

EMBASSY BIBLE COLLEGE. HEALING

We have been commissioned to heal the sick

1. Jesus sends out the twelve with authority over every sickness, disease and evil spirits.....

Matthew 10:1 He called his disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

2. Jesus sends out the seventy-two with the same authority.

Luke 10:9 Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'

Luke 10:17-20 The seventy two returned with joy and said, 'Lord even the demons submit to us in your name.' He replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you. However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.'

3. Jesus commissions all believers.

Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and teach them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.'

4. Jesus commanded his disciples.

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.' (Matthew 10:7-9)

5. Jesus has commissioned us to heal the sick.

The authority that Jesus was given by the Father, is the authority he now gives to us. It is part of our mission to reach the world. We have been commissioned and given kingdom authority - in the name of Jesus - to heal the sick.

We have been given kingdom authority to heal the sick

1. We have been given authority to exercise kingdom power because we are children of God and it is our birthright.

Joan 1:11-13 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name; he gave the right to become children of God – children not born of natural decent, nor of human decision of a husband’s will, but born of God.’

2. It is our inheritance. We are heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.

Romans 8:15-17 ‘For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave to fear, but a spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs – heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ.’

3. Every believer has a legitimate right to exercise power.

Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Farther on a throne of power and authority, and we are seated with him. (Ephesians 1:17-21,2:6) It is from this position that we are to exercise kingdom authority in the name of Jesus.

4. Kingdom authority is recognised by demons.

Acts 19:13 (Seven sons of Sceva) they would say, ‘In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.’ Acts 19:15 The evil spirit answered them, ‘Jesus O know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?’

5. We need power as well as legitimacy. We have to put the kingdom first in our lives if we are to experience kingdom power and authority. We are here to fulfil a mission and healing is part of it. Colossians 3:1-3 'Since then you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.'
6. Our focus has to be kept on Jesus. We need to pray for insight and understanding. We need to consider how Jesus would have responded to the situations we face. Hebrews 12:2 'Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.'

Jesus shows us how to heal the sick

1. Jesus used many ways to heal the sick. But Jesus and his disciples never used petitioning prayer for healing. They did use authoritative prayer.

Matthew 17:20 'I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain move from here to there and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.'
2. A common feature of the healing ministry of Jesus was compassion. Love and compassion should be our prime motivators for healing the sick.

Matthew 14:14 'When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.' Mark 1:41 'Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. I am willing, he said, be clean.'
3. We must cloth ourselves with his compassion. Colossians 3:12 'Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.'
4. We must be filled with his love. Romans 5:5 'And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given to us.' We need on a daily basis to be filled by the Holy Spirit and with the love and compassion of Christ.

5. Healing may come instantly. The person can be asked to test their healing. It may be partial – and require further prayer or action on the part of the individual. There may be no sign of immediate healing. It may be manifest as they go on their way or there may be a delay or gradual healing that starts to takes place.
6. Do behave sensitively and in an environment of love and compassion. Don't behave in a peculiar way. Don't use religious jargon. Ask permission to pray and lay hands. Always use authoritative prayer when addressing the sickness. It is good to pray with someone else (the prayer of agreement is powerful) and it is best that men do not pray for a woman unless another woman is present.
7. Be practical. Where does it hurt? Explain how you are going to pray. Invite the Holy Spirit. Pray with authority. Take authority over the condition, and speak a word of command. Exercise faith. But the key to success is to always follow the prompting of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit and faith are essential for success.

1. We must allow God to deal with any areas of our lives that would hinder the flow of the Holy Spirit. Brokenness releases his presence. We need to become sensitive and obedient to his promptings and to desire the gifts that will increase our effectiveness in the ministry of healing.

John 12:24 I tell you the truth, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.'

2. We must fix our eyes on Jesus not on the problem we face. Matthew 14:25-31 'Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, Lord save me! Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. You of little faith, he said, Why did you doubt?' Peter took his eyes off Jesus and looked at the problem. Doubt paralyses faith.

