

Biblical Foundation for Healing

A. God is a God Who Heals, Saves, and Delivers

1. I am the Lord who heals you (Exodus 15:26)

- In this verse, God identifies Himself as Jehovah-Rapha, "I Am the Lord who heals you". The fact that He identifies healing with His divine name indicates that healing is from the very nature of God.

2. Healing is the hallmark of the Messiah's ministry

- **Isaiah 35:3-6** – "Encourage the exhausted, and strengthen the feeble. Say to those with anxious heart, "Take courage; fear not. Behold, your God will come with vengeance; the recompense of God will come, and He will save you." Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy. For waters will break forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert.
- **Isaiah 61:1-3** - The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted (Hebrew: '*ânâv* – poor humble, afflicted of society); He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted (*shâbar* - to be broken, maimed, crippled, wrecked, crushed, fragmented, broken in pieces, or broken in spirit), to proclaim liberty to captives (*shâbâh* – Those that have been taken captive by another) and freedom to prisoners (*âsar* – those who are bound); to proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.
- **Luke 4:18-19** – Jesus' inaugural address: "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO THE CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED, TO PROCLAIM THE FAVORABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." (Jesus stops here because it is not the day of judgment.)
- **Luke 7:20-23** - When the men came to Him, they said, "John the Baptist has sent us to You, to ask, `Are You the Expected One, or do we look for someone else?' " At that very time He cured many people of diseases and afflictions and evil spirits; and He gave sight to many who were blind. And He answered and said to them, "Go and report to John what you have seen and heard: the BLIND RECEIVE SIGHT, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the POOR HAVE THE GOSPEL PREACHED TO THEM. "Blessed is he who does not take offense at Me."

3. The basis of healing is found in the atoning work of Jesus Christ.

- Matthew 8:16-17 and 1 Peter 2:24 relate physical healing to the **atoning work of Christ** as prophesied in Isaiah 53:3-5. Acts 4:10 and Heb 2:3-4 tell us that the power of His Name today continues the work He came to do.
- **1 Peter 2:24** - and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

- **Matthew 8:16-17** - When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases."
 - **Isaiah 53:3-5** - He was despised (Hebrew: *bâzâh* – regarded as worthless and with contempt) and forsaken of men, a man of sorrows (*mak'ôb* – pains) and acquainted with grief (*chôlîy* – malady, disease, sickness, grief, depression); and like one from whom men hide their face He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. Surely our grief He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried; yet we ourselves esteemed Him stricken (*nâga'* - struck with calamity), smitten of God, and afflicted (*'ânâh* – become low, depressed, broken). But He was pierced through for our transgressions (*pesha'* - sin), He was crushed for our iniquities (*'âvôn* – perversity or depravity); the chastening for our well being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed (*râphâ'* – made whole, restored).
 - **Acts 4:10** - let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead--by this name this man stands here before you in good health. (Cripple from birth healed).
 - **Hebrews 2:3-4** - how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, God also testifying with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.

B. Salvation Involves Comprehensive Healing

His atoning work on the Cross and His Kingdom ushered in a comprehensive salvation (Body, Soul, and Spirit). Sozo is the Greek word for salvation. It means to be saved from the devil's power, restored into right relationship with God, restored into the wholeness of God's order and well-being by the initiative and power of God, apart from one's own effort. It is the total healing of a person before God.

1. It means to be saved from God's wrath (spiritual – Mark 13:13; 16:16)

- **Mark 13:13** - NAS – "You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be **saved (sozo)**."
- **Mark 16:16** - NAS – "He who has believed and has been baptized shall be **saved (sozo)**; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned."

2. It means to be healed physically – (James 5:16, Luke 7:50).

- **James 5:14-16** Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will **restore (sozo)** the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.
- **Luke 7:50** - NAS – And He said to the woman, "Your faith has **saved (sozo)** you; go in peace."

3. It means to be delivered from Satan's power (Lk 8:36, 2 Ti. 4:18)

- **Luke 8:36** - NAS – Those who had seen it reported to them how the man who was demon-possessed had been **made well (sozo)**.
- **2 Ti 4:18** - NAS – The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and will **bring me safely (sozo)** to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever Amen.

4. **Jesus' saving work also heals the broken hearted (Luke 4:17-19, Isa. 61)**

- These are those with past hurts, emotional wounds, disappointment, abandonment, an orphan spirit, captive to fear and identity issues.
- We believe this covers fractured personalities – disassociation.
- Emotional trauma.
- Identity curses.
- Consequences of generational iniquity.
- Judgments and unfulfilled vows.

Conclusion of the Matter: Therefore, the Kingdom of God involves spiritual salvation and healing, emotional healing, physical healing, and spiritual deliverance. It was paid for in the atoning work of Christ on the cross since these effects are a result of the curse of sin.

