

PART I TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY ANOINTING

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God Given Authority

There are a number of keys to seeing the miraculous power of God manifest on a consistent basis. One of the least understood, and therefore seldom practiced, is the fact that healing is under the authority of the believer. God has already provided His healing power and placed it on the inside of every born-again believer. It is up to us to release it. Understanding and using our authority is the key to seeing miracles happen.

Would you like to see the blind receive their sight or the lame walk when you pray? Do you desperately need healing yourself? Here's the good news—whether you're praying for another's healing or receiving your own, it's available to every true follower of Christ! Jesus gave every disciple who believes the power and authority to do the same works that He did. What a statement! But it is absolutely true. John 14:12 says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

All believers will do the same works that Jesus did; it's not limited to ministers. There's just a shortage of believing believers.

How do you get to the place where you can see the miraculous happen in and through you? It starts with the renewing of your mind. Faith is based on knowledge, and everything we need to know to be a victorious Christian is explained in God's Word. That's what the Apostle Peter said in II Peter 1:3-4 "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

Knowledge of a few basics truths, when properly understood and applied, will make a huge difference in releasing His power and receiving your healing. God has already placed His healing power within us and it is now under our authority. It isn't up to God to determine who receives healing; it's up to us! What a powerful statement! It's our failure to understand and use the authority we have that is keeping God's healing power from flowing as it should. It's imperative that we discover what we have and learn how to release it.

Here's another indispensable basic truth you must know and understand about healing: It's never God's will for us to be sick; He wants every person healed every time. That's nearlytoo-good-to-be-true news, but that's the Gospel. Most Christians don't know or believe that. They think the Lord makes them sick, or at the very least, He allows Satan to make them sick to either punish or correct them. That kind of thinking will get you killed; it's not what the Bible teaches.

One of the most elementary principles in God's Word is given in James 4:7. It says, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."

This verse clearly teaches that some things are of God, and some things are of the devil. Notice it doesn't present a third category: from God through the devil. No! Sickness has nothing to do with God! Submit to the things of God and resist the things of the devil. It's that simple. To believe that God allows or approves of Satan's actions defies the logic of James 4:7. It eliminates our responsibility to resist and places ultimate responsibility for everything back on God.

The widely-accepted doctrine that God controls everything is a deception. If Satan can confuse and deceive you on that issue, he's got you! Why? Because you'll stop resisting. No one wants to resist God's will, and if you think that God is behind your sickness, you'll submit to it. That violates the instruction of James 4:7, it won't get you healed, and it lets satan have his way in your life.

You must believe God always wants you healed. It's so simple, it takes help to misunderstand. But sadly, most Christians receive plenty of help from "religion" in misunderstanding this. Look at it this way: If God wanted you sick, for whatever reason, then why visit the doctor or take medication? It would seem more logical to allow the sickness to run its course so God's purpose could be accomplished. Of course I think that's foolish, and hopefully, so do you. What's the bottom line on God's will for our healing? His Word reveals that to us in III John 2, which says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."

John was writing a letter to believers under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. He revealed that the Lord wants us healthy just as much as He wants us to prosper emotionally and mentally.

When Peter preached the Gospel to Cornelius in Acts 10:38, he summarized the ministry of Jesus by saying, "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

Notice what Peter said under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Not only was Jesus doing good when He healed people, but He healed all that were oppressed of the devil, not of God. That scripture clearly proves that sickness is not from God.

Isaiah 53 should end all debate. It was written prophetically about Jesus, the Messiah. Isaiah 53:4-5 says, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

These verses reveal that physical healing is a part of the atonement of Christ. The Lord redeemed us from sickness just as much as He redeemed us from sin. He would no more want us to be sick than He would want us to sin. Those are radical statements to many Christians because we've been taught that forgiveness of sins is what salvation is all about. Well that's certainly a vital part of salvation, but that's not all that Jesus accomplished. We were also healed by His stripes. Sickness is not of God just as sin is not of God. Thank You, Jesus!

Just in case anyone might be thinking that the healing spoken of in Isaiah 53:4-5 is not physical but only emotional, the Bible gives a commentary on Isaiah's prophecy. In Matthew 8:16 Jesus healed all the sick people brought to Him, and verse 17 says this was done . . . "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." Therefore, Scripture validates Scripture and makes it very clear that the healing spoken of by Isaiah is referring to physical infirmities and sicknesses. If Jesus bore our sicknesses, then we don't have to.

There are a number of keys to seeing the miraculous power of God manifest on a consistent basis. The fact that healing is under the authority of the believer.

Look at how Peter and John ministered healing to the lame man in Acts 3:1-8: "Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God."

