

# Healing in the Bible

Funerals processions are sad. But this funeral cortege was worse than most. The woman's husband had already passed away. Now, her **only** son was lying in the coffin. Her heart was shattered. In a few minutes they would arrive at the cemetery. Her only child would be placed in the ground and covered up with dirt. She would have no one. Only those who have experienced something similar could imagine the hurt and extreme loneliness that this woman faced.



Funerals usually conclude in a graveyard. This procession never made it to the cemetery because it crossed the path of Jesus. When He encountered death and disease, He brought life, healing, and hope. Christ told the woman not to cry; He had a plan. According to Luke 7:13-14, Jesus touched the coffin and told the young man to get up. As verse 15 puts it so beautifully, – “The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.” Can you imagine the contrast of that mother's going from intense sorrow to extreme joy in a moment's time? What a tremendous reversal Jesus made as the son who was dead was alive again!

## Overview

Sometimes it is difficult for us to expect Jesus to perform a miracle today like he did in the story from Luke 7. God has not changed. His power is as great today as it always has been. His compassion for those in need is as strong as ever. Jesus can do miracles for everyone who believes. There is nothing quite like witnessing the wonderful healing power

of God in your life. It is definitely something that we can experience today--just as it is illustrated in God's Word. Jesus sent out His 70 followers with a dual commission, “Heal the sick, and say to them, The kingdom of God has come near to you” (Luke 10:8,9). Notice that healing and sharing the good news of salvation are combined in these verses. From this it must be concluded that

healing can and should accompany the gospel message.

Throughout the book of Acts, the Holy Spirit confirms the proclaiming of God's Word as healing continues. In addition, James 5:13-16 promises healing as elders in the church pray in faith for the sick. God's provision of healing is as relevant today as it was for the people of the Old and New Testaments.

# DECLARATION OF FAITH

*We believe that Divine Healing is the power of the Lord Jesus Christ to heal the sick and afflicted in answer to believing prayer; that He who is the same yesterday, today and forever has never changed, but is still an all-sufficient help in the time of trouble, able to meet the needs of, and quicken into newness of life the body, as well as the soul and spirit in answer to the faith of them who ever pray with submission to His divine and sovereign will.*

- Aimee Semple McPherson,  
Founder ICFG



We believe in the same kind of divine healing that was administered by Jesus when he healed the crippled, the paralyzed, and the blind. We believe in the same kind of healing that Christ promised would follow “them who believed;” and in the same kind of healing performed by Peter, John and Paul. We believe in the same healing that continued in the early Church, and in the same divine healing that was practiced by Luther, Zinzendorf, and Wesley. Divine healing has not changed or diminished throughout human history because the Lord remains eternally the same, and the needs of mankind are the same.

Psalm 103:3 is a beautiful Old Testament example of what people should expect when they trust God for their total healing: “Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases.” We have records of God using anointed prophets to bring healing to specific individuals in the days before Christ walked on this earth. Once Jesus began His public ministry, healing the sick was, unquestionably, a very important phase of His mission. Healing did not stop when Christ returned to heaven. In fact, we do not get far into the book of Acts before miracles of healing began to burst onto the scene. The following is a limited list of miracles from the Bible which represent the periods of the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the Early Church.

## Healing in the Old Testament

- A son is raised from the dead (1 Kings 17:17-24).
- A child is raised from the dead (2 Kings 4:17-35).
- Naaman, the leper, is healed (2 Kings 5:1-14).
- King Hezekiah is made well (Isaiah 38:1-21).

## Healing During Jesus’ Ministry

- Jesus heals a leper (Matthew 8:2-3).
- Jesus heals a paralyzed servant (Matthew 8:5-13).
- Peter’s mother-in-law is healed (Matthew 8:14-15).
- Jesus heals all who came to Him (Matthew 8:16).

Matthew concludes this section of Scripture (Matthew 8:17) with an Old Testament quotation which links the healing ministry of Jesus with that of the prophets of old, “that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘He Himself (referring to Jesus) took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.’ ”

## Healing in the Early Church

- Multitudes of sick people are healed (Acts 5:15).
- Dorcas is raised from the dead (Acts 9:40).
- A lame man at Lystra is healed (Acts 14:10).
- Eutychus is restored to life (Acts 20:10).




