

The Healing Covenant

Ken Birks, Pastor/Teacher

I. Introductory Remarks.

The purpose of this message is to show you that healing is a part of God's divine nature that is being poured into the hearts of His people. It is also a part of the great covenants that God has established with His people throughout the ages. Healing was a part of the Old Covenant under the law and is also a part of the New Covenant under grace that was established through the blood of Jesus Christ.

- **Healing under the Old Covenant.**

Exodus 15:26 and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. **For I am the LORD who heals you.**"

- **Healing under the New Covenant.**

Matthew 8:16-17 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."

- What is God's will concerning healing in the church?
- Is healing still relevant today?
- Is healing a part of the atonement?
- Is it God's will to heal every time?
- Why we don't always receive our healing?

These are just some of the questions that come up when the topic of healing comes up.

The purpose in this teaching is to convince you that God desires all of His children healed and well, just as He desires everyone to come to repentance. It is His will that all be healed and experience healthy lives.

If we are to receive God's healing, we must be fully convinced that it is His will to heal. When there is doubt in your mind concerning healing, perfect faith cannot be exercised and as a result healing will not come forth.

Hebrews 11:6 *But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*

Knowing God's will concerning the word of healing will provide you with a solid foundation and basis for your faith to be exercised and released so that you can receive the healing God has intended for you to enjoy.

II. Historical & Biblical Examples of Healing

1. The Passover Lamb, The Exodus And Healing – Exodus 12:1-14.

Exodus 12:3 *"Speak to all the congregation of Israel, saying: 'On the tenth day of this month every man shall take for himself a lamb, according to the house of his father, a lamb for a household.'"*

Exodus 12:5-6 *'Your lamb shall be without blemish, a male of the first year. You may take it from the sheep or from the goats. {6} 'Now you shall keep it until the fourteenth day of the same month. Then the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it at twilight.'*

This is one of the great passages of Scripture in the Bible concerning the Covenant of Healing. The Historical exodus of the nation of Israel leaving Egypt after partaking of the Passover Lamb is a type of the great salvation God has offered to us through Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, the New Testament fulfillment of the Passover Lamb.

1 Corinthians 5:7 *Therefore purge out the old leaven, that you may be a new lump, since you truly are unleavened. For indeed **Christ, our Passover**, was sacrificed for us.*

On the night that Israel came out of Egypt they were to take a lamb without blemish and kill it at twilight and then they were to spread the blood on the doorposts of their homes and eat the lamb.

Exodus 12:11 *'And thus you shall eat it: with a belt on your waist, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand. So you shall eat it in*

haste. It is the Lord's Passover.

- **The Passover Lamb was for the healing of the nation of Israel.**

Psalm 105:37 *He also brought them out with silver and gold, and there was none feeble among His tribes.*

This is an amazing Scripture, because there must have been about three million people who came out of Egypt. It says there was not one feeble person among them, not one weak person or sick person.

If that was true in Israel, for those people who were living under the Law, how much more true is it for us who are living under a new and better Covenant of grace, mercy and truth, who have been redeemed by the blood of God's perfect Lamb, Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 8:6 *But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also Mediator of a **better covenant**, which was established on better promises.*

- **God made a covenant saying, "I am the Lord who heals you."**

Exodus 15:26 *and said, "If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. **For I am the LORD who heals you.**"*

Here we see very clearly that the very nature of God has to do with healing. God says, "I am the LORD who heals you." The word LORD is more correctly translated "**Jehovah-Rapha**," which means **I am the Lord your Physician, or I am the Lord who heals you.** This name is given to reveal the redemptive privilege of being healed.

This privilege is provided for by the atonement as we shall see later in the teaching. The prophet Isaiah prophesies concerning Christ and His work of atonement when he says, "*Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses), and carried our sorrows (pain).*"¹

The covenant with Moses was the first covenant God gave to the children

¹ Isaiah 53:4-6

of Israel after crossing the Red Sea. It was a covenant of healing, which is typical of our redemption as well. As we shall see, healing is included in the Greek words “**sozo**” and “**soteria**” which are the words for salvation. Part of their salvation and deliverance from the Passover Lamb was healing.

