

## HEALING THE SICK THE KINGDOM COME SERIES

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Sunday, March 3, 2019

**TEXTS: Acts 2:43 “Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.”**

**James 5:14-16 “Anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.”**

INTRO: Last week, we looked at several things. I. The Theology of the Body. The main emphasis was **1 Corinthians 6:20 “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in *your* body.”** We talked about the importance of nutrition and exercise.

Then we moved into The Theology of Healing, how it is God’s will that you be healed and that you walk in divine health. **Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”**

Today, I want to teach from the book I wrote a number of years ago **“*How to Pray for Healing*”** (*Ruth Show a picture of the cover for this book.*)

### I. PRINCIPLES OF HEALING

#### A. PRINCIPLE OF ANOINTING

**1. James 5:14 “Anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.”**

**2.** To anoint people with oil was to invoke the presence of the Lord.

**3.** Just being in the presence of the Lord heals many people.

**4. Luke 5:17 “And the power of the Lord was *present* to heal them.”** E.g. Healing of allergies to hydrophilic conditions.

#### B. PRINCIPLE OF FAITH

**1. James 5:15 “And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.”**

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**2. FAITH = REVELATION+PERSONAL CONVICTION+ACTION**

**3. Revelation: Romans 10:17** “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.”

**4. Personal Conviction: Hebrews 11:1 (ESV)** “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

**5. Action: James 2:17 (NIV)** “...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead.”

**C. PRINCIPLE OF CONFESSION**

**1. James 5:16** “Confess *your* trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” E.g. bitterness

**II. HOW TO PRAY FOR THE SICK? “WIMBER’S FIVE STEPS”**

A. There are many ways to pray for the sick, but let me share with you a simple five-step process that I learned from the late John Wimber, when I took his course on Signs and Wonders and Church Growth, at Fuller Seminary in the Fall of 1984. I still use these steps today. Here is a summation of “Wimber’s Five Steps”:

**1. INTERVIEW - “WHERE DOES IT HURT?”** You are simply asking the person who is sick what is wrong with them. Now, you are not a doctor, so you are not after any medical detail. You simply want to know what the problem is and where it hurts. The person you are praying for may simply say, “I have a splitting headache,” or something major like, “I have just returned from the doctor and he says that I have breast cancer.”

**2. DIAGNOSTIC DECISION - WHAT IS CAUSING THIS CONDITION?**

This is where you have to ask God to give you discernment to know if the problem is caused by sin, if it is demonic, or if it is simply a physiological problem. Usually, the rule of thumb that I follow is if the pain is recent or due to an accident, it is usually a physiological problem. People do have accidents. When a problem is chronic, or long term, and the doctors don’t know why the problem persists, I begin to ask the Holy Spirit if it is rooted in the demonic. If it is rooted in sin, I tactfully ask if there was any sin that might have opened the door for the sickness.

**3. PRAYER SELECTION - WHAT KIND OF PRAYER SHOULD I USE?**

Here you are doing listening prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to lead you how you are to pray. Decree Prayer is a prayer that we see with Jesus on many occasions. In fact, most of the prayers that Jesus used commanded the healing to be, or the sickness or demons to leave (i.e. Just in the Gospel of Mark, see Mark 1:21-26; 1:40-42; 2:11; 3:1-5; 5:41). The Rebuke Prayer would be like the decree prayer, but

it applies when you know that the root issue is demonic. If it is demonic, pray something like, “In Jesus’ name, I bind this spirit of cancer and I command that this spirit come out immediately!” Intercessory prayer is simply asking God to heal the person. It may go something like, “Heavenly Father, I come to you in Jesus’ name. I ask that you would heal my friend of the (name the sickness). Amen. Usually I move in Intercessory prayer when I have not heard from the Lord how to pray.

**4. PRAYER ENGAGEMENT – “HOW ARE WE DOING?”** When you are praying, pray with your eyes open, so that you can see what the Holy Spirit is doing. Then select one of the prayers mentioned above and engage in prayer. After prayer, ask the person how they feel. It is very important that you get the person to be honest about their symptoms. If they do not sense anything different they need to say that, so that you can continue to pray for them. Then the question is asked, “How long and how often should you pray for the person?” This is where you have to be led by the Holy Spirit once again. There have been times when I have prayed for the sick and nothing has happened, but the Holy Spirit clearly instructs me to keep “soaking the person” with intercessory prayer. Then, the person starts to gradually get better. When the Holy Spirit tells me to stop, I stop.

**5. POST PRAYER DIRECTION - WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?** This is where you can tell the person to continue to thank God for the healing, whether they have received a manifestation of the healing or not. I also tell them, if they have received a manifestation of healing to go and get a doctor’s verification. Most people will receive a partial healing, so I encourage them to fight the good fight of faith, and continue to confess the words found in Isaiah 53:5 “By His stripes I am healed.”

CONCLUSION: Salvation and prayer for healing.