

## Questions about Healing (Part 7)

by Bayless Conley

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Hi there! My name is Bayless Conley, and I have some things to share with you. I want to encourage you to take the next few minutes and sit down with me. If you have a Bible, grab it or use your electronic device if you have a Bible on that. We're going to study some Scriptures together. This series that I've been on is really intriguing. We've been looking at the Old Testament and New Testament. We've been delving into the subject of healing. The Bible is filled, in the Old Testament and New Testament, with instances where God healed people and where there's teaching along the lines of divine healing.

Jesus himself, who said, "If you've seen Me, you've seen the Father.", spent much of His earthly ministry healing the sick. In fact, it seems as if you read through the Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, that Jesus was either coming from just having healed someone, in the process of healing someone or going to heal someone. It's just something you can't skip over if you have an open mind. I mean, it is just filled with it. We come to the book of Acts. The church is born, and healing is a big part of the church. Even to the very last chapter of the book of Acts, we find healing taking place. So, it is an important subject, especially if you or a loved one, someone you know is sick. I just want to encourage you, God is still in the business of healing. He is the Lord, and He does not change. Now the Scripture says in Romans 10:17 NKJV,

<sup>17</sup> So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

As a whole, most Christians hear very, very little teaching on the subject of healing. It amazes me that we see the degree of results that we do for how little this subject is preached upon. Now, we hear much preached about the aspect of salvation. That deals with the forgiveness of sins, God's mercy and grace, to forgive a sinner, and wash that sinner clean, and make them part of His family. Jesus, who knew no sin was made to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Christ, and whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Jesus said, "I will not turn away the one who comes to Me." God is rich to all who call upon Him. For this person, this reason, the Son of God was manifested that He might destroy the works of the devil. People go on to say, "Sin is the devil's work," and I would agree with that. But we hear so many messages preached along that line even when we're on another subject. I might be preaching on marriage, child training, or managing your money from the Scriptures, but when I get to the end of the message, I will always segue somehow into a salvation call and give people an opportunity to hear Christ.

So even when it comes to a message about marriage or money, at least in our church, people are still hearing verses about salvation, the kindness of God, and His willingness to forgive. God is not willing that any perish, but that all come to repentance and so on. Most people in most churches, every week when they go, or twice a week, or however often they go, will hear messages about forgiveness. They hear messages about salvation, about God's willingness to restore people and to wash away their sins if they'll repent and come to Him. Thank God for it. Therefore, people's faith is strong along those lines because faith comes by hearing and

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hearing by the Word of God. I just want to put something out there. If we heard half as much teaching about healing as we do about the forgiveness of sins, we would see so many more manifestations of healing in the lives of people. The reason people's faith is so weak along this line, and one of the reasons we see so little of it, is because there's so little preaching about it. If we'll preach about healing, faith will come for healing.

You think about this. Paul was there at Lystra, and it says there he preached the gospel. This is from the book of Acts. There was a man at Lystra who was impotent in his feet. I think it was 40 years or whatever it was that this guy was crippled. The same heard Paul speak. What is Paul speaking? He's speaking the gospel. Paul perceived that the man had faith to be healed. Where did he get the faith to be healed? From listening to Paul preach the gospel. What is the gospel? Jesus saves. Jesus heals. Jesus baptizes in the Holy Spirit, and Jesus is coming again. The apostle Paul obviously preached about Jesus being a healer, and the man had faith to be healed. Faith can bring healing to you, but you need to hear the Word along those lines. So anyway, that's what we're doing in these sessions. We are looking at questions that are asked in the Scriptures, sometimes by people, sometimes by God, and sometimes just the body of Scripture presents a question to us that is connected to healing. We're going to look at one of those right now. It's from the Gospel of Matthew 11:2–3 NKJV. Now, John the Baptist has been arrested and put in prison. It says,

<sup>2</sup> And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, (This is Matthew 11:2.) he sent two of his disciples <sup>3</sup> and said to Him, "Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?"

Somebody says, "Well, what does that have to do with healing?" Let's read on. Jesus answered and said to them, that is the two disciples, who came and asked John's question. "Are You the coming one or do we look for another? Are You the promised Son of God? Are You the Messiah? Are You the Savior of Israel? Are You the Savior of the world? Is it You, or do we look for somebody else?" Verses 4–6 NKJV,

<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered and said to them, "Go and tell John the things which you hear and see: <sup>5</sup> The blind see and the lame walk; the lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up and the poor have the gospel preached to them. <sup>6</sup> And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me."

