

Finding Light in the Darkness

Session 19: Major Doctrines, part 4
The Church and Healing
Slide Notes, Sonny Bowman

The Church

Lies About the Church

- A building
- A particular denomination or group
- Man's invention
- Only interested in money
- You don't need to go to church

The Church is...

- **Greek: ekklesia – “an assembly of people”**
 - ♦ Derived from ek and kaleo meaning “the ones called out”
- **Assembly of believers who belong to Jesus**
 - ♦ For where two or three gather together as my followers, I am there among them.”
— Matthew 18:20 (NLT)
- **The Body of Christ**
 - ♦ Jesus is the Head – Eph 5:23, 1:22-23
 - ♦ Like your human body – 1 Cor 12:12-27, Eph 4:15-16, Col 1:24
- **Not the building**

Ephesians 5:23 — For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. (NLT)

Ephesians 1:22-23 — God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 12:12-27 — The human body has many parts, but the many parts make up one whole body. So it is with the body of Christ. Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptized into one body by one Spirit, and we all share the same Spirit. Yes, the body has many different parts, not just one part. If the foot says, “I am not a part of the body because I am not a hand,” that does not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear says, “I am not part of the body because I am not an eye,” would that make it any less a part of the body? If the whole body were an eye, how would you hear? Or if your whole body were an ear, how would you smell anything? But our bodies have many parts, and God has put each part just where he wants it. How strange a body would be if it had only one part! Yes, there are many parts, but only one body. The eye can never say to the hand, “I don't

need you.” The head can’t say to the feet, “I don’t need you.” In fact, some parts of the body that seem weakest and least important are actually the most necessary. And the parts we regard as less honorable are those we clothe with the greatest care. So we carefully protect those parts that should not be seen, while the more honorable parts do not require this special care. So God has put the body together such that extra honor and care are given to those parts that have less dignity. This makes for harmony among the members, so that all the members care for each other. If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it, and if one part is honored, all the parts are glad. All of you together are Christ’s body, and each of you is a part of it. (NLT)

Ephesians 4:15-16 — Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. (NLT)

Colossians 1:24 — I am glad when I suffer for you in my body, for I am participating in the sufferings of Christ that continue for his body, the church. (NLT)

God Loves It

- **He purchased the Church with His own blood – Acts 20:28**
- **Christ loved the church enough to die for it – Eph 5:22-32**
- **Jesus’ Bride with upcoming wedding – Rev 19:7-9, 21:2, 9**

God highly values His Church. He paid a high price for it. It is not ours, He bought it. It is wise to be careful how you talk about His Church!

Acts 20:28 — “So guard yourselves and God’s people. Feed and shepherd God’s flock—his church, purchased with his own blood—over which the Holy Spirit has appointed you as elders. (NLT)

Ephesians 5:22-32 — For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything. For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of his body. As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. (NLT)

Revelation 19:7-9 — Let us be glad and rejoice, and let us give honor to him. For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself. She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear.” For the fine linen represents the good deeds of God’s holy people. And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.” And he added, “These are true words that come from God.” (NLT)

Revelation 21:2 — And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. (NLT)

Revelation 21:9 — Then one of the seven angels who held the seven bowls containing the seven last plagues came and said to me, “Come with me! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.” (NLT)

We Need One Another

- **Church is the committed community of believers working, loving, and worshipping together in unity – Heb 10:24-25, 1 Jn 1:7**
- **Edifying one another – Rom 14:19, Heb 3:13**
- **It’s all about relationship – Mat 22:37-40**

The parts work together and are needed in a body

Hebrews 10:24-25 — Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near. (NLT)

1 John 1:7 — But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin. (NLT)

Romans 14:19 — So then, let us aim for harmony in the church and try to build each other up. (NLT)

Hebrews 3:13 — You must warn each other every day, while it is still “today,” so that none of you will be deceived by sin and hardened against God. (NLT)

Matthew 22:37-40 — Jesus replied, “ ‘You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.” (NLT)

One measure of Christian maturity is the quality of our relationships. Why is this important? We cannot accomplish God’s will without each other.

