

LOVE, SERVE Part 2: "Heal!"

Mark 16.15-18 "Go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone! The ones who believe and are baptized will be saved; *the ones that don't believe will be separated forever*. And these signs will follow those that believe: in My name they will cast out devils, they will speak with new tongues, they will take away 'serpents' and if they drink anything harmful it will not hurt them... *they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover!*"

Jesus followers are to "go" and preach, teach and demonstrate the kingdom of God!

We could go right to the core of the healing message... The Healing Connections... "He bore our sicknesses and carried our sorrows. We thought He was being stricken, smitten and afflicted by God... but He was bored thru for our rebellious sins, bruised for our evil, the beatings of our wholeness were upon Him and by His stripes we are healed..." **Is 53.4,5** NT: By His stripes we *were* healed! **1P2.24**
Cross-bought salvation and healing are two parts of the Gospel/Good News! Salvation is our preeminent mission... But healing comes from the same Cross... Engaged the same way... believing!

"This is My body broken for you... eating it unworthily is the reason many are weak and sickly among you and many die..." **1Cor 11.24,29,30** Communion is one connection to healing! "Healing is the children's bread!" **Mk7.27**

But let's talk about healing from a fresh perspective... Like so many other kingdom concepts we can look at the word(s)... But if our internal wiring is faulty... then healing won't flow!

Two related hindrances to seeing a flow of Cross-bought healing!

"I can't pray for healing for people if it doesn't work for me!" (Hypocrisy argument) "I have my own physical issues and I've prayed, and been prayed for, and I'm still not healed!"

"You know how through the infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel to you at the beginning. And my temptation which was in my flesh you despised not nor rejected, but received me as an angel (sent one) of God, even as Jesus..." **Gal 4.13,14**

"**You know...**" Paul is calling them to remember a circumstance of shared experience! "**You will remember how thru infirmity of the flesh...**" *astheneia sarkos*: bodily illness! **J11.4** (sick unto death) **Acts 28.9** (diseases) **1T5.23** (stomach trouble) **Mt 8.17** **IS 53.5** **1Pet 2.24** (took our *sicknesses and diseases* on the Cross). "**I preached... "the (whole) gospel..." to you! His sickness did not negate his mission to deliver the whole gospel... "nothing that was profitable to them!"** **A20.20**

We live in corruptible bodies that will not be redeemed... they must be exchanged! Our health status does not change the truth of God's healing power! Our sickness should not keep us from preaching/praying for healing... Any more than a dented car should keep us from driving!

Anyone think he was hypocritical for preaching while temporarily sick?

"**And my temptation:**" *peirasmos*: a test by an evil provocation... Maybe tempting him to "wonder..." Maybe tempting them to reject his words... "**Which was in my flesh...**" Having some kind of visible disease! "**You despised not, nor rejected...**" Strong words of very possible reactions... "**But you received me as an angel of God... even as Jesus!**" As one sent from heaven!

My experience... The diagnosis... My perspective... "I am a servant of men but a purchased slave of God!" (**mult**) "My God will deliver me, but if not..." **Dan 3.17,18** "Live in between two places..." **Ph 1.21-**

24 "He provides for us *along the way*" **Mt10.9** We live in corruptible bodies that must put on incorruption... **1Cor 15.53,54** Straight line of obedience over long way! **My health status does not give me a pass to exclude any part of the gospel!**

We know... The peace of God is real... are we hypocrites if we preach it while we don't have it? Or is it still true? How about prosperity? How about freedom? How about salvation? How about holiness? **Healing is true because it is...** And we walk (and talk) by faith, not sight (experience) **2Cor5.7...** And the just LIVE by faith in what the Son of God did and said! **Gal 3.11**

We must learn to judge nothing before its time... not healing and especially not the Lord! Some healings come immediately, some in phases, and some over a period of time! Many people have lost their healings by cancelling their faith and turning away too soon!

I can't pray for healing for people until I have bigger faith and something to give! Usually accompanied by condemnation: "Who do you think you are to lay hands on people? "You don't have great faith!" "You can't give what you don't have!" "You're not perfect... why would God use a person like you?"

When the devil speaks, he speaks with just enough truth mixed in the lies that it almost sounds plausible!

Answering the lies... Who do I think I am? "A believer commissioned by Christ Himself!" "Father, I have given them Your word... keep them from evil... sanctify them by truth... as You have sent Me into the world so I have sent them into the world... these and all those who will believe in Me thru their words!" **John 17.14-20** "All power is given to Me in heaven and earth, so you go therefore..." **Mt 28.18,19** "Go into all the world and preach the good news to everyone!" **Mt 16.15**

I don't have great faith? You're right... but... Jesus told me... "You only fail because of unbelief: *Firmly*, I say to you, If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move, and it will move,' and nothing will be impossible unto you." **Mt 17.40** I don't need great faith, just "enough," because Jesus helps my unbelief... **Mk9.24** **Because He is a great God!**

"You're right... I don't have healing to give... I just have faith to exercise!" That's honest, WE have nothing to give... The power of healing came from God and still comes from God... "And Peter, fastening his eyes on him, said, 'look on us... we don't have any silver or gold to give you *but what we do have we give you; in the name of Jesus rise up and walk!*'" **A3.4-6** **We are hydrants not retention ponds of healing!**

Why would God use me? "He's a specialist is making the unprofitable, profitable! **2Cor5.18,19** "He puts His glory in earthen vessels..." **2Cor4.7** "He takes what is base to confound the world..." **1Cor1.23-31** "Because I am His child, empowered, 'gifted,' accompanied" **A1 1Cor 12 Mt28 J4** "To glorify His name , bearing much fruit!" **J15.5,8,16** "Because I am anointed, and privileged to lay hands on the sick!" **Mk 16 Jam 5.14-16**

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