

*Willis Family Ministries*  
Presents

*About*  
*Divine*  
*Healing*

(KJV Edition)

by **Bill Willis**

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“The reason some people have so many groans is that unlike Caleb, they always seem to have a bad report. They testify of their aches, of their hard times, of their many symptoms. They confess weakness and failure, and that is why they continue to have weakness and failure. They rise no higher than their confession.

- Gordon Lindsay  
MIRACLES IN THE BIBLE, Vol. 1  
Miracles in the Old Testament, p11  
Published by  
Christ For The Nations, Inc.  
Dallas, Texas  
1977

## Attitudes Toward Divine Healing

Think about this for a moment. If you want to know why the world is not interested in Christianity, ask ten ‘Christians’ the simple question, “How are you?” Be prepared, though, to fight the feelings of depression which their answers will usually invoke. For some reason, Christian ‘religion’ has been teaching Christians that sickness, disease, blindness, deafness and many other of Satan’s attacks are inevitable, unavoidable and acceptable – even desirable. If you have spent any time listening to the ‘woe is me down here’ doctrines that have been preached in the last half of the 1900s and spilling over into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, you may have the idea that in order to be a good Christian, you must suffer in all aspects of your life with the only consolation being that ‘the Lord will see me through these trials’ – that being the extent of one’s relationship with God.

In order to have such a defeated view of Christianity, it is necessary to draw implications from fragments of scripture and ignore much of what the bible has to say. For instance, how can anyone who has any understanding of the scripture say that sickness, disease, etc. are just a part of life that we have to accept. Consider the following passage of scripture.

*And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.*

(Exodus 23:25-26)

Notice in this scripture that with the sole condition that we serve God, he promises divine health, fertility and a full life span. What, you may ask, is a full life span? Well, according to the bible,

*And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.*

(Genesis 6:3)

I'm sure that many of you are thinking, "What happened to threescore and ten?" That would be,

*The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.*

(Psalm 90:10)

I do not know why Moses gave the life-span of man as seventy years while God said that it would be one hundred twenty years. Is it possible that Moses was 70 years old when he wrote this? Well, without knowing the reasoning behind this statement, I will have to stick with what God said.

Let's assume for a moment, though, that like so many others, you have decided to go ahead and die when you reach seventy or eighty years old. There are still promises in Exodus 23:25-26 that are worthy of review.

- His blessing will be on your food and water.
- He will take sickness away from among you.
- None will be barren or miscarry in your land.

If your food and water are blessed by God, then it is plentiful and nutritious. Nothing that you eat or drink (that is, those things that were meant to be consumed by a human) will hurt you. Just remember that Elijah went for forty days on food that was provided by God. Jesus fed five thousand men along with their women and children with five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus promised that if believers drank any deadly thing, it would not hurt them.

If God takes sickness away from among you, then there is no reason to be sick – that is unless you do not believe what God says. If God says that none will be barren or miscarry, then any wife who wants to can have a child – again, unless you do not believe what God says. That may seem bizarre to some people, given the teaching that has been prevalent in most churches. The fact is, though, when you strip away everything else and look solely at the scriptures, you find that we are promised health.

Why then are God's people sick? The answer is very simple. If you do not accept the promises and gifts that God offers, you will suffer the consequences. Those who do not accept divine health naturally tend to be sick or injured from time to time. Most of the time this comes from believing the word of a doctor over the word of God. So, what can a sick Christian do?

Well, until we reach a level of faith that produces divine health, we need healing. Now, here is where Christian people run into another problem with the 'doom and gloom' teachings that they have been subject to. It saddens me to hear someone pray for healing and then, in the next breath, express their doubt by saying, "...if it's God's will." Folks, **IT IS GOD'S WILL THAT YOU ARE HEALED!!!** As I will explain momentarily, under the old covenants, healing was a special dispensation that was given by God when

he saw fit. Under the New Covenant, though, the healing has already been done. All we have to do is to accept it. I routinely challenge people to find in the bible one instance after Christ's death and resurrection where someone came to be healed and didn't get it. So far, no one has shown me one example. Consider that as we progress through our study on healing. I will explain in more detail when we reach the New Testament. For now, though let's take a look at healing under the old covenant.

# Healing Under The Old Covenant

## Under the Old Covenant (up to and including the law), healing was a special dispensation granted on a case-by-case basis

Not everyone under the old covenants were healed. As a matter of fact, God had been known to bring a plague on his chosen people for reasons of disobedience.

