

HEALING Lesson 1 The Nature of Sickness (And An Assessment Of Healing)

SICKNESS: AN ASSAULT ON GOD'S DESIGN

Sickness can be viewed as an attack on our biological bodies (our earth suit). In the beginning, there was no sickness. Sickness came as a result of sin. Our bodies have a design and they are designed to run smoothly. This is God's will.

- **I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. Psalm 139:14**

Sickness attacks and hinders our ability to function in the earth. Adam and Eve were not made to know sickness. Sickness is a result of sin. Sickness is an act of sabotage against God's blueprint.

Even the world recognizes bodily blueprint flaws as "birth defects." God is not a defective God, and He is not capable of creating defects.

SICKNESS: DEMONIC OPPRESSION

The Bible calls healing people "doing good." It also calls sickness "demonic oppression." The Bible never calls sickness "good," nor does it ever call sickness "a godly blessing."

- **How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him. Acts 10:38**

Jesus did good and healed the sick because God was with Him. If sickness was the will of God, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, would have been actively opposing the will of God everywhere He went.

The Bible records that some sicknesses are the direct result of demon power:

- Satan, not God, was the one who smote Job with sickness and boils (**Job 2:7**).
- King Saul was troubled (mentally) by an evil spirit. When David played a harp, the evil spirit left, and Saul was refreshed and was well (**1 Samuel 16:14, 23**).
- A dumb mute was able to speak once Jesus cast a devil out of him (**Matthew 9:32-33; Luke 11:14**).
- A blind and mute man was able to see and speak after Jesus cast a devil out of him (**Matthew 12:22**).
- A lunatic boy was healed and made sane after Jesus cast a devil out of him (**Matthew 17:15-21**).

- The Bible describes a woman who was bowed over for 18 years as having a spirit of infirmity. Jesus laid his hands on her and she was made whole (**Luke 13:11-13**).

SICKNESS: OFTEN JUDGMENT, NEVER A TEACHER

Sickness has often been a form of judgment, though not all sickness is judgment.

- King Abimelech and his household were struck sick for sinning against Abraham (**Genesis 20:1-18**).
- Sickness and disease were part of the 10 plagues brought upon sinful Egypt for their stubbornness: lice, boils, blains, and death (**Exodus 9, 10, 11**).
- Miriam was struck with leprosy for speaking against Moses (**Numbers 12:1-13**).
- The Philistines were cursed with boils and plagues for mishandling the Ark of the Covenant (**1 Samuel 5:6**).
- Jeroboam's hand withered for acting against the prophet of God (**1 Kings 13:1-6**).
- Paul cursed a sorcerer with blindness for hindering the Gospel (**Acts 13:11**).
- The sexual deviant in the Corinthian Church (the one fornicating with his stepmom) was delivered to "**Satan for the destruction of the flesh**" (**1 Corinthians 5:1-5**).

The Bible **NEVER** teaches that sickness and disease will teach you anything about God. Under the old covenant, pastors were described as teachers. In the New Testament, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would be our teacher, not sickness and disease.

- **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**
John 14:26

HEALING: AN ACT OF MERCY

Healing demonstrates God's great mercy and compassion toward mankind. **Mercy** is defined in the Greek as *kindness or good will towards the miserable and the afflicted, joined with a desire to help them*.

- **Have mercy upon me, O LORD; for I am weak; O LORD, heal me; for my bones are vexed** (**Psalm 6:2**).
- **O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me** (**Psalm 30:2**).
- **And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick** (**Matthew 14:14**).
- Jesus was moved with **compassion** to cleanse a leper (**Mark 1:41**).
- The Ten Lepers requested **mercy** from Jesus and found it. The mercy of Jesus healed them of their leprosy (**Luke 17:13-14**).
- A blind man cried out for **mercy**. Jesus asked him what he wanted. "**Lord, that I may receive my sight.**" Jesus said, "**Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee**" (**Luke 18:35-42**).
- Jesus healed an impotent man at the pool of Bethesda (**House of Mercy**). There was a great multitude of sick people who abided at this pool waiting for healing. God



sent an angel at a certain season into the pool to trouble the waters for healing. This had been going on for years for a great multitude had assembled there. The supernatural activity of this place had been famed abroad. This was God having mercy on the sick by providing an avenue for divine healing before the coming of Christ. (See **John 5:1-9**.)

God is a merciful God, and His mercy is demonstrated in His desire and willingness to heal broken people. He called Himself “**the LORD that Healeth Thee**” (**Exodus 15:26**). He has never revealed Himself to be “the LORD God that maketh thee sick.”

HEALING
Lesson 2
Sick People In The Bible:
Who Was Healed And Who Wasn't And Why
(* indicates those who were healed)

