



## Healing # 10

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” We have been talking about healing for the past few weeks, working our way through eight statements about the healing ministry of Jesus. However, everywhere I go, I have been running into people with serious illness. Along with the onslaught of sickness comes a lot of oppression. For this reason, I am going to do something a bit different today. We will continue on with Jesus ministry next article.

It seems to me like most christian people facing illness immediately wish there was a way to be healed by God. It doesn't matter if it is a small non-threatening condition or a major life-altering sickness, everyone hopes that they might be made whole. There is an instinctive reaction in our heart drawing us upwards towards our Father God in much the same way as a child will run to their parent if they are hurt. Most of the time, we do pray for the healing or ask God in some way. There are many levels on which this might be done - from a casual prayer to gathering a group and interceding for days or even months. If the condition persists, many people will begin to ask the question, "why?" "Why haven't I been healed," or, "God, why have you *chosen* not to heal me or my loved one?" When the answers to these questions aren't clear, confusion sets in and we get disillusioned by the healing promises in God's word. Then, in the confusion, many harmful theories get created in order to try and make sense of dire circumstances.

These theories can range in scope. Here are a few of the more prevalent ones:

1) We can pray for God to heal us but the result is entirely up to Him. We have to trust that whatever answer we get is His will. If we are healed the answer was "yes," if not the answer was obviously "no."

2) I must have some sin in my life or something else that is keeping me from being healed.

3) We can never count on the healing touch of God. Jesus ministry will never be duplicated here on earth.

4) It must not be God's will to heal me at this time. God's ways are higher than mine and for some reason I have been chosen to suffer and give God glory in this way.

5) I have been given a thorn in the flesh just like Paul and I must bear it for the sake of suffering.

6) There must be a lesson that I am to learn through this sickness. It is here to teach me something or to bring the discipline of God into my life.

In my experience, many healing prayers are offered with a high percentage of expectation that we are not going to get healed. Our human experiences have soured us due to inconsistent results and so the hope in our hearts is extremely faint. However, this does not mean that those results are God's will or His heart for our circumstances.

In writing this article, I am thinking of literally dozens of people right now who are facing serious sickness - either personally or that of a close loved one. Some have cancer, some have blindness, some have mental or emotional illness. There are conditions of all kinds - skin, liver, lung, diabetes, and the list goes on.

If you are one of these people reading, I would like to encourage you today. It is God's will and heart to heal every time, all the time, and in every circumstance. I invite you to think of your own children if you are a parent. If they were to get sick, is there anything you would not do to help them? Is there any money you would not spend, any distance you would not travel, any price you would not pay? Our Father God is the same. When our cursed environment, the devil, or our own negligence in the care of our bodies makes us sick - our Father God is absolutely engaged in trying to get healing to us in some way. He has already paid the highest price in sending His Son as an offering. Jesus stripes have made the way for us. God is not trying to teach us a lesson or discipline us. He is not trying to play mind games with us and if there is a sin problem, a simple thirty second prayer can take care of it easily.

We instinctively know that our answer lies in heaven, but sometimes the gap between heaven and earth seems a universe apart. This is why Jesus taught us to pray, "Let Your kingdom come, let Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven." Our healing answers are found in the glory of God - a substance that can co-exist in both heaven and on earth. The glory of God irradiates sickness. If you are looking for the reason why there is no sickness in heaven, look no further. The glory of God is the atmosphere in heaven. We need to press in to bring that same atmosphere here to the earth. The goal of heaven has

always been that the "glory of God will cover the earth like the waters cover the sea." Contend for the glory - it is sufficient for any healing task no matter how small or big. Also remember God's glory, presence, goodness, and face are synonymous in the bible.

I often feel like God's goodness goes on trial when bad things happen in our lives. Part of the reason for me writing today is that I believe in the goodness of God in a practical way. If God's goodness is integral to the foundation of our world, then His goodness is real and tangible. However, we often falsely assume that our very good God does things that would be considered bad on our earth to His own children?

Part of the problem is that God is so good at redeeming our bad situations, we often mistake the redemption as His stamp of approval on the bad circumstance. Keep in mind that the devil causes bad things in this world. However, if we turn them over to God, He can make such beauty out of ashes that we can wrongly assume that He caused the circumstance. Quite the opposite is true. The devil or the curse caused it, and God redeemed it.

Friends, we are born into a battle. We are easily distracted by many things in our lives. Often the pursuit of the presence of God and the spiritual armour necessary to overcome sickness goes on our back burner for years. Then when sickness comes, we have nothing with which to fight. God hurts for us. He is easily touched by our infirmities. He wants to extend His healing hand but there are precious few who have put in the effort needed to understand His glory and steward His healing power. As a result, we, God's children, suffer through illness, trying to stay true with very little hope, and trying to give God glory thorough illness and death. This is most admirable indeed. However, my heart aches for another way.

Jesus said, "In this world you will have tribulation." Sickness is without doubt part of that tribulation but in the next breath He said, "but take courage, I have overcome the world." I would like to encourage anyone who might be sick today to take courage. Jesus has overcome and made a way for us. With Jesus, we can overcome sickness, and by that I mean we can drive it out of our bodies.

I pray every day ... God, let me be the answer for somebody. Let me be one who is able to carry your glorious healing presence. Let me heal those who need a touch from you. Give me more at any cost. Let me host your healing power in the same way that Jesus did. Let me be a bridge between heaven and earth for those needing a touch from heaven. Let me be a conduit of Your will - Your ever present healing power to flow here and now. Amen.

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and He is our example.

