

Healing is a major aspect of the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

By B.D. Tate

Healing is a major aspect of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It has been said that as much as eighty percent of Jesus' ministry was spent healing and delivering the people. It is one of THE ways God intends to draw all men unto Himself.

John 4:48 Then Jesus said to him, "**Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will by no means believe.**"

Jesus Christ reconciled the world to God in His atonement and one of the major **ways of proving and showing** God's forgiveness and compassion was through healing all manner of sickness and disease.

Mark 2:9 "**Which is easier**, to say to the paralytic, '***Your sins are forgiven you,***' or to say, '***Arise, take up your bed and walk***'?

2Co 5:19 "that is, that **God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself**, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation."

It is written of Jesus in His ministry in the gospels some seventeen times that ALL who came to him for healing were healed. **That shows in itself the will of God concerning healing.**

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

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

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

Ac 10:38 "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good

and **healing all** who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

We do not find one instance where Jesus refused to heal, deliver, save, or set free. The resounding witness IS as Jesus said to the man with leprosy, “*I am willing,*” and cleansed him of that horrible disease (Matt. 8:3; Mark 1:41; Luke 5:13). Jesus plainly said that “unless you people see signs and wonders you will by no means believe.” If that was the case for the Messiah in ministering, reaching, convincing, and showing God’s grace how much more it is for his disciples!

The overwhelming testimony surrounding Jesus’ ministry was his casting out demons, healing all who were oppressed of the devil, curing deformity, opening blind eyes, making the deaf to hear, raising the lame and the dead, and setting everyone who came to him free. He must have spent hours and hours accomplishing this task with so many ill, deformed, or demon possessed:

Lu 4:18 "**The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me** To preach the gospel to *the* poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to *the* captives And recovery of sight to *the* blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

If God was in Christ to the fullest possible way, if Jesus is the embodiment of God in the flesh, then we have a complete example of God’s will demonstrated concerning sickness and disease.

Col 1:15 He is **the image of the invisible God**, the firstborn over all creation.

Col 1:19 For it pleased *the Father that* in Him all the **fullness** should dwell,

Col 2:9 For in Him dwells all the **fullness** of the Godhead **bodily**;

Otherwise, Jesus’ ministry would have been in conflict with God’s will. When we say that God’s word is His will and that Jesus is the Word of God we couldn’t have a more clear understanding of God’s will towards sin and it’s consequences in the curse.

John 1:1 **In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.**

2 He was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.

14 **And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us**, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, **full of grace and truth.**

What did Jesus come to do? **He came to destroy the works of the devil.** The devil's work was getting man to sin against God. The result of sin is the curse and the curse is manifested in every kind of sickness and disease, violence, ill-will, depravation, war, poverty, death, all of which are listed in Deuteronomy Chapter 28.

1Jo 3:8 **He who sins is of the devil**, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose **the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.**

Jesus as revealed by Paul has delivered us from the curse.

Ga 3:13 Christ has **redeemed us from the curse of the law**, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

Did Jesus come to deliver us from sin or not? Did Jesus atone for all the consequences of the fall and the curse? The answer is certain as we consider the depiction of His suffering from Isaiah Chapter 53:

Isaiah 53:3 He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him.

4 **Surely He has borne our grief and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.**

5 **But He *was* wounded for our transgressions, He *was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.**

The scriptures teach us that through the atonement He was bruised for iniquities, suffered for our transgressions, bore our

pains, sicknesses, and grief, and by His stripes we were healed. Salvation is not just the spiritual new birth but for the whole being. **Matthew** takes this passage under the direction of the Holy Spirit and **ends any doubt about it being for today** when after Jesus had healed multitudes, he quotes Isaiah saying it is the fulfillment of this prophecy. Jesus in healing all is fulfilling God's provision for our salvation spiritually AND PHYSICALLY!

Matt. 8:16 "When evening had come they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. **And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17 that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore *our* sicknesses."**

Jesus makes a remarkable statement:

John 14:12 "Most assuredly, I say to you, **he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do,** because I go to My Father.