*And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.*

(Exodus 32:35)

In order to be healed during the period of history preceding the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it was necessary to appeal to God (sometimes through people that God would listen to) and, hopefully, find favor. Then, God would heal. Consider these two examples.

### The healing of Miriam's leprosy:

*And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.*

*And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned. Let her not be as one dead, of whom the flesh is half consumed when he cometh out of his mother's womb. And Moses cried unto the LORD, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.*

*And the LORD said unto Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed seven days? let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again. And Miriam was shut out from the camp seven days: and the people journeyed not till Miriam was brought in again.* (Numbers 12:10-15)

### The Healing of Hezekiah:

*In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.*

*Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying, I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in*

*truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.*

*And it came to pass, afore Isaiah was gone out into the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying, Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD. And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for mine own sake, and for my servant David's sake.*

*And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered. And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the LORD the third day? And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees.*

*And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward, by which it had gone down in the dial of Ahaz.*

(2 Kings 20:1-11)

In both of these cases, God granted a special dispensation for healing. In the case of Miriam, she had become leprous because she spoke out against God's chosen – Moses. Notice that God's healing dispensation did not come until Moses spoke to God about it. Moses was someone that God would listen to. As a matter of fact, while God was rebuking Aaron and Miriam for this very incident, he told them that he spoke to Moses face to face.

The same is true of Hezekiah. God had sent word to Hezekiah to get his house in order because he was about to die. However, Hezekiah cried out to God and before Isaiah could leave the building, God sent him back to Hezekiah with word of Hezekiah's healing. In this case, Hezekiah knew how to get God's attention and he found favor with him. Notice, though, that Hezekiah had the advantage of having served God faithfully. There are many promises in the Old Testament that God made to those who would serve him. When these Old Testament personalities stood on those promises, God kept his word and healed them. Keep in mind, though, that it was still a matter of special dispensation. There would come a time, though, that the rules on healing would change.

## **Isaiah's prophecy concerning Christ's sacrifice for our healing.**

*Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded*

*for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement  
of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

(Isaiah 53:4-5)

Hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, God declared through Isaiah that by the wounds or stripes laid on the back of the one that God would send to redeem man, healing was accomplished. Anyone who wishes to understand the concept of divine healing in the church age must begin here. When Jesus took those stripes, every sickness, disease, injury and affliction was healed. Failure to believe without doubt in this provision for healing and to accept it for ourselves is a travesty. And since healing was accomplished at Jesus death, it is for everyone, without exception. It is no longer a matter of whether God sees fit to heal – he's already done it. If anyone fails to receive healing, it is not God's fault.

Let us take a look at the healing ministry of Jesus, who gave us a preview of what we could expect in the church age.

# Healing In The New Covenant

## Healing Examples from the Ministry of Jesus

Jesus healed all who came. People, today will come through a prayer line with the mindset that if they get healed, that's great – but, if not, it just wasn't their time to be healed. Take a look, though, at the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

*And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.*

*And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.*

(Matthew 4:23-24)

Notice two things in this passage – 1) Jesus healed every disease and sickness and 2) people brought all who were sick, suffering, demon-possessed or afflicted and Jesus healed them. Notice, too, as we progress through these scriptures that there is no mention of anyone going away without their healing.

*When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:*

(Matthew 8:16)

He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. Not some of the sick, but all of the sick were healed.

*And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*

(Matthew 9:35)

Again, Jesus healed every disease and sickness.

*But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all; And charged them that they should not make him known:*

(Matthew 12:15-16)

Jesus healed all their sick.

*When Jesus heard of it, he departed thence by ship into a desert place apart: and when the people had heard thereof, they followed him on foot out of the cities.*

*And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.*

(Matthew 14:13-14)

Jesus healed their sick. In many of these passages you will see that the crowds followed Jesus or were there when he arrived at a given place. When they came for healing, they got it.

*And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret. And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole.*

(Matthew 14:34-36)

Here is a case where the faith of the people was such that they desired only to touch the edge of his cloak. All who touched him were healed.

