

SCHOOL OF HEALING MANUAL

by

John Fergusson

A practical course on how to minister to the sick

SCHOOL OF HEALING MANUAL

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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.

NOTES:

Matthew 8:2-3 *A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.*

WHY IS IT GOD'S WILL TO HEAL YOU?

Some people argue that God stopped healing people after the early church. But how can he stop being a loving God, a holy God, and a faithful God? These things are his character. They are unchangeable.

4) It is his will

God invented healing. It was his idea. The first mention of healing is in Genesis 20:17, when he heals Abimelech and his family after Abraham prayed for him.

Jesus came to earth to show us what the Father is like. Jesus said to his disciples, *'Anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father'* (John 14:9). He also said, *'I do nothing on my own'*. His whole life and ministry were a reflection of the will of the Father.

When the leper came to Jesus (Matthew 8:2-3), Jesus reveals the will of God in his reply, *'I am willing'*.

It is always God's will to heal.

5) It is his work

God is a miracle worker. To him of course, they are not miracles at all! They are only miracles to us because we cannot do them ourselves. But to God, it is all in a day's work!

God said, *'Let there be light'* and there was light. That was a day's work for him! How could it be difficult for the God who *'flung stars into space'* to heal an eye, or grow a leg?

John chapter 5 tells the story of the paralysed man whom Jesus healed at the pool of Bethesda. He had been an invalid for 38 years, and Jesus healed him in seconds. People came running to see what had happened. So Jesus explained.

'Jesus said to them, "My Father is always at his work to this very day, and I, too, am working."'
(John 5:17)

Jesus only did what he saw the Father doing. Healing was his Father's work, and so that is the work that Jesus did. We don't read that he wrote books or built houses. But he did heal people. It is God's work, and wherever God is at work, people will be healed.

Psalm 77:14 *You are the God who performs miracles; you display your power among the peoples.*

DEFINITIONS

A miracle is a supernatural event inexplicable by human wisdom.

A miracle is an event. Healing is a process.

NOTES:

QUESTION

When does God heal?

CHAPTER 3

WHAT IS HEALING?

MAIN POINT

All sickness is a result of the fall.

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

1 Thessalonians 5:23 *May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Divine healing is a much bigger concept than simply laying hands on the physically sick. It is not even a small part of our inheritance as Christians. It IS the whole purpose of Calvary!

But we cannot grasp the meaning and extent of healing without understanding what sickness is, and where it came from.

WHAT IS SICKNESS?

1) God created man perfect

When God created man, he made him in God's own image (Genesis 1:27). He was therefore perfect. There were no mistakes, no deformities and no diseases.

Man was made a whole creature. His nature is complex, but Scripture tells us that we are, like God, a three-part being, made up of a spirit, a soul and a body (see 1 Thessalonians 5:23, and page 14). In Adam and Eve, each part was complete and whole.

2) The Fall brought sickness

Man sinned, and disease, decay, destruction, and death entered the universe. Since then all creation is in bondage to decay (Romans 8:21). Sickness is a manifestation of this - it is therefore, by definition, a falling short of God's intended order.

Therefore sin is the root of all sickness, though not necessarily the immediate cause of it. In John chapter 9, coming across a man born blind, the disciples understood that sin brought sickness.

The Lord's reply did not mean that they had not sinned, because we all have. He meant that in this case, the blindness was not a direct result of their personal sin.

We have seen that God invented healing. The devil invented sickness - see his words in Job 2:5. Man's sin gives the devil the right to exert his power over mankind.

John 10:10 says the thief (i.e. the devil) comes '*ONLY to steal, kill and destroy*'. That is all he does! Therefore he cannot heal, though he can fake it.

Jesus healed ALL who came to him. Now Acts 10:38 says that Jesus healed '*ALL who were under the power of the devil*'.

Therefore sickness is not a 'neutral' result of living in a fallen world. It comes from the devil, as a result of sin (although God can and does use sickness for his purposes). And ALL healing comes from God.

Romans 8:21 ... *that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.*

John 9:1-3 *As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"*

"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

Job 2:5 *But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face."*

John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

Acts 10:38 ...*how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.*

WHOLENESS

Man is a complex of interrelated parts

PART	INCLUDES	HEALING	DISEASE
Spirit	Life	Salvation	Death
	Conscience	Repentance	Unrepentance
	Relationships	Love	Separation
Soul	Mind	Wisdom	Folly
	Will	Obedience	Rebellion
	Emotions	Peace	Distress
Body	Physical	Health	Sickness
	Security	Freedom	Bondage
	Environment	Prosperity	Poverty

God allowed Jesus to die to make us WHOLE, not just to heal us in one part. So we can be healed in any of these parts. Even our land (symbolising our provision) can be healed (see 2 Chronicles 7:14)

Sickness in one part usually brings problems in another. Therefore healing in one part often brings, or requires, healing in another.

WHAT IS HEALING?

Healing is the reversal of the process of destruction, decay and death. It is the restoration of God's intended order, or wholeness. It does not just apply to people or animals - even our land can be healed (2 Chronicles 7:14).

1) Calvary is God's solution

All true methods of healing depend upon God, who is the only real healer. And all healing depends upon Calvary, because only Jesus paid the price for our healing on the Cross.

A) Healing of all creation Calvary is not just for our healing, but for the whole of creation, which will be set free from 'its bondage to decay' when 'the sons of God are revealed' (Romans 8:19-21). It was bound by man's sin ('*not by its own choice*'); and will be '*liberated*' when wholeness comes, into the '*freedom*' that we already have. So salvation means much more than just new birth for mankind. Jesus' death and resurrection bought back the whole earth.

The Cross is not just a gateway to eternity, it is the fulcrum of history. It is God's total solution to ALL the problems of the world. He has no other (see John 13:1).

B) Calvary reverses the curse Sickness came from the fall, through the curse of God (Genesis 3:14-19). Jesus reverses this curse by becoming a curse for us, taking the curse on

DEFINITION

Healing is the restoration of God's intended wholeness.

NOTES:

Romans 8:19-21 *The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God.*

MAIN POINT

The Cross is God's total solution to ALL the problems of the world.

Galatians 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'*

Luke 10:9 *Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'*

Matthew 8:16-17 *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. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases."*

NOTES:

himself, so we might be free from its consequences (Galatians 3:13).

