

*Willis Family Ministries*  
Presents

*About  
Divine  
Healing*

(NIV Edition)

by **Bill Willis**

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- Gordon Lindsay  
MIRACLES IN THE BIBLE, Vol. 1  
Miracles in the Old Testament, p11  
Published by  
Christ For The Nations, Inc.  
Dallas, Texas  
1977

## Attitudes Toward Divine Healing

Think about this for a moment. If you want to know why the world is not interested in Christianity, ask ten ‘Christians’ the simple question, “How are you?” Be prepared, though, to fight the feelings of depression which their answers will usually invoke. For some reason, Christian ‘religion’ has been teaching Christians that sickness, disease, blindness, deafness and many other of Satan’s attacks are inevitable, unavoidable and acceptable – even desirable. If you have spent any time listening to the ‘woe is me down here’ doctrines that have been preached in the last half of the 1900s and spilling over into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, you may have the idea that in order to be a good Christian, you must suffer in all aspects of your life with the only consolation being that ‘the Lord will see me through these trials’ – that being the extent of one’s relationship with God.

In order to have such a defeated view of Christianity, it is necessary to draw implications from fragments of scripture and ignore much of what the bible has to say. For instance, how can anyone who has any understanding of the scripture say that sickness, disease, etc. are just a part of life that we have to accept. Consider the following passage of scripture.

*Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.*

(EXODUS 23:25-26)

Notice in this scripture that with the sole condition that we worship God, he promises divine health, fertility and a full life span. What, you may ask, is a full life span? Well, according to the bible,

*Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with man forever, for he is mortal; his days will be a hundred and twenty years."*

(Genesis 6:3)

I'm sure that many of you are thinking, "What happened to threescore and ten?" That would be,

*The length of our days is seventy years -- or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.*

(Psalm 90:10)

I do not know why Moses gave the life-span of man as seventy years while God said that it would be one hundred twenty years. Is it possible that Moses was 70 years old when he wrote this? Well, without knowing the reasoning behind this statement, I will have to stick with what God said.

Let's assume for a moment, though, that like so many others, you have decided to go ahead and die when you reach seventy or eighty years old. There are still promises in Exodus 23:25-26 that are worthy of review.

- His blessing will be on your food and water.
- He will take sickness away from among you.
- None will be barren or miscarry in your land.

If your food and water are blessed by God, then it is plentiful and nutritious. Nothing that you eat or drink (that is, those things that were meant to be consumed by a human) will hurt you. Just remember that Elijah went for forty days on food that was provided by God. Jesus fed five thousand men along with their women and children with five loaves of bread and two fish. Jesus promised that if believers drank any deadly thing, it would not hurt them.

If God takes sickness away from among you, then there is no reason to be sick – that is unless you do not believe what God says. If God says that none will be barren or miscarry, then any wife who wants to can have a child – again, unless you do not believe what God says. That may seem bizarre to some people, given the teaching that has been prevalent in most churches. The fact is, though, when you strip away everything else and look solely at the scriptures, you find that we are promised health.

Why then are God's people sick? The answer is very simple. If you do not accept the promises and gifts that God offers, you will suffer the consequences. Those who do not accept divine health naturally tend to be sick or injured from time to time. Most of the time this comes from believing the word of a doctor over the word of God. So, what can a sick Christian do?

Well, until we reach a level of faith that produces divine health, we need healing. Now, here is where Christian people run into another problem with the 'doom and gloom' teachings that they have been subject to. It saddens me to hear someone pray for healing and then, in the next breath, express their doubt by saying, "...if it's God's will." Folks, **IT IS GOD'S WILL THAT YOU ARE HEALED!!!** As I will explain momentarily, under the old covenants, healing was a special dispensation that was given by God when

he saw fit. Under the New Covenant, though, the healing has already been done. All we have to do is to accept it. I routinely challenge people to find in the bible one instance after Christ's death and resurrection where someone came to be healed and didn't get it. So far, no one has shown me one example. Consider that as we progress through our study on healing. I will explain in more detail when we reach the New Testament. For now, though let's take a look at healing under the old covenant.