C. New Testament Healing Ministry

1. **The Cross of Christ - Our Faith and Authority for Healing.**

- **1 Peter 2:24** and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.
- **Matt. 8:16-17** "When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet **Isaiah: 53:4** "He took up our infirmities (*astheneia* = weakness, illness, frailty of body or soul) and carried our diseases (*nosos* = disease)."
- **Ministry Application:** We approach healing from the finished work of Christ and move by faith in that work and the authority and power that has been granted in this area to His sons and daughters.

2. **NT Healing is a Fulfillment of the Practices and Promises of healing in the Old Testament.**

- **Ps. 103:1-5** "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and let all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; who pardons all your iniquities and heals all your diseases; who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with loving kindness and compassion; who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth are renewed like the eagle."
- **Isaiah 53:4** "Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted."
- "I am the lord that heals you"- **Exodus 15:26**
- God heals the barren women when Abraham prayed – **Gen 20:17-18**
- God heals Miriam when Moses prayed – **Num 12:13ff**
- Elijah raises the widow's son from the dead - **1 Kings 17:17-24**
- Elisha raise the Shunammite's son from the dead - **2 Kings 4:18-37**
- Healing of Naaman of leprosy - **2 Kings. 5:1-19**
- Hezekiah healed and his life prolonged – **2 Kings 20:1-11**

3. **Examples of Healing in Jesus' Ministry**

- "Jesus ... healed all manner of sickness and all diseases" - Matt. 4:23
- "Jesus ... healed all that were sick" - Matt. 8:16
- "Jesus ... healing every sickness and every disease" - Matt. 9:35
- "Jesus ... healed all manner of sickness" - Matt. 10:1

- “Jesus ... they followed him, and He healed them all” - **Luke 6:19, Matt. 12:15**
- The demonstration of healing and of deliverance was to validate the gospel in some cases, in response to faith in others, and out of the compassion of Jesus in others.

4. Examples of Healing through the Apostles AND Others.

- **Promise:** “These signs will accompany those who believed: in my name they will ... lay hands on the sick and they shall recover” - **Mark 16:17-18; John 14:12.**
- **Acts 3:1-10** Peter and John heal the man crippled from birth.
- **Acts 5:12-16** signs and wonders, in which Peter's shadow brings healing.
- **Acts 6:8-10** Stephen performs signs and wonders.
- **Acts 9:17-19** healing of Saul's blindness by Ananias.
- **Acts 9:32-35** healing of Aeneas paralyzed.
- **Acts 9:36-43** raising of Tabitha (Dorcas) by Peter.
- **Acts 14:8-10** healing of the cripple handicapped from birth.
- **Acts 14:19-23** raising of Paul after he was stoned in Lystra.
- **Acts 16:16-18** healing and exorcism of the demon-possessed slave-girl.

5. The Centrality of Healing in Jesus’ Ministry.

- The following chart gives the number of references to specific and general healings, including deliverance categorized as a healing in the gospels:

Healing References	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Healing account in detail (Not all are recorded in each gospel, some are unique to each gospel)	13	12	14	4
General reference to many healings (often ALL or many present were healed)	5	3	2	1
Raising of the dead	1	1	2	1
Commission of other to heal and deliver and raise the dead	The Twelve in Matt. 10	The Twelve in Luke 9 and 70 in Luke 10	The 12 in Mark 3 and 16	

6. Healing Brings the Kingdom Reign of Christ Near to People

- In **Matt. 4:17**, Jesus preached “repent, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand,” then He demonstrated that by healing the sick and casting out demons.
- **Luke 5:24-25** "But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins,"—He said to the paralytic—"I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home." Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God.
- In **Luke 11:20** He says, “But if I cast out demons by the finger of God, surely the Kingdom of God has come to you.” Jesus showed the Kingdom reality by touching people in power and seeing them healed. When non-believers see God move, they are drawn to Him and are positioned for salvation.

7. Jesus’ Disciples Are Commissioned to Heal the Sick

- Part of their Kingdom evangelism assignment. Applies to all today!
- **Matt. 10:5-8** - “These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: ‘Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. As you go, preach this message: ‘The Kingdom of heaven is near.’

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, and drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.”

- **Luke 10:9** - NAS – and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'
- **We believe the commission to the 70 and the evidence of apostles and non-apostles healing and healing account.**

8. Types of Healing in the New Testament

- **Spiritual Healing** (Repentance and forgiveness of sin and its consequences).
- **Physical Healing** (By the supernatural power of God, not by natural effect).
- **Inner Healing** (soul, thinking, emotions, heart, hurts, generational issues).
- **Demonic Deliverance** (from demonic oppression).
- **Resuscitations** (raising from the dead, later to die).
- **Social Restoration** (healing lepers, eating with sinners/outcast).
- **Curse of the Law** (repercussions of disobedience personal/corporate).

