

Faith for Healing *by Wendell Smith*

I had already made the doctor's appointment for Tuesday. I had checked in with the receptionist and was now sitting in the doctor's examination room. When the doctor entered the room, he asked me the basic questions and led up to "*What seems to be the problem?*"

I told him I had lost feeling in three of my fingers and was experiencing numbness. He asked me to show him which fingers were bothering me. I found myself very embarrassed as I realized my thumb and two fingers on my left hand were no longer numb. In fact there was nothing whatsoever wrong with me. He did check my hand and mumbled something about how good it was that it went away and then tried to explain what it might have been. I walked sheepishly out of the doctor's office that day and realized that I had been healed.

Two days earlier a healing team from our church had prayed for me. Although I felt nothing at the time, their prayers for my numb fingers took effect within 24 hours and I was healed. Had I recognized it sooner, I would have saved myself a doctor's bill for examining my totally normal fingers.

I always thought a healing would be accompanied by a flash of lightning, a voice from heaven or some kind of spiritual manifestation. But what I have come to understand, after being personally touched by the healing power of God several times in my life, is that when you are healed, you just feel better. The pain is gone, the numbness leaves, the disease disappears and the infirmity is cured. No angelic visitations, no trumpets blowing, you are just normal again like God originally intended.

Healing is a wonderful blessing and part of our inheritance in Christ. Although divine healing is real and available, not all believers have accessed this supernatural gift to the body of Christ. When people ask about healing they usually ask four questions. Is healing for today? How can a believer be healed? Why doesn't everyone get healed? And why do some lose their healing?

Healing is for today.

Jesus healed the diseases and infirmities of the people. The apostles healed sicknesses. Even in the Old Testament, healings were recorded. Throughout church history, people of faith have experienced the sweet touch of God and had their bodies healed.

The Bible tells us that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever". The work of the cross and the wonderful redemption that we have through the shed blood of Jesus still works for us today. He took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses on the cross. His precious promises never fail and He keeps His word and His covenant with His people.

Don't let some grumpy, unbelieving religious person rob you of your faith. Put your simple faith in the word of God. That's where faith comes from. Even as you read this article, faith can begin to rise in your heart. The Lord your Healer is the One who gave you His word and promised to heal your body.

Of course healing is for today! The Bible is for today and the Holy Spirit is still working today in the lives of those who believe God's Word.

How a Believer Can Be Healed?

We sometimes limit God and think there are only a few ways to be healed. But the Bible gives us a myriad of means to be healed. As you read the list given here, stir your faith and access these promises, claiming them for yourself or your own family member.

- The Fear of the Lord (Pr. 3:7,8)
- The Word of God (Ps. 107:20; Pr. 4:22; Mt. 8:8; Lk. 7:7; I Cor 12:8,9)
- The Confession of God's Word (Joel 3:10; Pr. 16:24; Rom. 10:10; Mk. 7:29; Mk. 11:22-24; I Pet. 3:10; Pr. 17:22)
- The Faith of the Recipient (Mt. 8:13; Mk. 9:23; Lk. 4:48; Lk. 17:19;18:42; Acts 3:16; Acts 14:9)
- The Faith of Others, Father for Child (Mark 9:24); Mother for Daughter (Matt. 15:28); Four Men for Their Friend (Mark 2:5)
- The Word of Faith (Rom. 10:8)
- The Spirit of Faith (2 Cor. 4:13)
- The Touch of Faith (Luke 8:43,44)
- Prayer (2 Kgs. 20:5; Ps. 6:2; Is.19:22 ;Acts 4:30;28:8; Ja. 5:15,16)
- Fasting (Is. 58:6-8; Mk. 9:29)
- The Laying on of Believer's Hands (Mk. 5:23; 16:18; Lk. 4:40; Acts 5:12;14:3; 19:11;28:8)
- The Gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:8-10; Acts 2:43; Acts 5:15; Acts 19:11).
- The Lord's Table (I Cor. 11:28-31)
- Holy Spirit Anointing (Is. 10:27 Is. 61:1; Lk. 5:17; Rom. 8:11;Ja. 5:14-16)
- Agreement by Believers (Matt. 18:19)
- Medicine (Pr. 17:22; Ezek. 47:12; 1 Tim. 5:23)
- Good Food, Daniel's Fast (Dan. 1:12)
- Obedience (2 Kgs. 5:14)
- Merry Heart (Pr. 17:22)
- Unusual Miracles, Prayer Cloths (Acts 19:12)
- Casting out of Spirits of Infirmity (Lk. 13:11)
- Worship (Matt. 8:2)
- Hear and Be Healed (Luke 6:17; Rom. 10:17)
- Confessing Faults (Ja. 5:16)
- A Good Report (Pr. 15:30)
- Praying for Your Friends, like Job (Job 42:10)
- Mercy of God (Phil. 2:27)

