

e-CWiP interactive apostolic ministry training

Class 102

Doing the Stuff: An Introduction to Ministering in the Supernatural

Session Six Pulpit Notes

1. Healing and the Character of God

A. *Where do we derive our "information" about healing?*

- Some is derived from anecdotes
- Some is derived from religious tradition
- Some is derived from carnal reasoning
- Some is derived from unbelief

B. *God's will to heal is revealed by God's Word*

"...I am the LORD who heals you..." (Ex. 15:26) [thus He attached healing to his very name: YHWH-Rapha]

"...who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases..." (Ps. 103:3)

C. *God's will to heal is reflective of His God's character: His love and compassion*

Jesus is the exact representation of the Father:

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high. (Heb. 1:3)

...He who has seen me has seen the Father (John 14:9)

Jesus did the works He saw His Father doing:

Amen, amen, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father doing: for whatsoever things he does, these also does the Son likewise. For the Father loves the Son, and shows him all things that He himself does, and he will show him greater works than these, so that you may marvel. (John 5:20)

The works of the Father were the works of Jesus:

...the Father who dwells in me, he does the works (John 14:10)

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with him. (Acts 10:38)

2. How Healing Comes

A. The many avenues through which healing comes

1. Sovereign acts of God's power and compassion

Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saves them out of their distresses. He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions. (Ps. 107:19-20)

2. Angelic ministry

3. Intercession

4. Faith in the biblical promises of healing

5. Authoritative commands and declarations

Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I have none; but such as I have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." (Acts 3:6)

6. Laying on of hands

...they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.... (Mark 16:18b)

7. Anointing with oil

Is anyone sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. (Jas. 5:14-15)

8. A manifestation of the Spirit or a healing or miraculous ministry

...to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the workings of miracles... (1 Cor. 12: 9b10a)

And God has set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings... (1 Cor. 12:28a)

9. The casting out of an evil spirit of infirmity or sickness

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to him, "Dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and enter no more into him." (Mark 9:25)

10. Repentance from sin or inner healing which brings healing to the physical man as the inner man is healed

When I kept silence, my bones grew old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin to you, and my iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions to the LORD; and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Ps. 32:35)

B. Why does God heal people in different ways?

God chooses many different ways to heal in order to bring glory to Himself through different means. Each one of the avenues of healing we have just examined will bring glory to the Father in a different way. So He may choose to give glory to the Name of the Son, to show His faithfulness, to show the victory of Christ over the demonic host, to demonstrate His work in the inner man, etc.

It is also true that there can be variety in healing "methods" because illness is caused in a variety of ways.

C. Variety in the healing approaches of Jesus and the Early Church

As we look into the healing ministries of Jesus and the early church believers we can see that there were no “methods” employed. The miracle and healing accounts in the Gospels and Acts are incredibly diverse. Look at this partial list:

- Casting out an unclean spirit: Luke 4:33
- Fever rebuked: Luke 4:38
- Laying on of hands to heal various diseases: Luke 4:40
- Paralysis healed by a command: Luke 5:24
- Spits on the eyes of a blind man: Mark 8:23
- Putting fingers in ears, spitting, touching tongue: Mark 7:33
- Healings and deliverances through applying cloths: Acts 19:11

The lesson? As we begin to pray for people to be healed, we must seek the mind of the Spirit as to how to pray. We must deliberately avoid the use of formulas and instead look to see “*what the Father is doing.*” More on this a little later.

3. How to approach praying for the sick and afflicted

A. Minister in the love of Jesus

This should go without saying, but as we minister to the sick, we are acting as ambassadors of the Kingdom of God. We should be motivated by His love alone. If we fail here we have failed in all. Have a proper concern for the person’s wellbeing:

spirit, soul, and body. Treat the person at all times with the love and dignity you yourself would seek to be treated with.

B. Team ministry is important!

The Lord seems to prefer team ministry to individual ministry in this area. We know that God has given some people gifts of healings and some gifts of workings of miracles, but Jesus still sent them out two by two. There is safety in numbers! Working in a team provides encouragement, feedback, built-in prayer support, allows for confirmation, checks and balances, training of newer ministers, and allows for complementary giftings to be utilized together.

