

1. Review of Healing Concepts

1.1. You're a gifted person!

1. Recognize yourself as a gifted person.

In 1 Corinthians 12 the "manifestation of the Spirit" is given to each one for the common good.

2. It's biblical to pray for miraculous demonstrations of God's power.

In Acts 4, the Church asked God to make them bold. How?

3. It's biblical to desire spiritual gifts!

We are commanded to "earnestly desire the best gifts," etc. (1 Corinthians 12:31).

4. We are responsible to develop the deposit of grace He has given us.

See 1 Timothy 4:14, where Paul says: "do not neglect the gift." Avoid false humility.

1.2. Ministering in the tangible power of God.

- The Holy Spirit is not an "energy," but His presence does affect our surroundings.
- People may react to God's presence or react to the anointing. They may experience various manifestations.

1.3. About Jesus' healing ongoing ministry.

Why do we believe that what Jesus did then, He can still do today?

1. Jesus Christ the same, yesterday today and forever (Hebrews 13:8).
2. The Bible says He still heals through the ministry of His church.
3. His love for humanity is undiminished.
4. We observe by experience that He still heals.

1.4. Principles for building faith for healing.

1. God's will to heal you is revealed in the Word.
2. Healing reveals God's character, love and compassion.
3. Healing was released to us through the grace of Christ.
4. Healing is received in many different ways – but each gives glory to Jesus.
5. Faith for healing can grow as we reject the enemy's decree.

1.5. Who can be used to heal?

- All believers may be used in the Gifts of the Spirit.
- Jesus says (John 14:12) that the one who believes would do the works that He did.
- An important key: to develop an intimate relationship with the Lord.
- Ministry in the supernatural flows out of an ability to sense what the Father is saying and doing, then stepping out in faith.

1.6. Avoiding formulas with the Five-Step Healing Model.

In healing ministry there can be no "methods" or formulas. We taught on prayer using the 5-step healing prayer model. The five steps are:

1. The interview: what's wrong?
2. The diagnostic decision: what is causing this illness?
3. The prayer selection: how am I going to pray?
4. The prayer engagement: listening to the Spirit and engaging with the person.
5. Post-prayer directions: these are meant to help people maintain whatever they have received during the ministry time.

2. Understanding Blessings & Curses

2.1. The reality of blessings and curses.

At times you will note that a person seems to be suffering from the effects of a curse.

Remember that one of the steps in our prayer model is a diagnostic decision, in which we seek to hear from the Spirit what is giving rise to a person's condition.

- "Blessing and cursing" is a very real spiritual dynamic, mentioned in the Bible hundreds of times. Experience confirms this also.
- "I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live..." (Deuteronomy 30:19).

- Having a biblical understanding of this topic is essential!

2.2. What is a blessing? What is a curse?

The Bible uses this word in different ways. The word “blessed” or “blessèd” can refer to being happy, a state of happiness we’re enjoying because of our situation.

“Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly...” (Psalms 1:1a). What that really means is this: *“Oh the happiness of the man...”*

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God” (Matthew 5:8).

When we use the word blessing in a supernatural sense, we’re referring to a release of at least four things, into a person’s life.

1. Life;
2. Favor;
3. Help; and
4. Protection.

A blessing is a supernatural impartation of life and favor upon our lives. When we are blessed, God is not only **with** us, but it becomes obvious that He is also **for** us.

“...the LORD was with Joseph and showed him mercy... the LORD was with him; and whatever he did, the LORD made it prosper” (see Genesis 39:21-23).

On the other hand, cursing is a release into a person's life of four very different things:

1. Death;
2. Opposition;
3. Hindrance; and
4. Destruction.

Instead of God making you to prosper, God may actually be working against you: "...they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit; so He turned Himself against them as an enemy, and He fought against them" (Isaiah 63:10).

We can read the "curse of the Law" in Deuteronomy 28. It's sobering: God could oppose us.

Let's speak about these things with wisdom and sensitivity.

2.3. How is a blessing released?

1. A blessing may be spoken by God.

Jesus came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly. "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers" (3 John 2). This reveals God's intention towards us.