In the above Scripture—Exodus 15:26, the promise of healing has two parts to it: the conditions and the promise. The conditions were extended to Israel and all those who chose to come under the covenant of God as it was given to Moses. If these conditions were met the promise of healing took effect. If the children of Israel didn’t live up to the conditions then they didn’t receive the promise. The same is true for us under the New Covenant.

Under the New Covenant we observe the Passover feast in the partaking of the communion service, which is representative of the blood and the body of Christ.

Jesus instituted this during the Old Testament Feast of Passover prior to His death, burial and resurrection.

Matthew 26:26-28 *And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to the disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is My body."²⁷Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you.²⁸"For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.*

The Passover lamb that Israel partook of was a type of Jesus Christ, who is the Lamb of God, our Passover Lamb. Jesus, who is our Passover Lamb has come to heal the whole nation of spiritual Israel, for as 1 Corinthians 5:7b-8 says, “*For indeed Christ, our Passover, was sacrificed for us.⁸Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, nor with the leaven of malice and wickedness, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth.*”

Under the New Covenant we observe the Passover feast in the partaking of the communion service, which is representative of the blood and the body of Christ. Jesus instituted this during the Old Testament Feast of Passover prior to His death, burial and resurrection.

- **The conditions and promise of healing are evident in this covenant as well.**

1 Corinthians 11:29-30 *For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.*

Since Jehovah-Rapha is one of God's redemptive names, sealing the covenant of healing, then Christ could no longer abandon His office of Healer than His other offices as revealed by His other redemptive names. The name, "The Lord Jesus Christ" encompasses all of God's redemptive names.

It is God's will for every Christian to be well and strong. As we believe in His Word and meet His conditions we shall experience Jehovah-Rapha our Healer healing our bodies and delivering us from all kinds of sicknesses and diseases. God is no respecter of persons as it says in Acts 10:34. If God will heal anyone, He will heal you.

- **David understood the healing covenant.**

Psalm 103:2-4 *Bless the LORD, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: ³Who forgives all your iniquities, **Who heals all your diseases**, ⁴Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies...*

When we keep the Word of God and keep our eyes upon Jesus Christ, healing will be ours continually. Just as sin does not belong to us neither does sickness belong to us! It should have no part in the body of Christ. The Bible declares if the Word of God is in our life, there will be health, and there will be healing.

- **Very Important**

******One very important thing to keep in mind while looking to God for healing is that we have not come into the fullness of our salvation yet, even though Christ has completed His part in the process. We are still pressing towards the mark. Just as we still have sin in us, even though Christ has paid the full price for our sin, we still have sickness at times as well. We are not perfect, but we continue to press forward for that which Christ has laid hold of for us!

Philippians 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.

When you fail to get the victory over sin, do you say, "It's God's will for me to be in sin? No! Of course not. Then why should we think that it might be God's will for us to be sick when we are not healed?"

III. Healing and the Atonement

1. The Prophecy of Isaiah - Isaiah 53:1-10.

The prophet Isaiah gives us a wonderful glimpse into the life and ministry of the coming Messiah. This is a prophetic passage concerning the atoning work of Christ, the Messiah. In this prophecy he prophesies many things concerning the Messiah's ministry and all that He would go through on behalf of God's people, of which we find healing being very much a part of the atoning work of Christ.

Isaiah 53:4-6 *Surely He has borne our **griefs** And carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. ⁵But 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. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.*

(Griefs - 2483). choliy, khol-ee'; from H2470; malady, anxiety, calamity:--disease, grief, (is) sick (-ness). "Griefs" is literally "sicknesses."

Isaiah 53:10 *Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; **He has put Him to grief**. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days....*

(Grief - 2470). chalah, khaw-law'; to be rubbed or worn; hence (fig.) to be weak, sick, afflicted; or to grieve, make sick; also to stroke (in flattering), entreat:--beseech, (be) diseased, (put to) grief, be grieved, (be) grievous, infirmity, intreat, lay to, put to pain, make prayer, be (fall, make) sick, sore, be sorry, make suit, woman in travail, be (become) weak, be wounded.

