



Healing # 6

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” For the past several weeks I have been writing about healing, a subject dear to my heart. Where would we be without the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the cross? He took on every nuance of the curse for us and made a way for us to be completely free. This freedom includes health for our bodies.

I would like to begin today with another healing testimony. A few years ago Adeline and I were scheduled to go on a very special trip. Some friends of ours were avid boaters and they had graciously offered to take a group of us out whale watching on their yacht. We had been looking forward to this outing for quite some time but the night before our departure, Adeline was going down some stairs beside the house in the dark and misjudged a step, badly twisting her ankle. We knew right away that it was pretty serious and it began to swell up and turn a dark purple. After a few minutes, she could hardly even walk. As the night went on, it became worse and in the morning, she couldn't put any weight on it at all. Instead of going on the whale watching tour, we were most certainly doomed to spend the day in emergency getting the foot x-rayed. We were quite heartbroken but my wife never gives up when it comes to her health. "I want you to pray for my foot to be healed," she proclaimed, "we are going on our trip today!"

She sat down on a chair and I took both of her ankles in my hands. I prayed that the damaged and swollen ankle would be healed and whole just like the other one. I also commanded every ligament and joint to go back into place, the swelling to go down, and the ankle to return back to normal again in Jesus name. Then, Adeline said, "I am going to try to do something that I haven't been able to do." She got up off the chair, put weight on the ankle, and began trying to walk. As soon as she did, we both heard a loud pop, and a big smile came over her face. She began to walk around the room, slowly at first, and then faster and faster. Then she jumped and said, "the pain is leaving and it is feeling better with each step." In a minute or so, the swelling had completely left and the

colour returned to normal. We were both so thankful for the healing power in the stripes of Jesus.

Needless to say, we went on our whale watching tour that morning. It was one of the most memorable days with a group of friends that we have ever had. The weather was perfect and we happened upon a pod of whales that entertained us with theatrics and breaches for at least two hours. We took a ton of pictures and some video. What a blessing that day was.

Today I would like to focus on healing as it pertains to Jesus. There is a lot of speculation on what Jesus came to do, how He did it, and what power He used to accomplish His mission here on earth. One school of thought is that Jesus came to this earth and lived a life that is completely unreachable for the average christian person. He was, after all, God - something that none of us will ever attain to. He was able to do what He did because He was God, and after He left the earth, His works dwindled out with the death of the last apostles. This theological position puts Jesus in an untouchable class and His works and healings out of reach.

However, there is another train of thought. What if Jesus came to set an example for us? What if He came to this earth, left behind His deity, and lived as a man empowered by the Holy Spirit? What if He set a, yes very high, but also attainable water mark for us to reach for? What if He actually meant it when He said:

John 14:12-14 Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.

Or how about:

John 16:7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you

There is a verse hidden in the book of Philippians that sheds some light on this scenario:

Philippians 2:5-8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death.

Friends, was Jesus God? Absolutely 100%. However, He did something unthinkable when He came to our earth. He actually laid aside His deity and came in the likeness of men. He also put aside His equality with God. Before He was born on this earth, Jesus was actually the Word of God and He had equal weight with God and also the Holy Spirit. He then became flesh and set out to live as a man. He actually lived as a born again man - taking on the same basic spiritual form that we take on when we become born again. He constantly said to His disciples, "follow me." This statement alone tells us that Jesus was all about making disciples - ones who would follow in His footsteps. He trained them to do the exact same things that He did. You can not separate a lifestyle of power and miracles from the normal christian walk. You also can not separate this same power from the commissions that Jesus left with His disciples and all that were to follow Him down through the ages. To disciple in the ways of Jesus means to train someone to act and do the very things that He Himself did - and this includes a very impressive healing ministry.

What am I saying today? Well, actually, I am laying a foundation because over the next few articles we are going to look specifically at the healing works of Jesus. I am going to do so in hopes that we can learn a few things about how Jesus healed the sick. In turn, my hope is that we will go out and try some of the same things. Jesus was a master healer. He knew the perfect way to unlock a miracle for each and every person who came to Him for healing. Not one went away empty. Jesus healed them all. It is my prayer that we will reach out for the same power and Holy Spirit anointing that enabled Jesus to do what He did. If we are indeed His hands and feet on this earth, then those hands and feet must bring physical healing wherever they go, otherwise our example of Jesus lies in word only and not in deed.

Jesus, let me imitate You in word and deed. Let me heal all who come to me needing Your touch. Let me be as consistent and reliable as You were, never sending someone away empty when it comes to a miracle of healing.

I would like to leave you with one more scripture to ponder today. It is one of my favourite verses:

1 John 4:17 *By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world.*

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real and our lives are hidden in Him.