# Healing Under The Old Covenant

## Under the Old Covenant (up to and including the law), healing was a special dispensation granted on a case-by-case basis

Not everyone under the old covenants were healed. As a matter of fact, God had been known to bring a plague on his chosen people for reasons of disobedience.

*And the LORD struck the people with a plague because of what they did with the calf Aaron had made.*

(Exodus 32:35)

In order to be healed during the period of history preceding the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, it was necessary to appeal to God (sometimes through people that God would listen to) and, hopefully, find favor. Then, God would heal. Consider these two examples.

### The healing of Miriam's leprosy:

*When the cloud lifted from above the Tent, there stood Miriam--leprous, like snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had leprosy; and he said to Moses, "Please, my lord, do not hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother's womb with its flesh half eaten away."*

*So Moses cried out to the LORD, "O God, please heal her!"*

*The LORD replied to Moses, "If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back." So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back.*

(Numbers 12:10-15)

### The Healing of Hezekiah:

*In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."*

*Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, "Remember, O LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted*

*devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.*

*Before Isaiah had left the middle court, the word of the LORD came to him: "Go back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of my people, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will heal you. On the third day from now you will go up to the temple of the LORD. I will add fifteen years to your life. And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city for my sake and for the sake of my servant David.' "*

*Then Isaiah said, "Prepare a poultice of figs." They did so and applied it to the boil, and he recovered.*

*Hezekiah had asked Isaiah, "What will be the sign that the LORD will heal me and that I will go up to the temple of the LORD on the third day from now?"*

*Isaiah answered, "This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: Shall the shadow go forward ten steps, or shall it go back ten steps?"*

*"It is a simple matter for the shadow to go forward ten steps," said Hezekiah. "Rather, have it go back ten steps."*

*Then the prophet Isaiah called upon the LORD, and the LORD made the shadow go back the ten steps it had gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.*

*(2 Kings 20:1-11)*

In both of these cases, God granted a special dispensation for healing. In the case of Miriam, she had become leprous because she spoke out against God's chosen – Moses. Notice that God's healing dispensation did not come until Moses spoke to God about it. Moses was someone that God would listen to. As a matter of fact, while God was rebuking Aaron and Miriam for this very incident, he told them that he spoke to Moses face to face.

The same is true of Hezekiah. God had sent word to Hezekiah to get his house in order because he was about to die. However, Hezekiah cried out to God and before Isaiah could leave the building, God sent him back to Hezekiah with word of Hezekiah's healing. In this case, Hezekiah knew how to get God's attention and he found favor with him. Notice, though, that Hezekiah had the advantage of having served God faithfully. There are many promises in the Old Testament that God made to those who would serve him. When these Old Testament personalities stood on those promises, God kept his word and healed them. Keep in mind, though, that it was still a matter of special dispensation. There would come a time, though, that the rules on healing would change.

## **Isaiah's prophecy concerning Christ's sacrifice for our healing.**

*Surely he took up our infirmities  
and carried our sorrows,  
yet we considered him stricken by God,  
smitten by him, and afflicted.*

*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.*

(Isaiah 53:4-5)

Hundreds of years before the birth of Christ, God declared through Isaiah that by the wounds or stripes laid on the back of the one that God would send to redeem man, healing was accomplished. Anyone who wishes to understand the concept of divine healing in the church age must begin here. When Jesus took those stripes, every sickness, disease, injury and affliction was healed. Failure to believe without doubt in this provision for healing and to accept it for ourselves is a travesty. And since healing was accomplished at Jesus death, it is for everyone, without exception. It is no longer a matter of whether God sees fit to heal – he's already done it. If anyone fails to receive healing, it is not God's fault.