Community requires commitment. Many people today value freedom from commitment way too much. We need community, relationship, corporate worship, accountability (naturally flowing out of relationship where you know one another), support, etc. Cannot get this from TV, radio, or book ministries. We are called brothers and sisters. Busy-ness is an enemy of relationship.

Purpose of the Church

- **Declare the glory of God – Eph 3:10-11**
- **Evangelism: reaching out to the lost – Act 14:3-4**
- **Fellowship: encourage and build up one another – Act 15:3-4,**
- **Teach, equip, correct, discipline – 1 Cor 4:17**
- **Prepare believers for ministry – Eph 4:11-12**
- **Restoration and helps – 1 Tim 5:16**

Ephesians 3:10-11 — God’s purpose in all this was to use the church to display his wisdom in its rich variety to all the unseen rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was his eternal plan, which he carried out through Christ Jesus our Lord. (NLT)

Acts 14:3-4 — But the apostles stayed there a long time, preaching boldly about the grace of the Lord. And the Lord proved their message was true by giving them power to do miraculous signs and wonders. But the people of the town were divided in their opinion about them. Some sided with the Jews, and some with the apostles. (NLT)

Acts 15:3-4 — The church sent the delegates to Jerusalem, and they stopped along the way in Phoenicia and Samaria to visit the believers. They told them—much to everyone’s joy—that the Gentiles, too, were being converted. When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them. (NLT)

1 Corinthians 4:17 — That’s why I have sent Timothy, my beloved and faithful child in the Lord. He will remind you of how I follow Christ Jesus, just as I teach in all the churches wherever I go. (NLT)

Ephesians 4:11-12 — Now these are the gifts Christ gave to the church: the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers. Their responsibility is to equip God’s people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ. (NLT)

1 Timothy 5:16 — If a woman who is a believer has relatives who are widows, she must take care of them and not put the responsibility on the church. Then the church can care for the widows who are truly alone. (NLT)

How People Spot the Church?

- **A steeple or cross on top?**
- **What did Jesus say?**
 - ♦ **By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”**
— John 13:34-35 (NKJV)
- **What does “love one another” look like?**

Remember? It’s not the building!

Can’t love one another in isolation. Requires being together, working together, serving each other, forgiving each other, correcting one another, working things out, truly loving one another—unity!

Unity – Expected of Us

- **Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other’s faults because of your love. Make every effort to keep yourselves united in the Spirit, binding yourselves together with peace. — Ephesians 4:2-3 (NLT)**
- **We are called to belong, not just believe**
- **Fellowship, where growth happens**
- **Isolation so won’t have to change/grow**

1 Thessalonians 5:13-15 — Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other. Brothers and sisters, we urge you to warn those who are lazy. Encourage those who are timid. Take tender care of those who are weak. Be patient with everyone. See that no one pays back evil for evil, but always try to do good to each other and to all people. (NLT)

Matthew 5:23-24 — “So if you are presenting a sacrifice at the altar in the Temple and you suddenly remember that someone has something against you, leave your sacrifice there at the altar. Go and be reconciled to that person. Then come and offer your sacrifice to God. (NLT)

1 Thessalonians 5:13 — Show them great respect and wholehearted love because of their work. And live peacefully with each other. (NLT)

Titus 3:1-2 — Remind the believers to submit to the government and its officers. They should be obedient, always ready to do what is good. They must not slander anyone and must avoid quarreling. Instead, they should be gentle and show true humility to everyone. (NLT)

1 Peter 5:5-7 — In the same way, you younger men must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, serve each other in humility, for “God opposes the proud but favors the humble.” So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and at the right time he will lift you up in honor. Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you. (NLT)

Offenses in the Church

- **“If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the offense. But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. If the person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. Then if he or she won’t accept the church’s decision, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector. — Matthew 18:15-17 (NLT)**

God is in the business of restoring relationships. First between you and Him. Then between you and others. We avoid having to change/mature by avoiding letting people really know us. People tend to withdraw from Christian friends when they choose to not deal with sin in their lives. We think that our friends will become suspicious that something is not right, so we begin to separate ourselves. Isolation is an important element in choosing to follow sin.