As we can see there are three very bold affirmative statements in this passage of Scripture that refer to healing being a part of the atoning work of Christ.

1. **Verse four: He has borne our griefs** - The word griefs means sicknesses, weaknesses and diseases.
2. **Verse five: by His stripes we are healed** - this includes emotional and physical healing.
3. **Verse ten: He has put Him to grief** - The Amplified version says, "He has put Him to grief and made Him sick."

2 Corinthians 5:21 *For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

In the same sense that Jesus became sin for us that we might be righteous, **He also became diseased and sick for us that we might be healed and made totally whole.**

Healing is as much a part of the atoning work of Christ as the removal of sin. From both sin and sickness we have redemption through the precious blood that was shed and the stripes that Jesus bore for us. He took our sicknesses as well as our sins

2. The Testimony of Jesus Fulfilling the Atonement.

Matthew 8:16-17 *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, ¹⁷that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."*

The above passage of Scripture very plainly illustrates to us that Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah 53 by healing all who came unto Him. It says, "He took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

(bore - 941). bastazo, bas-tad'-zo; perh. remotely der. from the base of G939 (through the idea of removal); to lift, lit. or fig. (endure, declare, sustain, receive, etc.):--bear, carry, take up.

- **Jesus was faithful to healing all because of the healing covenant.**

The Gospels reveal very clearly that throughout the ministry of Jesus, He carried out this commitment of healing to all who came unto Him.

Matthew 12:15 *But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.*

Matthew 14:36 *and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.*

Luke 6:19 *And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all.*

- **In Jesus' mind, healing and forgiveness were equal.**

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'?"*

The precious blood that was shed by Jesus and the stripes that He bore give us redemption from both sin and sickness, therefore in Jesus' mind He saw healing someone of sickness just as easy as forgiving someone of their sins. Sin and sickness came into the world through the fall, therefore we must look for the healing of both in our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Since Christ "bore our sins", how many is it God's will to forgive? **"Whoever believes!"**

Since Christ "bore our sickness", how many is it God's will to heal? **"He healed them all."**

- **Peter sees healing as something that has already been given.**

1 Peter 2:24 *...who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness; by whose stripes you were healed.*

This, once again, shows that healing is very much a part of the atonement of Jesus Christ.

- The same Bible that invites whosoever to be forgiven of his sins also invites any to be healed of their sicknesses.
- The same Christ that always forgives sins, always healed sicknesses.
- The same Scripture that says, 'who Himself bore our sins in His own

body' also says, *“By whose stripes you were healed.”*

- The same Scripture that says who forgives all your iniquities also says, *“Who heals all your diseases.”*

Healing is simply the salvation of Jesus Christ having its divine action in a man’s body the same as it had its divine action in a man’s soul.

3. The Greek words for salvation or saved show that healing is a part of the atonement.

“Sozo” (*verb*) and **“Soteria”** (*noun*) are the two Greek words that are used for the term salvation or saved.

4982. sozo, sode'-zo; from a prim. sos (contr. for obsol. saos, "safe"); to save, i.e. deliver or protect (lit. or fig.):--heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (make) whole.

4991. soteria, so-tay-ree'-ah; fem. of a der. of G4990 as (prop. abstr.) noun; rescue or safety (phys. or mor.):--deliver, health, salvation, save, saving.

Few understand that the terms salvation and saved affect the whole man, not just man’s ultimate destiny. The waters of salvation run deeper than most of us realize. It is our responsibility to draw from those waters, that all our needs may be met according to His riches in glory.

Isaiah 12:3 *With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.*

The chart below shows you how these two words are translated in the New Testament.