Let us take a look at the healing ministry of Jesus, who gave us a preview of what we could expect in the church age.

# Healing In The New Covenant

## Healing Examples from the Ministry of Jesus

Jesus healed all who came. People, today will come through a prayer line with the mindset that if they get healed, that's great – but, if not, it just wasn't their time to be healed. Take a look, though, at the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.

*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.*

(Matthew 4:23-24)

Notice two things in this passage – 1) Jesus healed every disease and sickness and 2) people brought all who were sick, suffering, demon-possessed or afflicted and Jesus healed them. Notice, too, as we progress through these scriptures that there is no mention of anyone going away without their healing.

*When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.*

(Matthew 8:16)

He drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. Not some of the sick, but all of the sick were healed.

*Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.*

(Matthew 9:35)

Again, Jesus healed every disease and sickness.

*Aware of this, Jesus withdrew from that place. Many followed him, and he healed all their sick, warning them not to tell who he was.*

(Matthew 12:15-16)

Jesus healed all their sick.

*When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.*

(Matthew 14:13-14)

Jesus healed their sick. In many of these passages you will see that the crowds followed Jesus or were there when he arrived at a given place. When they came for healing, they got it.

*When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed.*

(Matthew 14:34-36)

Here is a case where the faith of the people was such that they desired only to touch the edge of his cloak. All who touched him were healed.

*Jesus left there and went along the Sea of Galilee. Then he went up on a mountainside and sat down. Great crowds came to him, bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute and many others, and laid them at his feet; and he healed them. The people were amazed when they saw the mute speaking, the crippled made well, the lame walking and the blind seeing. And they praised the God of Israel.*

(Matthew 15:29-31)

Jesus didn't have to go to the synagogue to find people who needed healing. On the other hand, the sick didn't have to go to the synagogue to find someone who would heal them. It is a good thing for Christians to remember – even though it is important for Christians to gather together, a church building is not necessary in order to minister to those who need it. In fact, most of the people who need to be ministered to do not attend church. You may ask, though, 'don't the people who have faith to be healed attend church?' The short answer is that if the church attendees believed what the bible says, there wouldn't be churches full of sick people. We minister healing where healing is needed.

*When Jesus had finished saying these things, he left Galilee and went into the region of Judea to the other side of the Jordan. Large crowds followed him, and he healed them there.*

(Matthew 19:1-2)

Once again, we find that those who needed healing came to the one who they knew could heal them.

*The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.*

(Matthew 21:14-15)

Here, we see why Jesus did very little healing in the temple or synagogue. The same is true in a majority of the churches today. The religious leaders do not like what they cannot control. The religious leaders of the day could not heal and would not tolerate one who could. Since the same is true in most of today's churches, it is important to find a ministry that is based on the bible and not on the whim of an organization, the pastor or other religious leaders in the church.

*When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them. Moreover, demons came out of many people, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew he was the Christ.*

(Luke 4:40-41)

Even though Jesus could very well have healed everyone at once, he took the time to minister to each one of them individually.

*When the apostles returned, they reported to Jesus what they had done. Then he took them with him and they withdrew by themselves to a town called Bethsaida, but the crowds learned about it and followed him. He welcomed them and spoke to them about the kingdom of God, and healed those who needed healing.*

(Luke 9:10-11)

In each of these instances, Jesus healed all who needed healing. There was never a documented case of someone having to go away saying, "Well, I guess it just wasn't my day to get healed" or "Well, God didn't see fit to heal me." **All who came for healing were healed.**

Let's look at a few more examples from the ministry of Jesus.