We often find God Himself speaking blessing directly over a person's life. "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth'" (Genesis 1:27-28).

Notice what seems to have been attached to God’s blessing upon our first parents:

- Fertility
- Ability
- Productivity
- Leadership

God blessed other people, too, so that they would experience His favor, such as the Patriarchs, and Jesus blessed children and His disciples. God blesses people because He wants them to experience “blessedness” and joy.

2. A blessing may also be spoken by one person to another, under God’s leading or command. A human being might be the one speaking, but God can certainly release His blessing to people through that means. Look at the Aaronic Blessing:

And the LORD spoke to Moses, saying: “Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, ‘This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: ‘The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.’ “So they shall put My name on the children of Israel, and I will bless them.” (Numbers 6:22-27)

When the patriarchs were dying, they spoke blessing over their children and prophesied.

3. A blessing may be spoken by one person over another under the power of the person’s soul. God seems to have created us in such a way that we can be helped by the words of others. Receiving words of affirmation and encouragement lift us above discouragement.

- Think of Barnabas and Paul.
- What exactly are we saying when we tell someone, “You are such a blessing!”

God has placed people in families and in other relationships. You are more likely to receive the power of blessing or cursing through authority figures.

- “It is beyond dispute that the inferior is blessed by the superior” (Hebrews 7:7 ESV).
- Who has this power?
 - Parents
 - Pastors, or spiritual leaders
 - Professors, or teachers
- God intended this authority for good, but we have usually misused it.
- Speak words of grace!
- Believers who agree with God’s Word can bless you as well, if they are agreeing with God and praying for His blessing on you. We are told to bless and not to curse.

4. A person may also receive blessing by positioning himself to receive a blessing.

“[T]hose who honor Me I will honor” (see 1 Samuel 2:30); “Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you...” (Deuteronomy 5:16).

There’s an obvious example in Malachi 3, where promises to open the windows of heaven to those who tithe. Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you...” (Luke 6:38).

Some promises of this type are reciprocal. “I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you...” (Genesis 12:3a).

Look for the blessing when you read the Word!

2.4 What are the signs of a curse?

We don't want to casually suggest that people are cursed. However, we may see things in a person's life that could indicate the operation of a curse. Holy Spirit insight is needed.

- Recall, a curse releases: death; opposition; hindrance; and destruction.
- A person suffering from a curse will be unable to prosper.
- "In the morning you shall say, 'If only it were evening!' and at evening you shall say, 'If only it were morning!' because of the dread that your heart shall feel, and the sights that your eyes shall see" (Deuteronomy 28:67 ESV).

Derek Prince identified seven common markers:

1. Mental or emotional breakdown;
2. Repeated or chronic sickness;
3. Barrenness and related problems;
4. Breakdown in marriage and family relationships;
5. Continuing financial insufficiency;
6. Being "accident-prone;"
7. A history of suicide, unnatural deaths, or untimely deaths.

2.5 Causes of curses.

Derek Prince had a great thought about how curses arise in a person's life:

The operation of blessings and curses in our lives is not haphazard or unpredictable. On the contrary, both of them operate according to eternal, unchanging laws. It is to the Bible, once again, that we must look for a correct understanding of these laws. In Proverbs 26:2 Solomon establishes this principle with respect to curses: “A curse without cause shall not [land].” Behind every curse that comes upon us, there is a cause. If it seems that we are under a curse, we should seek to determine its cause. Then we shall be in a position to take appropriate action against it. This will also silence that nagging question, “Why do things like this always happen to me?”

1. Idolatry.

“I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me...” (Exodus 20:5).

2. What about so-called “generational curses?”

- When we come to faith in Christ, God makes us new creations in Him. But the question of iniquity is difficult.
- Iniquity is practiced sin that twists and deforms our character. Everyone sins, but not everyone is wicked.
- People with iniquitous patterns often do pass those behaviors down, regardless of whether they are forgiven through Christ. Look at the iniquitous patterns of deceptive behavior we see in Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- King David reaped what he sowed in his life, both as a father and a person of violence. Regardless, God is always able to order things in such a way that each one of us remains responsible for his or her own sins.
- We remember how demonic infestation can be passed down through the family line.

