



DOES
GOD
STILL
HEAL?



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————— *Introduction* —————

Many years ago during a church hosted question - and -answer session someone sent in the question, ‘Does God still heal?’

To answer the question, my pastor at the time, Charles Porter, told this beautiful testimony. He and his wife were in Sudan and she developed this excruciating stomach pain. They did not have access to good medical care, so they prayed and the pain went away. That was healing right there, but there is more to the story. A few years later, while my pastor’s wife was receiving treatments, the doctor who examined her asked her if she had ever had her appendix removed. She had never had surgery on her appendix and she told him so. When he observed that the appendix was neatly cut off she put the events of her life together and realized that was what the Lord did to her stomach to stop the pain she had years before.

It is so easy to narrow God’s power to our experiences and understanding, but God is much bigger than our experiences. He does what He does in our lives, not to prove what He can do, but to fulfill who He is to us by covenant. He is our loving Father. Healing is part of the salvation package. When sin came into our world, our bodies became subject to decay. Even though we are alive, the dying process is constantly at work.

— Introduction —

When Jesus died on the cross, He paid the price for us to live again. He gave us access to the life-giving power in His shed blood making us no longer captive to the dying process.

As born again believers, we are no longer under the curse of death that plagues man, but that does not mean we no longer die. It means that we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in us who constantly quickens our bodies and we can hold up the decay process and look forward to receiving new bodies that live forever when we eventually die.

Regardless of this reality, so many believers die from sickness. What is the problem? Why are we unable to access the life He has so freely given us? We have access to His healing power. Jesus gave it to us.

All we need to do is believe and reach out for it in faith. Remember that all you need is 'mustard' seed faith. We should not allow unbelief to get in the way. Unbelief negates our faith and hinders us from getting what we need from God. Unbelief is manifested through giving too much thought to the problem, worrying that things are not going as desired or fear of what could happen if God does not come through. These seem like very dire times.

— Introduction —

The COVID 19 Pandemic is ravaging our world. In the past year, so many people have fallen prey to the virus. Many have actually died from the virus or complications caused by the virus. It is even more frightening that amidst the pandemic people are still dying from cancer, heart issues, diabetes, and organ failures to mention a few.

Many are afflicted. They are not dead, however, they live complicated lives because of one ailment or the other. Some are not even physical afflictions, mental health issues are on the rise too.

It does not matter what kind of affliction it is, as long as you are not able to live life freely without discomfort or pain, then healing is available to you. Whether it is a headache or cancer God's power is available to you. First, terminate unbelief through the Word of God; you will then see your faith manifest healing.

As for me and my family, we pray about headaches, toothache or stomach pain-everything. My default mode when I have a problem is prayer. Before hospital. Don't get me wrong, I believe in medical science. I have nothing against doctors.

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I just understand they have limitations, they don't know it all. I learnt that when I lost my daughter many years ago. Medicine is subject to all manner of things that make it impossible to be right all the time, but God does not have that problem. He knows the problem and has the perfect solution— all the time. So answer the answer to the question: Does God Still Heal is Yes, God still heals.

In this booklet, I will provide healing scriptures to enable people build the faith required to conquer disease. These scriptures become the arsenal you can use to battle in prayer against sickness and disease. I have stood on these promises for many years and they have brought me through many fearful alleys of sickness and pain.

Recently, while I was praying about an ailment, God gave me instructions to pray for 12 Days and I tagged it '12 Days of Healing Prayers.' I was trusting God for three different things. I got instant healing for two. The third one took a while. But God came through. As I share these promises, I trust that God will come with healing and bless His people.

Thank You.

Chinwe Kalu

Chapter One

LAYING DOWN THE FOUNDATION

As believers in Jesus Christ, we all know that healing is available. While many of us have experienced the healing power of God, just as many have never had a healing touch from God.

Why is it that some experience it and some do not? When we get saved, we all say the same prayer and immediately get saved. How is it that when it comes to healing, somehow our faith fails us?

Unbelief is the culprit. We are unable to access His healing power because we are simply not able to believe that He can do it. Unbelief is a function of ignorance of what God says about healing. And God's people perish because of it. It is the word of God that builds faith, that is why Romans 10: 17 says *'Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God'*. Many believers do not know what the Bible says about healing. How can they be healed when they don't know He says about it? The solution is to get into the Word of God and find out what He says about it. That is the only way to deal with unbelief.

Also, we must see sickness and disease for what it is, 'an attack of the devil'.

He throws fiery darts of affliction at people and medical science will give them names-malaria, headaches, cancer, kidney failure, liver problems, infertility, COVID-19, pneumonia, arthritis, leukemia, high blood pressure... the list goes on.

I don't have a problem with medical science but we must realize that it all starts with satanic darts from the realm of the spirit. He can ride on poor eating habits or stress or genetic make-up or anything else that may be legitimate to come at you. He will find something, ride on it and then strike. The doctors will give a diagnosis that makes sense and then treat it. That whole process will cause anxiety, take time, cost money and pain before you get back on your feet.

Remember Jesus tells us in John 10:10 that the devil's mission is to steal, kill and destroy. But He also announces that He, Jesus, has come to give us life and give it to us abundantly. He wants to give us satisfying lives where we are able to dominate and stay on top of issues like sickness and disease. That is why He gave us His word.

