

# THE WAY THINGS WERE

## Healing and the Gospel the First 300 Years

It is impossible to separate the ministry of healing and the gospel. 70% of the public ministry of Jesus as recorded in scripture involved healing at some level and that ministry was a hallmark of the early church. The Book of Acts clearly embraces healing as normative and simply an extension of and demonstration of the good news.

In our course we want to look historically and theologically at the ministry of healing and identify three things. First how and why healing is so much a part of the gospel message. Second, what happened to diminish this vital ministry; and third, how is it being restored back into the life of the local church.

### Biblical Worldview

- Creation                      Good, perfect, life with God, nature one another
- Fall                              Sin and death, brokenness, darkness, dominion of darkness
- Consequences                Spiritual death, physical death, separation God and one another
- Redemption                 One born of a woman – rest of the bible addressed this.

### Mankind's spiritual condition

- *Ephesians 2:1-6*

### Mankind's Universal Guilt – all fallen short of glory of God (Rom 3:23)

- *Roman's            1: 18ff – pagan man*
- *Roman's            2:1-16 – moral man*
- *Roman's            2:17-29 - religious man*

### The Reason Jesus Came (partial list)

- *I John 3:8 – destroy the works of the devil*
- *II Corinthians 5:17ff – reconcile us to the Father*
- *John 14:8-10 - Show us the father*
- *Acts 10:38 – heal all oppressed of the devil*
- *John 3:16 – salvation and to be born again*
- *Colossians 1:13 – deliver us from the dominion of darkness*

## Our Condition without Christ and the Holy Spirit

- Weakness in our will – can't resist sin
- Blindness in our minds – *Eph 1:17ff; John 8:32*– truth set us free
- Chaos in our emotions – anger, hatred, vengeance, lust, pride, strife
- Sickness in our bodies – physical, spiritual, emotional (*Gal 5:16-21*)
- Mortality – death to our bodies

## Our Need

- Justification – freedom from the penalty of sin (death)
- Sanctification – freedom from the power of sin (new life in Christ – born again)
- Righteousness – imputed by grace not works – right relationship with God

## The Kingdom of God

Jesus came to show us the Father and to manifest the kingdom of God. I had a number of components –

- **Teaching Component** (Sermon on the Mount, Olivet Discourse, Upper Room Discourses)
  - **Training Component** – Make you fishers of men – follow me
  - **Power Component** – Healing and Deliverance
  - **Spiritual Component** – Destroying the lies and work of the devil – exposing Satan as cause
  - **Universal Component** – God so loved the world
  - **Practical Component** – Applying new life – we will live differently
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- In place of our *estrangement* He offers – forgiveness and reconciliation
  - In place of our *weakness* He offers – power from within through the Holy Spirit
  - In place of our *blindness* He gives – revelation knowledge
  - In place of our *emotional hurts*, He give us – inner healing (Isaiah 61)
  - In place of our *physical illness*, He gives us – physical healing (Isaiah 53)
  - In place of our *physical death*, He gives us – eternal life
  - In place of our *selfish desires*, He gives us – love for Him and His Kingdom

## The Name of Jesus

- Hebrew: Jeshua – God saves or God heals.
- Jesus came to do both, save us from sin and heal us from the effects of sin.
- Christ means Anointed One.

## **Priority of Jesus**

Based on the record we have in the New Testament – main priority was healing us and teaching healing to others – the 12, the 72, the church. He also spent a great deal of time with the poor, the marginalized, and the outcast who could never repay Him.

## **Ministry of the Church**

- Jesus – follow me
- Disciples – preach, heal, deliver, and declare the kingdom (*Luke 9*)
- 72 Disciples – preach and heal – proclaim kingdom (*Luke 10*)
- YOU WILL DO WHAT I DID - *John 14:12*
- Followers will lay hands on the sick and they will recover – *Mark 16:18*

## **Basic Christian Preaching – Gospel Message – Great Commission**

### **Four Components**

1. Make Disciples – evangelize
2. Baptize
3. Heal the sick
4. Deliver those oppressed

The kingdom of God is at hand and the kingdom of Satan is being destroyed; so heal the sick and cast out the devil are evidences of the kingdom.