C) Jesus ushers in the kingdom, where Jesus rules. Since he IS God, and God IS a healer, where Jesus is, and the kingdom is fully realised, all will be in wholeness (Luke 10:9).

The kingdom of God has already begun, but is not yet fulfilled. *'Now we see as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face'* (1 Corinthians 13:12).

D) Healing is 'by his wounds'. In Matthew 8:16-17 it says that Jesus *'healed all the sick.'* Scripture then tells us that this was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah (chapter 53:4) *'He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.'* From this it is clear that Isaiah 53:4 is referring to physical healing, not just salvation.

1 Peter 2:24 also quotes Isaiah 53, but this time, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, changes the tense from the present *'we are healed'* to the past *'you were healed'*, since he was writing AFTER Calvary! Therefore your healing took place 2000 years ago, when Jesus paid for it on the Cross. He said, *'It is finished!'* There is nothing left to do.

If we deny divine healing, we deny the wounds of Jesus, and make his suffering out to be worthless.

E) Wholeness, *Shalom* & *Sozo* The Hebrew word *shalom* often translated 'peace', really means 'be whole'. The Greek root word *sozo* is translated 'salvation', 'healing', 'whole' or 'be whole' in the New Testament.

Jesus cares about the whole man (see John 7:23).

We cannot say that we love someone, but only wish them well in one area of their lives! Surely we should want the best for them (wholeness) in EVERY area of their lives just as John did (3 John 1:2).

2) How does God heal?

God uses many different methods of healing.

A) The body's own system This is the most common form of healing. In fact almost all forms of healing are merely helping the body heal itself. The self-healing mechanisms of the body are astonishingly complex, and yet they were there even before sickness appeared. God anticipated and prepared for man's sin and the devil's diseases, because Jesus is *'the Lamb slain from the creation of the world'* (Revelation 13:8).

B) Medicines God promises that *'the leaves of the tree (of life) are for the healing of the nations'* (Revelation 22:2; Ezekiel 47:12). God is not against the use of medicines. I use them myself! Many, if not most, plants have some healing properties.

C) Doctors Many people think that doctors and prayers for the sick are incompatible. Quite the opposite is true! Often they work best together.

In 2 Kings 20, Isaiah the prophet told the sick king Hezekiah that he would die. Hezekiah cried out to the Lord. Isaiah then returned to

WRITE OUT 1 PETER 2:24:-

WRITE OUT 3 JOHN verse 2

NOTES:

THEOLOGICAL POINT

Some misinterpret 2 Chronicles 16:12. Asa's sin of backsliding probably caused his sickness. His error was that he ONLY consulted the doctors, not the Lord, who could have healed him if he repented.

EXERCISE

List the scriptures in Proverbs that speak of sickness and healing. Here are two:

Proverbs 18:21 *The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Proverbs 16:24 *Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*

the king's room and said that the Lord had heard him, and would give him another fifteen years of life. Isaiah did not then lay hands on him, or rebuke the sickness, but instead instructed the servants to use medicine (a poultice of figs), and the king was healed! At the same time, the sign that he would be healed (the sun's shadow moving backwards) was supernatural! We cannot predict God!

Paul's friend Luke, who wrote the gospel and Acts of the Apostles, was a doctor. Thank God that he uses doctors to heal us!

D) Words Scripture teaches us that words are powerful, and even have the power to bring life or death. God uses words to heal (e.g. Proverbs 16:24 - there are many such Scriptures.)

In Genesis 1:2, The Spirit was hovering over the waters, but nothing was happening. Only when God SPOKE, did the Spirit go into action. He is still a 'hovering' Spirit, waiting for God's word. His word in your mouth is still his word! Today, when we speak his word, the Spirit acts!

E) Supernaturally This is where we simply pray and see God heal sovereignly. We do little more than show compassion and speak as the Lord has shown us. He does all the work!

3) What about alternative therapy?

You may ask, 'Do people not get healed through other methods?'

It is possible. But it is false healing. If I twist your arm until it hurts and then stop, the pain will go away. Does that make me a healer, or a bully? The devil can counterfeit healing by removing the symptoms he put there in the first place! But he is not a healer - he is a destroyer (John 10:10). He only 'heals' so that people may be deceived into further suffering or bondage.

Some traditional medicine may be fine, if it uses plants or plant extracts. Most false healing methods have a root in false religion or the occult.

All healing that may take place through methods forbidden by Scripture is false, and dangerous. The physical body may appear to be healed, but the soul or spirit of the person will be harmed. The person's final state will be worse in the end.

FALSE HEALING

Some false healing methods:

Acupuncture

Aromatherapy

Astrology

Charms

Colour Healing

Crystals

False Gods

Homeopathy

Hypnotism

Icons

Indian Head Massage

Magic

New Age Medicine

Psychic Healing

Religious symbols

Sacrifices to idols

Spiritualist Healing

Transcendental Meditation

Witchcraft

Yoga

CHAPTER 4

THE AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

Genesis 1:26-29 *Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.²⁸ God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.’²⁹ Then God said, ‘I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food.’*

WHAT AUTHORITY IS

The Greek word for authority is *exousia*, which means freedom to choose, or to act. We see the supreme example in Acts 1:7, ‘[Jesus] said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.”’ God is not answerable to anyone. He IS authority!

1) Man’s authority – decline and fall

A) Original authority God established man’s authority on earth (Genesis 1:28-30) through a command to subdue it and rule over it.

- i) God gave the authority equally to Adam and Eve TOGETHER (see verses 27 and 28).
- ii) It was over all the earth (see verse 28), all the animals (verse 28) and all the plants (verse 29). See also Psalm 8:6-8.
- iii) After Satan’s fall, but before Adam’s fall, Satan appears as a serpent, an animal. Therefore man originally had authority over Satan and his demons.
- iv) It was NOT over the heavens (Psalm 115:16) or the stars (Psalm 147:4).

B) Lost authority The fall changed everything. Man lost his authority over the animals (which became afraid of him), the plants (which became thorns and thistles) and the earth (which now only yielded through toil). Instead, man now rules over woman (Genesis 3:16).

Man should have ruled over Satan, sin, and the earth, but not over woman. After the curse, Satan, sin and the earth rule over man, and man rules over woman and other people. For man to dominate woman is not God's original plan, but a consequence of the Fall.

