

Divine Healing,

Message preached on 8.22.04, 9.5.04 & 9.12.04

I have diligently sought the Lord for the gift of healing. It's a gift greatly needed in the body of Christ today. For not only will people be healed, it will also be a platform for the gospel to spread and Christ to be glorified.

I am sick and tired of people being sick and tired. I'm upset that the gospel in North America is primarily one of "words" and not of "demonstrations of the Spirit's power." (1 Cor.2.4; 4.20) The gospel of the kingdom is a gospel of power. As Acts records, signs & wonders draw the people to Jesus. They saw that He wasn't just another god.

I thank the Lord that He has used me and the membership of Willow to touch others with His miracle working power. We have seen many people healed. All praise to the Lamb!

But, I will not be satisfied until we see the majority of sick people we pray for healed! Sickness cannot stand in the presence of Jesus and I want the Church to be a place where no sickness can stand against her prayers!

This message is still "in process." What I state I believe, but I'm still learning. I want my life to be based on Scripture not my experience. Seeing limited healings while praying for hundreds and believing the Word is a constant challenge. Regardless, I will press in to the fullness that is mine in Christ Jesus.

What I have to say may be considered controversial but science continues to affirm the power of prayer. Prayer is a source of healing. People recover quicker after surgery when they are prayed for than if they aren't. This is a fact that can no longer be denied.

**What I Believe About Healing**

## 1. Healing Is In The Atonement!

- a. Is.53.4–5. Let's just believe it and quit letting our experience explain it away. We're experiential Christians, rather than Biblical Christians. We spiritualize this passage, whereas Matthew under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit took it literal (Mt.8.16–17). Let's just believe too much rather than too little.
- b. Ps.103.1–5 – LET'S BELIEVE IT!
- c. Ro.5.12 – Through Adam sin entered the world and the outcome of sin is death; 5.19 – Js did away with sin and destroyed death (eternal separation from God). Outward death is only a small part; the bigger issue is separation from God. Jesus dealt this death a death blow – 2 T.1.10. There is still death, but death has been swallowed up in victory– 1 Cor.15.54–55.
- d. Sickness is the result of sin & Satan. Both of these foes (sin & Satan) were defeated at the cross. How many sins did Jesus forgive? How thoroughly did Js defeat Satan? All the effects of sin have been loosed, whether we see them or not. Satan has been defeated even though we still war with him. Our sins have been taken away even though we still war with them.
- e. Therefore, sickness has been defeated, even though I still wrestle with it. Matthew 8.16–17. Let's not allow our experiences to influence our interpretation of Scripture.

## 2. God is not the source of sickness! Sin & Satan are the sources of all sickness!

- a. James 1.17 – Every good & perfect gift comes from the Father's of Light. Sickness isn't a good & perfect gift. Don't use Ro.8.28 as a cloak to cover evil. God can use "everything", including the devil for goof, but that doesn't mean the "everything" is good.
- b. 1 John 3.8, "The reason the son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work."

- c. Acts 10.38, “and healing all who were under the power of the devil,” Part of the devil’s work is sickness.
- d. He has given us authority over the Devil – 1 J.4.4.
- e. Satan is seen in Job as the one dispensing sickness.
- f. God brought sickness upon various groups when they sinned:
  - i. Deut.26.21, 27 – It has to do with willfully disobeying God.
  - ii. Num.12. – Miriam & Aaron’s opposition. Miriam struck with leprosy.
  - iii. Num.14 – The 10 spies who brought a bad report and spread division within the Israelites were struck with a plague.
  - iv. 2 Sam.24 – David counted the troops and God brought a plague that killed 17,000.
  - v. 1 Cor.11.27–32– Eating the Lord’s Supper in an unworthy manner.
  - vi. The common belief was that all sickness was due to sin. Example – Job’s friends & John 9. Some is, but some isn’t!
  - vii. If you’re sick or you have children or spouse who is, you need to do 1 Cor.11 & James 5. Confess your sins and break all agreement with it.
    - 1. Matt.9.1–8: He forgave the man first and then healed him. We don’t know if his paralysis was due to sin, but it’s an important pattern to follow.
    - 2. Confess all sin (from the above Scriptures the examples are pretty clear) and completely renounce it! Then seek healing.
    - 3. Make it that simple. Don’t try to make it into a difficult process. Is there anything you’re doing or believing that is out of line with the Scriptures? Is your relationship with God where it

needs to be? Are your relationships with others where they need to be?