### **Key Thoughts**

- Doctrine without transformation is only information
- Proclamation without demonstration is merely opinion
- Salvation without healing is incomplete
- Without healing and power – Christianity is sickly, impotent, rhetoric

## **Ministry with Power – the Norm – the Role of the Holy Spirit**

- Three Levels of Power
  - Internal – personal application
  - External – ministry application to sick – physical, emotional
  - Eternal – ministry application in the unseen realm - deliverance
- Power Comes through the Holy Spirit – *Acts 1:8*
- Don't leave Jerusalem without power
- Pentecost is the infilling with power
- *Joel 2:28-29* – Pour out my Spirit

## **Power Ministry Normative in the Church – first three hundred years**

- Available to all through all – not limited to small group, elite, special elect
- Expected, Encouraged, Embraced
  - Origen
  - Tertullian
  - Justin Martyr

## **Next Segment – What Happened?**

**Observation:** – today the vast majority of Christians have not experienced a personal Pentecost. They are dutiful, loyal, committed, attending church on Sunday but not filled with a sense that they could pray for the sick and have anything change.

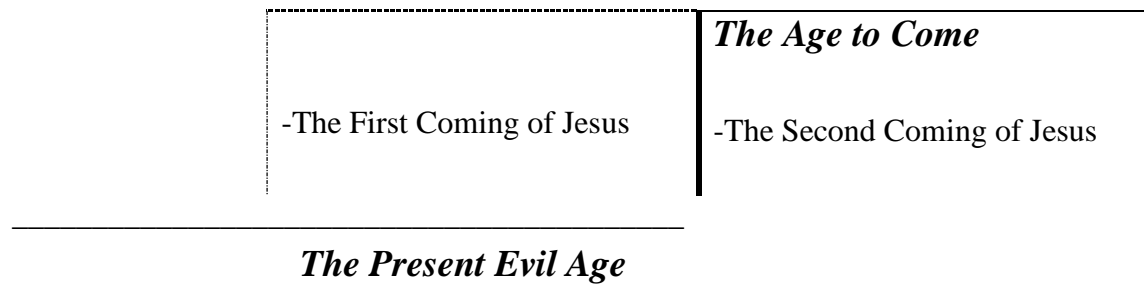
**Training** – almost no mainline seminary has any emphasis on healing as recorded in the New Testament. Most mainline churches have little or no ministry of healing in their churches.

## **Present and Future Aspects**

In the N.T. the dualistic framework of "the present evil age" (*Galatians 1.4*) and "the age to come" (*Ephesians 1.21*) is established, but in a new way. The N.T. teaches that in the coming of Jesus Christ the future age has come into the present; the Kingdom of God has been fulfilled, but not yet consummated; thus it is both present and future. We are part of the "already" and the "not yet". We therefore, are constantly living in eschatological tension -- caught between the old and the new. For example:

- **Mark 1.15**      The time is fulfilled, the kingdom of God is near
- **Matthew 12.28**      When demons are driven out by the Spirit, the Kingdom of God has come upon you
- **Luke 17.21**      The Kingdom of God is among/within you
- **I Co 10.11**      The fulfillment of the age has come upon us, yet
- **Heb 6.5**      We have tasted the powers of the coming age

Note this diagram:



The N.T. was written from this viewpoint: the overlapping of two ages. God's Kingdom had interrupted human history and was now spreading like leaven and growing like a seed. This approach helps us to have a correct understanding of power ministry in the N.T. (i.e., healing must be interpreted in the light of the Kingdom of God). It is important to grasp the above noted truth about the kingdom: it is the already and the not yet. Already people are being healed; not yet is everyone healed. Already the risen Christ is victorious over His enemies; not yet is every enemy vanquished. Already you have been delivered from certain sins; not yet are you victorious over all sins.