*And Jesus departed from thence, and came nigh unto the sea of Galilee; and went up into a mountain, and sat down there. And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel.*

(Matthew 15:29-31)

Jesus didn't have to go to the synagogue to find people who needed healing. On the other hand, the sick didn't have to go to the synagogue to find someone who would heal them. It is a good thing for Christians to remember – even though it is important for Christians to gather together, a church building is not necessary in order to minister to those who need it. In fact, most of the people who need to be ministered to do not attend church. You may ask, though, 'don't the people who have faith to be healed attend church?' The short answer is that if the church attendees believed what the bible says, there wouldn't be churches full of sick people. We minister healing where healing is needed.

*And it came to pass, that when Jesus had finished these sayings, he departed from Galilee, and came into the coasts of Judaea beyond Jordan; And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there.*

(Matthew 19:1-2)

Once again, we find that those who needed healing came to the one who they knew could heal them.

*And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.*

*And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were sore displeased,*

(Matthew 21:14-15)

Here, we see why Jesus did very little healing in the temple or synagogue. The same is true in a majority of the churches today. The religious leaders do not like what they cannot control. The religious leaders of the day could not heal and would not tolerate one who could. Since the same is true in most of today's churches, it is important to find a ministry that is based on the bible and not on the whim of an organization, the pastor or other religious leaders in the church.

*Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ.*

(Luke 4:40-41)

Even though Jesus could very well have healed everyone at once, he took the time to minister to each one of them individually.

*And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.*

*And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.*

(Luke 9:10-11)

In each of these instances, Jesus healed all who needed healing. There was never a documented case of someone having to go away saying, "Well, I guess it just wasn't my day to get healed" or "Well, God didn't see fit to heal me." **All who came for healing were healed.**

Let's look at a few more examples from the ministry of Jesus.

## **The healing of the centurion's servant.**

*And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented.*

*And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.*

*The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it.*

*When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour.*

(Matthew 8:5-13)

In this account, the centurion asked Jesus to heal his servant. The incredible thing is that, even though Jesus was willing to go to the centurion's servant, the centurion let Jesus know that it was not necessary that Jesus come with him – only say the word and it will be done. Here is a man who understood the supernatural. If Jesus commanded that the servant be healed, it would be done.

## **The healing of a deaf-mute.**

*Then was brought unto him one possessed with a devil, blind, and dumb: and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spake and saw. And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?*

(Matthew 12:22-23)

When the people saw that the demon-possessed man was healed, they recognized the power by which the healing was accomplished. This is one of the reasons that it is very important that Christians minister healing today. When the world sees this healing power manifested in Christians, they will want what we have.

## **The healing of the daughter of a Gentile woman.**

*Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon.*

*And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.*

*But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*

*Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.*

*But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs.*

*And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.*

*Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.*

(Matthew 15:21-28)

Even though Jesus came as the Messiah of the Jews, this Gentile woman showed a level of faith that Jesus was impressed or at the very least, pleased with. Even this Gentile woman received what she came for – the healing of her daughter.

## **The healing of the demon-possessed boy whom the disciples could not heal.**

*And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is a lunatic, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him.*

*Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.*

*Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out?*

*And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.*

(Matthew 17:14-20)

This man had already brought his son to the disciples to be healed. Keep in mind that this was a case of demon-possession. Even without the power of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the disciples were able to heal many diseases and afflictions. They could cast out demons – but there were limits. Dealing with certain demons without the baptism of the Holy Ghost required knowledge that the disciples didn't have. Remember, though, that we can now have the baptism of the Holy Ghost. At that point, we have all of the power and authority that was given to Jesus after his death. With the power of the Holy Ghost, we can operate in the spirit realm just as Jesus did when he was here in the flesh. Accept the baptism of the Holy Ghost and then act in faith. When you do that, Jesus tells us that nothing will be impossible.

## **Even Jesus was not received in his own hometown, yet he still healed.**

*But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching. And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and gave them power over unclean spirits;*

(Mark 6:4-7)

This is a sad occasion. We have been in situations where the doctrine of “that’s just the way it is” has prevailed and robbed people of their faith. One example of this comes when ministers, including Jesus, attempt to minister to childhood friends, family and neighbors. When the people from Jesus’ hometown saw Jesus, they remembered that he was the son of Joseph the carpenter and that they had watched him grow up. We have run into the same thing. Our ministry has been summarily discounted by those who watched us grow up and knew us before we entered the ministry. If the same has happened to you, don’t be discouraged. Satan will use those closest to you to discourage you. That is why Jesus said that if we would follow him, we must be willing to give up our friends and families.

