

Spring Session, 2015
Randy Bunch
Lesson 6:

Healing School

Lesson 6: Various Ways of Ministering to the Sick

Central Truth: God has made healing available on different levels and in different ways in order to meet us where we are in our faith.

Mark 9:14-124

14 And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. 15 Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. 16 And He asked the scribes, “What are you discussing with them?”

17 Then one of the crowd answered and said, “Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. 18 And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not.”

19 He answered him and said, “O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me.” 20 Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.

21 So He asked his father, “How long has this been happening to him?”

And he said, “From childhood. 22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

23 Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!”

I have often used this story to illustrate the misguided approach many take when coming to God for healing.

QUESTION: What was wrong with the father’s approach?

ANSWER: He put all the responsibility for his son’s healing/deliverance on Jesus.

22 And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if YOU can do anything, (YOU) have compassion on us and (YOU) help us.”

What was Jesus’ response?

23 Jesus said to him, “ If YOU can believe, all things are possible to HIM WHO BELIEVES.”

Some translations infer it could be rendered, **“If you can! Believe! All things are possible to Him who believes.”**

This certainly agrees with what we’ve seen before about the gospel’s saving, healing, and delivering power being released to those who *believe* (**Romans 1:16**).

Jesus put the responsibility back on the one looking to receive. He said in essence, **“It’s not a matter of what I *can* do or what I *will* do; it’s a matter of what *you* can believe.”**

However, I believe the father’s next response to Jesus’ words is something a lot of people can identify with.

24 Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, “Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!

I’m sure we all believe in healing in a general way, but we are all at different *levels* of faith.

Fortunately, God has made healing available at different levels and through different means to meet people where they are.

The key, perhaps, is finding out how to receive where we are, as well as how to minister to others at their level of faith.

CAUTION: Be very careful trying to get people to receive at what YOUR level of faith. Respect where they are!

- Some will believe they can receive healing without medical means and will receive at that level.
- Some can believe God will carry them successfully through the surgery.

That is a call for THEM to make, not you or me. Minister to them where THEY are, not where YOU would like to see them.

NOTE: We don't receive based on what God can do. We receive on the basis of what we can believe (as the story above illustrates). Expound.

Some ways in which we may receive healing require less faith on the part of the recipient than others. It depends on where we are in our maturity and our faith walk.

I. Gifts of Healings

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all:8 for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another GIFTS OF HEALINGS by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

1 Corinthians 12:28-31

28 And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then GIFTS OF HEALINGS, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? 30 Do all have GIFTS OF HEALINGS? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? 31 But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way.

In these two passages the gifts of healing is mentioned three times. Each time both "gifts" and "healings" is plural, which is correct.

We'll see more about that in a moment.

- When the gifts of healings is in manifestation, little or no faith may be required on the part of the recipient.

NOTE: Some explain it this way: the power of God operates on a percentage of anointing plus faith. You need a total of 100%. If you have 50% anointing present, you need 50% faith. If you have 100% power in manifestation, you have the gifts of the Spirit in operation and may need no faith from the recipient.

This is a rough illustration, but it may be helpful to see it this way as we look at the various means of receiving healing and ministering to the sick.

John 5:1-9

1 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. **2** Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. **3** In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. **4** For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. **5** Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty- eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, “ Do you want to be made well?”

7 The sick man answered Him, “ Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me.”

8 Jesus said to him, “ Rise, take up your bed and walk.” **9** And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked.

And that day was the Sabbath.

QUESTION: Was this man in a state of expectation at all?

ANSWER: No, he was looking to some man to help him to the waters.

He had been there thirty-eight years with no help no healing, and no change. He was not in any state of expectation.

This was gifts of healings in manifestation.

STORY: Brother Hagin pointed to a woman and told her, “When I point to you again, the power of God will come on you. Stand up out of your wheel chair and walk.” She was healed and later told them at the book table, “I still can’t believe it!”

NOTE: Gifts of healings is not the *intended* way for BELIEVERS to receive healing!

