lake!

As he got dressed each day, Lake made a habit of walking over to his mirror, pointing to it as if to another person and saying 'God lives in that man in that suit of clothes. And where that suit of clothes goes, God goes'.

#### **On Christ's total victory**

On this side of the cross is the victory of his resurrection, the marvel of all victories, where he took death captive. What an ascent in triumph! No longer subject to death but triumphing over it.....Rev 1v18 I am he that liveth, and was dead, and behold I am alive forever more, and have the keys of hell and death. It seems to me that in all the Word of God there is no such shout of triumph as that. Why, it seems to me as if the very heaven and the earth and all that is in them rings with that exultant shout of the real Victor: I have the keys of hell and death! These enemies of man, taken captive by the Son of God, and now subject to his dictate. That is the Christ who speaks to my soul. That is the Christ on this side of Calvary. That is the Christ my soul worships....If I am to carry your soul tonight into the place of victory in God, I must carry it into the place of victory in God, into the consciousness of Christ's overcoming. All his healing virtue, his saving grace, his power to transform, all the angelic communion, the heavenly foretaste, the consciousness of the estate of the redeemed, the glory triumph of Jesus Christ...Jesus in his earth life reached forth into that life and kingdom and exhibited in this world, in a measure, that victory and triumph his soul knew and envisioned..... I would lift your soul tonight in the spirit of God into that glow and glory of

the triumphant life....As your soul looks forward and possesses in the present the glorious victory that Jesus acquired and exhibits and enjoys, it rises out of its sorrows and sins into that glorious triumph of the children of God.

The great majority of the Christian world is still weeping at the foot of the cross. The consciousness of man is fixed on the Christ you died, not on the Christ who lives. They are looking back to the Redeemer who was, not the Redeemer who is.

On this side of the cross we see the victory, not the suffering, not the humility, dejection, rejection but the victory....On this side of the cross is the victory of his resurrection, the marvel of all victories, where he took death captive. What an ascent in triumph! No longer subject to death but triumphing over it.....Rev 1v18 I am he that liveth, and was dead, and behold I am alive forever more, and have the keys of hell and death. It seems to me that in all the Word of God there is no such shout of triumph as that. Why, it seems to me as if the very heaven and the earth and all that is in them rings with that exultant shout of the a real Victor: I have the keys of hell and death! These enemies of man, taken captive by the Son of God, and now subject to his dictate. That is the Christ who speaks to my soul. That is the Christ on this side of Calvary. That is the Christ my soul worships.

If I am to carry your soul tonight into the place of victory in God, I must carry it into the place of victory in God, into the consciousness of Christ's overcoming. All his healing virtue, his saving grace, his power to transform, all the angelic communion, the heavenly foretaste, the consciousness of the estate of the redeemed, the glory triumph of Jesus Christ...Jesus in his earth life reached forth into that life and kingdom and exhibited in this world, in a measure, that victory and triumph his soul knew and envisioned..... I would lift your soul tonight in the spirit of God into that glow and glory of the triumphant life....As your soul looks forward and possesses in the present the glorious victory that Jesus acquired and exhibits and enjoys, it rises out of its sorrows and sins into that glorious triumph of the children of God.

### **Have Christians a right to pray 'if it be thy will' concerning sickness?**

There is a lot of difference between saying prayers and praying: the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed any sins, they shall be forgiven him (Jms 5v15). The prayer of faith has power in it. The prayer of faith has trust in it. The prayer of faith has healing in it for soul and body. When the disciples wanted to know how to pray real prayers, Jesus said to them, 'Our father....thy will be done on earth.' (Lk 11v2)

Everyone stops there and resigns their intelligence to an unknown God. But it does not say 'if thy will be done' and stop there. 'The actual reading is 'Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven'. That is very different is it not? Not 'let thy will done, let the calamity come, let my children be stricken with fever, or my son going to insane asylum'. That is not what Jesus was teaching people to pray. He was teaching to pray 'thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Let the might of God be known! Let the might of God descend! Let God avert that calamity that is coming!