That having been said, though, notice that even under these circumstances, Jesus laid hands on those who were sick and healed them. Even in this spiritually hostile environment, those who came for healing, got their healing.

## **The healing of the blind man at Bethsaida (Jesus laid hands on the man twice).**

*And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.*

*And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.*

*And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.*

*After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.*

*And he sent him away to his house, saying, Neither go into the town, nor tell it to any in the town.*

(Mark 8:22-26)

There is something in this passage that I would like for you to consider. Jesus healed this man of blindness, but not all at once. This is something that we have incorporated into our healing ministry. Jesus laid hands on this blind man. He then asked him if he could see. The man said that he saw men as trees. That wasn't good enough. Jesus laid hands on that man again. I know that most people will lay hands on someone once and then go on about their business. If that hasn't achieved the desired results, though, we will lay hands on that person again. If Jesus did it, there's no reason to believe that we shouldn't if the situation warrants it. Because of that one small consideration, we have seen many more healing miracles than we would have otherwise.

## **The healing of the paralytic man who was lowered down through the roof (if you need healing, there's little excuse not to come).**

*"And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with his couch into the midst before Jesus.*

*And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.*

*And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?*

*But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house.*

*And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day.*

(Luke 5:17-26)

People frequently ask me if I believe that God will heal anyone who seeks healing. By now, you should know that it is not about what anyone on this earth believes – not even me. What is relevant is what the bible says. Since we are under the New Covenant, we have to refer to the New Testament to find our answer. Jesus healed all who came. The apostles healed all who came. We are told to lay hands on the sick and they will recover. So, the short answer is, yes, God will heal all who seek healing. Why, then do some get healed and others don't. Although there are many possible reasons that a person may not get their healing, there are two things that can be shown from scripture. One is that if there is no healing, it is not God's fault. The second is that you have to want it. The passage of scripture given here shows a man who really wanted a healing and his friends who were willing to do whatever it took to help him get his healing. In nearly every service in which we minister healing, there is at least one person who asks for a healing for someone who is not in attendance. I understand that sometimes people are asking for healing for someone in another state or someone in the hospital. Still, some of these people who need healing consider themselves too sick or feeling too bad to go to church or to the person who can minister healing to them. There is no assurance that a person who stays home will be healed. Again, this is not God's fault. Sometimes, we just have to take action if we want to receive something from God.

## **The healing of the woman with the issue of blood and the raising of Jairus' daughter from the dead.**

*And it came to pass, that, when Jesus was returned, the people gladly received him: for they were all waiting for him.*

*And, behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue: and he fell down at Jesus' feet, and besought him that he would come into his house: For he had one only daughter, about twelve years of age, and she lay a dying. But as he went the people thronged him.*

*And a woman having an issue of blood twelve years, which had spent all her living upon physicians, neither could be healed of any, Came behind him, and touched the border of his garment: and immediately her issue of blood stanchèd.*

*And Jesus said, Who touched me? When all denied, Peter and they that were with him said, Master, the multitude throng thee and press thee, and sayest thou, Who touched me? And Jesus said, Somebody hath touched me: for I perceive that virtue is gone out of me.*

*And when the woman saw that she was not hid, she came trembling, and falling down before him, she declared unto him before all the people for what cause she had touched him, and how she was healed immediately.*

*And he said unto her, Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.*

*While he yet spake, there cometh one from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, Thy daughter is dead; trouble not the Master.*

*But when Jesus heard it, he answered him, saying, Fear not: believe only, and she shall be made whole.*

*And when he came into the house, he suffered no man to go in, save Peter, and James, and John, and the father and the mother of the maiden. And all wept, and bewailed her: but he said, Weep not; she is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn, knowing that she was dead.*

*And he put them all out, and took her by the hand, and called, saying, Maid, arise. And her spirit came again, and she arose straightway: and he commanded to give her meat.*

*And her parents were astonished: but he charged them that they should tell no man what was done.*

(Luke 8:40-56)

Once again, here was someone who showed that she really wanted a healing. She didn't care about the crowds or what anyone thought about her. She only knew that if she could just touch the hem of Jesus' clothes, she would be healed. We can never let anyone get between us and the blessings and promises of God.

