

Points to Ponder



David C. Hairabedian

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Questions about healing the sick

Do you believe in the present-day ministry of healing the sick in Jesus Name?

Peter Lord (Author of Hearing God) says, “We practice daily what we really believe. Everything else is just religious rhetoric”.

When you minister healing to the sick what model or example do you use and follow? Do you follow the model and example taught in your church? Or do you follow the Biblical model and example of Jesus and the disciples as taught in the four Gospels and the Book of Acts? Is there a difference?

Jesus and the disciples never once **prayed for the sick**. Instead they **healed the sick**. Not once in the Gospels or Book of Acts does Jesus or the disciples **ask** God to heal someone while laying hands on them. Instead they pray **before** they heal the sick.

Said another way, they arrive on the scene already prayed up and then simply speak healing commands, exercising authority over the sickness, disease, or demons. This appears to be the key to release the already decided will of God into the matter, causing it to “be done in earth as it is in heaven,” just as Jesus taught us in our model, the Lord’s prayer (Matthew 6:9-13).

In effect, these examples appear to show us how to properly “release the will of God into the earth” using the authority given us through Jesus Name (Matthew 10:7-8, 16:18-20; Luke 9:1-2, 10:8-9). It appears that Jesus and the disciples understood how to “agree with Heaven” and thereby release the Kingdom of God into the earth. It also appears that these men were able to accomplish this by hearing the Father’s voice and walking in unison with the Holy Spirit. Walking with God comes by agreement (Amos 3:3).

Jesus said, “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 5:19, NKJV).

What are the New Testament models and examples for healing the sick?

The New Testament provides a total of 41 separate instances of Jesus healing the sick, casting out demons, or performing miracles in the Gospels. In addition there are 26 instances where the disciples did these same works following Jesus’ example and training. These New Testament examples include: speaking a command to the afflicted for them to do something, speaking directly to the sickness, or speaking directly to a demon, casting it out in Jesus’ Name.

When you minister healing to the sick are you following a Biblical, extra-biblical or antibiblical model and example?

The Biblical examples include the following: Jesus said to the paralytic, “Rise up and walk” (Luke 5:23). To the ten lepers, “Go shew yourselves unto the Priests” (Luke 17:14). To the man with the withered hand, “Stretch forth thine hand” (Matthew 12:13). Jesus stood over Peter’s Mother-in-law and “rebuked the fever: and it left her” (Luke 4:39). To the man at the pool of Bethesda, Jesus said, “Rise, take up your bed and walk” (John 5:8, NKJV). Jesus “spit on a man’s eyes” to heal him (Mark 8:23). In another instance Jesus, “spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And He said to him, ‘Go wash in the pool of Siloam’” (John 9:6-7, NKJV). To the bent over woman bound by a spirit of infirmity Jesus said, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity” (Luke 13:12-13, NKJV). To the widow’s son in the coffin, Jesus touched the coffin and said, “Young man, I say to you, arise” (Luke 7:14, NKJV). To the dead body of Lazarus Jesus cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth” (John 11:43)! Other instances of healing occurred when people “touched the hem of his garment” (Matthew 9:20). “And as many as touched Him were made well” (Mark 6:55-56, NKJV).

The disciples **followed this same pattern**. “And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people” (Acts 5:12, NKJV). Peter and John said to the crippled man at the Gate Beautiful, “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 (Acts 3:6, NKJV). This miraculous public healing was the key that unlocked the door for the Gospel to be preached to those standing by, resulting in the salvation of 5,000 souls (Acts 4:4). Additionally, a new convert by the name of Stephen was “full of faith and power, doing great wonders and signs among the people” (Acts 6:8, NKJV). This also had a great evangelistic result. Many also came to Christ through the ministry of convert named Philip “hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city” (Acts 8:6-8).