2) Man's authority restored

All the work of the fall is reversed by Jesus at Calvary. So God also fully restores man's authority through Christ. This is done through:

A) The Priesthood A priest stands between God and man. God calls Israel a '*kingdom of priests*' (Exodus 19:6). Through Calvary, Jesus has become our great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14), and the whole church appointed priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9).

B) The Kingdom We are also kings (Revelation 1:6). In Matthew 16:18, Jesus declares that he will build his church on the rock (Greek *petra*) of the revelation that he is '*the Christ, the Son of the living God.*' All those with that revelation are the church!

MAIN POINT

The fall reversed God's intended authority for man.

All that he should have ruled over now ruled over him, and all that he should not rule over, he now ruled.

WRITE OUT WHAT MAN WAS MEANT TO RULE (see Genesis 1:26-29; 2:15-17, 2:19-20; 2:23-25; 4:7):

WRITE OUT WHAT MAN WAS NOT MEANT TO RULE (see Genesis 3:16; 4:9; 9:25) :

COMPLETE:

AUTHORITY IS...

Matthew 16:18-19 *And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*

I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Isaiah 22:22 *'I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.'*

DEFINITION

Stewardship is managing God's resources for their growth and his glory.

Then Peter, representing the church, is given the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Keys represent authority.

Jesus has two sets of keys - the keys of David, which are the same as the keys of the kingdom of heaven and signify government (Isaiah 9:6) and are delegated NOW (Isaiah 22:22) - and the keys of death and Hades (Revelation 1:18), which he does NOT delegate.

C) Authority is delegated power and responsibility. The church only has authority because it is delegated. Even Jesus' authority was delegated (John 12:49). The Centurion in Matthew 8:9 knew that all the weight of the authority of Rome was behind him.

By passing the keys of the kingdom of heaven to Peter, Jesus is passing his authority to the church.

In Matthew 16:18-19, Jesus is referring to Isaiah 22:15 - 25. If no one can shut what we open, there can only be one key. No other organisation has a spare, not even Jesus! If we don't heal the sick, who will?

3) Nature of restored authority

A) Stewardship Jesus shows us that the church is to be like Eliakim, the good steward.

Adam was to steward the earth. Jesus restores that to us. A steward is a friend, not merely a servant (see Genesis 15:2).

Stewardship is authenticated with a seal, e.g. in Esther 8:8, Mordecai is given the king's

signet ring. The Holy Spirit is the seal of the New Covenant (Ephesians 1:13).

B) Responsibility The steward is put in charge, and is expected to fulfil his duties and act as his master would without constant supervision (study Luke 12:35-48, and see box). The greater the authority, the greater the responsibility.

God won't interfere in the church's duties unless asked through prayer, or he is taking back authority he has already delegated. A good master doesn't do the work of his servants. He leaves the servants to do it!

C) Extent God gave man 'dominion' not 'domination' over the earth. We are given responsibility FOR the house, but we are not the master; FOR creation, but we are not the creator; FOR the resources but we are not the supplier; FOR the church, but we are not the head; FOR the kingdom, but we are not the king.

When Pharaoh gave Joseph stewardship over all Egypt, he said to him, *"Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you"* (see Genesis 41:39-42)

After his resurrection, Jesus was given ALL authority (Matthew 28:18) but doesn't delegate ALL his authority - he keeps the keys of death and hell.

He delegates some things to the church NOW, some things LATER, and some things NEVER.

LIST ALL THE QUALITIES OF A GOOD STEWARD IN LUKE 12:35 - 48. HINT: You can find key words in verses 35; 36; 37; 38; 42; 43; 47 & 48.

- 1)
- 2)
- 3)
- 4)
- 5)
- 6)
- 7)
- 8)
- 9)
- 10)
- 11)
- 12)
- 13)
- 14)
- 15)

MAIN POINT

The church today often fails because it does not realise the authority it has.

JESUS' AUTHORITY

DELEGATED NOW:

To heal

Forgive sins

Bind and loose

Build the church

Teach the Word

Destroy [evil] powers

Over the power of the devil and his demons

DELEGATED LATER:

To judge Israel

To judge the world

Over angels, nations, cities

Over true riches

NEVER DELEGATED:

ALL authority

Over people

To do violence

To pass sentence

Over all creation

Over the church

Over all kings

Over the ages

Over death & Hades

4) Exercising our authority

Authority is exercised principally by what we SAY (see Matthew 8:8), not by what we PRAY.

A) Words are creative When God created the world, he SPOKE. A blessing is SPOKEN.

B) Authority is by relationship. We receive instructions from above (the Father), and give them to those below (the world, the flesh and the devil).

C) We follow the example of Jesus. When he healed the sick, he SPOKE:

to the demons (e.g. Mark 9:25 - Jesus addressed the demon directly - he did not ask the Father to do it.)

to the sickness (e.g. Luke 4:39 - Jesus rebuked the fever).

to the elements (e.g. Mark 4:39 - Jesus rebuked the wind)

to the trees (e.g. Matthew 21:19 - Jesus cursed the fig tree)

to the person (e.g. John 11:43 - Jesus commands Lazarus to come out)

WE have the authority in the Name of Jesus, so WE speak it into being.

So many people are talking or praying ABOUT their mountains (problems!), but Jesus said, *'You can say TO this mountain, "Move from here to there," and it will move. Nothing will be impossible FOR YOU'* (Matthew 17:21)!

A locked door stays locked unless we USE THE KEYS!

CHAPTER 5

HOW WE ARE HEALED

WHAT WE DO AND DON'T DO

Peter & John did an outstanding miracle in Acts 3. When a crowd had gathered, he explained how it was NOT done (Acts 3:12), and then how it WAS done (Acts 3:16).

1) Not by our own power

We are only channels. We cannot heal a fly with a headache. It is ALL Jesus! Therefore a blind person is just as impossible for us, and just as easy for God, as someone with a pain in their little finger!

We are not spiritual batteries, expected to be charged up! (Peter and John were going TO the prayer meeting, not FROM it!)

We are spiritual conductors, meant to be permanently connected to the power source, which is Jesus. We connect to Jesus by faith. We connect to the person in need by compassion.

If it was by our own power, then only the spiritually powerful could heal. But God can and does use ANY believer.

Acts 3:12 *When Peter saw this, he said to them: "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?"*

NOTES:

Romans 11:6 *And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.*

**WE CAN NEVER, NEVER,
NEVER, NEVER EARN THE GIFTS
OF GOD!**

COMPLETE:

I try to be godly because:

.....
.....
.....