In Ephesians 6: 16, we are told *'above all, taking the shield of faith with which we are able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one'*. We need faith and faith is built on the word of God. We must know what He says about healing to experience it. Many times, people lean on their pastors' faith to get healed.

However, the best place is to be able to go to your Father to ask and receive in faith. We all have equal access to the Father through our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Faith is progressive. So is walking in the healing power of God. If you have not believed for a headache, you probably cannot believe for cancer. Faith grows. And so is our ability to believe God for things, including healing. God's ability is not in question. However, our ability to trust Him grows as our experience in Him. The more we experience Him in different areas of life, the more likely that we can trust Him.

The first place to start is to know what the Word of God says about healing. The Bible has so many promises on healing, however Isaiah the prophet saw ahead of time what God would do through Christ, the Messiah and he prophesied it many years ahead in Chapter 53. The entire chapter is important but healing is captured in verse 5.

Isaiah 53: 5

*But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement
for our peace was upon Him, And by His
stripes we are healed.*

Isaiah saw what Jesus would go through ahead of time and he wasn't wrong, Jesus was indeed wounded, bruised and afflicted for our transgressions, iniquities, inabilities, inadequacies and sins despite His innocence. He paid the price in full. Sickness and disease are consequences of sin and the fall. Jesus Christ dealt with everything that has to do with sin by willfully allowing Himself to be wounded and afflicted even though He was innocent. The chastisement which was to guarantee our peace was laid upon Him. And as it concerns healing, the stripes he bore, brought us healing. Different translations refer to the stripes as wounds, blows or whips. The important thing is that with each stripe, His body was broken and that brings us healing. His body was so broken and bruised that He looked like one big unrecognizable bruise. Because He went through that, we are supposed to walk in divine healing. His bruises, wounds or stripes give us access to divine healing. By His stripes He purchased healing for us, His children.

Peter reiterates this in 1 Peter 2:24 in past tense, by whose stripes you were healed. Isaiah had spoken about it in present tense. Isaiah foresaw it, and Peter confirmed it was done. This is the foundation on which we demand healing from God. Jesus called healing the children's bread, so it is a blessing provided for children of the Kingdom. Once the work of the cross has been established, we can go ahead to build

up our faith based on this provision that has been made. All we have to do is align ourselves with God's plan and make a demand for what is rightfully ours.

Chapter Two

SCRIPTURES ON HEALING

There are several scriptures that speak to the healing power of God in the Old and New testaments that we can stand on for the power of God to flow through our bodies. All we have to do is familiarise ourselves with these promises. We must be transformed by the renewing of our minds like Paul commanded in Romans 12: 2, *'that we may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God'*, which in this case, is healing from any type of affliction on our bodies or minds. I get a chance to teach discipleship classes where I encourage people to dig deep into the Bible to understand the mind of God.

I encourage them to be intentional in their engagement with the Word of God and the same goes for healing scriptures. Trying to engage with healing only at the point the enemy has hit you is not likely to yield results. However, having engaged as a believer, you know these scriptures deep in your heart. Then you can call them up when the enemy hits. See how Jesus responded to the devil when He tempted Him in Matthew 4:1-11, He always responded with a word from the scriptures. He could do that because He had a good reservoir of scriptures He had learnt since He was a little boy. We must fill our hearts with the word of God so that when afflictions come we can respond appropriately.

Remember the word of God is referred to as the sword of the Spirit in Ephesians 6:17, with which we quench everything the enemy throws at us. We must hear it. We must read it. We must study it to show ourselves approved. We must memorize it so it is hidden in our hearts. We must meditate on it so the Spirit of God will give us deep understanding and faith in it. When the Word of God is this deep in our hearts, it will avail for us.

On the other hand when it is superficial we just have head knowledge but no depth in our hearts, it cannot avail for us. The best time to engage is before the crisis. That is not to say it cannot deliver otherwise. However, in dealing with satanic attacks, which is what sicknesses and diseases are, we need to be prepared. Only the Word of God can do that for us.

Here is a list of healing scriptures to help build faith in your hearts. The more you engage with these scriptures the more faith you will have in the healing power of God. The Holy Spirit has an arsenal to work with and teach you healing. The scriptures are provided in three versions just to give deeper perspectives to bring the healing power of God home. The translations are: the New King James version, New Living Translation and Amplified Classic Versions. There are many more versions, however, anyone who engages with just these three will be blessed.

You are not limited to reading these three. Technology makes it easy to connect with as many versions as possible. The scriptures I have chosen are mostly from the Psalms and the prophetic books suggesting that healing has always been part of the covenant God had with His people. He wants to heal us and needs us to trust Him. That is what this project is about—to build enough faith to receive healing whenever our bodies are afflicted.

The important thing is to ingest these promises and allow the Holy Spirit brood on them in your heart so they can translate from mere words on a page to power filled words bringing God into your situation of sickness and disease. Hebrews 4:12 says '*the Word of God is quick and powerful*'. It has inherent power that must be activated in faith. Hearing, reading, studying, memorising and meditating on it will expose you to its inherent power and transform into active power. This is pretty much like the light switch that has the ability to light up a room but will not until it is switched on.

I remember a point in my life when I had this unexplainable pain in my side. The doctors could not say what it was. I was scared and did not really know what to do about it.

I felt the Holy Spirit tell me to just wake up every morning at 5am and read the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

I woke up each day at 5am and read a few chapters and after a few weeks I suddenly realised the pain was gone. I didn't even realise what was going on. That is the power of God's Word at work. It became some kind of therapy that completely healed my body.

