

## INTRODUCTION

### HEALING IS NORMAL

Since we first began Schools of Healing in 2002, we have seen tens of thousands of people trained to heal the sick, and a similar number of people healed.

Everyone healed is a reason why Jesus Christ died. But so often we don't heal the sick because we don't know if we can or should, or whether it will work, and we are afraid of disappointment. Even if we know we should minister healing, most believers are still unsure what to do.

A few years ago, I was asked to minister at what I was told was a 'miracle service'. I began by saying that if this was a miracle service, we had better begin with a miracle!

We called people who had arthritis to come to the front and prayed for one of them who, by God's grace, was healed! At the same meeting there were about forty orphan boys. I asked if any of them would like to pray for the next person. One boy finally agreed! He and I prayed together and that person was also soon healed. Both she and the boy praying were delighted!

Then of course the other boys wanted to try, so we invited any other sick people to come forward and the boys lined up to pray for them. As far as I could tell, almost all of those prayed for that evening were healed.

For most of these orphans it was the first time they had experienced God healing people through their own hands. They had had no training in how to heal. I don't think they had great faith, and yet when they stepped out and tried, God was faithful to heal through them. I am sure that their perspective on healing changed forever.

So did mine! I soon realised that we do not need great experience or great faith in order to be used by God. We simply need to be obedient to his commandment, 'Heal the sick'!

But do we see people healed regularly in our services? Do we see the 'ordinary' believer ministering to the sick in our meetings, and seeing them healed? Do we minister healing to each other in our homes, schools, workplaces, or wherever we meet sick people? If we do not, we are not fulfilling the commandment of Jesus!

Although some of us are given special 'gifts of healings' for certain situations, people, or diseases, it should be the normal expectation of every Christian to see people being healed through their ministry.

This School is not meant to be a comprehensive study of the subject of healing, but is designed to encourage you to step out and have a go!

# CHAPTER 1

## THE COMMAND TO HEAL

### 'HEAL THE SICK!'

In Luke chapter 10 Jesus sends out 72 disciples, saying, *"Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'"* (Luke 10:9). It is not a suggestion or an alternative, but a clear command! Was it only to those disciples, or to us too?

In Matthew 10:8, Jesus gives a similar command to the twelve apostles. Then, just as he was about to ascend to heaven, he commanded these men to make disciples of all men, *'... teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you'* (Matthew 28:20). If we are to do what Jesus taught his disciples to do, then we are evidently intended to heal the sick.

So Jesus therefore commanded every disciple of his to heal the sick. He did not say, 'Pray for the sick', but to heal them!

### 1) Failure to heal, is sin!

If we are not obeying Jesus, it is disobedience, which is sin! Now if we sin, we should repent! He will forgive us, but we must determine in our heart not to sin again in this way. That

**Matthew 10:8** *"Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give."*

**Matthew 28:20** *"...and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."*

## MAIN POINT

If we are disciples of Jesus, we are expected to heal the sick. It is a clear command from Jesus.

### NOTES:

**Mark 16:17-18** *“And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 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.”*

**NOTES:**

means that from now on each of us should make a decision to heal the sick.

## **2) Healing is impossible!**

The trouble is, we know we can't! My hands are just as ordinary as yours. They have no magic or special anointing. Jesus is commanding us to do the impossible!

But then so is everything else he tells us to do! Without his power we cannot save the lost, or cast out demons, or even keep his commandments!

But Jesus said, *‘With God all things are possible’* (Matthew 19:26). Notice it says WITH God! Healing is something we are meant to do together with him. It is a partnership!

## **3) They will get well!**

**If we do what he told us to do, he will do what he promised to do!** Mark 16:17-18 promises us clearly that if *‘those who believe’* place their hands on sick people, they WILL get well. It doesn't say they MIGHT!

So let us learn together what he commanded us to do, and expect him to do the rest. It is not complicated - you don't need a degree in theology! You just need a mustard seed of faith, and a teaspoonful of courage.

