

## HINDRANCES TO HEALING

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In our previous lesson I talked about the fact that it is God's will to heal, and that healing is part of the atonement. Much more could be said, because even if you accept it and have seen it in the Scriptures, it still raises a lot of questions such as, "if it's God's will to heal us, why isn't everyone healed?" There are many reasons, and I'm just scratching the surface on the things I know. I have two tapes entitled "Reasons People Are Not Healed, Part 1 and Part 2" that you might want to get. You can call our Helpline in Colorado at (719) 635-1111 and request these tapes. There is a lot of information that I simply am not able to get into here, but I want to address part of why people are not healed if it's God's will to heal. One of the reasons is ignorance. You cannot operate in something you don't know or understand, and in my own life that certainly was true.

I was trained to believe God's will automatically came to pass, that I had no authority, power, or say-so in it. So through my ignorance, a number of things happened. My dad died when I was twelve years old and two or three people had died in my presence by the time I was twenty-one. I was praying for all of them to be healed, but I didn't see healing manifest, not because it wasn't God's will, but because of ignorance on my part. Ignorance is a reason why things happen, but it's not an excuse. It's like the law of gravity: a person could say, "Well, I didn't realize that if I walked off a ten-story building it was going to kill me." You don't have to realize it to have the full impact of that law to work against you. People are ignorant about some of God's laws. They don't know how His healing system works, so ignorance is killing a lot of people.

Another thing that can hinder us from receiving healing is sin. It really upsets people when you say that because they interpret what you are saying as all sickness is a result of some sin on our part, which is not true. That's not what I'm saying. In John 9, there was an instance where Jesus was coming out of the temple, and His disciples pointed out a man there who was born blind. His disciples said in verse 2, "Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" In other words, they were trying to relate his sickness directly to sin, and saying was it his sin or, since he was born blind was it his parents that caused this sickness to come on him? Jesus' answer was that neither of them had sinned. That's not saying that the parents nor the son had never sinned but that it wasn't their sin that directly caused his blindness. It's untrue to say that all sickness is related to sin, but it's also untrue to say that sin is not one of the factors.

In John 5 there is an instance when Jesus was at the pool of Bethesda, and He healed a man supernaturally. There were multitudes in that place, and only one person was healed. Later the chapter shows the man didn't know who healed him when the Jews asked him in verse 12, "What man is that which said unto thee, Take up thy bed, and walk?" Verses 13-14 continue, "And he that was healed wist [knew] not who it was: for Jesus had conveyed himself away, a multitude being in that place, Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee." Jesus said right here that sin would cause something worse than his paralysis to come upon him. He tied the result of sickness to sin. He also said in John 9 that it wasn't because of anybody's sin that the man was born blind.

Some things just happen naturally, but there are times when sickness, disease, or problems can be a direct result of sin. Even in such cases, it doesn't mean God is the one who is doing these things to us. Take, for instance, a person who lives a homosexual lifestyle, which is a perversion of nature. The human body is not made to live that way. Sexually communicated diseases come from that lifestyle. God is not the author of these diseases—it's just nature rebelling because it's not set up to live that way. For instance, if you go out and eat the wrong food, your body will respond, and it's not God doing it to you. There are natural laws, natural factors here. So it is true that sin can be one of the reasons people aren't healed.

If there's a known sin in your life, and you are believing God for healing, you need to stop the sin, because through it you are giving Satan a direct access that's hindering you from receiving what God is doing in your life. Romans 6:16 says, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servant ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?" That's not saying that Satan becomes master in the sense that you lose your salvation and go to hell, but it means that whether you are a Christian or not—if you're out living in sin—you're giving Satan an inroad into your life. John 10:10 says that the thief comes for no other purpose except to steal, to kill, and to destroy, but Jesus came to give you life. So we've got Jesus trying to bring His life and health into you, but we've also got Satan trying to make you sick. If through sin you're yielding yourself to Satan, you are empowering him and giving him an opportunity in your life. You can pray and ask God for healing all you want to, but your actions are allowing the devil to come in and bring sickness. So, if you are living in sin, you need to stop it.