The point at which the transformation takes place in our hearts is the time the promises become so real that we apprehend them ahead of experiencing them. That is the moment the promises become so real that we are assured of God's faithfulness despite our experience.

There are many more scriptures you could study, but I have chosen these ones because they are my personally discovered ones and I work with them endlessly. As you engage with them, be ready to experience a touch of heaven and transformation of your circumstances. Enjoy your experience.

1. Psalms 6:2

NKJV

*Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I am weak; O
Lord, heal me, for my bones are
troubled.*

NLT

*Have compassion on me, Lord, for I am weak.
Heal me, Lord, for my bones are in agony.*

AMPC

*Have mercy on me and be gracious to me, O
Lord, for I am weak (faint and withered away);
O Lord, heal me, for my bones are troubled.*

2. Psalms 30:2

NKJV

*O Lord my God, I cried out to You, And You
healed me.*

NLT

*O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you
restored my health.*

AMPC

*O Lord my God, I cried to You and You have
healed me.*

3. Psalms 103:2-3

NKJV

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His
benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who
heals all your diseases,*

NLT

*Let all that I am praise the Lord ; may I never
forget the good things he does for me. He
forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.*

AMPC

*Bless (affectionately, gratefully praise) the Lord,
O my soul, and forget not [one of] all His bene-
fits— Who forgives [every one of] all your
iniquities, Who heals [each one of] all your
diseases.*

4. Psalms 107:20

NKJV

*He sent His word and healed them, and deliv-
ered them from their destructions.*

NLT

*He sent out his word and healed them, snatching
them from the door of death.*

AMPC

*He sends forth His word and heals them and
rescues them from the pit and destruction.*

5. Psalms 147:3

NKJV

*He heals the broken-hearted, and binds up their
wounds.*

INT

*He heals the broken-hearted and bandages their
wounds.*

AMPC

*He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their
wounds [curing their pains and
their sorrows]*

6. Isaiah 30:26

NKJV

Moreover the light of the moon will be as the light of the sun, And the light of the sun will be sevenfold, As the light of seven days, In the day that the Lord binds up the bruise of His people And heals the stroke of their wound.

NLT

The moon will be as bright as the sun, and the sun will be seven times brighter—like the light of seven days in one! So it will be when the Lord begins to heal his people and cure the wounds he gave them.

AMPC

Moreover, the light of the moon will be like the light of the sun, and the light of the sun will be sevenfold, like the light of seven days [concentrated in one], in the day that the Lord binds up the hurt of His people, and heals their wound [inflicted by Him because of their sins].

7. Isaiah 58:8

NKJV

Then your light shall break forth like the morning, Your healing shall spring forth speedily, And your righteousness shall go before you; The glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.

NLT

“Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal.

*Your godliness will lead you forward, and the
glory of the Lord will protect you
from behind.*

AMPC

*Then shall your light break forth like the morn-
ing, and your healing (your restoration and the
power of a new life) shall spring forth speedily;*

*your righteousness (your rightness, your justice, and
your right relationship with God) shall go before
you [conducting you to peace and prosperity],
and the glory of the Lord shall be your rear
guard. [Exod. 14:19, 20; Isa. 52:12.]*

8. Isaiah 61:1

NKJV

*“The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, Because
the Lord has anointed Me To preach good
tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the
brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the
captives, And the opening of the prison to those
who are bound;*

NLT

*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for
the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to
the poor. He has sent me to comfort the broken-
hearted and to proclaim that captives will be
released and prisoners will be freed.*

AMPC

THE SPIRIT of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed and qualified me to preach the Gospel of good tidings to the meek, the poor, and afflicted; He has sent me to bind up and heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the [physical and spiritual] captives and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound.

9. Jeremiah 17:14

NKJV

Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; Save me, and I shall be saved, For You are my praise.

NLT

O Lord, if you heal me, I will be truly healed; if you save me, I will be truly saved. My praises are for you alone!

AMPC

Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved, for You are my praise.

10. Jeremiah 30:17a

NKJV

For I will restore health to you And heal you of your wounds,' says the Lord

NLT

I will give you back your health and heal your wounds," says the Lord. "

11. Malachi 4:2

NKJV

But to you who fear My name The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings; And you shall go out And grow fat like stall-fed calves.

NLT

“But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.”

AMPC

But unto you who revere and worshipfully fear My name shall the Sun of Righteousness arise with healing in His wings and His beams, and you shall go forth and gambol like calves [released] from the stall and leap for joy.

12. James 5:16

NKJV

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

NLT

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.

AMPC

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].

These are twelve promises that can trigger healing in your life and there are many more. However, you can engage with them if you have been afflicted with any sickness or disease. They are efficacious against any ailment no matter how deadly or fatal. Just engage and watch God come through for you.

When I started this healing walk with God, I asked the Holy Spirit why some people still die even though they prayed these healing scriptures. He explained that there are many dynamics going on in people's minds and lives as they pray.

He, God, sees the whole picture while we onlookers only see them praying. He encouraged me to focus on what I want and not use any references other than the Word of God.

My counsel to you is to focus on the healing you need. Don't look to the left or to the right, keep your eyes on Him and He will come through for you. The bottom line is that God keeps His word. All we need to do is hold Him to His word. Our faith will be tested. The enemy is relentless, but God will perform His Word. He allows the enemy to test us. So we must hold on in the depths of our hearts. Never give up on God. He is faithful.