Jesus said, "Here's the answer to John. You want proof that I'm the one, that I'm the Messiah, that I am the Savior, that I am the one that was prophesied that is to come, that I am the Son of God? All right. The blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. The healings are proof that I am the Son of God. They are signposts pointing to Me and to the reality of My calling and who I am and where I came from." I think some people are thinking today, "Well, do we look for another? What's the difference between Christianity and this religion or that religion? I'm just going to choose this one." People think, "Well, there's a lot of ways to God." But you know what? An integral part of the gospel should be healing. Jesus is still a healer. Hebrews 13:8 NKJV says,

<sup>8</sup> Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

He does not change. As believers, we're commanded to lay our hands on the sick. I truly think there's a lot of people in the world who are inwardly asking the question, "Well, yeah. There's Christianity, but should I look for something else?" Well, if they saw the signs and the wonders and the healings, if those things were taking place in our midst, that would be the signpost that

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points a lot of people to Jesus. Yes, certainly, we need to preach the gospel. But if you read through the book of Acts, Paul says, “From here to here, I fully preach the gospel with signs and with wonders.” Healing is a part of the gospel of Christ. I think that preachers should boldly preach about it. We’re not responsible for the results. That part is up to God; He’s the healer. Our part is to proclaim it. I think we should proclaim healing just as readily and just as boldly as we preach the forgiveness of sins.

If we’ll preach it, faith will arise in people’s hearts to receive it. Preach it so people like the man at Lystra can hear and have faith to be healed. Preach it so people like the woman with the issue of blood who came in the press behind and touched the hem of Jesus’ garment, and Jesus said to her, “Your faith, daughter, your faith has made you whole.” Where does faith come? Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. The woman must have obviously heard about Jesus. Jesus, when He went into the synagogue, preached, “Hey, the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me because He’s anointed Me to open the eyes of the blind. He’s anointed Me to set at liberty the captives. The Spirit of God is upon Me to bring healing and to preach the gospel to the poor.” Obviously, that woman somehow got wind of that.

Just speaking about the very last part of the last book of the Old Testament. The book of Malachi speaks about the coming Messiah. One of the designations, one of the names for the Messiah, the coming Savior, the Scripture says is the son of righteousness. The Messiah will arise with healing in His wings. Now, you see, that’s just pretty poetic language. Well, actually, the word wings is the same Hebrew word translated as “the hem of a garment” numerous times throughout the Old Testament. It is read that way by people. The Son of righteousness will arise with healing in the hem of His garment. So what does the woman do? She comes to the press behind in her weakened condition on her hands and knees, and she grabs the hem of His garment. Jesus says, “Daughter, your faith has made you well.”

Well, she had faith in her promise. She obviously was familiar with the promise of the Messiah and with the Word of God that said, “The Son of righteousness, the Messiah, when He comes, will have healing in the hem of His garment.” She grabbed the hem of His garment by faith. He said, “Daughter, your faith has made you well.” So, there’s this story with John. John’s in a dark prison. He previously proclaimed that Jesus was the Son of God and the one to follow. God revealed it to John, but now, in the darkness of that prison cell, he begins to doubt. So, he sends his messengers, and they ask Him, “Are You the one, or do we need to keep looking?” Jesus said, “All right. Here’s proof that I’m the one.” Healing. Miracles. Friend, that hasn’t changed because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I, for one, believe in a gospel that is punctuated with the supernatural, that is punctuated with healing, and with miracles. I, for one, am going to preach it boldly and let God do His work. I will come to another question. This will be the final one in our series. Luke 17:12–19 NKJV. It says,

<sup>12</sup> Then as He entered a certain village, (talking about Jesus) there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. <sup>13</sup> And they lifted up their voices and said, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” <sup>14</sup> So when He saw them, He said to them, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. <sup>15</sup> And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, <sup>16</sup> and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup> So Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? <sup>18</sup> Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup> And He said to him, “Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well.”

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The questions Jesus asked, “Weren’t there ten cleansed?” Obviously, there were. “Where’s the nine? Is the only one who returned to give glory to God this foreigner?” He wasn’t even a Jew. Now, there’s a few things in this story that I think are important. When the ten lepers cried out, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” they were obviously crying out for healing. Jesus understood that healing is a mercy. He is our merciful and compassionate High Priest. The mercies of the Lord are new every morning. God is still full of mercy and compassion. He does not change. The mercy of healing is still available today.

So, they cried out for mercy, for Jesus to heal them. He said, “Go show yourself to the priest.” Interesting. They actually had to go by faith. Under the old covenant, it says if a leper, somebody who had leprosy, if they were healed, once they were healed, they would go to the priest. The priest would check them out, and if indeed they’d been healed, a certain sacrifice was to be made. A sacrifice that pointed to Christ, by the way, showing that healing is a part of His redemptive work. It wasn’t just metaphorical for sin. It was literally for physical healing. So, then the person who had leprosy, sacrifices would be offered, and they would be able to go back and be integrated or reintegrated into society. So, Jesus tells them to go.

