

Leaders Notes – Session 8



Title:- **Different Models of Ministry (Continued 2....)**

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 around 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 moved in them as and when they were led by the Lord Jesus. 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.

Discuss: How many times has someone told you that they do not feel well at home / work / out in the community?
How many times have you offered to pray for those people right there and then?
Why do you think we often turn away from these opportunities and what can we do to overcome these fears and doubts?

Even though it was hard, we see the disciples were prepared to take up challenging situations, respond by offering prayer and therefore had the joy of seeing many situations turn out for God's glory and the salvation of others. We need to be open to the opportunities that God will give us to move in the healing anointing of Jesus. The more willing we are to respond to the call to pray for the sick 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 / divine appointments for you to witness and minister to others.
- (2)** If someone share with you that they are not feeling well, than 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 they own decision whether they want you to pray for them or not.

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 only spread the good news in words, but also in action. There are 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 is therefore seems a natural development that as well as offering the bread and wine to people we should also offer healing prayer.

(2) Healing Services - Some churches have started up specific services which focus on both open worship and the prayer for healing. Throughout church history there does seem to be a very close link between open and genuine praise and the power of God being manifested through the spiritual gifts. These services can also have a strong evangelistic edge as 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 reinforce the view that prayers for healing are something detached from everyday Christian experience. People waiting all week to come to be prayed for when it should be as and when the Spirit leads. Healing services can also result in people coming along to services for the wrong reason, to see what will happen. Rather than

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