



Sharing

Elijah Prayer Discipleship School

Becoming an instrument of prayer

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Building Fathers House

A Dwelling Place for God by the Spirit

(Discipleship=doing the will of God walking in submission to the authority of God so that you can become an instrument of authority)

Workshop no. 18 : "Prayer evangelism" - Healing of the sick - part one - why should we pray for the sick.

***John 9:1-5** And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: **but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.** I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*

Purpose of this workshop: To consider physical healing through the power of prayer as God's evangelism plan.

Intended Goal: To equip the believer to become a instrument of prayer to the glory of God.

Scripture readings :

Luke 9:11** 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.

***Malachi 4:2** But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

Matthew 4:23** 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.

Matthew 9:35** 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.

Luke 9:6 *And they departed, and went through the towns, **preaching the gospel, and healing** every where.*

Luke 9:11 *And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and **spoke unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing.***

Acts 10:38 *How **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.***

1 Corinthians 12:9 *To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the **gifts of healing by the same Spirit;***

Deuteronomy 32:39 *See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, **and I heal:** neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.*

2 Kings 20:5 *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.*

Psalms 6:2 *Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak: **O LORD, heal me;** for my bones are vexed.*

Matthew 8:7 *And Jesus saith unto him, **I will come and heal him.***

Acts 4:30 *By **stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.***

Food for thought :

Biblical basis for healing in evangelism

John 9:3 *"....but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."*

When Jesus looked at a man, blind from birth. He did not consider the origin of the sickness, instead **He saw the potential the sickness had to manifest the Kingdom of God, glorifying His Father in Heaven.**

It is not about us, it is about God and His Kingdom.

Apostle John in the epistles of 1 John 1:1-4 explained evangelism and the purpose of evangelism as he explain in *1 John 1:2 (For the **life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;**)* In considering the mentioned we can see that as Jesus saw the potential to show the Kingdom of God through the healing of the sick, so **John explained that they as the disciples of Jesus bear witness to the mentioned manifestation as seen through Jesus Christ and the works He did.**

Jesus said unto His disciples that they will do the same as He did, and even more but **the works is there to bear witness to the glory of God.** *John 5:36 But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.* Again we must agree that the **works of God is not about us, it is to bear witness unto God and who He is.**

Since today there is a widespread skepticism as to the power of the gospel, even amongst theologians, the need for a clear **demonstration of the healing power of The Lord is needed as a witness to the fact that Jesus is the Son of the Living God.**

For the mentioned to be effective, we need to be in agreement that the Lord **is who He said He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him, in** the knowledge of the mentioned and in accordance to the Word :

- 'by His stripes we were healed' – Isaiah 53:5-6.
- 'I wish above all that you be in health and prosper as your soul prospers' – 3 John 2
- 'I am the Lord that heals you' – Exodus 15:26
- 'healing is the children's bread.....' – Matthew 15:26
- 'Balm in Gilead' – Jeremiah 8:22
- 'If my people who are called by name will humble themselves... and pray... I will heal their land...' – 2 Chronicles 7:14.
- 'I have come that they might have life and have it more abundantly' – John 10:10.

We also need to acknowledge that God is working with us, we work not on our own, but God have chosen us to be the instrument in His hands to make His promise true, the Word of God confirm the mentioned partnership in healing as a witness to the glory of God through the following examples :

a) Old Testament events

- Abraham prayed for the healing of King Abimelech's family – Genesis 20:17-18
- The son of a Shunamite couple given life – 2 Kings 4:18-37
- Naaman healed through Elisha's intervention – 2 Kings 5:1-14
- King Hezekiah's prayer for preservation of life – Isaiah 38:1-9, 21-22.

b) The Apostles had a ministry of healing

- The lame man at the beautiful gate who then praised God – Acts 3: 1-6
- Ananias prays for Paul's healing – Acts 9:10-12
- The cripple at Lystra is healed – Acts 14:8-18.

*John 11:42-45 And I knew that thou hearest me always: **but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me.** And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with grave clothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. **Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.***

In considering Jesus at the grave of Lazarus, Jesus confess in His prayer unto the Father, that even though He knew that the Father always hears Him, He pray aloud so that those standing around may come to believe. Prayer evangelism is purposed to be a witness in drawing people unto God and thus is not limited to a specific place or setting. The following are some examples:

- In the home setting – Jesus healed the mother-in-law of Peter who was taken ill with a fever, and she rose and ministered to them (Matthew 8:14-17);

- At the church/place of worship – Jesus healed the woman afflicted in the synagogue (Luke 13:10-17);
- One-on-one - Ananias prayed for the healing of Paul and instantly, Paul's blindness was overturned (Acts 9:10-19);
- Hospital or place for the sick – Jesus healed a man at the pool of Bethesda (a place where people were healed). This man was sick for 38 years (John 5:1-9);
- Other public places – blind Bartimaeus was on the road when he cried to Christ for healing. Jesus obliged him and called him to receive his sight, and he did (Mark 10:46-52).

So, location and place are no restriction to our practicing and administering divine healing to those in need. We are only the instrument in the hands of the Healer, therefore we must remember that as **instrument, we have no authority in ourselves, but have received authority in the name of Jesus to witness unto Him**. Jesus explained to His disciples that they will receive power from above to witness unto Him. As Jesus witnessed unto the Father on earth so we witness unto Jesus as the Son of God.