When Peter raised the dead, he **first knelt down and prayed**, and then “turning to the body **he said** ‘Tabitha, arise.’ And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up” (Acts 9:40, NKJV). Paul raised Eutychus from the dead by simply embracing his dead body, pressing life back into him (Acts 20:10). (In these last two examples Peter and Paul didn’t even invoke the Name of Jesus. I believe this is probably because they were both so full of the Holy Spirit that it was actually the Voice of Jesus speaking through their yielded vessels).

A third example of this is found in Paul’s ministry, “Paul, observing him intently and seeing that he had faith to be healed, said with a loud voice, ‘Stand up straight on your feet!’ And he leaped and walked” (Acts 14:9-10, NKJV). Paul wasn’t one of the original twelve apostles of the Lamb, but he understood the principles of agreeing with Jesus and releasing the Kingdom into the earth and therefore walked commonly in healing, signs, and wonders. Paul said of his own ministry, “In mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have **fully preached** the gospel of Christ” (Romans 15:19, NKJV).

The Biblical standard for fully preaching the Gospel **includes** demonstrations of the Spirit and of power. This appears to be the Gospel of the Kingdom. Deliverance, healing, signs, and wonders appear to be commonplace when **this Gospel** is preached. Jesus, when first announcing His ministry purpose in

the synagogue, said, “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 preach deliverance to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18-19 NKJV). Jesus’ ministry continued through the apostles with great evangelistic result, “And through the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were done among the people. And they were all with one accord in Solomon’s Porch. Yet none of the rest dared join them, but the people esteemed them highly. And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, 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. Also 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**” (Acts 5:12-16, NKJV). Jesus still desires to reach a lost and hurting world today, through His unified Church, if we will only but follow and obey Him.

Have you ever tried ministering healing or deliverance using the Biblical pattern of the Kingdom? If not, why? Is your present model for healing the sick and administering deliverance more effective or less effective than the Biblical pattern? Is it possible that you’re more concerned about what others might think or say about you at your church?

When we begin doing things the Bible way we’ll start getting Bible results. If we continue doing things the way we’ve been doing them we should expect the same results we have been getting. One definition of insanity is the man who continues to do things the same way each day but expects a different result.

Does the Bible indicate anywhere that Jesus' ministry to the sick, afflicted, and demonized has changed?

"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8, NKJV). "For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil" (1John 3:8). "And these signs will follow **those who believe**: In My name they will cast out demons... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover" (Mark 16:17-18, NKJV). "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 (John 14:12, NKJV).

If Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, then why isn't His ministry the same today through His church as it was 2,000 years ago?

There appears to be **two ways** to minister healing to the sick: (1) the Biblical way, that results in healing, deliverance and miracles with a powerful evangelistic result, and (2) the currently accepted church way, that results in few, if any, Biblical miracles, healings, deliverances ,or salvations. The former appears to be born out of relationship with Jesus and the Holy Spirit while the latter seems to come from "a form of godliness that denies the power thereof."

What percentage of people was healed that came to Jesus for healing?

And great multitudes followed him, **and He healed them all**" (Matthew 12:15). "And He came down with them and stood on a level place with a crowd of His disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem, and from the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon, who came to hear Him and be healed of their diseases, as well as those who were tormented with unclean spirits. And they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, for power went out from Him and healed them all. And the whole multitude sought to touch Him, **for power went out from Him and healed them all**" (Luke 6:17-19, NKJV).

What percentage of the approximately 3 million of God's people was healed under the Old Covenant when they were delivered out of Egypt during the Exodus?

"He also brought them out with silver and gold, ***And there was none feeble among His tribes***" (Psalms 105:37, NKJV).

Is the Old Covenant (the law) superior or inferior to the New Covenant (of grace)?

By so much more Jesus has become a surety of a ***better covenant***" (Hebrews 7:22, NKJV). If all of God's people were healed when they came out of Egypt under the Old Covenant, and Jesus has become our surety of a better covenant, should we expect less or more concerning God's provision for our healing when we come out of spiritual Egypt (the world) to Christ at salvation?