3. Don't panic. Don't rush. Don't be afraid of silence. Allow the presence of the Holy Spirit to increase. Use authoritative prayer in the name of Jesus. Deal with unbelief by speaking appropriate scriptures. Put your faith into action and it will grow. James 2:17 'In the same way, faith by itself, if not accompanied by action, is dead.'
4. God has given each one of us a measure of faith. Romans 12:3 'In accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.' It's what you do with it that makes the difference. Faith comes by hearing the truth and grows as you continually put it into action. Matthew 17:20 He replied, 'because you have so little faith, I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, move from here to there and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.'
5. The ideal situation when praying for healing is when the one praying has faith....the one receiving has faith, and anyone present has faith. Our faith has to be founded on what Jesus has already done. Isaiah 53:4 'Surely he took our infirmities and carried out sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.'

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30 Reasons why God heals.

It is God's nature to heal.

1. The love of God – God answers prayer *Matt 14:14 'he had compassion on them and healed their sick.'*
2. The name of God *Ex 15:26 'I am the Lord your healer.'*
3. The goodness of God *Matt 7:11 'how much more will your Father, who is in heaven, give you good things.'*
4. It is a demonstration of His deity *Mk 2:10 'take up your bed and walk.'*
5. God is our friend – He wants to do it *John 16:15 'all that the Father has is mine...he will take what is mine and declare it to you.'*

God has given His Word

6. He promised – God is bound by His word. *Titus 1:2 'God who never lies.'*
7. The curse of the law is broken *Rom 8:2 'set free from the law of sin....'*
8. We are saved – He forgives our sin and *'heals all our diseases.'* *Ps 103:3*
9. Healing is in the atonement – Jesus paid the price. *Is 53:5; 1 Pet 2:24 'He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.'*
10. To fulfil the prophetic word *Matt 8:17 'He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.'*

It is God's will to heal

11. God wills it *Matt 8:7 'say the word and my servant will be healed.'*
12. To believe in the supernatural *John 11:40, 45 'many believed in him.'*
13. To destroy the works of the devil *Acts 10:38 'healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'*
14. To glorify God *John 9:3 'that the works of God might be manifested...'*

15. God is sovereign. *Eccl 8:3 'He does whatever he pleases.'*

Healing confirms the kingdom

16. Mass evangelism *John 6:2 'because they saw the signs which he did.'*

17. To prove His ministry *Acts 2:22 'A man attested with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him.'*

18. The gospel – signs accompanying it *Rom 1:16; Mk 16:18 'they (all believers) will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.'*

19. To see beyond the sign to know God *John 6:26' seek me not because you saw signs.'*

20. Miracles are part of the kingdom *Matt 6:10 'Thy kingdom come.'*

We have been commissioned and given authority to do the works of Jesus

21. The healing commission *John 14:10; Matt 10:7,8; Luke 9:2 'preach the kingdom of God and to heal.'*

22. The name of Jesus *Mark 16:17 'in my name....'*

23. He is risen; He's alive; He's the same *Heb 13:8 'the same yesterday today and forever.'*

24. We have been given authority *Matt:21:23*

25. We have been given the Holy Spirit – The spirit is our source of power.
We have been given a healing anointing *Mark 16:18*

God has provided ways for healing to be received.

26. Faith - not the healing gift but the prayer of faith can be used by the believer *James 5:15 'and the prayer of faith will save the sick man.'*

27. Through Communion *1 Cor 11:29,30* 'that is why many of you are weak and ill and some have died.'
28. Gift of the Spirit - healing and miracles (this is sovereign and does not need faith) *1 Cor 12:9* 'to another gifts of healings.'
29. Direct connection to the ministry of giving *Acts 9:36,37* 'she was full of good works and acts of charity.' *Acts 10:2-4* 'a devout man who feared God and gave liberally.'
30. Desperation – in response to our persistence *Mk 5:27* 'she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his garment'

DO NOT GIVE UP IF YOU ARE WAITING TO BE HEALD. THERE MAY BE REASONS.