Acts 3:16 *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.*

NOTES:

2) Not by our own godliness

Our godliness doesn't heal the sick. People are NOT healed because we are godly, or healthy. If they were, no one would be healed!

Worse still, if by our godliness we were able to do miracles, then we would be earning them. The better we were, the better we would do! So it removes grace and becomes works. Healing and miracles are gifts from God, not our reward for being good!

Striving for godliness is not so we have more power to minister God's healing. Striving for godliness is our love gift to Jesus.

Therefore we can minister to the sick, even when things are not perfect in our lives - maybe we are sick, or suffering from other problems. We can STILL minister to the sick and see people healed and set free.

IT DOES NOT DEPEND ON US!

IT DEPENDS ON GOD!

3) By the Name of Jesus

We do not use the Name of Jesus like a magic charm (see the mistake of the sons of Sceva in Acts 19:13).

We are ambassadors of Christ, representing the Kingdom of heaven.

We are exercising authority. We submit to the authority of the Father, and use the authority given to us by Jesus himself, by speaking to the principalities and powers, to the demons, to

the sicknesses and fevers, to the body of the sick person, to the person himself, to the elements, or plants or whatever is not under the authority of God, just as Jesus did.

We submit to God and resist the devil (James 4:7), in the name of Jesus. The demons submit to us, because our names are written in heaven (see Luke 10:17.20).

4) The faith that comes through him

In Hebrews 11:6 we see the three pillars of faith - **Belief** ('*anyone who comes to him must believe*') - **Trust** ('*that he rewards*') - and **Action** ('*earnestly seek him*'). Nothing of God happens without faith. Even the word is of no value without faith (see Hebrews 4:2).

A) Faith must be present '*Without faith it is impossible to please God*' (Hebrews 11:6). Faith is like an electrical fuse. It is small, but must be there for the power to flow. See also Matthew 17:20, Mark 11:22-23, 1 Timothy 1:4b, and Romans 14:23b.

B) Faith is in Jesus (John 14:12) We do not put our faith in method, in other people, in prayer, or even in faith!

C) Faith is a decision We decide where to put our faith, and we choose whether or not to put our faith in Jesus (see John 8:30). Faith always goes the extra mile. Faith is bold, because it is not afraid of man, but knows that God will do what he said he will do.

NOTES:

Hebrews 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

WRITE OUT WHAT FAITH IS (see Hebrews 11:1):

FAITH IS IN JESUS

Jesus said, 'I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.' **John 14:12**

FAITH IS A GIFT

Romans 12:3 *For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.*

FAITH MUST BE USED

1 Peter 4:10 *Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.*

NOTES:

D) Faith is a gift In Acts 3:16, we see that faith comes through Jesus from the Father. We ALL have a measure of faith (Romans 12:3).

We are expected to use the gifts God has given us for the good of the church (1 Peter 4:10)

The gift of faith mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:9 is a gift for a specific occasion. We can pray for this when we come to the end of the measure of faith each of us has.

E) Faith grows with

i) **exercise** (see 2 Thessalonians 1:3). Just as muscles grow when we use them, so does our faith. If we don't use it, it becomes weaker.

ii) **hearing the word of God** (Romans 10:17)

iii) **obedience** (Luke 17:5-10) When we do what he told us to do, our faith increases!

iv) **asking** (Mark 11:24)

In summary, both faith and the Name (authority) of Jesus MUST be present in all supernatural healing and miracles.

But the gift of healing comes from God, and is not dependent on our own abilities, holiness, title, position, health, or possessions.

Therefore ANY BELIEVER CAN HEAL THE SICK, and ALL BELIEVERS ARE COMMANDED TO HEAL THE SICK!

CHAPTER 6

DELIVERANCE - CASTING OUT DEMONS

INTRODUCTION

Many are afraid of the deliverance ministry, believing that we must have a special anointing or be spiritual supermen! But since we have no power of our own, but depend on the power of God, it is no more difficult than prophecy, speaking in tongues or healing. It may require more perseverance but any believer can, and should, be willing to deliver others from demons.

Most of the same principles apply to deliverance as apply to healing. Many sicknesses (25% in the gospels) are caused by demons anyway, so if you are regularly healing the sick, you will also be casting out demons, even if you're not aware of it!

A) Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8).

B) Jesus gave us authority over all the power of the devil (Luke 10:19)

C) Jesus commanded his disciples to cast out demons (Matthew 10:8)

D) Only Christian believers can cast out demons, because Jesus gave only us authority to do so (Ephesians 3:10).

Ephesians 3:10 *His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms...*

NOTES:

MAIN POINT

Jesus commanded us to cast out demons! It is not an option.

Revelation 12:9 *The great dragon was hurled down — that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

Ephesians 6:12 *For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.*

John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

NOTES:

1) The Nature of demons

Demons are fallen angels who disobeyed God, and followed Satan (Revelation 12:9; Matthew 25:41)

A) They are evil spirits with personalities of their own, and inhabit spiritual realms. They are the real enemy - never people (Ephesians 6:12).

B) They oppress people, seeking to control them (e.g. the boy with the deaf and dumb spirit in Mark 9:14 -29).

C) They enter or attach themselves through the occult, false religions, curses, wrong relationships, trauma, rejection, rebellion, and sin.

D) They cause sickness, madness, bondage, compulsions, fears, and all forms of distress and disease.

E) Their purpose is to destroy people, carrying out Satan's plans (John 10:10). They obey him through fear.

F) They are always deceptive, often hiding their presence or their function. When a person is demonised, there may be more than one demon present, usually in a hierarchy.

G) They are legalistic, under fear not grace, so they have to respond to authority (Luke 8:31).

2) Qualifications for deliverer

A) Disciple of Jesus (Mark 16:17) Many of us only fulfil half of this Scripture! We speak in

tongues, but feel someone else should cast out demons! No! This is the duty and privilege of EVERY believer.

B) Full of the Holy Spirit It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that demons are cast out (Matthew 12:28). John wrote that the one who is in us, that is the Holy Spirit, is greater than the one who is in the world, that is, the devil. We need his power - we cannot do it on our own!

The gifts of the Holy Spirit, especially the gift of discernment and words of knowledge are very helpful.

C) Knowing your authority The sons of Sceva (Acts 19:13-15) thought they could cast out demons, because others were! They thought there was some magic in the Name of Jesus. They did not understand that ALL authority comes from submission. We only have the authority of Jesus if we are submitted to him. THEN, and only then, can we cast out demons.