- ***Sarah's womb**: Sarah was barren. By faith, she received miraculous strength to conceive seed. God healed her and Isaac was conceived (**Genesis 21:1-2; Hebrews 11:11**).
- ***Abimelech**: Abimelech was as good as dead. His wife and maidservants were barren for sinning against Abraham. Abraham prayed for Abimelech; God healed him and the women, and they conceived (**Genesis 20:1-18**).
- ***Rebekah's womb**: Rebekah was barren. Isaac entreated the LORD for her, and she conceived twins (**Genesis 25:21-22**).
- ***Miriam**: Miriam became leprous for slandering Moses. Moses prayed for her, and God healed her (**Numbers 12:1-15**).
- ***Hannah's womb**: Hannah desired a child and petitioned the LORD. Eli the priest blessed her request. The LORD "remembered" Hannah and she conceived (**1 Samuel 1:4-20**).
- **Michal's womb**: Michal was David's wife. She once greatly loved David, but the love grew cold and she ultimately despised him because he was zealous for the LORD. Her embarrassment of praise and worship and her dishonor for her husband caused her to be barren and never conceive a child (**1 Samuel 18:20; 2 Samuel 6:16-23**).
- ***King Jeroboam**: King Jeroboam led Israel into idolatry, setting up pagan temples in Bethel and Dan. An unnamed prophet came to Bethel and prophesied against Jeroboam and his idolatry. The rebuked king stretched out his hand against the prophet and commanded his men to arrest the prophet. The wicked king's hand instantly dried up and became immovable. Jeroboam had to ask the prophet to entreat the LORD for his healing. God restored the evil king's hand (**1 Kings 13:1-6**).
- **King Asa**: King Asa had a reputation for turning to man for help. At the end of his life, he became diseased in his feet and did not seek God but instead sought the physicians. His feet became diseased when he was 39. The foot disease grew "exceeding great," and he died when he was 41 (**2 Chronicles 16:1-13**).
- **King Uzziah**: The Bible says of King Uzziah "**when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction.**" He thought he could play priest. He went into the temple in order to burn incense. Azariah the priest withstood him and greatly angered Uzziah. While he was angry with Azariah and the other priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, and he eventually died a leper (**2 Chronicles 26:16-23**).
- ***King Hezekiah**: King Hezekiah was sick and nigh unto death because of some sin (probably pride) (**Isaiah 38:17**). We know it was a sin because at the news of his death sentence, he instantly repents, turning his face to the wall. He said of himself, "**I have cut off my life like a weaver.**" His repentance was so quick and heartfelt

that the Word of the LORD came again to Isaiah, and he went back to Hezekiah and pronounces life. God healed him and gave him 15 more years (**2 Kings 20:1-11; 2 Chronicles 32:24-26; Isaiah 38:1-22**).

- ***Job:** Satan actually told God to “**put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.**” The LORD permitted Satan to touch Job. And Satan “**smote Job with sore boils**” from head to foot. God healed Job when he prayed for his friends and gave him twice as much as he had before (**Job 2:1-8, 42:10-12**).
- ***Mephibosheth:** Jonathan’s son was dropped by his nurse as a five year old and was crippled by the fall. The Bible never records his healing, but David brought him into the king’s palace that he might be good to him for his father Jonathan’s sake (**2 Samuel 4:4, 9:1-13**).
- ***The Shunammite woman’s son:** This boy complained of a headache, “**My head, my head,**” and then died at noon. Elisha prayed unto the LORD and the boy revived (**2 Kings 4:18-37**).
- ***Namaan:** Namaan was a Syrian, an honorable and trusted military leader. He obeyed the prophet Elisha, dipped seven times in the river Jordan, and was cleansed of leprosy. His flesh became as a little child’s flesh (**2 Kings 5:1-15**).
- ***Gehazi:** Gehazi became leprous because of greed and lying to the prophet Elisha, but some time later Gehazi was found in the king’s court as an advisor. He had to have received healing to be in the presence of the king (**2 Kings 5:20-27, 8:3-6**).
- ***David’s son by Bathsheba:** David’s infant son was born sick. God had declared that the boy would die, but it was David who had declared his own punishment to the prophet Nathan. David had declared that the man who had stolen the lamb should repay fourfold. David went on to lose four of his sons (**2 Samuel 12:1-23**).
- ***Timothy:** Timothy apparently had a stomach problem. Paul advised Timothy to drink a little wine for his stomach weakness. His stomach ailment may have been from dysentery or ulcers from stress (**1 Timothy 5:23**).
- ***Epaphroditus:** Epaphroditus was a servant of the Philippians, but he was “**sick and nigh unto death for the work of Christ, not regarding his life.**” Many ministers have nearly killed themselves preaching because they have not taken care of their bodies. “**But God had mercy on him;**” and Paul was able to send him back to the Philippians because he was healed (**Philippians 2:25-30**).
- ***Paul:** Paul’s thorn in the flesh is often taught as a sickness, but this doesn’t line up with proper biblical interpretation. **Numbers 33:55** uses the terms “**pricks in your eyes and thorns in your sides**” to describe the wicked inhabitants of Canaan land. **Judges 2:3** and **Joshua 23:13** use similar terms to describe the enemies of Israel. In every reference, it was the people’s responsibility to do something about the problem. Also, Paul himself said the thorn in the flesh was an angel of Satan. So it wasn’t God, but the devil. His eye affliction mentioned in Galatians is suggested to have been malaria. Malaria comes from mosquitoes, not from God. Regardless, he didn’t die from malaria. He died from martyrdom. He died when he was ready to die. The Emperor Nero cut his head off.



This is by no means an all-inclusive list of sick people in the Bible (most notable, the Gospel healings have been left out), but trends and patterns do arise. Those who called out to God and relied on His mercy received healing. Those with stubborn pride and sin died with their affliction.

HEALING Lesson 3 The Sin-Sickness Connection

Throughout the Bible, sickness and sin are very closely related with many scriptures dealing with both of them in one verse. We need to closely evaluate this uncanny relationship between sin and sickness. This is not to say every sickness is a result of sin but that sin does act as a catalyst for sickness.

SIN BROUGHT DECAY

Before Adam and Eve sinned, there was no sickness, disease, or death. Their rebellion against God ruined a perfect environment and brought mortality upon them. Their sin also caused a curse to fall upon the earth. Death was introduced. God killed at least one, if not two animals, to clothe Adam and Eve with skins to cover their nakedness.

THE FIRST INSTANCE OF SICKNESS

The first case of sickness and divine healing involves the sexual proclivities of King Abimelech.