Praying in the name of Jesus is therefore essential in every prayer, for without the name of Jesus there is no authority, no power to heal and no witness unto Him. **The Bible records that whatever we ask in the name and in accordance with the will of the Lord Jesus Christ, He will do it.** So issuing commands to infirmities, and the demon spirits behind them, has to be done in the name of Jesus (John 14:13-14; 1 John 5:14; Acts 3:16). The Bible says that 'They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony and not loving their lives...' (Revelation 12:11)

True stories :

Acts 3:1-9 Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God:

Act 5:12-15 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.

John 11:21-45 Then said Martha unto Jesus, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. But I know, that even now, whatsoever thou wilt ask of God, God will give it thee. Jesus saith unto her, Thy brother shall rise again. Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth

in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world. And when she had so said, she went her way, and called Mary her sister secretly, saying, The Master is come, and calleth for thee. As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly, and came unto him. Now Jesus was not yet come into the town, but was in that place where Martha met him. The Jews then which were with her in the house, and comforted her, when they saw Mary, that she rose up hastily and went out, followed her, saying, She goeth unto the grave to weep there. Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died. When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, And said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept. Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? Jesus therefore again groaning in himself cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. Jesus said, Take ye away the stone. Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. Jesus saith unto her, Said I not unto thee, that, if thou wouldest believe, thou shouldest see the glory of God? Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead was laid. And Jesus lifted up his eyes, and said, Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always: but because of the people which stand by I said it, that they may believe that thou hast sent me. And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him.

God's authority :

Matthew 10:1 *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.***

Matthew 10:8 ***Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.***

Mark 3:15 *And to **have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:***

Luke 9:2 *And **He sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.***

Matthew 11:3-5 *And said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see. **The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.***

Mark 16:20 *And they went forth, and preached every where, **the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.***

Acts 1:8 ***But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.***

Conclusion :

We received power from above to be witnesses unto Jesus Christ. The witnesses is not referring to talking, it is **to become a witness** unto Jesus as a instrument to bring glory unto Him. We have been empowered by the Holy Spirit, to take every though captive that want to exalt itself above the knowledge of God, so that we can **be an instrument of faith expressed in the good works that bear witness to Jesus and to our Father in Heaven**. So that the whole body of Christ can come into the unity of faith in the knowledge of Christ Jesus.

We must remember we have authority as we walk in obedience unto The Lord. As Peter and John walked in obedience The Lord healed the lame man, and Peter and John reacted to say unto the people, why do you look at us as if we healed this man, he is healed in the name of Jesus - **their act of obedient faith bear witness unto Christ Jesus**. God does not always heal and we need to accept it in faith, for through it we are reminded that we are not the healer, we are just the instrument. We should not forget that our salvation came through the suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ, He accepted His crucifixion in an obedient witness unto the victory God planned to achieve for all mankind, likewise can our illness be used by Him to mature us and to build in us a character in the likeness of Jesus.

The Word of God however directs us to use the authority we received in the name of our Lord Jesus, to do the following in obedience and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit (remember faith of a mustard seed) :

- **Laying on of hands** as directed in James. In Matthew 8:1-4, Jesus laid hands on the leper 'and immediately, his leprosy was cleansed.'
- **Proclaiming the word of/for healing** in the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ. The centurion recognized the potency and authority of the spoken word, so he requested Jesus to speak and give the command for the healing of his servant. Jesus marveled that a Gentile could muster such faith. Jesus spoke, and the servant was healed (Matthew 8:5-13).
- **Praying over an item of clothing to be send to a sick person**. Controversial, but we have an example where pieces of items of clothes like a handkerchief and apron were used as a symbol of the presence of the one praying for healing (Acts 19:10-12). Paul sent those materials to where he could not physically visit and the Lord honoured this action as He healed and delivered those who were oppressed.
- **To use of anointing oil** as in (James 5:13-15) were he encouraged the Church to call the elders and let them pray and anoint the sick in their midst. This was not for soothing purposes – it was for healing, representing the Holy Spirit! This is still in use and is encouraged.
- **Some unusual means**. The shadow of Peter (Acts 5:12-16) cast over the sick was reported to have healed the afflicted. God can instruct His servant to do some unusual, unorthodox and unconventional things. The prompting of the Holy Spirit should be obeyed for **we are only the instrument used in the hands of God**. But we must remember that healing is to the glory of God as He manifest Himself as **we trust in Him**.

We do the mentioned in obedient faith, and should not allow any argument of doubt to exalt itself above the knowledge of God. Sometime people may argue that with Christ and the early apostles healing was instantaneously. Even so, Jesus applied mud to the eyes of a blind man who later reported that he was seeing men as trees (Mark 8:22-26). Christ had to touch him a second time and then he saw clearly. So it can happen, that a healing may be gradual over a period of time. It is no

less a healing as granted by God. We are called to get out of the boat in faith and pray in the name of the Lord for the sick. Remember it is not us but we are only the instruments, but as in the tabernacle the instruments that are called to bring glory unto God (witness unto God) should be purified and holy (2 Timothy 2:21).

Evangelism is to prepare a way for God to establish His Kingdom in the hearts of men as we witness unto Him before men. **Likewise God is using us as instrument of obedience to pray the prayer of faith so that God can show Himself mighty and that people who witness can become believers.** If Jesus at the grave of Lazarus deemed it necessary to pray in such a way, that those standing around may believe, who are we to rely only on our works of preaching to declare the wonders of God without becoming the instrument to demonstrate what we believe.

May we all receive a *new heart, new vision and a renewed call* towards this aspect of *healing in evangelism in our obedience to the Great Commission.*

Questions to be answered :

1. What is the purpose of praying for the sick?
2. Explain the prayer of Jesus for Lazarus?
3. What biblical grounds do we have, concerning praying for the sick?
4. What does the Bible teach concerning how to pray for the sick?
5. What is the requirement to be an instrument in the hands of God?