

HEALING!

Healing is one of the most difficult things in the Christian realm because it is in our very nature to look for evidence, especially when in pain. I get asked very often about healing since it is such a controversial and yet intimate part of our lives. It is a very sensitive subject because most everyone has lost a loved one to some terrible disease, or struggled with a life altering illness, to which they had believed God for healing and it just did not happen according to their faith. One of the things Holy Spirit showed me was to approach healing as we do the other benefits of Jesus' death and resurrection.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 14:6 "I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life. No one gets to the Father except through Me." Jesus paid the price, went to the cross on our behalf, redeemed us from the curse, and gave us eternal life. Christians who believe what the Bible says and are in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ know they are going to be in heaven, in the very presence of God when they die without any physical evidence of such knowledge this side of heaven. Thus, we receive salvation, eternal life, without seeing any evidence.

Isaiah 53:5 says "But He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities...." Ephesians 1:7 "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace." Jesus was wounded and bruised for our sin, bought us with His blood, and we know when we confess our sin, He who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9) What physical evidence do we have which supports we are forgiven? We have none, yet we believe it because God said it.

The point is, just as we receive salvation and forgiveness of sin through faith with no physical evidence, we must receive healing through faith with no physical evidence. And perhaps this is part of our struggle as Christians. Do we really believe we are going to spend eternity in heaven? Is this the reason so many Christians fight to stay alive until the choice is taken from them? Because when that last stage of passing from death to life begins, we are not so sure about eternal life or heaven, because we still do not have evidence? Perhaps we only believe it now because we are not face to face with death at the moment. With forgiveness, do we really comprehend and accept the verdict of "Not Guilty" when we confess and repent of sin? Or do we half-heartedly believe, finding it difficult to let ourselves or others completely off the hook?

However, generally speaking, Christians accept and believe in forgiveness of sins and life everlasting by grace through faith with no physical evidence of either. So it should be with healing. For some reason, it is much more difficult to believe in unconditional healing without the evidence. I know the feeling! I wait for evidence myself. However, I do not believe it is supposed to be that way. We believe our sins are forgiven, with no evidence. We believe we are going to heaven with no evidence. We believe we are healed with no evidence. Or do we? It is all by faith, including healing!

As Christians we know we are healed in Jesus' Name (and most would add either on this side of heaven or when we get there) Of course, people are all at different places with the healing of God, and attempting to convince people of one way or another usually only causes division and frustration for all involved. We should rather spend our time letting God convince us.

If we battle something in our bodies and know we are healed by the stripes of Jesus, sometimes we are tempted to believe when we "see" the manifestation of it, or at least improvement. Most times when we see improvement our faith elevates, only to get discouraged a day or so later when the improvement diminishes. We may know what God is doing because we have His Word to stand on, but very often, circumstances still either encourage or discourage us.

We must believe we have won, that God truly has plans to prosper us and not to harm us, and that God will bring us through. We believe this before any result and before any victory in the Spirit. If we want to see the victory before we believe, we may never see it at all. Mark 11:24 "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. Notice God did not say "When you pray, wait and see, and then believe."

Most Spirit filled Christians believe they believe. However, our own words betray us. Very often we will say or do the exact opposite of what we say we believe, and then when challenged on that belief, defend ourselves, our actions or our faith. We simply need to stand on the Word, whether we understand it or not, or whether our circumstances line up with it.

We must determine to receive conviction so we can rise to new levels of faith. We must stop pretending or rationalizing we have faith when the truth is, circumstances still move us off the Rock. Our faith should not be moved by circumstances but only by truth. It is true no one has the right to judge where we are at in faith, but to have people who hold us accountable is such a tremendous

blessing. It is so good to be challenged and encouraged to rise up in faith when we are sinking into self-pity, leading to discouragement, ending up in unbelief.

How much better to live like this rather than to have people surround us who sympathize and feel sorry for us as we “take” everything the devil is throwing at us. To have people challenge, encourage, and remind us of what we believe in good times and in bad times is central to living a life of victory in Christ. We need people to say to us, “What has the Lord said to you? Are you going to believe Him or what you see?” Praise the Lord for people of God who will keep the standard high.

We all need more compassion, and we all need to be compassionate encouragers. The truth sets us free from what may seem to be truth in the natural realm but is only factual. Understanding our battle in the natural gives us no more encouragement to battle. In fact, it often leads to more chicken mentality of pecking with our heads hanging. Understanding our battle in the spiritual realm however causes us to see things as they truly are, knowing the devil is stealing, killing, and destroying, leading us to rise up in the Spirit of the Lord, don our armor, and fight the good fight of faith. Let us be people who do not wait for physical evidence in order to believe. Let us believe with our only evidence being faith in Jesus Christ Alone!!!!