

Signs: they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover

Mark 16:17-18 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."

Does God still heal?

- **James 5:14** 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.
 - If healing went away with the apostles, why was James teaching it?
 - My Russia story
- **Acts 4:13-17** Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴ And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. ¹⁵ But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, ¹⁶ saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷ But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."
 - From the first of the apostles healing, persecution began and healing was attempted to be debunked.
 - Preaching – fine. Preaching with power – persecution.
- St. Augustine said that miracles and healings had ceased. But in his book "Retractions," he recanted due to having witnessed so many miraculous cures.
- If there is a fault with the healing ministry, it lies in the execution of it, not in the validity of the healing ministry itself.

The church is the continuation of Jesus' saving ministry.

- **John 14:12** "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

So what did Jesus do?

- **Luke 4:16-21** So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. ¹⁷ And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: ¹⁸ "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO **PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED;** ¹⁹ **TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD.**" ²⁰ Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."
 - Jesus explained why He came – Preach, heal, set free
 - Sozo – Save = to deliver, heal, make whole
- And so what Jesus did, we also do
- **Acts 10:37-38** that word you know, which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, and began from Galilee after the baptism which John preached: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.
- **Luke 9:1-2** Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. ² He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.
 - Jesus literally gave His followers the power to do what He did.

There is a relationship between healing and forgiveness of sin – but it isn't that one causes the other.

Matthew 9:2-7 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you." ³ And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!" ⁴ But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? ⁵ For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'? ⁶ But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house." ⁷ And he arose and departed to his house.

- This passage shows the relationship of healing both body and spirit
- **The same authority that forgives sin also heals**

James 5:14-16 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.

- Note the ease at which James moves between healing and forgiveness.
- This is not because sickness is caused by sin, but because the same power for both is used.

10 Reasons people are not healed

1. Lack of faith (for the minister – Matthew 17:14-20)
2. Redemptive Suffering
3. A false humility (I do not have enough faith, am not holy enough, not deserving...)
 - a. We do not have to justify God making us well. God loves us.
4. Sin

5. Not praying for the correct thing – (needed inner healing, prayed for physical)
 - a. God is not stupid or playing with us. He wants us to look at the true cause of something and deal with it.
6. Now may not be the time (delays, gradual healings)
7. A different person is to be the instrument of healing
8. Demonic interference
9. Generational Bondage
10. The social environment prevents healing. Hatred and bad relationships.

Our world has an enormous weight of evil and sickness. General unbelief.

 - a. **Matthew 13:57-58** So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." ⁵⁸ Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.
 - b. **Not their unbelief in miracles, but in Jesus Himself (see vss 53-56)**

How to pray for the sick

- There is no universal method or experience.
 - Sometimes Jesus just spoke, sometimes He made mud, sometimes He never even went to the person.
- It is better to pray for what we need rather than how or when we need it.
- We represent God, and so we should reflect God. God is love.
 - **1 Corinthians 13:2** And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
 - Love above all else. Do not turn the ministry of healing into a ministry of wounding and condemnation.
- Anointing with oil
 - **James 5:14** 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.

- **Mark 6:13** And they cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick, and healed them.
- When praying for healing Listen!!! Diagnosing = discernment
- Is God leading you to pray? We do pray if someone asks for it (who are we to say that God did not lead them to come). We also pray if moved with compassion for them.
- Laying hands on the sick. Also Soaking prayer. Usually combined.
- Should we be specific? Only as it helps our imagination to see the healing taking place.
- Pray with confidence:
 - **Mark 11:24** Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.
- Pray with thankfulness:
 - **1 John 5:14-15** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. 15 And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

We must remember it is God who heals, not us. Our role is to pray and command. Leave the results up to God.

2 models of healing prayer:

- Prayer of Petition – When we do not have a clear directive from God.
- Prayer of Command – When we do have a clear directive from God.

Francis MacNutt – *“Healing is mysterious. The best that we can do is to bow down before the mystery that is God. If and when God chooses to reveal His mind, then we can act with assurance. At other times, when we are in doubt about a particular case, the most honest thing to do is to admit our doubt and bow before the mystery.”*