4. Once you get everything right then relax. God will show you any sin that may be hindering healing if you're really seeking Him - through revelation or circumstances.

viii. Sometimes sickness (Mental or Physical) is due to foolish and sinful decisions. We have to confess that also - poor eating habits, risky behavior, not listening to others,

ix. God doesn't give us sickness unless there's some sort of willful defiance.

x. Let's place blame where it is due. Sickness is due to sin & Satan!

3. Just assume its God's will to heal all the time...unless He tells you otherwise!

a. How many did Jesus heal? All

i. Mt. 4.23\_24, 8.16, 15.30;

ii. Every person who came to Jesus he healed.

iii. Heb.13.8 - Jesus Christ is the same today as he was back then. If I were to bring my sick son to Jesus back then, would he have healed him? Yes. He wouldn't have said, "It's not my will." So, if he's the same today as back then and I bring my sick son to Jesus, will he heal him? You bet!

iv. I need to get my life right before the Lord and then seek God for healing and just expect Him to do something.

b. Matt.6.10 - The will of God being done on earth as it is in Heaven.

- i. Is sickness part of the will of God in heaven; people with cancer, depression, pain, etc. fill heaven
  - ii. What about poverty & injustice? Is that part of the will of God? No.
  - iii. Is it God's will that people go to Hell? No.
  - iv. You don't need to pray, "God if it's your will to heal me then please do it." Anymore then you need to pray, "God if it's your will to save my spouse then do it." It is the will of God!" Our sins & sickness were dealt with on the cross.
  - v. Just because people are sick, lost, poor and not experiencing justice, we shouldn't assume then it must be God's will they remain that way. Just because people aren't saved, doesn't mean I assume then God doesn't want to save them. Not all are saved, but God still wants to save them; not all are healed, but God still wants to heal them.
  - vi. If I pray for a person and they aren't healed, I don't give up. Instead, I keep praying. If I witness to a person and they don't accept Christ I don't give up, I keep telling. You believe it's His will regardless of the outcome.
  - vii. I believe its God's will that the Kingdom of God be fully established in Southern Brazoria County. All the lost are saved; all the saved are mature; all the sick are healed; all the oppressed are delivered; all injustice is removed; all families are whole; all poverty is eliminated; the environment is free of pollution and healthy; all darkness is exposed to light; all evil is consumed by good. THAT IS THE WILL OF GOD! We believe some of these are God's will, but others aren't. We're basing it on experience and not the Word of God.
- c. James 5.14–16: Is anyone sick? He doesn't qualify it. In other words, if you know it's not God's will that you be sick then

you receive prayer. He just assumes it isn't God's will that you be sick. NOTE: Connection between Sin & sickness. Confession then prayer of faith. Also, God will raise them up. It is assumed that God wants to and will heal. The prayer of faith WILL heal the sick.

- d. Where do we get this whether or not it's God's will? Maybe it's God's will that I just suffer through this difficulty – Paul's thorn in the flesh – 2 Cor.12.7-10.
  - i. He doesn't say what the thorn in the flesh is & No One Knows!
  - ii. In fact, if we use Scripture to interpret Scripture and follow this phrase "Thorn in the flesh", it is directly related to insurgents who remained in the Promised Land – Num.33.55. Individuals and groups who oppose the truth.
  - iii. 2 Cor.12.10 – the weakness is linked to insults, hardships, opposition. It doesn't conclusively say anything about health problems.
  - iv. Therefore, it's best to assume it's God's will to heal all the time, unless He says to you, "My grace is sufficient for you." If you have physical or mental issues, assume it's God's will to heal until the Lord says, "My grace..." If you're praying for a sick person and you haven't seen a breakthrough, assume it's God's will to heal until the Lord say, "My grace is..."
- e. I'm not presuming to know how God wants to heal – Instantaneously, Accelerated (Blind man who saw a little and then more – Mk.8.22-25), gradually (10 Lepers), naturally or with the help of doctors and medication (Luke the physician & Paul telling Timothy to take a little wine for his stomach – 1 Tim.5.23). I want it one way, but God may choose to do it another.
  - 1. Also note how Jesus healed – spit in his eyes – Mk.8.22-25; spit on tongue – Mk.7.33; spit on ground – John 9.6)

