



# Healing is Easy?

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## Prologue

You're going to need a greater faith in the days to come. I heard the Lord tell me that in the spring of 2018. Usually when you hear a statement like that, you automatically begin to think of the coming of apocalyptic events, and we'll need more and greater faith to survive those times. But I knew that wasn't what He was talking about, I could sense that this was a positive message I was hearing. Then why will we need a greater faith in the future?

I believe wholeheartedly that we are in the beginning days of the greatest revival that the world has ever seen. A world-wide revival that touches millions if not billions of people. It will see the limitless resources of Heaven released supernaturally through miracles of healing, provision, protection, and restoration of lives and relationships. But those unlimited resources of Heaven are only accessed by faith. Which is why we are all going to need a greater faith in the days to come. Not for us, but for them, the ones who have never had an encounter with Him, or are facing tragedies in their life that a touch from Heaven can change in an instant.

All Spirit-filled churches trace their beginnings to the Azusa St. revival in Los Angeles, California in 1906. During that revival on two separate occasions both William Seymour, the black pastor of the Azusa Mission and Frank Bartleman, one of the early leaders of the revival, both prophesied that in about 100 years the greatest revival the world has ever seen would begin. In 1965 William Branham, a famous evangelist from the healing revival of the 1940's and '50's said that the era of the one man (or one woman) evangelistic ministry was coming to an end, to be followed by an era where the church would discover who they were in Christ and who He was in them, and that would be followed by the greatest revival the world has ever seen. He talked about healing miracles being discussed on evening news shows.

Can you imagine turning on the news to see someone on CNN, or ABC, or NBC doing a report on a healing miracle done in Jesus name? Or opening up Youtube to see the viral video of a missing limb being restored while someone records it on their cell phone? I believe that those days are coming and that when we watch that, something inside of us will say, I want to be part of that. Why? Not because we want to be famous, but because it sparks something in our spiritual DNA, and we want the world to know how wonderful our God is and for them to experience a supernatural encounter with Him.

That will take a greater faith. Not a greater faith in our faith. That is worthless. But a greater faith in the kindness and goodness of our God, and in His ability to work through imperfect people like ourselves.

That is the purpose for writing this book. I want to encourage and inspire as many as I can to go after a greater faith that accesses the resources of Heaven so that the world around us can have a supernatural experience with their heavenly Father and discover for themselves how good He is and how much He loves them. Miracles display the love of God like nothing else can. So read, enjoy and be encouraged that this is a part of who you really are.

## Foreword

Healing. Easy. Have you ever heard those two words in the same sentence before? I never had until a few years ago. We had begun a season when God had given us some much needed breakthrough in healing, and I said to a friend, “I have never seen it so easy for people to get healed.” And I hadn’t. Never in real life, only in books I’d read. But when I made that statement, I remember feeling like I had said something sacrilegious. My church background had taught me that those two words don’t go together.

Through the centuries the church has made supernatural healing into something difficult that only special people can do and even then it seems to fail more often than it works. We did that by making it hyper spiritual and even un-biblical, so that it hardly resembles what Jesus and the early apostles did when they prayed for the sick.

But there is something new stirring in the church. Led by people like Bill Johnson and his church, Bethel Church of Redding, California and Randy Clark, of Toronto Blessing fame, a huge paradigm shift is taking place in how the church prays for the sick and the success that they experience. Not everyone gets healed, but a lot more of the sick are being healed than before. And the ones praying are not only the guys with the microphones, but an army of believers who have discovered that healing is part of their true identity and are taking risks accordingly.

In this short book I want to share with you what has happened to us here in El Salvador, my church Ruta 3:16, and also Earthquake School of Supernatural Ministry, a school that has grown out of what God is doing. We also host teams from the states, from Bethel’s School of Supernatural Ministry, from Catalyst Training Center in Tacoma, Washington, and other churches that come here to serve. We teach them the same lessons we have learned about healing, unfortunately some of these lessons we learned the hard way, and then take them out and let them bless the people of El Salvador. It works. Salvadorans and gringos alike lay hands on the sick and see people get healed because of who Jesus is in them. And Jesus is awesome in everybody. Anyone can do it, which means that even I get to do it, and I take great comfort in that.

I also include, between each chapter, testimonies of healings we have seen to encourage you and give you a sense of what ordinary people willing to take risks can see God do through them. If you have ever wondered about supernatural healing, if God could do that through you or to you, this book was written for you. My prayer for this book is that a seed will be planted in the reader, or if that seed is already growing, this book will encourage a rapid season of growth. And it will grow to where that seed will touch the people around us in a powerful way. Supernatural ministry is fun. Enjoy.

## Chapter 1

### My story

I have been a Christian for over 40 years. My wife and I were hippies back in the early '70's, and in our home town we encountered the Charismatic Renewal that was sweeping the country. We both had a powerful encounter with Jesus in the person of the Holy Spirit and were radically changed.

For the last 20 years of that walk with God, mixed in with several years of running away from Him, I have been fascinated with praying for the sick. I have read every book I could find about the men and women of history who flowed in that gift and marveled at what I read. I poured over biblical accounts of Jesus and the apostles praying for the sick. I listened to hours of teachings by ministers about divine healing and miracles that they'd seen. I also talked with the few people that I knew that walked in the healing gift.

I prayed for the sick. I am wired to do that. When I see a sick person usually my first thought is to pray for them. For a long time that was a great source of frustration in my life because nothing hardly ever happened when I prayed. A few people were healed, and although that was awesome for the ones that were healed, the overwhelming majority were not. And that left me frustrated and discouraged. For the first 17 years that was the case.

Then a few years ago, something happened. It began with an injury to my back. I had led a healthy life in that for the first 59 years I had never been in a hospital as a patient, never had a broken bone or missed more than a day or two of work due to injury or illness. Then one morning I got up and took my morning walk. My back felt funny so I told my wife I was going to go lie down for a few minutes. When I did, something went crazy in my back and for weeks I couldn't stand for more than a few minutes without excruciating pain running down both legs. Moving was difficult.

I prayed every prayer I knew. I prayed in English, Spanish, and in tongues. I named it, claimed it, blabbed it and grabbed it, all to no avail. I went to a doctor and he told me my back was messed up. That part I knew. I began chiropractic therapy but nothing he did helped. And he tried all kinds of things.

I was a paramedic for 16 years and I had transported many people with chronic back issues that left them with debilitating pain and hard lives. I was afraid that was going to be my future too.

About two weeks into this I made a discovery. We pastor a church for young people in El Salvador, Ruta 3:16, and for months I had sensed God telling me to get a bigger building. We didn't need it, we hadn't outgrown our present facility and we didn't have money to move. But that thought kept coming back and I was sure it was God. I asked myself if I believed that this was God, what should I be doing? The logical answer was to go look for another place, so I called a real estate agent friend of mine and we spent a day looking at commercial properties.

We didn't find anything that looked good, but strangely enough, it was the next day that my back went out. There were a lot of physical reasons that should have happened. I was overweight, I sat in front of my computer too many hours a day and it made sense that my back would do what it did. But at the same time I realized there was a spiritual component to this back injury as well. And praying for myself wasn't getting anywhere.

This is where the learning curve began. I came from a theological background that taught when you are sick, it is up to you to get yourself healed. Grab the teaching tapes and your Bible, and go off somewhere and get healed. Have you ever noticed that no one in the Bible got healed that way? I am not saying it doesn't work, it is indeed a stream of healing, but an inefficient one at best. I call it Home Depot healing and it doesn't work very well.

When you are sick, it is hard to have faith. The pain makes it difficult. Jesus said that those who believe will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover. He didn't say that the sick would lay hands on themselves and recover.

James said that if there are any sick among you, call for the elders of the church and they will pray for you. He didn't say tell them to pray for themselves. It also doesn't mean that only church leaders can pray for the sick, but logically one of the qualifications of an elder should be faith, the kind that brings Heaven to earth. So the sick should call for people of faith to pray for them. One of the recurring themes in this book is that if you want to get the results that the early church got, it makes sense to do it the way they did it.

So as I lay in my bed, praying for my own healing, I decided to call several of my friends, people of faith, to share my story with them and ask for prayer. One of them began to prophesy that from that moment forward I would improve, and he nailed it. It went somewhat slowly, but a few weeks later I was able to make a trip to the states I had already planned, and sit in a seat on a plane for hours without being in pain.

It has been healed since. Unfortunately I am still overweight, and my exercise habits still need to improve but my back is fine. Jesus healed me.

The second event happened about a year later. I was about to turn 60 and for a former hippie, that was scary. I had dreaded it for 10 years and each year the fear got stronger. One of the lessons I have learned is that fear is a huge doorway for demonic activity in our lives. Anything we are unreasonably afraid of has permission to mess with us. I was convinced that at age 60 body parts would begin to fall off and a host of terminal diseases were lined up ready to take a shot at me.

For the first time in my life I began to have anxiety attacks. Loud noises scared me, all kinds of things startled me. For another first I went to a psychiatrist. My wife probably thinks I should have gone years earlier but that's another story. He put me on medication and it got better for a while, but then it got worse, much worse.

Anxiety attacks turned into full scale depression. I began to wake up at 4 in the morning, scared to death. I could get up and pray or read my Bible and it would get better. But I lost the

ability to enjoy anything. When I woke up all I wanted was for night to hurry up and get here so I could go back to sleep. However the negative chain of thoughts in my head wouldn't allow me to sleep unless I took a sleeping pill. What was going on in my head wouldn't let me sleep. I couldn't imagine anything good happening to anyone, including me. What really scared me was for the first time in 60 years I wasn't hungry and when I did eat my stomach hurt. I lost 30 pounds rather quickly.

I now have a lot of compassion for people who suffer from depression. I used to believe it was just bad thinking and if people would just think good thoughts it would all go away. I learned that you reach a place where your body and your brain decide that we're just not going to enjoy life or anything else for a while, and there is nothing you can do about it. For some people anti-depressants work. They break the power of the chain of negative thoughts long enough for our minds to heal themselves. Unfortunately in my case that wasn't working.

In December we went to the states to spend Christmas with our son and his family. I remembered the lesson I had learned with my back problem and I asked all my friends to pray for me. My pastor, an apostolic friend, my wife, (praying wives and mothers are powerful forces) my son's father in law who was an ex pastor and many more prayed for me. For two weeks I received a lot of prayer.

Nothing happened at the time they prayed for me. Another lesson I am learning is that lack of anything happening at the moment doesn't mean that nothing is going on.

