

**DOES JESUS STILL HEAL TODAY?
Mark 8:22-26**

The Gospels are filled with stories of Jesus healing people. Jesus healed out of love and compassion. His healing miracles were also the platform for His message of salvation. But does Jesus still heal today?

A survey at a meeting of the American Academy of Family Physicians revealed the following: Percentage of family doctors who: –are convinced that religious belief can heal: 99; –believe the prayers of others can help a patient's recovery: 75; -- believe faith-healers can make people well: 38; Percentage of Americans who believe God or the saints cure or heal sick people who have been given no chance of survival by medical doctors: 77

With all these surveys, the question remains – Does Jesus still heal today? To answer “yes” to this question will always be a matter of faith. “Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

For most Christians, faith in Jesus Christ says, “Yes, I believe Jesus still heals today.” If you believe in the Resurrection that Jesus rose from the dead and He is alive and active in the world today, then He is also still doing the same kinds of things today. If you believe the Bible, the disciples and others received the Holy Spirit and the ability to do the same kinds of things Jesus did – we are the Body of Christ, and that is not totally symbolic. We are the physical presence of Jesus in the world – we do the things that Jesus did as a platform of proclaiming the Gospel. As a part of a caring Christian community, James 5:14-16 says:

¹⁴Is 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. ¹⁵And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

The follow up question to “Does Jesus still heal today?” when we get right down to it, is “Will Jesus heal me?” and if so, is there some kind of formula to follow? If we look at how Jesus healed people, according to the Gospel accounts, we can see the pattern:

Jesus healed by touch – Mark 1:41 (Healed a man with leprosy by touch)
 Jesus healed those who touched Him (woman with a hemorrhage Matt. 9:20ff)
 Jesus healed from a distance without touching – Luke 17:13- Healed 10 lepers from a distance & Matthew 8:6ff Servant of the centurion
 He healed those who asked personally (leper, blind men in Jericho Mark 10:52);
 He healed those who had others ask for them (centurion, Luke 5:18ff 4 men who lowered paralytic through the roof, the father of the girl raised from the dead; Mary and Martha for their brother, Lazarus)
 Jesus healed one out of a crowd – paralytic at pool of Bethesda (John 5)
 Jesus healed all who came to Him – Mark 1 after healing Peter’s mother-in-law
 He healed only some – in hometown of Nazareth because of little faith Matt.13:58
 He healed immediately – Matt. 5:42 (woman bleeding)

He healed through a process – John 9 mud on eyes of man born blind & wash at Pool of Siloam; blind man saw blurry at first, then second application & clearly. He used some substance in the healing – (mud, clay, saliva, water) – John 9:6 He used nothing but a word – Matt.8:13

Healed spiritually & psychologically as well as physically – demon possessed & paralytic who was forgiven first then walked Matt.9

Can you see the pattern of the way Jesus healed? The pattern is: there is no pattern. It's not about a pattern; it's about a Person. If you are looking for a formula for healing today, there is none. It's not about a formula; it's about faith in the Healer, Jesus, the Great Physician. There was no one way Jesus consistently healed people; there is no one way Jesus heals people today.

Another question is: If Jesus does heal today, then why does Jesus choose to heal some and not others? There is no record of Jesus turning away anyone who came to Him for healing. Then why are some healed and some not? I don't know. But I do know sometimes the healing that's needed is different from what we think. And the important thing is: what will glorify God the most?

We always go to Paul's comments about his requests for healing in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10:

⁷To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. ¹⁰That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Tim Hansel said, "I have prayed hundreds, if not thousands, of times for the Lord to heal me--and he finally healed me of the need to be healed."

Lloyd Douglas' novel, "The Robe," is the fictional story about the centurion, Marcellus, who was in charge of the Roman detail of crucifixion at the cross of Jesus who ends up winning the robe of Jesus in a roll of the dice. The robe of Jesus has a powerful affect upon those who hold it. I remember seeing the movie with Richard Burton, as Marcellus, speaking to a beautiful young lady who is a believer, whose legs were crippled from childhood. From an earlier conversation, we learn she was once angry and bitter over her condition, until she met Jesus. Marcellus notes how her legs were still crippled. She tells him how Jesus healed her spirit and changed her from within giving her a great love for others and a peaceful spirit.

Bible Commentator, Matthew Henry, said, "Sometimes Christ sees that we need sickness for the good of our souls more than healing for the good of our bodies."

Does Jesus still heal today? Even today He heals those who have faith in Him. Be open to whatever He does. Are you ready for Jesus to heal you? To pray for healing or even to pray for someone else's healing?

Frederick Buechner in Wishful Thinking, said, "If your approach to this kind of healing is less ideological and more *measurable* (empirical), you can always give it a try. Pray for it. If it's somebody else's healing you're praying for, you can try at the same time laying your hands on him as Jesus sometimes did. If his sickness involves his body as well as his soul, then God may be able to use your inept hands as well as your inept faith to heal him. If you feel like a fool as you are doing this, don't let it throw you. You are a fool of course. ... If your prayer isn't answered, this may mean more about you and your prayer than it does about God. Don't try too hard to feel religious, to generate some healing power of your own. Think of yourself rather (if you have to think of yourself at all) as a rather small-gauge, clogged-up pipe that a little of God's power may be able to filter through if you can just stay loose enough. Tell the one you're praying for to stay loose, too. If God doesn't seem to be giving you what you ask, maybe he's giving you something else.

How many of those Jesus healed eventually died, including Lazarus who Jesus raised? All of them. We will all die one day. The ultimate healing will be the resurrection to eternal life. Those who will be raised to eternal life are those who placed their faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. That's the ultimate healing. Trust God for whatever He gives.

I am sure if we asked for testimonies in this church from people Jesus healed, you would discover that Jesus healed several people of a variety of ailments. Open your heart, mind, soul and spirit to His healing touch. He knows the source of your illness. He knows what you need. Be persistent. Have faith in the Physician. Ask specifically. Healing is for your spiritual growth and for God's greater glory.