## **The healing of the centurion's servant.**

*When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed and in terrible suffering."*

*Jesus said to him, "I will go and heal him."*

*The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed. For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

*When Jesus heard this, he was astonished and said to those following him, "I tell you the truth, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith. I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

*Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." And his servant was healed at that very hour.*

(Matthew 8:5-13)

In this account, the centurion asked Jesus to heal his servant. The incredible thing is that, even though Jesus was willing to go to the centurion's servant, the centurion let Jesus know that it was not necessary that Jesus come with him – only say the word and it will be done. Here is a man who understood the supernatural. If Jesus commanded that the servant be healed, it would be done.

## **The healing of a deaf-mute.**

*Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?"*

(Matthew 12:22-23)

When the people saw that the demon-possessed man was healed, they recognized the power by which the healing was accomplished. This is one of the reasons that it is very important that Christians minister healing today. When the world sees this healing power manifested in Christians, they will want what we have.

## **The healing of the daughter of a Gentile woman.**

*Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is suffering terribly from demon-possession."*

*Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us."*

*He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel."*

*The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.*

*He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs."*

*"Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."*

*Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.*

(Matthew 15:21-28)

Even though Jesus came as the Messiah of the Jews, this Gentile woman showed a level of faith that Jesus was impressed or at the very least, pleased with. Even this Gentile woman received what she came for – the healing of her daughter.

## **The healing of the demon-possessed boy whom the disciples could not heal.**

*When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him."*

*"O unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed from that moment.*

*Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"*

*He replied, "Because you have so little faith. I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."*

(Matthew 17:14-20)

This man had already brought his son to the disciples to be healed. Keep in mind that this was a case of demon-possession. Even without the power of the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the disciples were able to heal many diseases and afflictions. They could cast out demons – but there were limits. Dealing with certain demons without the baptism of the Holy Ghost required knowledge that the disciples didn't have. Remember, though, that we can now have the baptism of the Holy Ghost. At that point, we have all of the power and authority that was given to Jesus after his death. With the power of the Holy Ghost, we can operate in the spirit realm just as Jesus did when he was here in the flesh. Accept the baptism of the Holy Ghost and then act in faith. When you do that, Jesus tells us that nothing will be impossible.

## **Even Jesus was not received in his own hometown, yet he still healed.**

*Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honor." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith.*

*Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits.*

(Mark 6:4-7)

This is a sad occasion. We have been in situations where the doctrine of “that’s just the way it is” has prevailed and robbed people of their faith. One example of this comes when ministers, including Jesus, attempt to minister to childhood friends, family and neighbors. When the people from Jesus’ hometown saw Jesus, they remembered that he was the son of Joseph the carpenter and that they had watched him grow up. We have run into the same thing. Our ministry has been summarily discounted by those who watched us grow up and knew us before we entered the ministry. If the same has happened to you, don’t be discouraged. Satan will use those closest to you to discourage you. That is why Jesus said that if we would follow him, we must be willing to give up our friends and families.

That having been said, though, notice that even under these circumstances, Jesus laid hands on those who were sick and healed them. Even in this spiritually hostile environment, those who came for healing, got their healing.

## **The healing of the blind man at Bethsaida (Jesus laid hands on the man twice).**

*They came to Bethsaida, and some people brought a blind man and begged Jesus to touch him. He took the blind man by the hand and led him outside the village. When he had spit on the man's eyes and put his hands on him, Jesus asked, "Do you see anything?"*

*He looked up and said, "I see people; they look like trees walking around."*

*Once more Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him home, saying, "Don't go into the village."*

(Mark 8:22-26)

There is something in this passage that I would like for you to consider. Jesus healed this man of blindness, but not all at once. This is something that we have incorporated into

our healing ministry. Jesus laid hands on this blind man. He then asked him if he could see. The man said that he saw men as trees. That wasn't good enough. Jesus laid hands on that man again. I know that most people will lay hands on someone once and then go on about their business. If that hasn't achieved the desired results, though, we will lay hands on that person again. If Jesus did it, there's no reason to believe that we shouldn't if the situation warrants it. Because of that one small consideration, we have seen many more healing miracles than we would have otherwise.