Also in this passage of scripture, we see a man whose daughter was dying. Even though the religious leaders of the day did not accept Jesus as the Messiah, this man, who was a ruler of the synagogue, knew that Jesus had the power to heal his daughter. Once again, here is a man who is not concerned with the opinions of other people. He was focused on his daughter's healing and that Jesus held the source of that healing power. Even though the girl was dead when Jesus got there, this religious leader got what he came to Jesus

for. His daughter was returned to him whole. Never take your eyes off of the promise of God. **No amount of personal experience diminishes the promises of God that are found in his word.**

## **The healing of the woman who was bent over for eighteen years.**

*And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.*

*And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.*

(Luke 13:10-13)

Oh what a joy to see someone come with backs that are bent, stiff and in chronic pain and go away able to bend and move normally and painlessly. Here is a woman who was bent over for eighteen years and was unable to straighten up. What a horrible existence! But after eighteen years, she met a man with compassion and the power to heal her infirmity. Usually, Jesus would tell those who he healed that it was their faith that healed them. This time, though, Jesus called her out and laid hands on her. It is important to note, as we move through these examples, that Jesus used a variety of methods to both approach those who need healing and to heal them. Since it is important for all Christians to lay hands on people and heal them, Christians need to realize that the Spirit will help you to know what to do to minister to each individual.

## **The healing of the invalid at the pool of Bethesda.**

*After this there was a feast of the Jews; and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*

*Now there is at Jerusalem by the sheep market a pool, which is called in the Hebrew tongue Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of impotent folk, of blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain season into the pool, and troubled the water: whosoever then first after the troubling of the water stepped in was made whole of whatsoever disease he had.*

*And a certain man was there, which had an infirmity thirty and eight years. When Jesus saw him lie, and knew that he had been now a long time in that case, he saith unto him, Wilt thou be made whole? The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me. Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk.*

*And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked: and on the same day was the sabbath.*

*The Jews therefore said unto him that was cured, It is the sabbath day: it is not lawful for thee to carry thy bed. He answered them, He that made me whole, the same said unto me, Take up thy bed, and walk. Then asked they him, What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk? And he that was healed wist not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place.*

*Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. The man departed, and told the Jews that it was Jesus, which had made him whole.*

(John 5:1-15)

I am always amazed at how much energy people will expend making excuses for not getting healed. Jesus very simply asked this man if he would like to be healed. Instead of giving Jesus an absolute 'yes', this man began to tell Jesus why he had not been healed. I have heard many excuses why people refuse to receive healing. Some say that healing is not done anymore. Some say that it is not God's will to heal them. Some say that they suffer physical afflictions so that God may be glorified in their infirmity. Some believe that they must somehow make themselves worthy to be healed. Some say that it is not yet God's time to heal them. Unfortunately, many of these people will not face their lack of faith. None of these excuses line up with the word of God under the New Covenant.

Under the New Covenant, healing is no longer a special dispensation as it was under the law. As a matter of fact, infirmity and disease were often used by God to correct and, in some cases, judge his chosen people and those of other nations. God made the decision, on a case-by-case basis, whether or not to heal in any given circumstance. He allowed tens of thousands to die in some cases, but in others, he would save the lives of those who were sick and dying.

Under the New Covenant, though, the provision for healing has already been made, once and for all. The prophet Isaiah tells us:

*But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

(Isaiah 53:5)

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, Isaiah spoke in the present tense of the healing stripes that Jesus took for us. He said that we are healed. Then, we move to the book of 1 Peter where we read:

*Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

(1 Peter 2:24)

“...ye were healed.” These words were spoken in the past tense. The healing has been done. That is why those of us who operate in the gift of healing can be confident that anyone who comes for healing can have it. With the death of Christ, we have been given a covenant under which the provision has been made for our salvation and healing. Since that sacrifice, there are no grounds for making the excuse that God will not heal. He’s already done it. If we do not receive a healing, it’s not God’s fault. As you read the New Testament, notice that after the death of Jesus, and even during his ministry, everyone who came for healing was healed. Let’s move on.

## **Jesus commanded his disciples to heal every disease and sickness.**

*And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease. These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give. Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat.*

(Matthew 10:1, 5-10)

Also,

*Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them. And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.*

(Luke 9:1-6)

I have included both Matthew’s account and that written by Luke because they are each unique in their reporting of this event. Taken together, though, we see that Jesus sent out the twelve disciples and they healed the sick. Yes, you read that right – the disciples healed the sick. I know that this is a sore spot for many people, but please see what the

bible says on this subject. Many people are quick to weigh in with a statement similar to “No person has the power to heal – God is the one who heals.” Look back at these passages. Jesus gave the disciples power and authority to cast out demons and to heal and then instructed them to go and heal. We are still under that commission today. Later in this writing, we will be looking at the Great Commission as presented in the book of Mark. This commission was not directed only to the twelve or even the seventy that Jesus had previously sent out with dispensational power to heal and cast out demons. Jesus gave all believers the power and authority to heal and cast out demons and then commanded us to go and do it. He didn’t tell us to pray and ask God to do it – he said for us to do it.