One could have argued that God wanted the world to know that Jesus was/is the Messiah therefore God commissioned him to heal, to deliver, to set free to show Jesus is Lord. Certainly that is true; yet, Jesus' mission and then re-commission of his disciples was to do the very works he did! **The Great Commission** has often in our day been presented to mean salvation in the new birth; what has not been presented is how much that commission included healing, deliverance, and setting the captives free! In other words, the Great Commission is TWO-FOLDED having the first part meant to help accomplish the second part. Listen to Jesus' commissioning of the twelve apostles and then the seventy he sent out two by two: They were to heal the sick and then preach the kingdom of God is near.

Mt. 10:8 "**Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.**

Luke 9:2 He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

Luke 10:9 "And heal the sick there, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'

The laborers were meant to show God's power to forgive and deliver and then preach the kingdom of God! The same is just as true today as it was then and even more so since Jesus has been glorified and the Holy Spirit sent into the hearts of believers!

Mt 9:37 Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest truly is plentiful, but the **laborers are few**.

Mt 9:38 "**Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**"

We have the same Spirit that raised Christ from the dead dwelling in us to the same things for the same reasons!

Ro 8:11 **But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.**

God's will is to manifest His glory through his sons and daughters in the name of Jesus! The name of Jesus is Lord, deliverer, redeemer, savior, healer, protector, provider, and all wisdom and power! **We are to go in His name to do what Jesus did!** We are commissioned to be His ambassadors and ministers of reconciliation!

2Co 5:20 Now **then, we are ambassadors for Christ**, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

2Co 5:18 Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, **and has given us the ministry of reconciliation,**

Joh 14:13 "And whatever you ask **in My name**, that I will do, **that the Father may be glorified in the Son.**

Joh 15:8 "**By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit;** so you will be My disciples.

We are the light of the World in Christ Jesus to shine forth the same works that the Lord did so that all will know, see, and understand God's compassion for the lost.

Mt 5:16 "**Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.**

Mt 18:11 "...**For the Son of Man has come to save that which was lost.**"

Signs were meant to act as a **beacon to the gospel** of Christ Jesus to draw all men unto the truth. Signs of God's compassion and confirmation of His Word are what turned the world upside down when the church first began to preach and heal!

Mr 16:20 And they went out and preached everywhere, **the Lord working with *them* and confirming the word through the accompanying signs.** Amen.

Mr. 16:17 **“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name** they will cast out demons; they will **speak with new tongues;**

18 "they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; **they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**"

The church re-presenting Christ to the world as risen and THE victorious king went about destroying the works of the devil just as Jesus did. The Great Commission had always included both the healing, delivering, setting free from the curse, demonic oppression AND salvation in the new birth! **We have been commissioned to go in His Name!** This means we go as if we were Jesus acting in His stead, on His behalf, as His representative doing what He would do! Actually Jesus does it through us! It is His very life, faith, peace, strength, power, grace working through us by faith!

Ga 2:20 **"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in (of) the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Ac 3:16 **“And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.**

Ac 10:43 **“To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, **whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins.**"**

Ro 1:5 **Through Him** we have received grace and apostleship for obedience to the faith among all nations for **His name,**

John 16:24 “**Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.**

John 15:16 "You did not choose Me, but I chose you **and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and *that your fruit should remain*, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.**

Remembering the Great Commission...

Mark 16: 15 And He said to them, "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.**

16 “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

17 “And these signs will follow those who believe: **In My name** they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues...”

A MAJOR CHANGE IS IN ORDER

We have been commissioned to go in His name, in His place, to do what He did. **His ministry majored in healing and deliverance** however, most modern day Christians and ministries do not. We have lost this vital aspect of ministry and witness to the Word of Truth! As we regain it we need to **make a change** in our understanding and the way we operate. With anything that becomes a major emphasis in our lives **there is a fundamental change in the way we do business.**

Mt 6:33 "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

If we understand that our hearts must be involved in the gospel of Jesus Christ for it to manifest in our lives then our heart's attention must be changed toward this major aspect of THE gospel.