## **The healing of the paralytic man who was lowered down through the roof (if you need healing, there's little excuse not to come).**

*One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick. Some men came carrying a paralytic on a mat and tried to take him into the house to lay him before Jesus. When they could not find a way to do this because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and lowered him on his mat through the tiles into the middle of the crowd, right in front of Jesus.*

*When Jesus saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven."*

*The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, "Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"*

*Jesus knew what they were thinking and asked, "Why are you thinking these things in your hearts? Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . ." He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." Immediately he stood up in front of them, took what he had been lying on and went home praising God. Everyone was amazed and gave praise to God. They were filled with awe and said, "We have seen remarkable things today."*

(Luke 5:17-26)

People frequently ask me if I believe that God will heal anyone who seeks healing. By now, you should know that it is not about what anyone on this earth believes – not even me. What is relevant is what the bible says. Since we are under the New Covenant, we have to refer to the New Testament to find our answer. Jesus healed all who came. The apostles healed all who came. We are told to lay hands on the sick and they will recover. So, the short answer is, yes, God will heal all who seek healing. Why, then do some get healed and others don't. Although there are many possible reasons that a person may not

get their healing, there are two things that can be shown from scripture. One is that if there is no healing, it is not God's fault. The second is that you have to want it. The passage of scripture given here shows a man who really wanted a healing and his friends who were willing to do whatever it took to help him get his healing. In nearly every service in which we minister healing, there is at least one person who asks for a healing for someone who is not in attendance. I understand that sometimes people are asking for healing for someone in another state or someone in the hospital. Still, some of these people who need healing consider themselves too sick or feeling too bad to go to church or to the person who can minister healing to them. There is no assurance that a person who stays home will be healed. Again, this is not God's fault. Sometimes, we just have to take action if we want to receive something from God.

## **The healing of the woman with the issue of blood and the raising of Jairus' daughter from the dead.**

*Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. Then a man named Jairus, a ruler of the synagogue, came and fell at Jesus' feet, pleading with him to come to his house because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.*

*As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.*

*"Who touched me?" Jesus asked.*

*When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you."*

*But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."*

*Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."*

*While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," he said. "Don't bother the teacher any more."*

*Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed."*

*When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child's father and mother.*

*Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. "Stop wailing," Jesus said. "She is not dead but asleep."*

*They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. But he took her by the hand and said, "My child, get up!" Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.*

(Luke 8:40-56)

Once again, here was someone who showed that she really wanted a healing. She didn't care about the crowds or what anyone thought about her. She only knew that if she could just touch the hem of Jesus' clothes, she would be healed. We can never let anyone get between us and the blessings and promises of God.

Also in this passage of scripture, we see a man whose daughter was dying. Even though the religious leaders of the day did not accept Jesus as the Messiah, this man, who was a ruler of the synagogue, knew that Jesus had the power to heal his daughter. Once again, here is a man who is not concerned with the opinions of other people. He was focused on his daughter's healing and that Jesus held the source of that healing power. Even though the girl was dead when Jesus got there, this religious leader got what he came to Jesus for. His daughter was returned to him whole. Never take your eyes off of the promise of God. **No amount of personal experience diminishes the promises of God that are found in his word.**

## **The healing of the woman who was bent over for eighteen years.**

*On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, "Woman, you are set free from your infirmity." Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.*

(Luke 13:10-13)

Oh what a joy to see someone come with backs that are bent, stiff and in chronic pain and go away able to bend and move normally and painlessly. Here is a woman who was bent over for eighteen years and was unable to straighten up. What a horrible existence! But after eighteen years, she met a man with compassion and the power to heal her infirmity. Usually, Jesus would tell those who he healed that it was their faith that healed them. This time, though, Jesus called her out and laid hands on her. It is important to note, as we move through these examples, that Jesus used a variety of methods to both approach those who need healing and to heal them. Since it is important for all Christians to lay hands on people and heal them, Christians need to realize that the Spirit will help you to know what to do to minister to each individual.