Health	Healed	Preserved	Do Well
Acts 27:34	Acts 14:9	2 Timothy 4:18	John 11:12
	Mark 5:23		
	Luke 8:36		
Be whole	Made whole	Saved – Save	Salvation
Matthew 9:21-22	Mark 6:56	Mark 8:35, 16:16	Romans 1:16
Mark 10:52`	Mark 15:30-31	Romans 1:10	
Luke 8:48-50	Luke 9:56	2 Timothy 3:15	
		1 Corinthians 1:21	2 Timothy 3:15
		1 Timothy 1:15, 2:15	
		James 5:15	
	Luke 18:42	Mark 16:16	

III. Abraham's Example of Applying Faith to the Covenant.

Abraham is called the Father of our Faith for a reason. I believe it is because he understood the correlation between faith and the covenant God had made with Him.

Genesis 22:2 *Then He said, "Take now your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and **offer him there as a burnt offering** on one of the mountains of which I shall tell you."*

1. Abraham's Confession of Faith.

Abraham is called the father of our faith for a good reason. His faith was based on the covenant God had made with him concerning his son, Isaac. When he was asked to sacrifice his son, he made his confession according to the covenant God had already established with him rather than on the circumstances of the moment.

When speaking to his companions, he said, *"We will come back."* When Isaac got wise to what was going on, he asked his dad what they were going to sacrifice. Abraham's response was according to the covenant and said, *"God will provide for Himself the lamb for the burn offering."*

Genesis 22:5 *And Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the lad and I will go yonder and worship, and **we will come back to you.**"*

Genesis 22:8 *And Abraham said, "My son, **God will provide for Himself the lamb for a burnt offering.**" So the two of them went together.*

Genesis 22:13 *Then Abraham lifted his eyes and looked, and there behind him was a ram caught in a thicket by its horns. So Abraham went and took the ram, and offered it up for a burnt offering instead of his son.*

2. God's Promise to Abraham.

Abraham simply based his confession of faith on the covenant God had already made with him rather than the circumstances he found himself in.

Genesis 17:7 *"And I will establish My covenant between Me and you and your descendants after you in their generations, for an everlasting*

covenant, to be God to you and your descendants after you.

Genesis 17:19 *Then God said: "No, Sarah your wife shall bear you a son, and you shall call his name Isaac; **I will establish My covenant with him** for an everlasting covenant, and with his descendants after him.*

3. Abraham Was Fully Convinced.

Romans 4:20-21 *He did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, but was strengthened in faith, giving glory to God, ²¹and being fully convinced that what He had promised He was also able to perform.*

Just as Abraham was fully convinced and did not waver at the promise of God through unbelief, we must do the same. Knowing that God has established healing as part of the atonement means we do not have to ever wonder if it's God's will to heal us. It's always His will to heal us just as it's always God's will to forgive us for our sins. In Jesus it's all the same as He said, "Which is easier, to forgive or to heal?"

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'?"*

IV. New Testament Examples of Healing.

Now that we have seen that healing is a part of the atonement of Jesus Christ and that it is very much a part of New Testament Christianity let's look at some examples of how it was manifested in the Scriptures through the ministry of Jesus, the Book of Acts and the life and ministry of the apostle Paul.

1. The Healing Ministry of Jesus.

Throughout the ministry of Jesus during His 3 1/2 years, healing was a major part of His ministry. It was something He knew He was called to do.

Luke 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;*

When Luke refers to the ministry of Jesus, he mentions that Jesus went

about doing good and healing all who came to Him.

Acts 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.*

There are so many Scriptures in the Gospels that speak of Jesus' healing ministry that it would take too much time to cover them all. But here are a few:

Matthew 4:23-24 *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. ²⁴Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and **He healed them.***

Matthew 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,***

Matthew 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.*

Matthew 14:1 *And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.*

Matthew 21:14 *Then the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.*

Mark 6:5 *Now He could do no mighty work there, except that He laid His hands on a few sick people and healed them.*

Luke 4:40 *When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.*

See also: *Matthew 8:7-8,16; 10:1; 12:10,15,22; 13:15; 15:28,30; 19:2; 21:14; Mark 1:34; 3:2,10,15; 5:23,29,34; 6:5,13; Luke 4:23,40; 5:15,17; 6:7,17,18-19; 7:3,7; 8:2,36,43,47, 9:2,6,11,42; 10:9; 13:14; 14:4; 17:15; 22:51; John 4:47; 5:13; 12:40.*

2. The Healing Ministry in the Book of Acts.

Before the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus He shared with them about the grain of wheat that must die to bring forth more fruit. In essence, He was saying He was going to reproduce Himself in His disciples so that they could carry out the great commission.