Chapter Three

HEALING PRACTICES

Besides the healing scriptures, there are some practices that the Bible has also given us to help us walk in the fullness of the healing that has been provided for us. As we engage with the Word of God, these practices help us work out our faith.

Laying of Hands

Just before Jesus ascended to heaven, He said something very profound about believers in Mark 16:17,18. He talked about the signs that would follow us as believers. He said, *‘And these signs will follow those who believe: In my Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.’* The book of Mark ends with verse 20 saying ‘ And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs, Amen .’

For the purpose of the topic at hand, we will focus on the part that says ‘they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover’. Jesus made this promise concerning all believers. As long as you call the name of Jesus, this blessing is yours. All we need to access this blessing is that we believe Jesus Christ to be Lord and Saviour,

nothing else. As believers went into the city, God confirmed this word repeatedly. You do not need any special anointing or gift of healing to lay hands on the sick.

This is not to deny there are people who actually have the gift of healing Paul wrote about in 1 Corinthians 12:9. However, every believer can lay hands on the sick and expect God's healing power to manifest. We must always be ready to lay hands on people who are sick around us—friends, colleagues, family members, children and so on. We do not need to concern ourselves with how God works it out. All we need to do is trust that as we lay hands, God will come through. Jesus always laid hands on the sick and so did the apostles. He authorized us to lay hands on His behalf and that is what we should do.

Anointing with Oil

Anointing oil has become a source of ridicule for the body of Christ. However, it is biblical. It has been abused by charlatans who keep touting anointing oil at every corner, especially in Nigeria. They focus on the fact that people are really needy and exploit them. Anointing oil seems to be the solution for every issue life can throw at us.

The truth is that in the book of James 5:14,15, it actually says, *Is anyone among you sick? Let him call the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of*

the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick and the Lord will raise him up'.

Unlike laying of hands which any believer can do, anointing with oil is actually for elders of the church who have been called into a situation where someone is sick. Anointing oil is really about praying for the sick, not every imaginable problem.

The elders would be authority figures like pastors, or deacons or people who have superintendence over a group of people. In families, the elders would be parents. They pray for the sick and anoint them with oil. Most people use olive oil. The oil becomes a point of contact for God's power to heal. I daresay that as a believer, you can also anoint yourself with oil when you are ill. Better still, call for the elders in your life and they will anoint you with oil. The focus should be the prayer of faith which heals and not the oil.

The oil is just used as a point of contact for the prayers. The prayer of faith is said with healing scriptures which will build the required faith to receive healing. If no prayers are said, the oil will just amount to body lotion, having no healing effect.

I encourage people to keep a jar of oil in their home, just like you would a first aid box. Sickness can come at any time. It could be a spouse or child or aged parent.

Just have faith, pray and anoint with oil and expect the power of God to work the miracle of healing to heal the sick. It is a promise and God keeps His promises.

Handkerchiefs

Using handkerchiefs has also become commonplace. This is another gimmick used by charlatan pastors to deceive and rip people off. Although, I am not saying that all the pastors or evangelists who use handkerchiefs are fake; that would be untrue.

The Bible actually records incidences in the Acts of Apostles where handkerchiefs were used. In Acts of Apostles 19:11, Paul was recorded to have such outstanding miracles. *'Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them'*.

I don't think this kind of healing power is at work on a daily basis. Unlike, laying hands and using anointing oil which can be used every day and by any believer, I believe that the handkerchief and cloths would be God working unusual miracles. The gift of healing would be at work in these circumstances. This would not be an everyday occurrence. It would be at the instance of the Holy Spirit. He works it as He pleases.

This is why we cannot expect this to happen all the time. Usually, the recipient of the healing has little to do with it. Sometimes, even unbelievers receive this kind of healing. This is similar to the kind of power at work at evangelical crusades where people are healed instantly from strange demonic afflictions and fatal diseases.

It is a great way to get the healing power of God but it is not a regular occurrence. We don't need to wait for a special event to receive healing from God.

Holy Communion

This is a very crucial Christian practice that is relevant to healing. Just before the passion of Jesus Christ, He had a last supper with His disciples.

In 1 Corinthians 11: 23-26, Paul captures what happened at the supper. *‘For I received of the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.” In the same manner he also took the cup after supper, saying, “This is the cup of the new covenant in My blood. This, do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes '.

Whenever we go through this ceremony of remembering Jesus Christ and the work He did on the cross, we are going through the rite of Holy Communion.

What has Holy Communion got to do with healing? It is significant to healing because He took bread and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me". How was His body broken for us? Remember Isaiah 53 talked about the stripes of Jesus. The wounds that Jesus received is what He was talking about. His body was broken, He had wounds or stripes which heal our broken bodies.

Whenever we break bread in Holy Communion, we are remembering what He did for us in allowing His body to be broken for us. An exchange takes place when we remember. Our bodies are healed because His body was broken. If one is ill and takes communion, He can actually get healed if he releases faith for it. In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, "This is the cup of the new covenant in My blood. This, do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The cup of His blood speaks of the covenant we have with God in Christ. Our healing is guaranteed because God is in an everlasting covenant with us. To ratify the covenant, He used Jesus as the sacrificial lamb who shed His blood. He gave His life to show His commitment to the covenant. When we drink the blood we are reminded of the covenant and all the promises that it comes with, healing being one of them.