C. General wisdom principles in prayer encounters

- At all times, use godly wisdom in dealing with people. Appearances count: be friendly, be neatly dressed. Smile!
- Put people at ease as much as you can. Introduce yourself by name to everyone who is before you for prayer and those who may be with them, even if you are wearing a name tag. A good supply of breath mints is always appreciated!
- Avoid swarming around people in large numbers to pray, which can create a feeling of claustrophobia. A loud and sustained period of intercession can also be disconcerting to people who might not have ever experienced such things before.
- Lay hands on people with their permission only.

- Do not lay hands on sensitive areas of a person's body. Note that for most people this would include the face. In general you should only lay hands on a person from the shoulders and upwards, especially if you are praying for a person of the opposite sex. If it is deemed necessary for some reason to touch a person in a sensitive area, be sure a person of the same sex will be the one laying on hands.
- Be careful how you speak and display emotional comfort to members of the opposite sex; people seeking prayer can often be emotionally vulnerable to what you may feel is a harmless display of affection. Other persons who are watching can also misunderstand what is happening. Therefore, avoid behaviors such as touching a person's face, rubbing people's backs, caressing someone's hair, and prolonged embraces. Again, these things may be perfectly well-intentioned, but they can be misunderstood. It's possible to be warm and caring without being misinterpreted!
- Pray for and lay hands on children only with their parent's permission.
- Avoid debating with people about doctrine. Jesus prayed for all kinds of people and healed many people whom He knew did not and would not ever believe in Him. We must do the same. *"The LORD is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works."* (Psalm 145:9)

D. No two cases are alike, so avoid using "formulas"

People can be made ill by a variety of causes, so in healing ministry there can be no "methods" or formulas. Illness can arise from: purely physical causes; demonic assignment; emotional trauma; unforgiveness or other sin; and, the inevitability of

death. Again, sensitivity to the Voice of the Lord is required if we are to do more than just ask God to bless someone in general. While that may be fine sometimes, we should at least ask God to reveal to us how to pray more specifically. As we have already seen, the Bible reveals a great variety in “methods” of healing:

- words of command
- expulsion of demons
- rebuking an illness
- a person’s faith
- the faith of another
- physical touch
- anointing with oil, and so forth.

Therefore, we must be led by God! All of this highlights the importance of being intimate enough with the Lord to hear His Voice and receive some level of instruction from Him as to how to proceed!

4. How do we pray? – Using the 5-step healing prayer model

Within the last twenty years, many Christians have learned to pray for others more successfully by using a model for personal ministry developed and taught by the late John Wimber. Known as the “Five Step Prayer Model,” it is simple enough to learn in a few minutes.

Its strength lies not just in its simplicity, but in the fact that it will not allow you to develop a ritual or a cookie-cutter mentality when you pray for the sick. Instead, following this model, you will be forced to rely on God and seek His help and insight. At Harvest Time, we encourage our prayer ministry teams to use this model when circumstances permit, believing that it is a biblical and balanced approach.

The five steps are:

1. the interview;
2. the diagnostic decision;
3. the prayer selection;
4. the prayer engagement; and
5. postprayer directions.

Let's discuss each one of these steps in turn.

Step 1: The Interview

Assuming you've introduced yourself to the person, this is as simple as asking the person, "*What do you want me to pray for?*" This is not a medical interview, seeing as most of us are not doctors, but a short discussion only. Remember that God does not require that we fully understand a person's condition scientifically before we can pray effectively for it!

Step 2: The Diagnostic Decision

This is designed to answer the question of *why the person is suffering from the condition*. Sometimes this is a straightforward matter, as in cases of physical injury. However, in many cases the Holy Spirit will give you insight into the true causes of an illness or problem. He may give a word of knowledge to reveal that the person is really suffering from her arthritis because of bitterness in her life. He may give you a discerning of spirits to know that there is a demonic problem that will need to be addressed in a session of deliverance ministry.

The key at this stage is to “*dialogue*” with the Spirit and ask Him to show you what the problem is. Believe that He will speak to you in this fashion.