I need to add that you could become so introspective that you would say, "Well, I'm always less than what I should be," and get to a place where even though you believe God can heal, you believe He won't because you don't deserve it. That certainly is wrong, too. None of us are ever going to obtain healing from God because we deserve it. God's never had anyone qualified working for Him yet, so you don't need to associate God moving in you life only to your performance—your holiness. It needs to be based on what Jesus has done for you and your faith in Him. At the same time, you can't ignore your actions and yield yourself to the devil without him hindering you. You'll see healing work much easier, much better, in your life if you repent and quit anything you're doing that would give Satan an inroad into your life.

Another factor that concerns healing that some people don't think much about is the negativity and unbelief of other people can affect you. One of the classic examples of this is in Mark 6 where Jesus was in His hometown, and the people didn't respect Him because they remembered Him as a little boy. They knew His father and mother, brothers and sisters, and didn't respect Him the way some people did. They came against him and criticized Him, and Mark 6:4-6 says, "A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief." This doesn't say that Jesus wouldn't, but that He couldn't do any mighty works. Here is Jesus, the sinless Son of God, who came to earth as a man, who had no lack in His faith, and there certainly wasn't any inroad of sin in His life, yet He was limited to what He could do for other people because of their unbelief. Put this together with Matthew 13:58, where it says, "And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief" and we see that Jesus, who had no limitations in Himself and certainly no sin in His life to give Satan an inroad, was limited in what He could do because of the people around Him.

This is really important to understand that I'm saying it is God's will to heal everyone all of the time. If you believe that, you might possibly make the mistake of going to a hospital and trying to empty it of every sick person because you believe it's God's will for them to be healed. It is God's will for them to be healed, but He will not move against their own will. God will protect your right to be sick, your right not to be healed. No one can force you to be healed—you can't get healed off of someone else's faith. Their faith can help you if you're struggling, but they can't do it for you. You can push a car when it's in neutral, but you can't push a car in park or reverse. If a person is set against healing, you cannot overcome it. Because of this, you can't empty a hospital or go into a church service and see every person healed without their cooperation.

There's so much more that could be said about this. When Jesus healed people, even raising the dead, he would go up to someone and say, "Weep not." He would tell a mother not to weep and then raise her son from the dead. Somebody's faith has to be used somewhere. There needs to be faith on our part, and there are so many, many other things involved in healing. I've discussed just a few here today, and hopefully they will help you, but one of the main things you need to get out of this is that God is faithful. It is His will for you to be healed, but you have to learn how to cooperate with Him. He can't do it for you; He has to do it through you. It will come from the inside of you.

I pray that these things will help you to start yielding yourself, allow the power of God to flow through you, and walk in His supernatural divine health.

## HINDRANCES TO HEALING (Outline)

Healing is God's will, but not everyone is healed. God's will doesn't automatically come to pass. We have to exercise our authority and the power in His Word.

Ignorance can be a reason, but not an excuse for people not being healed. You can't operate in something you don't know or understand.

John 5:14, "Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee."

Sin can hinder you from receiving your healing. Jesus tied the result of sickness to sin. Sometimes sickness, disease, and problems can be a direct result of sin. However, this doesn't mean that God is the author of them.

Romans 6:16, "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

Whether you are a Christian or not, if you are living in sin, you are giving Satan an inroad into your life.

John 9:1-3, "And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. <sup>2</sup>And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

It's untrue to say that all sickness is related to sin. Some things happen just naturally.

John 10:10, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Jesus is trying to bring His life and health to us and Satan is trying to make us sick. If, through sin, we are yielding ourselves to Satan, then we are empowering him. By our actions, we are allowing the devil to come in and bring sickness upon us.