It’s interesting. The Scripture says that they were healed as they went. As they went, they saw that they were healed. They weren’t healed immediately. They could have said, “Well, Lord, you know that we have to be healed first. You know, this leprosy is disfiguring. We look terrible. I can look at him. He can look at me. We can tell we’re not healed. What do you mean go to the priest? Heal us first. Didn’t You understand our question?” Jesus is telling them to go by faith because when they set off, there was no physical evidence that they’d been healed.

It says that as they went, they were cleansed. As they went, meaning when they were standing there, and Jesus said, “Go.”, they were not cleansed yet. At least it had not physically occurred. The manifestation hadn’t occurred in their body. They had to go by faith. “All right, Jesus. I’m going to take You at Your Word, and I’m going to step out and go.” Friend, faith is stepping out on the Word of Christ over the aching void with nothing under your feet except His Word, His promise, and His declaration. His Word will hold you up.

I remember reading this story about a guy who moved to the eastern part of the United States, where they have some severe winters. He had been from the south and was unaccustomed to so much snow, ice, sleet, etc. He went down to a local lake one day in the middle of winter. This is like the end of February. The lake was frozen and he thinks, “I wonder if this ice will hold me up.” He goes out just timidly and begins to put his weight on the ice. He goes out a little more and puts his weight on the ice.

He’s trying to be as light as a feather as he’s going on. All of a sudden, he hears this rumbling and branches cracking. He looks over and there’s this old snowy road with a flatbed truck coming down the snowy road. It has a full load of firewood on the back. I mean, there’s cords and cords of firewood in the back of this pickup truck. The pickup truck goes down that snowy road and goes right out over that frozen lake. It drives across the frozen lake, goes up a road on the other side, and disappears. Thousands of pounds, and the guy thinks, “Here I am, trying to be as light as a feather. Certainly, this ice is going to hold me up.”

Well, friend, you don’t need to timidly step out on the Word of God. It will hold you up. They went, and they were cleansed as they went. One of them suddenly saw he was healed, and he returned. With a loud voice, he glorified God, fell down on his face, and gave Jesus thanks. He was a Samaritan. He wasn’t a Jew. He was from the people that the Jews called half-breeds. They were Jews who had intermarried with the Canaanite tribes and the people of the land

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there. They lived separate from the pure-blooded Jews, and some of the Jews really looked down their noses at the Samaritan communities.

Jesus asks the question, "Were not ten cleansed?" Well, obviously, they were. He asks, "But where are the nine?" There's only one who returned to give thanks and glory to God. I wonder if the ratio is the same today of those who receive blessing, healing, and restoration from the Lord. Do they just go their way, or do they render thanks to God? Giving praise to God is so important. Thanking Him for the things He has done is so important. We should not take God's gifts for granted. May we be like this one leper who fell on his face and, with a loud voice, gave glory to God and thanked Jesus. If you're healthy, you ought to thank God for your health every day. It wouldn't hurt you to do it with a loud voice.

Something else that I find interesting. It says the ten lepers were cleansed. Thank God for that. That is a marvelous thing. But if a person had leprosy, the leprosy would eat away digits. It might eat away the end of somebody's nose. It was unsightly. It was contagious. Literally, some would only have stumps for hands in the advanced stages of that disease. It was a terrible disease, but they were cleansed. Now, maybe they lost digits. Maybe they lost an ear or whatever. Well, they were cleansed. They no longer have the disease. Marvelous! They can go back into society.

I'd rather be back in society and be with my family if I've only got four fingers, rather than having to be isolated from them. So, they're cleansed. They no longer have leprosy, but something extra happened to the guy who came back to give thanks. Jesus said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well." Other translations say, "Your faith has made you whole." It's made you complete. It is intimated by the Scripture that this man wasn't just cleansed, but he was made whole. If he had lost part of an ear, part of his nose, or part of a finger, or whatever it was, he wasn't just cleansed. He was made whole.

I think there is something very, very powerful about offering thanks to God. He is certainly worthy of our thanksgiving. He is certainly worthy of our praise. If I were to sit down, I could come up with a very long list of things I'm thankful for. As I sit here in this seat, speaking to you, I don't have any pain in my body. I'm super thankful for that. My legs work. My hands work. My brain works. My lungs work. My heart is beating. My wife, I kissed her goodbye before I left. We were standing in the kitchen, and I gave her a goodbye kiss and told her I'd see her later today. My wife is healthy. She is of sound mind. All of our kids are healthy. Our grandkids are healthy.

