

Blessings to everyone! I pray that you are all enjoying the wonderful favor of God's love.

MYESE!

Part 22: Elevate Your Life!

Texts:

Ephesians 2:6 (NIV) - *"God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus."*

Luke 9:1 (NIV) - "When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases."

James 5:13-16 (NIV) - "Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. [14] Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. [15] And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. [16] Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective."

We have been speaking about the "Twelve Dimensions of Spiritual Authority."
Today we shall move to Level 10:

"Authority to Heal"

A. Does God still heal today and is there a true ministry of healing that is genuine and authentic?

1. You may have no reason to ask this question today or tomorrow, but I can almost guarantee that at some point in your life, it will be of great importance to you.
2. It may not be for yourself, but your child, husband or wife, mother, father, or friend will someday desperately need a supernatural touch of healing. That's when you will ask this question!
3. There isn't a family here today who hasn't been affected by cancer, diabetes, or heart disease. The sheer number of people facing these life-threatening illnesses is absolutely staggering!

B. When I use the word "healing," I'm talking about a genuine, bona-fide miracle—not some gimmick or trickery of an unscrupulous person inspired by a love of money or fame.

1. **Joke:** "A man is healed from the fear of someone hiding under his bed."

A haggard, downcast man visits a psychiatrist, complaining that he could not sleep. With huge, dark circles under his eyes, he begins his pitiful story of weight loss, being unable to focus on his work, and the probability of losing his job because of poor performance.

When the psychiatrist asked the cause for his problem, he replied, "Every night I have this terrifying, irrational fear that something is hiding under my bed. I'm afraid to go to sleep for fear of what could happen to me during the night. Can you help me, doctor?" he asked. "I can't continue to live like this!"

Smiling, the psychiatrist replied, "Sure, I can fix that. All you have to do is come to my office twice a week for a treatment for the next three to five years. I'm sure we can correct this condition!"

"So, what will it cost me?"

Confidently, the psychiatrist answers, "It will cost \$150 dollars a session, but we can definitely conquer your problem!"

Three months later, the psychiatrist is shocked to see the same man strolling down the aisle of a local supermarket. But the change in his appearance was amazing! He had regained the lost weight, the dark circles had disappeared, he was alert and smiling, and free of depression. So, the psychiatrist asks, "Aren't you the man who came to see me about severe insomnia a few months ago? You look incredible! What happened?" The man replied, "After I left your office, I was ready to take out a second mortgage on my home to pay for the treatments. From the figures you gave me, (\$150 a session—and two sessions a week for 5 years), the cost would have been \$78,000. But, I was so desperate, I was ready to do it. This fear of something hiding under my bed was killing me. But, when I mentioned the problem to my carpenter friend, he solved it by charging \$20 to cut the legs off my bed—and I've slept like a baby ever since!"

2. There are definitely some "fakes" out there!
3. Books have been written about some of these "healers" who use concealed earpieces to receive information written on prayer cards.
 - a. The evangelist singles out people in the congregation by saying, "Is there someone here named Sandy? God is telling me that a person named Sandy needs healing for a tumor in her esophagus. Let's see, . . . is that **Sandy Parsons** the Lord is saying?"
 - b. Investigators have visited these meetings with sophisticated electronic devices and listened to a voice directing the so-called "healer" who is pretending to hear from God.

C. On the other hand, I've also seen supernatural demonstrations of the Word of Knowledge that could only have been the handiwork of Almighty God!

1. Story of Freddie Clark and Bill Davis.
2. My experience with Jameson Matthews in a remote Indian village.
3. The story of Davis Matthews who was stricken with polio.
4. My own testimony.

5. Video (shown on overhead projector) of Domingo Pilarte relating the miraculous testimony of his step-father, Pedro Zamora.

D. Sickness and disease were never meant to be part of God's plan for mankind.

1. Sickness resulted from the sin of Adam and Eve. It is a manifestation of the "death" which entered the world.
2. Jesus not only came to *save* us from our sins, but also to deliver us from the **consequences** of sin.
 - a. **1 John 3:8 (NKJV)** - "For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."
 - b. **1 John 3:8 (Amplified Bible)** - "The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible) was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done]."
 - c. **Isaiah 53:4-5 (NKJV)** - "Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."
3. While some believe these promises apply only to the healing or restoration of our broken relationship with God, Jewish scholars say the language clearly refers to the healing of physical diseases.
4. We serve a "healing" Jesus. Wherever He preached the Kingdom of God, He healed the sick!
5. Since we represent Christ's body on earth today, we should be doing the same miraculous works He did!
 - a. **1 John 14:12 (NKJV)** - "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

