

VARIOUS MEANS GOD USES TO DELIVER HEALING

Any parent knows how much they want their children to be safe, happy, and healthy. God feels the same way about His kids! He wants us to be well and He has a number of means to deliver healing to us, but often times we "box God in" on how we will allow Him to heal us. Ignorance, unbelief, prejudices, and presumptive thinking are obstacles that must be removed to allow the flow of God's healing power to and through us.

2 Kings 5:1-14 Naaman had preconceived ideas on how God would heal him. "But Naaman was furious and went away and said, 'Behold, I thought, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper.'" (v.11) The directions Elisha gave was quite different. "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you and you shall be clean." Due to Naaman's preconceived ideas, pride, and prejudiced thinking, he almost missed out on healing and restoration. He turned away in rage (v.12) but his faithful servant girl prevailed upon him to go and wash himself in the Jordan River. As Naaman humbled himself and did the little act of foolish obedience, his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child and he was made clean. The call, then, is for us to also drop our prejudiced, prideful ways of thinking, humble ourselves, and simply receive.

Three Channels of Healing Love

The highest form, other than the climactic resurrection of the dead and receiving our "glorified bodies," is Divine Health. 3 John 2 states, "Beloved, I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in good health, just as your soul prospers." Good health is the mark we all desire. In God's healing delivery system, there are at least three major channels:

1. The natural and nutritional.
2. Science and the medical arts.
3. Divine, supernatural healing.

PRIMARY VERSES ON HEALING

The following are some of the classic scripture verses on healing that one should read, mark, learn and inwardly digest, i.e. meditate upon:

1. **Exodus 15:26**
2. **Psalms 103:1-5**
3. **Isaiah 53:5**
4. **1 Peter 2:24**
5. **Matthew 8:16-17**
6. **Mark 16:16-17**
7. **1 Corinthians 12:9**
8. **James 5:14-15**

BIBLICAL METHODOLOGIES

1) Eucharist – Holy Communion – The Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:27-34)

The Large Catechism reminds us that the body and blood of Jesus is a "medicine for immortality, an antidote against death." We must regard the sacrament as "a pure, wholesome, soothing medicine which aids and quickens us in both soul and body. For where the soul is healed, the body has benefited also. . . those who feel their weakness, who are anxious to be rid of it and desire help, should regard and use the sacrament as a precious antidote against the poison in their systems. For here in the sacrament you receive from Christ's lips the forgiveness of sins, which contains and conveys God's grace and Spirit with all his gifts, protection, defense, and power against death and the devil and all evils" (LC V, 68, 70).

2) Holy Baptism (Rom. 6:3-6; Mk. 16:16)

3) **Calling for the Elders and Anointing with Oil (Jas. 5:14,15; Mk. 6:13.)**
In 1520, Dr. Martin Luther wrote: "The Apostle's promise expressly declares that the prayer of faith shall save the sick man, and the Lord shall raise him up. The Apostle commands us to anoint the sick man and to pray, in order that he may be healed and raised up; that is, that he may not die, and that it may not be an extreme unction. This is proved also by the prayers which are said, during the anointing, for the recovery of the one who is sick... But they do not observe the command of the Apostle, that the priests of the church be called, and prayer be made for the sick. Scarce a single priestling is sent nowadays, although the Apostle would have many present, not because of the unction but of the prayer... Wherefore he says: "The prayer of faith shall save the sick man," etc. If such prayer were made, even today, over a sick man – that is, prayer made in full faith by older, grave and saintly men – it is beyond all doubt that we could heal as many sick as we would. For what could not faith do? But we neglect, this faith, which the authority of the Apostle demands above all else..." (LW 36, pg. 117ff)

4) Laying on of Hands and Prayer by Believers in General (Mk. 16:16-18;

Mt. 19:19)

5) By the Spoken Word (Lk 7:1-10)

6) Jesus' Garments (Mk. 6:56)

7) Peter's Shadow (Ac 5:15,16)

8) Handkerchiefs and Aprons from Paul (Ac 19:11-12)

9) Confession (Jas 5:16)

10) Healing Release through Angelic Activity (Jn 5:12-17)

MANY VALID HEALING STYLES

- 1) **Soaking Prayer Approach (Mk. 8:22-26)** is bringing the presence of God into an individual's life over an extended period of time and seeing progressive healing occur through a patient process.
- 2) **Five Stage Healing Model** is an integrated approach to healing which involves dialogue-prayer combination as taught in the book, Power Healing, by John Wimber.
- 3) **Acting Out Specific Directions** might be by putting fingers in ears, placing mud in the eye, or telling someone to dip in the pool as Jesus did. In this manner we wait to get specific direction and then "Listen and obey".
- 4) **"Resting in the Spirit"** is one of many different terms which have been used to describe experience when one is gently or powerfully "falls in the Spirit" into a resting position where God's presence and healing moves upon your being.

BEING OPEN - NOT CLOSED - A GREAT KEY

- 1) **We Must Learn to be Faithful.** Be faithful in the little we presently receive - stepping out in faith that a greater increase of His anointing will come (Luke 16:10-12).
- 2) **We Must Drop Our Prejudices.** We must drop our prejudices against particular streams, styles, and techniques. Let's not strain at a gnat and swallow a religious camel!
- 3) **Always be Christ-Centered,** giving praise and honor to Jesus, and lifting up the One who suffered on our behalf. Ultimately, it isn't the "healing techniques or models of delivery systems" that bring God's cure to bear. It is the person and presence of Jesus. For our part, we simply get out of the way and let God Healing Anointing flow through His many different delivery systems.

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