# Healing After the Ascension of Jesus

## The apostles healed all who came.

*And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch. And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.) Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them.*

*There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one.*

(Acts 5:12-16)

Did you notice the part where people brought their sick and laid them so that Peter's shadow might fall on them? – not his hands or his clothes, but his shadow. The apostles believed in the healing power that Jesus gave to those who believe. The people who brought their sick believed in that healing power. As a result, all of them were healed.

*Therefore they that were scattered abroad went every where preaching the word.*

*Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city.*

(Acts 8:4-8)

This passage clearly states one of the best reasons for God's people to heal and perform miracles – people pay attention to those who perform miracles and a door of opportunity to share the gospel is opened.

*In the same quarters were possessions of the chief man of the island, whose name was Publius; who received us, and lodged us three days courteously. And it came to pass, that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and of a bloody flux: to whom Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him.*

*So when this was done, others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed: Who also honoured us with many honours; and when we departed, they laded us with such things as were necessary.*

(Acts 28:7-10)

What a wonderful example of word of mouth advertising. When Publius' father was healed, others heard about it and came to be healed. Think of the benefit to the kingdom of God when people who come for healing hear about Jesus – the one who told us to go and heal.

## **The healing of the lame man in Lystra.**

*And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother's womb, who never had walked: The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.*

(Acts 14:8-10)

This is a good example of a healing that could not have been accomplished any other way. The man was lame from birth. Through faith, though, he was able to leap and walk. Since he had never walked before, it was an extraordinary miracle when he jumped up. After that, walking was icing on the cake.

\*\*\*Note: This is when the men of Lystra sought to worship Paul and Barnabas. This can easily become a pitfall. Many times, people will try to give glory to the man instead of to God for their healing. It is very easy for a person who heals or performs miracles to accept that kind of praise out of pride. We must be careful to remember that we are not special except that we are children of God. It is to Him that we must direct that praise. After all, without the power that God gave us and without the authority that Jesus gave us, we could not do anything. He deserves the praise – not us. That having been said, let's move on.

# Healing, one of the Spiritual Gifts.

As I'm sure you know, healing is listed in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, when he was discussing the gifts of the Spirit. Note the following passage of scripture.

*But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

(1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

Healing is indeed one of the spiritual gifts and those who possess that gift are very proficient healers. Please keep in mind, though, that you don't necessarily have to have the gift of healing in order to heal – just as you don't have to have the gift of tongues in order to speak in tongues. You see, confusion concerning supernatural Christianity arises when there is no distinction made between ministries, gifts and supernatural tasks that all Christians should be performing. Consider what Jesus said before He ascended into heaven.

# All Believers Can and Should Heal

## Jesus declared that all believers would heal.

*And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

*And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*

(Mark 16:15-18)

There are five examples of supernatural activities that believers would perform. They are:

- Casting out demons
- Speaking with new tongues
- Taking up serpents (I don't recommend this)
- Drinking deadly poison without harm (Also, not recommended)
- Laying hands on the sick and healing them

Once again, keep in mind that these are examples. If the need arises to feed a thousand people with five cans of beans, please don't look at this passage of scripture as a laundry list of acceptable miracles and use it as an excuse not to perform that particular miracle. Just offer thanks to God and start giving out the beans. Also, some may say that it was only those to whom Jesus was speaking that would do these things, but Jesus said that it was those who believe. The question to ask yourself, then, is, 'Do you believe?' If you say that you believe, I challenge you to do what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ told us all to do if we believe. To paraphrase Mark 16:17-18, believers will minister to those in need by healing and performing miracles as supernatural Christians are empowered to do.

## Go Ye and Heal

Look around you as you travel through this life. You will undoubtedly come across those who are in need of healing or other miracles. When they see the healings and miracles that you perform by the power and authority of Jesus Christ, they will believe and be saved. Please don't let that opportunity pass you by. Lay your hands on the sick and they will be healed.