CLA Camp Hill, PA Teacher – Jim Hoffman

Based on the "NEXT" booklet by Daniel McNaughton and Shane Wilson



## **First Principles**



# The word "discipleship" does not appear in the Bible because "sanctification" does.

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# "We are saved by faith alone, but the faith that saves is never alone"

**Martin Luther** 



# Attribute #3 – Learning to Heal



# When it comes to healing, what questions do you have?



- God is able to heal anyone of anything.
- God has promised to, and will, heal "all of our diseases".
- God does not always heal in the way, or timetable we want.
- Never be guilty of "not asking".

### From AG.ORG 16 Fundamental Truths

#### 12. DIVINE HEALING

Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers.

- Isaiah 53:4,5 [KJV/NIV]
- Matthew 8:16,17 [KJV/NIV]
- James 5:14-16 [KJV/NIV]



- Isaiah 53:4-5 Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was <u>wounded for our transgressions</u>, He was <u>bruised for our iniquities</u>; the <u>chastisement for our peace</u> was upon Him, <u>and by His stripes we are healed.</u>
- The reference to His "stripes" is clearly pointing to the flogging Jesus received at the hands of the Romans just prior to His crucifixion.
- The plain truth Jesus' suffering purchased our complete redemption. (spirit, soul, and body)

 Matt 8:16 That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. 17 This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases."

• There is ample evidence of the power of Jesus to heal in the gospels – it is simply beyond any shadow of doubt.

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- What about after His resurrection and ascension to heaven? Now that Jesus' earthly ministry has ended, can we be healed?
- James 5:14 <u>Are any of you sick? You should call for the elders of</u> <u>the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in</u> <u>the name of the Lord. 15 Such a prayer offered in faith will heal</u> <u>the sick, and the Lord will make you well</u>. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.
- I will not violate my "plain sense" rule with respect to what James writes, for clearly he is talking about those who are physically sick.



 But I will declare that taken at face value; "Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick" may not be as grand a promise as it sounds.

 Especially, if we want to claim it for instant, miraculous healing.

• I am certain of this – when we are sick we should call for the elders, and ask them to pray for our recovery.

- That said, I need to understand that it is not always God's will for me to be made well in this life.
- Job 2:But Job replied, "You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?" <u>So in all this, Job said nothing wrong.</u> (meaning that Job was right that sometimes God sends pain)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor 12:7 even though I have received such wonderful revelations from God. So to keep me from becoming proud, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to torment me and keep me from becoming proud.



 Does there not come a point in the life of many of us where we understand that this body we have is becoming beyond repair – and that we would prefer to start over with a new one?

 So when we say that Jesus provided healing for us in the atonement, is it not easy to see the plain sense that there is no better healing than a completely new body that will never get old or sick again?



- Rom 8:20 <u>For the creation was subjected to futility</u>, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; 21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. 22 For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, <u>eagerly waiting for the</u> <u>adoption, the redemption of our body</u>.
- We can freely sing, "we have been redeemed", but the completion of our redemption is not fully upon us now.



• All of creation, including mankind, has been subjected to corruption and death by God.

 There has never been a day in my life or yours that we were not exposed to sickness, death, and corruption – we are not always conscious of it, but we are always exposed to it.

 Sickness and death are common and claim those around us everyday, going to Heaven without pain (Enoch, Elijah) are the rare exceptions.



 So after looking at the scriptures that provide the basis for us to say, "healing is in the atonement", we have to recognize there are a lot of unanswered questions around divine (supernatural) healing.

 Perhaps the "elephant in the room" question that we often struggle with is this – "If healing is in the atonement, then why aren't all Christians healed of their diseases?" because clearly they are not.

- And I think this question makes us uncomfortable as though we have to apologize for God in some fashion.
- We should not see it as cop out to say that God can heal any believer of anything, and will, either now or in the resurrection.
- Phil 3:20 But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. 21 <u>He will take our weak mortal bodies and change</u> <u>them into glorious bodies like his own</u>, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control.

- Isa 53:5 But He was <u>wounded for our transgressions</u>, He was <u>bruised for our iniquities</u>; the c<u>hastisement for our</u> peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed.
- So here is a thought we believe that healing is in the atonement just as much as forgiveness, justification, and sanctification are.
- We tell people just trust Jesus and He will take away all of your sin – and He will!



- Furthermore, if I were to say to you that our salvation from sin has both a temporal state, and an eternal standing, you would probably agree.
- So why is it that we use the promises of Isaiah 53 for issues like forgiveness one way, and then turn around and us the same verse (#5) differently?
- Both are rock solid promises, but we don't treat them in the same fashion.



• The evidence stares at us, but we don't always see that our ultimate healing is just as much a standing and state issue as are forgiveness, sanctification, justification, and so on.

 Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, but he still eventually died again. Everyone that Jesus healed always eventually died.

• Any healing we experience in this body is always temporary.

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• So what am I saying?

 I am saying that healing is guaranteed in the atoning work of Christ on the cross, but that does not mean Christians can name it and claim it now!

 All who trust in Christ will be redeemed – but we are also still part of the creation that has been subjected to death, decay, and corruption.

- And to those who say, "you just don't have enough faith to be healed", I would answer with ...
- Heb 11:35 But others were tortured, refusing to turn from God in order to be set free. They placed their hope in a better life after the resurrection. 36 Some were jeered at, and their backs were cut open with whips. Others were chained in prisons. 37 Some died by stoning, some were sawed in half, and others were killed with the sword. Some went about wearing skins of sheep and goats, destitute and oppressed and mistreated. 38 They were too good for this world, wandering over deserts and mountains, hiding in caves and holes in the ground. 39 All these people earned a good reputation because of their faith, yet none of them received all that God had promised. (in this life)



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### **Challenges from Pastor Shane**

 Large Groups – take advantage of the "open alter" in worship services.

• Small Groups – anoint and pray for the sick.

• One-on-One – pray for the sick and discuss divine healing.

• Alone – seek God for your own needs and the needs of others.



## Questions / Comments

