



## Healing # 1

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” Lately I have sensed a lot of fear in people I have been talking to. Also, everywhere I go I am running into people who are either sick, or who have close family or friends who are. In many cases, they are close to death's door, suffering with very serious illness.

With all of these things in mind, what has really been on my heart for the past few days is compassion for those who have been oppressed by the devil and so I would like to start a series on healing. I am no expert on this subject, but I stand for my health vehemently. I don't care if it is just a small head cold or something very serious, I am passionate about the stripes of Jesus which have provided for the health of our bodies.

I remember the first time I was healed of a sickness. I was 14 years old and I had chronic problems with my tonsils. Every month or two they would swell up, causing massive tonsillitis and sore throats that felt like I had downed a glass full of razor blades. I would be sick for a week or two, then it would go away only to return a month or two later. Also at this time, my parents had started to go into town for some rather strange gospel meetings. There were people speaking in tongues and prophesying and other weird things were happening. I later came to realize that our family had been introduced to none other than the charismatic renewal - a very controversial move of the Holy Spirit in the 70's and 80's. Through these circumstances, my 14 year old heart somehow became aware that there were gifts of the Holy Spirit and that one of them was called the gift of healing. I was so tired of being sick all of the time so I knelt down beside my bed one afternoon and prayed something like this: "Jesus, if there really is a Holy Spirit gift called healing, could you please use it to heal my tonsils?" To my surprise, immediately a warm feeling flooded my throat, my swollen tonsils began to shrink, and the razor-sharp pain began to decrease. Within about 30 seconds, I was completely healed. I ran to the mirror, mouth wide open, only to see fully normal looking tonsils. I ran and jumped

around in my room, so excited I could hardly contain myself. It was my first experience with the gift of healing.

Later on, I learned that there was much scriptural backing for the gift of healing and in subsequent years, I have studied the scriptures extensively on the subject. However, even today I still run across various small golden nuggets in the bible that surprise me when it comes to healing. So blogging friends, I just want to be clear that you are reading material from a person over the next few weeks who is fully convinced that God wants every person on the planet to be completely healed and whole - period, no exceptions! Not only does He desire this for His children, He has also made a straight pathway, and made provision through the cross for it to be so. In fact, it is part of our covenant with our God through Jesus, just as sure as the forgiveness of our sins. There is no time on this side of the cross where God uses sickness to punish us. It is possible for everyone to be healed. God does not choose certain people to be healed and others not to be healed. He is not a respecter of persons.

I am certain that I have just offended many people with these blatant and bold statements. It is not politically correct to tell someone who has a dear family member dying from cancer or someone with long standing chronic pain that God's will is for them to be healed. However, please remember, I have been as close to disaster as the next person. I am not immune to sickness. Our family has lost dear loved ones. I have struggled with health issues all of my life, some of them very serious. However, that does not change my views on the bible, or the fact that my heavenly Father is good and that He is a most consistent parent. He does not make provisions for one that He does not respect for another. Any earthly parent would be put in jail for doing what many believe our heavenly Father does daily. Our God is a healer - period! It is His heart, His passion, and His will - yes, every time.

Over the next few weeks we will tackle some issues with the subject of healing. My plan is to explore dozens of scriptures and leave you, my readers, and also myself with a fresh new passion to release healing in our respective worlds. I will be writing to myself as strongly as to anyone else as I tend to forget certain victories when a test comes. I would also like to invite my readers for the next few weeks to post replies of their own testimonies of healing. Testimonies are powerful. They open doors for breakthrough for other people. So often we focus on the negative, but I would like to focus this blog on our Healer - Doctor Jesus and what He has done in our lives.

To end, I would like to leave you with some scripture. This passage is dear to my heart and I have quoted it tens of thousands of times. This Messianic passage is talking about

Jesus on the cross and the punishment He bore for us. In the New Testament it is re-quoted in Matthew 8:17 in the direct context of healing. Let it release faith in you today:

*Isaiah 53:4-5 Common English Bible - It was certainly our sickness that he carried, and our sufferings that he bore, but we thought him afflicted, struck down by God and tormented. He was pierced because of our rebellions and crushed because of our crimes. He bore the punishment that made us whole; by his wounds we are healed.*

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and He is the Great Physician.