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Is NOW the Time for Divine Healing?

Isaiah 53:5: (NASB) *But he was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon him, and by his scourging we are healed.*



Sickness and death have always played a significant role in our world as two of the things we spend lots of time and money avoiding. When Jesus was here on earth, he healed many of their diseases. When the Apostles were here after Jesus, they also healed. So, if we are Christians, are we supposed to be carrying the banner of healing as well? Is the healing of disease a Christian responsibility today, or was it for a long-ended time? If we are NOT supposed to heal, then what changed? If we are supposed to heal, then shouldn't we be making news doing so? Stay with us - this should be good!

First, how about some history on the whole faith healing phenomena?

(Source: Funk & Wagnalls New Encyclopedia, 2006 World Almanac Education Group) History of Faith Healing: Faith healing was known among the ancient Greeks and Romans, who believed that Asclepius, the god of medicine, might appear in the dreams of sick people who slept in the temples devoted to his worship, and that the god then cured them or prescribed a regimen of treatment for them to follow. In contrast, the Old Testament has few references to faith healing...In the New Testament Gospels, however, are perhaps the most famous faith healing stories of all time. In the stories of Jesus' miracles of healing, illness is regarded as the sign of the presence of evil spirits, and Jesus' power to heal is proclaimed as evidence that God's kingdom has come in his person.

The Role of Faith: Although the faith of a believer is generally regarded as the channel of cure, Christian theology insists that the actual agent in healing is God's Spirit. Thus, faith, in the sense of trust and expectancy—rather than in the sense of subscription to orthodox doctrine—is the prerequisite to healing. The association between sin and disease is traditional in Christian theology (see James 5:14-16), and in Christian practice the confession of sin has usually preceded the anointing of the sick, the laying on of hands, and the prayers that constitute the Christian liturgy of healing.



Falling down in other cultures, Ex-Healer Mark Haville, Way of the Master Radio

- *Do we see this falling down, people going wild, clapping, etc...going on in other religions? Yes, you can travel around the world and see exactly the same type of thing using exactly the same methods being played out.*
- *It's just the practitioners that change and the name they do it in changes. If you believe in the person on the stage, whether it be a hypnotist, faith healer or guru, he can pray for you in the name of Homer Simpson and if you believe, you'll fall down. So that's the purpose of hypnosis.*

Luke 5:17: Jesus healed and he is our example. But due to the enormity of the subject, we will only focus on the healing that the Apostles did.

Acts 3:1-13



The danger of hypnosis, Ex-Healer Mark Haville, Way of the Master Radio

- *The danger of hypnosis is when you go to one of these meetings, quite innocently and sincere, believing that God is going to heal you, people can come on to the stage and genuinely testify that they feel healed, because the hypnosis reduces their reaction to the pain, but it doesn't take away the symptoms. When they go home or if they don't go to one of those meetings for any length of time, the effect of hypnosis wears off.*



Observations of New Testament healing done by Apostles and Disciples:

- Healing done by the Apostles and Disciples was meant for *unbelievers*.
- All healing done by the Apostles and Disciples was in public for all to see.
- All healing was for the purpose of drawing attention to the Gospel of Christ (not to the preacher!).

Healing was used as a "kickstart" for the movement of Christianity and brought glory to God. God's spirit was given to develop the true church.



Healing and Restoration, I curse this cyst, *Brian Carn, youtube.com*

I see God opening a new door for school -you're gonna get the degree - this time you're gonna start and finish. When I lay hands on you today I command every gift of God in you to stir up... I stir up every gift in your life, I curse this cyst sitting right there on one of your ovaries! Tonight you're gonna get a miracle - I need somebody to scream! Lift your hands, lift your hands, come to me, come to me. Hurry up, Baby, don't take your time!

Also see:
John 5:28,29
Haggai 2:7

An environment is definitely created in this presentation with visuals and music. Have things been both added and subtracted to the model of healing done by the Apostles? Let's compare...

Acts 9:32-35: (NASB) ³²Now as Peter was traveling through all those regions, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. ³³There he found a man (note - not a believer) named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed.

Note the unquestionable seriousness of both healing events from the Apostles we have reviewed.

