

GROWTH RESOURCES

HEALING

John 5 tells that at the pool of Bethesda there lay a **great multitude of impotent folk, blind, halt, withered, waiting for the moving of the water.**

- How similar that is to **men and women of every generation who place their faith in some religious practice.**
- **Christ the great Deliverer was ministering in the land of Judea, yet people sat around a pool looking to its water for deliverance.**
- **Today it is still the same that many folk place their faith for healing in some sort of religious practices.**
 - In India millions think there is healing in the Ganges River.
 - In the Caribbean area people put their trust in voodoo drums, witch doctors, and medicines that cannot heal.
 - In Tibet it is praying wheels.
 - In some parts of African they depend on ritualistic bonfires, dancing and devil worship.
 - Great hordes of Muslims falsely think there is spiritual profit to go on a pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina.
 - Other use the prayer beads, holy water and Hail Marys.
 - In many protestant churches with their liturgies **we have thousands sitting at “the pool” while the real Saviour of sinners is ignored, unknown or supplanted.**
 - **The reason for this world condition of sin is the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.**
 - **Every person no matter what country, no matter what colour of skin, no matter what social standing, is born a sinner and possess a corrupt nature.** (1 John 5:19; 2 Cor 4:4).

The questions that we all are confronted with

*(John 5:6) When Jesus noticed him lying there [helpless], knowing that he had already been a long time in that condition. He said to him, **Do you want to become well? ‘Are you really in earnest about getting well?’***

- **Too often we assume that a person wants one thing, while they just aren't where we imagine them to be.**
- *Not all sick people really want to be healed -- or to surrender their lives to Christ -- even though that is their true need.*
 - Some invalids **take advantage of the sympathetic goodness of their friends and relatives.**
 - **Others still enjoy their sin too much and do not see their sin as sin or as destructive.**
 - **Others sink so low that they lose all hope and wish for death.**
- **It could be that the Lord Jesus asked this question to impress upon this man his utter helplessness.**
 - Men and women must be **brought to recognize their own impotency.**

- When a man begins to console himself by saying, *"I will do better next time" or "I will cut out my bad habits" or "I will correct my mistakes"* it is a sure sign that **he has not yet come to the end of himself.**
- The invalid in our story didn't exactly answer the question.
 - Rather he explained why he hadn't been healed.
 - His answer tells us something about his character (*complaining, blaming, and sinner*) and his faith.
- Jesus didn't pray for this man. He commands him with a word of power.
 - This command to **"get up"** (NIV, ESV), **"stand up"** (NRSV), **"rise"** (KJV) in a number of places in the Gospels.
 - It challenges the **faith** of the invalid. *We see it with the paralytic when the ceiling of a home was broken up (Matthew 9:5-6; Mark 2:9, 11; Luke 5:23-24), a man in the synagogue with a shriveled hand (Mark 3:3; Luke 6:8), Jairus's daughter who is raised from dead (Mark 5:41; Luke 8:54), blind Bartimaeus (Mark 10:49), and the crippled man at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple (Acts 3:6). What do you want God to do for you?"*

IT IS GOD'S WILL TO HEAL YOU

Exodus 15:26 says *"For I am the LORD who heals you."*

- And as He had done for about 3 million Jews in the wilderness, He will surely do for us today.
 - (Isaiah 53:4) Surely **He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment]**, yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy]. (v.5) **But He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole.**
 - (1 Pet 2:24) He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) so sin and live to righteousness. **By His wounds you have been healed.**
 - (Matthew 8:16) When evening came, they brought to Him many who were under the power of demons, and **He drove out the spirits with a word and restored to health all who were sick.**
 - (Mark 1:40) And a leper came to Him, begging Him on his knees and saying to Him, If You are willing, You are able to make me clean. (v.41) And being moved with pity and sympathy, **Jesus reached out His hand and touched him, and said to him, I am willing; be made clean!**

This divine healing has occurred from the earliest times

- (Gen 20:17) So Abraham prayed to God, and **God healed** Abimelech and his wife and his female slaves, and they bore children.
- (Num 12:13) And Moses cried to the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech You! (v.14) And the Lord said to Moses, If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be ashamed for seven days? Let her be shut up outside the camp for seven days, and after that let her be brought in again. (v.15) So Miriam was shut up without the camp for seven days, and the people did not journey on until Miriam was brought in again.