But if we ARE fully submitted to Christ, we have the authority to cast out demons (James 4:7).

D) Faith All that we do in the kingdom of God is by faith. We are saved by faith, healed by faith and are set free by faith.

We also heal and deliver others by faith. This means we do what God told us to do, and trust him to do what he has promised to do. He will!

E) Right relationship with God In the story of the boy with a deaf and dumb spirit in Mark 9,

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

1 John 4:4 *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

NOTES:

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

MAIN POINT

The demons MUST submit to Christian believers.

Mark 9:29 *And he said unto them, This kind can come forth by nothing, but by prayer and fasting (KJV).*

Romans 12:2 *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

2 Timothy 2:20-21 *In a large house there are articles not only of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay; some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble.*

If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

Luke 11:24-26 *"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first."*

Jesus tells us that some demons need different tactics, in this case 'fasting and prayer'.

If we are leading uncommitted or sinful lives, harbour unforgiveness, or are demonised ourselves, the demons will know, and will resist us (James 4:7).

Through our full submission to God we become more sensitive to the Holy Spirit, knowing God's will (Romans 12:1-2), and also being more aware of the schemes of the devil.

We do not receive power or authority by living righteously. Those gifts come to us because we are believers, God's children. But we do learn to be sensitive to his guidance (2 Tim 2:20-21).

3) Requirements for the demonised person

A) They must want to be free We cannot deliver people against their will.

B) They must want Jesus as Lord (Luke 11:24-26) If we leave a person 'clean' and 'empty', the demons will return, and the person will be worse off at the end than at the beginning. But if Jesus is in the house, the demons will find themselves fighting him if they try to return!

C) They must forgive Unforgiveness gives the demons a right to be present. To forgive is a deliberate decision, a choice. It is not a feeling.

D) They must repent of any behaviour that exposes them to the demonic power, such as deliberate sin (e.g. adultery), the occult,

witchcraft items, or 'friends' involved in such things.

E) They must be willing to stay close to God after they have been set free. For many, deliverance is traumatic and they need the fellowship of strong believers, the comfort of prayer, and the guidance of the word of God.

If these five elements are in place, then deliverance should be successful and produce long-term and dramatic change.

4) How to know if someone is demonised

Spiritual things are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:11-14). Demons are spirits, and therefore we need the Holy Spirit to tell us what is happening. This gift is called discernment. We cannot tell by physical signs only.

But some symptoms are quite common:- Recurring sickness or a series of unexpected problems; depression, anxiety, or obsessive fears; flickering, 'shifty' or defiant eyes; a rebellious attitude; revulsion of worship or of Scripture; shaking, writhing, or compulsive behaviour; are all common signs, but we do not rely on such things; they only add confirmation to what we discern by the Holy Spirit.

People that have been involved in the occult, or whose families are, people who have been violently or sexually abused, and those who have been severely rejected as children will

1 Corinthians 2:11 *For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.*

NOTES:

1 Corinthians 2:14 *The man without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him, and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

DISCERNMENT:

In Indonesia, I met a girl who was praying in tongues. She seemed 'normal', but my spirit felt troubled. I laid my hand on her and rebuked the spirit of the 'false tongue', and she fell to the ground and rolled on the floor. Minutes later, still on the floor, she was praising God in a new tongue, and great peace and joy showed on her face; and my spirit felt at peace also.

In a meeting in Canada, hundreds of people were crying, laughing and shouting in the Spirit. It was holy chaos! Then I heard a cry much like the others, but that my spirit sensed was evil. I looked up to see people ministering deliverance to a young girl. I also noticed that others were looking in her direction too. In the 'natural' it was just another cry. But I knew by the Holy Spirit what was happening.

almost always need deliverance unless already set free.

When people are born again, baptised, or filled with the Holy Spirit, they are often set free just by God's grace, without needing further ministry. But some people need extended prayer and ministry.

5) How to minister deliverance

A) Don't start unless you intend to finish! Don't minister alone. Remember to love the person, who may be hurting and afraid.

B) Bind the demon sternly (Mark 1:25) until quiet. You don't need to know its name. If you do need to know, the Holy Spirit will show you. Don't trust what the demon says. Demons lie!

C) Counsel the person through prayers of confession, repentance and forgiveness; submission to the Lord Jesus Christ; rejection of Satan, his works and all oaths, covenants and curses.

A USEFUL PRAYER BEFORE DELIVERANCE:

Heavenly Father, forgive me for all my sins that connect me to the devil and his power. I forgive all those who have harmed me in any way. I now renounce forever all oaths, connections or covenants that I have made with the devil or his demons, and all curses I have spoken. I break the power of all words, curses, oaths, spells or covenants made by others, alive or dead, that have power to harm me. I declare that I have authority over all the power of the devil,

through the blood covenant of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, the Son of God, who died to set me free. Amen!

D) Command the demons to go using your authority. They **MUST** obey you however much they argue! You don't need to shout. Just be stern (Mark 1:25). You do not have authority to send them to hell, but you can send them to 'the place assigned for them'.

E) Speak Scriptures over the person (see appendix A).

F) Discern when all are gone. Ask the person, and use your spirit.

G) Minister healing - often healing is hindered until the demons have gone. Then healing will come (see sequence of events in Luke 9:42).

H) Pray for them to be filled with the Holy Spirit

I) Return to correct authority, if a child (see Luke 9:42).

Mark 1:25 *"Be quiet!" said Jesus sternly. "Come out of him!"*

Luke 9:42 *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.*

EXERCISE:

Find as many Scriptures as you can in the Gospels and the book of Acts where Jesus and the disciples cast out demons. Study what they actually said, what they did, and what happened.

How can we see the same results today?

CHAPTER 7

THE ANOINTING FOR HEALING

MAIN POINT

The anointing is the presence of the power of the Lord.

NOTES:

There is often confusion over what the anointing is. In the old Testament, priests and kings were anointed for the position or task the Lord gave them. God enabled them to do what they were called to.

In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus Christ breathes on his disciples and says, *'Receive the Holy Spirit'* (John 20:22), and later the Holy Spirit fell on them at Pentecost, after Jesus had said, *'You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you'* (Acts 1:8).

Simply put therefore, the anointing is the presence of the power of the Lord. As the Holy Spirit is the power of the Lord in action, the anointing IS the Holy Spirit.