- Rather, gifts of healings are to serve *primarily* as signs to the unbelievers.

Mark 16:15-20

15 And He said to them, “ Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. **17** And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; **18** they will take

up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

QUESTION: What is a sign?

ANSWER: A sign is an attesting miracle that accompanies the preaching of the gospel to confirm it and give the message God's divine validation.

God MAY heal a believer through gifts of healings, but we should not expect that as the norm.

Why? Because God expects some faith out of *believers!*

STORY: Many of those healed in the great tent revivals of the 1950's were not Pentecostal people who believed in healing but the denominational people who had not been taught that healing belonged to them.

It would seem that God expects His children to exercise faith in Him and His Word whenever possible.

- Because gifts of healings serve as signs to the unbeliever, it is often associated with the office of the Evangelist.

Acts 8:5-12

5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. 7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. 8 And there was great joy in that city.

These healing and deliverance served as signs to the unbelievers and confirmed the reality of the gospel to them.

Matthew 10:7-8

7 And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' 8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

ILLUSTRATION: This is evangelism "Avon Lady" style!

The Avon Lady didn't just come and give a sales pitch to sell her product. She gave some samples!

Jesus is saying the same thing: “Preach the Kingdom of God and give them some Kingdom samples!”

Just as the samples hooked our moms to the wonderful world of Avon, so likewise it’s the demonstration of the Kingdom of God that helps to “sell” the message!

- There are different gifts of healings that are distributed to different ones as the Lord wills.

No one minister has the *gift of healing*, per se. Different ministers will be used of God to minister healing in different areas, hence, *gifts of healings*.

Acts 8:7

7 For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were POSSESSED; and many who were PARALYZED and LAME were healed.

Here we see Philip ministering to those who *possessed* and to those who were *paralyzed* or *lame*.

STORY: In the days of the Voice of Healing, the various healing ministers would compare notes. Some had great success with those who were deaf and dumb, while someone else may have great success getting tumors healed. Others had gifts to heal other diseases.

Only in the ministry of Jesus do we see *all manner* of sicknesses being healed.

Matthew 4:23

23 And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing ALL KINDS OF SICKNESS and ALL KINDS OF DISEASE among the people.

When gifts of healings are in manifestation, one does not so much *receive* healing, in the sense of *participating* in one’s healing through faith, so much as they are simply healed.

Jesus told his disciples to “*heal* the sick,” not “*pray* for the sick.” That is a different means of ministry.

II. The Healing Anointing

As we saw with the woman healed of the issue of blood, her faith gave action to the healing anointing upon Jesus.

Mark 5:25-34 Refer to the story:

Jesus credited this woman's healing to her faith. Her faith gave *action* to the power.

With me, I will sometimes minister with word of knowledge and gifts of healings in some areas (such as backs), and then minister in a more general way with the healing anointing.

Those who BELIEVE will make a connection with that power.

Sometimes there is such a corporate sense of expectation the atmosphere seems charged with power.

The atmosphere of expectancy is the breeding ground for miracles!

Notice the contrast between these two places in which Jesus ministered.

Mark 6:1-6

1 Then He went out from there and came to His own country, and His disciples followed Him. 2 And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue. And many hearing Him were astonished, saying, "Where did this Man get these things? And what wisdom is this which is given to Him, that such mighty works are performed by His hands! 3 Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him.

4 But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country, among his own relatives, and in his own house." 5 Now HE COULD DO NO MIGHTY WORK THERE, EXCEPT THAT HE LAID HIS HANDS ON A FEW SICK PEOPLE AND HEALED THEM. 6 And He marveled because of their unbelief. Then He went about the villages in a circuit, teaching.

Their unbelief quenched that healing anointing.

Mark 6:53-56

53 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret and anchored there. 54 And when they came out of the boat, immediately the people recognized Him, 55 ran through that whole surrounding region, and began to carry about on beds those who were sick to wherever they heard He was. 56 Wherever He entered, into villages, cities, or the country, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged Him that they might just touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched Him were made well.

