

# Healing Prayer

*A Resource for Elders*



## Theological Foundations – Thinking <sup>(1)</sup>

---

1. The Four-Fold Gospel – (2)\_\_\_\_\_ – James 5:15
2. Why did Jesus heal so many people?
  - a. To get attention
  - b. To prove He could forgive sin
  - c. To prove He was God – Luke 5:20
  - d. To show His compassion
  - e. To show He was the Lord of all life
  - f. To show that (3)\_\_\_\_\_
3. Healing is made available in the atonement – Isaiah 53:4-5 & Matthew 8:16
4. We are instructed, as church leaders, to pray for people for healing (James 5:14-16)
5. Healing is a sign of God's kingdom invading the domain of darkness (Matthew 4:23; Luke 9:1-2)
6. Healing is meant to bear witness to the proclaimed gospel. The template we see in Acts is that the Word preached blazed the trail, and the (4)\_\_\_\_\_ confirmed it (Acts 14:3).

## Pragmatic Questions – Leading <sup>(5)</sup>

---

1. Why doesn't everyone get healed?
  - a. Ultimately, we are not sure (see Hebrews 2:4 – it is by His sovereign will)
  - b. What the gospel tells us: we *have* been healed (past), we *are* being healed (present), we *will* be healed (future).
2. Where does (6)\_\_\_\_\_ come from?
  - a. Not from our faith
  - b. Not from within
3. Who should “ask” or come for healing?
  - a. The (7)\_\_\_\_\_ in James 5 connotes one who is in unusual and difficult circumstances. The word indicates the person is “exhausted” and “worn out.” This seems to indicate that this is not a common cold.
4. Does this actually work? (8)\_\_\_\_\_
  - a. Subjective Experience
  - b. Documented cases<sup>1</sup>
5. What's with the oil?
  - a. Used to anoint, consecrate (set apart) and empower people by the Spirit in Scripture (Exodus 28:41; Hebrews 1:9; Psalm 89:20)
    - i. Priests, prophets and Kings were always anointed as they entered their office
    - ii. Jesus is the true Anointed One (Isaiah 61:1)
    - iii. These references to anointing implies a plea for the Spirit's action or a revelation of the Spirit's action (in prophets, priests & kings)
    - iv. It is a symbol of the Holy Spirit (it does not confer grace or remit sin)
  - b. Jesus used it when He healed people (Mark 6:13)
  - c. The Bible (9)\_\_\_\_\_ us to (James 5:14-15)

---

<sup>1</sup> See Craig Keener's two volume set “Miracles”

Answer Key:

(1) Rightly (2) Christ as Healer (3) Salvation starts now (4) signs wonders & healings (5) Wisely (6) the power (7) sick (8) Yes! (9) instructs

- i. Anointing with oil is an external act of the body that accompanies and gives expression to, the internal desire and disposition of faith to dedicate someone in a special way.
  - ii. In anointing someone we are symbolizing that the person is being set apart for God's special attention and care.
- 6. Is there a gift of healing? Yes (and we should seek it!)
  - a. See 1 Corinthians 12:8-11
- 7. Should one stop receiving or seeking medical help?
  - a. Absolutely not. We appeal to God in, alongside, and over the medical treatments.

## **Practical Implementation – Caring** <sup>(10)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_

---

### **Before we pray**

1. If possible, have time for people to reflect and respond to <sup>(11)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.
2. As James 5 indicates, the sick should call the <sup>(12)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. In other words, it is their initiative.
3. Spend time before this ministry by preparing your mind and spirit. Ask: What would you want me to say to this person? Is there a Biblical story, picture or verse that comes to mind that I should share? Is there another word or picture that should be shared with them?
4. Ideally, we minister in <sup>(13)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ (we don't go alone!).

### **The Prayer Time**

1. Ask what it is they are asking God to do. Is it emotional, spiritual or <sup>(14)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ healing? *"What are we praying for today?"*
2. Ask if there is any unconfessed or hidden sin in their life that has distracted their attention and focus to Jesus. While Jesus can heal despite us, we need to allow the Spirit to search and bring to mind sin.
3. Listen intently as they express <sup>(15)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_. Sometimes it is laser focused, and other times they simply aren't sure. Give them enough time to process and explain where they are at.
4. Anoint with oil.
  - a. Give the person a brief introduction of what oil is and why we do this (see point 5 in *Pragmatic Questions*)
  - b. Anoint their forehead with oil.
5. Ask if you can <sup>(16)</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ on the person. Back, arm or hand is recommended.
6. Pray. We don't have to pray loudly, quickly or with robust theological terms. We simply pray *"...in Jesus name."* (see Appendix 1).
  - a. Listen for how God would lead you in this time. Is He saying anything to you that was not revealed previously?<sup>2</sup>
  - b. Feel free to open your eyes to watch the person being prayed for. Is there body language changing? Any facial expressions to note?