Let me for a few moments direct your gaze heavenward. We step over there and look about the city. We note it's beauty and grandeur. We see the lamb of God. We do not observe a single drunken man on the golden streets; not a single man on crutches.....We say, 'Angel, what is the reason you do not have any sin up here?' 'Why, the reason for no sin up here is that the will of God is being done'. I have been used to mingling with the sick all my life, so I look around up here, and I do not see anybody on crutches or anybody that is lame, no cancers or consumption, or any sickness at all. So I say to my guide, 'Angel, tell me the reason why you do not have any sickness up here'. The angel replies, 'the will of God is being done here'. No sin is where the will of God is being done. No sickness is where the will of God is being done. Then I return to earth and I can pray that prayer with new understanding. Just as the will of God is being done there, so let the kingdom of God be done here.

**James 1v7**

Let not that man think that he shall receive anything from the Lord'. Why? Well, he says a man that doubts is like a wave on the sea, driven by the wind and tossed here and there, shattered and scattered. There is no continuity to his prayers, his faith, his character. There is no concentration in God for the thing that he wants....let not that man think that he will receive anything from the Lord!

The leper who said, 'if you are willing, you can make me clean' (Mt 8v2) was clearly ignorant of whether Jesus wanted to heal him, this disease – many he thought that leprosy was too horrible. Jesus reply settles the question for the leper and it should for us. If he had answered something different, there might be a reason to inject 'if it be thy will' into our prayers when praying for the sick. But 'if' always doubts. The prayer of faith has no doubts in it.

Suppose a man comes to the front to find God and be saved. Everyone one in this building would say 'yes, tell him to pray, have faith in God, and god will save him'. Why? Because there is no doubt in your mind concerning God will in saving a sinner. You know that God will do it as soon as he confesses and calls on the name of the Lord.

But over on this side, is a man desperately sick and on deaths door, and right away a lot of folks think, 'this guy needs to get to a doctor, and fast!

'Instead of Christians taking responsibility, they try to put the responsibility on God. Everything there is in the redemption of Jesus Christ is available for man when he presents his faith and takes it. There is no question in the mind of god concerning the salvation of a sinner. No more is there question concerning the healing of a sick one. It is in the atonement of Jesus Christ, bless God. So, Mk 11v24 'When you pray, believe that you have received, and you shall have them'

**Laying on of hands**

Jesus laid his hands upon the sick in obedience to the law of contact and transmission. Contact of his hands with the sick one permitted the Spirit of God in him to flow into the sick person.

The sick woman who touched his clothes found that the spirit emanated from his person. When she touched the hem of his garment, the spirit flashed into her (Mt 9v20).

Paul, knowing this, laid his hands upon handkerchiefs and aprons. The bible says that when they were laid upon the sick they were healed, and the demons went out of those possessed. These handkerchiefs became

storage batteries of Holy Spirit power. When they were laid on the sick they charged the body, and healing was the result. Shadow of Peter even? This shows us that the Spirit of God is a tangible substance, and heavenly materiality. Secondly, it is capable of being stored in the substance of cloth. Thirdly, it will transmit power to the sick person to powerfully heal.

### **The power of the name**

Before the cross and ascension: Lk 9: he gave the 12 power and authority to cast out devils and heal disease. Then he superseded this by declaring 'if you shall ask anything in my name, I will do it (Jn 14v14) Peter & John instantly grasped the significance of the name. Passing into the temple they met a beggar-cripple and Peter commanded 'in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk (Acts 3v6). Heaven's lightning struck the man. He leapt to his feet whole. A multitude rushed up demanding 'by what power or by what name have you done this?' Peter and John replied 'By the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, who God raised from the dead (Acts 3v11). Matchless name! The secret of power was in it. When they used the name, power struck. The dynamite of heaven exploded. They used it legally.

Jesus commanded, go into all the world (Mk 16v15). What for? To proclaim that name. To use that name. To baptise in that name. Amazing name! In it was concentrated the combined authority resident in the Father, Son and Spirit.