E. So, why do we see such few miracles of healing?

1. Some teach that the authority to heal is conditional and limited to certain parameters, such as: time, place, and context.
 - a. After a trip to India, that could have been my conclusion. We experienced incredible, spontaneous miracles in that country that were completely unexpected!
 - b. With only 5% claiming any type of Christian affiliation, the need of India is so great. One may think that within the context of evangelism, this could be “their time!”
2. Another teaching that healing no longer occurs is that God only used it as a sign to validate the truth of Christ's message to an unbelieving world.
 - a. Since so many are now aware of the gospel, they say that God no longer needs healing and miracles to authenticate His message or to prove who He is.
 - b. But is that really true? More people living today have never heard the gospel than at any other time in history.
 - c. When Christ and the disciples preached the gospel, the world population was only 250 million. Of the 7 billion living today, more than half have never heard the gospel.
 - d. If healing was meant to convince mankind that Jesus is for real, there are 14 times as many people needing this evidence as when He lived.
3. I personally believe that healing was never meant to be experienced only in the context of evangelism. Just as salvation was one of the provisions of the atonement, so was healing!

F. If healing is truly for us, how can it be personally experienced and more of the miraculous seen in the church today?

1. I firmly believe that we still have the power to heal. But somewhere along the way, believers may have given up that authority—perhaps in part, because we stopped seeking for it. So, the first thing to do is **ask!**

- a. **James 4:2d (NKJV)** - "You do not have because you do not ask."
2. We must not allow our belief in healing to waver.
 - a. **Jude 1:3 (KJV)** - "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."
 - b. **Jude 1:3 (Message)** - "Dear friends, I've dropped everything to write you about this life of salvation that we have in common. I have to write insisting—begging!—that you fight with everything you have in you for this faith entrusted to us as a gift to guard and cherish."
3. The Greek word for "contend" is *to struggle*.
4. The truth is, every aspect of our walk with God contains a "fight of faith."
 - a. If we understand the importance of fighting for our finances, marriages, and ministries, why wouldn't healing also be included? Yet many believers give up if healing does not come after praying one time.
 - b. **1 Timothy 6:12 (NKJV)** - "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses."

G. Why would the enemy fight against your healing? Here are two reasons:

1. He is totally evil. According to **John 10:10 (NKJV)**, the devil's sworn objectives are to kill, steal, and destroy.
2. Nothing so clearly demonstrates God's existence and awesome power as a genuine miracle of healing!
3. Every part of the journey to your "Promised Land" is still a journey. Had Israel never sinned because of unbelief, it would have still taken 30 days to reach their Promised Land.

4. The same is true with healing. Miracles are usually more *instantaneous*, while healing may involve a journey, or **recovery**.

a. **Mark 16:18 (NKJV)** - “. . . they will lay hands on the sick, and they will **recover**.”

5. Jesus Himself prayed **twice** for a man who came to be healed.

H. Should we expect instant healing for every person and every sickness? It's possible—but it probably won't happen that way.

1. Our faith for healing may need to grow—just as our faith for other things.

2. I've known people with ministries of healing who prayed with great authority for certain diseases. But for other sicknesses, they did not have the same success.

a. Why is this so? Can't God heal one sickness as easily as another?

b. Yes, He can. Perhaps that was the level of healing to which their faith—or their level of authority—had risen.

3. We must pray for a breakthrough for diseases such as: cancer, diabetes, sickle cell anemia, and HIV.

I. **Life Application Points:** Four things we **should not** do:

1. Do not blame God for your illness!

2. Do not stop taking medication until your doctor says it is no longer needed.

3. Do not quit *asking* if healing does not come immediately.

4. Do not change your beliefs about the power of healing if someone you love is not healed!

J. To experience healing, we **should do** these six things:

1. Keep drawing closer to God!

a. **Psalm 119:67 (NIV)** - “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.”

2. Keep praying. Pray—and keep on praying!
 - a. **Matthew 7:7 (NIV)** - “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.”
3. Keep confessing. Confess God's promises—not your problems!
 - a. **Revelation 12:11 (NIV)** - “And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”
4. Keep believing. Believe you are healed until your healing is manifested!
 - a. **1 Timothy 6:12a (NKJV)** – “Fight the good fight of faith.”
5. Keep praising Him. Thank God for your healing!
 - a. **Psalms 34:1-2 (NKJV)** - “I will bless the LORD at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.”
6. Keep serving. Do not leave the place where you serve!
 - a. One reason some suffer so much is because the devil saw that they quit serving when under fierce attack.
 - b. **Isaiah 53:12a (NIV)** - “Therefore I will give him a portion among the great, and he will divide the spoils with the strong, because he poured out his life unto death.”
 - c. When did Jesus stop pouring out Himself? When He died!

K. ***“Be healed in Jesus Name!”***