At the end of the trip we had to go from Colorado Springs to Texas to catch a plane back home to El Salvador. When I woke up to go home that day, something felt different. I had slept well, which was different and for some reason I felt kind of happy. That was an emotion I had not felt in months. I wasn't sure yet that I was healed but it felt like it.

As we traveled home, we stopped for gas. In the convenience store there were spicy tamales for sale. I love Tex-Mex but for the time I'd battled depression, I couldn't eat anything spicy. Everything made my stomach hurt, spicy food most of all. So I decided the best way to test my healing was to eat a half dozen spicy tamales followed by a Dr. Pepper.

Those may have been the most delicious tamales I have ever eaten in my life. And it didn't hurt. I knew I was healed of depression and years later I still am. Thank you Jesus.

When Jesus fixes something, He likes to make it better than it was to begin with. Prior to my battle with depression, my normal attitude was best described as mildly discouraged but fighting the good fight. All of a sudden I had a faith I had probably never had before. It was a gift. It didn't come following a time of extreme devotion, hours of prayer or deep intercession. It came out of one of the darkest moments of my life, one I never want to repeat but one I am thankful for none the less because of what Jesus did.

That change began to impact how we do ministry here. We host mission teams from the states and our normal trip involves employing the team to help us do service work to bless local congregations or a home for abandoned children that we support. I had a team coming in February and had a work project all lined up for them. But then it fell through due to a mix-up with the local engineer in charge of the building project.

I asked God what plan B was for the mission team. He reminded me of a mission trip I had led to Mexico years before when I was a youth pastor. A missionary friend in Mexico flowed in the gift of healing and my youth group served as his ministry team in the healing services. Everyone on the team, junior high boys and all, saw someone healed as they prayed for them.

That was the most awesome mission trip I had ever been part of and I always wanted to replicate it in El Salvador. However to do that I would need my friend with the healing gift to come to El Salvador to make it work, or so I thought.

God said to do a healing crusade with the team. When I protested that my friend Charley wasn't here to lead it, He told me I could do it. I wasn't as convinced about it as God was but the faith He gave me in exchange for my depression caused me to take the risk. And God likes for us to take risks.

When the team arrived, I explained what had happened with the building project and told them what plan B was going to be. They are an awesome church, Grace Fellowship of Borger, Texas and their pastors Marshall and Patti Ford were all for it.

I taught them everything I knew about healing. It didn't take long because I didn't know much. I knew we were on the right track because one of the team members who suffered from migraines was healed of a migraine during this time of training. She has been healed ever since then. We began a two night healing campaign in a small church up in the mountains in the town of Comasagua. Before the first service we prayed and asked God for words of knowledge about specific problems we would encounter. All of them were present that night and almost all of them were healed.

The second night of the services as we gave an altar call for salvation, a nicely dressed elderly woman raised her hand to receive salvation. When a team went to pray for her, she said that she was confused. She wanted to be saved but she also had cancer and she wanted to be healed. She was dressed differently than the poor people in the dirt floored church. She had driven 3 hours to the service after her son came the night before, saw what God had done and immediately called his mother to tell her to come the next night. She was saved and healed of cancer.

Because I had sprung plan B on him at such a late date, my pastor friend from the church we were ministering in had a previous preaching commitment for the second night of the healing services. He liked what he saw the first night so much that he decided to try it when he preached at the other church. As he ministered, a lady came forward for prayer with a tumor the size of a pelota, a small ball. When he prayed for her, she fell down and when she got up the tumor had disappeared.

It was an awesome trip for everyone involved. I heard in my spirit the Holy Spirit telling me that I could do this and also teach others how to pray for the sick and see them healed. He also told me that the next 10 years of my life would be the most productive period in my life. I am now enjoying being in my 60's. What a turnaround!

So since that day we have been focusing on doing just that, in our church, in Earthquake School of Supernatural Ministry and with mission teams that visits us. It has worked for all of those groups and we have seen Jesus heal a lot of people. So read on as I share with you the scriptural principles that we learned and also testimonies of the awesome things that Jesus has done.



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On the second night of that first healing service, a man came and asked if we could take our van and pick up a lady who couldn't walk and bring her to the service. We were almost finished so I asked if we could just send a team to her instead. He thought that was a great idea so we sent a translator and two men and a lady from the team to the woman's home.

She was in bed because she suffered from lupus and was in a lot of pain. When the team came into her bedroom she tried to sit up to be polite but the pain on her face was so evident that they asked her to stay as she was.

They prayed a short prayer, because in the Bible there are no long healing prayers, and afterwards asked how she felt. She said she felt the same, so the team asked for her permission to pray again. When nothing happens the first time, it's ok to pray again and more if necessary.

After a second short prayer, they asked her how she now felt. She responded that she might actually feel a little better. They then asked her to sit up and see how that felt. She expressed fear that that would be painful, as it usually was. They assured her that if she did experience pain that she could lay back down.

She sat up pain free. She was then asked to try standing. Again she was afraid that pain would also accompany standing up, as it always did. They encouraged her that if it did, she could sit back down.

She stood up, pain free also. She began to walk around the room, something she had not been able to do for quite some time. This woman didn't attend my friend's church. But after her healing, she and her family joined the church and opened their home to be used for cell groups. A few months afterwards her doctor pronounced her healed of lupus. Jesus is awesome!!

## Chapter 2

### The Plan

*“From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”*  
Mathew 4:17 (NIV)

*“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.”* Matthew 9:35 (NIV)

Jesus had one message. It was the kingdom of heaven. In Matthew 24 He said, *“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”* (NIV) His life message was the kingdom of heaven and that is the gospel that we are all called to share with the world.

He urged people to repent, not because they were bad or going to hell, as true as that may be, but because there was something very wonderful present that they didn't want to miss. The truth is that people are bad and there is a hell, and while those may seem to be very logical reasons to repent, apparently Jesus thought that the best motivation for a life of repentance would be the presence of the kingdom of heaven.

So if Jesus' primary message was the kingdom of heaven, then it would make sense to examine everything He said about heaven and from that construct an in depth theology of the kingdom. The only problem with that would be that most of what Jesus said about the kingdom of heaven came in the form of parables, basically riddles that left a lot of ground uncovered.

But if you examine what Jesus did after He spoke about the kingdom of heaven, then we get a more complete picture of his teachings on the kingdom. Maybe that's because the kingdom of heaven is better demonstrated than talked about. What did He do? He healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, raised the dead, and cast out demons. He then told those who had witnessed these healings that the kingdom had come near and the evidence of that was the miracles of God's goodness they had seen.

That new paradigm of the goodness of God may have been the greatest need of repentance for His listeners. They had been taught all of their lives that their obedience to the law of Moses brought the reality and blessings of God into their lives. They weren't sure that Jesus could bring the kingdom into their world because they had been taught that their fulfillment of the law alone could do that. They also probably believed that their status as God's

chosen people and their identity as followers of the law of Moses meant that the kingdom of heaven was already present.

That paradigm was being shattered in front of their eyes by the mass healings and miracles that Jesus performed to demonstrate what life looks like when the kingdom shows up. If this is what living in the kingdom looked like, that also meant that they had been living to some degree under the influence of the kingdom of darkness. All of that sickness, oppression and uncleanness came from a kingdom other than the kingdom of heaven.

That called for repentance, which really means to think again differently. The Jewish people were being challenged to see God in a different way than what they had been taught all of their lives. This God that Jesus revealed as a loving Father was much nicer and kinder than the legalistic distant God they had been exposed to in their synagogues. Those who came into contact with this God and His kingdom had their lives impacted in an awesome way.

Some in the church today see that Jesus did these supernatural miracles because He was God, and He needed the supernatural to establish His credentials. These demonstrations of the kingdom were necessary as a marketing device to draw attention to His divinity and the uniqueness of His mission to earth. But that supernatural power was limited only to Him because of His divinity.

The problem with that paradigm is what happened next. In Matthew 10, verse 1, we are told that *"Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness."* (NIV) Later on in Chapter 10 Jesus sent the 12 out with these instructions, *"<sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim this message: 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.'<sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.* (NIV)

So Jesus sent out the first missionaries and charged them with spreading the good news of the kingdom of heaven. He tells them to not only talk about it but to also demonstrate it by healing the sick, casting out demons, cleansing lepers and bringing dead people back to life. And so they did. Now we have Jesus plus the 12 apostles teaching and demonstrating the reality of the kingdom of heaven. So it is not just Jesus as God doing the miracles but normal men empowered by God supernaturally revealing the goodness of God.

This is accepted theologically by some as being necessary to establish Jesus' ministry and the newborn church that followed, but this was only confined to those first 12 apostles and any supernatural parts of their ministry died with them in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. And so the theory is born, that only a select few special super spiritual people could do what Jesus did.

What contradicts that line of thought is that Jesus sends out yet another team, a much larger one of 72 graduates of Jesus' school of supernatural ministry. Luke 10:1 *"After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go."* (NIV) And what did He charge them to do? Luke 10:9 *"Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'"* (NIV) So Jesus' plan for these 72 unknown disciples was to share the good news of the kingdom and to demonstrate it by healing the sick. Why is healing the sick so important? If healing announces the presence of the kingdom of heaven, it makes sense that sickness is a sign of the kingdom of darkness exerting dominion in people's lives to some degree. And every healing is a defeat for the kingdom of darkness. Not to mention that life just got better for the person being healed.

Do you see the beginning of a pattern here? Jesus preached the gospel, literally the good news too good to believe, of the kingdom of heaven. He didn't rely solely on the power of His words but He then demonstrated it by healing the sick and setting people free from afflictions and oppressions. He empowered a group of his 12 closest disciples to do the same thing and later on extended that same empowering to a larger group of 72. All had the same mission, to declare the good news of the kingdom and to confirm the presence of the kingdom by healing the sick.

In Mark 16:18, Jesus said that one of the signs that would follow those who believe the gospel would be that they would lay hands on sick people and they will get well. So the plan for spreading the good news of the kingdom of God includes healing the sick and telling them that the kingdom has come near, as evidenced by miracles of healing. In the Gospels of the New Testament and also in the book of Acts, it proved to be a great plan. Great crowds of people were exposed to the good news of the kingdom and thousands of them responded positively.