## **The healing of the invalid at the pool of Bethesda.**

*Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?"*

*"Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me."*

*Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.*

*The day on which this took place was a Sabbath, and so the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath; the law forbids you to carry your mat."*

*But he replied, "The man who made me well said to me, 'Pick up your mat and walk.' "*

*So they asked him, "Who is this fellow who told you to pick it up and walk?"*

*The man who was healed had no idea who it was, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd that was there.*

*Later Jesus found him at the temple and said to him, "See, you are well again. Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you." The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had made him well.*

(John 5:1-15)

I am always amazed at how much energy people will expend making excuses for not getting healed. Jesus very simply asked this man if he would like to be healed. Instead of giving Jesus an absolute 'yes', this man began to tell Jesus why he had not been healed. I have heard many excuses why people refuse to receive healing. Some say that healing is not done anymore. Some say that it is not God's will to heal them. Some say that they suffer physical afflictions so that God may be glorified in their infirmity. Some believe that they must somehow make themselves worthy to be healed. Some say that it is not yet God's time to heal them. Unfortunately, many of these people will not face their lack of faith. None of these excuses line up with the word of God under the New Covenant.

Under the New Covenant, healing is no longer a special dispensation as it was under the law. As a matter of fact, infirmity and disease were often used by God to correct and, in some cases, judge his chosen people and those of other nations. God made the decision, on a case-by-case basis, whether or not to heal in any given circumstance. He allowed tens of thousands to die in some cases, but in others, he would save the lives of those who were sick and dying.

Under the New Covenant, though, the provision for healing has already been made, once and for all. The prophet Isaiah tells us:

*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.*

(Isaiah 53:5)

Hundreds of years before Jesus was born, Isaiah spoke in the present tense of the healing stripes that Jesus took for us. He said that we are healed. Then, we move to the book of 1 Peter where we read:

*He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to  
sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.*

(1 Peter 2:24)

“...you have been healed.” These words were spoken in the past tense. The healing has been done. That is why those of us who operate in the gift of healing can be confident that anyone who comes for healing can have it. With the death of Christ, we have been given a covenant under which the provision has been made for our salvation and healing. Since that sacrifice, there are no grounds for making the excuse that God will not heal. He’s already done it. If we do not receive a healing, it’s not God’s fault. As you read the New Testament, notice that after the death of Jesus, and even during his ministry, everyone who came for healing was healed. Let’s move on.

## **Jesus commanded his disciples to heal every disease and sickness.**

*He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out  
evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.*

*These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go  
among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the  
lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of  
heaven is near.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have  
leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Do not  
take along any gold or silver or copper in your belts; take no bag for the*

*journey, or extra tunic, or sandals or a staff; for the worker is worth his keep.*

(Matthew 10:1, 5-10)

Also,

*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. He told them: "Take nothing for the journey--no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there until you leave that town. If people do not welcome you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave their town, as a testimony against them." So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.*

(Luke 9:1-6)

I have included both Matthew's account and that written by Luke because they are each unique in their reporting of this event. Taken together, though, we see that Jesus sent out the twelve disciples and they healed the sick. Yes, you read that right – the disciples healed the sick. I know that this is a sore spot for many people, but please see what the bible says on this subject. Many people are quick to weigh in with a statement similar to "No person has the power to heal – God is the one who heals." Look back at these passages. Jesus gave the disciples power and authority to cast out demons and to heal and then instructed them to go and heal. We are still under that commission today. Later in this writing, we will be looking at the Great Commission as presented in the book of Mark. This commission was not directed only to the twelve or even the seventy that Jesus had previously sent out with dispensational power to heal and cast out demons. Jesus gave all believers the power and authority to heal and cast out demons and then commanded us to go and do it. He didn't tell us to pray and ask God to do it – he said for us to do it.