The apostles used the name. It worked. The deacons at Samarian used the name. The fire flashed. Believers everywhere, forever, were commanded to use it. The Name detonated around the world.....

The struggle of the centuries has been to free the soul from narrow interpretations. Jesus has sometimes been made to appear as a little bigot, sometimes as an imposter. The world is still waiting to see him as he is, Jesus the Magnificent, Jesus the Giant, Jesus the Compassionate, the Wonder of the Centuries. Take the shackles off God. Let him have the chance to bless mankind without limitations.

### **Why isn't everyone healed instantly?**

Lk 10v14 The Ten Lepers: as they went they were healed. The healing virtue was administered, The process happened later. Mk 8v23: The Blind Man. It took 2 sessions of the laying on of hands to get him to see clearly. Healing is by degree based on two conditions: first, the degree of healing virtue administered; second the degree of faith that gives action and power to the virtue. 'The word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard (Heb 4v2).

## **The Truth About Divine Healing**

This is a series of articles that appeared in the newspaper 'Sacramento Union', Sacramento, California, July and August 1927.

### **Article 1: Does God heal?**

This is an age-old question. The miracles of Jesus have been the battleground of the centuries. Millions declare that God does heal the sick. Millions scorn the assertion.

*"Go into the world , and proclaim the Gospel," said Jesus. "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"* (Mark 16:17-18).

The Bible says that Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). If His gospel was true then, it is true now. His disciples healed the sick then (Luke 10). His disciples should heal the sick now. The power of healing was bestowed on the Christians in Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. This power is still available. Healings are just as certain in Sacramento today as they were in Judea then.

It is said that many of those who would bring the joyful message of salvation and healing to the public have obscured the vision and darkened the simple sweet truths with a blare of trumpets, and the din of sensationalism the public has listened, pondered and in many cases turned away disgusted.

However, truth is unalterable. God does heal today. Christ healed all that came to Him 2,000 years ago. He is still willing to heal all who come asking. He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

### **Article 3: Does God heal sinner as well as saint?**

To this question the World Bible Truth Crusaders answer, "Yes." The Bible says, "He healed all that came unto Him" (Luke 9:11; Matthew 12:15; Acts 10:38). That they came to Jesus was enough. They were not asked if they belonged to this church or that. They were not asked what form of worship they subscribed to. They came unto Him – that satisfied Jesus.

When they possessed faith He hastened to commend it. He never told anyone that it was God's will that they were sick. He never told anyone they were being 'perfected' in character through sickness.

He commanded His 12 disciples to heal the sick (Luke 9:1-16). He commanded the 'seventy' to first heal the sick, and then say: "*The Kingdom of God is come nigh unto you*" (Luke 10:9).

The World Bible Crusaders, of which I am the president, teach that all may be healed – that all may find salvation. The Crusaders invite you to bring the halt, the sick, the lame and the blind. It makes no difference what they may be – Protestant, Catholic or Jew. The Crusaders believe that the cause of Christianity has been hurt by petty limitations established by those who have failed to see the magnificent scope of the ministry of Jesus. Jesus is still willing and able to heal all that come.

#### **Article 4: Is healing by process or instantaneous?**

God does not always heal instantaneously. Jesus' miracles of healing were not always instantaneous. Healing takes place by process as well as instantly. Recall when Jesus prayed for the blind man, and asked: "What do you see?" The blind man answered, "*I see men as trees, walking.*" Then Jesus ministered to him the second time, and he saw clearly (Mark 8:22-26). Let us reason. A tubercular person is consumed of the disease. Healing may come at once, or it may come over a period of time. The returning weight and fullness of health is evidence that the healing is real.

Jesus in cursing the fig tree, did not kill it instantly. It "dried up from the roots". The death stroke dealt the tree by Jesus was effectual and complete. He struck the root. The leaves withered by the process (Matthew 21:19)

At one time I was a rheumatic cripple. When healing came to me on a wave of divine power, my pains departed gradually. I was well in five days. This is healing by process. Later I was stricken with blindness and was healed instantly when Mrs. Robert Brown, of Glad Tidings Mission, of New York, prayed for me.

