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 God’s 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 God’s 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. **Unforgivness 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 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 God's 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.