- (1 Kin 13:6) And the king said to the man of God, **Entreat now the favour of the Lord your God and pray for me, that my hand may be restored to me. And the man of God entreated the Lord, and the king's hand was restored and became as it was before.**
- (2 Ki 20:5) Turn back and tell Hezekiah, the leader of My people, Thus says the Lord, the God of David your [forefather]: **I have heard your prayer. I have seen your tears; behold, I will heal you.**
- The entire New Testament is filled with signs and wonders.

IS DISEASE FROM GOD?

- If God made us sick, why does He then heal us again? A kingdom divided against itself, will not last.
- Make a study of the following passages and you will clearly see that sickness is from the devil.
- **READ: (Matt 17:14-21) and READ: (Luk 13:10-17)**
- (Acts 10:37) The [same] message which was proclaimed throughout all Judea, starting from Galilee after the baptism preached by John – (v.38) **How God anointed and consecrated Jesus of Nazareth with the [Holy] Spirit and with strength and ability and power; how He went about doing good and, in particular, curing all who were harassed and oppressed by [the power of] the devil, for God was with Him.**
- (1 John 3:8) [But] he who commits sin [who practices evil] is of the devil [takes his character from the evil one], for the devil has sinned (violated the divine law) from the beginning. **The reason the Son of God was made manifest (visible was to undo (destroy, loosen, and dissolve) the works the devil [has done].**

THE FIRST DISCIPLE'S MAIN TASK WAS TO HEAL AND TO SET PEOPLE FREE

- (Matt 10:1) AND JESUS summoned to Him His twelve disciples and **gave them power and authority over unclean spirits, to drive them out, and to cure all kinds of disease and all kinds of weakness and infirmity.**
- **READ: (Luk 11:14-26)**
- (Mark 3:14) And He appointed twelve to continue to be with Him, and that **He might send them out to preach [as apostles or special messengers] (v.15) And to have authority and power to heal the sick and to drive out demons.**
- (Mark 16:15) And He said to them, **go into all the world and preach and publish openly the good news** (the Gospel) to every creature [of the whole human race]. (v.16) He who **believes** [who adheres to and trusts in and relies on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] and is **baptized will be saved** [from the penalty of eternal death]; but he who does not believe [who does not adhere to and trust in and rely on the Gospel and Him Whom it sets forth] will be condemned. (Mark 16:17) **And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages. (v.18) They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well.**
- (Luk 9:1) THEN JESUS called together the Twelve [apostles] and **gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases.** (v.2) And He sent them out to announce and preach the kingdom of God and to **bring healing.**

SICKNESS ROBS MAN OF BEING EFFECTIVE IN LIFE, HAPPINESS, FINANCES AND MORE

- The woman who was suffering from bleeding. (Luk 8)
- Sickness turned the lame man (John 5) at the pool of Bethesda into a bedridden loner for 38 years.
- Sickness turned the man with the withered hand into a burden to society.
- Sickness prevented Simon Peter's mother from serving Jesus and the disciples.
- Sickness kept a woman (Luk 13) in bondage for 18 years.

THE MINISTRY OF JESUS WAS A MINISTRY OF HEALING AND DELIVERANCE

- (Matthew 4:23) And He went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the good news (Gospel) of the kingdom, and healing every disease and every weakness and infirmity among the people.
- (Matt 8:16) When evening came, they brought to Him many who were under the power of demons, and He drove out the spirits with a word and restored to health all who were sick. (v.17) And thus He fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah, he Himself took [in order to carry away] our weaknesses and infirmities and bore away our disease.
- (Matt 9:35) And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, **teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news** (the Gospel) of the kingdom and curing all kinds of disease and every weakness and infirmity.
- (Matt 14:36) And begged Him to let them merely touch the fringe of His garment; and as many as touched it were perfectly restored.
- (Matt 19:1) NOW WHEN Jesus had finished saying these things, He left Galilee and went into the part of Judea that is beyond the Jordan. (v.2) And great throngs accompanied Him, and He cured them there.
- (Matt 21:14) And the blind and the lame came to Him in the porches and courts of the temple, and He cured them.
- (Luk 7:21) In that very hour Jesus was healing many [people] of sicknesses and distressing bodily plagues and evil spirits, and to many who were blind he gave [a free, gracious, joy-giving gift of] sight. (v.22) So He replied to them, Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the good news (the Gospel) preached to them.