John 12:24-25 *"Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain. ²⁵"He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

What Jesus is saying is that as He dies and is resurrected and then ascends into the heavens that He will reproduce Himself through His disciples and all those who call on His name. This is why He told them to wait in Jerusalem until they were to be endued with the power from on high.

Acts 1:8 *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Mark 16:15-18 *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. ¹⁷⁻¹⁸"**And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they... will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**"*

As they went forth in the power of His name, many miracles and healings were accomplished by these disciples, who had followed Jesus. Just as healing was an integral part of Jesus' ministry it was now to be an integral part of their ministry.

The Book of Acts is the account of how the apostles, who were trained and disciplined under the ministry of Jesus responded to the *Great Commission that was given to them by Jesus in the Gospels.*

- **The healing of the lame man by Peter & John – Acts 3:1-12.**

Acts 3:11 *Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed.*

- **Many are healed by the presence of Peter's shadow – Acts 5:12-16.**

Acts 5:15-16 ...so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. ¹⁶Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, and they were all healed.

- **The healing of Aeneas – Acts 9:32-35.**

Acts 9:34 And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, Jesus the Christ heals you. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately.

Notice that it said in verse 35, "all that dwelt at Lydda and Saron saw him, and turned to the Lord." This testimony of healing brought many people to Jesus, just as Jesus' ministry of healing brought many people to Him during His 3 1/2 years of ministry.

As we have seen, earlier in this study, healing is part of our salvation. It is also used to bring people into the saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. We see this again in the Apostle Paul's ministry of healing.

- **The father of Publius is healed by Paul – Acts 28:7-9.**

Acts 28:8-9 And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him. ⁹So when this was done, the rest of those on the island who had diseases also came and were healed.

- **Healing from handkerchiefs – Acts 19:11-12.**

Acts 19:11-12 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹²so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

- **The healing of the cripple – Acts 14:8-10.**

Acts 14:9-10 This man heard Paul speaking. Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰said with a loud voice, "Stand up straight on your feet!" And he leaped and walked.

This Scripture is interesting in the fact that Paul realized that this man had faith to be healed. Through the gift of the word of knowledge Paul recognized that this man was able to be healed.

In these examples from the Book of Acts we are seeing that God's will concerning healing did not change once Jesus left the scene. God's will was still to heal whoever came to Him for healing, because His Son Jesus became sick so that all might be healed.

Does this mean that everyone is healed when they come to disciples of Jesus for healing? The answer is no, because we are not perfect in the way that Jesus was. Jesus had perfect faith and always operated in the perfection of the gift. Because we are not perfect we do not have perfect results all the time.

The apostle Paul is a testimony to imperfection in the operation of the gift of healing, in that he left Trophimus sick at Miletus.

2 Timothy 4:20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.

Paul understood he wasn't perfect, but it wasn't going to keep in from pressing forward in his gift of healing as we see in the following Scripture.

Philippians 3:12-14 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. ¹³Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, ¹⁴I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Like Paul, we, too, will have failed experiences as we step out in healing, but we must continue to press forward, leaving the failed experiences behind us in the same way he did.

IV. Methods Employed In Healing the Sick.

There are many methods throughout the New Testament that are employed in the healing of the sick. One thing to keep in mind is that Jesus did not do it the same way every time. He was open to hearing the direction

of the Father.

John 5:30 (NNAS) *"I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*

With this in mind let's look at the different methods that are used in the New Treatment to heal the sick. But let's keep in mind that God wants us to take the time to seek Him as to how He would have us employ the gift of healing to those we are praying for and ministering to.