There are other promises; salvation, sanctification, provision, deliverance, preservation, joy, wisdom, direction, peace, love, favour and many more.

Many people do not take advantage of this power inherent in the Communion elements. They just go through the motions. I was in a Church recently and when it came to time for communion, they emphasized that it was only for members of their denomination. Meanwhile when giving the communion element, they call it the Body of Christ. It has become a ritual that takes place at some point in the service. The Bible says many die because of this carelessness. We need to recognize what is in it for us and maximize it anytime we feel sick or under the weather.

All the practices I have enumerated are biblical and are tools for the believer to access the healing power of God.

There are times when healing is instant. However, more times than not, healing is gradual. You keep up the prayers of faith, keep laying hands and anointing with oil and taking Holy Communion and you will find that with time, your complaint is gone.

This type of healing is consistent and sustainable because it is received by the walk of faith. You cannot lose it. I felt it necessary to throw light on them so that the believer is thoroughly equipped to receive the healing power of God.

We had a situation where my husband had this terrible pain in his left leg. I was so sure that he was dying. The pain was excruciating and his blood pressure shot up as a result of the pain.

The doctors diagnosed his Lumbar bone was pressing against a nerve as a result of an overlap of the vertebrae in his spine. They referred him to the orthopedic surgeon and physiotherapist. The physiotherapist was not perturbed and that gave me some comfort. However, the pain was bad. We prayed through it all. We prayed confessing the Word of God. We went through all the healing rituals, I laid hands, I poured anointing oil and did communion every morning.

As I kept praying the Lord assured me that my husband would be fine in a few days. It did not look like it. He was in so much pain, it was scary.

One of the days, He was in so much pain, it was difficult to focus on what God was saying. However, he held on in prayer and began to scream the word of God at the enemy, he said “I will walk, I will be strong for my family. I can do all things through Christ. I will not be invalid. I will come out of this affliction strong. I will not be distracted from my destiny” and so much more. His faith encouraged me and I was able to hang in there.

Just like the Holy Spirit spoke to my heart, by close of business that day, the pain had ebbed. We had gone to the office in the morning. I went home ahead of him to run some errands in the late afternoon. By the time he got home, he was much better. He woke up the next morning, almost pain free and by the following day, he was back to normal.

In all, the pain lasted barely over a month. I was amazed at how God took away the pain like He flashed a magic wand. But that is our God for you. He is faithful and never fails. Focus on what you want all the time and He will come through. Start your healing walk with God immediately, begin with seemingly small afflictions like headaches. It does not mean you don't go to hospital, or take medications, it just means you are God focused as you receive treatment. Have this mindset and you will see the difference.

Chapter Four

HEALING STORIES IN THE BIBLE

This chapter looks at stories from the scriptures where God healed people. The stories are all different. Different scenarios with different people under different circumstances. I will be sharing my perspectives on each of these stories.

As 2019 was ending, I had a few health concerns. As I thought of a plan of action, I felt the Holy Spirit say, 'Twelve days of...' it was like He was asking me to fill the blank space. I filled the blank and said, '12 days of Healing'. He told me to read through 12 healing Bible stories, and for twelve days I read a story a day. By the end of the twelve days, two of my symptoms were gone. The third one took almost a year longer but eventually disappeared.

I have since put my loved ones through my "12 days of Healing Program". Some were healed and some were not. One of them even died, and it was very painful to me. However, I would still recommend this 12 day program to anyone who has been afflicted by sickness or disease. Besides the scriptures shared earlier, these stories will help to build faith for healing. If God can heal these people, He can also heal you. The circumstances vary, but God's power always comes through.

1. Naaman, the Leper Healed of Leprosy.

(2 Kings 5:1-15)

Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honourable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valour, but a leper. And the Syrians had gone out on raids, and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife. Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy." And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel." Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing. Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, 'Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy'.

And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean." But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.' Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage. And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then, when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean?'" So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he

said, *“Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant.*

Naaman was healed by the power of God because he obeyed the instruction to dip himself in the river seven times. Was the water in the river Jordan the best? No, it was not. Did the instruction make sense? No, it probably did not. Could Naaman have left in anger and pride? Yes, he could have. In fact, he almost did. Thank God for wise counsel from one of his men.

Naaman ignored intellect by looking beyond the seeming stupidity of the instruction, put his pride aside and simply obeyed. And that is what gave him his victory. He was totally healed in his skin.

Sometimes, The Holy Spirit gives instructions when we pray for healing. I have been told to read the gospels for a while. I also have been told to drink warm water and take things easy. These instructions were from the Holy Spirit at different times. Some of them have no direct link with the healing I was looking for but I was wise enough to know that it is all about obedience. Isaiah 1: 19 says *“If you are willing and obedient, you will eat the good of the land”*. This is the secret of working with God. As we obey, He will heal us.

2. The woman with the Issue of Blood.

(Mark 5:25-31, Luke 8:43-48, Matthew 9: 20-22)

Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well."

Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. 30 And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?"

But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. 33 But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. 34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

This is a lovely story of the healing power of God flowing into a woman's life because of her faith. It is told in three of the gospels.

She had so many reasons to stay indoors that day. But she kept telling herself, “ *If only I can touch the hem of his garment* ”. By Jewish tradition, a bleeding woman is not supposed to mingle with normal society. The crowd was intimidating. Yet she kept pushing herself. There was a certain energy her faith generated that Jesus felt virtue leaving Him the minute she touched Him. Faith has a certain pull. It is powerful. That is why it does not fail.