THE HEALING MINISTRY WAS NOT JUST FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CHURCH BUT CONTINUED IN THE CHURCH AFTER JESUS ASCENDED TO HIS FATHER

- **READ: (Acts 3:1-9) and (Acts 9:32-35) and (Acts 16:18)**
- (Acts 5:16) And the people gathered also from the towns and hamlets around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those troubled with foul spirits, and they were all cured.
- (Acts 14:8) Now at Lystra a man sat who found it impossible to use his feet, for he was a cripple from birth and had never walked. (v.9) He was listening to Paul as he talked (He heard the Word. His Faith was stirred), and [Paul] gazing intently at him and observing that he had faith to be healed. (v.10) Shouted at him, saying, Stand erect on your feet! And he leaped up and walked.
- (Acts 19:11) And God did unusual and extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul. (v.12) So that handkerchiefs or towels or aprons which had touched his skin were carried away and put upon the sick, and their diseases left them and the evil spirits came out of them.

- (Acts 28:8) And it happened that the father of Publius was sick in bed with recurring **attacks of fever and dysentery**; and Paul went to see him, and **after praying and laying his hands on him, he healed him**. (v.9) After this had occurred, the other people on the island who had diseases also kept coming and were cured.

Note: It is wonderful to know that God is still the same - what He has done in the earlier times, He will also do today, because He NEVER changes!

- (Hebr 13:8) Jesus Christ (the Messiah) is [always] **the same, yesterday, today, [yes] and forever (to the ages)**.
- (Jas 1:17) **Every good gift and perfect (free, large, full) gift is from above; it comes down from the Father** of all [that gives] li\ght, in [the shining of] Whom there can be no variation [rising or setting] or shadow cast by His turning [as in an eclipse].

HOW DO WE MINISTER TO THE SICK

- **In the name of Jesus**
 - (Acts 4:10) Let it be known and understood by all of you, and by the whole house of Israel, **that in the name and through the power and authority of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, Whom you crucified, [but] Whom God raised from the dead, in Him and by means of Him this man is standing here before you well and sound in body.
 - **How not to do it: (Acts 19:13-17)**
- **By the laying on of hands**
 - (Mark 16:17) And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages. (v.18) They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; **they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well**.
 - (Mark 6:5) And He was not able to do even one work of power there **(because of their unbelief), except that He laid His hands on a few sickly people [and] cured them**.
 - (Mark 8:23) And He caught the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when He had spit on his eyes and **put His hands upon him**, He asked him, Do you [possible] see anything? (v.24) And he looked up and said, I see people, but [they look] like trees, walking. (v.25) **Then He put His hands on his eyes again**; and the man looked intently [that is, fixed his eyes on definite objects], and he was restored and saw everything distinctly [even what was at a distance].
 - **Also READ (Mark 7:32-35)**
 - (Matt 8:15) **He touched her hand and the fever left her**; and she got up and began waiting on Him.
 - (Luk 4:40) Now at the setting of the sun [indicating the end of the Sabbath], all those who had **any [who were] sick with various diseases brought them to Him and He laid His hands upon every one of them and cured them**.
 - (Luke 13:13) **Then He laid [His] hands on her, and instantly she was made straight**, and she recognized and thanked and praised God.
 - (Acts 5:12a) **Now by the hands of the apostles (special messengers) numerous and startling signs and wonders were being performed among the people**.
- **By anointing with oil**
 - (Jas 5:14) **Is anyone among you sick?** He should call in the church elders (the spiritual guides). **And they should pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Lord's name**. (v.15) And the **prayer [that is] of faith will save him who is sick**, and the Lord will restore him; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.
 - (Mark 6:12) So they went out and preached that men should repent [that they should change their minds for the better and heartily amend their ways, with abhorrence of their past sins]. (v.13) **And they drove out many unclean spirits and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them**.

WHY DOES HEALING NOT ALWAYS TAKE PLACE?