Strife and Conflict

- **Again I say, don’t get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. A servant of the Lord must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone, be able to teach, and be patient with difficult people. Gently instruct those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people’s hearts, and they will learn the truth. Then they will come to their senses and escape from the devil’s trap. For they have been held captive by him to do whatever he wants. — 2 Timothy 2:23-26 (NLT)**
- **For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. — James 3:16 (NLT)**

No gossip, backbiting, competition, envy, etc. Many conflicts are rooted in unmet needs or expectations where we look to people or groups to meet our needs instead of the Lord.

Proverbs 13:10 — Pride leads to conflict; those who take advice are wise. (NLT)

James 4:1-5 — What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Don't they come from the evil desires at war within you? You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous of what others have, but you can't get it, so you fight and wage war to take it away from them. Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. You adulterers! Don't you realize that friendship with the world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again: If you want to be a friend of the world, you make yourself an enemy of God. What do you think the Scriptures mean when they say that the spirit God has placed within us is filled with envy? (NLT)

1 Corinthians 11:17-19 — But in the following instructions, I cannot praise you. For it sounds as if more harm than good is done when you meet together. First, I hear that there are divisions among you when you meet as a church, and to some extent I believe it. But, of course, there must be divisions among you so that you who have God's approval will be recognized! (NLT)

Immorality in Church 1 Cor 5:1-13

- **I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you ... but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship. You must call a meeting of the church. I will be present with you in spirit, and so will the power of our Lord Jesus. Then you must throw this man out and hand him over to Satan so that his sinful nature will be destroyed and he himself will be saved on the day the Lord returns. Your boasting about this is terrible. Don't you realize that this sin is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough? Get rid of the old "yeast" by removing this wicked person from among you. I meant that you are not to associate with anyone who claims to be a believer yet indulges in sexual sin, or is greedy, or worships idols, or is abusive, or is a drunkard, or cheats people. Don't even eat with such people. It isn't my responsibility to judge outsiders, but it certainly is your responsibility to judge those inside the church who are sinning. God will judge those on the outside; but as the Scriptures say, "You must remove the evil person from among you." — 1 Corinthians 5:1-13 (NLT)**

Why are we covering this? This has been a big problem in the local churches, and some people are confused about why we handle things the way we do.

Which Day?

- **.... In the same way, some think one day is more holy than another day, while others think every day is alike. You should each be fully convinced that whichever day you choose is acceptable. Those who worship the Lord on a special day do it to honor him. — Romans 14:1-8 (NLT)**

- **So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality. — Colossians 2:16-17 (NLT)**

Jewish Sabbath was on Saturday, technically from Friday at sundown to Saturday at Sunday. Early Christians met together on Sundays, the Lord's day, since that was the day of Jesus' resurrection. Jewish Christians would often go to the synagogue on the Sabbath, then to meetings of the Church on Sunday. As the Gentiles began to follow the Lord, they only met on Sundays. The exact day of the week is not critical, but it is important to keep one day of rest a week.

