

God's Healing Power – August 16th

Brant:

- The news (TV, radio, newspapers) tells us many things, but it doesn't tell us about the greatness of God
 - o God is doing miraculous things in the world today! (e.g. the "Jesus Movement" in the 1960s & 1970s – see http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jesus_movement)
 - o In 1905, only a recorded 1% of Christians were active conduits of the Holy Spirit; now, close to 20% are!
- God is teaching us that He wants his people to be whole, and we can be instrumental in this!

Jodie:

- The Kingdom of God can be natural day by day
 - o What Jesus was possible (see verses that follow), **is possible** – we **can** be conduits of the Holy Spirit to heal the sick, prophecy, etc.
- God is bringing the church to a place where we can be active in showing His love
- **What is healing?**
 - o Seeing people made well; seeing people made whole
 - o Healing can be physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual
 - o Through healing, people see Jesus

Matthew 4:23-24 – “Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them.”

Did you know that ¾ of Jesus' actions recorded in the Bible had to do with healing? Obviously it was a priority!

- **Who believes that God can heal? Who believes that God WILL heal?**
 - o The gift of healing is not difficult to ask for, but so few of us do

Isaiah 53:5 – “But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.”

- o Healing was an act of love; Jesus died so that we can be made whole

Don't you want Jesus to get everything that he paid for?

- **Why does God want to heal in the world today?**
 - o To make himself known
 - o To be glorified
 - o To show love
 - o He heals in the physical to prove his healing in the spiritual
- Value of healing: healing changes the course of one's life

- E.g. Mark 8:22-26 (the healing of a blind man at Bethsaida) – by this man being healed, the course of his life was changed dramatically! He could see, and he had a powerful testimony to share with others!
- Modern day – knee injuries can be incapacitating, but when they are healed, the course of life for the recipient is changed!

Luke 9:12 – “When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

- Was this “power and authority” just for the elite Twelve? I don’t think so!

Acts 5:12-16 – “The apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people. And all the believers used to meet together in Solomon’s Colonnade. No one else dared join them, even though they were highly regarded by the people. Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number. As a result, people brought the sick in to the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed.”

- The point here is that preaching is just one part of the equation; healing is the other part. Does this evoke tension in you?

It is curious that we tend to push healing to the past or the future, and rarely recognize it as being possible for the present.

Mark 11:1-3 – “As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethpage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, saying to them, ‘Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ tell him, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”

- Here, the disciples had to take a risk for their Lord
- As we take risks, we are having to rely on faith in God, thereby aligning ourselves to hear his voice
- We cannot do miracles, but God can through us

Are you willing to take risks in order to unlock the kingdom?

Jenny:

- Like anything, feeling confident and comfortable with healing takes practice
 - Seek out opportunities to practice
 - E.g. ask people, “Are you in pain? Can I pray for you?”

1 Corinthians 4:20 – “For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.”

- The kingdom of God is about *power* – about being conduits of this power and taking action

- The motive for healing is to see people running, jumping, rejoicing, worshipping – the goal is to see people made whole

I know my God, and I know that He wants people

to be whole even more than I do!

- It is not about the amount of knowledge or experience you have
 - o You could have been saved for one second or for thirty years and still be a conduit of God's healing power

Recipe for Healing:

1. Introduce yourself to the person who needs healing
2. Give a brief testimony in order to raise the level of their faith (e.g. "My prayer group has seen seven knees healed this year so far!")
3. Ask them what is wrong and how it happened (keep your heart and your eyes fixed on God during this time – don't switch your focus to the problem)
4. Ask them what the level of pain is, on a scale of 1-10
5. Ask if you can pray and lay hands on them (be respectful and appropriate with your actions)
6. In 30 seconds, command in Jesus' name for the healing to take place
7. Check it – ask if they've experienced any improvement (phrase this in positive language – ask for "improvement", not just "change")
8. Direct attention to God's goodness, and give thanks
9. Repeat if necessary (ask for **full** healing)
10. Praise and rejoice in God's unfailing love

Remember, God will do something in this. It may or may not be what you expect, but God will do something. God wants his people to be whole.