- **And Abraham said of Sarah his wife, She is my sister: and Abimelech king of Gerar sent, and took Sarah. ³But God came to Abimelech in a dream by night, and said to him, Behold, thou art but a dead man, for the woman which thou hast taken; for she is a man's wife. Genesis 20:2-3**

This sin of potential adultery brought a death sentence from sickness to Abimelech and his entire household. Abimelech had to repent and restore what he had taken and then face the man he had wronged, Abraham, and have him pray for him in order to receive healing. Sickness came due to sin.

THE PROMISE OF JEHOVAH-RAPHA

One of God's redemptive names is Jehovah-Rapha, or *I Am the Healer*. However, when God revealed His healing nature to Moses and Israel, it was a conditional promise.

- **And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee. Exodus 15:26**

This promise of healing is contingent on not living and acting like the Egyptians. This verse implies that the diseases brought upon Egypt were due to their disobedience to God's commands. These aforementioned Egyptian diseases came due to sin. Let us not be willfully disobedient against our God.

THE PLAGUE FOR THE GOLDEN CALF

Israel's first massive rebellion came while Moses was in prayer on Mount Horeb. The Israelites left God to worship an idol of convenience.

- **And the LORD plagued the people, because they made the calf, which Aaron made.** Exodus 32:35

The Bible is not clear as to what this plague was, but it came even after the priests had killed 3,000 other guilty Israelites. This plague came due to sin.

THE PLAGUE FOR LUST

The Bible records that a “**very great plague**” was brought upon Israel for lusting for and complaining about food.

- **And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague.** ³⁴**And he called the name of that place Kibrothhattaavah (*the graves of lust*): because there they buried the people that lusted.** Numbers 11:33-34

Though there is nothing wrong with needing and desiring food, the attitude one takes up in their heart can be life or death. A very great plague came due to sin. May we learn to bury our lust so that it does not bury us.

LEPROSY FOR SLANDER

Moses had problems among his leadership team. His older sister Miriam was a prophetess and lay-leader among Israel. She spoke against Moses and was stricken with leprosy.

- **And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman . . .** ¹⁰**And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.** ¹¹**And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us, wherein we have done foolishly, and wherein we have sinned.** Numbers 12:1, 10-11

Miriam contracted leprosy for running leadership down. Her leprosy came due to sin.

THE PLAGUE FOR MURMURING

Moses had complainers among his congregation. Some of the people did not like God's style of discipline, so they complained against Moses. A plague was unleashed.

- **And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an**

atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun.
Numbers 16:46

Israel's complaining opened them up to a plague. The plague came due to sin. Let us learn to not complain.

LEPROSY FOR PRIDE

The Bible says of King Uzziah, "**when he was strong, his heart was lifted up to his destruction.**" He thought he could play priest. He went into the temple in order to burn incense. Azariah the priest withstood him and greatly angered Uzziah. While he was angry with Azariah and the other priests, leprosy broke out on his forehead, and he eventually died a leper (**2 Chronicles 26:16-23**). His leprosy was a result of his pride and stubbornness. Leprosy came due to sin.

LEPROSY FOR DECEPTION

Gehazi became leprous because of greed and lying to the prophet Elisha. But some time later Gehazi was found in the king's court as an advisor. He had to have received healing to be in the presence of the king (**2 Kings 5:20-27; 8:3-6**). His leprosy was a result of his deception against his leader. Leprosy came due to sin.

A FATAL BOIL FOR PRIDE

King Hezekiah was sick and nigh unto death because of pride (**2 Chronicles 32:26**). A fatal boil arose threatening to take his life.

- **... but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back. Isaiah 38:17b**

According to Hezekiah's prayer, it took God casting his sin away for healing to come. We know it was a sin because at the news of his death sentence, he instantly repents, turning his face to the wall. God healed him and gave him 15 more years. The boil came due to sin (**2 Kings 20:1-11; 2 Chronicles 32:24-26; Isaiah 38:1-22**).

NEW TESTAMENT EXAMPLES

Jesus demonstrated that sickness and sin were often directly related.

- **And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. Matthew 9:2**

Jesus healed this man with palsy, but He had to first forgive his sins.

Jesus addressed the lame man He healed at Bethesda:

- **Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.**
John 5:14

Apparently, this former cripple's condition was due to some sin. He was commanded to sin no more.

In one instance, Jesus addressed the sin-sickness connection for one blind man.

- **And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. ²And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? ³Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.**
John 9:1-3

This man had not sinned to be born blind. How could he have sinned before he was born? Neither had his parents sinned. We understand his blindness to be a birth defect requiring the power of God.

COMMUNION'S TESTIMONY

Paul taught on the sin-sickness connection through communion.

- **But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. ²⁹For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the LORD's body. ³⁰For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. **1 Corinthians 11:28-30****

Paul explained why some Christians are physically weak, sickly, and even dead prematurely. These conditions have a cause. Often "**this cause**" refers to not discerning the LORD's body or not recognizing individual Christians as being members of the same Body of Christ. This lack of love between brothers and sisters in Christ is a "cause" for weakness, sickness, and even premature death.

JAMES' TEACHING

The apostle James also wrote about the connection between sin and sickness.

- **Is any sick among you? 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 shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. **James 5:14-15****

The apostle James demonstrates a correlation between sin and sickness. Here, the LORD will heal the sickness, raise up the sick, and forgive any sins committed.

- **Confess your faults (*sins, trespasses*) one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.**
James 5:16

This verse requires a confession of sins (sins committed against each other) in order to obtain healing. Here, James gives the instructions to first confess your sins to the one you sinned against, then pray for each other in order to receive healing.