Acts 20:7 — On the first day of the week, we gathered with the local believers to share in the Lord's Supper. Paul was preaching to them, and since he was leaving the next day, he kept talking until midnight. (NLT)

Revelation 1:10 — It was the Lord's Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast. (NLT)

Church Summary

- **Is the assembly of believers**
- **Is loved by God**
- **Is the Body & Bride of Christ**
- **Unity, love, & fellowship required**
- **Primary Purpose here: reach the lost**
- **We need each other**

For More Information

- **BB #12 – The Things We Do: Water Baptism, Communion, and the Laying on of Hands**
- **BB #13 – Being a Follower of Jesus**
- **www.life4square.com**

BB = *Building Blocks of Life*, available at www.life4square.com

Healing

Lies About Healing

- **Healing is not for today**
- **Must live right to be healed**

- God may heal him, but not me
- Healing is a sign of God’s approval
- Only certain people can pray for others to be healed
- If healing true, everyone would be healed
- God puts sickness on people to teach them

Some Causes of Sickness

- Our Sin
 - ♦ But afterward Jesus found him in the Temple and told him, “Now you are well; so stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.” — John 5:14 (NLT)
- Broken world
 - ♦ ..., “why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents’ sins?” “It was not because of his sins or his parents’ sins,” Jesus answered. — John 9:1-3 (NLT)
- Demonic Influences
 - ♦ This dear woman, a daughter of Abraham, has been held in bondage by Satan for eighteen years. ...” — Luke 13:10-16 (NLT)
 - ♦ ... Jesus of Nazareth ..., who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil — Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

Sickness and death came into God’s good creation with the sin of Adan and Eve. While sickness is ultimately the result of sin, specific sickness is not necessarily caused by some specific sin committed by an individual—though it may be in some cases. Sickness and disease is an intruder into God’s good creation. We need to see it as an enemy of God and of us.

God Is a Healing God

- “.... And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. — Exodus 23:25 (NKJV)
- ...; for I am the Lord who heals you.” — Exodus 15:26 (NLT)
- He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. — John 5:19 (NLT)
- And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—he healed them all. — Matthew 4:24 (NLT)

Exodus 23:25 — “So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you. (NKJV)

Exodus 15:26 — He said, “If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and keeping all his decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord who heals you.” (NLT)

John 5:19 — So Jesus explained, “I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself. He does only what he sees the Father doing. Whatever the Father does, the Son also does. (NLT)

Jesus healed people physically.

Healing in the Atonement

- ... he healed all the sick. This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, “He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases.” — Matthew 8:16-17 (NLT)
- Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; ..., And by His stripes we are healed. — Isaiah 53:4-5 (NKJV)
- Surely our diseases he did bear, and our pains he carried; ... and with his stripes we were healed. — Isaiah 53:4-5 (JPS 1917)

Includes spiritual healing, healing our relationship with God. But is not limited to that.

Scripture applies “He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses” to physical healing. This is positionally true in Christ. May take some work to become experientially true.

JPS1917 – *The Hebrew Bible in English* by Jewish Publication Society, 1917

1 Peter 2:24 — who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness— by whose stripes you were healed. (NKJV)

Save the Sick?

- 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.
- — James 5:15 (NKJV)
- For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, — Ephesians 2:8 (NKJV)

Same Greek word “sozo” used for save/saved in these two verses.

Sozo - Save

- 4982 ἐκσώζω, σώζω [sozo /sode•zo/] v. ... 110 occurrences; AV translates as “save” 93 times, “make whole” nine times, “heal” three times, “be whole” twice, and translated miscellaneous three times. 1 to save, keep safe and sound, to rescue from danger or destruction. 1A one (from injury or peril). 1A1 to save a suffering one (from perishing), i.e. one suffering from disease, to make well, heal, restore to health. 1B1 to preserve one who is in danger of destruction, to save or rescue. 1B to save in the technical biblical sense. 1B1 negatively. 1B1A to deliver from the penalties of the Messianic judgment. 1B1B to save from the evils which obstruct the reception of the Messianic deliverance.

Definition of “save” includes physical healing

4982 ἐκσώζω, σώζω [sozo /sode•zo/] v. From a primary sos (contraction for obsolete saoz, “safe”); TDNT 7:965; TDNTA 1132; GK 1751 and 5392; 110 occurrences;

Strong, J. (1996). *The exhaustive concordance of the Bible : Showing every word of the text of the common English version of the canonical books, and every occurrence of each word in regular order.* (electronic ed.). Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship.