## CHAPTER 2

# THE GOD WHO HEALS

### THE NATURE OF GOD

God is a healer. It is his Name, his nature, his character, his will and his work.

#### 1) It is his Name

God has many names. Most are revealed to us in the Old Testament, especially in the book of Exodus. His main name is YHWH which means 'I am'. But he has many other names too. Examples are Jehovah Nissi, our Banner and Jehovah Jirah, our Provider.

His name revealed to us in the New Testament is unique - it is the Lord Jesus Christ.

But Exodus 15:26 shows us that one of the Names of God is Jehovah Rapha, in other words, 'The God who heals us.' This is the God we worship.

He also meant, "**I** am the God who heals you," that is to say, he is **THE** healer. There is no other. Therefore ALL genuine healing comes from God.

**Exodus 15:26** *He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."*

### MAIN POINT

God said 'I am the Lord who heals you.' Think of this as who he is: 'THE-GOD-WHO-HEALS-US'.

What does this imply?

**NOTES:**

**Psalm 103:2-3** *Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.*

**NOTES:**

**Romans 8:28** *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

**Ephesians 1:4** *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.*

**NOTES:**

## 2) It is his nature

In the Bible, the name of a person is very important, for it shows their nature. For example, the name Jesus means, 'Saviour'.

Each name of God reveals something of his inherent nature, the kind of God he is. If his name is Jehovah Rapha, it means that his very nature is to heal. He cannot help it. He is who he is.

I am an Englishman. There is nothing I can do to change that. I was born English, and even if I live in another country, I remain English. It is my nature.

## 3) It is his character

**A) God is love.** If God loves us, then he only wants the best for us (see Romans 8:28). Sickness or disease, by its very definition, is not God's best plan. Who designed your body? Did God design it with sickness? When God conceived you before the creation of the world (Ephesians 1:4), you were perfect!

Let us be very clear, GOD DOES NOT WANT ANYONE TO BE SICK!

You might say, 'Then why are people sick?' I could answer, 'God does not want anyone to sin either, but people still do!'

God's will doesn't happen automatically all the time. If it did, there would be no reason for Jesus to teach us to pray, 'Your will be done.' It was not God's will for Satan to fall. It was not God's will for Adam and Eve to sin. It is not

God's will for children to die of starvation. God's will doesn't always happen.

However, the love of God WILL automatically be a power towards healing in our lives. God hates sickness.

Healing and miracles don't reveal the extent of God's power - creation does that (Psalm 19:1-4). No, healing reveals the extent of God's love.

God did not simply leave his creation to its own fate (a heresy known as 'Deism'). He is intimately concerned with every atom and every person. As a loving Father, his ongoing love for his universe and for us means he continually works to restore and heal. In fact, how can it be possible for God to love us, but not do something about our sin and sickness?

**B) God is holy.** God is perfect, and God therefore desires his creation and his creatures to be perfect. We are called to be holy (1 Peter 1:15-16) like the God we worship. Holiness is perfection, and by definition, disease and sickness are imperfect. Therefore it is impossible for God to be sick (Jesus never was, though he suffered more than any man).

And since God wants us to be like him, it MUST be his will for us to be whole.

**C) God is faithful.** 'Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever' (Hebrews 13:8), and all his promises are 'Yes' in Christ (2 Corinthians 1:20). The God who saved and healed yesterday is the same God who saves and heals today. He has not changed!

**Matthew 9:35-36** *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. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.*

**COMPLETE:** Jesus healed people because he ..... them.

## MAIN POINT

Healing is a sign of God's compassion.

### THEOLOGICAL POINT:

**Leviticus 21:18** *says, No man who has any defect may come near: no man who is blind or lame, disfigured or deformed...*

Therefore sickness and deformity could NOT be God's plan for anyone. Furthermore, Jesus must have also been without defect in order to be the Lamb of God, sacrificed for us. Since deformity and sickness are imperfect, Jesus could not have been sick. He CHOSE to suffer.