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**FAITH: A DEFINITION**

- Heb 11:1 *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*
- Faith is NOT a leap into the unknown; it is moving from the unknown to what we know – the character of God
- Faith is *knowing God* and *acting accordingly*

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**Every believer is given a measure of faith**

- **Rom 12:3**
- 3For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with *the measure of faith* God has given you.

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**Faith comes from the Word of Christ**

- **Rom 10:17**
- 7Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

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**Faith is intended to grow and increase**

- **2 Cor 10:15-16**
- Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, **as your faith continues to grow**, our area of activity among you will greatly expand,
- **2 Thess 1:3-4**
- We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because **your faith is growing more and more**, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.

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**Healing: A Definition**

- The intervention of God in this world to provide physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health where disease and distress existed previously.
- It is a sign of the presence of the Kingdom of God on the earth

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### Healing is based on the character of God:

- Ex 15:26
- 26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, *for I am the LORD, who heals you.*"
- *Jehovah Raphe*

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### Healing is part of the Atonement:

- Isa 53:5 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.*
- 1 Peter 2: 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you *have been healed.*

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### Healing announces the Kingdom of God:

- Matt 10:5-8
- 5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 7 As you go, preach this message: *'The kingdom of heaven is near.'* 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

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## Healing is the work of God:

- John 9:1-3
- 9:1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
- 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that **the work of God** might be displayed in his life.

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## Faith and Healing:

- Matt 9:20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. 21 She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." 22 Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "**your faith has healed you.**" And the woman was healed from that moment.
- Mark 10:51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."
- 52 "Go," said Jesus, "**your faith has healed you.**" Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

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## The faith of another is used for healing:

- James 5:13-16
- 13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. 14 *Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord.* 15 *And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.* The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
- Luke 7:1-10 (The Centurion's Son)
- Mark 2:1-12 (The Paralytic lowered through the roof)

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## What is Doubt?

- It is unbelief. It is lacking faith in God despite having received the Word of God and the work of the Spirit in our lives.
- It is refusing to believe that God is who He says He is, and that Christ is God incarnate.
- It is drawing upon ourselves and our strength as our **first resort**.

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## Doubt is NOT:

- Questioning the God we trust during difficult circumstances
- Wondering at times if God truly hears and answers prayer
- Acknowledging that we do not fully know the mind of God in a situation

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- Dan 3:16-18
- 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O King, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, **and he will rescue us** from your hand, O king. 18 **But even if he does not**, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

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# Questions About Healing

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**1) Why are some not healed?**

- **Sin:** Ps 66:18 "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened"
- **Real Doubt:** Matt.13:58 "They took offence at Him...He could not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith"
- **The Sovereignty of God**

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**2) If healing is the Atonement, as is salvation, and we are guaranteed salvation by asking, are we not guaranteed healing by asking as well?**

- The issue here is our understanding of the Kingdom of God.
- The "Now but Not-yet"
- Now we see as through a dark glass; then we will see face to face. (1 Cor.13:12)

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We are not fully saved yet;  
we all still sin.

Neither are we fully healed yet;  
we all still die.

1 Cor 1:18-19  
18 For the message of the cross is foolishness  
to those who are perishing, but to us who are  
**being saved** it is the power of God.

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**People are always looking for the  
right formula; God is all about  
relationships.**

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**3) If someone is not healed, was there  
a lack of faith, was unbelief present, or  
was there sin in their life?**

- Acts 12:12:1 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. 2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. 3 When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. 5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.
- 6 Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains... 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.
- And... 9 Peter followed him out of the prison...

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- [Peter] went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. 13 Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"
- 15 "***You're out of your mind,***" ***they told her.*** When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."
- 16 But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, ***they were astonished.***

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**Despite his faithfulness, James was put to death**

**Despite the lack of faith of those praying for Peter's release, God delivered him**

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**Conclusion:**

- Healing is an important of Jesus' death and resurrection, a key sign that the Kingdom of God is moving throughout the earth
- God heals in response to faith, and in His own way, on His own time
- God cannot be manipulated into healing
- Sometimes, the righteous suffer from sickness and are not healed. This we leave to the Sovereignty of God.
- "Now Elisha was suffering from the illness from which he died..." 2 Kings 13:14

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**As youth, we are called to  
proclaim the good news of  
God's Kingdom on earth,  
bringing His salvation, healing,  
and deliverance to those who  
desperately need it!**

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