THE BALANCE

All of this is not to say that every sickness you may experience is due to some gross sin in your life. Some sickness is just an attack from the enemy. Some sickness is just a natural state of cursed biology (e.g., a cold, allergies, an accident). However, we must realize that sickness can be the result of sin in our life causing the protection and the hedges in our life to be broken down.

Brother Hagin once noted, “I have seen the sick have hands laid on them numerous times by the greatest healing evangelists in the land to no avail, but I’ve seen those same people make one phone call and ask for forgiveness and receive instant healing.”

In dealing with sickness, we must first honestly judge ourselves and see where we may have opened the door to the enemy through sin. If our hands are clean, then we move on to address the sickness.

HEALING Lesson 4 Jesus Healed The Sick

The scriptures foretold that when the Messiah came, he would heal the people of their diseases.

- **Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**

Isaiah 53:4-5

- **But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.**

Malachi 4:2

- **... For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**

1 John 3:8b

Jesus was the Word made flesh, dwelling among us (**John 1:14**). He was the will of God in the flesh, demonstrating the will of God among mankind. He was the walking, talking, breathing will of God in the earth by healing the sick. Healing is one of the defining works of Jesus' earthly ministry.

- **And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. ²⁴And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.**

Matthew 4:23-24

Jesus healed people everywhere he went. It was just as much a part of His ministry as teaching and preaching. He was demonstrating the will of God toward mankind.

- **And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. ³³And all the city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him.**

Mark 1:32-34

- **When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were**



sick: ¹⁷That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sickness.

Matthew 8:16-17

- **But when Jesus knew it, he withdrew himself from thence: and great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all; Matthew 12:15**
- **And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there. Matthew 19:2**
- **... which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; ¹⁸And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. ¹⁹ And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all. Luke 6:17d-19**

Notice, Jesus healed those who followed him. Also notice how the Bible categorizes sickness and disease together with demon possession.

Only one man in the Gospels ever questioned the will of Jesus regarding healing. Jesus answered this question once and for all.

- **And behold, a leper came up to Him and, prostrating himself, worshiped Him, saying, Lord, if You are willing, You are able to cleanse me by curing me. ³And He reached out His hand and touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed by being cured. And instantly his leprosy was cured and cleansed.**

Matthew 8:2-3 AMPC

OBSERVATIONS FROM JESUS' HEALING MINISTRY

- Jesus never forbade anyone from seeking healing.
- Jesus never prayed for anyone to receive sickness.
- Jesus never refused to pray for the sick.
- Jesus never said it wasn't His will to heal them.
- Jesus never had to pray to decide whether it was God's will to heal.
- Jesus' disciples were never sick.
- Jesus never said it wasn't time yet for someone to be healed.
- Jesus never taught sickness was from God.
- Jesus never taught sickness teaches you anything about God.
- Jesus never taught God would put sickness on your child to teach you a lesson.

The Word made flesh demonstrated to us that the will of God is to heal us.



Scriptures:

- **Matthew**: 8:1-15; 9:1-8, 18-35; 10:1, 8; 12:10-13, 22; 14:14, 34-36; 15:21-31; 17:14-21; 21:14; 27:50-53
- **Mark**: 1:22-34, 39-42; 2:1-12; 3:1-5, 9-12, 14-15; 5:1-20, 22-43; 6:4-6, 13, 54-56; 7:24-30, 32-37; 8:22-26; 9:16-29; 10:46-52
- **Luke**: 4:33-44; 5:12-15, 17-26; 6:17-19; 7:1-10, 12-16; 8:26-36, 41-56; 9:1-6, 11, 37-42; 10:9; 11:14; 13:11-17; 17:11-19; 18:35-43; 22:50-51
- **John**: 4:46-54; 5:1-9; 9:1-11; 11:43-45

HEALING Lesson 5 The Demon-Sickness Connection

The Bible records many testimonies of miraculous healings. However, it should be noted that many of these healings were accompanied by the casting out of demon spirits. From these accounts, we can see that in many cases sickness can, and may, be due to the presence of a demon spirit of infirmity. In these cases, the demon must be dealt with directly before the individual can recover.

KING SAUL'S MENTAL ANGUISH

An early example of a demon spirit causing sickness (in this case mental illness) is found in King Saul.

- **And it came to pass, when the evil spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him. **1 Samuel 16:23****

Anointed worship by the hand of young David caused the tormenting spirit to depart from King Saul, and he was refreshed and made well.

A COMMON THREAD IN JESUS' MINISTRY

The earthly ministry of Jesus Christ saw countless people healed and delivered from demon power.

- **When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: ¹⁷That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. **Matthew 8:16-17****

Here, casting out devils and healing the sick went hand in hand, and it was the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy. This pattern of healing the sick by casting out devils was a very common occurrence in Jesus' ministry.

- **And at even, when the sun did set, they brought him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. ³³And all the city was gathered together at the door. ³⁴And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him. **Mark 1:32-34****

Again, we see a connection between sickness and demon possession.

A COMMON THREAD IN THE DISCIPLES' MINISTRY

Jesus ordained His disciples and sent them out to do the same things He did. They cast out devils and healed the sick.

- **And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.** **Matthew 10:1**

The disciples were authorized to cast out devils and heal the sick. We see that the two go hand in hand. See also **Mark 3:14-15** and **Luke 9:1-2**.

A MUTE DEVIL

Demon spirits make people what they are. Often, sicknesses are the result of a demon spirit that has been able to attach themselves to a person.

- **As they went out, behold, they brought to him a dumb man possessed with a devil. ³³And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marveled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel.** **Matthew 9:32-33**

Here, a spirit of muteness had possessed a man. When the devil was cast out, the sickness was healed.

A GRIEVOUS VEXATION

Devils can produce grievous vexations.