Did Jesus ever refuse to heal someone who came to him for healing or deliverance?

The only recorded example where Jesus refused to heal or deliver someone is the story of the Gentile woman who asked him to heal her daughter who was severely demon possessed (see Matthew 15:22-28, NKJV). Jesus initially told her no, saying "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel" (v. 24). When this Gentile woman persisted, Jesus refused her a second time. "Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Lord, help me!' But He answered and said, 'It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs'" (v. 25-26). Even after Jesus called her a little dog because she was a non-Jew, (and therefore outside the healing covenant) she persisted yet again. "And she said, 'True, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table'" (v.27). When she continued to persist and agreed with the Word of God regarding healing, Jesus answered and said to her, "***O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire.***" ***And her daughter was healed from that very hour***" (Matthew 15:28, NKJV).

Have you earnestly sought God for healing for yourself, your child, a family member, or a church member with the same persistence and fervor as this Gentile woman, or do you accept as unchangeable your situation, even though you know the Scriptures teach that Jesus healed them all?

One definition of a mental stronghold is: “A mindset that is impregnated with hopelessness that causes a believer to accept as unchangeable something that he or she knows is contrary to the will of God” (Ed Silvano, President, Harvest Evangelism).

Do you have a mental stronghold concerning healing?

If we ask Jesus to tear down strongholds in our thinking about Him, His Word and the provision He has made, He is faithful to do it. He wants us to be able to receive and enjoy everything He died on the Cross for us to have, both in this life and the one to come.

Is there any time in Scripture that Jesus couldn't heal the sick?

“And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief” (Mark 6:5-6). The Bible indicates that the **only** time Jesus couldn't heal them all was **due to their unbelief** and not because of any unwillingness to heal on His part.

Is Jesus willing to heal you?

“Then a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, ‘If You are willing, You can make me clean.’ And Jesus, moved with compassion, put out His hand and touched him, and said to him, **‘I am willing; be cleansed’**” (Mark 1:40-41, NKJV). The Bible indicates that Jesus is not only willing to heal all who come to him, but also that healing confirms

and fulfills Isaiah's prophecy (Isaiah 53:4) about His Messiahship. "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, **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses'**" (Matthew 8:16-17, NKJV).

Was Jesus accepted or rejected by the religious leaders of his day for His ministry to the sick, afflicted, and demonized? Were the disciples rejected or accepted by the religious leaders for their ministry to the sick? Was Stephen accepted or rejected? What about Philip?

Jesus was given the following labels by the religious leaders of his day: blasphemer, the prince of devils, winebibber, and glutton. In addition, the religious leaders accused him of performing his miracles by Beelzebub. The disciples were opposed and persecuted by the religious leaders "unto every city," and "unto death" for their ministry of the Gospel that was confirmed by miracles, deliverance, and healing. Stephen was stoned to death by religious people for being "full of faith and power" and doing "great signs and wonders among the people" (Acts 6:8, NKJV). Paul was stoned, flogged, imprisoned, beaten with rods, and suffered great persecution for "fully preaching the gospel."

If a minister or ministry uses the Biblical model to heal the sick, casts out devils, and performs miracles with a great evangelistic result today, does the Biblical record indicate they will be accepted or rejected by their contemporary religious leaders?

Jesus said, "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. It is enough for a disciple that he be like his teacher, and a servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebub, how much more will they call those of his household" (Matthew 10:24-25 NKJV).

How was Jesus rewarded by His contemporary religious leaders for demonstrating the power of God by healing the sick, casting out devils, and ministering to the afflicted? How were the disciples rewarded for these works?

“After these things Jesus walked in Galilee; for He did not want to walk in Judea, because the Jews sought to kill Him” (John 7:1, NKJV). After Peter and John healed the crippled man at the Gate Beautiful, the religious leaders met and said, “What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. “But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name” (Acts 4:16-17, NKJV).