1. Healing Is Employed By the Laying On Of Hands By All Saints.

Mark 16:17-18 *"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."*

Let's keep in mind that Jesus is our example in all things. He often used the method of laying on of hands in the healing of the sick.

Luke 4:40 *When the sun was setting, all those who had any that were sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and He laid His hands on every one of them and healed them.*

The apostle Paul also used the method of laying on of hands when healing the sick.

Acts 28:8 *And it happened that the father of Publius lay sick of a fever and dysentery. Paul went in to him and prayed, and he laid his hands on him and healed him.*

2. Healing Is Employed through Using The Name Of Jesus.

Jesus said we would do great works in the use of His name. There are many times when you do not have the opportunity to lay hands on someone, but you can pray for them anyway in the name of Jesus and receive powerful results.

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

do it."

Peter and John healed the lame man when through the use of the name of Jesus. The name of Jesus is a powerful and authoritative name that He has given us to do His work through. It is through His name that we have been commissioned to go.

Acts 3:6 *Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk."*

3. Healing Can Come Through Agreement In Prayer.

Matthew 18:19 *"Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven."*

To agree on something means that there is an agreement in faith for what you are praying for. The principle of operating in two's is a strong Biblical concept. Jesus sent His disciples out in two's. John and Peter ministered as a team as did Paul and Barnabus. This is the principle of chasing a thousand, but two being able to chase ten thousand. There is more authority through agreement in prayer.

4. Healing Is Employed With Elders Anointing With Oil.

James 5:14-15 *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.*

Every person who is sick has the Biblical prerogative to call for the elders of the Church and be healed. This is a clear promise given to us in the Scriptures.

5. Healing Can Be Employed Through Prayer Clothes.

The apostle Paul had such a strong anointing on him in the area of healing that people would actually take handkerchiefs and aprons that were brought from him to give to those who were sick and diseases.

Acts 19:11-12 *Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul,*

¹²so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

6. Healing Is Administered Through The Gift Of Healing.

1 Corinthians 12:7-9 *But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit...*

The healing anointing that comes through the gift of healing is not a gift for all, but all can press into it with hopes of being used. God anoints some people to be used in this wonderful gift just as he anoints some to prophesy and teach. When this gift is being exercised it gives all of us an extra added dimension of faith to receive our healing.

As we conclude this section on the various methods involved in healing the sick, it is important to keep in mind that there is an overriding principle that must be incorporated into each of these methods. That principle is knowing God's will so well that you know what to do in each situation. This can only happen as a result of being tuned in to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

The secret of Jesus' ministry was His fidelity to the Father's will. He had perfect knowledge of that will.

John 5:19 *Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner."*

John 8:29 *"And He who sent Me is with Me. The Father has not left Me alone, for I always do those things that please Him."*

Knowing God's will and being in sync with the Holy Spirit in each situation is what gives us the faith that is needed to see people healed through our ministry of healing.

Romans 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

V. Reasons Why Some Do Not Receive Healing.

1. A Lack of Faith - It takes faith to receive healing – *Acts 14:9-10*.
2. Unconfessed and unrepented sin – *Isaiah 59:2, Psalm 66:18*.
3. Being double-minded, doubting—not convinced – *James 1:6-8*.
4. Self-indulgence – *James 4:3*.
5. An indifference towards God and His purpose – *Proverbs 1:28- 30*.
6. A disobedient spirit towards God and established authority – *1 Samuel 15:22, 1 John 3:22*.
7. Building your faith on experience and circumstances rather than the Word of God – *Romans 10:17*.
8. Having a pattern of negatives confessions that are not in agreement with the word of God – *2 Corinthians 4:13*.
9. Holding to unscriptural teachings – *2 Timothy 2:15*

Many people think that sickness is a part of the Christian life because the Bible says we will be afflicted – *Psalm 34:19*

“Many are the afflictions of the righteous.” The word affliction, used in this case has nothing to do with sickness or physical disabilities. It means trials, hardships, persecutions, temptations, etc.