---

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix 3 point E.

Answer Key:

(10) Intentionally (11) God's voice (12) Elder's (13) pairs (14) physical (15) their desire (16) lay hands

**After the prayer time**

1. Ask the person if they felt anything or feel different.
2. Instruct them to pay attention for signs of healing.
3. Ask them to follow up with you or report back in a few weeks (or arrange way to connect)

**Tips:**

1. Don't (17)\_\_\_\_\_ – point them to Jesus
2. Practice empathy (there is a difference between empathy and (18)\_\_\_\_\_)<sup>3</sup>
  - a. Empathy: promotes connection – “I can’t even imagine what this is like for you, but I want you to know that I am here for you.”
  - b. (19)\_\_\_\_\_: creates unhealthy power dynamics that promotes disconnection – “I’m so sorry that this happened to you...At least it’s not worse...”
3. Be mindful about (20)\_\_\_\_\_ (who could possibly be hearing this conversation?)

---

<sup>3</sup> See Brene Brown on Empathy vs. Sympathy: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Ewgu369Jw>

Answer Key:

(17) counsel (18) sympathy (19) sympathy (20) confidentiality

## APPENDIX ONE: Prayer of Healing (Sample)

“Father, in the name of Jesus, I come before you to ask you to heal \_\_\_\_\_.

I know that the prayer of faith will make the sick person well. Please raise them up!  
Thank you for forgiving them of their sins.”

“My hope is in You, Lord, His Healer. I believe You are willing and able to do this.  
Your name is Jehovah Rapha, the God who heals, and at Your name every knee will  
bow including \_\_\_\_\_ (name of disease).”

“Thank You, Jesus, for going to the cross so that we could be healed.”

“But He was pierced for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the  
punishment that brought us peace was upon Him, and by His wounds we are healed.”  
(Isaiah 53:5)

“You forgive all of our sins and heal all our diseases. I pray that You satisfy  
\_\_\_\_\_ with good things and renew their youth like the eagles. Your plans  
for them are good; they have a wonderful future and great hope.”

“Thank You, Lord, that Your Spirit lives in them – the same Spirit that raised Jesus  
from the dead lives in their mortal body! I stand in faith for my friend. Your word will  
accomplish what You sent it to do – it will not return to You empty. Nothing is  
impossible with our mighty God!”

In the name of Jesus, Amen.

## APPENDIX TWO: How to Lead Someone to Jesus

### *God's Word says that He loves us.*

- John 3:16 – For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

### *We all have sinned and not measured up to God's standard for righteous living.*

- Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- Sin is doing anything that you know is wrong, and everyone, except Jesus, has sinned.

### *The Bible also says there is a price for sin*

- Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
- This death is both spiritual and eternal. No one can be saved from this death by good works or by being a moral person. The only way to be saved from the penalty of sin is to somehow provide payment.

### *God sent His son Jesus, who died on the cross for our sins and rose from the grave.*

- John 14:6 – Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”
- Jesus provided the only sufficient payment for sin by dying on a cross many years ago. He took upon himself the punishment for all sin.

### *We come to God, inviting Jesus to be our Lord and Savior.*

- Romans 10:9 – If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- When you asked God to forgive your sins and believed Jesus died for you, God accepted you for Jesus’ sake, your sins were forgiven, and Jesus became your Savior.

### **WHEN SOMEONE INVITES JESUS INTO THEIR LIFE, PLEASE DO THE FOLLOWING**

- Pray with them.
- Ask them if they would like a Bible.
- Have them complete a Connect Card. Check the box “I Chose to Follow Christ today.” (Hand in the Connect Card to Guest Services).
- Encourage them to go to the next Alpha Class and/or appropriate Life Group.
- Ask them if they have any questions.

## APPENDIX THREE: "Spirit-filled life and ministry"

*(an excerpt from a Pastoral Counselling course from Dr. Wayne Grudem)*

### Introduction:

---

Some ideas of possible ways to encourage people to be sensitive to the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit

#### 1. "Personal ministry prayer"

- a. What is "personal ministry prayer"?
  - one person praying for another person about a specific need in his or her life
  - done in the person's presence with expectation that God will minister to the person's needs as we pray.
  - includes praying for non-Christians as well as Christians (Luke 4:40)
- b. What benefits come to a church where all regular attenders feel comfortable in praying for people this way?
  - there are many needs (in church, in friendship circles)
  - people will grow in habit of praying for each other
  - God will often bless our efforts and answer prayer - and the church will be known as a place where people really meet with God
  - even children can be taught to pray in this way (often much faith)

