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Healing and the Word of God



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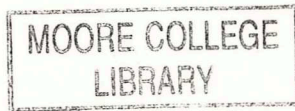
Healing and the Word of God

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With the renewed interest in spiritual healing today people are looking for some word of authority for their faith in healing. Consequently many will follow individuals and groups who speak with authority on healing. All of the authority that any one needs for faith in healing is to be found in the Word of God.

Healing in the Nature of God

The teaching of the Scripture concerning the nature of GOD is one ground of authority for our faith in healing. We are told that God is LOVE. "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (I John 4:8) This LOVE goes out to all in need regardless of race, social position or virtue. Indeed this LOVE was poured out upon us "while we were yet sinners." (Romans 5:8) Think of this. While man was still rebellious against God, while he was seeking his own way, crucifying the divine Son on the Cross, God was saying "I love you." Jesus told us that "God is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish." (Luke 6:35) How do we



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treat the ungrateful and the selfish? In I Corinthians 13 Paul describes the characteristics of the LOVE God has for us. Read this and see what love the Father has given us.

It is the nature of LOVE to give. "God so loved the world that He gave . . ." (John 3:16) God is more than willing to give us good things. "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:7-10) Therefore Jesus urges, "Do not be seized with alarm and struck with fear, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom!" (Luke 12:32 Amplified) It is God's good pleasure to give. Isn't this wonderful news? It isn't just a passive giving leaving God unaffected. It is His *good pleasure*.

Love cannot be passive or indifferent. LOVE is concerned about the loved ones in every way. LOVE must be shared, must give and must be received. Do you begin to realize why it is the very nature of God as LOVE that inspires faith for healing? You can look to God for healing because He loves you just as you are and wants to give to you not only the things of His kingdom but Himself. LOVE, however, cannot be forced on anyone and neither can God. The promise is that to all who will seek they will find and to all who ask, to them it will be given.

Healing in the Nature of the Kingdom

It is the nature of the KINGDOM that offers us another ground of authority for faith in healing. The nature (the essence, the core of reality) of the Kingdom is power. "For the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power." (I Cor. 4:20) For this reason Jesus promised His disciples they would receive power. "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you." (Acts 1:8) The word for power in the Greek is *dynamis* which is the root word for dynamite. The kingdom is the dynamite of God, - explosive, powerful, far reaching beyond size. It can start as yeast and leaven the loaf. It can begin as a mustard seed and reach giant proportions of influence and coverage. The reason the handful of disciples could turn the world upside down was not because of a new ethical system preached by them but because people saw in their lives, POWER. They saw power to heal the sick, cast out demons, face death with praise on their lips, to love when hated, to bless when cursed and to face life with victory. The nature of the Kingdom is Power.

It is power on earth. Jesus taught us to pray "thy kingdom come . . . on earth as it is in heaven." The kingdom of God, the power of God is something that can be realized here on earth even as it is in heaven. This is a tremendous truth. For this reason Jesus said that in His acts of healing and casting out demons the

kingdom of God had come upon them here on earth. "But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt, the kingdom of God is come upon you." Luke 11:14-20) The Bible tells us that there is no sickness, no sorrow, no pain, no suffering in heaven. So when we pray "thy kingdom come" we need to visualize and expect the heavenly life to be manifested here on earth. Therefore, we can expect healing and wholeness in every way.

The nature of the kingdom is not only power on earth but power within. Jesus tells us that the kingdom is within us right now. "Behold, the kingdom of God is within you." (Luke 17:21) The Amplified New Testament translates this passage "the kingdom of God is within you (in your hearts) and among you (surrounding you)." The kingdom or power of God is within, without and all around us. You can expect healing because the kingdom of God, of power, of health, of wholeness can come to earth and is within you.

Healing in the Nature of Salvation

Another source of authority for faith in healing is the teaching of the Scripture concerning the nature of SALVATION. Salvation is a gift. "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God." (Eph. 2:8-9) And so is healing. We cannot earn it, deserve it or become worthy of it. Salvation does not depend upon our good

deeds. Neither does healing. Salvation and healing come from God lest men should boast. As a gift, salvation can only be received. We receive it through Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior.

Salvation in the New Testament means wholeness of mind, body and spirit. In Luke 18:42 is recorded the healing of a blind man. The words of Jesus to the man are translated in the King James Version as "thy faith hath saved thee." In the Revised Standard Version they are translated "your faith has made you well." The verb translated "saved" is also translated "made whole." Thus we see a direct relationship to being saved and being made whole or well. To be saved is to be made whole in every way. Salvation means healing for the whole man. Therefore when you think about the salvation Jesus brings you can also expect healing to be part of it.