Does that sound like the mission we as the church are fulfilling today? If not, then why? Do we have a different plan? If so, is it working? Those are crucial questions with unfortunately obvious answers. Are we limiting our ministry to only talking about the kingdom without demonstrating the reality of it? Is that why the world around us sometimes at best ignores us? I applaud all of those who demonstrate the love of God with acts of service and kindness, that is definitely a demonstration of the kingdom. When we do that we are doing wonderful things in Jesus name. But what if God wants to do more than that? What if He wants to do something that leaves no doubt that it came from Him and not from us, because it was an act of supernatural kindness that no man or woman could do on their own? What if the only thing stopping Him from doing that is us, and what we believe about ourselves? Read on.

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We were in Nicaragua, and holding a healing service in the street in front of a church we worked with. My friend Greg, a missionary in Nicaragua, was praying for a woman with back pain. She had been hurting for months.

He asked her if she was a Christian. She said no. He then boldly told her that he was going to pray for her, Jesus was going to heal her and after that she needed to make a decision. She was ok with that so he prayed.

He prayed a short prayer and asked her how she felt, then encouraged her to move around and see if it still hurt. Much to her surprise, she was now pain free and very happy. He then reminded her she needed to make a decision. It was Saturday night, and he encouraged her to return to the church we were working with the next morning for the Sunday service.

She wasn't thinking about Sunday morning. After being healed, she wanted to know Jesus right then and there. So that night after being healed she gave her life to Jesus.

Jesus said, heal the sick and tell them the kingdom of heaven has just come near. It is truly the kindness of God that leads us to repentance. That kindness is sometimes best demonstrated supernaturally.

### Chapter 3

#### The Most Excellent Way

1 Corinthians 12:<sup>31</sup> *Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. And yet I will show you the most excellent way. (NIV)*

Paul's 1<sup>st</sup> letter to the Corinthian church contains some of the most in depth teaching on the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit. The church in Corinth flowed in the supernatural yet needed mature teaching to help them do it in a more orderly manner. Chapter 12 talks about the 9 supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit while chapter 14 gives in depth teaching about the gift of prophecy. In between those 2 chapters is chapter 13, what we normally call the love chapter. If looked at in the flow of what Paul is teaching about supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, it becomes apparent that the love chapter has greater significance than just something flowery to be read at weddings. He is really talking about how to flow in the supernatural.

One of the key points I want to make very early in this book is that the key to the supernatural is love. Love that flows from God to us and on to the people around us. In John 13:34, Jesus said, "*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*" The word "new" in that verse refers to a commandment that takes the place of all the rest of the commandments. He is not talking about adding another commandment to the list. It is also a 2 fold command. First we receive the love of God, then we give it away. The degree with which we are able to receive the love of God will determine the quality of the love we give away.

I tend to teach about healing aggressively. Therefore I need to make it perfectly clear I am not trying to make anyone feel guilty about how they pray or don't pray for the sick. If I leave that impression, I apologize profusely, that is not my intention. That is counter-productive. Flowing in the supernatural and feeling guilty doesn't mix, just like oil and water. You cannot empower people to flow in the supernatural by putting guilt trips on them. It just doesn't work.

So when Paul says in chapter 13, "<sup>2</sup>*If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing,*" he is saying that working miracles and hearing God's voice isn't the goal. The prize is to walk in love while doing those things. To do them without love is worthless.

At the end of the chapter he says, <sup>13</sup> *And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.* Love is greater because love is the power of God. Every miracle has one purpose and that is to reveal the love of God to humanity. Jesus healed people out of compassion, not religious duty.

Paul begins chapter 14 with these words, *1 "Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy."* So we are commanded to eagerly desire the gifts of the Spirit, healing included, and to do so by following the way of love. What does that look like?

One of my life scriptures is Ephesians 5:1, *"Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children,"*. Imitators of God. Think about what that means. Surely imitating God includes the miraculous. But how do we do it? From the identity of seeing ourselves as dearly loved children. That identity mindset unlocks the supernatural. One of the key paradigms we have to adopt is that we are loved by God. Just like we are, not how we want to be. We are now dearly loved children. He is not waiting until we have fixed ourselves so that He can then love us like no earthly father ever could. He loves us that way now.

The biggest hindrance to flowing in the supernatural is unworthiness. Unfortunately my experience has been that sometimes the longer we go to church, the more unworthy we feel. That is crippling the power of the church. It may feel holy to think of ourselves as poor sinners saved by grace, but really we are more than that. We are new creations. If when we stand before someone with cancer and tell it to leave them, and we are fixated on who we are and how good we are, we are in trouble. Not much will happen probably.

But if instead we are thinking instead of how awesome Jesus is, and how that awesomeness is not restricted by our faults and imperfections, good things happen. They do. Because of what Jesus did on the cross, we are now good enough for the Holy Spirit to live in and work miracles through. My ability to mess things up is no match for His ability to make things work. I take great comfort in that. Sometimes I think that even if I step out on my own and not by His guiding, He will make it work just because He loves me so much.

God loves us because He is good, not because we are good. He loves us because that is who He is and that is what He does. And He loves to pour His love out on us in such a way it touches everyone around us. Let's open up and allow Him to do that.

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A young man came one evening to our church service in Ruta 3:16. This young man came to our church from time to time, and it was the first time he had been in months. It was a great service and God touched him powerfully. At the end of the service he asked me if I would go by his home and pray for a family member with AIDS.

I had prayed for a young man in Nicaragua several months earlier who had AIDS. That was the first time I had ever encountered it. He was a young man in his early 20's with his small son in his arms. It was a heartbreaking moment if you wanted to dwell on that, but it makes more sense in those situations to dwell on how awesome Jesus is, so I chose that instead. We prayed for him and God touched him powerfully. He rededicated his life to the Lord that night.

3 months later we returned to Nicaragua. The first night at the church he came, to tell us the doctors had told him he was now HIV negative. So months later as I went with this young man to pray for his family member, I remembered that testimony.

When we arrived at the home, there was a young woman there, very thin. She knew why I was there and I asked for permission to pray for her. I then told her about the young man in Nicaragua and what God had done for him. She began to weep.

As I placed my hand on her shoulder to pray for her, she began to shake violently. I believe in getting happy when I pray for the sick so I got happy and she continued to shake. I then stopped and asked how she felt. She vomited, I'll explain the significance of that later, and then got happy also. She began to hug the family members present.

As I learned more of her story, I found out that when her immediate family discovered she had AIDS, they kicked her out of the house. The house she was living in now belonged to extended family.

I had no way of knowing at that moment if she were healed or not. The young man that took me to her came to our church once a month or so. I saw him 6 weeks later and asked how she was. He told me she had quit taking her medicine because she felt so good. That was encouraging.

She worked for a large retail chain in our city and one day in one of the stores I heard my name. I turned around and it was her. She had a big smile on her face and was glad to see me. I asked how she was, especially her health. She told me, "I need to talk to you. I went to the doctor and I no longer have AIDS. I am HIV negative." So in the middle of the store we embraced and wept because of how awesome Jesus is.

I saw the young man a few months later and asked about his family member. He laughed and told me she was getting fat. What a huge turnaround in just a few months. Jesus is awesome!



## Chapter 4

### Who Are We?

In Earthquake, our school of supernatural ministry, we endeavor to teach people how to flow in the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit. We want them to feel comfortable praying for the sick and routinely see people healed as they pray for them. That's easier said than done but one of the interesting things about our school is that we spend a lot more time teaching on identity, who we are in Christ and who He is in us, than we do about moving in the supernatural. We've learned that if we can get people to believe in who they really are, the supernatural part comes easily. Yeah, there's that easy word again.

One of the paradigms that we had to break was a subliminal teaching in the church that only special people can flow in the supernatural. As I studied healing for many years I was convinced that only the most devoted, morally perfect, prayed up and fasted lifestyle people were good enough to be used by God to heal the sick. And I wasn't one of those people. In the Catholic Church, to achieve sainthood there has to be documented miracles of healing in the life of the prospective saint. Maybe the idea that only the brightest and best among us could be used by God supernaturally began there. But it is a deeply rooted teaching in the church.

Have you ever heard it taught that you have to pay the price for the anointing? If so, then what is the price that we need to pay? Those that teach this never seem to give clear answers to that question, possibly because it is a topic never mentioned in the Bible. But what usually follows are stories of ministers that pray for hours each day, or fast for weeks at a time, or do other amazing feats of spiritual discipline. And most of us see that lifestyle as something out of our reach and decide at that moment that the price of the anointing is something that we can't pay. So the teaching that only the most spiritual mystical people can flow in the healing gift and that the anointing is earned by performance persists.

I am not saying that this is taught maliciously. I am sure that these teachers do this out of a deep reverence for the gift of healing and I honor that. My problem with this line of teaching is that it sometimes robs the church of the power that Jesus meant to give her.

What if what Jesus did on the cross paid the price for us to have the anointing? That's a novel idea. I believe this because I suspect the price for the anointing is so high that only Jesus could pay it. And if this is so, then healing is a part of our identity in Christ.

We teach in our school that behavior flows out of identity. Who we believe that we are will determine what we do. Graham Cooke says that if you want to create the right behavior, first create the right identity.

For example, what if we embrace the identity that we are just sinners saved by grace, with the emphasis on the word sinner. If that is our identity, what kind of behavior will flow out of that? Won't that give sin a larger role in our identity? Are we more impressed with our limitations than we are with His awesomeness? We need to think differently.

For a long time my youth pastor sermons were based on the paradigm of God's good, we're bad, let's try harder. What kind of identity would that eventually build in people? At least in my life it told me that I was bad and failing God. What kind of behavior should we expect to flow out of that identity? For me it produced more failure of God coupled with the shame that produces.

I never can seem to connect with God in my dream life. I read books about people that hear from God in their dreams regularly and I envy them. I am sure that God is saying something to me but my surrealistic dreams never seem to make any sense. Except for one night. In my dream I was in our youth room, preaching to my youth group with the same message that God's good, we're bad, we gotta try harder. Then all of a sudden in my dream I heard a voice from behind me and I knew it was God.

He said, "That isn't the problem. What is wrong is that they are new creations and they don't know who they are." That was such a profound thing God said to me, that I willed myself to wake up and think about it. I lay there for an hour thinking and for the last 15 years I have been communicating from that point of view. My goal in teaching or preaching isn't to convince people of how they fail God, as they usually already seem to know that, but to awaken them to the awesomeness of the One who lives in them. And how that in turn makes them awesome.

