

## Why God Heals In Preparation for Tonight's Healing Service

**Thesis:** We are a people who believe that God has given us power and authority to do what he has been doing and to say what he has been saying. So, we get in action to join Jesus on his mission to pray for the sick, because we believe God heals. To help us pray for the sick, we are going to talk about "why God heals."

**Text:** Luke 9:1-92

"Healing must have been important to Jesus because he did a lot of it. He taught his disciples to heal, and they taught their disciples to heal. God loves to make wrong things right in our bodies, souls, and spirits, regardless of where we are in our spiritual journeys." (Deere, Jack . *Why I Am Still Surprised by the Power of the Spirit: Discovering How God Speaks and Heals Today* (p. 106). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.)

### Why God heals.

1. **God heals because it is his nature and his name** (who he is).
  - a. One of the primary ways that God makes himself known to us is through Scripture. We would not know God unless God had drawn us to himself and had given us revelation about himself to know him.
  - b. In Scripture, **God reveals himself as Jehovah Rapha, "the God who heals you."**
    - i. *Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) 24 So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" 25 Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. 26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you (Exodus 15:22-26).*

- c. God heals because it is his nature and name. He is Jehovah Rapha, the God who heals you.
2. **God heals because he is asked.**
  - a. Jesus heals a deaf and mute man just because he was asked by some people (Mark 7:31-37).
    - i. *Then Jesus left the vicinity of Tyre and went through Sidon, down to the Sea of Galilee and into the region of the Decapolis. 32 There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. 33 After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. 34 He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). 35 At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly. 36 Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone. But the more he did so, the more they kept talking about it. 37 People were overwhelmed with amazement. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak" (Mark 7:31-37).*
  - b. God sometimes heals because he is asked to heal.
3. **God heals because he has compassion and mercy on the sick.**
  - a. Jesus heals the crowds because he has compassion on the sick and hurting in Matthew 14:13-14.
    - i. *When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick (Matthew 14:13-14).*
  - b. Jesus was moved deeply in his gut to heal people, because of how he feels for the sick and hurting.
4. **God heals to bring glory to himself.**
  - a. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead to bring glory to the Father and the Son (John 11:3-4).
    - i. *So the sisters [Mary and Martha, brother of Lazarus who is sick in John 11:1] sent word to Jesus, "Lord, the one you love is sick." 4 When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it" (John 11:3-4).*
  - b. When Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, he demonstrated that he was the resurrection and the life, and this demonstration brought great glory to God and to the Son of God. (Deere, Jack. *Why I Am Still*

*Surprised by the Power of the Spirit: Discovering How God Speaks and Heals Today* (p. 109). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.)

**5. God heals in response to his promise to the elders.**

- a. *Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective (James 5:13-16).*
- b. God makes a promise to the elders that he will heal the sick who ask for prayer.
- c. God makes a promise that he forgives sins.
- d. God promises that he forgives when we confess our sins to each other in the body of Christ.
- e. And, God promises that he backs up our prayers for one another in the body of Christ when we pray for healing. "Pray for each other so that you may be healed" (James 5:16).
- f. God is the promise making God. So, we are promise takers; that is our mature response to the God who makes promises. God heals because he made a promise to the elders and to believers.

**6. God heals in response to faith.**

- a. **Jesus heals a woman with an issue of bleeding.**
  - i. A woman who had a hemorrhage for twelve years sneaked up behind Jesus, touched the edge of his cloak, and then was instantly healed of her hemorrhage. Jesus felt power leave his body and turned to find the woman. When he found her, he said, "Take heart, daughter . . . your faith has healed you" (Matthew 9:22). It was the faith of a Canaanite woman that moved Jesus to heal her demonized daughter. He said to her, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted" (Matthew 15:28). (Deere, Jack. *Why I Am Still Surprised by the Power of the Spirit: Discovering How God Speaks and Heals Today* (pp. 112-113). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.)
- b. **Jesus heals a paralytic.**
  - i. *Matthew 9:1 Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. 2 Some men brought to him a paralytic, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." 3 At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!" 4 Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do*

*you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5 Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? 6 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." 7 And the man got up and went home. 8 When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, **who had given such authority to men [people]** (Matthew 9:1-8).*

- c. God heals in response to faith.

### **There are many other reasons why God heals.**

I will mention just a few more reasons and point you to a resource.