³⁴Peter said to him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed. Immediately he got up. ³⁵And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. (Note - they didn't turn to Peter.)

Note the public nature of both healing events.



Did the Apostle Paul heal in the same way as Peter had?

Observations about modern day Christian faith healing:

- There is usually prayer.
- There is usually music of praise and worship.
- There is usually a "laying on of hands."
- The healing is usually done during a Christian worship service.
- The healing is usually done for the benefit of believers.

Exposing Faith Healing Scams, *Derren Brown, an illusionist in the United Kingdom*

- *We've researched the major miracles that faith healers perform and now we will show you what lies behind them... The blind will see, the deaf will hear, limbs will grow out, and I'm going to show you how to perform these. I'm going to demonstrate some popular miracles that you might see at a faith healing event...*

Acts 14:8-15

It is interesting that according to their traditions, Jupiter and Mercury once visited them and were refused and the city was punished. We see in Paul the same humility, focus and lack of any theatrics as with Peter.

Live display, Come out of her, *Benny Hinn*

- *(Dramatic music in the background) Let the power of your blessed spirit flow through this young lady - remove that arthritis - I rebuke it in the name of the Lord...I, the servant of the Lord, stand against this disease and I order you to go out of her, in Jesus' name... COME OUT OF HER!!!*

Acts 16:16-19: Paul spontaneously healed her with one command. The result was immediate even though she didn't request it. Today's healing environment is completely different.

First step is the right music, *Ex-Healer Mark Haville, Way of the Master Radio*

- *How do you get somebody to that place, specifically at a revival that goes on for hours? The best way is to do it initially is to have long periods of music, so in this case we will call it "praise and worship." The best kind of music is one that mirrors bodily functions like cardiovascular. Praise and worship fits very nicely into a relaxed heartbeat, so that will work well. Obviously tunes that people know - also the dynamics in large crowds also make people more susceptible...*

The most extraordinary miracles didn't even require Paul and Peter to even touch the afflicted: Acts 19:11-17: Notice again that it wasn't Paul being elevated, it was Jesus.

Come out of her! Live display, *Benny Hinn*

- *I command it to go out of this young lady. You devil of arthritis, you spirit of infirmity, in Jesus' name - GO OUT OF HER!! I give you praise for this anointing. I give you praise for this*



anointing. I give you praise for this anointing. Anoint them, I pray in the name of Jesus. (rising applause from the crowd as everyone falls down on the stage) (Note - this is very different from what Jesus or the Apostles did.) GO OUT OF HER!! To never come back again in Jesus' mighty and glorious name!

What about those faithful Christians who were NOT healed?

2 Corinthians 12:7-9: If any Christian should have been healed, the Apostle Paul would have seemingly been a good choice, right? On the other side of the issue, though, is if Jesus' grace is supposed to be sufficient and his power is supposed to be made stronger in weakness, then don't heal any followers! You will do them damage by taking away the opportunity for Jesus' power!

We need to rely more on the Lord through our trials and difficulties.

Healing and Restoration, Power of God, *Brian Carn*

- I break this worry! I break this discouragement! Don't you go nowhere - you be still - THE POWER OF GOD! Lift your hands! Lift your hands! He's here! He's here! You want it off? You want it off? I'll get it off you if you want it. I'm gonna place my hand right here and I'm gonna take up all this unforgiveness, let it go, let it go (crying), let it don't... don't know who took advantage of you as a child, but you've been holding it, (crying) I curse it - POWER OF GOD! Lift your hands...*

The overpowering emotion of the preacher, the music, the creation of the event - this is an environment where the power of suggestion overrides the power of God. Healing in the New Testament was not done apart from the world, and it was done for unbelievers.

What about Paul's own spiritual son Timothy? 1 Timothy 5:21-23: The Apostle Paul had the power (as previously shown) to heal Timothy. He could have healed him by his touching the parchment he wrote on, but he didn't...why? He prescribed a little wine instead! Timothy was a dedicated believer and had access to one of the greatest Christian healers of all times! Because Jesus' strength is made perfect in weakness. Paul understood what this meant.