2. Don't judge a minister by his methodology (unless it's unscriptural) but by his fruit.
  - ii. If he chooses to use a doctor my confidence is in God and not the doctor.
  - iii. God uses doctors, like teachers & worship leaders. You don't need me or a worship leader, but the Lord uses us to train you and assist you in connecting with Him. We're just tools in God's hands as is a doctor, whether the doctor acknowledges it or not
  - iv. Praying for Eleanor Andrews, Dotti Haws, & Patsy Day. Doctors used in all three but I'm still praying for accelerated healing and a quick recovery. Just b/c doctors were used doesn't mean that is how he'll do it next time. . Proven fact those being prayed for after surgery heal quicker than those not.
  - v. Let's have faith in God and gratitude for the doctors and medications.
  - vi. I'M (SCOTT MCKAY) ALWAYS GOING TO ASK GOD DO IT INSTANTANEOUSLY. I'm like the kid who says to everyone, "My dad is stronger than your dad." What that kid means is "My dad can beat up your dad." Yet even though I want God to heal quickly, He doesn't always show his strength by whipping up on the sickness. Sometime He shows His strength by giving peace, confidence & hope in the middle of the despair.

4. The Dilemma - You really believe God for healing. Confess sins and turn away from them; press into God and nothing happens.

Here's the huge difference between salvation and healing. If you did the above with salvation you would be saved.

In salvation, your spirit is awakened by God and controlled by Him. Man is tri-partied (body, soul & spirit). Sometimes soul & spirit are used synonymously. My spirit is absolutely controlled by God; my soul

consisting of my mind, will & emotions are the battleground. My body is also touched by God, but it's also affected by the fallen, sin filled world. If there weren't sin, my body would show no sign of wear; I would always be in health; b/c of sin my body is affected in a deep way. His desire is 3 John 2, "I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you; even as your soul is getting along well."

We have to understand we are primarily spirit beings. As someone once said, "We aren't human beings having spiritual experiences; we are spiritual being having human experiences." The Spirit of God is working from the inside out. He's more concerned about my relationship with God and my character than my body. I'll receive a new body in Heaven, but my spirit will remain the same. In heaven, I will experience perfectly in my spirit what is already there but my body will be transformed into a new one. My body is decaying - 2 Cor.4.16 - but my Spirit is being renewed. (Therefore, we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.)

Therefore, if I get sick and God doesn't answer my prayer with a miraculous, gradual or medical assisted healing then I'm not going to beat myself up b/c my spirit is healthy.

The older I get this natural body will be more affected by the Fall. As Paul says in 1 Cor.15. 54, "The perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable ...then the saying that is written will come true: Death has been swallowed up in victory." My bone mass, agility, strength will decline (the perishable) but my sensitivity to the Holy Spirit, intimacy with God and spiritual strength (the imperishable) will supercede it at death.

We cannot erase entirely the affect of sin on our physical bodies (1 Cor.15.25f. - the last enemy to be destroyed is death) - we all will die. But, we don't stay dead! Jesus eliminated the most serious effect of sin which was separation from God. Though this body dies, my spirit is fully alive and I'm going to be given a new body.

Here's the problem, we look at everything through the eyes of our flesh. Whereas, we need to look at everything thru eyes of our spirit. We see sickness and death as defeat, but it's only one little incident at the beginning of my life (not physical but spiritual life) and if I'm a believer it has very little bearing on the rest of my life.

It's like when your two year old gets a boo-boo. The child is distraught, cries, you kiss it, put a band aid on it and in a few hours it's like nothing every happened. The child lives another 80 years and that incident can't even be remembered. It's so insignificant. That's the way sickness and death is upon our spirit. It's nothing. It doesn't define our lives b/c our lives are much greater than our physical existence on earth.

Our bodies are like lunch sacks with lunch inside them. What's the purpose of the lunch sack? To carry the lunch. Is the lunch sack the lunch? No. You eat the good stuff and then you throw away the sack. How much time do you spend pondering what you're going to do with the sack? None, because it's not about the lunch sack, but what's in it. When you're finished with lunch what do you do with the sack? You throw the sack away when it has served its purpose and when you're ready you get a new one.

This is a good story that illustrates the point.

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>Once upon a time there was a King who had four wives.

>He loved the 4th wife the most and adorned her with rich robes and

>treated her to the finest of delicacies. He gave her nothing but the best.

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>He also loved the 3rd wife very much. He was always showing her off to

>neighboring kingdoms. However, he feared that one day she would

leave him

>for another.

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>He also loved his 2nd wife. She was his confidant and was always kind,

>considerate and patient with him. Whenever the King faced a problem, he

>could confide in her, and she would help him get through the difficult times.

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>The King's 1st wife, whom he did not love, was a very loyal partner

>and had made great contributions in maintaining his wealth and kingdom.