If there is some known sin in our lives, and we are believing God for a healing, we need to stop sinning and repent because through sin we are hindering our receiving what God is doing in our lives.

It is wrong however, to believe that God won't heal you because you don't deserve it. God's activity in our lives isn't based on our performance or our holiness, but on what Jesus has done for us, and our faith in Him. You'll see healing work more quickly and easier when you quit anything that gives Satan an inroad into your life.

Matthew 13:58, "And he did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief."

The unbelief of people around you can affect you receiving your healing.

God will not move against a person's will. You can have someone else's faith help you, but you cannot get healed just on someone else's faith alone.

God is faithful. It's His will for us to be healed, but we have to learn to cooperate with Him.

## HINDRANCES TO HEALING (Teacher's Guide)

STATEMENT: In our previous lesson, we learned that it's God's will to heal us. If this is the truth, then why isn't everyone healed? We'll try to answer that question in this lesson.

1.    A.    According to the instructor on the video, do you remember the first reason why people aren't healed?  
  
          Ignorance - not knowing what the Bible teaches about healing.
- B.    Ignorance is not an excuse because we have God's Word to teach us. What was the next hindrance to healing?  
  
          Sin.
2.    A.    According to John 9:1-3, what did the disciples think caused this man's blindness?  
  
          Sin.
- B.    According to Jesus, was their idea correct?  
  
          No.
3.    According to John 5:14, what could sin produce in someone's life?  
  
          Sickness and even worse things.
4.    A     According to Romans 6:16, what happens to someone who continues in sin?  
  
          He comes into slavery.
- B.    What is the devil's goal according to John 10:10?  
  
          To steal, kill and destroy.
5.    What inhibited the people from being healed according to Mark 6:1-6?  
  
          Their unbelief.

## HINDRANCES TO HEALING (Detailed Teacher's Guide)

Note: The following information may be read out loud (a numbered section at a time) with the person(s) being disciplined. After each numbered section is read, pause and ask the question(s) that correspond to the paragraph(s), and then discuss them.

<sup>1</sup> In our previous lesson, I talked about the truth that it's God's will to heal—that it's a part of the atonement. And there is, of course, much, much more that could be said about that, but suppose you've accepted this and you've seen it in the Scriptures, let us now discuss why some people don't receive healing. If it's God's will to heal us, then why isn't everyone healed?

I was raised to believe that God's will just automatically comes to pass and that I don't have any authority, power or say so in it. So, through my ignorance, a number of things happened. My dad died when I was twelve years old. I was with two or three people when they died (in their presence) by the time I was twenty-one. I was praying for all of them to be healed. I didn't see that healing manifest—not because it wasn't God's will, but through my ignorance.

There are some laws in the things of God that people are ignorant about. They don't know how God's healing system works. Ignorance is killing a lot of people.

<sup>2</sup> Another thing that hinders people from receiving their healing is sin. This really upsets people when you say this because they interpret it as all sickness is because of some sin of theirs. That is not true. That's not what I'm saying. In John chapter 9, there is an instance where Jesus was coming out of the temple and his disciples pointed out a man who was there who had been blind from birth. The disciples said, "Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?" In other words, they were trying to relate his sickness directly to sin saying, "was he was born blind because of his sin or was it his parents sin that caused this sickness to come on him?" Jesus' answer was that neither of them had sinned. Of course, that's not saying that the parents or the child had never sinned, but He was saying that it was not their sin that directly caused this blindness.

It's untrue to say that all sickness is related to sin, but it's also untrue to say that sin is not one of the factors.

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<sup>1</sup>How can we correct ignorance? Romans 10:2-3, 17

<sup>2</sup>How does James 5:13 - 16 show us that sin is sometimes related to sickness?