1. **God heals to lead people to repentance and open doors for the gospel.**
2. **God heals to remove hindrances to ministry and service.**
3. **God heals to teach us about himself and his kingdom.**
4. **God heals to demonstrate the presence of his kingdom.**
5. **God heals for sovereign purposes known only to himself.**

For further reading, scriptures, teaching, and stories, reference: Deere, Jack. *Why I Am Still Surprised by the Power of the Spirit: Discovering How God Speaks and Heals Today* (pps. 106 – 115, 279 - 282). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

### **Why do we take the time to pray for people to be healed?**

1. **We are believers in Jesus.**
  - a. *Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God— 13 children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God (John 1:12-13).*
  - b. We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:13).
  - c. We believe that Jesus called us to do and say what he had been doing and saying (Luke 9:1-2, 10:1-9; Matthew 9:35-10:1).
  - d. We believe that God exists, and we believe that God rewards those who seek him (Hebrews 11:6).
  - e. **To believe** in the NT is not just an intellectual concept with which we agree or to which we give mental assent agreement. Rather, *to believe*

in the NT sense of the word is to take action on what we believe to be true.

- f. We believe in Jesus. Believers get in action around what Jesus told them to say and do, including praying for the sick to be healed.
2. **We are followers and disciples of Jesus** (Matthew 4:19).
    - a. It is enough that a disciple becomes like his master (Matthew 10:25).
    - b. Jesus came proclaiming and demonstrating the kingdom of God in word and deed (Matthew 4:23-25; 9:35-38).
    - c. Jesus told us to follow his example by proclaiming and demonstrating the kingdom of God in word and deed (Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:1-2; Luke 10:1-9).
    - d. Jesus only did and said what the Father was doing and saying. Likewise, we do and say what the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are doing and saying in and through our lives. This level of obedience and revelation necessitates intimacy with the Living God.
    - e. As followers and disciples of Jesus, we do what Jesus is doing and say what Jesus says.
  3. **We are commanded by Jesus to heal the sick.**
    - a. We pray for others to get healed because **Jesus commanded us to heal the sick** (Luke 9:1-2; 10:1-2, 9).
      - i. *“Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God is near you’” (Luke 10:9).*
      - ii. We don’t just pray for the sick; we are commanded to heal the sick.
    - b. We are commanded to pray for one another, and we are promised that God will heal (James 5:13-16).
    - c. We pray for the sick to be healed because we are commanded by Jesus to heal the sick.
  4. **We want to see others and feel for them according to what Jesus sees and feels.**
    - a. *Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. 36 **When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.** 37 Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. 38 Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field” (Matthew 9:35-38).*
    - b. What did Jesus see? He saw the crowds that were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.
    - c. What did Jesus feel? He had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.

- d. One of the main motivations for which I pray for people comes from compassion. I know what it is like to be sick, to deal with chronic pain, and to have no where else to turn. I am grateful that people pray for me. So, I am glad to pray for others.

### What do we do when people don't get healed?

1. **There is a tension for us in this world: not everyone we pray for gets healed.**
  - a. What do we do when people we pray for don't get healed?
  - b. **What do we do when everyone to whom we witness doesn't get saved.**
    - i. We still witness to others and share the good news of God's kingdom because Jesus told us to do so (Matthew 28:18-20; Acts 1:8).
  - c. We pray for others to get healed because **Jesus commanded us to heal the sick** (Luke 9:1-2; 10:1-2, 9).
    - i. *"Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you'"*(Luke 10:9).
    - ii. We don't just pray for the sick; we are commanded to heal the sick.
    - iii. In our culture, there is an anti-supernatural bias against miracles, signs, and wonders. So, we can give up praying for the sick.
    - iv. Moreover, we don't like it when we are asked or told to do something, and it doesn't produce the results we expect.
    - v. **I believe these tensions keep us dependent and reliant upon God.**
  - d. What do we do when people we pray for don't get healed? **We keep doing what Jesus told us and showed us to do.** We keep showing up.
2. **When someone doesn't get healed, we avoid placing blame on the seeker, the pray-ers, the devil, or God.**
  - a. We ask God to show us if there is something we need to learn or do differently, because we reflect on our practice.
  - b. We ask God to help us minister more effectively like him, and we choose not to blame, criticize, or give up.
  - c. We simply keep doing what Jesus told us to do to the best of our ability.
3. **We choose to remain faithful in the day of small things and small beginnings.**
  - a. **Do not despise the day of small things** (Zechariah 4:10).
  - b. **Parable of the talents.** *"So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, 'Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.'* 21 His lord said to

him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.' 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, 'Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.' 23 His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord' (Matthew 25:20-23).

- c. **The parable of the talents is about taking risks.**
  - i. We take risks appropriately, but nevertheless, we take risks with our resources, our capacities, our prayers, and our service to do what we believe God has asked us to do.
  - ii. Taking risks and believing God are kingdom values.
    1. And, we want to risk appropriately or in healthy ways.
  - iii. The servant who was given one talent refused to take risks. He was judged.
- d. We choose to remain faithful in the day of small things and in the day of small beginnings.
  - i. And, we believe that one day we will see even greater fruit from our love for God and our labor of love with God.

**Application:**

- I invite you to come back tonight to help us pray for the sick.
- Our Calvary Healing Service is tonight, Sunday, March 17, starting at 6:30pm.
- We will pray for people in person and online.

**Celebrate the Lord's Supper.**