Healing is for Us

- **Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord. Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results. — James 5:14-16 (NLT)**
- **He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. — Psalm 103:3 (NLT)**

People don't seem to question God's ability to heal. But many question His willingness to heal. Jesus taught us to pray, "Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Mat 6:10) This means God's will is not automatically being done on earth. That's why we are told to pray. There is no sickness or disease in heaven.

2 Peter 3:9 — The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. (NKJV)

God's will is for all people to be saved, yet not all people will be.

What Did Jesus Heal?

- **.... And he healed every kind of disease and illness. ... he healed them all. — Matthew 4:23-24 (NLT) (also Matthew 9:35)**
- **But the crowds ... followed him. He welcomed them and taught them about the Kingdom of God, and he healed those who were sick. — Luke 9:11 (NLT)**
- **A man with leprosy came "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean," ..., Jesus reached out and touched him. "I am willing," he said. "Be healed!". — Mark 1:40-41 (NLT)**

Every kind of sickness and disease.

Who Did Jesus Heal?

- **.... No matter what their diseases were, the touch of his hand healed every one. — Luke 4:40 (NLT)**
- **Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed. — Acts 5:16 (NLT)**

All who came to Him. It wasn't just a sign to prove who He was. That would only require a few healings. Jesus never refused to heal anyone.

Why Did Jesus Heal?

- **In response to faith**
 - ♦ Faith of others – Mt 8:5-13, Jn 4:46-53,
- **Mk 2:1-12, Mat 15:21-28, others**
 - ♦ Faith of requestor – Mk 5:25-34, Mat 9:27-31, 8:2-4, Lk 17:11-19, others
- **Compassion for the hurting (6 instances)**
 - ♦ Mat 9:35-36, 14:14, 20:34, Mk 1:41, 5:19, Lk 7:13
- **Other reasons**

Compassion: God loves and cares for us. He desires to set people free from sickness and disease.

Disciples Healed People

- **One day Jesus called together his twelve disciples and gave them power and authority to cast out all demons and to heal all diseases. Then he sent them out to tell everyone about the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick. — Luke 9:1-2 (NLT) (also Mat 10:1-8)**
- **Peter and John In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, get up and walk!” Then Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man’s feet and ankles were instantly healed and strengthened. He jumped up, stood on his feet, and began to walk! Then, walking, leaping, and praising God, he went into the Temple with them. — Acts 3:1-8 (NLT)**
- **As it happened, Publius’s father was ill with fever and dysentery. Paul went in and prayed for him, and laying his hands on him, he healed him. Then all the other sick people on the island came and were healed. — Acts 28:8-9 (NLT)**
- **Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed. — Acts 5:16 (NLT)**

Matthew 10:1-8 — Jesus called his twelve disciples together and gave them authority to cast out evil spirits and to heal every kind of disease and illness. Here are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (also called Peter), then Andrew (Peter’s brother), James (son of Zebedee), John (James’s brother), Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew (the tax collector), James (son of Alphaeus), Thaddaeus, Simon (the zealot), Judas Iscariot (who later betrayed him). Jesus sent out the twelve apostles with these instructions: “Don’t go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans, but only to the people of Israel—God’s lost sheep. Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! (NLT)

We Heal People

- **Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received! — Matthew 10:8 (NLT)**
- **Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you.” — Matthew 28:19-20**

(NLT)

- **“I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, — John 14:12 (NLT)**
- **These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.” — Mark 16:17-18 (NLT)**

Early disciples were commanded by Jesus to teach others to do the things that He told them to do. We, too, are disciples. It is not our own power, but we are to heal by the authority given to us by Jesus.

Hindrance to Healing

- **Then they scoffed, “He’s just a carpenter,” They were deeply offended and refused to believe in him.” And because of their unbelief, he couldn’t do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their unbelief. — Mark 6:3-6 (NLT)**

Even Jesus could not heal those who were offend by His claims (to be God, etc.) and refuse to believe.