Step 3: The Prayer Selection

This step answers the question, “*What kind of prayer should I pray for this person?*” Continue to dialogue with God and ask Him, “Lord, what are you doing? “Do you want to heal, do you want me to tell the person something that will help him receive healing, or what?” Remember that Jesus Himself said He could only do what He saw the Father doing. (John 5:19)

We do not strive to make things happen; we ask God what He would like to see happen and what His intention is for this ministry time. In his excellent book *Power Healing* , John Wimber writes,

“If we believe that he hears us and cares about our needs, we may with confidence approach him and ask him how we should pray. Sometimes, even when I have a clear understanding of the cause of a condition, I am not sure about how to pray specifically. In these instances I pray in my mind, ‘Lord, I know you want to heal this person. Please show me how to pray for him.’ I then pray quietly in tongues, during which time frequently (though not always) God indicates how he wants me to pray for the person.”

You may feel led to give a word of command, lay on hands, deliver a word from the Holy Spirit, ask the Spirit to come down on a person, or simply intercede for the person’s healing. The Lord may give prophetic words for the person. Again, be led of the Lord. You may also note that the person needs deliverance, in which case you can proceed accordingly.

Trust the Lord to show you what you are supposed to do in that ministry session and do not be overwhelmed or think that you are necessarily going to be able to "fix" the person in a single prayer encounter.

Step 4: The Prayer Engagement

This step is meant to answer the question, *“How effective are our prayers?”* It is at this time that you may need to be the most sensitive to what God is doing and to how the person may react to it. People react to God’s power in unpredictable ways and they may weep, shake, praise, jump, fall over, scream, laugh, and do all sorts of things. Remember

that the Lord is not necessarily making the person do these things, but that the person is more likely responding to His Presence.

It's helpful for you to gently tell the person not to be afraid of anything they may be experiencing – indeed, many people encounter the true Presence of God not ever expecting to do so, nor expecting to react as they do. This can create embarrassment or bewilderment. When unbelievers experience these things, we can know more assuredly that it is not manufactured. On the other hand, if someone is manufacturing a manifestation, you may gently suggest to him to relax or to stop if you sense that it is hindering the ministry. More often than not, however, it is better to let the Lord have His way in them and do whatever he is doing – even when we can't figure it out. Look at it this way: if an alcoholic twitches on the floor for an hour and gets up delivered, that is a good thing - it was not the twitching that did it, though! Such things are generally harmless unless they become a distraction to the ministry or the meeting that is taking place.

Pray with your eyes open so you can see if anything is happening or if you are discerning anything. Also, how does the person seem to be reacting? Also, you should ask the person if he is sensing or experiencing anything. Does he sense any relief? Does he feel better? Is God showing him anything he may need to do?

Be aware of the time constraints of your environment, but give God adequate time to do His work. Many times a person experiences help simply by being in the atmosphere of God's Presence. This can take time and should not be rushed. Do not feel pressured by the presence of others waiting around you. Of course, if you are called upon to pray for a large body of people, you will have to believe God to work at a different pace!

Finally, learn to recognize when you should stop praying. Do you sense a release from the Spirit that you are “done” for the moment? If the person does not seem to have received anything you can encourage him to receive more prayer at a future session.

Step 5: The Post-Prayer Direction

Post-prayer directions are meant to help people *maintain whatever they have received during the ministry time*. When a person has been involved in a sin, you may need to give him the words of Jesus to “go and sin no more.” It may be sufficient to counsel him to maintain godly disciplines such as prayer, Bible reading, and fellowship with other Christians. Some people will need follow-up counsel with a pastor or Christian counselor; some will need deliverance.

Encourage the person to be committed to his local church and to be willing to be a disciple of Christ in all things. You may also need to speak comfort and encouragement to those who did not receive. Let them know that God loves them (and you do, too) and that you will continue to pray for them.

Summing it up

Really, the only way to learn how to pray for the sick is... to pray for the sick! You will make some mistakes and there will be a few funny moments! Remember that the Twelve were simple folk who were trained and sent out just like you.

When we read the Book of Acts it's hard to imagine there was a first time Peter or Paul prayed for the sick, but there was and we do not know whether they felt foolish or felt like failures afterwards.

After Jesus had trained His followers, ultimately they came back to Him rejoicing that even the demons were subject to them in His Name. Your experience can be the same if you truly commit yourself to God's purposes and ask Him to use you to bless others.

Remember how Jesus said,

“As the Father has sent Me, so I have sent you.” (John 20:21)

Pray then, to be His hand extended!