1) We are the Lord's anointed

A) We are 'Christ'-ians Names in the Bible tell us about the nature of the person, as we have seen. The Name of Jesus means 'Saviour', and the title 'Christ' means 'The Messiah', which means 'The Anointed One'.

Now, as part of the New Covenant Jesus has given us his own title - we are called 'Christians', which means 'The anointed ones'!

We are God's anointed ones. Again, that means that the power of God resides in his people. This is a gift of God, which is made possible by the sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross. We can never earn the right to the power of God.

We are redeemed (i.e. become Christians) in order to receive the Holy Spirit (Galatians 3:14)!

B) The anointing is irrevocable God does not take back his gifts (1 John 2:27). Many times we may not feel very spiritual, nor see much fruit. We quickly become despondent and think that we have lost our anointing. But the word of God tells us otherwise! And we do not go by our feelings, but by the word of God.

No one was ever UN-baptised in the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 59:21)!

C) The Holy Spirit is a person We cannot receive just a bit of the Holy Spirit! If I invite you to dinner you cannot send your little toe along first, then the rest comes later! When you come, ALL of you comes!

It is the same with the Holy Spirit. When he comes upon you in power, the WHOLE of the Holy Spirit is there, with ALL his power and ALL his gifts.

D) Your anointing is unique Although it is the same Holy Spirit in you as in Jesus or in any other believer, the effect that He has on your life and gifting is unique to you. He will give you an individual and personalised power, because your calling is also unique.

Galatians 3:14 *He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*

1 John 2:27 *As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit — just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

Isaiah 59:21 *"As for me, this is my covenant with them," says the LORD. "My Spirit, who is on you, and my words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever," says the LORD.*

NOTES:

Luke 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.*

NOTES:

For example, every one of us has been given the gift of life by the same Holy Spirit, yet we are all different.

Therefore you cannot have my anointing, and I cannot have yours!

E) The Holy Spirit is God In Luke 5 Jesus was teaching, and Luke adds, *'and the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick'* (verse 17). This clearly implies that there were times, even for Jesus, when the power of the Lord was NOT present for him to heal.

What does this mean?

Jesus himself described the Holy Spirit as the wind (John 3:8). He said, *'The wind blows where it pleases.'* God is sovereign, and the Holy Spirit is God. He can do just whatever he wants to do. We cannot tell him what to do, and we cannot say, 'If we do A, B & C, then the Holy Spirit will automatically do D'.

He knows things we do not know about every situation, and works EVERYTHING out for the best.

F) The anointing can increase Despite the above, God honours those who earnestly seek him. If we pursue God wholeheartedly, we draw closer to him, and he shows us more of what he is doing.

Then we will know better when, where, and even how he is ready to work.

CHAPTER 8

PRACTICAL MINISTRY

In almost every case in the Gospels, Jesus used a different method to heal the sick! He spoke, he touched, he breathed, he spat, he made mud. I believe that he did this deliberately to show us that it is not the method by which people are healed, but by the Name of Jesus, and by faith.

Therefore when we ask what we actually do to see people healed, we must beware of saying only one method works. So the methods I suggest here are just practical hints to get you started. But the method to use in each situation is the one shown you by the Holy Spirit.

1) Attitude

We are ministering the love of Jesus Christ, see Colossians 3:12.

A) Compassion We do not minister to a sickness in order to get a healing, so that we can feel good! We minister to hurting people because Jesus loves them and wants them whole. Ask Jesus for his compassion.

Colossians 3:12 *Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.*

SOME QUESTIONS YOU MAY WANT TO ASK:

- 1) What do you want God to do for you?
- 2) How long have you had this problem?
- 3) How did it happen?
- 4) Is it in the family?
- 5) Why do you think you have this problem?
- 6) Have you or your family been involved in the occult, idolatry or freemasonry?
- 7) How are your relationships (with God, family & others?)

B) Kindness Be sensitive to their needs. If the person is likely to fall, find a 'catcher'.

What they tell you is confidential. Do not share it with anyone without their permission. Do not be shocked by anything they may tell you.

Be presentable yourself! Make sure you don't smell bad!

C) Humility It is not you who is healing, but Jesus. So your main task is to listen and respond to the Holy Spirit. Ask for wisdom, discernment and the root cause (see next page).

I often pray quietly in tongues until I sense the leading of the Spirit. Ask for other spiritual gifts:- faith, words of knowledge, and prophecy too.

Be bold to speak out your impressions, and ask the person if they are right.

Keep your eyes open, and watch their face, especially their eyes. Don't look around at others! You are looking for roots.

D) Gentleness Don't shout. Be careful where you put your hands. Ask their permission, or get them to place their own hand on the sick part, and put your hand over theirs.

E) Patience keep praying until they are healed, or until the Holy Spirit tells you to stop! Don't give up too soon because you don't see immediate results. Jesus did not always either (Mark 8:24)! If one method doesn't work, try another. We often stop too soon because we are either lazy, or short of

time, or don't want to seem a failure! We make excuses! Perseverance brings rewards.

Always ask if anything has happened. You are showing them that you expect something to have happened! This raises their faith. Also if possible ask them to do something they could not do before. This puts their faith into action! Often they are not healed until this moment.

2) Root causes

Jesus always ministered to the root cause of every problem. Many sicknesses or presenting problems are caused by deeper issues that must be dealt with first.

Some common causes of sickness are: Fears, worry, emotional pain, anger, defensiveness, bitterness, unforgiveness, unrepentance, rejection, historical problems, sinful habits, and demons (see box).

Historical problems some people suffer from inherited diseases. Jesus died to set us free from ALL sickness, including genetic sickness.

Some sicknesses are caused by the sins of earlier generations (Exodus 20:5).

Break any family curses passed down from earlier generations (see prayer on page 34). Command the person's genes to be whole and come into line with the word of God.

SOME COMMON ROOT CAUSES OF SICKNESS (see Appendix B for more):

1) Fear If the person has phobias, a spirit of fear is usually present that needs casting out.

2) Unforgiveness will often result in sickness such as arthritis. First lead the person in a prayer forgiving the other.

3) Worry often brings heart and blood pressure problems, asthma and migraines. Worry is a sin (Matthew 6:25-34) and needs to be repented of!

4) Unrepentance If the person admits to unrepented sin, or the Holy Spirit shows you, lead them in a prayer of repentance first.

