

Faith For Healing

Introduction

As we start our healing services it is with a real sense of dependence on the God who heals. It is clear to us that God has put the idea for this healing service in many hearts at once. It is an idea whose time has come. I feel confident that God wants to demonstrate the reality of His Kingdom and the power of Jesus by healing the sick throughout Townsville. I sense that this is going to be a ministry not so much of healing individuals but of healing congregations where the love of God is shown by the people of God to a hurting city.

The Believing Heart

Jesus pushed one concept nine times in Scripture.... The concept ... that nothing is impossible with God. From the first verse of the Bible “In the beginning God made the heavens and the earth..” Right through to the end we get the idea that we have a God for whom all things are possible and a God who **can do** what is impossible for man. Here are 4 key Scripture verses.

(Jeremiah 32:27 NKJV) "Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?

(Matthew 17:20 NKJV) So Jesus said to them, ".....for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.

(Matthew 19:26 NKJV) But Jesus looked at them and said to them, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

(Mark 9:23 NKJV) Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes."

We have strong convictions about what is possible and what is impossible. Those convictions are built on what we have learned from our parents, our society and from God. Our beliefs are like a building that we live in and are comfortable with. Lets look at three types of people that the Bible mentions - the unbeliever, the doubter, and the Spirit-filled believer.

Our unbeliever has a rock solid house built of their own ideas, the bricks in the picture. God is remote and in the “definitely impossible” category. Scripture plays little or no place in building their house of faith. Their faith is in their own minds, their own reason and their own grasp of what they call “the facts”. Such a person is unlikely to ask God to heal them.

The second person is the doubter. God has broken through in a few places and God is in this person’s life. But a lot of ideas remain that are not conducive to faith. Some are very simple like “don’t count your chickens before they are hatched..’. Faith IS counting your chickens before they hatch - see Hebrews 11:1. Others are quite complex - such as “God won’t heal me because I’m too unworthy and I keep on sinning..”. If God won’t heal sinners He won’t ever get to heal anyone. *Jesus healed plenty of sinners and He can heal one more.* Some are there just to guard us from bitter disappointment such as “God won’t heal me, at least not today..”. Jesus healed everyone, on the spot. Sickness was always something to be healed and always

something to be healed **today**. Some of you need to demolish your house of doubts. Take a sledgehammer to it! Knock down the bricks of unbelief and build a new house on the rock that is Christ. **Be bold, be brave, believe!** Lord renew our minds!

The third person is the Spirit-filled believer - who still has a solid belief structure - the Rock that is Christ. But these are the right beliefs, the empowering beliefs. There is no ceiling in this house, there is no limit to what God can do. But there is a very solid foundation. The Word of God, the blood of Christ and the testimony of the Spirit of God. God is radiant in their life. And now nothing is impossible. They enjoy a Universe of answered prayer and seeing a mighty God at work. These beliefs are the Truth and the Truth sets us free - from sin **and from sickness**. When I worked as a counsellor I specialised in treating depression. In three years full-time counseling there was not one suicide or relapse into depression. Why - because I helped people move from the untrue beliefs that crippled them emotionally to true sound beliefs that set them free. Truth can set you free from emotional illness and even from physical illness. It is Truth that make us strong and well and able to be healed. My clients had to do lots and lots of homework to gradually work the truth into them so it would claim their confused minds and bring release. But physical healing is not induced by your mind but by the power of the name of Jesus. Jesus is full of - Grace and Truth. The two go together. We exercise healing by the grace of Jesus according to the Truth that is in Jesus - in the power of the name of Jesus.

During the rest of this short sermon I will try to provide you with some "Scripture bricks" for the believer's house of faith. Facts to build into the believer's way of seeing the world. As we proceed pray quietly in your heart and ask God to help you believe and receive the Scriptures so that you may have faith for healing.

"Lord renew my mind, build my faith, show me that You love me and want to heal me. Amen".

Fact One: God is a healing God

God is a healing God. He did not make His Creation to be marred in any way and He constantly longs to restore it and perfect it.

(Exodus 15:26 NKJV) and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the LORD who heals you."

(Psalms 103:2-4 NKJV) Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: {3} Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, {4} Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,

(Psalms 107:20 NKJV) He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions.