# Personal Response

Some people contend that divine healing is only a physical blessing. There is concern that the bodily needs might be put above one's spiritual needs. They fail to see that bodily healing is taught in accordance with the truth of scripture and that those who are healed are drawn closer to God. It is impossible to separate man's physical and spiritual self. What blesses the soul has an effect upon the body, and what blesses the physical man has its effect upon soul and spirit. Thousands of people have come to know Christ personally and significantly by experiencing His healing touch on their lives.

Romans 10:17 tells us that we can increase our faith as we read God's promises. Spend a few minutes reflecting on the examples of healing you have studied. Choose one of the Bible examples given in the *Insight* section of this lesson. Read the corresponding Bible verse(s) and share your answers to the following questions with one other person from your class.

- What spiritual effect did the physical healing have on the person who was healed?
- How was God glorified because of the healing in this example?
- How is your faith strengthened by this account of God's healing power?
- What did God require of the people involved?



## HEART PERSPECTIVE

In all periods of history, God has healed in response to sincere and earnest pleas for mercy and deliverance. Great is the compassion of the Lord from age to age. Hezekiah heard the death sentence pronounced upon him, yet he refused to accept death as inevitable. His plea for God's mercy did not go unheeded. The healing of Naaman demonstrated the greatness of God to a heathen general. In both of these examples, God recognized the sincerity of the people who needed healing. The mercy of the Lord continues today -- it is from everlasting to everlasting. The healing power of God is as relevant today as it was in Bible days. From this it should be obvious that the Lord's reasons for healing the sick and afflicted have not changed from that day to this.

There is something about the healing power of Jesus Christ that significantly strengthens our faith when we personally experience His touch. A new level of conviction is present when we personally see the results of our prayer of faith. Answered prayer for healing encourages us to reach out to others in prayer. We must prepare ourselves to be used of God around people who do not yet know Jesus. Practically no one who is sick or hurting will refuse prayer when he or she is ill or in need. Prayer for healing opens a door to lead people to Christ.



## Lesson 10 Teaching Outline



# Healing in the Bible

### **REFERENCE POINT** (15 minutes)

Medical science attests to the fact that there is a higher rate of recovery among the sick that are prayed for than those who are not prayed for. The Lord is compassionate. His heart is for His children. He will do what is best for us.

Have the students read the *Reference Point*. Allow them to share any testimonies they might have of someone they know who was prayed for and got better. If no one responds, share a testimony out of your own experience or the experience of someone you know who was healed.

### **OVERVIEW** (10 minutes)

Ask a volunteer to read the *Overview*. Write the phrase “commanded to heal” on the chalkboard. Stimulate discussion by asking the students if they think that healing was only for the disciples and the early church. Could it be that we are included in that command?

Only Jesus can heal, but we can play a part in God’s healing plan by praying with faith. Christians may pray for each other and for themselves.

### **INSIGHT** (20 minutes)

Discuss the suggested examples of healing in the Old Testament, in the Gospels, and the Book of Acts.

Emphasize the fact that God healed people throughout the Old Testament, the Gospels, and the Early Church period. Therefore, it is logical that He would continue to heal today.

Remind the students often throughout the lesson that God cares about every part of their lives, including their physical well being.

## TAKING IT HOME

### **PERSONAL RESPONSE (Conclusion, 15 minutes)**

Have the students read the *Personal Response* section. Then have them pair off and reflect on the four questions listed.

### **HEART PERSPECTIVE (Personal Devotions)**

Encourage the students to contemplate the fact that God cares about every aspect of their lives, and they can call on Him anytime, day or night, believing that He will meet their needs and touch their bodies. He can also use them to bring healing to others through prayer.

### **FAITH SHARING (Follow-Up)**

Arrange for a visit to a nursing home or a hospital during the week and have the class pray for the sick. Be sure to get permission from those in charge of the care centers first. While there, be courteous and minister quietly.