When all of this began for us 3 years ago, God led me to 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 4:7. *"But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that this all surpassing power belongs to God and not to us."* (NIV) God spoke to my heart and said, "What I need you to be, is a jar of clay. I will take care of the all surpassing power part."

What is a jar of clay? In 1<sup>st</sup> century Israel it was Tupperware. Jars of clay were ordinary, common, inexpensive food storage containers. No one used jars of clay to store treasure, only God does that. So He is asking us to be common, ordinary people who happen to carry a treasure, this all surpassing power of God that can do the most awesome things. And the more common and ordinary we are, the more obvious it is that He is at work when His power is displayed.

I remember thinking that I could do that. I have lived my life being common and ordinary, so I thought I pretty much had that part down. If that was all God asked of me, and that I didn't have to be the next Apostle Paul or Smith Wigglesworth or John G. Lake, then I could probably do that. And I discovered that this paradigm works in real life.

The problem we sometimes have in the church is that instead of being fascinated by the treasure that we carry, we are fixated on making our jar of clay look more appealing. We want to become vessels of silver or gold through our performance, yet in life those types of vessels are only used on special occasions. Common vessels however get used all of the time. And according to this scripture, God uses our ordinariness to better display His hand at work.

We have to learn to walk in the tension between being a jar of clay, ordinary and common, and with all the faults and failures that come with that, yet at the same time possessing a treasure that can do the most wonderful things in the lives of the people around us. The jar of clay doesn't cancel out the treasure of God's all surpassing power contained in us in the person of the Holy Spirit. That is amazing! We need to be comfortable in that reality. That is not an easy task but we can do it.

Juan and Francisco, two of our instructors at Earthquake SSM, are some of the most encouraging people I know. If you have a conversation with them for more than a few minutes, you will hear the word awesome used to describe something about you. One day I was listening to them and I thought, if everyone is awesome, then at some point awesome means nothing. But then I heard the Holy Spirit ask me, "If I live in someone, how can they not be awesome?"

As usual, I lost that argument with the Holy Spirit. He was right. Anyone inhabited by Him is awesome. They just may not know it yet because no one has told them. That is what needs to change.

William Branham, a famous minister of the healing revival of the 1940's, was talking to a friend in 1965 and he shared something that God had told him. God had revealed to him that he was going to die, that his time had come. God then spoke to him about some things that would happen in the future. One was that the era of the one-man evangelist ministry was coming to an end. In the healing revivals of the '40's and '50's, although the evangelist travelled with a team, only he or she prayed for the sick. A lot of the ministers had huge tents that held thousands of people. The sick filled out a prayer card, and if your card was drawn, you were prayed for. If not, you came back the next service, hoping that your card would be drawn. There was a limit to how many people one man could pray for and for that reason this system was set up

Branham said God had told him that this era was ending. It would be followed by a season when the church would teach on who we are in Christ and who He is in us. If you study church history, you will find that until recently, that has never been a focus in church teaching. Especially with an emphasis on the supernatural. Branham then said that era would end and then the greatest revival the world has ever seen will begin. Every miracle from the Bible and from the great revivals of history would be seen in this great move of God.

Think about it. What has to happen before the greatest revival the world has ever seen begins? Do we need to pray more, fast more, worship more, or witness more before God can do this? Or is God and the world around us waiting for us to discover who we really are and begin to walk in that identity?

In our students, we have found that they don't have a problem believing that God can do the most wonderful miracles. No one has an issue believing that the Bible is true. They only have trouble believing in themselves. The biggest hurdle we face is convincing them of how awesome they are in Jesus and how incredible He is in them. But once they dare to believe it, the most wonderful things begin to happen to them and through them. Read on.

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I was hosting a youth group mission team from Texas and it was their free day. We were up in the mountains of El Salvador looking forward to a ride on a zip line through a coffee plantation. It was a beautiful day in a gorgeous location.

Half of the team had already gone up to the top of the mountain and we were waiting for the truck to return and pick us up. I looked up and saw an elderly Salvadoran woman talking to some of the group. She had an asthma inhaler in her hand and it appeared that she was asking for money.

Unfortunately sometimes when someone asks foreigners for money for medical reasons, it is a scam so I went over to check it out. I worked for years as a paramedic and as I got close to her I realized she was having an asthma attack. I didn't have a stethoscope but I put my ear to her back and heard bilateral expiratory wheezes in her lungs. She couldn't say a complete sentence without running out of air. Her inhaler was empty and she wanted money to buy a new one.

A few years earlier I would have put her in my van, drove her to the pharmacy and bought her a new inhaler and that would have been God at work. But now because of what God has done in my life I think differently, so I told her that we had something better than money and asked if we could pray for her. She nodded her head and we began.

After a short prayer I asked her how she felt. She said that she felt better but her speech patterns were still broken so I asked if we could pray once more. I had my hand on her upper back and as we prayed the second time, I felt it when God touched her. She relaxed and her breathing became normal. I stopped and asked again how she felt. She described it as someone taking a cork out of a bottle. Lung spasms were making it hard for her to exhale, so that she couldn't empty her lungs between breaths. That must have been scary. But now she could. She thanked us and blessed us, and left smiling. The cool thing about this was that we weren't in a church building or doing anything religious. We were just having fun and God sent us someone He wanted to touch. I love it when He lets us be part of what He is doing.

## Chapter 5

### What would Jesus do

If we want to get the same results that Jesus and His disciples got when they prayed for the sick, it would make sense that we did it like they did it in the Bible. But we don't. Over the years we have adopted forms of healing prayer that are very different than those practiced in the Bible and for that reason we don't come close to getting the results that they did. Let me show you.

What is the most common form of healing prayer practiced in the church? I would say that petition healing prayers, asking God to heal someone, would be number one. That is probably followed closely by activating the prayer chain. Both are streams of healing. That is beyond debate. There is Biblical authority for each one. No debate there either. Yet no one in the New Testament prayed that way when praying for the sick, nor do we see Jesus teaching His disciples to pray that way. Yet they got markedly better results when they prayed than we do today.

When Jesus sent out the 12, and later on the 72, He gave them specific instructions about how to pray for the sick. He told them that He had given them authority over every sickness and disease. They were to pray from that paradigm.

That is delegated authority. We don't see much of that in our culture. The most obvious example would be in our police force. We have given them the authority of the state to enforce the laws when they encounter criminals breaking those laws.

But imagine this. A rookie policeman catches a bad guy in the act of committing a crime. He pulls his gun, tells the bad guy not to move, and pulls out his cell phone. He then calls the chief of police, and asks the chief to tell the bad guy to go with him to jail. The chief shakes his head, and mutters to himself that this young policeman doesn't understand the authority he has been given. The criminal is also thinking that this cop has no idea who he really is, and he probably can get away without obeying him. Maybe this a far-fetched analogy that describes an

event that never happens in the police world, but unfortunately it describes something that happens in the church on a regular basis.

Jesus gave us authority over every sickness and disease. That means that when we pray for people, we don't ask God to heal them, we tell the sickness to go away in Jesus name. That is the biblical method for praying for people. That is what Jesus taught His disciples to do. The results prove it. All recorded healing prayers in the New Testament, both from Jesus and His disciples, come in this format. And those prayers worked in the New Testament and they work really well today.

For years I prayed for the sick asking God to heal them. I prayed very sincere prayers replete with scripture references and thanks to God. The large majority of them failed. That frustrated me to no end. I knew God could heal people, I was convinced that He wanted to, yet when I prayed hardly anything ever happened. We are seeing dramatically different results today as we pray for the sick.

What changed? Part of it was my personal experience with healing, as Jesus healed both my back and my depression. My level of faith increased enormously. That in turn changed how I approached praying for the sick, and the biggest change in what I did was that I quit asking God to heal people. I am not saying it doesn't work, I am however saying that it doesn't work very well. It is a stream of healing but an inferior one. Why do I say that when there are so many scriptural references where Jesus told us to ask anything in His name and He would do it? I say this because we also have a scriptural record of what Jesus taught His disciples and also how they put that teaching into practice. It is obvious from the scriptural text that Jesus meant for them to tell the sick to be healed in His name, and not to ask God to heal them. And it is also obvious that that is how they prayed.

So why do we ask God to heal people? I believe it goes back to identity. Behavior flows out of identity. In the church through the centuries we have been taught low spiritual self-esteem as a form of personal holiness. God is awesome and we are nothings, broken if you will. The problem with that approach is that we nothings are also new creations with the Spirit of the living God inside of us. Wow! With all that going for us you would think it would be hard to remain nothings but we somehow have managed to do so.

God's plan to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth was to put it within us in the person of the Holy Spirit and for us to release it supernaturally to the world around us through our words and our touch. He thinks that is a great idea. It is plan A and there seems to be no plan B. Yet we have negated that plan by refusing to believe who we really are because it is considered more holy to think of ourselves as nothing.

Time out. Ok, I am being aggressive here but my goal is not to make anyone feel guilty. That doesn't work. So relax, read on with me and dare to believe you are as awesome as God says you are. Time in.

When we stand in front of someone with cancer or a debilitating injury, and we dare to tell them to be healed using that wonderful name of Jesus, a question will usually pop into our minds. Who do you think you are? That question is meant to stop us in our tracks and is also followed by an instant replay of any sins we have committed or spiritual disciplines that we have neglected. So instead of boldly using the name of Jesus as a weapon of mass destruction against the kingdom of darkness, we retreat into meekly begging God to do something, anything. We accept the identity forced on us by the accuser of the brethren and act accordingly.

But what if we understand that our identity is that we are accepted and loved by God? What if we are convinced that we are forgiven by Him and that He has given us authority over that sickness or that injury? So when that voice asks, who do you think you are, we respond from that paradigm. Chris Gore of Bethel Healing Rooms says that healing is only hard when we make it about ourselves. When it is about Jesus in us, in all of His goodness, healing is much easier than we have been led to think. He's right.

We are also unwittingly giving God a bad name. If someone unfamiliar with Christianity were to listen to our prayers, they would probably arrive at the conclusion that, God must either be busy, or unaware of what is going on His children's lives, or is uncaring. It would also sound to them like we have more compassion for the people we are praying for than He does. None of these things could be farther from the truth. He is good, always good, He heals because He loves people, and He cares much more than we do. Yet often our petitions make Him sound just the opposite.

It also gives us an out. If we ask God to heal someone, and nothing happens, it is not our fault. We asked, and for some reason, God didn't come through. It is His fault, not ours.