Notice that Peter didn't pray for this man. He also didn't ask God to heal him. He said, "Such as I have give I thee." This didn't mean that Peter was the source of this healing. Notice what Peter said in Acts 3:12, "And when Peter saw it, he answered unto the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?"

It was God's power that healed this man, but that power was under Peter's authority. Peter went on to say in verse 16 that it was faith in the name of Jesus that had wrought this miracle. But Peter didn't ask God to heal this man. He believed the Lord had already done His part and had placed that power within him. Now it was Peter's responsibility to release that power, and that's just what he did.

Through much meditation and prayer it has been revealed to me that the Lord never told us to pray for the sick in the sense that we ask Him to heal them. He told us to heal the sick. There is a BIG difference between the two. It has to do with operating in the authority He has already given us. Look at these commands the Lord gave His disciples.

"Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick."(Luke 9:1-2)

"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." (Matthew 10:1)

"And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (Matthew 10:7-8)

Jesus told us to heal the sick not pray for the sick. What a radical statement! This will get you kicked out of most churches today, but these are the exact words of the mouth of our Lord Jesus Christ. And this is precisely why more people don't see the miraculous results they're praying for. They aren't taking their authority and commanding God's power; they're passively asking God to do what He told them to do.

I know this goes contrary to popular Christian doctrine. We're constantly told that it's not us but God who is the Healer, and I agree with that totally. But, I also believe that God has placed His healing power under our authority, and it is up to us to release it. If we don't take our authority and become commanders instead of beggars, God's power will not be fully released. There needs to be a radical renewing of our thinking on this issue.

I read a recent article by Dave Duell, who held a meeting in Africa many years ago. It was one of his first times he saw miracles such as the blind and deaf healed. The people were so excited that they were mobbing him as he walked through the streets, trying to touch him so they could be healed. His first thought was influenced by this religious thinking. He thought, They shouldn't be looking to me. I'm not the healer; it is Jesus. He was about to stop them when the Lord spoke to him. The Lord said, "Dave, do you remember when I rode that donkey into Jerusalem and all the people put their garments and palm branches in the way and cried, 'Hosanna'? What would you have thought if the donkey had spoken up and said, 'It's not me! It's not me'? That would only have revealed the donkey's arrogance. No one was praising the donkey; they were praising the One that was riding the donkey."

When Dave recognized the people weren't trying to touch him but the One he was carrying, he let them touch him all they wanted and people were healed. This is exactly what happened with the first-century disciples. Peter had people line the streets so that if only his shadow would touch them, they would be healed (Acts. 5:15).

Look at an amazing passage of Scripture in Isaiah 45:11. "Thus saith the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and his Maker, Ask me of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me."

What a powerful scripture! What does the Lord mean when He tells us to command Him? Well, He certainly doesn't mean we are mightier and more powerful than Him and can order Him around. He means, concerning the things He has already done, He wants us to take our authority and command His power.

It's like electricity. The power company generates the power and delivers it to your house. It's not your power, but it's under your control. You don't call the power company and ask them to turn the lights on. No! They won't do that. They generate the power, but it's under your command. You simply flip the switch on the wall and command the power to work. Does this mean you are the power source? Certainly not! You can put a light bulb in your mouth, and it will never come on. You aren't the power source, but you are the one in control of what that power does. You can plead with the power company all you want, but they won't flip the switch for you. You have to assume your authority and acknowledge the power is under your command.

That's what the Lord was speaking of. He has already healed everyone who will ever be healed. He did it two thousand years ago when He bore our stripes on His back. Then He deposited His resurrection power inside every believer (Ephesians 1:1920). He's done His part, and now it is up to us to do ours. We need to take the authority He has given us and become commanders instead of beggars. This is a powerful truth that works, and it's the reason we see so many miraculous healings. We aren't just praying for the sick; we are healing them in Jesus' name.

I know this line of thinking raises as many questions as it does answers, so I'm writing several messages to help you. These messages represent some radical teachings. For example, "Debunking Satan." Satan isn't using some superhuman, angelic authority against us; he's using the authority and power that was given to man by God. Therefore, satan can't do anything to us without our consent and cooperation. Satan does not have a superior power or authority. He is absolutely dependent upon the cooperation of a human being who will empower him with the authority God gave them.

Satan is going about like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He is looking for people who will open the door through things like lust, rebellion, strife, unforgiveness, fear, and more. When we yield to those things, we are empowering him to destroy us and I guarantee you, given the opportunity, he will eat your lunch and pop the bag. (More to come on this subject).

Until you understand the power and authority that God has given you, you will never be able to defeat the devil, receive healing, prosper and live in victory. Knowing your authority is the key! This teaching is an absolute necessity for every believer. Start appropriating it right now! Other keys will follow soon. Hallelujah!