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>Although she loved him deeply, he hardly took notice of her.

>One day, the King fell ill and he knew his time was short. He thought

>of his life and wondered, "I now have four wives with me, but when I die,

>I'll be all alone."

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>Thus, he asked the 4th wife, "I have loved you the most, endowed you

>with the finest clothing and showered great care over you. Now that I'm

>dying,

>will you follow me and keep me company?"

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>"No way!" replied the 4th wife, and she walked away without another

>word.

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>The sad King then asked the 3rd wife, "I have loved you all my life.

>Now that I'm dying, will you follow me and keep me company?" "No!",

>replied the 3rd wife. "Life is too good! When you die, I'm going to

>remarry!" He then asked the 2nd wife, "I have always turned to you for

>help and you've always been there for me. When I die, will you follow

>me and keep me company?" "I'm sorry, I can't help you out this time!," I

>can see you to your grave."

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>Then a voice called out: "I'll leave with you and follow you no matter  
>where you go." The King looked up, and there was his first wife. She  
>was so skinny as she suffered from malnutrition and neglect. Greatly  
>grieved, the King said, "I should have taken much better care of you  
when I  
>had the chance!"  
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>In truth, we all have 4 wives in our lives:  
>Our 4th wife is our body. No matter how much time and effort we lavish  
>in making it look good, it will leave us when we die.  
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>Our 3rd wife is our possessions, status and wealth. When we die, it will  
>all go to others.  
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>Our 2nd wife is our family and friends. No matter how much they have  
>been there for us, the furthest they can stay by us is up to the grave.  
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>And our 1st wife is our Soul. Often neglected in pursuit of wealth,  
>power and pleasures of the world. However, our Soul is the only thing  
that  
>will follow us wherever we go. Cultivate, strengthen and cherish it now,  
for  
>it is the only part of us that will follow us to the throne of God and  
>continue with us throughout Eternity.

**WE CANNOT GET OFFENDED AT GOD** – It's real easy to take offense at God when we "do" & believe and the person either doesn't get better or dies. Examples of people who died we prayed for – Ann Willis, Lori Cheatham, Bob Johnston, Fate Hatfield, Harley Tyson, etc.

Regardless of what happens, he is still good. He sent His Son to die on the cross for me, He has forgiven me of my sins, given me the Holy Spirit, set my feet on a rock, delivered me from Hell, calls me His child, made me a joint heir, given me the opportunity to reign with him, used me for His purposes, adores me and calls me His favorite, blessed me with every spiritual blessing, equipped me with spiritual gifts, endowed me with authority over Satan & every demonic being, he's given me everything for life & godliness, because of Jesus he completely & unconditionally accepts me, he sustains me with good things, he has given me his word, he guides me down the right paths, he speaks to me, he allows me to participate in his mighty works, the same Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead lives in me...

Think of the alternative - Life with no ultimate purpose, little hope, aching emptiness try to fill with activity, education, job, relationships, stuff; wandering soul, little victory, headed to Hell

Everything that really matters He's given it to me! Even if the healing doesn't come and I die in sickness, He's still good. One second on the other side of life and I'll see how good He really is. I'm not going to wish he had healed me and left me on earth.

**HE'S GOOD - HAB.3.17-18** - "Fig tree doesn't bud...no grapes on the vine...olive crops fail...fields produce no food...no sheep in the pen...cattle in the stalls...yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will be joyful in God my Savior."

### **FOCUS ON THE KNOWN RATHER THAN THE UNKNOWN**

What do we know?

- Healing is in the atonement.
- Sin & Satan are the source of all sickness.

- Assume it's God's will to heal unless He tells you otherwise.  
(understand there is a time to die, but that's in God's hands and I'll let Him decide)
- He's good

What do we do?

**KEEP PRAYING FOR THE SICK** (regardless if you've had success or not)

- James 5 - Elijah prayed 7 times before it rained
- Matt..7.7f- Asking, seeking & finding
- Luke 18.1-8 - Persistent widow
- Other examples: Hannah

**KEEP BELIEVING FOR YOUR HEALING**

- Live with the tension of healing being God's will yet not everyone is healed. Just like you live with the tension that it's God's will that all be saved but not everyone is.
- Why aren't all healed? Some of the same reasons all aren't saved:
  - They don't know the gospel
  - Apathetic
  - Unbelief
  - Look to the wrong sources
  - Confused
  - Try to do it on their own
  - All their confidence is in something else
  - Their environment prevents the spread of the gospel

**KNOW THAT GOD IS GOOD!**