- **And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil . . . ²⁸And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.** **Matthew 15:22, 28b**

This Canaanite woman sought out healing for her daughter whom she knew was possessed of a devil. Jesus healed her daughter by setting her free from the devil. See also **Mark 7:24-30**.

A LUNATICK SPIRIT

Demon spirits can produce lunacy and its associated ailments.

- **Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is a lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water . . . ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.** **Matthew 17:15, 18**

This boy was not only a lunatic, he would have also suffered from constant burns from falling in the fire. Mark's Gospel also records that Jesus called this demon a "deaf and

dumb spirit.” Evidently, it was also causing the boy to be lunatic, deaf, and dumb. Jesus cured the boy by casting out the devil. See also **Mark 9:14-29**.

THE SIDONIAN REVIVAL

At one point in Jesus’ ministry, many people came from Tyre and Sidon to hear and be healed.

- **... and from the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon, which came to hear him, and to be healed of their diseases; ¹⁸And they that were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed. And the whole multitude sought to touch him: for there went virtue out of him, and healed them all. Luke 6:17c-19**

MARY MAGDALENE

Mary Magdalene was famously delivered from demon power. However, upon closer study of the scriptures, you will see that the Bible declares she was **“healed of evil spirits and infirmities.”**

- **And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils, Luke 8:2**

Mary Magdalene was healed of evil spirits AND infirmities. These infirmities were evidently the result of seven devils. See also **Luke 7:21**.

SPIRIT OF INFIRMITY

Jesus specifically addressed the spirit of infirmity when healing a crippled woman.

- **And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself . . . ¹⁶And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day? Luke 13:11, 16**

In this instance, Jesus clearly demonstrated there are times when a sickness or infirmity is the direct work of a demon spirit.

PETER’S HEALING MINISTRY

The apostles were seeing such miraculous things by the Holy Spirit that Jerusalem became a destination for those seeking health.

- **There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one. Acts 5:16**

Everyone was healed, both the sick and the demon possessed.

ACTS 10:38

Perhaps the most critical of all New Testament healing verses is **Acts 10:38**.

- **How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.**
Acts 10:38

This verse succinctly sums up both the healing ministry of Jesus Christ and the satanic nature of sickness.

PAUL'S HEALING MINISTRY

Paul apparently had a season of “special miracles.” This season further reveals the relationship often found between sickness and demon possession.

- **And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: ¹²So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.**
Acts 19:11-12

Here, as some of the sick were healed by the power of God, evil spirits also went out of the afflicted.

THE BALANCE

Just as not every sickness is due to sin, not every sickness is the result of a demon spirit attaching itself to a person. However, we must acknowledge from the Word of God that there are, quite clearly, times when a sickness is demon-caused. In these instances, the demon must first be dealt with before the symptoms can be healed.

As long as a demon is present, the symptoms will continue or even break out in other areas. Once the demon of infirmity is cast out or resisted, the symptoms can be healed through faith and prayer (with or without the aid of natural medicine).

We are not against medicine, but medicine isn't able to cure demons of infirmity. We must look to the Word for our answers.

HEALING Lesson 6 Five Biblical Ways To Receive Healing

God's desire for us to be healed is evident by the fact that He has provided several ways for us to receive healing for our bodies. Our bodies belong to Him, and He wants them healed. He designed our bodies, and any sickness or disease is an attack on the blueprint of God's creation.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

The Bible teaches us that we are to lay hands on the sick. The reason this works is because the power of God is transferred when hands are placed upon someone in need. This is so powerful a biblical truth there is even a doctrine of laying on of hands (**Hebrews 6:1-2**).

- Jesus laid hands on people and they were healed (**Matthew 8:15, 9:27-29, 14:36; Mark 1:41, 6:5, 7:32-35, 8:22-25; Luke 5:13, 6:19, 7:14-15, 13:11-13, 22:51**).
- The Early Church laid hands on the sick and they were healed (**Acts 3:1-7, 9:17-18**).
- Believers are commanded to lay hands on the sick and the sick will recover (**Mark 16:18; James 5:14**).

It should be noted that hands don't heal anybody, but the anointing of God flowing through hands is what destroys the yoke of sickness and disease. The laying on of hands will work best when the healing anointing is present.

GIFTS OF HEALING

One of the nine gifts of the Spirit is "gifts of healing" (**1 Corinthians 12:9**). This is a gift (or really, manifestation) of the Holy Spirit in the realm of sickness and disease with the sole purpose of eliminating the ailment. This is separate and distinct from the working of miracles. It does not include any form of medical science. We might jokingly call that the gift of doctors.

The only catch is the gifts of the Spirit are not always present (**Luke 5:17**). They cannot be turned on or off at our will or whim. The gifts of the Spirit only manifest as He wills (**1 Corinthians 12:11**).

PRAYER OF FAITH

- **Is any sick among you? 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 shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. James 5:14-15**

The prayer of faith is prayer made in accordance with God's Word concerning a certain need. In the case of sickness, the need is healing. It is called the prayer of faith because there are no tangible changes in the condition or the anointing, nor are there any gifts of

the Spirit in operation. It's a raw, dry prayer of sheer faith, based upon God's promises. However, the prayer of faith can and often does activate the power of God and even the gifts of the Spirit.

PERSONAL FAITH/SPEAKING THE WORD

Christians are called to live by faith (**Habakkuk 2:4**). We do not walk by sight. What we see often contradicts the Word. The world proffers facts. The Word declares truth. Let us not magnify the world's facts above God's truths. The Bible teaches us to take authority over things that don't line up with the Word of God and enforce the will of God on the earth.