#### 2. Expect that God will answer in some way when you pray for someone

- a. The kingdom of God is breaking into this present evil age
  - Matt. 6:10
  - Matt. 11:2-5 (not a military/ political kingdom)
  - Matt. 12:15, 22, 28
- b. The pattern of Jesus' life: tell the "good news" of the kingdom (word) and demonstrate its effect in people's lives (power)
  - Matt. 4:23
  - Matt. 9:35-36
- c. He told the 12 disciples to do the same
  - Matt. 10:1-8
- d. He told the 70 disciples to do the same
  - Luke 10:1-2, 8-9
- e. He told his disciples to teach all Christians to do the same
  - Matt. 28:18-20
  - Note Rom. 15:18-19: Paul's pattern in all his evangelistic ministry was the preaching of the Word *along with* the demonstration of God's miraculous power in people's lives

### 3. What about laying on of hands?

Note that Jesus and his disciples often (not always) placed their hands on people they ministered to (not all verses say “hands” in NIV — check Greek text or NASB, RSV)

#### a. Jesus

- Luke 4:40
- Luke 5:13
- Luke 13:13 (etc.)
- Matt. 19:13-15 (children)  
People thought this was the ordinary way Jesus healed people:
- Mark 5:23
- Mark 7:32

#### b. Disciples

- Acts 14:3 ("signs and wonders ... done by their hands")
- Acts 19:11 ("God did extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul")
- Acts 28:8
- Note also: to equip, empower for some ministry or service
  - Acts. 6:6
  - Acts 13:3
- Or to impart some spiritual gift
  - 1 Tim. 4:14
  - 2 Tim. 1:6

#### c. The reason:

- Luke 6:19: God's power is sometimes mediated through personal touch (see also Mark 5:27-30: woman who touched Jesus's garment)
  - see also Mark 6:2 (literally, "by his hands")
- Also: an increase in expectant faith
- It gives a vivid picture of God ministering through us to others

#### d. An "elementary doctrine": Heb. 6:2

#### e. A caution: this is not mechanical or "magic": God works in response to our heart attitude of faith: Gal. 3:5

### 4. Interactive prayer: pray specifically and then wait quietly for further direction from God

#### a. The Holy Spirit often guides us in our prayers (note verses on being led by the Spirit: Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:16, 18, 25; also Acts 15:28)

- brings Scripture to mind
- gives more insight into the situation

#### b. The Holy Spirit doesn't always conceal his work (as some believe), but often gives evidence of his work (this is his pattern throughout the Bible, and especially in NT age)

- Num. 11:25-26: 70 elders
- Jud. 14:6, 19; 15:14, etc: Samson (also other judges)
- 1 Sam. 10:6, 10: Saul
- John 1:32: Jesus's baptism
- Acts 2:2-3: Pentecost
- Acts 10:44-46: Cornelius's household
- John 7:39: like a river of living water
- Rom. 8:16: bears witness with our spirit
- 1 Cor. 12:7-11: each spiritual gift is a "manifestation of the Spirit" (v. 7)
  - also Heb. 2:4



- miracles give evidence of God's presence and power:
  - Heb. 2:4
  - 1 Cor. 2:4
  - Rom. 15:18-19
- examples of the Holy Spirit's evidence of his work today (that may at times be noticed in the person you are praying for)
  - weeping, warmth, "tingling," changed expression, peace
  - OK to pray with your eyes open — to see if the Holy Spirit is beginning to answer even as you pray

**5. Spiritual sensitivity: You can sometimes sense things in your spirit**

- Luke 1:47-47: Mary: "my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"
- John 13:21: Jesus "troubled in spirit"
- Mark 2:8: Jesus "perceiving in his spirit"
- Luke 8:46: Jesus perceiving that power had gone forth from him
- Mark 12:30: "love the Lord your God w/ all your ... soul"
- Luke 24:32: hearts burned within them
- Acts 14:9: seeing that he had faith (!)
- Acts 17:16: Paul's spirit was provoked within him
- Rom. 8:16: Holy Spirit bears witness with our spirit
- 1 Cor. 7:34: "how to be holy in body and spirit"
- 2 Cor. 2:13: "my spirit (pneuma) could not rest ..."
- 2 Cor. 7:1: "let us cleanse ourselves from every defilement of body and spirit"
- 2 Cor. 7:13: "his spirit (pneuma) has been set at rest by you all"
- Gal. 6:18: "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be w/ your spirit"
- [compare John 4:23-24; Phil. 3:3, on worshiping God in spirit]

**6. The more you pray for people in this way, the more practical pastoral wisdom you will have in knowing what to pray (experience and Christian maturity help a lot!)**

- no need to try to distinguish “natural” from “supernatural” source of information