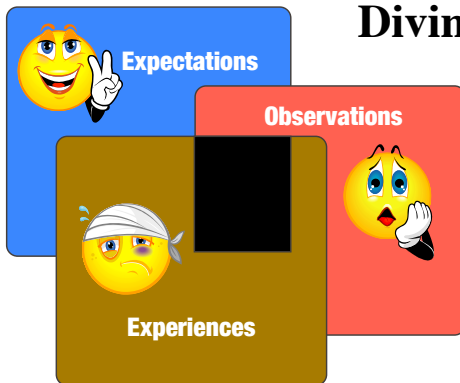
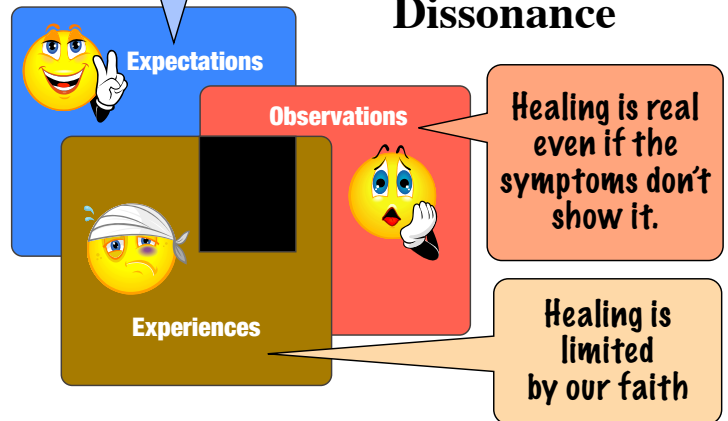


## Dissonance with respect to Divine Healing



Healing is limited  
to the Apostles

## Inadequate attempts to Remove the Dissonance



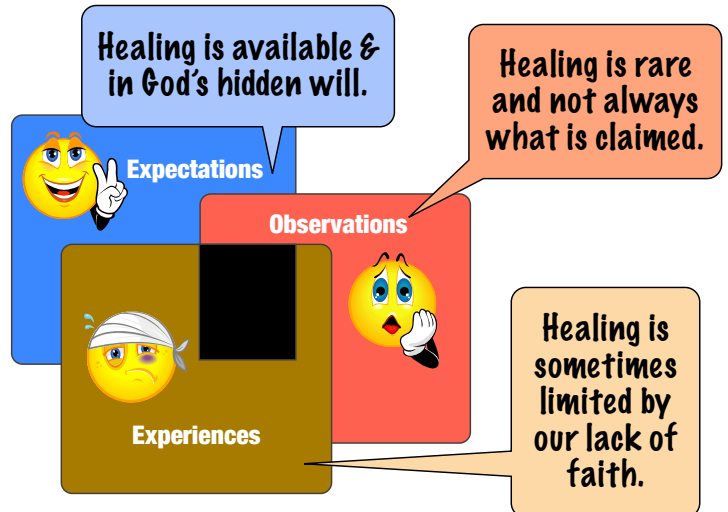
### Can we remove dissonance with faith?

1.  
It is God's will to heal.
2.  
God has secured our healing in the atonement.
3.  
God has promised healing to all who ask in faith.
4.  
Those who disagree with this teaching are robbing  
God's people of their right to promised health.

#### The two possible results

1.  
My faith in Scripture and God is destroyed.
2.  
I am isolated from God's presence.

Healing is available &  
in God's hidden will.



### Reducing the dissonance when God does not heal

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.
4.  
We need to cultivate Biblical  
expectations.

### 1. Refine your expectations with a careful reading of Scripture.

#### Deuteronomy 7:14-15

"You shall be the most blessed of peoples, with neither sterility nor barrenness among you or your livestock. The Lord will turn away from you every illness."

#### Is freedom from illness promised to us unconditionally?

1. All Scripture is written **for** us but not **to** us  
or **about** us.
2. Prophetical and proverbial texts are not  
always promises?
3. Read all Scripture in its broad literary,  
historical, & theological context.

## ***What about the promises concerning God's will?***

1. It is God's will that none perish but yet He says that only a remnant will be saved.
2. **James 4:3** "You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures (**natural desires**)."
  - It's his glory not my desire.
  - My motives are mixed.
  - I don't see the big picture.
  - Sometimes the great tragedies are really great opportunities.



**"Most natural disaster calls for an act of God."**



## ***2. Refine your expectations with a reading of all the Scripture.***

### **1 Timothy 5:23**

"No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and our frequent ailments."

### **2 Timothy 4:20**

"but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus."

### **Galatians 4**

"<sup>13</sup> but you know that it was because of a bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the first time; <sup>14</sup> and that which was a trial to you in my bodily condition you did not despise or loathe,"

### **Deut. 32:39**

"It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded, and it is I who heal,"

### **Isaiah 30:26**

"the Lord binds up the fracture of His people and heals the bruise He has inflicted."

## ***3. Refine your expectations with common sense analogies.***

### **Matthew 8:17**

"in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, '*He Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases.*'"

***The atonement removed our illnesses in the same way it removed our sins***

- **Past** - The curse of sin is gone.
- **Present** - The power of sin is broken.
- **Future** - The full removal of sin awaits the resurrection.

## ***4. Don't feel bad if all that follows your faith is love.***

### **Mark 16**

"<sup>15</sup> And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. <sup>16</sup> He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. <sup>17</sup> And these signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; <sup>18</sup> they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.'"

## 5. Turn disappointed expectations into spiritual strength.

### 2 Corinthians 12

“7 And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, **a messenger of Satan to buffet me** - to keep me from exalting myself! 8 Concerning this **I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.** 9 And He has said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. 10 Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

## Could the thorn be spiritual persecution?

2 Corinthians 12:10

“Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with **insults**, with **distresses**, with **persecutions**, with **difficulties**, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.”

### **Satanic affliction**

“a messenger of Satan to buffet me”

### **Prayer of faith**

“I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me.”

### **But**

**Nowhere else do the Apostles try to pray away persecution but rather welcome it as an opportunity to share Christ’s suffering.**

## *It is more likely that the thorn was an eyesight problem.*

### Galatians 4

“<sup>13</sup> but you know that it was because of a **bodily illness** that I preached the gospel to you the first time; <sup>14</sup> and that which was a trial to you in **my bodily condition** you did not despise or loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself. <sup>15</sup> Where then is that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness, that if possible, you would have **plucked out your eyes and given them to me.**”

## 6. The inner man can prosper while the outer man decays.

2 Corinthians 4

“<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the power may be of God and not from ourselves; <sup>8</sup> we are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not despairing; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; <sup>10</sup> always carrying about in the body the dying of Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who live are constantly being delivered over to death for Jesus’ sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. <sup>12</sup> So death works in us, but life in you. . . . <sup>16</sup> Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup> For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, <sup>18</sup> while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.”

## Reducing the dissonance when God does not heal

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.

4.

We need to cultivate Biblical expectations that include both healing and also holiness.



**What looks like a defeat can be a great victory.**