Pr 4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.

For quality to be experienced in anything it must be birthed through quantity. We cannot expect to receive and manifest God's best if there is no quantity of God's life in us. We can't major in the world and its desires, pleasures, and entertainment then turn our attention to godly things and expect

miracles to happen (although God has often been gracious to us despite our lack of focus).

1Jo 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

One of the motivations for making godliness a major quantity in our life is the realization we are in a **spiritual war for the souls of men.** This war is all around us and it is stealing, killing, and destroying people's lives everyday (John 10:10). We have to make up our minds to see that we cannot fight this war as a **policing action**. We cannot fight this war **as a hobby**. We cannot fight this war **as civilians**. Our call to arms means dedication to training and **living a life set aside** by God to work the works of Christ.

Eph 6:12 **For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,** but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

2Co 10:4 **For the weapons of our warfare** *are* not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds,

Are we convinced that God has commissioned us? Are we convinced that we have been given His name, His grace, His Spirit, His Word, to do the very same things that Jesus did? Are we convinced that we are in a spiritual war for the souls of men?

2Pe 1:3 **as His divine power has given to us all things that *pertain to life and godliness*,** through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

We must be convinced that our attention must be focused in a major way on healing and deliverance **because sickness and disease is a major part of life**. Sin and its consequences are the source for this curse but through Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit, through the authority of the name of Jesus, we've been commissioned to bring peace to the body, soul, and spirit of man. **We are not being faithful to ourselves, to God, to the atonement of Christ when we spend very little time preparing, addressing, and training to be ministers of reconciliation in all that means!**

Mt 10:39 “**He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it.**

QUALITY VERSUS QUANTITY

If we were to treat eating our food with the same emphasis we do the healing ministry of the saints we'd starve! Some might say well it is **quality versus quantity** that counts. Imagine feeding someone a very tasty meal of quality food that really just entails one bite. This bite may be small in amount but it is the very best tasting food you have ever tasted. If we had a steady diet of such meals we would starve to death. **We would be weak at best and isn't that the way most Christians feel in regards to faith and healing?** We need to realize that quality is birthed out of quantity they are both necessary for feeding, building up our faith, confidence, practice, growing, and succeeding. When it comes to sports and teams working to get better there isn't a coach that wouldn't want their team practicing everyday. No coach is going to say that what really counts is a minute of two of intense focus and quality play. **Everyone knows that outstanding plays come from players with many hours, weeks, months, of practice.** For anyone to become good, exceptional, even professional, they must give their life, time, and **quantity of effort to reach the highest quality of performance.**

Php 3:12 Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; **but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.**

Php 3:14 I **press toward the goal for the prize** of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

BEGIN TO MAKE HEALING & DELIVERANCE A MAJOR THRUST

We can't be guessing about God's will or word when it comes to operating in faith and authority in Jesus' name. We can't be ignorant of Satan's tricks and deceptions concerning God's manifest power.

Jas 4:7 Therefore **submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

We need to have in our hearts a steady and quality diet of meditation, prayer, and practice so that we are not novices in regards to praying for the sick or casting out demons. If we have **questions or doubts that have never been answered we are not in a position of strength but weakness.**

James 1:6 But let him ask in faith, **with no doubting**, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind.

7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;

8 he is a double-minded man, **unstable in all his ways.**

If we need to *do some homework* to find the answers that absolutely satisfy our questions **then be about it with a whole heart.** Any question not fully addressed will only keep coming back and will be a source of stumbling in receiving God's best. **We are in a major war but we have been given major grace through God's word and Spirit to address every power, every curse, and every deception of the enemy. For us to not major in salvation, AND healing, and deliverance is to miss the mark and calling upon every believer.**

1Jo 4:17 Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness in the day of judgment; **because as He is, so are we in this world.**

1Pe 1:13 Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, **and rest your hope fully upon the grace** that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;

Mt 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "**All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.**

CONSIDER SOME OF THE ISSUES WE MUST ADDRESS

When we become aware of the TWO-FOLD commission of healing the sick and preaching/witnessing to the gospel we need to make some changes. Let me present some of those changes:

- 1) We must **be convinced** that healing, delivering, and casting out demons IS God's will for US!