5) Guilt some suffer anxiety and stress through carrying guilt, even though they have confessed. Again, pray first before ministering healing.

6) Rejection This is one of the commonest causes of emotional problems. Pray for them to receive and believe that Jesus loves them.

7) Anger & bitterness can cause cancer, arthritis and heart problems. The person should forgive themselves, God and others. Cast out any spirit of bitterness, if present.

8) Sinful habits especially immorality and addictions.

FAITH TRIGGERS

A faith trigger is something that we do to raise our faith, or the faith of the person being healed.

There are many of examples in Scripture. Jesus put mud on the eyes of a blind man (John 9:6). Then he told him to wash in the Pool of Siloam.

There was no magic power either in the mud, or the pool. But both acts raised the faith of the blind man.

Elisha told Naaman to wash 7 times in the Jordan (2 Kings 5:10).

People took handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched Paul to the sick who were healed. Again, there is no power in the cloth, but it releases faith.

EXERCISE:

List as many faith triggers as you can find in Scripture that were used to heal the sick.

3) How to minister

A) Laying on hands and anointing with oil Scripture suggests we do this (Mark 16:18, James 5:14), but they are not essential (Matthew 8:8). However, they are useful faith triggers (see box).

When laying hands on someone, prefer the shoulder, or sometimes the forehead. Or (with permission & discretion) lay your hand on the affected part. If anointing with oil, you may put some oil onto their forehead, or as the Spirit leads.

B) Use your authority Jesus never prayed, 'Please Father heal this person'. Instead he would command something like, 'Be healed!' or 'Be opened!'

C) Use Scripture (see Appendix A) This is very powerful. Learn some so you always have them to hand.

D) Command any spirit to leave - see chapter on deliverance.

E) Speak wholeness, life, health, etc. Say such things as, 'Be whole in the Name of Jesus'. Speak to the condition, e.g. 'Disease, go, in Jesus' Name.' Words have power.

F) Invite the Holy Spirit into their life to bring his gifts and fruits. If they are not baptised in the Holy Spirit, pray for them to receive him.

4) End with encouragement

Always end your time of ministry with encouragement. Not all healing will be seen

immediately. Sometimes people are healed that night, or the next day, or the moment they write a letter of forgiveness, for example. Healing is a process, and may need more prayer.

Encourage those who show immediate healing to testify and give the glory to Jesus.

ALWAYS remind them that it is Jesus who heals, not you!

Partial Healing

Often after ministry we find people are partly healed. The pain may be less but still present, or a joint freer but not fully healed. Even Jesus experienced this (Matthew 8:24). Also, when the ten lepers left Jesus they still had their leprosy (Luke 17:12). Nothing appeared to have happened. They were healed later only when they obeyed his instructions.

If God has begun to heal the person, he is faithful to finish it! **Philippians 1:6 GW** says, *'I'm convinced that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it through to completion on the day of Christ Jesus'*. God is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. Jesus said, *'It is finished'* (John 19:30). He is not a God of half-measures!

SOME WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT IF HEALING IS NOT SEEN AT ONCE:

It is impossible for nothing to happen when we pray in faith in the Name of Jesus.

Something always happens.

God doesn't always heal in the way we expect.

God loves perseverance - come for more prayer tomorrow!

God hasn't forgotten you - he wants this more than you do.

Your healing belongs to you, because Jesus paid for it on the Cross.

Your healing happened 2000 years ago.

'Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.' (Mark 11:14).

CHAPTER 9

WHY ARE SOME PEOPLE NOT HEALED?

MAIN POINT

The church should be God's main instrument of healing in the world.

NOTES:

Two of the greatest hindrances to healing in the church are the fear that the sick will not be healed, and the fear of consequent criticism. People might say, 'It is not fair to raise their hopes and then disappoint them. How could you do such a thing to suffering people? You are callous and uncaring!' But such people are thereby showing that they are expecting nothing to happen. And they do not understand the love of Christ, who does not want anyone to remain sick.

But the real truth is, not all are healed. And yet ALL who came to Jesus were healed! (In his home town he could not heal many, but only because they didn't come to him for healing, being offended that the local carpenter was healing the sick.) We may then ask, what are we doing wrong? I want to offer here six reasons why some people are not healed when we minister to them. There are others, but these are the most common.

This chapter is not included as an excuse for us when things don't seem to work out the way we want, but as a challenge and

encouragement to keep learning and growing in this ministry.

While we should never accuse the person being ministered to (when maybe it is we ourselves who lack faith!), there are often reasons in their lives or minds why they are not being healed, and we are there to help find and deal with those issues.

1) Because Biblical healing is not taught or practised

It is God's will to heal every one. Sickness is the invention of the enemy. It is never sent by God. Therefore we do not tolerate sickness! We resist it!

If Biblical truth about healing were taught more widely, more people would be healed.

And if the principles in this manual were put into practice in every church meeting and every time a believer met with a sick person, many more would be healed!

God has given us, his church, the duty to heal the sick. One reason there is so much sickness is because we are not fulfilling our duty.

2) Because of lack of faith

We must never curse the sick person by blaming them for their lack of faith if they don't show immediate signs of healing. The very fact that they have come for prayer shows they have faith! All who CAME to Jesus were healed, but Jesus did not heal everybody.

Matthew 17:14-20 *When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. "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. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him."*

"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." Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment. Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

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."

NOTES:

NOTES:

James 1:6-8 *But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does.*

NOTES:

But SOME faith MUST always be present. As believers, we are expected to have faith (Matthew 17:14-20). The sick person or his friends may also supply the faith needed. Jesus commended sick people for their faith, and told them 'Your faith has made you well' (e.g. Luke 17:19).

We gain faith by obedience, by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17), by asking God for it, and by using the little we have.

3) Because of doubts

Doubts interfere with faith (James 1:6-8). Doubt is different from unbelief. Unbelief is lack of faith. But doubt is a mindset willing to accept alternatives (i.e. double-minded). Faith is a gift from God, but doubt is sin and needs to be repented of. There are several common doubts that hinder the healing work of God.

DOUBT 1: "It is not God's will". People say, 'He might want to heal others, but not me...'

It is ALWAYS God's will to heal. And if God heals one person, it MUST be his will to heal everyone, because God has no favourites. In just the same way, he wants to save everyone.