Yet when we tell someone to be healed in Jesus name, we don't have that position to fall back on. We take a risk when we declare healing, believing that the name of Jesus has power, even in us. If God doesn't come through, we look bad. That is a good way to live. God is awesome and that paradigm releases His awesomeness.

Praying prayers of declaration enforces our identity as people who have been given authority over sickness and disease. That behavior flows out of that identity.

During this season of change, we also quit praying long prayers. We could find no long healing prayers in the bible. It doesn't take long to say, be healed in Jesus name. If we add anything to that, we usually pray that the person has an encounter with the love of God and that they would be aware of how much He loves them and enjoys them. If we can get them to have an encounter with the love of God, it is easy for them to be healed.

After a short prayer we stop and ask them how they feel. We encourage them to tell us if they felt anything, like heat, electricity, peace or joy. Randy Clark says that 50% of the time when people are healed, they feel something. That also means that 50% of the time when people are healed, they don't feel anything. But you can use that experience with a tangible encounter with God's presence to encourage their faith.

We then ask them to check it out, to move or do something that would normally cause pain, within reason. We don't want them injuring themselves further. If they still have pain, we ask them, on a scale of one to ten, with ten being the most pain that they have ever felt, what was their pain level when we began to pray? What is that pain level now? We have seen many people discouraged because after prayer they still had pain. Yet when asked about a difference in their pain level, they realized that something had changed. Usually one or two more prayers will cause their pain to either disappear or fall to a very low level. Another good thing about praying short prayers is that you can pray multiple times in a short period of time.

Praying from authority doesn't mean praying in a loud voice, or in a way that scares or embarrasses the person we are praying for. Our goal is that at the end of the prayer time, regardless of whether they were healed or not, they felt loved. It doesn't have to be hooky spooky or extremely emotional to be supernatural.

Happy is good. The kingdom of heaven is righteousness, joy and peace in the Holy Spirit. So joy is evidence of the presence of the kingdom of heaven. Sick people have an atmosphere, and rightfully so. They're human. When you are in constant pain, or confronted with a prognosis of death or an uncertain future, it is easy to feel despair, discouragement and hopelessness. God is not put off by that, He understands. His plan is to put people in their life who can pray for them from a place of faith. Often as we pray for people, it is easy to sense that spiritual atmosphere that they carry. It is tempting to pray from that paradigm but that is a trap. Those prayers hardly ever work. We don't need to be drawn into their atmosphere, but to either lift them up into our atmosphere or at the very least pray for them from a place of victory.

Praying for sick people makes me happy. The more I can tap into that place of joy, the easier it is to pray. Part of that comes from experience. Experience is the greatest faith builder of all. When you see a lot of people healed, an expectancy grows that says that this may not work all of the time, but it works most of the time, so I can't wait to see what God is going to do. And that is how I approach it. How do you see a lot of people get healed? Pray for a lot of people. So get started.

Through the centuries in the church, we have adopted as the two most common forms of healing prayer, asking God to heal and activating the prayer chain, because of an identity crisis. We ask God to heal because we believe that we don't have anything personally that can heal them. That is not true. Our words and our touch are powerful because of who Jesus is in us and who we are in Him. We trust in the prayer chain more than we trust in our identity as people who have been given authority over every sickness and disease. Surely someone on the prayer chain has something that I don't. Again I am not saying that these are not streams of healing prayer, I am just saying that these aren't the ones that Jesus and His disciples used.

WWJD



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Pastor Jose Luis Vasquez is one of my best friends in El Salvador. He is a man of great faith who began serving as a pastor at the age of 15, during the civil war here. He is now in his late 30's. He was trained in a very legalistic denomination but over the years he has discovered how good God can be.

He was a student in our very first Earthquake SSM. We offer pastors full scholarships to the school to honor them, but he insisted that he pay the full price. He wanted something from God.

After he finished the school, he began to have a season of powerful nightly services in his church. One night he preached about how God heals through love and not through law. That was a huge revelation for him, and went against everything he had been taught at seminary.

As he preached people in the congregation began to be healed, without anyone praying for them. A young man had a 13 centimeter tumor. While Pastor Jose Luis preached, it disappeared. Another young lady in the audience had dealt with a bleeding issue for three years. It stopped during the sermon and has never been a problem since. No one prayed for them, it just happened as he preached about the goodness of God. That was the first time we saw that happen.

We'd also had no breakthrough in seeing blind eyes opened. We had all prayed for several people with blindness with no success. One of these was a 3 year old girl who had been blind in one eye for a year and a half. Everyone had prayed for her. I had, Pastor Jose Luis had, a team from Bethel SSM and others, yet with no change. The mother would pray with us with tears running down her face. A very heartbreaking situation. But during this season of visitation

from the Holy Spirit in Pastor Jose Luis's church, her eye opened. She can now see in both eyes. Jesus is awesome!

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## Chapter 6 The Greatest Faith

*Matthew 8:<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith." (NIV)*

Jesus made this remark to His disciples after a conversation He had with a Roman centurion, a military commander of 100 Roman soldiers, a lower level officer. A centurion would be the equivalent to a captain in the U.S. army. This centurion was part of the brutal Roman army that occupied Israel in the 1<sup>st</sup> century. What is very interesting about this soldier is that in his conversation with Jesus, he never mentioned God, the scriptures, or the Jewish law, yet Jesus said that what he said demonstrated faith at its highest levels. Jesus never gave anyone else a higher compliment for their faith. What was it he said that deserved such recognition? Let's go through their conversation verse by verse and examine it.

*<sup>5</sup> When Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, asking for help. <sup>6</sup> "Lord," he said, "my servant lies at home paralyzed, suffering terribly." Jesus said to him, "Shall I come and heal him?"*

We don't know how much of the Jewish religion the centurion understood, all that we do know for sure is that he knew enough about Jesus and His ministry to know that Jesus could heal his sick servant. We also can assume that this centurion loved his servant so much that he

would be looking for a way to help him. That says a lot about the character of the centurion. So he found Jesus and told Him about his servant and asked for help. Jesus immediately agreed to his request, but what happens next begins to show why Jesus described the centurion's faith as different from the faith of all of those around him.

<sup>8</sup>*The centurion replied, "Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof. But just say the word, and my servant will be healed."*

Jesus has agreed to go to the centurion's home and heal his servant. Everyone else that came to Jesus with a request for healing sought just that. Yet the Roman responds differently. He has an idea of who Jesus really is, his use of the word "Lord" to address Him tells us this. He also states that he isn't worthy to have Jesus enter his home. But his next statement is quite shocking. Even though he doesn't deserve it, he believes Jesus can and will do it. At this point the centurion begins to demonstrate a faith different than that of the Jewish people.

Jewish religious law dictated that blessing from God was earned. Blessings came from obedience while disobedience brought curses. Yet in Matthew 4, when Jesus began to preach, "Repent for the kingdom of Heaven is here," that call for repentance meant so much more than just quit doing bad things. Jesus was calling his audience to begin to see God in a way they had never seen Him before. Jesus then demonstrated the reality of the kingdom of Heaven by healing the sick. He didn't just heal the virtuous sick, He healed them all, sinners included. For the first time they didn't have to deserve the blessings of God. Even sinners could be blessed.

The centurion also touched on something few had picked up on at this point. He said that if Jesus would just speak the word, his servant would be healed. That is powerful. The centurion's faith was in the spoken word of Jesus. He somehow knew that was how Jesus healed people. Oddly enough it seems he learned that in his role as a Roman centurion.

<sup>9</sup>*For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and that one, 'Come,' and he comes. I say to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."*

The centurion was a man under authority. That meant that a supreme commander had put the centurion in his position. His authority flowed from the authority of his commander. That same supreme authority dictated that the people serving under the centurion, the soldiers and servants, must obey the centurion. The centurion also served and obeyed the supreme commander. So the position the centurion held, and the obedience owed him by those under him, both flowed from the same supreme authority.

The centurion also knew that just by giving orders, he could make things or people come and go. He instinctively knew that this was how Jesus operated, that by the position of authority that Jesus held, He could make things come and go just by speaking to them. One of those things was sickness and disease. The authority that Jesus held extended to medical and spiritual issues in the people He ministered to.

It is interesting that the one man Jesus said had a faith like none He had found in Israel was trained in a different system than Judaism. This whole concept of authority and undeserved blessing was hidden from those who were steeped in the law of Moses.

*<sup>10</sup> When Jesus heard this, he was amazed and said to those following him, "Truly I tell you, I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith."*

When Jesus heard this, He was amazed. Amazed at how a Roman centurion could so easily grasp how the kingdom of Heaven operated. Notice once more that this Roman officer never mentions God, Jewish law or scriptures. He just observed that Jesus could speak a word and make things happen. Now let's look at what happens two chapters later.

*Matthew 10:1 Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness. (NIV)*

The Roman centurion understood how Jesus healed people even before Jesus' own disciples did. He had yet to teach them how He wanted them to heal the sick and demonstrate the kingdom of Heaven. We don't know how much time passed before this moment came but we do know who understood it first.

The principle is just what the Roman centurion had been taught in his military training. We believers have been placed into a position of authority by a supreme commander, God the Father. Our authority has been given to us by Him. It is not an authority we won on our own. It came with the position. The position was bestowed by the One above us. This authority that has been given to us is recognized by those below us, in this case, sickness and disease. Just as the Roman soldiers obeyed the Roman centurion because they knew that he represented the supreme commander, sickness and disease obeyed the disciples in the Bible, and now us, because they know that those disciples and now us represent the God of the universe. The Roman soldiers didn't have to be impressed by the Roman centurion, their obedience was owed to the one he represented. The Roman centurion didn't need to be impressed with himself, he only needed to be in awe of the one who gave him his authority.

We are the same. We didn't win this authority, it is God's alone and He has delegated it to us to bless the people around us that He loves so much. We don't have to be impressed with our own giftings or strengths, we only need to be in awe of the One who placed us in this position. We also need to understand just how much in awe of Him that sickness and disease is. Those things obey Him because of who He is, even if they encounter Him in us and in our words.

Can you begin to see the damage that low spiritual self-esteem disguised as holiness has done over the centuries? People who have been taught to believe that at best we are just broken nobodies who will one day struggle into heaven after living defeated lives on earth aren't very well equipped to walk in the authority that God wants to bestow on us. Yet the world around us needs us to rise up and walk in who God has called us to be and to release into their lives the kingdom that is within us. I think we are headed that way. I am more encouraged every day by what I see happening around me that the church is finally beginning to dare to believe in who they really are. And that includes you, my friend.