9. Methods of Healing in the New Testament

Common Methods Used by Jesus

- Laying on of hands – **Matt. 8:2-3, 14-15, 16-17.**
- Commanding the person to act – **Matt. 12:9-13.**
- Faith of the receiver – **Matt. 9:18-19.**
- Faith of another – **Mark 9:17-27.**
- Speaking a word over the person – **Mark 7:32-37.**
- Rebuking the sickness – **Luke 4:38-39.**
- Casting out demonic spirits – **Matt. 9:32-33.**

Statistics

The most common method used by Jesus was the laying on of hands (12 times), followed by commanding the person to act (8 times), then healing by the faith of the receiver (7 times) and speaking the Word over the person (7 times), then healing by the faith of another (4 times) and the casting out of devils (4 times). The least common method used by Jesus was rebuking the sickness (used once). Not once did Jesus pray to God for someone to be healed.

10. Methods of Healing Used by the Church

- The Name of Jesus – **Acts 3:1-8.**
- Commanding the person to act – **Acts 9:32-34.**
- Speaking a word over the person - **Acts 20:9-12.**
- Speaking in faith – **Mark 11:23.**
- Faith of the receiver – **Matt 9:22.**
- Healing by the anointing – **Acts 19:11-12.**
- Gifts of healing – **1Cor. 12:9, Acts. 9:36-43.**
- Laying on of hands – **Mark 16:18.**
- Healing by touch – **Acts 20:9-12.**
- Healing by prayer – **Acts 20:9-12; James 5:15.**
- Elders praying of the sick with anointing oil – **James 5:14.**
- Confession of sins to another – **James 5:16.**

11. Discussion of James 5:14-16.

Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

- Notice: Whomever is sick.
- Notice: The elders with oil and the prayer offered in faith.
- Notice: Sin can be involved in the cause of sickness. However, not all infirmity is connected to sin!

12. Our belief is that God wants to heal all of the time, unless it is meant to be a sickness unto death, or He has greater purposes that are good in mind that we may or may not understand at the moment.

- We believe that God wants to heal, and this is normative.
- We must pray with the expectation that God wants to heal. We must put aside our doubts and fears and believe what God has told us in the Scriptures. The enemy wants to use the emotional impact of not seeing people healed to keep us from praying. Our motivation for praying for the sick needs to be, to bring honor to the name of Jesus.
- We also know that there are times when we don't see this happen. We have chosen to accept that God knows what is best for each person, and we continue to pray and ask for God to come and touch His people. In **2 Tim. 4:20**, Paul left Trophimus sick in Miletus ill.

D. Reasons Jesus healed.

1. Jesus healed to authenticate His Kingdom message so people might believe in Him.

- Jesus often healed to reveal His identity as the Son of God and His authority to minister the works of the Father and provide a way to salvation.
- In other words, healing was a sign meant to produce faith) – (**Luke 6:6-11** the person with a withered hand.) This aspect is very, very common in the gospels and Acts and is perhaps the largest reason Jesus healed.
- Sometimes Jesus healed without the person's request simply to demonstrate the Kingdom. (**Mark 1:23-27 and Luke 6:1-10**).

2. Jesus healed so that people could know their sins were forgiven and that He had authority to forgive sins.

- Story of the paralytic carried and lowered through the roof. (**Mark 2:10-12**).

3. Jesus healed because He felt the love and compassion of the Father.

- **The Compassion or Mercy of Jesus** is mentioned very often as Jesus healed.– **Luke 7:11-17** widow's son. Healing of the leper who came to him **Mk 1:41**, the sheep without a shepherd, etc. **Mt 6:34; 14:14; 15:32; 20:34**.

4. Jesus healed to reveal the nature and works of the Father.

- Jesus said that His healing miracles were to display God's works to the people and thus God would receive the glory. (John 9:3; 11:4).

5. Jesus healed to destroy the works of the devil.

- **Jesus often displayed indignation at devil – Luke 13:10-17** crippled woman. He also shared with the religious leaders this was a sign the Kingdom of God had come and had power over the devil and the Kingdom of darkness. (Matthew 12).
- 6. Jesus healed because someone asked him.**
 - Jesus healed in response to requests from those who were sick. In the gospels it appears everyone who came to him with a request for healing was healed. (**Lk 4:40**)
 - 7. Jesus healed because faith was present.**
 - **Example:** The woman with the issue of blood in **Mt 9:22** “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed from that moment.
 - **Other examples**, the centurion who had a sick servant, the Syrophenician woman.
 - **Faith is such a key factor, that we will discuss this in detail below.**
 - 8. We can be encouraged that Jesus healed for many reasons and that it is not always in strict relationship to our faith.**
 - Let’s expect God to heal!!

