



GOD IS ABLE, Part 6: Able to Heal
Sermon Small Group Notes
Speaker: Pastor Dave Patterson

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

- This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session together. After considering the needs of your group, you may choose one of the following options:
 1. one section of questions
 2. one or two questions from each section
- Feel free to adapt the format to meet the needs of your group. If your group is mature and wants to dig deeper, add Scripture and ask suitable questions. Remember that this is only a guide.
- Personal application is key to everyone's growth and should be included in every discussion. When asked how he or she intends to apply a certain principle a group member may say, "I need to spend more time in the Bible and in prayer." It is important for you to help group members make applications that are more specific and commit to a specific plan of action by asking, for example, "How are you going to begin?" An example is to get up 30 minutes earlier each morning, spending 15 minutes reading the Bible and 10 minutes in prayer. Encourage each group member to be accountable to the group for personal progress at the next meeting.
- As the leader your goal is to help bring the group into a stimulating discussion that helps the members recognize their need for personal life change. Ultimately you want them to be willing to commit to change with accountability to the group. Accountability helps us to persevere in our commitments and achieve the blessings of success.

INTRODUCTION

For a long, long time one of the most debated issues in the body of Christ has been healing, divine healing. Does God heal today? Are creative miracles still happening?

There are two general Theological camps when it comes to the discussion, one is the **Theology of Continuation**, which simply stated believes that the gifts and operation of the Holy Spirit that we read about in the New Testament are continuing until the return of Christ. The other side is **Cessationism, or cessationist**, who believe that creative miracles, divine healings, the offices of prophet and apostle and a few other items, all *ceased* with death of the last apostle listed in the New testament.

This system of belief and teaching began to take root around the second century but really calcified and was made popular by John Calvin in the 15th century

"The gifts of healing, like the rest of the miracles, which the Lord willed to be brought forth for a time, have vanished away"

Calvin (1509-1564)

The objective of this session is to clarify the role of healing in the New Testament Church, build faith for healing, and then actually pray for the sick!

MESSAGE

[James 5:13-16]

Are any of you suffering hardships? You should pray. Are any of you happy? You should sing praises.

¹⁴ Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders (leaders) of the church to pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord.

¹⁵ Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

God Is Able To Heal

1. Our GOD is a Healing God!

[Exodus 15:26]

*He said, "If you listen carefully to the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for **I am the LORD, who heals you.**" ('Jehovah Rapha')*

His Name reveals His Character, healing is not just something God does, it's who He is!

2. God Promised a Healing Messiah would come

[Isaiah 53: 4-5]

*Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and **by his wounds we are healed.***

[1 Peter 2:24]

*“He himself bore our sins” in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; **“by his wounds you have been healed.”***

We are not interested in creating an emotional environment to hype people up to receive healing, we are simply looking at the word of God and discovering what has been provided for us at the cross. All we need to do is come into alignment with Gods word.

[Matthew 4:23-24]

*Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And **he healed every kind of disease and illness.***

*²⁴ News about him spread as far as Syria, and people soon began bringing to him all who were sick. And whatever their sickness or disease, or if they were demon possessed or epileptic or paralyzed—**he healed them all.***

[Matthew 8:16-17]

That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. ¹⁷ This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, “He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases.”

3. Jesus empowered his disciples to heal the sick

[Matthew 10:7-8]

Go and announce to them that the Kingdom of Heaven is near. ⁸ Heal the sick, raise the dead, cure those with leprosy, and cast out demons. Give as freely as you have received!

[Mark 6:]

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits.

¹² They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³ They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

4. Jesus empowered the N.T. Church to heal!

[Matthew 28:20]

Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Now you might be thinking, I know and believe what Gods word says concerning healing, but what I read in scripture isn't what i am experiencing. Let's take a look at some reasons we may not see the healing we seek.

11 - Biblical Reasons for a lack of healing:

- 1. Unbelief:** [Matthew 13:58, 17:17-20, Mark 16:14]
 - A. If there is a lack of healing due to unbelief, then Faith would be why we receive healing.
- 2. Unforgiveness toward others:** [Mark 11:24-26]
- 3. Unconfessed sin:** [John 5:5-8,14]
- 4. Pride:** [2 Kings 5:1,10-11]
 - A. Humility is required for healing
- 5. Wrong religious attitudes:** [Matthew 16:1-6]
- 6. Demonic forces:** [Luke 9:1]
 - Spirit of Infirmity - [Luke 13:10-11]
 - Spirit of Epilepsy - [Matt 17:14-15]
 - Spirit of Depression (Heaviness) - [Isaiah 61:3]
 - Deaf and Dumb (Mute) Spirit - [Mark 9:25]
 - Spirit of Blindness - [Matt. 12:22]
 - Sickness as a result of Demonic Oppression - [Acts 10:38]
- 7. Lack of perseverance in prayer :** [Luke 11:5-8, Ch 18]
- 8. Continued neglect of our body:** [2 Kings 20:7]
 - A. Lack of: proper nutrition, medical attention, exercise, diet, stress relief, wisdom...
- 9. A broken spirit:** [Prov.17:22 , 18:14]
- 10. Lack of prayer and fasting:** [Matthew 17:21, Isaiah 58:6,8]
- 11. The mystery of the sovereignty of God:**

[Deuteronomy 29:29]

“The LORD our God has secrets (mysteries) known to no one. We are not accountable for them, but we and our children are accountable forever for all that he has revealed to us, so that we may obey all the terms of His instructions.

“God can’t always be explained, but He can always be trusted!”

Our response to this mystery is to always move forward in **faith**, believing.

Faith is: believing the Word of God and acting upon it no matter how I feel!

[James 5:14-15]

Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders (leaders) of the church to pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord.

Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Has your faith in Gods ability been increased through this series?
2. What has your experience been in regards to healing?
3. Have you ever witnessed a miraculous healing or been healed?
4. In light of the list of reasons for the lack of healing, what areas could you grow in?
5. When it comes to the mystery of the sovereignty of God, what can we do to walk out our faith regardless of the results we experience?
6. Is anyone in your small group in need of healing? Go to the kitchen, get some vegetable oil and pray for them. Don't forget to let us know what God does.