Why Doesn't Everyone Get Healed?

Why doesn't everyone get saved? Why does God allow suffering? These are all questions we will never have all the answers for this side of eternity. But what we do have is God's Word, the Bible. And we are obligated to exercise our faith in God's wonderful Word and trust Him for the supernatural results.

However, the Scriptures do give us many reasons why people do not receive from the Lord or His promises. Some believers are simply ignorant of the Word. Others are harboring bitterness or refuse to forgive someone who has offended them. When they do this they are tolerating sin in their life and they open a door to the devil. This must be cleansed in order to release the healing power of God. Sin can open a door to demonic activity and spirits of infirmity. Jesus told the lame man who was healed "Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you" (Jn. 5:14).

Some believers live foolishly, eating what they should not eat or overeating. Abusing our bodies by improper respect for the temple of the Holy Spirit can be fatal. This kind of violation of God's laws can bring tragic results.

Other Christians, thinking perhaps that God doesn't care about their confession, speak foolish and negative words about their health and their bodies, refusing to speak the life-giving words that God provides us through the Scriptures. Many people have no faith, and have actually embraced a spirit of unbelief. They have no joy, and lack a merry heart that could do them good like a medicine. The Joy of the Lord is a healing agent!

There are other Christians who simply won't ask for prayer, or they won't confess their faults, or they won't call for the elders of the church to anoint them with oil (Ja. 5:16-18). If you won't humble yourself to receive ministry, you may get sicker. God has provided every means for believers to be healed if they will obey God's word and the gentle prompting of the Holy Spirit, our Helper, who reminds us of the Truth of the Scriptures.

Sadly, some people who call themselves believers do not believe. They do not believe God's Word and seem to not even want to be healed. There are people who wallow in sickness, and secure attention from others by always being sick in some manner. They are clinging to their sickness as a means of affirmation. They actually want to be sick. No doubt this is why Jesus asked the man by the pool of Bethesda, "Do you want to be well?" (Jn. 5:6).

Why Healing is Lost?

Healing, like any aspect of our faith, must be fought for and maintained. The apostle Paul tells us to "fight the good fight of faith". It is a battle. We must resist the devil and stand firm in faith. Symptoms can return, but when they do we must treat them as lying signs and fight for our healing in the Name of Jesus by virtue of the blood of the Lamb and on the basis of the written and infallible Word of God.

Healing is lost for many because they were healed through someone else's faith, but had not developed their own faith to stand strongly against the devil trying to take them back into sickness, weakness and infirmity. Every believer must meditate on God's Word, access the means of healing, and stand strong in their own faith for divine healing.

Recently we have had many people afflicted in our church of various diseases. But we have stood together on the Word of God, used every biblical means possible and determined to stand strong in our faith. Now the tide is turning and people are being healed, bodies are recovering, infirmities are disappearing and diseases are being overcome by the faith of God's people.

Can we expect God to heal? Absolutely yes! All the promises of God are "yes and amen" in Christ Jesus. He is the Lord Who heals. He took our infirmities on the cross. He will put none of these diseases upon us. We will lay hands on the sick and they shall recover. Trust God, believe His Word and step out to obtain your healing. It's your bread, your portion and your inheritance. As your faith is, so be it unto you!