We must believe enough to keep pushing. Even in other areas of our lives. We must keep pushing ourselves until we hit the bull’s eye. The woman had been to several doctors for 12 years. She had spent her entire livelihood, yet no results. This would have been her last card. Because it was played on Jesus, it hit the jackpot. He never fails. We can depend on Him to heal at all times. We really need to believe that.

3. Three Death Stories—The Widow of Nain, Jairus’ Daughter and Lazarus.

The Widow of Nain (Luke 7: 11-17)

Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow.

And a large crowd from the city was with her. When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people." And this report about Him went throughout all Judea and all the surrounding region.

Jairus' Daughter (Luke 8: 40-42, 49-56) So it was, when Jesus returned, that the multitude welcomed Him, for they were all waiting for Him. And behold, there came a man named Jairus, and he was a ruler of the synagogue. And he fell down at Jesus' feet and begged Him to come to his house, for he had an only daughter about twelve years of age, and she was dying.

While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well." When He came into the house, He permitted no one to go in except Peter, James, and John, and the father and mother of the girl. Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead.

But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately. And He commanded that she be given something to eat. And her parents were astonished, but He charged them to tell no one what had happened.

Lazarus (John 11: 1-45)

Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. It was that Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick. Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick." When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. 6 So, when He heard that he was sick, He stayed two more days in the place where He was. Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to Him, "Rabbi, lately the Jews sought to stone You, and are You going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." These things He said, and after that He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep.

Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, that you may believe. Nevertheless let us go to him." Then Thomas, who is called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with Him."

So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. And many of the Jews had joined the women around Martha and Mary, to comfort them concerning their brother.

Now Martha, as soon as she heard that Jesus was coming, went and met Him, but Mary was sitting in the house. Now Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to Him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that You are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."

And when she had said these things, she went her way and secretly called Mary her sister, saying, "The Teacher has come and is calling for you." As soon as she heard that, she arose quickly and came to Him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the town, but was in the place where Martha met Him. Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and comforting her, when they saw that Mary rose up quickly and went out, followed her, saying, "She is going to the tomb to weep there."

Then, when Mary came where Jesus was, and saw Him, she fell down at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. And He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

Jesus wept. Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!" and some of them said, "Could not this

Man, who opened the eyes of the blind, also have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days," Jesus said to her,

“Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me.” Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!” And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.”

These three stories have one thing in common, the people died from their bodily afflictions. Death has a finality to life. Once a person dies, it is all over. And that is how it looked in these 3 stories.

The little girl was still in her bed though dead, but the young man was already on the way for internment and Lazarus had been buried for four days. It was really over. But Jesus encouraged Jairus, *“Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well.”* To the widow who was burying her son, He said, *“Do not weep.”* And concerning Lazarus, He said, *“I am the resurrection and the life.*

He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" He just encouraged them to trust Him.

He then went ahead to pray for each of them. He just gave them instructions. To the little girl, he said, "*Little girl, arise.*" To Lazarus He commanded "*Lazarus, come forth!*" and for the widows son, "*Young man, I say to you, arise.*" Even though death has a finality to it, when Jesus commanded the dead to rise, death obeyed because it recognised that the giver of life gave the instruction.

No matter how fatal the disease is, God can still intervene, because nothing is impossible for Him. He can do any and all things. The three people were dead, their faith was not even involved. However, someone was standing for them, in faith, trusting that because Jesus had shown up, He would do the needful—raise the dead back to life.

So the doctor's report may have pronounced death, the pain in your body may feel like death is imminent, other people who have passed this path may all be dead, but God is still the author of life. Believe that He is still the fountain of life.

4. A Young Boy is Healed. (Mark 9: 14-29)

And when He came to the disciples, He saw a great multitude around them, and scribes disputing with them. Immediately, when they saw Him, all the people were greatly amazed, and running to Him, greeted Him. And He asked the scribes, "What are you discussing with them?" Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not." He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth. So He asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And often he has thrown him both into the fire and into the water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." Jesus said to him, "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said with tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!"

When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it: "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" Then the spirit cried out, convulsed him greatly, and came out of him. And he became as one dead, so that many said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when He had come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" So He said to them, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting."

The boy had been tormented from childhood by this evil spirit. His father saw the disciples healing people and thought his son could also be healed. But alas, the boy was not healed. Then they brought him to Jesus. The conversation that ensued was very interesting.

Jesus encouraged him to have faith. The man cried out, "*Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!*" He seemed to be contradicting himself. He believed enough to come but was not sure his faith could deliver the healing he so badly wanted for his son. Is that not how we all operate? We come to God asking to be healed, but deep in our hearts we are not sure He can do it. The symptoms are screaming.

The pain is intense. Life is ebbing away. Like the boy, the demons would throw him around, he would fall into the fire and water and foam in the mouth.

Even though it looked bad and too much evidence in his face negated what the man was trusting God for, Jesus looked beyond the seeming confusion and focused His attention on the child.

He commanded the demon and it left the child. However, just before the end of this incident, the child began to convulse and appeared to actually die. It looked like the command from Jesus invoked more trouble instead of the expected healing. But soon after Jesus handed him over to his father completely healed.