Same Man (Jesus), same anointing, but vastly different **RESPONSE** to His ministry!

How we receive a ministry makes all the difference in the world as to what we get out of that ministry.

We call it “making a demand on the gift.”

We exercise faith, expecting to receive from God through His servant, which is exactly what these people in Gennesaret did.

And they RECEIVED!

STORY: Brother Hagin received a “special anointing” to minister to the sick. The Lord told him, “This is the lowest level on which people can receive their healing,” meaning they were participating in their healing by exercising some faith. Expound.

“Tell them that I appeared to you...If they BELIEVE that...”

ILLUSTRATION: Woman who had the young boy with Polio.

We have seen that anointing manifest itself many times over the years:

STORY: Man healed in Newtown, CT of torn rotator cuff.

Sometimes that healing anointing can be stored in cloth like natural power in a battery.

Acts 19:11-12

11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

2 Kings 13:20-21

20 Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. 21 So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

STORY: Young child healed in Virginia when we prayed over a cloth toy.

STORY: Woman who brought the baby up to us in Wells, Austria

III. The Prayer of Faith

James 5:14-15

14 Is anyone among you sick? 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. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Again, this is the prayer of the elders and not the prayer of the sick person themselves.

However, there is still a part they play.

14 ...Let him call for the elders of the church...

This is not only faith in action, trusting in God's provision for them where their body is concerned, but also submission to God's recognized leaders.

There is a direct connection in the scriptures between humility and healing (for another lesson).

Again, the issue here is not the oil or the elders. You can have enough Crisco to drown in and enough elders to circle the block, but if you're not praying the prayer of faith, there is no healing.

We are NOT dependent upon the oil or the elders; we can pray the prayer of faith for ourselves!

NOTICE: There is nothing said here about gifts of healings, the healing anointing, or any special manifestation of the Spirit at all.

This is simply the prayer of faith. Going back to our percentage of power vs. faith, this operation would be closer to 100% faith and little or no "special" anointing.

The Word of God we are believing is anointed! When we pray in faith believing God's Word the power of the gospel is released, as we will see even more clearly illustrated in the last means of ministering to the sick.

IV. Lastly, the best way to receive is to simply believe the Word of God.

Acts 14:7-10

7 And they were preaching the gospel there.

8 And in Lystra a certain man without strength in his feet was sitting, a cripple from his mother's womb, who had never walked. 9 This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, 10 said with a loud voice, “ Stand up straight on your feet!” And he leaped and walked.

We covered this thoroughly in our last lesson.

Paul did not perform a miracle here as has often been assumed from those who only looked at this passage superficially.

Rather the man heard the Word, believed what he heard, and (with a little prompting from Paul) acted on what he believed.

The result? He was HEALED because he BELIEVED the GOSPEL, which is the POWER of GOD unto SALVATION, which includes HEALING!

IN CONCLUSION:

QUESTION: How should we go about ministering to the sick?

ANSWER: Some helpful points:

1. First of all, we should always seek to be led by the Spirit of God.
2. Always get them in agreement with God! In other words, get some faith in them!
3. Teach them that healing belongs to the child of God.
4. If they are unsaved, preach/teach healing as part of the salvation Jesus purchased for us.
5. ALWAYS be positive! You must minister from a position of faith yourself! If you are in doubt, you will communicate doubt to others.
6. NEVER interfere with what their doctor has prescribed for a person's treatment: divine healing works on a *spiritual* level while medicine works on a *physical* level. There is no conflict between the two. We are not the Holy Spirit and should not take it upon ourselves to make decisions for them.
7. Healing is OFTEN a process. Encourage the candidate to stay in the Word of God, surrounding themselves with positive, faith-filled people who will encourage them in their faith walk.

1 Corinthians 13:9

9 For we know in part...

This is not all there is to say on this subject. We only know in part and have endeavored to share with you the part we know. Continue to study and build on this foundation.

Notes
