

## **How to restore the healing power of God to the church**

We learn from the book of Hebrews that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. Whilst He was physically here on earth Jesus healed all manner of sickness and disease. How is it then that the healing power of God is so rarely seen in the church today, although was so often a part of the experience of the early church?

You may say that a few weeks ago at a conference many hundreds of people were miraculously healed. However, it is clear from John Chapter 14 v 12 that Jesus never intended for only a handful of itinerant preachers would demonstrate the healing power of God; it was clearly meant to be the experience of every believer in Christ. In thinking of this, let us consider one of the best known, but so often misquoted pieces of scripture.

Mark chapter 16 v 16, 17 and 18. Many will tell you that it says in these verses "These signs shall follow those who believe: they shall lay hands on the sick who will recover" Those who tell you these things have overlooked one of the key elements of scripture. The key words that should have been mentioned in this scripture are "in my name".

In other words, only on my instruction, not on your presumption. So many times ministers lay hands on the sick and say that they will be healed by faith. My bible tells me that faith comes through hearing. Hearing what? The word of God. If God has not told you to lay hands on that person, you are not acting in faith, but in presumption.

Now let's take a look at Luke chapter 5 v 17 and see if we can learn anything from that. This verse speaks of an occasion when Jesus healed a paralytic. The scripture says "And the power of God was with Him (Jesus) to heal." This is like saying "The captain was sober today". Thus implying that the captain is sometimes drunk.

Although Jesus (who only ever acted in His humanity on earth before going to the cross) was ready for any work His Father wanted Him to do, the implication of this verse is that on this occasion He had a special anointing to heal, itself implying that this was not always the case. Let's look at another miracles of healing, blind Bartimeus (Mark 10 v 46).

A man came up to Jesus who would almost certainly have had a glazed look and a white stick, and Jesus asked him "What do you want me to do for you?" Surely it was obvious that he wanted to be able to see again? Why then did Jesus ask him what he wanted? I think Jesus was (to use a modern expression) stalling for time. Whilst the blind man was making his request, Jesus was listening to that and in his heart crying out to His Father for an instruction as to what He should do on this occasion.

During His ministry as a man on earth Jesus had healed something like five blind men, but each in a different way. Was it because He likes variety or is there another reason? My guess is that Jesus would always ask Father what He should do in every situation. When Jesus healed a man who had been crippled for more than 30 years at the pool of Bethesda (John chapter 5) His disciples how He could perform such miraculous healings? Jesus reply in verse 19 was very clear. "I only do what I see the Father doing". In other words, He only healed one person in that whole crowd because that was all Father told Him to do. Now let's look at our final case of healing in Jesus earthly ministry, Luke chapter 13 verses 10 - 13. This speaks of a woman, described by Jesus as having been held captive by Satan for many years.

Here Jesus recognised the cause of the problem and acted accordingly. Jesus has given us power over all the power of the enemy (Luke 10 v 17 - 20). He has given us the power of binding the strong man (Matthew 12 v 29) and an anointing to break yokes and set captives free (Luke chapter 4 v 18 and 19 applies to very true believer also). He has also told us that there are some evil spirits who will only be overcome through prayer and fasting (Mark chapter 9 verse 29).

If you believe that God wants a special meeting for healing, pray then for that special anointing, that the power of God will be with you to heal also, but only call such a meeting at the command of God. If you are calling a meeting for evangelism, ask for a special anointing for evangelism, this applies across the board. Pray many days in advance, and have a team of people praying until at least half an hour after the meeting has in appearance finished, so that the anointing and the power of God will continue to flow.

Sadly it is for these reasons that the healing power of God is so rarely seen, it is never the case that God does not want to heal anyone, but there may be some un-confessed sin in that person's life, any kind of involvement in the occult for instance, can block the healing of a person, as is outlined in the next study.