E. The Role of Faith in Divine healing.

- 1. Six different ways faith may present when healing occurs.**
 - **Faith of recipient** (the person receiving healing) – **Luke 9:22** hemorrhage.
 - **Faith of another** (a friend, parent, or one requesting on behalf of another).
 - **Faith of one ministering** (the one praying for the sick person) **Jas 5:12-16**.
 - **Corporate faith** in response to preaching of Kingdom **Mt. 4:23-25**.
 - **Faith of Jesus Himself** **Mt 17:14-19; Mark 9:14-29**.
 - **Faith and perseverance.** Keep on asking and it will be given to you. Bold and perseverance in prayer is often needed and linked to faith. **Mt 7:1-8, Lk 18:1-12**.
- 2. Six aspects of faith in Jesus for healing.**
 - **Faith in Jesus’ authority** (commission from God) to heal any sickness, including creative miracles and the forgiveness of sin where necessary.
 - **Faith in Jesus’ ability or power** (gifting) to heal any condition – **Luke 5:17**. He even healed when weak faith was present “**if you can**” **Mark 9:22-23**.
 - **Faith in Jesus’ willingness** to heal anyone requesting in faith – **Luke 5:12**
 - **Faith in Jesus’ love and mercy** – blind Bartimaeus approached because he had heard testimonies about Jesus. He was persistent even when rebuked – **Mk 10:46-52**. Similar was evident with the Syrophenician woman in **Mt 15**.
 - **Faith demonstrated through an act of obedience.** Go wash in a pool.
 - **Faith that won’t take no as an answer.** Woman from Tyre in **Mk 7:25-26**. Blind Bartimaeus **Mark 10:46-52**.
- 3. Words of knowledge, revelatory insight, or testimonies of healing and miracles play a vital role in stirring faith.**
 - **Every testimony brings something of heaven into the atmosphere.** It gives us a divine moment when things shift and are transformed because the record of God’s activity is revealed’. As we hear what God has done for others, it releases faith that He can do the same for us. (*Defining Moments*: Bill Johnson).
 - **Testimony of Jesus and His works is the Spirit of prophecy.** Root of one of Hebrew words for testimony is do it again. The testimony give invitation and anointing to do more. Testimony has power to change present events.

- **Acts 4:33** - And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.
- **John 10:37-38** - If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."
- **Story of little boy Christ with club feet.** Run Chris run and he is healed as he runs. Bill is sharing story here and woman from Montana hears it "I'll take that for my daughter" and here street was straight. Share story in meeting in NC and person watching in Brazil and her daughter and feet turned in deformed, calls her daughter and girl comes and take off your shoes come here and her feet completely healed.

F. The Role of our Divine Authority in Jesus.

1. **We are given a commission to go in Jesus' authority (Matt. 10:1; 28:18).**
 - Jesus has given us authority over the power of the enemy and nothing will harm us (**Luke 10:19**).
 - The difference in ministry in power and authority is huge.
 - Jesus' **power** came from the anointing of the Holy Spirit (**Luke 4:14-18**). In power God moves sovereignly and His presence can release healing instantly. It is learning to ride the wave of what God is doing.
 - Authority is the right to exercise God's power. It creates a wave of faith and power that may not be present otherwise. In mall your ministry is usually out of authority.
 - Jesus' authority came from His relationship with the Father. He knew His commission as the Son, and this gave Him boldness to exercise His authority as one sent by the Father. Our basis for authority is our positing in Christ, not how we feel.
 - **Authority is the right or authorization to exercise power.**
 - **Therefore, authority is** the permission or granted right to exercise power over a situation. It is the authorization to minister in God's Name, to do what Jesus did, to model and release Kingdom blessings, Kingdom love, and Kingdom power.
 - **Authority is like having the keys to the breaker box or power closet.**
2. **There is a difference between power and authority.**
 - **Example: Police officer in intersection.** He has very little power, but it is the authority behind the badge and what he represents.
 - **Illustration:** Power rides on a wave of faith in what God is doing; authority has the ability to create a wave.
 - **Yet power accompanies genuine spiritual authority (Luke 4:36-39)**
 - **Illustration** – Having Jesus' authority, is like having Arnold Schwarzenegger or Duane Johnson walking around with us on the beach, only more so.

G. The Role of Anointing

1. **It appears that there are greater levels of anointing by the Holy Spirit.**
 - Peter had even his shadow fall on people as he walked by and they would receive healing Acts 5:12-15. Paul had extraordinary mirae³ through his ministry so that even handkerchiefs taken to the sick would heal them and evil spirits would leave (Acts 19:11-12)
2. **Remember the difference between role, gift, ministry and office. In each, the level of anointing differs.**