There we have the two forms of healing. In one the disease is stricken at the roots and its evidences in the body wither by process, for the source of its being has been destroyed. In the instantaneous healings the

disease was expelled from the body by the divine power, root and branch, and the sick one becomes whole on the spot. Under my ministry healings of both types are constantly taking place. In some cases 30 days pass from the time of prayer until the last evidence of disease has vanished. However, I believe instantaneous healings are in the majority.

### **Article 5: Does God always heal?**

In Him there is no darkness at all. Can darkness come out of light? Can sickness come out of health? Is death born of life? The issue resolves itself into: "Of what is the redemption of Jesus Christ constituted? What existing powers does He promise to destroy?" First sin. When Christ's redemption is completed sin is gone. Through sin death entered into the world. Death entered through sin (Romans 5:12). Sickness is incipient death – death in process.

"He healed all that were oppressed by the devil." (Acts 10:38). In Luke 13 Jesus demanded His right to heal the woman bowed together with the spirit of infirmity for 18 years as follows: "Ought not this woman whom Satan hath bound these 18 years be healed?" And overriding traditions of the Jews He healed her then and there.

*"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death"* (1 Corinthians 15:26) "For this cause was the Son of God manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil" (1 John 3:8). Sin, sickness and death are doomed – doomed to death by the decree of Christ Jesus. Sin, sickness and death are the triumvirate of the devil; the triple curse.

Heaven is the absence of this triple curse – heaven is sinlessness, sicklessness, and deathlessness. This is the ultimate of Christ's redemption. Jesus anticipated the world's need. He commanded His power for the use of mankind, and invites us to help ourselves to His eternal quality and become thereby Sons of God.

### **Take the shackles off God**

Jesus did not heal the sick in order to coax them to be Christians. He healed because it was His nature to heal. The multitude surrounded him. His love gushed forth like an electric billow. *"There went virtue out of Him, and healed them all"* (Luke 6:19).

Some modern evangelists have degraded divine healing by making it a teaser to bring those desirous of healing under the sway of their ministry. Jesus healed both saint and sinner – to the dismay of His apostles, who had not yet grown to the soul-stature of Jesus.

They reported to Jesus: *"We saw one casting out devils in they name...and we forbad him, because he followeth not us."* Jesus replied, "Forbid him not, for no man can do a miracle in My name and speak lightly of Me" (Mark 9:38-39).

He met a man at the pool of Bethesda, a paralytic. This man did not ask for healing. Jesus went to him and said: *"Wilt thou be made whole?"* Here Jesus is asking for the privilege of healing the sufferer. He healed him. His love compelled it.

Next day Jesus met the healed man in the temple and said: *"Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee"* (John 5:1-14).

Jesus' action is a perpetual rebuke to the priestcraft who endeavour to use the possibility of the individual's healing as a means to force him into the Church.

The outgushing of His love for the world burst all bounds, and four times He healed multitudes. But some say: "This was Jesus. No apostle had such an experience."

When Peter went down the street as the evening shadows fell; when his shadow reached across the street, "They brought the sick, that his shadow might overshadow them" (Acts 5:15). The clear inference is that they were healed (see Acts 5:16).

James, writing to the 12 tribes scattered abroad – not the little group of Jews constituting the kingdom of the Jews, but the whole body of the nation of Israel scattered throughout the world, both the ten-tribed kingdom and the two-tribed kingdom – shouts: *"Is any sick among you, let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him"* Not prepare him for death, but that he might be healed. *"If he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him"* (James 5:14-16).

Healing was the evidence of God's forgiveness – heaven's testimony that their sins were remembered no more. Take the shackles off God. Enlarge our theologies to Christ's standard, and the world will love and worship Him forever.