VI. Other Factors to Consider.

There are a number of other factors to consider as to why we don't always receive our healing, even when we may not be guilty of any of the above areas that were mentioned.

1. Jesus operated in the fullness of the Spirit and appropriated the fullness of the atonement. He was perfect in His faith, which caused Him to have perfect success all of the time in His healing ministry.
2. The disciples of Jesus operated under the anointing and were able to heal people as well, but there were times when they didn't. Because of their lack of perfection and faith people were not always healed, even though it was God's will for the healing to take place.
3. Even though the apostle Paul was used mightily in the gift of healing, he

left people sick on occasions. In *2 Timothy 4:20* he left Trophimus sick. In *1 Timothy 5:23* he made reference to Timothy's frequent infirmities as well.

4. Paul realized his lack of perfection and lack of faith, but still made a commitment to press on to God's perfect will – *Philippians 3:12-16*.

This should be our testimony as well when we do not appropriate God's healing power. Don't get under condemnation, just simply press on in the faith.

5. We have not yet appropriated the fullness of the atonement provision in our lives. Even though Jesus made full provision for us in the atonement, we have not receive the fullness of our salvation, but nevertheless we press on to that which Christ Jesus has already laid hold of for us.
6. Another factor to take into consideration is the fact that the Body of Christ as a whole is still in a very imperfect state. The more the body of Christ comes into the stature of the fullness of Christ, the more we will be able to partake of the blessings that come from that anointing – *Ephesians 4:16, Psalm 133*.

VIII. Summary.

In this lesson we have covered a number of areas concerning the word of healing. Our main objective was to see how healing is a part of the atoning work of Christ and how it is to be implemented into our lives.

- We have seen that healing was a part of the Old Covenant and is also a major part of the New Covenant established under the priesthood of Jesus Christ.
- The Passover Lamb and Israel's exodus from Egypt is a type and shadow of the New Testament reality of healing.
- The Passover Lamb was for the healing of the nation of Israel. Jesus is our Passover Lamb for the healing of all people who come into covenant with Him.
- God made a covenant with Israel saying, "*I am the Lord who heals you.*"

- David understood the healing covenant when he said, *“Bless the Lord, O my soul...who heals all your diseases.”*
- The prophet Isaiah prophesied concerning the healing covenant and atoning work of Christ.
- Jesus fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah by healing all who were sick.
- In Jesus’ mind healing and forgiveness of sins are equal.
- Peter saw healing as something that had already been accomplished.
- The Greek words for salvation or saved confirm that healing is a part of the atonement of Christ.
- During Jesus’ 3 1/2 years of ministry He continually ministered in the gift of healing by healing all who came to Him.
- The healing ministry continued throughout the early church in the Book of Acts.
- There are various methods used in employing the ministry of healing of which God wants us to be sensitive to His leading through the voice of the Holy Spirit.
- There are some obvious reasons why some people are not healed and some not so obvious reasons.
- **Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.** It is God’s will to heal all who come to him today just as it was during the ministry of Jesus over 2000 years ago.

IX. Concluding Thoughts.

As you can see there is a divine harmony of Scriptures when it comes to healing. The Old Testament and New Testament are in absolute agreement with each other. When you allow Scripture to interpret Scripture the truth of God’s Word comes forth in a very clear and precise way.

Proverbs 25:2 *It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings to search out a matter.*

Be convinced that it is God’s will to heal all the time. Today is the day of salvation (*soteria*). Believe in faith God wants to heal you today.

I’m convinced that God wants to heal each one of us, so let me leave you

with these closing thoughts on how you can better appropriate God's healing into your life.

- Believe and understand that it is God's will to heal you.
- Allow the seed of God's Word concerning healing to be planted in your heart.
- Allow those who are under the anointing, operating in the gift of healing to minister to you.
- Understand that today is the day of your salvation (sozo-healing) not tomorrow.

***1 Thessalonians 5:23** Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and **body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*