# Healing After the Ascension of Jesus

## The apostles healed all who came.

*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 into 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.*

(Acts 5:12-16)

Did you notice the part where people brought their sick and laid them so that Peter's shadow might fall on them? – not his hands or his clothes, but his shadow. The apostles believed in the healing power that Jesus gave to those who believe. The people who brought their sick believed in that healing power. As a result, all of them were healed.

*Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. With shrieks, evil spirits came out of many, and many paralytics and cripples were healed. So there was great joy in that city.*

(Acts 8:4-8)

This passage clearly states one of the best reasons for God's people to heal and perform miracles – people pay attention to those who perform miracles and a door of opportunity to share the gospel is opened.

*There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. They honored us in many ways and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed.*

(Acts 28:7-10)

What a wonderful example of word of mouth advertising. When Publius' father was healed, others heard about it and came to be healed. Think of the benefit to the kingdom of God when people who come for healing hear about Jesus – the one who told us to go and heal.

## **The healing of the lame man in Lystra.**

*In Lystra there sat a man crippled in his feet, who was lame from birth and had never walked. He listened to Paul as he was speaking. Paul looked directly at him, saw that he had faith to be healed and called out, "Stand up on your feet!" At that, the man jumped up and began to walk.*

(Acts 14:8-10)

This is a good example of a healing that could not have been accomplished any other way. The man was lame from birth. Through faith, though, he was able to leap and walk. Since he had never walked before, it was an extraordinary miracle when he jumped up. After that, walking was icing on the cake.

\*\*\*Note: This is when the men of Lystra sought to worship Paul and Barnabas. This can easily become a pitfall. Many times, people will try to give glory to the man instead of to God for their healing. It is very easy for a person who heals or performs miracles to accept that kind of praise out of pride. We must be careful to remember that we are not special except that we are children of God. It is to Him that we must direct that praise. After all, without the power that God gave us and without the authority that Jesus gave us, we could not do anything. He deserves the praise – not us. That having been said, let's move on.

# Healing, one of the Spiritual Gifts.

As I'm sure you know, healing is listed in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, when he was discussing the gifts of the Spirit. Note the following passage of scripture.

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines.*

(1 Corinthians 12:7-11)

Healing is indeed one of the spiritual gifts and those who possess that gift are very proficient healers. Please keep in mind, though, that you don't necessarily have to have the gift of healing in order to heal – just as you don't have to have the gift of tongues in order to speak in tongues. You see, confusion concerning supernatural Christianity arises when there is no distinction made between ministries, gifts and supernatural tasks that all Christians should be performing. Consider what Jesus said before He ascended into heaven.

# All Believers Can and Should Heal

## Jesus declared that all believers would heal.

*He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."*

(Mark 16:15-18)

There are five examples of supernatural activities that believers would perform. They are:

- Casting out demons
- Speaking with new tongues
- Taking up serpents (I don't recommend this)
- Drinking deadly poison without harm (Also, not recommended)
- Laying hands on the sick and healing them

Once again, keep in mind that these are examples. If the need arises to feed a thousand people with five cans of beans, please don't look at this passage of scripture as a laundry list of acceptable miracles and use it as an excuse not to perform that particular miracle. Just offer thanks to God and start giving out the beans. Also, some may say that it was only those to whom Jesus was speaking that would do these things, but Jesus said that it was those who believe. The question to ask yourself, then, is, 'Do you believe?' If you say that you believe, I challenge you to do what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ told us all to do if we believe. To paraphrase Mark 16:17-18, believers will minister to those in need by healing and performing miracles as supernatural Christians are empowered to do.

## Go Ye and Heal

Look around you as you travel through this life. You will undoubtedly come across those who are in need of healing or other miracles. When they see the healings and miracles that you perform by the power and authority of Jesus Christ, they will believe and be saved. Please don't let that opportunity pass you by. Lay your hands on the sick and they will be healed.