

Lesson 4

HEALING – PRAYING FOR THE SICK



Introduction

We have discovered that one of God's names is Jehovah Rapha, which means 'The Lord who heals'. Jesus came to show us what God is like and to demonstrate the power of the Kingdom, so everywhere he went, he healed the sick. When he ascended back into Heaven, he gave his followers the authority to use his name. We have that authority too. Let's look at several ways in which God can use us.

1. PRAYER OF FAITH

What are the methods used in these verses to pray for the sick?

Mark 16:18 _____ James 5:14 _____

When we look into the New Testament we see that there is not just one way to pray for the sick.

How did Jesus pray for the blind man?

Mark 8:22-25 _____

Discuss Why do you think Jesus prayed twice for the man?

The Holy Spirit will guide us and show us how to pray, however whatever method we use there is one thing that is very important. According to these verses, what attitude do we need to have when we pray for the sick?

Mark 16:17 _____ James 5:15 _____

Let's look at a story in Matthew 17:16-20.

Discuss Why do you think the disciples couldn't heal the boy of dumbness and demon possession?

Sometimes healing is not instant. The disciples were not always successful as they did not move in the faith and power that Jesus did. The same is probably true of us! Our faith needs to be exercised. Just as our body gets stronger when we exercise, so does our faith. Even if you see only a little improvement in the sick person you are praying for, this should encourage you to keep on praying. Jesus told us to keep on praying and not to give up. As we see healings take place our faith will be strengthened to believe God for greater things.

2. GIFTS OF HEALING

All of us can pray for the sick. However there are also those who have gifts of healing given by the Holy Spirit. Let's read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11

What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

These gifts are activated or released in our lives when we are baptised in the Holy Spirit. They are not natural abilities, but supernatural. One of them is the gifts of healings. There is not just one gift of healing, but different kinds of gifts of healing.

Why is the gift of healing given? 1 Corinthians 12:7 _____

Who gives these gifts? 1 Corinthians 12:11 _____

Who decides who the gifts are given to? 1 Corinthians 12:11 _____

God gives the gifts as he chooses to, but we are also to want and pray for spiritual gifts so that we can be a blessing to others.

3. AN EXAMPLE OF HEALING

Let's look at one example of healing in the Book of Acts. Read Acts 3:2-8

How long had this man been crippled? Acts 3:2 _____

How often had he been sitting at the temple gate? Acts 3:2 _____

Isn't that amazing! Perhaps Jesus and the disciples had passed him before, but this was God's time to heal him and his healing would result in many people believing in Jesus.

Discuss What gifts of the Holy Spirit do you think Peter was using when this healing took place?

How did Peter perform this miracle? Acts 4:7, 10 _____

Conclusion

Every believer has the authority to use the name of Jesus. God will give some gifts of healing, but we are all to pray for the sick. Sickness is not from God! He wants us to demonstrate his power and love to the world, so they will come to know and believe that Jesus is the Son of God. This is what Jesus came to do – and we are his Body here on earth now. This is what it says in John 20:30-31:

'Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.'