Matthew 13:57-58 — And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family.” And so he did only a few miracles there because of their unbelief. (NLT)

Other areas of hindances:

Our Unbelief – People often believe that God can heal, but not that He wants to heal.

Spiritual Opposition – demonic realm wants to limit our freedom in Christ and to keep us from reaching others with the truth. They harass and oppose believers. But they have been defeated by Jesus. More on this next week.

Pray Again?

- **Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then, spitting on the man’s eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked, “Can you see anything now?” The man looked around. “Yes,” he said, “I see people, but I can’t see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around.” Then Jesus placed his hands on the man’s eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly. — Mark 8:23-25 (NLT)**

When Jesus ministered healing, it usually occurred immediately. In one recorded instance, the full healing did not occur immediate. So keep praying for healing as needed!

Endurance Needed

- **Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise: — Hebrews 10:35-36 (NKJV)**

How long do you wait? God wants us to trust, not set limits.

What about setbacks or returning symptoms after healing? Don't assume that you weren't healed if symptoms return. How can they "return" if they weren't "gone" at least for a while? Pray again, continue standing in faith.

Methods for Healing

- **Pray for yourself – Jam 5:13**
- **Pray for one another – Jam 5:16**
- **Call for Elders, anoint w/oil – Jam 5:14-16**
- **Laying on hands – Mk 16:17, Luk 4:40**
- **Unusual miracles –**
 - ♦ **Paul, handkerchiefs or aprons – Act 19:11-12**
 - ♦ **Peter, shadow – Acts 5:15-16**
- **Spiritual Gifts of Healing – 1 Cor 12:9, 28**

James 5:13-16 — Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is 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. 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. 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. (NKJV)

Acts 5:15-16 — As a result of the apostles' work, sick people were brought out into the streets on beds and mats so that Peter's shadow might fall across some of them as he went by. Crowds came from the villages around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those possessed by evil spirits, and they were all healed. (NLT)

Acts 19:11-12 — God gave Paul the power to perform unusual miracles. When handkerchiefs or aprons that had merely touched his skin were placed on sick people, they were healed of their diseases, and evil spirits were expelled. (NLT)

Healing Summary

- **Sickness is an enemy**
- **God is a Healing God**
- **Healing is included in the Atonement**
- **Jesus healed people**
- **Disciples (past & present) healed**

- **Endurance Needed**

We tend to take some cases where healing did not seem to take place, then we discount almost all healing. Why is that? We have help – demonic lies.

Why not take a few cases where healing has happened? If it is possible in even one case, then it is possible again. So let's pursue and find out how to see healing happen more often.

God is more concerned about your character than your comfort. He does not put sickness and disease on people to teach them things or to develop character. Yet He will use your circumstances and situations to develop character in you. Often, it seems we want to be healed because it is an inconvenience to us living our life and doing our own thing.

James 4:2-3 — Yet you don't have what you want because you don't ask God for it. And even when you ask, you don't get it because your motives are all wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure. (NLT)

Many times, it is not the divine healing that makes people weird. It is the ways that people try to force faith and force God to heal them. The focus is not seeking God, but pursuing healing.

Matthew 4:5-7 — Then the devil took him to the holy city, Jerusalem, to the highest point of the Temple, and said, "If you are the Son of God, jump off! For the Scriptures say, 'He will order his angels to protect you. And they will hold you up with their hands so you won't even hurt your foot on a stone.'" Jesus responded, "The Scriptures also say, 'You must not test the Lord your God.'" (NLT)

Faith comes by hearing, and hearing comes by the Word of God (Rom 10:17). It is a matter of really believing what God says.

For More Information

- **BB #9 – Faith that Pleases God**
- **BB #10 – Healing for Life**
- **BB #14 – Prayer**
- **www.life4square.com**

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