- **Sin can be a cause, but is not always the case**
 - (Isa 59:1) *BEHOLD, THE Lord's hand is not shortened at all, that it cannot save, nor His ear dull with deafness, that it cannot hear. (v.2) But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He will not hear.*
 - (John 5:14b) *Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.*
 - Examine yourself - if sin caused your sickness; confess that sin in order for you to be healed.
 - People that join in the communion table in an unworthy manner thereby bring sickness on themselves. (1Cor 11:29) *For anyone who eats and drinks without discriminating and recognizing with due appreciation that [it is Chris's] body, eats and drinks a sentence (a verdict of judgment) upon himself. (v.30) That [careless and unworthy participation] is the reason may of you are weak and sickly, and quite enough of you have fallen into the sleep of death.*
- **One sin that withheld people from healing is bitterness**
 - (James 5:15) *And the prayer [that is] of faith will save him who is sick, and the Lord will restore him; and if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (v.16) Confess to one another therefore your faults (your slips, your false steps, your offenses, your sins) and pray [also] for one another, that you may be healed and restored [to a spiritual tone of mind and heart].* The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working].
 - **Make a study of Matt 18.**
- **Another sin is unbelief**
 - (Jas 1:6) *Only it must be in faith that he asks with no wavering (no hesitating, no doubting). For the one who wavers (hesitates, doubts) is like the billowing surge out at sea that is blown hither and thither and tossed by the wind. (v.7) For truly, let not such a person imagine that he will receive anything [he asks for] from the Lord.*
 - It was because of unbelief that Jesus could not perform many miracles in Nazareth. People did not believe Him.
 - (Matt 13:58) *And He did not do many works of power there, because of their unbelief (their lack of faith in the divine mission of Jesus).*
 - (Matt 21:22) *And whatever you ask for in prayer, having faith and [really] believing, you will receive.*
 - (Heb 11:6) *But without faith it is impossible to please and be satisfactory to Him. For whoever would come near to God must [necessarily] believe that God exists and that He is the rewarder of those who earnestly and diligently seek Him [out].*

Nowhere in the Bible did the Lord refuse to heal those who came to Him in faith.

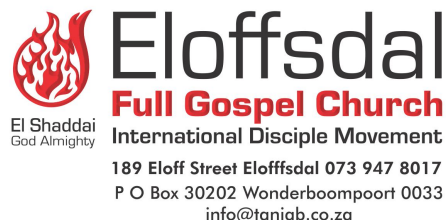
- Therefore cleanse your heart from doubt and unbelief, so that you may have faith.
- The blind man believed and acted on what he believed. (John 9:1-11)

HOW CAN ONE PRESERVE HIS HEALING?

- Give honour to the Lord for your healing.
 - (Ps 103:1) *BLESS (AFFECTIONATELY, gratefully praise) the Lord, O my soul; and all that is [deepest] within me.* bless His holy name! (v.2) *Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord, O my soul, and forget not [one of] all His benefits. (v.3) Who forgives [every one of] all your iniquities. Who heals [each one of] all your diseases.*

- **Testify to others about your healing.**
 - (John 9:25) *Then he answered, I do not know whether He is a sinner and wicked or not. **But one thing I do know, that whereas I was blind before, now I see.***
 - Our whole lives must become a testimony of the work of God in us.
- **Don't allow doubt to come in.**
 - (Matt 14:31) *Instantly Jesus reached out His hand and caught and held him, saying to him, **O you of little faith, why did you doubt?***
 - (Acts 4:29) *And now, Lord, observe their threats and grant to Your bond servants **[full freedom] to declare Your message fearlessly.** (v.30) **While You stretch out Your hand to cure and to perform signs and wonders** through the authority and by the power of the name of Your holy Child and Servant Jesus. (v.31) *And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit; and they continued to speak the Word of God with freedom and boldness and courage.**
 - (1 Pet 2:24) **He personally bore our sins in His [own] body on the tree [as on an altar and offered Himself on it], that we might die (cease to exist) so sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed.**
- **Sin no more.**
 - (John 5:14b) *Stop sinning or something worse may happen to you.*
- **Devote your body to service of the Lord.**
 - (Rom 6:13) *Do not continue offering or yielding your bodily members [and faculties] to sin as instruments (tools) of wickedness. **But offer and yield yourselves to God as though you have been raised from the dead to [perpetual] life, and your bodily members [and faculties] to God, presenting them as implements of righteousness.***
- **Take refuge in the Lord.**
 - **READ (Ps 91)**

TODAY YOU ARE CONFRONTED WITH THE SAME QUESTION AS IN JOHN 5: **What do you want God to do for you?"**



If you would like to speak to someone about your situation, we would love to help you and pray with you. Please contact the El Shaddai FGC Offices or you can email us at info@taniab.co.za