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Healing in the Church
Series: Christ Our Healer
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The Village Church
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Evening Service

- I. Review
 - A. Healing in the Old Testament
 - B. Jesus' Healing Ministry

- II. **Why was healing such an important part of Jesus' ministry?**
 - 1. **Introduce ministry**
 - 2. **Demonstrate His credentials**
 - a. God-incarnate
 - b. Lord of all of life
 - c. Authority over creation
 - 3. **Prove He could forgive sin**
 - 4. **Demonstrate mercy and compassion of God**
 - 5. **Proclaim that salvation starts immediately**
 - a. **Luke 4:16–21** (ESV) —
 - (1) 16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.
 - (2) 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,
 - (3) 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
 - (4) 19 **to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.**”
 - (5) 20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.
 - (6) 21 And he began to say to them, “**Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.**”

- III. **The Apostles' Healing Ministry**
 - A. **Acts 2:43** (ESV) —
 - 1. 43 And awe came upon every soul, **and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.**

- B. **John 14:12** (ESV) —
1. 12 “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do; and **greater works than these will he do**, because I am going to the Father.
 2. **Not atoning works**
 3. **Multiplication and expansion beyond geographical limitations of Jesus’ earthly ministry**
- C. **Acts 3:1–10** (ESV) —
1. 1 Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.
 2. 2 And **a man lame from birth** was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.
 3. 3 Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.
 4. 4 And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.”
 5. 5 And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.
 6. 6 But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”
 7. 7 And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.
 8. 8 And **leaping up, he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.**
 9. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God,
 10. 10 and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.
 11. **Note: Result of the healing was worship.**
- D. **Acts 5:12–16** (ESV) —
1. 12 Now **many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles**. And they were all together in Solomon’s Portico.
 2. 13 None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem.
 3. 14 And more than ever **believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women**,
 4. 15 so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them.
 5. 16 The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, **bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed.**
- E. **Acts 16:16–18** (ESV) —

1. 16 As we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by **a slave girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners much gain by fortune-telling.**
2. 17 She followed Paul and us, crying out, “These men are servants of the Most High God, who proclaim to you the way of salvation.”
3. 18 And this she kept doing for many days. **Paul, having become greatly annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.**
4. **Note: Healing (demonic possession) done because it interfered with ministry.**

F. **Acts 19:11–20** (ESV) —

1. 11 And **God was doing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,**
2. 12 so that **even handkerchiefs or aprons that had touched his skin were carried away to the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.**
3. 13 Then some of the itinerant Jewish exorcists undertook to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who had evil spirits, saying, “I adjure you by the Jesus whom Paul proclaims.”
4. 14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this.
5. 15 But the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?”
6. 16 And **the man in whom was the evil spirit leaped on them, mastered all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.**
7. 17 And this became known to all the residents of Ephesus, both Jews and Greeks. And fear fell upon them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was extolled.
8. 18 Also **many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices.**
9. 19 And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver.
10. 20 **So the word of the Lord continued to increase and prevail mightily.**
11. **Note: Miraculous even without direct intervention; confession and repentance followed; dangerous to try and duplicate what apostles were doing.**

G. **Acts 9:32–35** (ESV) —

1. 32 Now as Peter went here and there among them all, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda.
2. 33 There he found a man named **Aeneas, bedridden for eight years, who was paralyzed.**
3. 34 And Peter said to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed.” And immediately he rose.
4. 35 And all the residents of Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord.

5. **Note: Evangelical effect.**
- H. **Acts 14:8–10** (ESV) —
1. 8 Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. **He was crippled from birth and had never walked.**
 2. 9 He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that **he had faith to be made well,**
 3. 10 said in a loud voice, “Stand upright on your feet.” And he sprang up and began walking.
 4. **Note: Faith involved and required.**
- I. **Acts 14:19–23** (ESV) —
1. 19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, **they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead.**
 2. 20 **But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city,** and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.
 3. 21 When they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,
 4. 22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.
 5. 23 And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed.
 6. **Note: Even Paul healed in order to continue ministry.**
- J. **Acts 28:3–6** (ESV) —
1. 3 When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, **a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand.**
 2. 4 When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, “No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live.”
 3. 5 **He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm.**
 4. 6 They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.
 5. **Note: Healing by prevention of illness. Cf Mark’s prophecy.**
- K. **Acts 20:7–16** (ESV) —
1. 7 On the first day of the week, when we were gathered together to break bread, Paul talked with them, intending to depart on the next day, and he prolonged his speech until midnight.
 2. 8 There were many lamps in the upper room where we were gathered.
 3. 9 And a young man named **Eutychus**, sitting at the window, sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer. And being overcome by sleep, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead.