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A man recently came to our church, Ruta 3:16, one day and rang the bell. A young lady came to the door and asked how she might help him. He told her he was looking for a shaman, Spanish for witch doctor, and he'd heard that people got healed at this place, meaning our church. He didn't know Ruta 3:16 was a church, and once he found that out, it was obvious that he wasn't looking for a church.

She told him that we didn't have any shamans, but that she could get someone to pray for him. About that time another young lady came to the door. He was adamant that he wanted a male shaman, not a female, to talk to.

Francisco Hernandez, our intern from Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry, also came out to see what was going on. About that time the man turned and began to walk off. Francisco asked God for a quick word of knowledge about what the man's problem was. He quickly called out, "You have a problem with your right leg."

The guy turned around and said, "No it is my left leg, but how did you know?". Francisco replied, "It's your knee, isn't it?"

That was right, so now he had the man's attention. Francisco quickly explained that they were going to pray a quick prayer for him, and that was all. It was obvious the man had some issues with church, so they prayed a short prayer and asked him to move his knee and check it out. Much to his surprise, the man's knee now was pain free. They blessed him and he left, but

now I am sure with some questions in his mind about the goodness of God because of this encounter with healing.

## Chapter 7

### Why are all not healed?

Ok, if healing is so easy, why isn't everyone healed? That's a good question so let's look at it in this chapter. Not everyone is healed. In our services, in the outreaches that we do with our school and with mission teams, more than 50% are healed. There are some nights when God's presence is particularly strong, it seems like almost everyone gets healed. For many years I prayed for people and less than 10% were healed, so seeing most of the people we pray for get healed is very exciting to me.

But why isn't everyone healed? What is the biblical standard for healing? With one exception, and we'll look at that in a minute, in the Gospels when Jesus prayed for the sick it says that all were healed. I don't think the word "all" was used as a rhetorical flourish but the writers used the word "all" because that word most clearly conveyed what took place. In the book of Acts, when people would bring the sick and put them where Peter's shadow would touch them, it says that "all" were healed. After Paul was shipwrecked, and they brought the sick people of the island for him to pray for them, it says again that "all" were healed. I'm not a Greek scholar but I assume that the Greek word for all means everybody. So if we make doctrine from what happened in the Bible, and not from our personal experience, we have to say that the biblical standard is that all should be healed.

There seems to be 3 main theological points of view on this matter. One group believes that the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit were only intended for the early days of the church and that era ended with the death of the early apostles. I am not sure how they account for the fact that miracles continue today. They would have to either deny them or attribute them to the works of satan. That is a scary position because the biblical definition of the unpardonable sin, blasphemy of the Holy Spirit, is to assign to satan the works of the Holy Spirit.

There is another group that believes that God heals yet does so on a case by case basis. Some that subscribe to this doctrine believe that God can even be the source of the sickness, that sometimes He brings illness to develop character. Yet if Jesus healed all, then He must have healed some of those that His Father had made sick. At that point you have God working against God.

The other paradigm is that God wants to heal everyone that is sick. Just as an observer, as I studied supernatural healing, it became apparent to me that this third group had the most success in praying for the sick. My goal isn't to win theological arguments, it is to see the most people healed and God get the credit for it. So I choose to believe that God wants to heal everyone.

But still everyone is not healed. I have read biographies about men and women who flowed in the gift of healing through the centuries and have yet to encounter any who was known for seeing everyone they prayed for healed. Why is that?

We seem to want to know the answer to that question so that we can assign blame to the one responsible. That can be a good way to fix a problem but in healing it may be counter-productive. For example, what if the problem is that the person that we are praying for doesn't have enough faith? Do we really want to tell them that? Faced with having possibly a terminal disease or living a life of constant pain, we now want to add to that burden that they have inferior faith. If you just had more faith you wouldn't be sick. How is that going to help? There are times when we pray for people, especially those with depression, that they don't need faith. Ours is enough. So the answer could possibly be that they need more faith, but dismissing them with the charge that if they had more faith they would be healed seems to me to be a brutal thing to do.

What if there is sin in their life? That doesn't seem to be a problem with God. Jesus healed sinners as well as saints. One thing I have heard said by a lot of people who flow in the healing gift is that it is often easier for a person outside of the church to be healed than someone in the church. Why is that? Church people may often think that healing is tied to their performance. People outside the church don't seem to worry about whether they deserve to be healed or not. So they don't battle with that barrier.

There does seem to be one sin that may affect healing, and that is unforgiveness. The kind of unforgiveness that comes when we consciously make a decision to never forgive someone based on a hurt that we have suffered. If we are praying for someone without results, and we sense the Holy Spirit telling us this, then the solution would be to gently lead that person in a prayer of forgiveness. Forgiveness is an act of the will, not an emotion. Sometimes that opens the door for healing to flow. But even in this instance, we must do it gently and lovingly.

What if it is our fault? It could be. Maybe we don't have the right faith or attitude as we pray. So then every time we pray for someone and they are not healed, would it be a good idea

to scrutinize every move we made to find a mistake? I don't think so. If you beat yourself up every time you pray for someone and nothing happens, that is not fair to the next person you are going to pray for. Seriously. Unworthiness and a focus on our own shortcomings seem to make it hard to move in the supernatural.

I try to remember to ask the Holy Spirit that if I am doing something wrong, if He will tell me in such a way that I know that it is Him, I promise to change anything He asks me to do. If He doesn't bring anything to my attention, I am not going to worry about it. Results are His department anyway, my job is to step out in faith and declare healing.

I live in a 3<sup>rd</sup> world country and the conventional wisdom says that it is easier for people here to be healed than in the US, my home country. Is that true and if so, why is it? My experience and observation has been that it is true, and for many years I subscribed to the idea that people who live in 3<sup>rd</sup> world countries, because they live such hard lives, develop superior faith. But once I got to know them more intimately, and walked through some trying situations with them, I decided that wasn't true. When times got hard, they struggled like we all do. In fact, people here struggle with believing God for financial miracles much more than people in the US do.

So why is it easier for people to be healed here? Bill Johnson, of Bethel Church in Redding, California attributes it to a principle that Jesus taught. Jesus said that if you receive a prophet as a prophet, you receive a prophet's reward. What does that mean? What Jesus is saying, that for someone needing a supernatural word from a prophet, the prophet's reward, how that person treats and honors the prophet will determine how supernatural a word they receive. Their honor of that prophet empowers him or her to move supernaturally. That same principle holds true for healing and any form of supernatural ministry as well.

Example. When Jesus healed the sick, the Bible says over and over again that He healed them all. Except once. When Jesus visited Nazareth, his hometown, something different took place. Jesus never did a miracle until He was baptized in the Jordan River and the Holy Spirit descended on Him at age 30. So when He returned to Nazareth, this was the first opportunity He'd had to release healing into the people He had known since childhood and loved. This had to be a big day for Him, something He had waited a long time for.

Yet the passage says that at first they marveled at His teaching and the testimonies of the miracles that He'd performed, then someone said, "Isn't this the son of the carpenter? Isn't this Mary and Joseph's boy? Who does He think He is?" Or something to that effect. They quit honoring Jesus for the gift He carried and in doing so, restricted His power. It says that Jesus marveled at their unbelief, and because of it, could not do many miracles. Their unbelief was not in the God they'd been taught of, but in the man in front of them, Jesus.

Jesus walked in the power of the Holy Spirit like no one ever has. But by refusing to honor Him and His gift, the people of Nazareth made it difficult for Jesus to do what He was empowered to do. How much more does that hold true for us.

In the US church, the minister most looked upon with scorn or suspicion is the one who claims to flow in the supernatural. Some of that comes from experience, and people are trying to protect themselves from being hurt or taken advantage of. But in doing so, they are also protecting themselves from a miracle. That is the truth.

Example. I have always been taught that when praying for someone, ask them not to pray. That seems to impede the power of God from flowing. Why is that? To understand this,



ask why are they praying? They are praying because to some degree, they don't believe that the prayer of the person praying for them is sufficient. In doing so, they not honoring the person praying for them as one who flows in healing. So they don't receive that person's reward, their healing.

We have a paradigm of how God works that is not correct. We see God as moving apart from us. We pray and then He does the miracle, removed from us or other people. But in the New Testament, almost all miracles involved 3 people. First of all God, plus the person receiving the miracle, and then a third person, a believer who either speaks a word or touches someone. Almost all miracles follow that format. For some reason, God wants to do things with us and through us. So we are asked not only to believe in the power of God, and that the Bible is true but also in the person He has sent to minister to us.

When I take a team from our school or from the US into a Salvadoran church to minister either in healing or in the prophetic, the local people honor them. They unfailingly do. When they come forward to receive prayer their honor empowers the team and draws gifts out of them that they may not even know that they carry. It works every time and the reason for it is the humble, honoring spirit that the people of El Salvador carry.

That same principle can work in the US. I travel yearly to the US to visit the churches that support us in El Salvador, and I always pray for the sick as I go. If I explain how this principle of honor works, then healing is as easy there as it is here. I train local teams in the churches in the US and they have breakthrough praying for the sick as well.

Did I answer clearly why people are not healed? No, because to some degree it is a mystery. And where there is mystery my answer is simply, I don't know. God knows but I don't. I am becoming more and more comfortable with that answer. In the last 3 years of my life, I have seen more people healed than in all of the other years. Yet I now have more questions without answers than ever. I have learned that if we are waiting to totally understand healing before we believe it, we will probably never get there.

What I do know is that healing works. And that God is good, utterly, wonderfully good. I have seen both of those realities demonstrated over and over again.

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One night in a worship service, the worship was extremely intense. In that atmosphere I heard the Holy Spirit direct me to say that if anyone present had pain in their body, if they would raise their hand, someone would come and hug them instead of praying for them and that Jesus would heal them. That was a first for me, and I was anxious to see what God would do. I also hoped it worked.

There was a young man named Luis in our church that night. It was his first night to come. A member of our church invited him.

Luis was in his late 20's and walked with a cane. Injuries from a motorcycle wreck 3 years earlier hadn't healed well, and he'd incurred a massive infection following a surgery that left him with a weakened right leg with a lot of pain.

He raised his hand and another Luis, one of our pastors, went to him and gave him a big hug. When he finished, we asked him to check it out. He handed his cane to someone and began to walk in front of the platform. He had a smile on his face and said that it didn't hurt anymore.

