

Ministering Healing

By Bill Scheidler

I. Foundations for Ministering Healing in the Church.

A. Be convinced that divine healing is part of the inheritance of the people of God.

1. All sickness and disease have their origin in Satan and is the result of sin in the human condition (Gal. 3:13; Job 1-2).
2. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8).
3. Jesus bore our sickness on Calvary (Matt. 8:16-17).
4. Healing is part of the children's bread (Matt. 15:21-28).
5. The ministry of healing has been entrusted to the Church (Mark 16:15-18; James 5:14-15).

B. Be aware that there are different causes for sickness and disease.

1. There are causes in the **natural realm** such as carelessness in observing natural laws, eating poorly, getting an improper amount of rest and exercise or simply contracting a virus (I Cor. 3:16-17; Phil. 2:25-30).
2. There are causes in the **soul** (mind, will, emotions) **realm** (III Jn. 2), such as worry, anxiety, fear, stress or bitterness (lack of forgiveness).
3. There are causes in the **spiritual realm** where sickness can be associated with a spiritual test (Job 2:5-8), direct demonic attack (Lk. 13:11-12; Mk. 9:25) or even with judgment for sin (II Chr. 26:18-21).

C. Be aware that there are hindrances to receiving healing.

1. Lack of forgiveness or bitterness (Matt. 18:23-35).
2. Lack of confidence in God or persistent unbelief (Mark 6:5-6; Matt. 9:29).
3. Lack of obedience and rebellion (Ex. 15:25-26; Prov. 4:20-22).
4. Lack of repentance (James 5:16; II Chr. 7:14).
5. Lack of discerning the Lord's body (I Cor. 11:30).
6. Improper marital relationships (I Pet. 3:1-7).
7. Spiritual depression (Prov. 17:22).

D. Be aware that faith is the key to healing.

1. Faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Rom. 10:17; Ps. 107:20; Jn. 8:32).
2. Faith is expected in the one healed (Matt. 9:2, 22; 15:28; Mark 5:32; Luke 7:50; 22:32; Acts 6:5; 14:9).
3. Faith holds the word of God as supreme (James 1:6-7; Heb. 11:6; Rom. 14:23).
4. Faith will be tried. Remember, delay is not denial (James 1:3; Jonah 2:7-8).

E. Realize the authority of the New Testament believer.

1. The NT Church has been given the power to bind and loose (Matt. 16:19; Luke 10:19).
2. The NT Church has been entrusted with the Name of the Lord (Acts 3:16).
3. The NT Church has been empowered by the Spirit of God (John 14:12).
4. The NT Church has been commissioned to carry on and fulfill the ministry of Christ (Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-20).

II. Means by which healing can be received.

- A. There are natural means, including diet, exercise, relieving stress, proper rest and a disciplined life (Prov. 17:22; I Tim. 4:8; Phil 4:6; II Tim. 2:24).
- B. There is the medical profession, which is certainly used of God to help deal with sickness and disease (Matt. 9:12).
- C. There are spiritual avenues of healing that God has put in the Church.
 1. Simple prayer to God by the sick person (James 5:13-14; Heb. 11:6).
 2. The laying on of the hands of other believers (Mark 16:17).
 3. Anointing with oil by church leadership (James 5:14).
 4. Through the word of power (Matt. 8:5-13; Ps. 107:20).
 5. Through the Table of the Lord (I Cor. 11:23-32).

6. Being ministered to by someone operating in the gifts of healing (I Cor. 12:9).
7. Being ministered to by someone who has the ministry of healing (I Cor. 12:28).
8. Through special and miraculous means (Mk. 7:31-37; 8:22-26; Jn. 9:1-7; Acts 19:11-12; 5:15-16).

III. Guidelines for Ministering Healing.

A. Personal preparations of the one ministering.

1. Cleanse your heart and mind of unbelief by rehearsing the Word of God regarding healing.
2. Reaffirm your personal relationship to Christ as the healer.
3. Be sensitive to the leading and voice of the Holy Spirit.

B. Personal preparations of the one being ministered to.

1. Cleanse your heart and mind of unbelief by rehearsing the Word of God regarding healing.
2. Repent of known sin or sins in your life.
3. Reaffirm your relationship to Jesus as Lord of all.
4. Forgive any person toward whom you may be holding bitterness.

C. Things to do when ministering to the sick.

1. Minister in teams of two or three whenever possible.
2. Ask the prayer candidate to identify the need specifically.
3. Ask them whether they have consulted a physician about their condition.
4. Briefly address the possible hindrances to healing.
5. Rehearse a couple of key verses regarding healing in the ears of the candidate.
6. Assure the candidate by giving them hope and confidence in Jesus, the doctor.

7. Lay hands on them discretely and/or anoint them with oil as you pray.
 8. Use the name of Jesus in your prayer as you are operating as an extension of His authority.
 9. Speak to the condition with the authority of Christ (Luke 5:13, 24; 18:42).
 10. Thank the Lord for His healing grace.
 11. Encourage them to check out their condition to confirm healing.
 12. If no healing is evident, encourage them to continue to look to the Lord and be willing to be prayed for often.
 13. If healing is evident encourage them to testify giving glory to God and to prepare for a trial of their faith.
- D. Things to avoid when ministering to the sick.
1. Avoid getting into a “magic formula” mode (Acts 19:13ff.).
 2. Avoid putting guilt on the person receiving prayer if they are not healed.
 3. Do not predict their healing at some later time if the healing is not immediately manifest.
 4. Do not tell them to throw away prescription medications or other medical aids (as a sign of their faith) until their doctor has cleared them to do so (Lk. 17:14).