

LOVE, SERVE!

Part 4: "Defeating Doubt!"

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!*"

Healing has always been God's heart, and the Cross made healing part of our message of "good news!" But what happens when we pray... and we don't see the answer of healing immediately? It's important to know and teach... "don't prejudge or misjudge healing... just leave your faith on..." Some healings happen immediately, some in phases, some on the way!

Some healings... Are instant! (lepers, paralytics, deaf, blind, impotent, crippled, maimed) **And dramatic:** Resurrections of widow's son **1K17** (Elijah), Shunammite's son **2K4** (Elisha), Widow of Nain's son **Lk7**, Jairus' daughter **Lk 8**, Lazarus **J11**, Tabitha **A9** (Peter), Eutychus **A20** (Paul). **Come over time!** Miriam, w/repentance dynamics attached, **Num 12.11-15**, Naaman, w/obedience/submission dynamics, **2K5**, Blind man/mud **Mk8** **Come on the way!** Luke's Lepers! **Lk17** "seek first the kingdom and all things will be added!" **Mt6.33, 10.9** **Lk12.29-32!**

We've been talking about hindrances to the flow of healing power thru us!

Healing Hindrances... The hypocrisy hindrance! "If it doesn't work for me I can't minister healing with confidence!" **Gal 4.13,14** **The empty cupboard hindrance!** "I can't give what I don't have... Nada..." **A3.4-6** **The Sovereignty of God hindrance!** "I don't now what He's going to do so I don't want to go out there on the limb!" **Ps 84.11, Rom 8.31,32, 1J5.14,15, 1J3.8, A10.38** **And, today, "Doubt..."**

Doubt... Can be a real problem in a life of faith! "Let him that asks, ask in faith, nothing wavering, not tossed around... that man will not receive from the Lord... *a two-minded man is unstable in all his ways!*" **Jam 1.6-8** **Can cause people to fail!** "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 17.20** **Can cause you to sink!** "When Peter saw the wind, he was afraid and beginning to sink, he cried out, 'Lord save me!'" **Mt14.31**

Doubt must be redefined because most "doubt" is just *misdirected* faith! **We have empowered defeat by allowing faith to be focused on the wrong things! And when they don't come to pass... as the Bible infers they should... we "doubt" and feel defeated!**

Focused Faith... "Do you believe I am able to do this? According to your faith let it be unto you!" **Mt 9.27-29** "If You want to You can make me clean... And Jesus touched him and said, 'I want to, be clean!'" **Mt8.2,3** "If you can believe, all things are possible to him that believes, and the father cried out, 'Lord, I believe (commit to, trust You), help me where I am unbelieving (not committing, trusting)!" **Mk 9.23,24**

Truth... "This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us, and, *if we know that he hears us*, we know we have what we desired of Him!" **1John 5.14,15**
"That's it! That's where I doubt. I doubt that He hears me!" "I'm not worthy of His attention!"
"I'm a sinner, still broken!" "I deserve this! I did it to myself!" **Simple answers... BUT...**

Truth... "From the belly of hell I cried out to the Lord *and He heard me*. Though I said I have been cast out of Your sight, *I will look again to You!* Even when my soul was drowning and I sank to the lowest

levels, the earth swallowing me up forever, *You brought me up from the pit*. When my soul failed within me, *my voice came up to You*. Those that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy! *Salvation is of the Lord!*” **Jonah 2**

Got it? We may break fellowship thru sin... But never forsaken/always predisposed!

Faith... “And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, saying, ‘Lord, my servant is at home paralyzed and tormented. And Jesus said, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered, Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof: but speak the word, and my servant will be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goes; and to another, Come, and he comes; and to my servant, Do this, and he does it. When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to them that followed, Truly I say unto you, *I have not found so great faith...*” **Mt 8.5ff**

What was his great faith? The Centurion was focused on Jesus! “I believe You are the One who has the power and authority to move my mountain!” Great faith is based on believing in Someone... not for the something!

Cp... “How God anointed Jesus who went about doing good, healing all that were oppressed of the devil for God was with Him...” **A10.38** (a look back) But He was stopped from doing good *in His hometown by people’s unbelief!* “And He could do no mighty work there, except lay His hands on a few sick folks and heal them. *And He marveled at their unbelief!* **Mk 6.3-6**

Cp... What was the source of their unbelief? “Where did He get this wisdom and power working thru His hands? Isn’t this the carpenter? Don’t we know His origins? Jesus said, ‘A Prophet is not without honor but in His own country, among His own kin. And He could do no mighty work there, except lay His hands on a few sick folks and heal them. *And he marveled at their unbelief!* **Mk 6.3-6**

Unbelief is defined by not being able to rightly discern Jesus for who He is! And it kept them from miracles of healing and defeated them!

Cp... Three chapters later... “And the father of the boy with the evil spirit said, ‘if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.’ Jesus answered, ‘if you can believe all things are possible to him that believes.’ And the father replied, ‘Lord, I believe, help my unbelief!’” **Mk 22-24 His miracle was based on his perception of *who Jesus was, Lord, and what He could do!***

True Faith... Is centered on believing in Someone, not believing for some-thing! Does God heal? Will He heal me? “If you believe!” *Incomplete statement! **Defeatable mis-belief!*** A form of works! ‘I do I do I do I do believe...’ Ask again, Does God heal? Will He heal me? “If you believe... *that He is* the rewarder of those who diligently seek HIM! BELIEF that produces miracles! ***Faith is a connection that has force!***

There are people in this room believing for something and being defeated by doubt! If you are believing *for* something, all the devil has to do is keep it away from you long enough *and you will disbelieve!*

But believing *in* Jesus, you won’t doubt... because no one in the room doubts that He can do anything!

If you believe that He is the One who completes your need... there’s nothing anyone can do to keep Him away from you!

Most of what we call doubt is just defeatable mis-belief; missed-the-mark- of-belief! And if we get back to believing in Jesus faithfulness... we will have assurance *that we will receive* what we ask!