Sometimes it appears the symptoms become worse, but that does not mean God is not at work. The Bible encourages us to keep our focus on what we are believing for even if it appears to be going in the opposite direction.

We must not be moved by what we see. It is very important. That is probably why Jesus said, this type will not go except by prayer and fasting which will help us keep God and what He is doing in perspective, rather than focus on the symptoms that are looking contrary.

God is faithful to His word. Healing is a given for the believer. It is a gift available to all believers. We must hold on even if everything appears contrary. That is what faith is all about.

5. The Man by the Pool of Bethesda (John 5: 1-15)

After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches. In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?" The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; but while I am coming, another steps down before me." Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. This story is an amazing testimony of God going ahead of us to bring His will to pass in our lives. The man had been lying by that pool for 38 years.

He probably never thought he would leave because he could never make it into the pool. He had no one to help him and could not get there himself. What a lonely and helpless life.

However, Jesus showed up that fateful day. He asked the man *'Do you want to be made whole?'*, all the man could think of was his inability to get to the pool. The answer to the question was a 'yes' or 'no'. There was no need for rhetoric, regardless, Jesus looked beyond him and commanded him to get up. This was really about the sovereign will of God. The man had no faith. God was on his case that day. Jesus just commanded and he was healed.

It is important to realise that we can stand on commands given in scripture and rise from our physical afflictions in faith. The man was healed after 38 years. He was not expecting it, but God showed up.

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"For I will restore health to you, and I will heal your wounds", says the Lord. It is never too late to dive in by faith. He can still do it.

6. Peter's Mother-in-Law Healed (Mark 1: 29-31)

Now as soon as they had come out of the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. But Simon's wife's mother lay sick with a fever, and they told Him about her at once. So He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up, and immediately the fever left her. And she served them.

Jesus came visiting and found Peter's mother-in-law lying with a fever. He just took her by the hand and the fever left her. She was instantly healed. Can you imagine Him just taking your hand and lifting you out of your bed of affliction? He is the healer. He is not a respecter of persons. If He has ever done it, He can do it again. Trust Him and He will do it for you.

7. Blind Bartimaeus is Healed (Mark 10: 46-52)

Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!"

Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, "Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you."

And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. So Jesus answered and said to him, "What do you want Me to do for you?" The blind man said to Him, "Rabboni, that I may receive my sight." Then Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.

Bartimaeus just sat at the roadside, as usual, waiting for crumbs people would throw at him. He must have heard about Jesus and all the healing miracles and hoped He would pass by some day. That day finally came. It would have just been another day, if he had not called out to Jesus. He yelled and yelled until Jesus heard him and stopped the entourage. He called out by His covenant name, 'Thou son of David, have mercy on me'. Jesus could not ignore that call.

Then Jesus asked him a question, '*what do you want from me?*' He did not need another prompt, 'Just heal me'. And Jesus did just that. He knew what he wanted and as soon as the opportunity came, he grabbed it. Life almost denied him, but he insisted. He was not going to let the opportunity slip. He took it and got what he wanted and life changed for him forever. Jesus is always passing by us. All we need to do is draw Him in by calling out.

Callout in praise, call out in worship, call Him by His covenant names and He will manifest His goodness. Just call out.

8. A Blind Man Healed at Bethsaida

(Mark 8: 22-26)

Then He came to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man to Him, and begged Him to touch him. So He took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the town. And when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands on him, He asked him if he saw anything. And he looked up and said, "I see men like trees, walking." Then He put His hands on his eyes again and made him look up. And he was restored and saw everyone clearly. Then He sent him away to his house, saying, "Neither go into the town, nor tell anyone in the town."

In all the healing stories shared so far, healing was instant. However, for this blind man, he went from total blindness to seeing men as trees, then Jesus touched him again and restored his sight fully.

That can also happen when we ask God for healing. It can be progressive, but the important thing is that you feel better. You can see the progress you are making. That helps to build faith also.

The blind man could have settled for seeing men as trees. But Jesus took him all the way. He did not leave him there because He always finishes what He starts. Don't settle for mid-way. Always keep trusting until you see what you really want from Him. He is faithful to complete.

9. **Ten Lepers Cleansed** (Luke 17:11-13)

Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests."

And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan.

So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

In Jesus' time, lepers stayed on the outskirts of town. They were not allowed into the city. They must have belonged to the same colony of lepers hence their hanging out together. Then Jesus came by and once again gave an instruction to go show themselves to the priests. It was an act of faith for them to go, because the Law says they should if they get healed. They took Jesus at His word and headed for the temple and all ten of them were healed on the way. However, only one among them, who was not even a Jew, came back to thank Him. We must never take his goodness to us for granted. Jesus was pleased with him, particularly because he was a foreigner.

We are all adopted into a relationship with Him but we must always show gratitude for whatever He does for us.

10. Daughter of Abraham Healed (Luke 13: 10-17)

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity." And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. But the ruler of the synagogue

answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, "There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day."

The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?" And when He said these things, all His adversaries were put to shame; and all the multitude rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by Him.

This woman had been bent over for 18 years. She came into the temple that day as she normally would. The story doesn't show that she was expecting anything unusual to happen, but that day was her day. He simply looked at her and declared her free of the infirmity.

When the religious people attempted to contest her being healed on the Sabbath, Jesus declared that her being a daughter of Abraham entitled her to the healing she had received.