- **Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth, as it is in heaven.**
Matthew 6:10

Our authority in the earth comes directly from Jesus Christ Himself. He has authorized us to occupy and work the works of the Father until He comes again.

Faith speaks to mountains, fig trees, sycamine trees, and sickness.

- **For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. ²⁴Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.**
Mark 11:23-24

We are to speak to sickness and disease. We've been given authority over it. Jesus purchased our healing. We need to enforce it.

- **Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.**
1 Peter 2:24

It is our responsibility to make sure we receive everything Jesus paid for on the cross.

WALKING IN FORGIVENESS

One of the ways to receive and maintain healing in your body is to maintain your Christian love walk. Jesus said they will know you because you have love one for another. Love defines the Christian.

- **For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.** Galatians 5:6



Love is the key ingredient to make your faith work. If there is no love in your heart toward someone, then the faith in your heart will be rendered ineffective. Love is the battery that powers your faith. How can you have faith toward God and hate your brother?

- **But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. ²⁹For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 1 Corinthians 11:28-30**

This passage tells us how not honoring one another as members of the same Body can cause us to be weak, sick, and even die early.

- **Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. 1 John 3:15**

Walking in love and forgiveness is key to maintaining a healthy walk with God as well as maintaining a healthy body.

HEALING Lesson 7 Healing: A Commandment

One interesting aspect of divine healing often overlooked is the precedent set forth in the Bible of “healing as a commandment.” In many instances of divine, miraculous healing in the Bible, the sick were actually commanded to be whole or healthy. There is most certainly not a biblical command to be sick and die. Let us look at examples of commanded healings. One note of observation: nearly every person who sought God for healing was commanded to be healed.

LEPROUS NAAMAN

Naaman was a successful military commander, but he was a leper. He wanted to be cleansed of his leprosy.

- **And Elisha sent a messenger unto him [Naaman], saying, Go and wash in Jordan seven times, and thy flesh shall come again to thee, and thou shalt be clean . . . ¹³And his servants came near, and spake unto him, and said, My father, if the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, Wash, and be clean?
2 Kings 5:10, 13**

Naaman sought healing for his leprosy and the prophet commanded him to “**Wash, and be clean.**”

JESUS COMMANDS A LEPER

Only one person ever questioned if it was God’s will to heal. This leper sought healing.

- **And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. ³And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.
Matthew 8:2-3**

This leper succinctly pointed out to Jesus “if you want to, you can make me clean.” Jesus not only wanted him to be clean; He commanded the leper to “**be thou clean.**” See also **Mark 1:40-42.**

THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD

This famous woman sought out Jesus in a crowd and broke the Law in doing so.

- **And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace, and be whole of thy plague.
Mark 5:34**

This woman came into the crowd around Jesus seeking healing and ended up being commanded to **“be whole of thy plague.”**

JAIRUS’ DAUGHTER

Jairus had sought Jesus to come and heal his daughter.

- **And he took the damsel by the hand, and said unto her, *Talitha cumi*; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, arise. Mark 5:41**

The woman with the issue of blood detained Jesus, and the daughter died. However, Jesus ended up commanding the damsel to **“arise.”**

A DEAF MAN

A group of people sought Jesus to heal their friend.

- **And he took him aside from the multitude, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spit, and touched his tongue; ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed, and saith unto him, *Ephphatha*, that is, Be opened. Mark 7:33-34**

People from Decapolis brought this man to Jesus seeking healing for him. Jesus ended up commanding his ears to **“be opened.”**

A WITHERED HAND

Jesus found this man in a local synagogue on the Sabbath.

- **... Rise up, and stand forth in the midst. And he arose and stood forth ... ¹⁰And looking round about upon them all, he said unto the man, Stretch forth thy hand. And he did so: and his hand was restored whole as the other. Luke 6:8b, 10**

Jesus gave this crippled man several commands. He obeyed the command to **“rise up and stand forth.”** Then he commanded the man to **“stretch forth”** his hand. He obeyed that command, too. His healing was a command.

RAISING A YOUNG MAN FROM THE DEAD

Jesus ruined a perfectly good funeral.

- **And he came and touched the bier (*coffin*): and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise. Luke 7:14**

Jesus raised this young man from the dead with a command, **“Arise.”**

A BOUND, BOWED WOMAN

Jesus found this crippled woman in the synagogue. Today, most infirm people use their

ailment as an excuse to skip church.

- **And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. Luke 13:12**

Jesus commanded this woman to “be loosed.” She went home from church that day brand new.

THE TEN LEPERS

These lepers requested mercy. Jesus gave them a command. Sometimes mercy requires obedience.

- **And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. Luke 17:14**

These lepers sought healing from leprosy, and the LORD commanded them to go and present themselves to the priests. They could only lawfully do this if they were healed. As they went, they were cleansed.

THE GRATEFUL LEPER

Of the previous ten lepers, only one returned to give thanks. Jesus marveled.

- **And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole. Luke 17:19**

Jesus commanded the grateful leper to “**arise.**” “To arise” seems to be a very common biblical commandment. This man went home fully restored and not just cleansed.

A BLIND MAN

Jesus asked this man what he wanted. The blind man requested his sight.

- **And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. Luke 18:42**

This blind man sought out Jesus for healing. Jesus commanded him to “**receive his sight.**”

LAZARUS RAISED FROM THE DEAD

Mary and Martha sought out Jesus to come and heal Lazarus. Lazarus died while Jesus tarried.

- **And when he thus had spoken, he cried with a loud voice, Lazarus, come forth. John 11:43**

Jesus commanded Lazarus to “**come forth.**” Lazarus obeyed. His resurrection required a command.

THE LAME MAN AT THE GATE BEAUTIFUL

This man had panhandled his entire life.