4. 10 But **Paul went down and bent over him, and taking him in his arms, said, “Do not be alarmed, for his life is in him.”**
5. 11 And when Paul had gone up and had broken bread and eaten, he conversed with them a long while, until daybreak, and so departed.
6. 12 And they took the youth away alive, and were not a little comforted.
7. 13 But going ahead to the ship, we set sail for Assos, intending to take Paul aboard there, for so he had arranged, intending himself to go by land.
8. 14 And when he met us at Assos, we took him on board and went to Mitylene.
9. 15 And sailing from there we came the following day opposite Chios; the next day we touched at Samos; and the day after that we went to Miletus.
10. 16 For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he might not have to spend time in Asia, for he was hastening to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the day of Pentecost.

L. **Purpose for Apostles’ healing ministry**

1. **Hebrews 2:3–4** (ESV) —
 - a. 3 how shall we escape if we neglect such a great salvation? It was declared at first by the Lord, and **it was attested to us by those who heard,**
 - b. 4 while **God also bore witness by signs and wonders and various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will.**
2. **1 Corinthians 12:7–11** (ESV) —
 - a. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit **for the common good.**
 - b. 8 For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of **wisdom,** and to another the utterance of **knowledge** according to the same Spirit,
 - c. 9 to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit,
 - d. 10 to another the working of **miracles,** to another **prophecy,** to another the ability to **distinguish between spirits,** to another various kinds of **tongues,** to another the **interpretation of tongues.**
 - e. 11 All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.
3. **2 Peter 3:15–16** (ESV) —
 - a. 15 And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him,
 - b. 16 **as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable twist to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures.**

IV. **Current Healing Ministry**

- A. What about today?
 - 1. Should we expect healing to take place in the church today
- B. No clear scriptural teaching that the supernatural work of God ceased following the apostolic period
 - 1. Some who would adopt the cessationist position – that the supernatural gifts have ceased, take that position by drawing inference, mostly from passages that are not clearly teaching it
 - 2. **1 Corinthians 13:8–12** (ESV) —
 - a. 8 Love never ends.
 - b. As for prophecies, they will pass away;
 - c. as for tongues, they will cease;
 - d. as for knowledge, it will pass away.
 - e. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part,
 - f. 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away.
 - g. 11 When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.
 - h. 12 For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part;
 - i. then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.
 - 3. Interesting – but I’m inclined to think that this refers to heaven
 - a. Now we see in mirror dimly, then face to face...
- C. At the same time, there have been changes in the way the supernatural gifts are manifested, and for different purposes
 - 1. As we just saw in the section about the apostolic period, those miraculous gifts authenticated the gospel message with the imprint of God
 - a. Giving apostolic authority – God’s authority – to the message
 - b. Resulting in the NT
 - 2. We regard the NT as the Word of God because of the miraculous gifts
 - a. We no longer need that – the Word of God is complete
 - 3. The establishment of the nascent church was at stake
 - a. The miraculous gifts facilitated that
 - 4. Today we have the church
 - a. The **Great Commission Church** – that seeks to take the gospel to the ends of the world
 - 5. And we have the **Word of God**
 - a. Which contains the record of the miracles
 - 6. **2 Peter 1:16–21** (ESV) —
 - a. 16 For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.
 - b. 17 For when he received honor and glory from God the Father, and the voice was borne to him by the Majestic Glory, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased,”

- c. 18 we ourselves heard this very voice borne from heaven, for we were with him on the holy mountain.
 - d. 19 And we have the prophetic word more fully confirmed, to which you will do well to pay attention as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts,
 - e. 20 knowing this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture comes from someone's own interpretation.
 - f. 21 For no prophecy was ever produced by the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.
7. If you don't believe the scriptures, neither will you believe a miracle
8. **Luke 16:27-31** (ESV) —
- a. 27 And he said, 'Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—
 - b. 28 for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.'
 - c. 29 But Abraham said, 'They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.'
 - d. 30 And he said, 'No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.'
 - e. 31 He said to him, 'If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.' "
9. Whatever we make of the miraculous gifts, we can never place the experience of these gifts above the Word of God
- D. There is clear teaching regarding how the church should deal with healing in the post-apostolic period
- E. **James 5:14-16** (ESV) —
- 1. 14 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.
 - 2. 15 And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
 - 3. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.
- F. **Observations**
- 1. **Responsibility of the one sick**
 - a. Call on the elders of the church
 - 2. **Task of the elders**
 - a. Prayer
 - b. Anointing with oil (more about that later)
 - 3. **The instrumental agent**
 - a. Prayer of faith
 - b. Prayer of faith is prayer trusting in the Healer!