- When we come to Christ, His grace is available -- but we need vigilance against our own flesh and the enemy's attacks! God can through repentance break the cycles of generational sin and curses.

3. Carnal and other sins.

In addition to idolatry, there are other sins that can subject people to God's disfavor:

- Dishonoring our parents
- Shedding of innocent blood and other forms of injustice
- Various forms of sexual sin
- Bribery
- Theft
- You can read about these things and others in Deuteronomy 27.
- Balaam was not able to curse the nation of Israel on behalf of the King of Moab, because God's blessing was upon Israel. When Israel committed sexual sin with the women of Moab and worshiped their gods, the King of Moab's goal was achieved to some extent. Israel had torn down their own protection.
- Antisemitism will also release a curse upon someone.
- The importance of knowing the Word!

4. Witchcraft and word curses.

- In witchcraft, a person speaks spells or incantations in order to curse others. This involves summoning demons to work against the person whom they are trying to curse.
- Of more concern for most people is the power of word curses. We can think of this as the opposite of the ministry of encouragement. People are damaged by words that they receive from others, and especially from authority figures.

- In this sense, a curse is anything spoken or written against an individual or a group that contradicts God’s Word, or God’s Will for that person or group. It can release demonic power to bring about the thing spoken – especially when a person takes it to heart.
- “The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly” (Proverbs 18:8).

2.6 Freedom From Curses.

We want to help people do three things: repent, renounce, refuse.

The first is, very simply, to repent.

When the gateway for this problem, this demonic influence, whatever it is, is a question of sin, we need to be able to lead the person in repentance. We want to make sure that there is nothing that can cause a curse or God's disfavor to come upon a person.

Show people them the Word of God, and lead them in an appropriate prayer:

Dear God, I recognize that what I have done is wrong, and it's against your will. I ask you to forgive me, and I ask you to give me your grace and the help of the Holy Spirit to resist temptation in this area in the future.

The second R is the word renounce, or renunciation.

We know that speaking something out loud serves to reinforce it in our own souls. It also serves as a declaration to all who are listening, especially to spiritual powers.

This is especially important when someone is suffering from a word curse. Spirit can help you to find Scriptures that cancel out and are the opposite of the damaging words.

The third R is refusing or resisting.

The Bible says to submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee from you (see James 4:7).

When people come to us for prayer, especially when they come for deliverance prayer, we are not doing magic. In some cases, the battle will continue at the same level for a time, perhaps even intensify.

- People must learn to resist the devil for themselves.
- They must do what they can to rid themselves of attachments to their sinful lifestyle.
- The person has to learn to resist in his thought life.
- After we learn to resist the enemy in this way for a time, his attacks will decrease in severity and in frequency. When Jesus resisted the devil, the devil eventually left him, to wait for an opportune time (Luke 4:13).
- But part of what we must go through in this age is God training us to be victorious over the enemy's temptations.

2.7 Concluding thoughts on curses.

Rely on the Holy Spirit to show you what is causing a person's difficulty, and how to proceed. Do your own word study in the Bible on both blessing and cursing. It's a big area!

3. How to Heal More People

3.1 Preparing for a dramatic public ministry: going in reverse!

What can we expect in the last days? We can expect what we see in the Book of Acts.

Reversal (turning back to Gospel basics)

- Supernatural boldness
- Spontaneous Spirit-led preaching
- Supernatural direction for ministry venues (the “where” of ministry)
- Divine appointments with prominent people (the “who” of ministry)
- Divine set-ups for dramatic healings and deliverances (the “what” of ministry)

Reaction

- Challenge to our ministry from religious individuals and organizations
- Challenge to our ministry from demonic spirits
- Active persecution

Results

- Increase in the anointing for healing and miracles
- Angelic deliverances and ministry released on behalf of the Church
- Divine favor with the common people
- Formation and sending of new teams

3.2 How to Heal More People.

Healing must be one of the principal things at which we excel in the last days. How can we be more effective in healing ministry; how can we heal more people?