30 Reasons why healing doesn't happen.

Lack of faith and poor spiritual life

1. Little faith *Matt 8:26* 'Why are you afraid, O men of little faith.'
 Pistis – some faith but still small and underdeveloped. Not being used.
 We must apply action to knowledge for faith to grow
2. Wrong confession. *Prov 15:4* 'Life and death are in the power of the tongue.'
3. Unscriptural doctrine *Matt 22:29* 'You are wrong, because you know neither the scriptures nor the power of God.'
4. Lack of knowledge. *Hosea 4:6* 'My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.' e.g. Not understanding about healing in the atonement.
5. Prayerlessness *2 Kings 20:7* 'I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold I will heal you.'
6. Broken spirit. *Prov 17; 22* 'a cheerful heart is good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones.' First need emotional/inner healing.

7. Hardened heart. *Heb 3: 7, 10*. They refused to believe what God said. The more we fail to respond to God's voice the more our heart becomes hard.
 - v. 10 They have not known My ways. Failure to have intimacy with God.
 - v. 12 Evil heart of unbelief, departing from the living God – drifting away.
 - v. 13 Hardened through deceitfulness of sin.

Unbelief and lack of expectation

8. Unbelief in the people around. An atmosphere of unbelief. *Mk 6:5 'And he could do no mighty works there, except that he laid hands upon a few sick people and healed them.'*
9. Putting limits on what we expect God can and will do. *Ps 78:41 'they tested him again and again.'*
10. Excuses. *John 5:7 'I have no man to put me in the pool.'*
11. Anxiety, fear, worry, stress. *Prov14:30 'A tranquil mind gives life to the flesh but passion makes the bones rot.'*
12. Negative influences – listening to critics. *Mk 5:35 'why trouble the teacher any further.'*
13. No expectation. *Acts 3:5 'He fixed his attentionexpecting to receive something from them.'* Hope does not disappoint.

Unforgiven sin

14. Unforgiveness, bitterness and offence. (Taking or giving) *Matt 18:33 'should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant.'*
15. Habitual, wilful sin. *James 5:16 'confess you sins to one another, that you may be healed.'*
16. Pride *2 Kings 5:10,11 'Go and wash in the Jordon seven times.'* Naaman did not want to dip in the Jordan. The need to follow God's strategy.
17. Murmuring, complaining, grumbling, negativity e.g. *Num 12:8 Miriam*

18. Disobedience to what God says *John 2:5 'Do whatever he tells you.'*

Wrong attitude/lifestyle

19. Going after signs but do not want to 'eat the bread' *John 6:2 'they followed him because they saw the signs that he did.'*

20. No lifestyle of prayer and fasting *Ps 35:13, 14*

21. Wrong motives e.g. loss of reputation, victim mentality *Matt 11:6 'blessed is he who takes no offense at me.'*

22. Lack of honour for God's anointed leaders. *Num 16:3*. Division and ungodly attitude towards leaders. Unwillingness to be accountable.

23. Too offended at the vessel *Mk 6:3 'Is this not the carpenter.....'*

24. Forgetting the poor *Prov 21:13 'He who closes his ear to the poor will himself cry out and not be heard.'*

25. Failure to accept that God wants to use natural means e.g. diet, exercise, vitamins, doctors, medicine etc. Rejection of natural means of healing.

It may be a spirit or the result of a curse

26. Religious spirit – religious attitudes *Matt 11:7 'what did you go out to the wilderness to behold?'* Often why healing outside church is easier.

27. Greed - Wanting healing for wrong reason *2 Kings 5:20-27 Naaman*

28. Fear *Job 3:25 'the thing that I fear comes upon me'*

29. Other spirits *Acts 10:38 'he went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.'* e.g. spirit of doubt, unbelief, heaviness, infirmity, affliction, rejection, epilepsy, deafness.

30. A curse *Deut 28:16 'these curses shall come upon you and overtake you.'*