Healing is part of the covenant blessing we have in Christ Jesus. He wants us to come boldly to take what He has made provision for. Don't be timid about what God has provided. Come boldly to take and He will gladly give.

11. Multitudes Healed. (Matthew 12, 15, 19:2, Luke 16: 9)

And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them there.

Jesus had several crusades in His three and half year ministry. Wherever He was, people gathered. He always healed them all. It did not matter what type of ailment they came with. His healing power is still available today to heal all manner of diseases. All we need to do is reach out in faith and his power will manifest.

12. A Lame Man Healed (Acts 3:1-10)

Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple,

asked for alms. And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God. Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Of all the twelve stories, this is the only one from the Church Age. The story is set in the early Church soon after Jesus ascended to heaven and the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. They had earlier experienced the healing power of God as Jesus healed people. Even they went on His instruction and healed people.

However, in this story, Jesus was no longer physically here on earth. The lame man sat at the 'Gate Beautiful' begging for alms as usual. But that day was his day. It was not as a result of his faith or even desire for healing. Peter and John were just moved by the Holy Spirit to heal him.

He looked at them, they held him up and his limbs received strength and he could walk and leap and praise God on his feet. An amazing feat that gave the growing church, at the time, more credibility. We are still a part of that Church. The Holy Spirit is still with us. The same miracles of healing are still possible. Jesus is still in the business of healing His people. All we need to do is reach out and receive what He has done for us. These twelve stories are all to build faith from the word of God. Jesus has not changed. He still heals. People need to build faith on His word and healing will come.

Chapter Five

DETERRENTS TO HEALING

As simple as healing is, many believers do not experience it. When it is discussed, it appears to be something a privileged few experience. However, that is not what God intended. When Jesus went to the cross, He paid the full price of redemption which includes the healing of our natural bodies.

The real question would be, why does it look like healing is not for all believers? Why do many not experience it? Is healing meant for a privileged few? The covenant of healing is for all believers, not a privileged few. However, it requires faith to access it. We need to be in faith to be healed. What we all need to do is continually build up our most holy faith to enable access to God's blessing, including healing. Many do well with believing God for material things but when it comes to healing they drawback.

The first reason is unbelief or doubt. Jesus said all things are possible to them that believe. You must believe that God can heal. Don't subject this truth to your carnal understanding. How God does it should not concern you. Just hold on to the truth that He can and wants to do it for you. And He will do it if you believe. Do everything you can to get into believing. Faith is simply believing. So build up your faith in His word.

Pray His Word. Confess His word. Don't let His Word go. And in a matter of time, it will be to you according to His word.

Another reason is unforgiveness. This is one tool the enemy uses to deny believers of God's blessings. Faith and unforgiveness cannot work together. One must give way to the other. The good things that both of them are subject to the believer. In the Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches His disciples and says, '*forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us*', Matthew 6:12. The Amplified version says '*and have given up resentment against our debtors*'.

Unforgiveness is a trap of the enemy. Once he has you in it, he has you for life. He has the essence of your life and you will become a slave to it. It will hinder all your prayers. It will keep stealing from you. No matter how much of the Word of God you know, unforgiveness will nullify its power. No matter how you pray, unforgiveness will nullify it. You must ask God to help you release whoever has hurt you, no matter how badly. He will comfort and heal you. Remember, vengeance is His. He can recompense fairly and justly. Leave your pain, disappointment, loss or maltreatment to Him. He will work all things together for your good.

If these two reasons are put away, it becomes much easier to appropriate God's healing power. Start with little ailments, and gradually take it up. Be bold to ask and He will answer. He wants to. These are the times He wants to show His power. All we need to do as believers is make ourselves available and we will experience Him again and again. He remains faithful.

CONCLUSION

I felt the need to write this book because of my friend's son who died of cancer. His death shook me and I had so many unanswered questions. We prayed and yet he passed. Did that shake my faith? No, even though I still have unanswered questions. I know He hears us when we pray. I know His default is to answer us. I also know He ultimately knows best. So when He does not answer, I simply let Him be God.

However, it occurred to me to share with the world that healing is still possible, despite my loss. That my friend lost her son, does not mean that God does not heal. My act of faith is to share this healing message with the whole world and give as many as need healing the chance to understand how it works and engage God for themselves.

Also, many people have died, especially in this season, when we have been dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. So many people have lost their lives across the globe. I just felt the need to share what I believe people can rest in to get past the dark places of ill-health and disease, particularly the COVID-19 pandemic.

Testimonies abound of many who God has healed in this dispensation. God is not a respecter of persons. All you have to do is reach out in faith and He will answer you.

I sincerely hope that people of faith will see this as a reminder from God who is saying "I am still here, Just come to Me.

"For those who don't know Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour yet, it is not too late. All you need to do is acknowledge your need for the salvation he offers by saying this very short prayer:

Lord Jesus, I come to You now. I believe You are the Son of God. I know I am a sinner. And I believe You died for my sin. I accept You today to be my Lord and Saviour. I accept your propitiation for my sin. Take control of my life. I denounce the devil and his lifestyle and crown you King over my life from today. Thank you, Jesus.

It is a very simple prayer. Say it in faith. Take every word seriously and accept the salvation He gives. You can also receive His healing if you need it. He loves you and wants to heal you too.

Remember, healing is the children's bread. All you need is to be His child by your faith in Jesus Christ and healing can be yours. It can be instant or gradual, but it belongs to you. Just reach out and touch Him today.