### **Article 13: The truth about divine healing**

Jesus was tempted 40 days. Three temptations were presented. Firstly, physical hunger; secondly, psychological – the love of acclaim; thirdly, spiritual – Satan offered Him all the kingdoms of the world for the acknowledgement of his superiority. Jesus rebuked Satan and drove him from His presence. Having overcome, the consciousness of inherent power was radiant in Him. “He returned in the power of the Holy Spirit” (Luke 4).

Jesus now makes the next advance. He proclaims His platform. Returning to Nazareth, He bodily declares: “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. (1) He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; (2) He hath sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, (3) to proclaim the liberty to the captive, (4) recovering of sight to the blind; (5) to set at liberty them that are bruised, (6) to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” No more waiting for the release of the year of Jubilee. Jesus Christ the Eternal Jubilee was at hand to save and heal.

Jesus’ ministry of healing and the marvellous faith in God He exhibited in miracle-working form were no accident. Miracles must be His breath, for 800 years before his birth the prophet Isaiah had proclaimed: *“He will come and save you. 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”* (Isaiah 35:4-6).

So to the Saviour of the world He must be forever the miracle worker of the ages; the death destroyer; the finality of the revelation of the majesty, power and mercy of God. Jesus! The very Name was a miracle. The angel announced it. Jesus’ birth was a miracle. His wisdom was a miracle. His life was a miracle. His teachings were miraculous. He lived and walked in the realm of the miraculous. He made miracles common. His death was a miracle. His resurrection was a miracle. His appearances after death were miraculous. His ascension was a staggering miracle. His pouring out of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost was the outstanding miracle. It was the one event in which His whole Saviourhood climaxed. Out of Heaven was given to His followers the Spirit of the Eternal, to do in them all It had done in Him. Sin, sickness and death were doomed. He came as a roaring tempest, as tongues of fire crowning ‘the 120’ as the living Eternal Spirit entering into them. He proclaimed His triumphant entry into man through speaking in languages they knew not. His deity had lifted them into His realm, transfigured, transformed, transmuted.

## **Article 14: The truth about divine healing**

Jesus, having announced His platform, proceeded to demonstrate its practicability. In Matthew 4:23 we read: *“Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.”* First, teaching; second, preaching; third, healing the sick. The eternal pattern of real Christian ministry. The multitudes overwhelmed Him. He then appointed the 12 apostles, commissioned and empowered them to do as He had done.

Luke 9:1-2 says: *“Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and heal the sick.”* Soon they, too, were thronged by the multitudes, and Jesus was compelled to make a more extensive provision. This He did by the calling and sending forth of the seventy.

Luke 10 says: *“The Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two by two...into every city...whither he himself would come.”* They were the advance guard, the heralds of His coming. In commissioning the seventy, he reversed the order, and commanded, “Go into the cities roundabout and heal the sick that are therein, and say, The kingdom of God is come nigh to you.” To the twelve He had said: “Preach and heal.” To the seventy He said: “Heal the sick and then preach.”

One day the disciples came to Jesus and reported: “We saw one casting out devils in Thy Name, and we forbade him, because he followed us not us.” Jesus said, “Forbid him not.” This man was not regular. He was independent. This now made 84 who were healing the sick during the earth-life of Jesus: Jesus, the twelve, the seventy, the man who ‘followed not us.’ There is no Scriptural evidence of any others being authorised to heal until after the resurrection. His death, His resurrection and His ministry for 40 days in Galilee after He rose from the dead followed.

And now Jesus breaks all barriers to ministry of healing by making healing power and healing ministry the right of every believer on Him. The hour of His ascension is at hand. He issues His final instructions. It is His last word on Earth. *“Go ye into the world, and preach the gospel to every creature...And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;”* and lastly, *“...that shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover”* (Mark 16:16-18). And so healing was made a universal blessing forever.

Finally, lest this wondrous power should be lost, it was included as one of the gifts of the Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 12:8-12, we find enumerated the gifts of the Spirit. Heaven's inducements that 'the Church His Body' should be qualified and empowered forever to carry on all the ministry of Jesus, and thus be a perpetual presence and power for salvation from sin and sickness.