<sup>3</sup> If a person goes out and lives a homosexual lifestyle, that's a perversion of nature and the human body is not made to live that way. Some sexually communicated diseases come out of this life style. This is not to say that God is the author of these—it's just nature rebelling. Nature is not created to support this life style. It is similar to a person who goes out and eats the wrong food. If you eat poison, your body will respond negatively to it. It's not God who is doing it to you. There are natural laws—natural factors.

<sup>4</sup> None of us are ever going to be able to obtain healing from God because we deserve it. God has never had anybody qualified working for Him yet. So, you must not associate God moving in your life with your performance—your holiness. It needs to be based on what Jesus has done for you and your faith in Him. At the same time, you cannot ignore your actions and yield yourself to the devil without him hindering you.

<sup>5</sup> Another factor that concerns our healing, that people don't think about, is that of the unbelief of people around us.

<sup>6</sup> It is God's will to heal, but do you know that God will not move against a person's own will? God will protect your right to be sick. You can't push a car that's in park or reverse. If a person is set against healing, it cannot be overcome.

<sup>7</sup> Every time Jesus healed people there was faith present—even when they were dead—He would go up to someone and say, "Weep not." He told the mother not to weep and then He raised her son from the dead. Somebody's faith has to be used somewhere. There needs to be faith on our part.

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<sup>3</sup> How does Romans 8:22-23 show us there are natural laws set in motion by Adam's transgression?

<sup>4</sup> (a) Who did Jesus heal? Acts 10:38.

(b) What is our part? James 4:7

(c) What was Jesus' part? Matthew 8:16-17

<sup>5</sup> What do we learn about unbelief and healing from Mark 6:5-6?

<sup>6</sup> Signs will follow what kind of people? Mark 16:17

<sup>7</sup> What will save the sick according to James 5:15?

## HINDRANCES TO HEALING (Discipleship Questions)

Read Hosea 4:6

1. Why do people perish?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-21

2. To whom is the message of the cross foolishness?
3. What is it “to us who are being saved”?
4. What will God destroy and bring to nothing in verse 19?  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Whose wisdom will be destroyed? (v 20)
6. “The world through [their own] wisdom did not know \_\_\_\_\_.”
7. What pleased God?
8. What did the people have to do to be saved?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:14

9. What doesn't the natural man receive?
10. Why?
11. Why can't he know them?

Read Ephesians 4:17-18

12. How should we no longer walk?
13. If you continue to walk in the vanity of your mind what two things happen?  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_
14. Why do those two results occur?  
A. \_\_\_\_\_  
B. \_\_\_\_\_

Read John 5:14-15

15. After Jesus healed the lame man what did He command him to do?
16. Why did Jesus tell him to sin no more?
17. What was the man's testimony as to Who had healed him?

Read Romans 6:16

18. How do we know whose slave we are?
19. If we are slaves to sin where does that lead us?
20. If we are obedient to God?

Read John 9:1-3

21. What did the disciples think caused this man's blindness?
22. Was it the sins of his parents or his own sin that caused the blindness?
23. What was the explanation Jesus gave?

Read John 10:10

24. What is Satan's purpose for being here?
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_
  - C. \_\_\_\_\_
25. Can you see how he will use sickness and disease to try and accomplish that purpose?
26. Why did Jesus come?
27. Can you see from this verse that God does not cause sickness to teach us something, because it would go against His divine purpose?

Read Matthew 13:53-58

28. Why were the people of Nazareth offended at Jesus?
29. What did Jesus say about Himself in verse 57?
30. Why couldn't Jesus do many mighty works in His hometown?

Read Mark 2:16-17

31. Who has need of a physician?
32. In His example, who was sick? The righteous the sinner (circle one)

Read Hebrews 3:12-15

33. What are we warned not to have?
34. What should we do for one another daily?

Exhort: to beseech, to admonish, to urge one to pursue some course of conduct, to recommend, advise, warn, to encourage, comfort, console.