Do you know of any ministers or ministries that heal the sick using the Biblical example and model of Jesus and the disciples with a great evangelistic result today? Are these accepted or rejected by the signless, wonderless mainline churches, theologians, radio apologists, and their denominational leaders?

Not a single minister or ministry using the Biblical pattern for fully preaching the Gospel (healing the sick, casting out devils, and performing miracles with a great evangelistic result) has been accepted by the established church or its leaders during any era of the last 2,000 years.

What is the Biblical standard to measure whether or not a minister or ministry is true or false? Are you using the Biblical standard to measure ministries, or another standard?

Jesus said, “For the tree is known by its fruit” (Matthew 7:20, NKJV). When John inquired of Jesus from prison as to whether he was the One or should

he look for another, Jesus replied, “Go and tell John the things you have seen and heard: that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me” (Luke 7:22-23 NKJV).

Did Christ’s death on the Cross provide more than you are currently experiencing?

Jesus loves you enough to die on the Cross for your sins. Doesn’t his love also include restoration from the fallen state of sin in every area of your life, spirit, soul and body? Isaiah 53:5 (NKJV) states: “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.” Salvation and Healing are combined as “one” in the atonement of Christ. God didn’t separate them and Jesus didn’t separate them. Should we?

PRAYER

God, I repent for unknowingly watering down your Word in the area of healing, deliverance, and miracles for today. I further repent for speaking against your present day ministry of healing. In addition, I repent for the things I've ignorantly said against your ministers. Now that I see your Word as the real standard, I repent for operating below that standard in my church life. I also repent for failing to apply your Word in my life and the lives of those around me who are in need of healing and deliverance. Lord Jesus, deliver me from every mental stronghold that has kept me from operating in the principles of your Kingdom so that I might release into the earth the Father's will, that it might truly be done "in earth as it is in Heaven." Holy Spirit, fill me now with faith, supernatural boldness, and every gift of the Spirit I personally need to go forth in the Name of Jesus to do the works of Christ who sends me. Lord, grant me grace and protect my heart and soul from all malicious words and rejection that I may begin experiencing for fully preaching Your gospel that sets the captives free. Jesus, I thank You for fulfilling your promise of working with me and confirming your Word through accompanying signs and wonders (Mark 16:17-20). I now ask you to begin saving, healing, and delivering your people as well as the unsaved who are still outside the covenant of Christ and need a Savior, as I step out in faith today to **fully preach** the Gospel of the Kingdom in Jesus' Name! **Amen.**

About the author



In 1989 David C. Hairabedian conspired to steal a jet airplane to import drugs for the Columbian cartel. As a result, he spent the next 20 years incarcerated in the U.S. Federal Prison System. At age 26, while in a dirty prison cell inside the super-max building at Leavenworth Penitentiary David experienced a visitation from the Lord calling him to deep repentance, salvation and also into the ministry. David responded to this call. The vision

David received inspired the founding of HEART of America Prison Ministries, a ministry that provides first quality leather-bound study Bibles, Christian resource materials and a discipleship newsletter to those behind bars. HEART currently serves approximately 5,000 inmates in more than 800 facilities. David is a regular contributor to its newsletter. He has his Bachelor's Degree in Theology from Zoe University. He has authored more than thirty teachings, booklets, and tracts. He has a paralegal degree and is presently in his final semesters' work in International Business.

From 1990 to 2008 the Lord has used David mightily to educate and build up the body of Christ behind bars. Through the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of God, he has ministered and preached at several facilities around the Midwest. David was released in September 2008 and is currently ministering in churches around the Kansas City area. David has a powerful and compelling testimony to share with not only the Body of Christ, but our young people, as well.

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HEART Prison Ministries

If you would be interested in reading more of David's or Jeff's teachings, or for speaking/preaching engagements, please contact HEART of America Prison Ministries at PO Box 1685 Independence, MO 64055 or visit our website www.HeartPrisonMinistries.org.

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