- c. Not prayer conjuring up the result
- d. Much more important to trust the healer than have faith in the healing
- e. If it was not that way it would be faith in faith – or fideism – not faith in Jehovah Rapha, in Jesus our Healer
- 4. **The ultimate agent of healing**
 - a. The Lord will raise him up
 - b. Not the “faith healer”
- 5. Condition
 - a. **Confession of sin**
 - b. Sickness is an opportunity for self-examination
 - c. Not all sickness is a result of a specific sin
 - d. But all sickness is a result of the sinful condition of humanity
 - e. And some sins are the result of specific sins (1 Corinthians 11 – Lord’s Supper impiety)
 - f. Special blessing for Elders to confirm the forgiveness of God for those who confess
 - g. **John 20:23** (ESV) — 23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld.”
- 6. Prayer of the community central to healing ministry
 - a. That’s why we should all gather!
- 7. Confidence in those who pray
- G. **What about anointing with oil**
 - 1. Oil and the Holy Spirit
 - a. **1 Samuel 16:13** (ESV) — 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the **Spirit of the LORD** rushed upon David from that day forward....
 - 2. Oil as consecration, set apart for task
 - a. Anointing of priests
 - b. **Exodus 29:7** (ESV) — 7 You shall take the anointing oil and pour it on his head and anoint him.
 - 3. The oil then represents the confidence we have that as he engage in this service, the Holy Spirit comes
 - a. And He does whatever He sovereignly desires
 - b. Healing
 - c. Or capacity to walk faithfully in the midst of illness, giving glory to God, trusting in His faithfulness
 - 4. **2 Corinthians 12:7–10** (ESV) —
 - a. 7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited.
 - b. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me.

- c. 9 But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
- d. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

V. **Questions about Healing**

A. **Why isn't everyone healed?**

- 1. Healing is provided for the body through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus
- 2. **Matthew 8:14–17** (ESV) —
 - a. 14 And when Jesus entered Peter's house, he saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever.
 - b. 15 He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve him.
 - c. 16 That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick.
 - d. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”
- 3. Matthew quotes Isaiah 53.4 in affirming the connections between the atonement and healing
 - a. And yet, not everyone is healed
- 4. We see Paul was not healed, even though praying for it a number of times
 - a. Paul was to be humbled under his affliction
 - b. He was to learn God's strength through his weakness
- 5. **1 Peter 1:6–7** (ESV) —
 - a. 6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,
 - b. 7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
- 6. Through illness, our faith may be tested and strengthened
 - a. A very great and precious result!
- 7. God may have a sanctifying purpose if He does not heal
 - a. And He surely does!
- 8. And when Jesus returns, healing will be complete
 - a. What glory that will be!
- 9. **Romans 8:28** (ESV) —
 - a. 28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.

B. **What is the relationship between sin and sickness?**

1. Ultimate origin of sickness and death is sin (**Genesis 3**)
 - a. Physical, emotional, relational dysfunction has been the legacy of humanity ever since
2. Sickness should remind ourselves of our brokenness
 - a. And the devastating effect human rebellion against the Author of Life has on humanity
3. But should never assume the any particular sin bears a direct relationship to a particular sickness
4. **1 Corinthians 11:28–30** (ESV) —
 - a. 28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
 - b. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.
 - c. 30 That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.
5. **Luke 13:1–5** (ESV) —
 - a. 1 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.
 - b. 2 And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way?
 - c. 3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.
 - d. 4 Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem?
 - e. 5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”
6. We ought not to ask, “Why am I sick?”
 - a. But “Why am I not sick more often?”
 - b. Only for the grace of God!

VI. **The Health of Our Lord**

- A. Most often overlooked is the health of our Lord
 1. Our health, which we so much take for granted, comes from His gracious and merciful providential care
- B. **2 Corinthians 4:7–12** (ESV) —
 1. 7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.
 2. 8 We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed;
 3. perplexed, but not driven to despair;
 4. 9 persecuted, but not forsaken;
 5. struck down, but not destroyed;
 6. 10 always carrying in the body the death of Jesus,
 7. so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies.
 8. 11 For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus’ sake,
 9. so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

10. 12 So death is at work in us, but life in you.
- C. **3 John 2** (ESV) —
1. 2 Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health,
 2. as it goes well with your soul.
- D. **1 Thessalonians 5:23** (ESV) —
1. 23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.