35. We have become partakers in Christ if we do what?
36. What are we to do today if we hear His voice?

Read Malachi 4:2

37. "But to you who \_\_\_\_\_ My name..."
38. How shall the Sun of Righteousness arise?
39. Not only are we promised healing if we fear His name, are we not also promised abundance?

Read Matthew 17:14-20

40. What was Jesus' reaction toward His disciples when they could not cure the epileptic boy?
41. What was Jesus' answer to His disciples as to why they could not "cast it out"?
42. Would anything be impossible for you if you had the faith of a mustard seed?
43. If a mustard seed isn't very big, does your faith have to be very big?
44. Verse 21 tells how unbelief can be eliminated. List the two ways.
  - A. \_\_\_\_\_
  - B. \_\_\_\_\_

HINDRANCES TO HEALING  
(Discipleship Answer Key)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. For a lack of knowledge   | 20. To righteousness  |
| 2. To those who are perishing  | 21. His own sin or his parents sin                                |
| 3. The power of God  | 22. Neither   |
| 4. A. The wisdom of the wise<br>B. The understand of prudent           | 23. That the works of God should be manifest or revealed in Him   |
| 5. The wisdom of this world  | 24. A. To kill<br>B. To steal<br>C. To destroy                    |
| 6. God   | 25. Yes   |
| 7. By the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe           | 26. To give life abundantly                                       |
| 8. Believe   | 27. Yes   |
| 9. The things of the Spirit of God                                     | 28. Because they knew Him as Joseph and Mary's son—in the natural |
| 10. Because they think it is foolish                                   | 29. A prophet is without honor in his own country                 |
| 11. Because they are spiritually discerned                             | 30. Because of their unbelief                                     |
| 12. In the vanity of your mind   | 31. Those who are sick  |
| 13. A. Your understanding will be darkened<br>B. Be alienated from God | 32. The sinner  |
| 14. A. Through ignorance<br>B. The blindness of heart                  | 33. An evil heart of unbelief                                     |
| 15. To sin no more   | 34. Exhort one another  |
| 16. Lest a worse thing come upon him                                   | 35. We hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end  |
| 17. Jesus made him whole   | 36. Do not harden your heart                                      |
| 18. To whom you yield yourself and are obedient                        | 37. Fear  |
| 19. To death   | 38. With healing in His wings                                     |

39. Yes

40. Frustration

41. Because of their unbelief

42. No

43. No

44. A. Prayer  
B. Fasting

## HINDRANCES TO HEALING (Additional Information)

In Acts 3:7 a lame man was healed instantaneously (Luke 5:25), but not until Peter had reached down and lifted the man up. Faith has to be acted on (John 9:7). Peter acted on his faith and this lame man acted in faith by allowing Peter to give him a hand (Acts 3:7).

Faith is made perfect or complete by our actions (James 2:22). Actions do not produce faith. Faith is a gift of God (Ephesians 2:8) that comes through hearing God's Word (Romans 10:17). But true faith doesn't carry its full power until it is acted on. There must first be faith, then actions, then physical results, always in that order. In Acts 3:7, it doesn't say that this man was jerked up by Peter. No, the man leaped up with Peter's help. This man had faith!

If it was simply Jesus' willingness to heal that determined whether or not healing took place, then all the sick would be healed. James 5:15 says that it's not prayer that saves the sick, but rather the prayer of faith that saves the sick. Healing is governed by law. Impassioned pleas to God will not obtain the miracle we seek, although Jesus is touched by our feelings (Hebrews 4:15). It requires faith (Hebrews 11:6). It's not because Jesus knows our needs and hears our cries that miracles don't happen, but rather it's because very few know how the law of faith works.

One of the main differences between a God-kind of faith and a natural faith, which everyone has, is that human faith believes only what it can see, taste, hear, smell, and feel. God's kind of faith believes in things that cannot be seen. You must believe that you receive your answer when you pray--not when you see the things you desired. Simply put, faith is our response to God's ability, made complete by our actions. Trust Him completely, and because you believe, your actions will follow.

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