(Psalms 147:2-4 NKJV) The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. {3} He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds. {4} He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.

From God healing Sarah of her barrenness to the healing ministry of Jesus and the apostles

God has been a healing God. If God cares for the Creation He has made, if he truly is all-loving and all-powerful, if he truly wants to redeem this world from the effects of sin, then he MUST be a healing God. Healing flows from the nature of God as it is clearly stated in the Bible and when Jesus came He came as God's perfect likeness, His exact representation. So clearly did He represent the Father that he could answer Phillip saying: (John 14:9 NKJV) {9} Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

Therefore if Jesus, who is the *exact precise image* of the Father in every detail, is a healer - then it follows by logic that - the Father is also a healer. Jesus practically said as much when He said (John 5:19 NKJV) Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner." Healing isn't Jesus own initiative, it flows first of all from the Father heart of God, then Jesus does it "in like manner". God the Father is not just justice and wrath, in fact it is He who wills and initiates every move of love, healing , and redemption. God the Father wants you well.

Fact Two: Jesus wants you to be healed.

You cannot read the gospels and come to any other conclusion but that Jesus wanted to heal people. And why did he want to heal people? Because it was His Fathers will. Jesus wants to heal you because God the Father wants you well. Jesus always saw sickness as something to be healed. He never said to anyone... suffer a little longer to learn patience. No parent would say that to their child or doctor to their patient. So if sinful humans are sufficiently compassionate to want healing for others - then how much more compassionate is Jesus ?

OK - Jesus wants you well - but does He have the power to make you well ? Jesus never failed to heal anyone. He healed all kinds of people of all kinds of sicknesses.

(Matthew 4:23 NKJV) And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.

(Matthew 8:16 NKJV) When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,

(Matthew 9:35 NKJV) Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

(Matthew 12:15 NKJV) But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.

(Luke 4:40 NKJV) When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.

(Luke 6:19 NKJV) And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.

There is no person so bad or sickness so severe that Jesus Christ cannot heal it. Many of those

who came to Jesus were not pious, many were not even Jews, many were just ordinary Galilean peasants with a very mixed up understanding of God. You don't have to be especially good, or especially nice or have the right disease to get healed. Jesus is God, nothing is impossible for Him - and that includes whatever is afflicting you. God can heal whatever you bring to Him

So we see that:

1. God wants to heal us.
2. Jesus gladly healed everyone who wanted to be healed..
3. Jesus healed all kinds of diseases - spiritual, emotional and physical.
4. That nothing is too difficult with God.
5. That everything is possible to him who believes.

CONCLUSION

If God is moving in you for healing you may experience a tingling sensation, or a warmth, some people find that they have a new "clarity" about things. Others get a calm solid certainty that God wants them healed and that now is the time. We would love to pray with you for healing. The healing procedure we will use follows five simple steps. First we will ask you what is wrong, then we will seek God about why you are ill, sometimes He will give people special insight into the nature of the illness. Then we will figure out how to pray for you, then pray, and follow it up with a bit of homework for you to do. We would like to keep praying for your healing and if you like we can give your prayer needs to our intercessory prayer team. We want you to feel loved, cared for and supported. But most of all we want you to be healed.

The infallible Word of God says that healing is available for all who believe on the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus is the same, yesterday, today and forever. The same Jesus who healed the crowds is the same Jesus who is at the right hand of God interceding for us. So pull apart those brick walls of unbelief and doubt and come to Jesus for healing. Let Him in. Let Him heal you. Choose to believe in His healing love.

Put your trust in God - you have nothing to lose except your sickness. We will not ask you to throw away your pills, join our church or pay money. We just want you to trust Jesus and be healed. God is trust-worthy. He is the one on the throne. He is the only just and holy one. He is the one whose Word is Truth. He is the one whose mercies endure forever. He is the one who forgives all your iniquities and heals all your diseases. Give yourself to God and let Him take your illness away. For when Jesus was ministering on earth it was said of Him...

(Matthew 8:17 NKJV) that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."

As the music plays in the background feel free to just walk down the front or raise your hand and a member of the healing team will come to pray with you.