Exposing faith healing scams, blind man healed, *Derren Brown, an illusionist in the United Kingdom*

- This man is 46 years old and has been blind since birth. This man doesn't know what it is even like to be able to see. Let's start praying: Father, I command those devils of blindness to come out of this man. I command in Jesus' name those devils of blindness to leave this man in Jesus' holy name! Spirit, fall upon this man - heal this man! Bring him back up...I have opened this man's eyes. Come forward...how many fingers am I holding up? "Two." He sees! Lord be praised, this man sees! Somebody praise the Lord, his sight is restored! Who believes in miracles?*

Darren is performing the actions and saying the words and a man saw - how is that done? We will revisit that later.

Every Christian needs to only depend upon God's grace for our sufficiency: Hebrews 4:14-16: Prayer has great power. But Jesus instructed us to pray in private. It takes away all of the fanfare and adrenaline that often takes away from the real power of prayer.

But aren't we told in James 5:15 to pray for healing?

James 5:13-15: (NASB) ¹³Is anyone among you **suffering <2553>**? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. ¹⁴Is anyone among you **sick <770>**? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is **sick <2577>**, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

In this next clip with Benny Hinn, the "spirit" is so powerful that he looks at people and they fall down. He is trying to be orderly in his healing, but all of these people keep falling back because the power is so great. He even looks up at the choir and they all fall down!

Glory of God falls, I better walk away, *Benny Hinn, 2002*

- She had fibromyalgia for 20 years - the pain is totally gone out of her body tonight - Pastor! I know you feel the power of God! There is glory! I'm telling you people! Pick him up so I can*



talk to him! The power of God is all over these people here...ooh, I better walk away. I better walk away.

Where in the Scriptures do we see that kind of activity in relation to anyone being healed? Nowhere. The Scriptures are to be our template.

Suffering: Strongs #2553 kakopatheo (kak-op-ath-eh'-o); to undergo hardship

2 Timothy 2:3: Thou therefore endure **hardness <2553>**, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:5: But watch thou in all things, endure **afflictions <2553>**, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

So it doesn't necessarily have to mean physical illness.

Sick: Strongs #770 astheneo (as-then-eh'-o); to be feeble (in any sense)

2 Corinthians 12:10: Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am **weak <770>**, then am I strong.

Romans 14:1-4: (NKJV) ¹Receive one who is **weak <770>** in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. ²For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is **weak <770>** eats only vegetables. ³Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. ⁴Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

It is used in the sense of being spiritually overrun, weak in faith. The James Scriptures (James 5:13-15) refer to spiritual weakness.

 **Exposing faith healing scams, healing is an illusion, Derren Brown, an illusionist in the United Kingdom**

- *Did I really just heal you of deafness? No...You are moderately deaf - you can't really hear without your hearing aid if I face the other way. But clicks (finger snapping) you could hear anyway. You aren't healed, because nothing has changed. In a similar way, although Ian was genuinely blind since birth, like most registered blind people the blind man has some impaired vision - with the right lighting he can see blurred shapes and colors - enough to see the number of fingers I was holding against my dark jacket, enough to see my bright handkerchief and his hearing helps him follow me around the room!*

We don't want to become involved in a "show" when it comes to our Christianity. We want to sincerely follow the Scriptures.

Sick: Strongs #2577 kamno (kam'-no); properly, to toil, i.e. (by implication) to tire (figuratively, faint, sicken):

Hebrews 12:3: For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be **wearied <2577>** and faint in your minds.

Revelation 2:3: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and **hast <2577>** not **fainted <2577>**.

So again, this James text really has nothing to do with physical illness at all, rather it has everything to do with spiritual illness and having others pray for you to become spiritually close to the Lord.

1 Corinthians 11:28-31: The Scriptural precedence says that primarily unbelievers are healed, and it is done in a public place for the purpose of drawing people to the Gospel. An environment was not created; healing was done within the environment that existed.

We all want to be healed of our sicknesses, but if you are following after God through Christ, then everything that is happening to you is for a reason and God can bless you in that difficulty by showing His strength in that difficulty and you will be "more than an overcomer" because of that difficulty! Why then would you want to take away God's hand in your life?!

**So is NOW the time for divine healing...?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!**