- **Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.**

Acts 3:6

Peter gave an order to this man: “**Rise up and walk.**” The lame man did more than that; he walked, leaped, and praised God.

LAME AENEAS

Aeneas had been a sick invalid for eight years.

- **And Peter said unto him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ maketh thee whole: arise, and make thy bed. And he arose immediately.**

Acts 9:34

Peter’s command to Aeneas was “**get up and make your bed.**” Aeneas obeyed and received his healing. He also made up his bed.

TABITHA RAISED FROM THE DEAD

The saints of Joppa sent to Lydda to request Peter to come and raise her from the dead.

- **But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up.**

Acts 9:40

Peter commanded Tabitha to “**arise**” and she did. This command caused her body to receive life. It is quite apparent from all of these Bible examples that raising the dead requires a command.

THE CRIPPLED MAN AT LYSTRA

Once again, we find a crippled person in church.

- **And there sat a certain man at Lystra, impotent in his feet, being a cripple from his mother’s womb, who never had walked: ⁹The same heard Paul speak: who stedfastly beholding him, and perceiving that he had faith to be healed, ¹⁰Said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he leaped and walked.**

Acts 14:8-10

Paul was preaching the Gospel and this man’s faith for healing was built by the preaching of the Word. Paul’s command gave the lame man an order to act on: “**Stand upright on thy**



feet.” The lame man gladly overshot the command to simply stand—he leapt and walked.

PATTERNS OF NOTE

Several patterns arise from these examples:

1. These people were sick and didn't want to be sick.
2. Several of these people sought out healing. They weren't content to be sick.
3. A voice of authority commanded them to be whole.
4. The sick were quick to obey the command to arise and be whole. They did not argue.
5. Raising the dead requires a command.
6. Jesus never commanded anyone to be sick.

Praise God! We are commanded to be whole!

HEALING Lesson 8 Bible Ways To Keep Your Healing And Stay Healthy

Once we have received healing in our bodies, it is very critical we learn how to maintain our healing and not let it slip again. Better than receiving healing for sickness is walking in divine health. This lesson will cover how to both keep your healing and walk in divine health.

A NATURALLY HEALTHY LIFESTYLE

Our lifestyle directly affects how we live. Judge the natural appetites of your life.

- Stressed out people have health issues.
- Obese people have health issues (e.g., cardiovascular diseases).
- Improper rest will cause health issues (e.g., sleep apnea, fatigue, etc.).
- Sexually promiscuous people have STDs.
- Improper diet can produce an array of health issues.
- Teeth require daily care; otherwise, prepare to lose them.

We believe in divine healing and health, but we also believe in being good stewards of God's temple. Do your part to care for your body as God does His part.

A HOLY LIFESTYLE

A holy lifestyle will go a long way toward keeping us healthy. Sin is still the number one killer of people. Sin is often tied to giving the flesh what it wants and giving it what it wants excessively.

- **For the wages of sin is death;** **Romans 6:23a**

Sin has a paycheck—death! Living dirty after you've been healed will certainly bring sickness back upon you. Jesus warned of this many times.

- **Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.**
John 5:14

To a man healed of an unknown infirmity, Jesus warned him to sin no more, lest something worse come upon him. That worse thing could have been more sickness or perhaps death.

- **For to be carnally minded (*the minding of the flesh*) is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.** **Romans 8:6**

Keeping your mind holy and set on the things of God will bring life and peace. An unholy mind will work death in your members.

- **For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.**
Romans 8:13

Flesh is unholy. If you live a lifestyle always obeying its whims, it will kill you. There are many proverbs that speak to lengthening your life through righteous living or shortening your life through wickedness. Let us choose a clean lifestyle.

- **For bodily exercise profiteth little [for a short while]: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come.**
1 Timothy 4:8

Godliness promises us life right now, not just in heaven. Godliness will cause the *zoe*-life of God to abide in your body.

- **A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health.**
Proverbs 13:17

Wickedness produces mischief, but faithfulness produces health. Let us be faithful.

HOLD FAST TO THE CONFESSION OF FAITH

Our words frame our lives; therefore, it is critical we maintain the confession of God's Word in our lives. Sickness is often brought on by what one has said.

- **For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.**
Mark 11:23

Jesus Christ taught that we could have what we say. We must then be careful to say what we want. Many Christians confess sickness.

- **Let us hold fast the profession (*confession*) of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)**
Hebrews 10:23

After we have received healing, we must maintain the confession of faith. Some Christians have believed and received healing for their bodies only to reverse the effect by the words of their mouth.

God's Word is medicine, so we should *always* be speaking the scriptures.

- **My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. ²¹Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. ²²For they are life unto those that find them, and health (*medicine*) to all their flesh.**
Proverbs 4:20-22

The best time to confess the Word of God for healing is while you are healthy. It is very difficult to build a house in a hurricane. Build your faith for healing while you are healthy. Take God's Word every day as preventative medicine.

WALK IN LOVE

Love defines our Christian walk. Not the redefined hippy love but the God kind of love. Love is why God saved us. Love is what compels us to share the Gospel. Love is the first fruit of the Spirit. Love empowers our faith.

- **For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love. Galatians 5:6**

The only thing that avails is faith working by love. Faith avails over sickness, but faith derives its power from love. No love, no faith. No faith, no healing. Love forgives.

- **And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32**

Forgiveness is critical to maintaining your healing. Forgiveness is a continuous manifestation of love coming out of your life. Without forgiveness active in your life, you can expect sickness to stick around for a long time.

- **But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. ²⁹ For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 1 Corinthians 11:28-30**

This passage speaks of Communion and the Lord's body.