DOUBT 2: "God has a purpose in sickness". But Jesus healed thousands and never said to ANYONE, 'This sickness is from God, so I cannot heal you.' Nor did he EVER say 'Go home until the purpose of God is completed in your life, then I will heal you.'

God can use sickness, but it is never his purpose.

DOUBT 3: “God heals in his timing”. The Bible says (2 Corinthians 6:2), *‘now is the time of God’s favour, now is the day of salvation’* (this word also means healing).

We are not healed at some time in the future. We were already healed 2000 years ago on the Cross!

4) Because we have not found the root cause (see page 41 and Appendix B)

This may be due to superficial counselling, not listening to the Holy Spirit, or wrong diagnosis. Common mistakes are:

A) Praying for the symptom when the real cause is emotional or spiritual.

B) Praying for inner healing when the problem is a demon; or *vice versa*.

Offer to spend more time praying with the sick person, and seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit, perhaps through fasting and prayer.

5) Because of lifestyle

We all know that eating the wrong things can make us unhealthy. The word of God shows clearly that living a wrong lifestyle can lead to sickness.

It maybe that the sick person should be invited to make changes, such as eating wisely, not working so hard, and repenting of a sinful lifestyle.

EXERCISE - faith and doubt

Study **Matthew 14:22-33**, and especially verse 30. How could Peter walk on the water? Why did he begin to sink? What did Jesus then do? What does this teach you about healing?

John 5:14 *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."*

Jeremiah 10:19 *Woe to me because of my injury! My wound is incurable! Yet I said to myself, "This is my sickness, and I must endure it."*

Jonah 2:8 (KJV) *They that observe [accept] lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*

THREE KEY PRINCIPLES

- 1) God's word is true and always works. God is faithful, even when we are faithless.**
- 2) It is impossible for nothing to happen when we pray in faith in the name of Jesus!**
- 3) If we do what he commanded us to do, he will do what he said he will do.**

But God's grace is great, and he often heals first (see John 5:14).

6) Because we are still learning

Jesus is Lord, and knows all things. We don't yet know as we ought to know (1 Corinthians 8:2; Galatians 6:3). As we learn and step out in faith, more people are healed.

How to keep your healing

Some who receive healing find their symptoms return after a time. At this stage some think, 'Maybe I wasn't healed after all,' and 'allow' the sickness to return (see Jeremiah 10:19). But it is NOT yours!

Others say, 'No, devil! I am healed in the Name of Jesus. I will not accept the return of your disease!' In almost every case, the (lying) symptoms (see Jonah 2:8) will then disappear for good!

It is my prayer that through this course you obey the command of Jesus to heal the sick, in your own body, in your home, your church, and wherever you may meet them.

It is my prayer that thousands will be healed under your hands, and that as a result many find Jesus as their personal Saviour.

There is no better testimony to the love and power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

GO FOR IT!

APPENDIX A - SOME HEALING SCRIPTURES

The word of God never fails. Jesus used the word against the devil, and so should we. Learn as many of these Scriptures as you can, and any others that you find helpful, and speak them in faith over the sick.

Exodus 15:26b *...for I am the LORD, who heals you.*

Exodus 23:25 *Worship the Lord your God and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.*

Numbers 23:23a *There is no sorcery against Jacob, no divination against Israel.*

1 Chronicles 16:22 *"Do not touch my anointed ones; do my prophets no harm."*

Psalms 91 *Whole Psalm!*

Psalms 103:1...3 *Praise the LORD, O my soul; ... who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,*

Psalms 118:17 *I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.*

Isaiah 40:31 *but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.*

Isaiah 53:4...5 *Surely he took up our infirmities and ... by his wounds we are healed.*

Jeremiah 30:17a *'But I will restore you to health and heal your wounds,' declares the Lord,*

Jeremiah 33:6b *I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security.*

Proverbs 26:2 *Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest.*

Luke 10:19 *I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*

Mark 11:24 *Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.*

Mark 16:18b *they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.*

John 8:32 *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.*

John 8:36 *So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*

John 10:10 *The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.*

Romans 8:1 *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,*

2 Corinthians 1:20a *For no matter how many promises God has made, they are 'Yes' in Christ.*

Galatians 3:13 *Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'*

Philippians 1:6 GW *'I'm convinced that God, who began this good work in you, will carry it through to completion on the day of Christ Jesus'.*

2 Thessalonians 3:3 *But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.*

2 Timothy 1:7 *For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.*

2 Timothy 4:18 *The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and will bring me safely to his heavenly kingdom. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

James 5:15 *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.*

1 Peter 2:24 *He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

1 John 4:4 *You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.*

1 John 4:18a *There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...*

APPENDIX B - SOME 'ROOT CAUSE' SCRIPTURES

There are many reasons why we may be sick. Scripture shows us some that are perhaps surprising. We may remain sick if we do not *'have regard for the weak'* (Psalm 41:1-3), or if we do not *'recognize the body of the Lord'* (1 Corinthians 11:29-30), that is, we make light of communion, or we judge other churches, denominations or believers.

This is by no means a complete list, but these Scriptures are included here as examples to encourage you to discover more.

Psalms 32:1-3 *Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the LORD does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit. When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.*

Psalms 38:3-7 *Because of your wrath there is no health in my body; my bones have no soundness because of my sin. My guilt has overwhelmed me like a burden too heavy to bear. My wounds fester and are loathsome because of my sinful folly. I am bowed down and brought very low; all day long I go about mourning. My back is filled with searing pain; there is no health in my body.*

Psalms 40:12 *For troubles without number surround me; my sins have overtaken me, and I cannot see. They are more than the hairs of my head, and my heart fails within me.*

Psalms 41:1-3 *Blessed is he who has regard for the weak; the LORD delivers him in times of trouble. The LORD will protect him and preserve his life; he will bless him in the land and not surrender him to the desire of his foes. The LORD will sustain him on his sickbed and restore him from his bed of illness. (See also Isaiah 58:6-8)*

Proverbs 3:7-8 *Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.*

Proverbs 14:30 *A heart at peace gives life to the body, but envy rots the bones.*

Proverbs 16:24 *Pleasant words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.*

Proverbs 17:22 *A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.*

Proverbs 18:21 *The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

Jeremiah 10:19 *Woe to me because of my injury! My wound is incurable! Yet I said to myself, "This is my sickness, and I must endure it."*

Jonah 2:8 (KJV) *They that observe [accept] lying vanities forsake their own mercy.*

1 Corinthians 11:29-30 *For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.*

