

Program for Sessions

- (1) Why Heal today?
- (2) The Ministry of Jesus.
- (3) Physical Healing.
- (4) Memory Healing.
- (5) Emotional Healing.
- (6) Deliverance Healing
- (7) Conversion.
- (8) Models of Ministry.
- (9) Abuse Healing.



people who are not Christians, but who are sick, can be invited to receive healing prayer. There are drawbacks to healing services for a number of reasons. Often healing services can reinforce the view that prayers for healing are something detached from everyday Christian experience. They can also result in people coming along to services for the wrong reasons, to see what will happen, rather than to participate in the worship. If a church only involves itself in the healing ministry in the context of services it can isolate people from receiving prayer when they need it and where they need it.

3) Healing Prayer as part of pastoral structures.

For many churches this has been by far the most effective means of praying for the sick. It allows people to receive healing prayer in the environment of their own homes. As the pastoral structure picks up on a person who is not well, the Minister or the pastoral co-ordinator can offer them healing prayer and if needed communion. When healed the testimony should be publicly declared.

Models of Ministry.

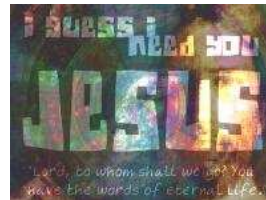
Lifestyle Approach.

One of the questions that is often asked is, what is the most effective way of moving in a healing ministry? Many people have found it to be true that the more natural the development of this gift and ministry the more effective it is. We as Christians today have in many areas of the Christian faith over sensationalised and made suspicious spiritual blessings that were meant to be part of the everyday Christian experience. We need to recognise that our difficulty in accepting God's blessings and signs of His kingdom is not down to some confusion over what the bible says about God's participation in the world, (for the bible makes it clear that God is at work in his creation both on a natural and supernatural level,) and more about the western world view that we have been indoctrinated into. Alongside this rationalistic western world view, we have also seen the fringes of the Christian community distorting and undermining the heart of what a real healing ministry is all about. This has left some Christians feeling that the gifts of the spirit are not real for the mature, balanced believer who is concerned with the unchanging glory of God, not shallow showmanship. *Continued above....*

However we see within the life of both Jesus and the early church that the healing ministry was a natural part of their Christian experience.

As they went from place to place they came across sick people and their compassion would naturally go out to that person in the form of healing prayer. Like so many of the gifts of the Spirit the disciples naturally moved in them as and when they had need. Today we often in the church try to limit God in how and when these gifts from Him can be used. The result of this is that we miss out on many evangelistic opportunities to allow God to testify to His reality in the world today.

Healing prayer is certainly one of the areas where we miss out on many opportunities. How many times as someone told you that they do not feel very well and instead of taking a step of faith and offering to pray for them, we have asked them to make an appointment at the doctor. Even though it was hard, we see the disciples were prepared to take up challenging situation, respond by offering prayer and therefore saw many situations turn out for God's glory and the salvation of others. If you have a gift to be open to the healing power of Jesus then you also need to be open to the opportunities that God will give to you to move in that gift. That will often mean it will not just be in church that you use that gift, but it very well could be in your place of work, out socially or even in your family situation that you are given opportunity to pray. The more willing we are to use this gift as Jesus used it the more we will see God heal through us as we are obedient.



Some helpful hints:-

- 1) Each day offer yourself up to God and ask Him to give you glaring opportunities for you to minister to others.
- 2) If someone shares with you that they are not feeling well, then ask God, in your mind, if He wants you to pray for that person.
- 3) Offer prayer for healing and then let the person make their own decision whether they want you to pray for them.

The Structured Approach.

Alongside of the more natural approach many churches have looked to establish the healing ministry at the heart of their mission work to the world. Often they see this as in direct response to the command of Jesus to not only spread the Good News in words but also in action. There is a number of ways this has been done:-

1) **At communion Services** – One of the ways that many churches have found an easy way to implement prayer for the sick is by involving it as part of a communion service. At communion we focus on the grace and compassion of God given to us as a free gift through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. In this atonement sacrifice we see that there is a real sense of both healing and wholeness offered to us. It therefore seems a natural development that as well as offering the bread and the wine to people, both a symbol of remembrance, but also a symbol of his presence with us today, we should also offer healing prayer.

2) **Healing Services** – Some churches have started up specific services which focus on both open worship and prayer for healing. Throughout church history there does seem to be a very close link between open and genuine worship and the power of God being manifested through the spiritual gifts. These services can also have a strong evangelistic edge as *Continued Left....*