I have so much to be thankful for. I ate something before I came in to film this today. I'm so thankful that I have food to put on my table. I've got a nice cup of tea here. I happen to like tea. You know what? Thank God I have a teabag and can make a cup of tea. Not everybody can do that. There are people in this world who are in dire straits, and having a cup of tea would be a great luxury to them. When I leave here today, I have a vehicle to drive. I could go on and on and on and on. I've got friends who genuinely love me.

In fact, I have friends who, without hesitation, would take a bullet for me, and I would do the same for them. I've got a lot to be thankful for. You ought to count your blessings. I think it brings us into the richness of God, just like the man who had been a leper, this Samaritan. He was cleansed like the other. Jesus said, "Weren't there not ten cleansed?" They're all cleansed, but only one of them was made whole. I think our thanksgiving brings us into a richer dimension of the blessings of God, the presence of God, and the goodness of God. We need to be people of thanksgiving. If you have not thanked God recently for the blessings in your life, you should do so.



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Now, I could go on and on about that, but let me just encourage you. In this series, we have been looking at Jesus, the healer. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. What He did walking the shores of Galilee and what He did in the villages of Israel, He will do today. He will do it for you. We need to learn to take Him at His Word. God is honored when we believe His Word. If you'll put it in your heart and, this might help some of you.

Some people say, "Pastor, it's just so hard for me to have faith." It's not hard for you to have faith. You don't have a faith problem. You have a Word problem. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." You should never try and have faith. Having faith is not like, "Oh, I'm going to believe God. I'm trying to trust. I'm trying. Oh, it's not working. I'm trying. I'm trying." That is not having faith. Faith comes unconsciously when the Word of God is abiding in your heart. Jesus said, "If you abide in Me, My Word abides in you. Ask what you will. It'll be done for you."

Having faith for prayer, having faith in the promises comes from having those promises dwell in our heart. Faith comes unconsciously when the Word is dwelling in your heart, just like wet comes with water. You don't say, "Well, can I have a glass of water and please bring the wet with it?" No, the wet comes with the water. You don't even think about it. You should never try and have faith. Just get into the Word of God. Meditate on the Word of God. By the way, meditation is a good biblical word. Psalm 1 says, the person who is like a tree planted by the rivers of water, is fruitful and brings forth its fruit in its season. It says they meditate in the law of the Lord day and night, which means "to reflect upon." It means "to mull over and over." In fact, the Hebrew word even means "to speak aloud, to mutter or to murmur to yourself."

When Joshua took over for Moses, the instructions of the Lord to Joshua were, "Hey, don't let this Word depart from you." He says "Meditate on it. Meditate in My law day and night. Then you make your way prosperous. Then you'll have good success. Meditate in it day and night." It means to reflect upon. It means to think about. It means to mull over and over, not take a quick glance, but even to speak aloud. The verses I've been sharing in this series and the verses from this very chapter, I would encourage you to read them and then reread them. Then, reread them again and then read them aloud. Then, read them one verse at a time, say it out loud, and think about it.

Look at the next verse. Read about it. Read it, look at each individual word, and think about it. Read about it. Read it in its context. Read the whole chapter together. Read what comes before the section you want and what comes after the section you want. Think about it. That's meditation. Take time. Don't be in a hurry. One of the greatest tragedies in the church today is undigested theology. When the Word has never gotten from people's heads into their hearts. When it comes to this very important subject of healing, we need to get God's Word from our head to our heart. How does that happen? It happens through meditation. You start out with information, then comes meditation, then comes illumination, then comes action, and then comes manifestation. Information.

I need to get into God's Word. I need to find out what it says, and then I need to meditate on it. I need to reflect upon it. That brings illumination to my heart. Faith arises. Light comes. Then, the most natural thing in the world is to act upon it. That brings action, and the result of that is manifestation. God does His part. Friend, have a love affair with your Bible. It'll change your life. It'll change your world. It can change your family. It can change everything.

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Well, my time is almost gone. I just want to tell you, maybe you don't hear this from anybody else in your life. I just want to tell you that you are loved. Yes, you heard me right. You're loved. God loves you. We may not have met, but I'm going to say it. "I love you." If I could sit down with you at your kitchen table, share a cup of tea, and talk about the Scriptures. You could ask some questions. I could ask some questions. Maybe we could pray together. I'd love to do that. This is sort of the next best thing.

But you know what? You are. You are loved. You are created in God's image. God has things planned for you, good things planned for you, and you just need to know that you are loved, my friend. We would, by the way, love to hear from you. If you've been blessed by the broadcast, send us an email. If you support us with your prayers and with your finances, we can take these programs to people around the world. Right now, we dub this into multiple languages, and we put it on networks around the planet so people can hear the things you're hearing. We can only do that through partnership. So, if God leads you to do it, we would be blessed, and I believe you would be blessed as well. I will see you next time. Until then, God bless!

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