1. Simply desire to heal more people.

Scripture tells us to covet spiritual gifts: “Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts...” (1 Corinthians 14:1). Are we too content to live without a powerful healing anointing in our lives?

2. Be increased in your compassion.

“Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, ‘If You are willing, You can make me clean.’ Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I am willing; be cleansed’” (Mark 1:40-41).

Go before God and ask Him to increase your compassion for the lost and the sick. Repent of evil speaking. Take a fast from criticism!

3. Be increased in your healing anointing.

The Bible teaches us that we have not because we ask not (see James 4:2). Put yourself at the feet of Jesus and ask Him for it.

4. Pray the apostolic prayers of the New Testament for yourself.

You need revelation from God, and you need understanding of His ways if you’re going to function in healing.

5. Look to people with powerful healing ministries.

Study the lives of great men and women of God who were used to heal in the past, or who are being used by God today. Pay particular attention to the temptations and the pitfalls they faced.

What about receiving impartations from people?

- Paul told the Romans that he longed to be with them, so that he could impart to them some spiritual gift (see Romans 1:11).
- In Numbers 11, God “shared” Moses’ anointing.
- Receive impartations when:
 - You are led by the Holy Spirit to do so
 - You are reasonably sure that leadership approves
 - That person has a proven healing ministry
 - That servant is humble and fears the weight of what he is carrying

6. Be renewed in your own mind about healing.

How can you pray for healing for others if you are not sure in your heart that it is God’s normal, usual and customary will to heal the sick? Avoid “FUD.”

The worldly mind falls into two major errors about God’s disposition toward men: (1) God doesn’t love me; and (2) God loves me, and He overlooks my sin.

3.3 Developing Sensitivity to the Spirit.

Remember how often we’ve discussed that Jesus only did what He saw the Father doing. We, to imitate Him, and to start to see some of the result that He saw, must have the same mind. We must therefore become increasingly sensitive to the Spirit’s heart and voice.

1. Pray ahead of time for events... and people.

Remember that Jesus had 35 cities in His spreadsheet. Are you going to be in church, are you going to minister in some capacity? Pray for the place and the people, etc.

2. Flow in the compassion of Christ.

Matthew 9:36 says, “But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.”

When you are in a gathering, look for the compassion of the Lord. Whom do you feel drawn to? For whom do you feel the Lord’s compassion? Follow the movement of the river of God’s compassion.

3. Keep flowing in the Spirit’s move.

Ask yourself what God is doing in the meeting. And don’t fight it. We are developing sensitivity to what He is doing. We are not asking Him to develop sensitivity to what we are doing.

4. Move out in your anointing.

Begin to make yourself available to God to heal people. Ask Him to make opportunities for you and to supernaturally lead you. Be brave, and quickly seize opportunities to pray. As God uses you more and more you will also recognize your own administration of healing gifts.

5. Safeguard your anointing!

Keep yourself unspotted from the world. Guard your heart with all diligence. Forgive quickly. The enemy will come at you to tear down your trust and confidence. Walk in the fear of the Lord and in practical holiness, especially if God uses you powerfully. You must behave in an exemplary fashion in front of others. Avoid pride like the plague.

6. Keep close to God.

Avoid King Solomon's problem. Do not take signs and wonders as God's endorsement of everything you do. Continue to do the things that got you close to God and made you useful to Him in the first place. NEVER let the demands of ministry or the successes of ministry pull you away from your fasted lifestyle and prayer.

7. See healing and the miraculous as your normal lifestyle.

Peter said, "...God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him" (see: Acts 10:36-38).

- This was Jesus' default setting.
- Stop seeing the miraculous as miraculous. In English the word "miracle" has come to mean something out of the ordinary. The word "miracle" doesn't mean that in the Bible.
- The word *dunamis*, which we've spoken of before, which means power, as in God's supernatural power, is also used for the word we translate as "miracles." So, a miracle only means that God has released His power into a situation.
