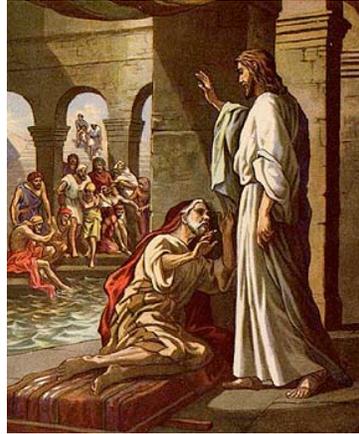


Luke 9:1-2

“Then He called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick.”

Healing by Jesus



1. Healing was a big part of Jesus' ministry.

Miracles in Acts

TEXT	TYPE OF	PERFORMED BY
2:43	Sign	The twelve
3:67	Healing	Peter & John
5:12	Sign	The twelve
5:15-16	Healing	Peter
5:19	Release from prison	Angel
6:8	Sign	Stephen
8:6	Sign	Philip
9:40-41	Resurrection	Peter
12:7	Release from prison	Angel
13:11	Blinded	Jesus
14:3	Sign	Paul & Barnabas
14:9-10	Healing	Paul
16:18	Exorcism	Paul
19:11-12	Healing & exorcism	Paul
20:9-10	Resurrection	Paul
23:11	Appearance of Christ	God
27:23	Appearance of angel	God
28:5	Immune to poison	God
28:8	Healing	Paul
28:9	Healing	Paul

2. Healing was a big part of the Apostles' ministry.

Acts 2:43
“And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.”

Healing today



3. Healing ministry is a popular but controversial part of Christian ministry today.



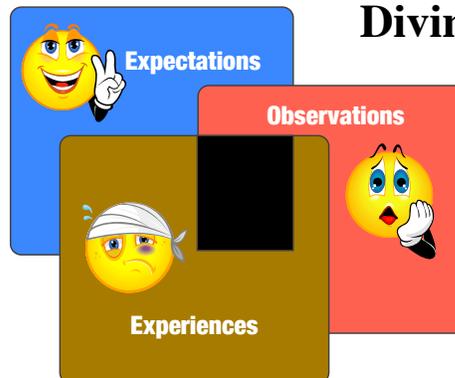
A popular teaching on healing

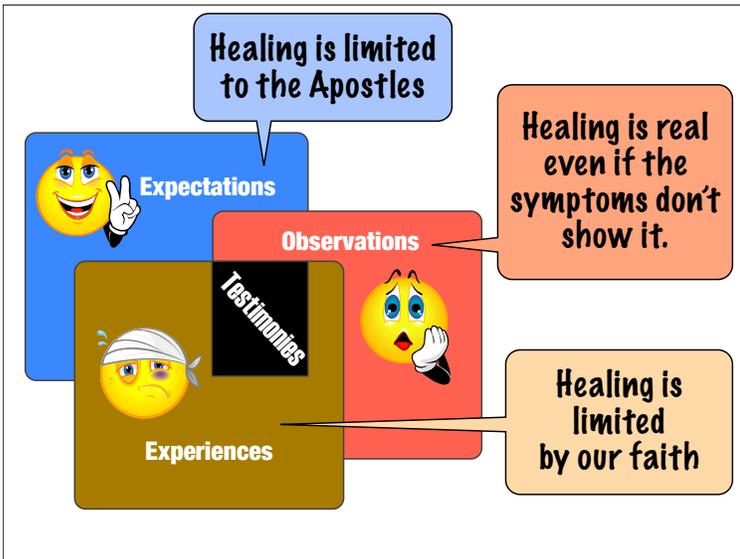
- ✓ Death and sickness are of Satan not God.
- ✓ God's promises assure our healing.
- ✓ God's love for His people assures our healing.
- ✓ God's will for our healing is only limited by our faith.

Faith and healing are linked.

- (Matt. 9:28)
- (Matt. 15:28)
- (Matt. 9:21)
- (Matt. 8:13)
- (Matt. 13:58)
- (Mark 10:51)
- (Mark 11:24)
- (Acts 6:8)
- (Acts 3:16)

Dissonance with respect to Divine Healing





Consider

1. We need a theology of death and suffering as well as healing.
2. We need well placed hope, as well as deep faith.
3. We need to keep the main thing the main thing and tell the truth.

1. Experience is subjective.

"Will an experience always silence a doctrine?"

- ✓ No experience comes with a built in interpretation.
- ✓ We bring presuppositions to our experiences.
- ✓ We need to critically assess our experiences.

Galatians 2:18

"Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind,"

2. Some "faith healing" is natural.

Natural healing by faith

Miraculous healing by faith

Before his book *Healing Words* was published in 1993, only three U.S. medical schools had courses devoted to exploring the role of religious practice and prayer in health; currently, nearly 80 medical schools have instituted such courses, many of which utilize Dr. Dossey's works as textbooks.

Saint Augustine

"Miracles are not contrary to nature, but only contrary to what we know about nature."

Faith healing has a broad base of testimonial support.

- **New Ager** Larry Dossey's science of prayer.
- **Psychics** like Harry Edwards.
- **Mediums** like Thomas Johanson of England.
- Roman Catholic icons and **saints**.
- **Pentecostals** like Oral Roberts and A. A. Allen.
- NDE and Tiffany Snow's (**Psychic Gifts** in the Christian Life).
- **Mind "Scientists"** like L. Ron Hubbard.

3. This physical body is passing away.

1 Corinthians 15

“⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a **perishable** body, it is raised an imperishable body; ⁴³ it is sown in **dishonor**, it is raised in glory; it is sown in **weakness**, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a **natural** body, it is raised a spiritual body. . . . ⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, **earthy**; the second man is from heaven. . . . ⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.”

4. Our hope is not temporal healing but bodily resurrection.

Revelation 21:4

“And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

5. A Biblical theology of death and suffering.

- ✓ We will never fully escape death in this fallen world.
- ✓ Illness is a form of death therefore we escape illness only when we escape death.
- ✓ Suffering can have a redemptive purpose.
- ✓ The answer to physical death is resurrection.
- ✓ Death is the necessary doorway to God’s promise of new life.
- ✓ It’s not all about ME (my will, my comfort, my faith, my faithfulness, my fulfillment, etc.)

6. “Signs and Wonders” are signs (authenticating a messenger) and wonders (very unusual).

John 10:25

“the works that I do in My Father’s name, these testify of Me.”

Hebrews 2:3-4

“how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”

2 Corinthians 12:12

“The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”

7. Face the facts.

- Are we making excuses for our lack of faith?
- Are we exaggerating our testimonies of healing?
- Are we really impressed with lengthened legs, while alzheimer’s is not touched?
- Are we missing the meaning of miracles?
- Are we keeping the main thing the main thing?