*"To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge...to another faith...to another the gifts of healing...to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another diverse kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues."* And lest we be negligent, we are reminded that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

### **Article 23 and 24: The truth about divine healing**

Healing by God, through faith and prayer, was practised by the patriarchs. "Abraham prayed unto God, and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants, and they bare children" (Genesis 20:17). God made a covenant of healing with the children of Israel. A covenant is an indissoluble agreement, and can never be annulled.

God tested the nation at the waters of Marah and made a covenant with them, known as the Covenant of Jehovah Rophi (The Lord, Thy Healer) "If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, And wilt do that which is right in His sight, And give ear to His commandments, And keep His statutes, I will pour none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians. For I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26).

David rejoiced in the knowledge of this covenant: *"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases"* (Psalm 103:1-3).

Isaiah proclaimed it. *"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"*(Isaiah 35:5-6).

Jesus made healing one of the planks of His platform: *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor. He hath sent Me to heal the broken hearted, To preach deliverance to the captives, And recovering of sight to the blind, To set*

*at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18).*

Jesus ministered healing to the sick. “And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people” (Matthew 4:23).

Healing is in the atonement of Christ. See Matthew 8:1-17, especially verse 17.

- Healing of the leper, Matthew 8:1-4.
- Healing of the centurion’s servant, Matthew 8:5-13.
- Healing of Peter’s wife’s mother, Matthew 8:14-15.
- Healing of the multitude, Matthew 8:16.

His reason for these healings, verse 17: “That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities and bare our sicknesses.”

Jesus bestowed the power to heal upon his disciples. “Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them the power and authority over all devils and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the Kingdom of God, and to heal the sick...and they departed, and went through the towns preaching the gospel, and healing everywhere” (Luke 9:1-3,6).

He likewise bestowed power to heal upon the seventy. “And after these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place whither He Himself would come...Heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, the kingdom of God is come nigh unto you” (Luke 10:1-9). He said unto them, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: In My Name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” (Mark 16:15-18).

And lest healing should be lost to the Church, He perpetuated it forever as one of the nine gifts of the Spirit. “To one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing but the

same spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another diverse kinds of tongues; to another interpretation of tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).

The Church was commanded to practice it. “Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? 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 shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults to one another, and pray for one another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” (James 5:13-16).

The unchangeableness of God’s eternal purpose is thereby demonstrated. “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). “I am the Lord, I change not” (Malachi 3:6).

God always was the healer. He is the healer still, and will ever remain the healer. Healing is for you. Jesus healed “All that came to Him.” He never turned anyone away. He never said: “It is not God’s will to heal you,” or that it was better for the individual to remain sick, or that they were being perfected in character through sickness. He healed them all, thereby demonstrating forever God’s unchangeable will concerning sickness and healing.

Have you need of healing? Pray to God in the Name of Jesus Christ to remove the disease. Command it to leave you, as you would sin. Assert your divine authority and refuse you have it. Jesus purchased your freedom from sickness as He purchased your freedom from sin.

“His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by whose stripes ye were healed” (1 Peter 2:24). Therefore, mankind has a right to health, as he has a right to deliverance from sin. If you do not have it, it is because you are being cheated out of your inheritance. It belongs to you. In the Name of Jesus Christ go after it and get it.

If your faith is weak, call for those who believe, and to whom the prayer of faith and the ministry of healing has been committed.

Psalm 91; Isaiah 34; Matthew 8 & 9; Mark 16; Luke 11; John 9; Acts 3,4,9,10 & 26; 1 Corinthians 12 & 13.

All that Jesus was to the world He purposed that the Church of Christ should be. First, He blessed the world through His own physical personality. Second, He established a physical body composed of many members, joined in one by the Spirit of God.

When He established the second Body, the Church, He never intended that it should be of lesser authority or of lesser power than the first. It was His real purpose that the second Body, the Church, should exercise and fully accomplish all that the first has done.

*Dr. Lake, February 18, 1917*