



Healing the Sick

Luke 4:38 And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon's house. Now Simon's mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. 39 And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them. Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. 41 And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, 43 but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." 44 And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

1/ Why is praying for the sick important and who can do it?

Not only did Jesus model it he also commanded it

Matt 10:7-8 proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

1 Cor 2:2 For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified....and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

2/ What is the role of faith

- Notice the source of the faith - comes not from Peter's mother-in-law but from those around who cared for her. Likewise, people brought the sick to Jesus (v 40)
- Elsewhere it was the sick person themselves that demonstrated faith (Bartimaeus the blind man in Mark 10:46)
- Faith is important. It can be in the person being prayed for or the person receiving prayer or even the person who brought the person to be prayed for. Jesus was looking for faith and commended faith where he saw it. but he could use even minuscule faith.
- We can grow in faith
- Never tell someone that they don't have enough faith. Jesus only ever said that to the people praying not to the person he was ministering to.

3/ What can be healed?

'Various' diseases (see also Matt 4:23-24 'every disease')

Matt. 4:23 And he went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people.

Psalms 103:1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Mark 9:23 And Jesus said to him, "**If you can!** All things are possible for one who believes."

POINT: Nothing is beyond the power of Christ to heal

Does everyone get healed? Certainly everyone Jesus prayed for did. It is not currently our experience. But the more we pray for, the more we see healed! There is a time to die but until that point it's 'open season'. (Ecc 3:2, John 11:4)

4/ What is the method of healing?

-This was an instantaneous healing. This is not always the case. Jesus said 'you will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.'

-There is a difference between healing and a miracle (1 Cor 12)

- Jesus uses two methods in this passage - for the mother in law he simply speaks to the fever and rebukes it. Later it says he lays hands on the sick people.

-Even Jesus had to pray twice on one occasion and Jesus acknowledged that some healings are harder for us than others. It's all the same to god but to us harder.

Prayer model - Five step prayer model.

This is not the only way to pray for the sick.

A. The interview - what's the problem. Listen with two ears - one to what they are saying and the other to what the Holy Spirit is saying. This is not a medical interview. What is the problem? How much pain are you in - right now? When did it start? Anything notable that happened in 6 months prior to it starting?

B. The diagnosis - to discern the root cause. Sometimes peoples' conditions start with tragedy. Or they have abused their body. Afflicting spirit. Generational issues. Sin in their life. Could be none of those things or all of them. Be gracious as you ask some of the questions. Do it in the form of a question

John Wimber 'praying for the sick is like playing golf. You need to chose the right club for the right distance and terrain.'

C. Prayer selection - choose the kind of prayer you are going to pray. If you're like me then you do them all. Prayer of petition. Prayer of command. Command of faith. (Eg rise pick up your bed and walk.) There is no formula

Preliminaries to prayer. Walk through forgiveness. Repent from their sin. Get them in a position to receive - stop them praying. Even if I'm not saying anything out loud I'm still praying. Be careful where you place your hands. Back away if you start shaking. Mints

D. Prayer interaction. Pray short prayers - 30-60 seconds looking what the Holy Spirit is doing. Ask them if they feel anything or sense anything. They don't have to. If it's better how much better is it? If its 10 percent better then give thanks. An attitude of praise or thankfulness makes way for god to move. When to quit? Either

when they get healed or don't want any more prayer or you feel like its time to stop.

E. Post prayer directions.

Guidance - scriptures but not in a condemning way

Never blame them.

You can't guarantee that they will get healed but you can guarantee that they will feel loved.

Make sure people don't need to go and get emotional healing after they received prayed for you.

5/ A few questions

A) What about Job? Job is helpful but we have to interpret every scripture particularly the difficult ones through the lens of Jesus.

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and **healing all** who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

Anyway, Job was healed in the end! (Job 42:10)

B) Is it wrong to go to the doctor? No. Luke who wrote the largest section of the New Testament was a doctor! But our first and default step should be to pray.

C) Why are some people not healed? I don't know.

D) What should be our motivation?

Love for people and love for Christ. Acts 19.6 fear came upon all the people and the name of Jesus was held in high honour.

"Not everyone gets healed but everyone gets loved." Randy Clark

It's actually very simple. Jesus commanded us to pray for the sick. We just have to do it. The more we do it, the more we will see healed and the more we will be able to demonstrate that the message of Jesus we preach is true.