We were all excited but I noticed that when he got ready to leave, he was still using his cane. I asked him a couple of times if he still hurt but he kept saying that he was pain free for the first time in a long time. But he continued to use his cane and that confused me.

What I didn't know but have learned since, is that sometimes when people recover from long term musculoskeletal injuries, they are pain free but have no strength in that part of their

body. Luis walked on his cane for a couple of weeks and then threw it away as his strength returned. We also discovered that he was a talented musician, playing guitar, drums and bass all at a high level, but had not played in some time because of his injury. Not any more. He is now involved in our worship ministry and he and his wife Blanca are a huge blessing to our church.

## Chapter 8

### Why we get sick

We become ill because we encounter bacteria or viruses that infect us and then make life miserable for us. Sometimes our genetic makeup causes us to become ill. If we don't take care of our bodies, bad things happen to us. If we are sledding down a hill in the snow with our grandchildren and wipe out, we can hurt ourselves, as my wife recently did. If we overuse our muscles we can damage them.

Even though all of these natural, non-spiritual events cause sickness and injury, every time someone is healed, the kingdom of darkness just lost a battle. Jesus used healing to prove that the kingdom of heaven was present. Obviously in the kingdom there is no sickness or injury. I'm looking forward to that.

So every form of healing is good. There are no second rate forms of healing. If your cancer was healed because someone prayed over you or because you took several rounds of chemo therapy, you are healed and the kingdom of darkness just took a hit. God doesn't get mad when we get healed at the hospital instead of the church. Both were His idea. Doctors and nurses are working on His behalf just like pastors and evangelists. There should be no conflict about that. There have been misguided people who believed that taking medicine made God mad and was evidence of a lack of faith. Their influence in the church has had disastrous results.

Curry Blake says that medicine can't stop the power of God. If you are on medicine and believing God for your healing, it is ok to continue to take your medicine. Your doctor prescribed those meds because of symptoms he observed and when those symptoms disappear as your healing manifests, he'll tell you to quit taking them. Quitting some meds cold turkey can have serious side effects. We have caused a lot of problems in the church with this sort of teaching and it doesn't have to be this way.

So even though we become sick due to bacteria, viruses, heredity or injury, there is still an element of the kingdom of darkness behind all of this. Sometimes as we pray for people, all we need to do is to tell the sickness or pain to leave in Jesus name. Sometimes however that sets off a confrontation with the kingdom of darkness that requires us to pray a little differently.

If you are ever praying for someone and their pain either moves from one location in the body to another or intensifies, that doesn't mean that you are having a bad day or this prayer stuff doesn't work. It can be the sign of what Jesus called an afflicting spirit. I am not saying that all sick people are demon possessed and need deliverance. An afflicting spirit is just that, a spirit that afflicts one part of someone's life and body. So what do you do when this happens? Instead of commanding healing, you just tell the afflicting spirit to leave in Jesus name.

A few years ago we were hosting a youth group mission team here and in our training session I had mentioned afflicting spirits. A team of young men were praying for a man with pain in his kidneys. After they stopped and checked it out, he told them that the pain was now in his chest and intensifying. They came and got me and asked me to help them.

Although I had taught about this, I had actually never experienced it. But I knew that our goal was to love on the person we were praying for, and that we didn't want to scare them or make them the center of attention. So I quietly went behind the guy and began to pray in English and tell the afflicting spirit to leave. The translator began to translate and I stopped him. The person we were praying for didn't have to know what was going on. My problem wasn't with him but with the afflicting spirit.

The young man began to weep and then threw up. Then he was ok and all of his pain had left. What just happened? Why did he vomit? We have noticed, especially in moments of deliverance, that sometimes, and the word sometimes is very important, people vomit as they are being delivered. Some ministers seize on this and make it a doctrinal point that to achieve deliverance you have to throw up. They then encourage people to vomit their way to freedom. At that point vomiting becomes more important to the process than the name of Jesus and that is wrong.

So why do people vomit? In the gospels when Jesus cast demons out of people, on occasion strange things happened as they left. Sometimes they came out with a shriek, and another time they threw the person to the ground. Why did this happen? Demons manifesting is a sign of weakness. We however interpret it differently. It scares us. It probably shouldn't. They manifest when they are threatened. And what happened on these occasions, just as when the young man vomited, as their last act before leaving the person they try to embarrass and shame them. That's it. You could just as easily make a doctrine that says that in order for someone to be delivered we must first body slam them to the ground. Lucha libre deliverance. There would be more Biblical authority for that doctrine than for the vomit your way to freedom doctrine. I just don't think we'd have many takers for that type of ministry. And when

we encourage and help the person to vomit, we are actually assisting the demon in embarrassing them. Not a good idea.

Because healing has a spiritual component to it, spiritual principles apply. Sometimes healings don't last. Why? Some of it is mystery so the answer is, I don't know, but let me share my experiences with you.

I continually ask people I know who have been healed about their continuing experiences with healing. For some, their symptoms will try to return multiple times usually within the first year after their healing. How they confront those symptoms seems to determine what happens next. In my case of being healed from depression there were a couple of moments when that happened in the first year after my healing. What I had learned from my research was that getting mad about it is a good thing to do. Taking a stand and saying I am not putting up with this again seems to work really well. Being afraid, although a normal enough response, seems to open doors for sickness to return.

We were going with a team to Comasagua, to do a healing service in my friend's church. As we prayed and asked God to give us idea of what we should expect, a word of knowledge, I heard the word cancer and another team member heard tumors. We arrived a little late, but the pastor said not to worry because they were waiting on a woman who had cancer. We got excited.

We had a list of several illnesses God had told us about so I went through those first, calling them up for prayer and they were all healed. I purposefully saved cancer for last so that this woman could first see all the others healed and that in turn would build up her faith.

I called out cancer and her friends helped her to her feet and walked her to the front. She was in end stage ovarian cancer. The doctors had terminated her treatment. One of our female team members put her hand over the woman's lower abdomen and we began to pray.

After a short prayer we stopped and asked how she felt. She told us that something like fire was coming off the hands of the young female team member and she felt better. We continued to pray until she told us that her pain had left. We hugged her and sat down.

For the rest of the service I watched her because something was off. She never smiled. She never got happy. I kept asking myself why I was more excited about this than she was. I asked her again if her pain had left and she told me that it had.

She died a month later. But her family told us that for several days after being prayed for she was up and doing things she hadn't been able to do in months. So I believe something happened that day and that she was telling us the truth when she said that her pain had left.

What happened? I am not sure but I have an idea. I prayed about it and I believe that this is what took place. Sometime very soon after God touched her, she had this thought and it terrified her. What if the cancer comes back? That is a normal enough thought to have but also an irrational one. Irrational fear is an open door for demonic forces to attack us. My experience with depression came because of my irrational fear that at age 60 my life would come to an end.

The enemy uses fear to destroy us. The Bible is full of the command to fear not. If you can find a "not" then you have permission to fear it, but we are not allowed to fear other things. There is healthy fear that keeps us from stepping in front of a bus, and that's ok, but unhealthy, irrational fear is like a suicide bomber in our minds.

But what if we get healed, and months later our pain or illness returns in spite of our commands to go away, what then? Logic would tell us that if we had gone to a doctor or therapist and after one treatment our condition was cured, then if those symptoms returned our first thought would be, I need another treatment and we would confidently go back for more.

In the church however we sometimes act differently. For some odd reason, if one prayer cures our condition and months later our pain or illness returns, we decide either that healing doesn't work or there is something wrong with us or God. That is not logical. We too should quickly decide that we need more treatment, another round of prayer, and we should seek that out confidently believing for good results.

So sickness, even though it's causes may have a natural explanation, is also tied into the spiritual world. And releasing the kingdom of heaven is the solution. The medical community and the Christian community are both great examples of the provision that God has made for doing that.

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One of my spiritual heroes is a guy named Charley Elliott, Sr.. He was an attorney until he met Jesus and his life radically changed. He left his law practice to be a missionary and a healing evangelist. He flows in the gift of healing like no one else I know and he has been a huge inspiration and a good friend for many years.

God alerts him to people's suffering around him through pain in his body. If it is a revelation from God he knows that it is not his body hurting but God talking to him.

One day he was in an airport in between flights and eating lunch. His back began to hurt. After a few minutes of this he decided that God was showing him something. He began to look around the food court, and he spotted a lady at another table who appeared to be in discomfort.

He walked over to her and apologized for interrupting her meal, and asked if her back hurt. She looked at him kind of funny but acknowledged that he did.

He told her he knew that it sounded odd, but that God had told him that her back hurt and asked her if he could pray for her. She either was a believer or her back was making her miserable, or a combination of both, so she agreed.

Charley prayed over her in a very discrete way so that if you didn't know he was praying you wouldn't have guessed it. It was a short prayer and when he finished, he asked her how she felt. She moved around a little, her face lit up and she told him her pain had left.

Charley returned to his lunch, finished eating and caught his flight. That is a great example of the kingdom and how it works.

## Chapter 9

### Your turn

When Jesus sent out the 12 and later the 72, He did 3 things to equip them before He sent them out. First, He taught them. The whole healing class basically was that He had given them authority over every sickness and disease. That was all that they needed to know to be successful.

He also gave them experience. Before they prayed for their first sick person, they had already seen thousands, if not tens of thousands of people healed. They knew beyond a shadow of a doubt that healing worked. They expected good things to happen.

The last thing He gave them, and maybe the most important part of their equipping, was affirmation. They knew that He believed in them, and that He had chosen them to go do this. He didn't have any problems with sending them out to heal the sick. He had a plan and they were an integral part of it.

One of them was Judas Iscariot. If our low spiritual self-esteem won't allow us to see ourselves as good enough to heal the sick, remember that Judas did it, even while he was stealing from the money bag. He then went on to betray Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. You think that Jesus wasn't aware of Judas' issues? If Judas was good enough to do it, then surely we are.

In the American church, and maybe the worldwide church, if we teach at all about healing, and few do, our training seems to involve only the classroom part. We send people out with little or no experience, because miracles happen so infrequently in our churches. I have been in Pentecostal/Charismatic churches for 40+ years and it was 25 years before I saw my first real miracle. That is a common level of experience for most people in the church.

We also are light on the affirmation part. We tend to focus instead on looking for flaws in our students as opposed to looking for the gold hidden in them. Gold that often they don't even know they carry. So we often produce insecure ministers who are unaware of the treasure that is inside of them.