Salvation, the gift of wholeness from God, is to be received as a gift. No matter how many times you may be offered a gift the offer is not complete until you accept it and appropriate it for yourself. God wants to give but you must be willing to receive. (Heb. 11:6) Healing is part of the gift of Salvation God offers to you. The nature of Salvation makes this clear. So receive it, accept it, appropriate it for yourself by expectant faith in Jesus Christ as Healer as well as Savior.

Healing in the Nature of Jesus Christ

The nature of GOD, HIS KINGDOM, and SALVATION are revealed in Jesus Christ. Therefore the nature of Jesus Christ and His mission give to us another ground of authority for faith in healing. When Jesus was here on earth the major part of His ministry was given to healing the sick and releasing the possessed. He was concerned about the whole man, filled with love and compassion. He was committed to removing any obstacle or barrier that prevented man from receiving the fullness of life God intended. If it was a physical barrier he healed the body. If it was a mental barrier He healed the mind. If it was spiritual He forgave sin and gave deliverance from its power. The Scripture tells us that Jesus is the same today, yesterday and forever. Jesus is the same in compassion and in power to heal and deliver today as when on earth in the flesh. He has a new body now, the Church.

Jesus made it quite clear what His mission was. He announced it to His own home town, using the words of Isaiah. (Luke 4:17-18). "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me (the Anointed One, the Messiah) to preach the good news (the Gospel) to the poor; He has sent Me to announce release to the captives, the recovery of sight to the blind; to send forth delivered those who are oppressed - who are down-trodden, bruised, crushed and broken down by calamity; to pro-

claim the accepted and acceptable day of the Lord - the day when salvation and the free favors of God profusely abound." (Amplified New Testament.) And in John 10:10 Jesus said, "I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance - to the full, till it overflows." (Amplified) Jesus' mission was one of deliverance, restoration and life, - to the full. His mission is the same today.

In addition to this, Jesus gave this same mission to His new body, the Church. To the Twelve and the Seventy He gave the mission to preach and to heal. (Matthew 10:7, 8 and Luke 10:9) In James 5:13 we find the instructions given to the Church to carry on this healing mission. This reveals that this healing mission was not only for the Apostles but for the whole Church as well. Behind this commission stands the promise that we shall do the things He did and even greater things (John 14:12) So you can look for healing because Jesus is the same in His power to heal and He has commissioned His Church to carry on this mission and be a channel for this power.

Healing in the Nature of Man

The nature of God is LOVE, the nature of the kingdom is POWER, the nature of salvation is WHOLENESS, the nature of Jesus and His mission as DELIVERANCE and LIFE give to us divine authority for your faith in healing. Yet this does not complete the picture.

For it is also the nature of MAN that gives to us another ground of authority for our faith in healing. Man was created in the image and likeness of God. Basically this means that we bear something of God in our very nature. Indeed, the blessed assurance is that through Jesus Christ we can actually share or be partakers in the nature of God. (II Peter 1:3) Do you see what this means? Can the image and likeness of God mean cancer? or tuberculosis? or insanity? The more we are partakers of the nature of God the less these things will abound. The point is that being made in His image and likeness assures you of the possibility of sharing in the nature of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. Yet He is the one, holy God. We too have a three-fold expression of our nature as a spirit, soul and body. Paul prays that we might be kept sound and blameless in spirit, soul and body. (I Thess. 5:23) Soul for Paul includes all that we mean by mind. The point is that we are not just a body. We are three levels made one. When one part of our being is sick the whole body is affected. Therefore when we are sick physically or mentally we are affected spiritually. In order for healing to take place the whole man, mind, body and spirit must be treated. When we are sick we must recognize the need for spiritual healing as well as physical.

The wonderful truth of the Gospel is that as a new creation in Christ we are the abiding

place of the Holy Spirit. Our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? (I Cor. 3:16) This means that basically we are spiritual beings. When we die this body is cast aside like an empty shell. The body does not live on but the life it contained does. Indeed it is the Spirit of life that gives our bodies any importance. The spiritual life within is greater than anything else, including the physical plane of life. The resurrection of Jesus demonstrates this. The spiritual life or power of God is greater than any physical condition including death. For this reason we can expect healing because the essence of our nature is spiritual and the spiritual power of God is greater than anything physical.

On the basis of this Biblical evidence for faith in healing you have the right to make the following affirmations:

The Nature of God - GOD IS POURING OUT HIS LOVE UPON ME RIGHT NOW!

The Nature of the Kingdom - THY KINGDOM OF POWER IS FLOWING THROUGH ME RIGHT NOW!

The Nature of Salvation - GOD'S WILL FOR ME IS WHOLENESS RIGHT NOW!

The Nature of Jesus and His Mission - JESUS IS THE SAME TODAY AND IS

ABLE TO HEAL AND DELIVER ME
RIGHT NOW!

The Nature of Man - I AM A CHILD OF
GOD AND HIS HOLY, HEALING SPIRIT
IS WITHIN ME RIGHT NOW!

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