This means we must address questions that would hinder us from removing ALL doubts concerning God's Will.

Questions such as: Is it God's Will to Heal today? Is it

God's will to heal everyone? What about Job? What about Paul's thorn in the flesh? What do people die from if not sickness & disease? Doesn't God use sickness & disease to teach us? What if I pray for healing and nothing happens? Why doesn't everyone get healed? Wasn't God's power just for the early church? Why don't we see miracles & healings today?

- 2) We must understand that our own hearts have weeds of **unbelief, doubts, unforgiveness, and rebellion** towards God that are hindering us from operating in purer faith! As we examine through God's Spirit, we can identify those fears, worries, and anxious thoughts that penetrate to our inner most being, revealing to us what is in our hearts. We'll **discover weeds** that actually believe what the world teaches over what God's Word says—this is spiritual adultery! We'll discover that we do not believe what God's words teaches this is unbelief in our hearts—actually calling God a liar from our hearts! We'll discover that we have weeds of unbelief that reflect a lack of trust in God, His nature, His willingness, and His compassion—this is blasphemy because we are denying God! All of these weeds come from being carnal, living and receiving what the world believes and teaches. These weeds represent what we have focused our lives on and what we truly trust in our hearts. We must identify the weeds and apply God's word to destroy them and replace them with belief that aligns with God's Will.
- 3) **We don't have a faith problem** because we have been given the very life, strength, grace, and Spirit of Christ! We have His faith! This means we have to re-direct our heart to **understand by faith what grace has accomplished!** God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself and then bestowing in us through the New Birth a new creation just like Jesus. We can do nothing through our human flesh but we are NOT without Jesus and the Holy Spirit. Grace has been poured out so that we are blessed with every spiritual

blessing and given all things that pertain to life and godliness. **We acquire and operate in this grace through faith!** We must apply our hearts to grasp, believe, meditate, trust, and embrace the truth of what God has already done in Christ in US!

- 4) **We must begin to ACT upon this truth** as one who trusts the very nature, compassion, will, and character of God's Word. We will see first in our spirits the manifestation because of believing God's Word alone. Then as we act to take our position in Christ through the boldness of the Holy Spirit, we'll experience the joy of receiving through faith the will of God in our lives. By this is God glorified when His sons and daughters believe His word in the face of rebellious circumstances and symptoms, and receive! When we take the Name of Jesus and begin to operate in the authority of that name we'll see the Holy Spirit respond and manifest God's Will.

- 5) **We must make a decision to deny the world more and be filled with the Holy Spirit more.** We cannot expect to live most of our life focused on the world and its desires, cares, deceit, and then expect to walk in the Spirit's confidence once in a while. Therefore the need to mobilize our hearts and life towards the greatest job there is as a minister of reconciliation means a major change in focus on God's promises, word, and will. This will mean giving up some desires, habits, TV & entertainment which will not be easy because our flesh has often dictated to us. We will have to fast and pray to overcome our carnal dependence in order to become more spiritually minded. **What is the benefit of such a program or effort?** Would you exchange all of these things to walk in the Spirit and heal the broken hearted? Would you be willing to sanctify your life (set it apart), deny the flesh, and see others delivered from demonic oppression, healed of sickness and disease, and ultimately give their life to Jesus? I think we can clearly see

it is worth our every effort to focus and make God's healing life in us a major emphasis!

Some Booklets that address this:

Vague Christianity

Indicators & Location

Healing is a Major Aspect of the Gospel

Understanding Unbelief

Understanding Doubt

Training

Hardness of Heart

You Have the Faith of Christ

Think, Act, and Speak Faith

Authority and Faith

Faith Issues

Why Signs