That is changing. The wonderful people at Bethel School of Supernatural Ministry in Redding, California and many other ministry schools are turning out thousands of students each year who have been infected with the revival virus. They have been made aware of the awesome treasure that they carry and the potential it has to change the world around them. They are acting on that as they return to their daily lives or begin careers in ministry. Both are equally valid pursuits.

God is calling all of us to an adventure with Him. Supernatural ministry is fun. It is. God is not looking at us with a frown on His face, demanding that we get off of our blessed assurances and get with the program. Instead He puts His arm around us like the good Father that He is and invites us to partner with Him in bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth, like a good Father with His much loved son or daughter. That would be you and me.

He enjoys us, as difficult as that is to believe. He lives in us because He likes it there, even when we don't like living with ourselves. He loves us because He is good, not because we are good. He is not mad at us. Maybe He should be but because of what Jesus did on the cross, He has chosen not to be.

He is not calling all of us to leave our jobs and go into full time ministry. Some He will but for most of us, what He needs is a community of people who are common, ordinary men and women going about the day to day stuff of life, but aware of the treasure that they carry. Out of their relationship with Him, they spread the kingdom of heaven wherever they go.

What does that look like? One of my prayers is that if there is someone around me that God wants to touch, if He will tell me in such a way that I know it is Him, I will pray for them. I am not going to go looking for them. I am just going to live life and be myself. I am going to love God and people and enjoy baseball and Tex-Mex when I can get it. And I release the kingdom when He asks me to. People should be blessed because they know us. Good things should happen to them because the fullness that we carry spills over into their lives.

I want to affirm and encourage you. You carry a wonderful treasure in your jar of clay. It's time to begin the joy of discovering how awesome Jesus is in you and how incredible you are in Him. The spiritual warfare that journey sets off will be intense at times but it is a journey I promise that you will enjoy.

Here is an example of one of the coolest experiences I have ever had, and it has happened several times. For instance, I often pray for people with bad backs. Because I have



been healed of that injury, I have breakthrough in that area. Healings come easily. After prayer, I ask them to move around and check it out, to try something that they couldn't do before. A lot of times in a healing, people don't feel anything, so when asked to see if anything is different, they are at best skeptical. But they move, and a strange look comes on their face as they realize that movement should have brought pain but it didn't. Then they move some more and they now realize that Jesus has just healed them. The joy that covers their face makes all of this worthwhile for me. This was something that Jesus wanted to do yet He needed someone to be bold enough or dumb enough to take a step of faith.

I believe that God has difficulty finding people who will trust Him enough to put His plan for bringing the kingdom of heaven to earth into action. That is not fair to Him. So when people die or tragedy strikes, people ask where was God? The answer should be that He is here in us and we are His plan to display His goodness to the world. I am convinced that the greatest impediment to that plan is the religious identity that we have adopted over the centuries in the church that refuses to allow us to believe that we are who He says that we are.

Another disclaimer. I am not saying that if anyone near or dear to you died, then it is your fault for not walking in the power of God. That is just not true. Do not allow yourself to be tormented by that type of accusation. That religious mindset doesn't help at all. The enemy always wants us to focus on the negative and be discouraged, lest we focus on what God is doing and be amazed.

I believe that it is becoming easier and easier for God to find those who dare to take a risk and believe Him, and that change will bring some of the most exciting and amazing days that the church on Earth has ever experienced. We are in the beginning stages of the greatest revival the world has ever seen. What a great day to be alive. You and I are invited to be part of that, imitating God as dearly loved sons and daughters. That is who you are. You are awesome because the Holy Spirit lives in you. Explore your awesomeness. Enjoy God, it honors Him when we do.

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A young pastor, Roberto Guerro, went to our school of supernatural ministry, graduated in June and in August began to have headaches and dizzy spells. In late September he had an MRI which revealed a rapidly growing brain tumor. The prognosis wasn't good and in late October through a miracle of God's provision he was given an intense 3 week treatment regimen by a group of Canadian doctors using chemo and radiation therapy in nearby Guatemala that would begin in late November. By this point in time he was paralyzed on his left side, with no feeling in his left arm and leg, although he could walk a little by using a cane gripped in his right hand. He dragged his left foot, a lot like the mummy in the horror movies. I had been in the US, Ireland and Scotland for a 5-week trip, and didn't find out about it until I got back in early November. I heard the Lord tell me to go pray for Roberto so I did, which was about a 3 hour trip to his home. Again, when I got there he was walking very slowly with a cane dragging his left foot. I prayed for him once, and there was no noticeable change, other than he began to smile. That puzzled me, because I couldn't see any reason for it, but he told me months later that he had been depressed, and understandably so. But after the first prayer his depression lifted, hence the smile. I prayed again, Jesus touched him, and now he could lift his left foot a little bit. I then prayed a 3<sup>rd</sup> time, again Jesus wonderfully touched him, and he could walk normally as feeling returned to his left side. I had lunch with him and as I drove home he sent me a photo of him balanced on his previously paralyzed left leg. He left 3 days later for his

treatment regimen, and they put him through all of it. 3 weeks later he was cancer free and still is to this day. Jesus is amazing!!

## Epilogue The Price You Pay

I have been thinking about this for a year or so, and I have come to the conclusion that there is a price we all pay to see Jesus heal people through us. I am not talking about paying the price for the anointing. To have God in the person of the Holy Spirit inhabit and move through us would require such a precious price to be paid that only Jesus can pay that one and He already has.

What I am referring to is that if you examine the lives and beliefs of those men and women who see Jesus heal others through them you will find this one thing they all have in common. They all pray for people, and a fraction of them are healed. The percentage probably varies from person to person but everyone of them see some people get healed while others are not healed. For every miracle story they share, like the stories shared in this book, they also have a box of miracles that never happened. Me too.

What they have in common was that they never quit when that happened. They never got mad at God, or blamed Him, or gave up on either Him or healing. Or if they did, it was only temporary and they didn't allow it to affect them. That is the price you pay, over and over again, to see Jesus heal the sick through you. Not everyone is prepared to pay it. I have friends who

have seen greater miracles than I have who later on walked away from it because they prayed for others that weren't healed. In their discouragement, they quit.

I would guess, mainly because we are terrible about keeping stats, that over a year's time we probably see at least 50% of the people we pray for get healed. Some nights when the presence of God is really strong it seems like more than that. But we can't control which 50% get healed. That means that sometimes the people I want most to see get healed, don't get healed. These are people close to me, I have deep emotional attachments to them and yet no matter how much I pray nothing changes.

I decided several years ago that the most basic, non-negotiable thing I believe about God is that He is always good. Utterly, wonderfully good. When someone doesn't get healed, I don't blame Him. I believe He wants them healed more than I do. It is not His fault. It could be my fault or it could be due to the person getting prayed for, but it is not God's fault.

So when that happens, I move on. You have to. I was a paramedic for 16 years, and I believe a lot of what I learned there prepared me for what I do today. One of the things we worked on the most was managing cardiac arrests. A lot of our equipment was focused on that. When we entered a house where someone had quit breathing and lost their heartbeat, we had a lot of things to do. We connected them to the heart monitor, interpreted what we saw on the screen, started IVs, intubated them, defibrillated if necessary, gave drugs if indicated and got the patient ready for transport. That took as long as 20 minutes. We were in a small town without a hospital so our transport times were at least 30 minutes, doing CPR and performing whatever interventions were called for all the way. After we arrived at the hospital, most ER docs would continue to work for at least another 30 minutes.

A 2015 nation-wide study of out of hospital cardiac arrests showed that about 6% of those survive. I am sure that our success rate was probably about the same. But God showed me one day that I never walked into a house thinking that this was probably not going to work, although statistically that was probably the case. Because of how we had been trained, we believed that because we walked in the door knowing what we knew and carrying the equipment we had with us, that person now had a chance that they didn't have before. That was the truth and it was easy for us to believe it. So we gave it everything we had. And God was asking me why I didn't have the same faith in Him.

The enemy always wants us to focus on what hasn't happened so that we won't be amazed by what has happened. Praying for the sick is no different. We will all be sorely tested in this area and we get to choose what we are going to focus on. But because you prayed for that person, regardless of the final outcome, they now had a chance that didn't exist before. We have to embrace that just like our paramedics had to.

If you want to see a lot of people healed by Jesus, so that they can see Him for who He really is and discover how much they are loved by Him, you have to pray for a lot of people. Those two realities are intimately connected. And if you pray for a lot of people, you will see a percentage of those left unhealed. Some of them may well be close friends or family that affect you deeply. Why? I don't know. I do know however it is not God's fault. And we will all be asked to pay the price for seeing Jesus heal others through us.

Maybe one day we mature enough in this gift that everyone is healed just like when Jesus prayed for the sick. I hope fervently that day comes soon. But till it does, we are going to be asked to pay the price to continue in this gift. And we should because He is worth it. The sick

of this world need an encounter with His love and we carry it with us everywhere we go. Thank you in advance for making that decision to pay that price. God bless.

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My friend Beau had moved to Colombia with his family for a year to serve a ministry there and see if they were called to missions. One night, during a large healing campaign, he was part of the prayer team but didn't have a translator as there were not enough to go around. He decided to walk around the auditorium praying in the Spirit to augment the spiritual atmosphere. God had a better idea. A young Colombian saw what he was doing, went up to Beau and by sign language and a few English words asked Beau to pray for a friend with a hearing issue. He prayed, Jesus touched and the young man was healed. Beau got the attention of a translator who explained to the young Colombian if he would point out the people, Beau would pray for them. Beau was then led to a young man in a wheelchair. The helper pointed at the arms and legs of the young man in the wheelchair and said, "No strong." Beau rightfully assumed the man had an issue with weakness in his arms and legs and began to command that strength come. He decided to check it out by standing the guy up. He quickly decided that this guy definitely had problems with not being able to walk well as he could barely do it. The guy's father was there and Beau attempted to ask him if this was any better than before, but due to language barriers and the fact that the dad was weeping, he couldn't get any answers. So he

began to walk with the young man who was now getting stronger. He noticed people were taking videos and photos of this but he didn't understand why. Beau noticed that the dad had now gone to the platform and was talking over the mike with the evangelist. The evangelist was recounting in English what was going on. The young man with weakness issues was 21 years old, had been a victim of infantile paralysis, and up until that night had never walked in his life. Yay Jesus! He can work even when we don't know the whole story or speak the right language.