The Lord's body is twofold:

1. The body that was *then* sacrificed for us on the cross for healing and forgiveness.
2. The body that is *now* the members of the Church.

Communion is also twofold:

1. Communion with Jesus Christ at His table with His elements, the cup and the bread.
2. Communion with the members of the Body.

We cannot commune with Jesus without communing with His body—people. If we are out of sorts with His body, we will be out of sorts with Him. When we stay mad at His people, we are out of sorts with Him. Being out of fellowship with Jesus will grant sickness and disease access to our lives and may even send us home to Heaven prematurely.

We can't have fellowship with Jesus and stay mad at His body, no matter how wrongly they have treated us. We must forgive!! Perfect these areas in your life and you are assured a longer, healthier life.

HEALING Lesson 9 Tenacious Faith Never Quits!

Tenacity: *the quality or fact of being able to grip something; the quality or fact of being very determined; the quality or fact of being persistent.*

The fight to maintain health and healing is just that—a fight! This battle often takes its toll on the heart and mind of a sick Christian. We must not give in to this battle of attrition. Many Christians have succumbed to death by simply giving up the battle against symptoms and sickness. We must be determined in our hearts to go the distance in prayer and not settle for sickness. This lesson will look at examples of those who did not quit in their search for healing.

JESUS DEMONSTRATED TENACIOUS FAITH

Jesus Christ demonstrated tenacious and unflinching faith when it came to healing.

- **And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. ²³And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. ²⁴And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. ²⁵After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.**

Mark 8:22-25

This blind man required two sessions of prayer from the Son of God to be fully restored. Jesus was not moved. He prayed again until the job was done.

JESUS TAUGHT TENACIOUS FAITH

Of the many things Jesus Christ said about faith, perhaps the most useful aspect of faith in the arena of healing is tenacity. In Luke 11, the disciples asked Jesus to teach them to pray. After He taught them “the Lord’s Prayer,” He continued by putting forth a prayer parable about a man interrupting his friend’s sleep to request bread for a travelling guest:

The Shameless Friend

- **I say unto you, Though he will not rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his importunity (shameless persistence) he will rise and give him as many as he needeth. ⁹And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. ¹⁰For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.**

Luke 11:8-10

In this parable, the desired item was not that significant. Nevertheless, faith shamelessly

sought it. Faith is shamelessly persistent in prayer. It doesn't stop asking, seeking, or knocking until it has obtained what it desires.

The Unjust Judge

- **And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint; ²Saying, There was in a city a judge, which feared not God, neither regarded man: ³And there was a widow in that city; and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary. ⁴And he would not for a while: but afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man; ⁵Yet because this widow troubleth me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me.
Luke 18:1-5**

In both of these parables the subject is prayer. The point emphasized by Jesus in both parables is that faith doesn't quit or give up. It keeps asking and pursuing until it obtains what it has need of. We must develop this kind of tenacity in our Christian walk.

Jairus' Daughter

- **While he yet spake, there came from the ruler of the synagogue's house certain which said, Thy daughter is dead: why troublest thou the Master any further? ³⁶As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe.
Mark 5:35-36**

When the report came that Jairus' daughter had passed away before Jesus could heal her, Jesus' command to Jairus was basically, "Don't quit, and don't stop believing."

The Lunatic Boy

- **And oftimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. ²³Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.
Mark 9:22-23**

This father was desperate for his son to be healed. The disciples had just been unsuccessful in casting out the demon. This whole conversation took place as the demon manifested causing the boy to wallow and foam at the feet of the father and Jesus. Jesus' response to the father's desperation was, "Don't quit and don't stop believing."

OTHERS THAT DEMONSTRATED TENACIOUS FAITH

Hannah

Hannah is the first example in the Bible of a tenacious faith for healing. Her barrenness was a source of sorrow, shame, bitterness, and anger. She was constantly reminded of her

barrenness and provoked by her adversary to the point of tears. However, Hannah never quit. Her tenacity drove her to the House of God and prayer. She requested a boy and the LORD answered her prayer. She mothered five more children after Samuel (**1 Samuel 1:4-20; 2:21**).

The De-roofing Brothers

These four men were very determined to get their cripple friend healed. When the large crowd prohibited these men from getting close to Jesus, they resorted to the roof and, as the Greek states, *dug* through the roof in order to lower their friend to the feet of Jesus. This was an act so tenacious that the Bible records, **“When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven” (Mark 2:1-12)**.

The Syrophenician Woman

This Canaanite woman desperately wanted healing for her demonized daughter. She cried after Jesus only to have Him ignore her. Then she cried after the disciples only to have them complain about her. Finally, she worshipped Jesus only to be called a dog. Her tenacity would not go away without a crumb for the dog. Jesus declared she was of **“great faith” (Matthew 15:21-28)**.

The Woman With The Issue Of Blood

This woman had been sick for 12 years, yet she also had sought out a cure for 12 years. She had spent all she had on physicians. She was not a quitter. She said within herself, **“If I may touch but his clothes, I shall be whole” (Mark 5:25-34)**.

Blind Bartimaeus

This famous blind man desired to have his eyesight. As Jesus passed by, he cried out for mercy. Many in the crowd commanded him to hold his peace, **“but he cried the more a great deal.”** His tenacity got the Lord’s attention, gained him a face-to-face audience with Jesus, and healing (**Mark 10:46-52**).

The common trait that seems to fuel the tenacity of these faith-filled examples is desperation. Desperation is readily apparent in these stories. We must ask ourselves, “Are we desperate for healing, or have we already let go of the promise of healing and settled for symptoms?”

- **For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry.**
Habakkuk 2:3

Never give up on the promises of God. Demonstrate tenacious faith.