

When Pigs Fly Series – Part 1

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Good morning. Thank you for your flexibility this morning as we've made a few adjustments to our service. At the end of this message I wanted to create more time for ministry and prayer. So, we've rearranged a few things.

Some of you are wondering about where we got this title. "When Pigs Fly". The herd of pigs...

For those of you wondering where that title came from...nowhere. It's a statement of skepticism. For example: Phillies are going to win the World Series this year. —I'll believe that when I see Pigs Fly.

It's a posture of sobriety and doubt. Over these next 4 weeks we want to talk about four areas where our faith is contending against skepticism.

God of the miraculous.

- Physical healings
- Hope for Restored relationships – when everything in you and around you says it's not possible.
- Deliverance from bondage – sin, oppression – everything in your history says, I know how I got, and I can't see anyway out. God doesn't live in your 3x3 box.
- Provision – God, how could a little boy's lunch box feed 5,000 people? How could my artwork change a generation? How could my science change the consensus?

This morning I want to string a series of scriptures together. Stringing Pearls.

Scripture 1: if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. Matthew 12:28

- **Emphasis on the Spirit** -- Notice it's by the Spirit, and not by Jesus' own power.
- Jesus, the Son of God's own ministry didn't start until The Spirit came to rest upon him.
- **Not by might. Nor by power. But by my Spirit says the Lord Almighty.**
- If Petra Church wants to reach the harvest, it won't be by professional quality programs and clever marketing schemes that reach Millennials— (nothing wrong with those). It will only come to pass by being baptized in a Spirit of prayer, a spirit of power, the only Spirit that has the power to deliver.
- **Emphasis on the kingdom.** Jesus preached the Kingdom of God is breaking in.
- How is it breaking in? – by the Spirit. – You have the Kingdom of Heaven inside of you.

- Jesus was the first Apostle sent from heaven – to bring the Father’s culture to earth.
- [Matthew 4:17](#) Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
- The power of healing was more than just proof Jesus was the Son of God. It was proof that a completely new reality had arrived. And we can choose to live in that reality. Or we can choose to be content in the present reality. Faith is contending for the greater reality to replace our present reality.
- [Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. Matthew 4:23.](#)
- The message of the kingdom and the presentation of the kingdom were inseparable.
- *Like on Shark Tank. They talk about the product. But then you see them use the product.*

Scripture 2: Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give. Matthew 10:8

- That’s why we have to receive the Baptism of the Spirit first. We freely receive the gifts from the Father. Then we freely give what he’s given to us.
- The Christian church is supposed to be a community where we nurture God’s Kingship in our presence. Impartational, intergenerational, culture of relationships where we foster God’s Kingship in our presence.
- The disciples (you and I) are the extension and continuation of Christ’s ministry on earth. What happens when we are unresponsive to the Head or nervous system isn’t sending signals to a part of the body. Think of a paraplegic. No connection between head and body.
- When Church is responsive to the desires of the Head we effectively become his Body.
- Christians are the only people on earth who live in two realities at the same time. Earthly & Spiritual/Heavenly realities.
- We see everything as it currently is. Diseased and fallen. We see everything as it will be reconciled to God. We cry out for that to come now!

Scripture 3: Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our diseases (Matthew 8:17) ...he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace (shalom) was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:4-5

- “Took” – to walk away with something as if it were your own.
- *ie. Carrying extra weight up ski slope.*
- He didn’t just walk away with our sins. He walked away with our diseases.
- I have yet to meet anyone experiencing acute or chronic pain who is living in fullness of joy. So the fruit of the Spirit is impacted by the health of your body.
- Jesus paid not to just set people free from sin, but from disease (decay of sin) the curse of sin. That has a very physical component to it.

Scripture 4: Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. Acts 4:29-30

- The first disciples continued to ask God for miracles and healings. (Church's inheritance.)
- We should be asking God for the spirit of boldness to proclaim his truths. We should be asking God for the spirit of power to heal and perform miracles.

Practical Tips:

- God is a Life Giver—like the sun emits light – God is pulsing with life. Healing flows out of God's creative, joyful abundance.
- Healing flows out of God's generous abundance. We can't strive for it or manufacture it anymore than a turtle can pray for a possum. So just relax. We are only connecting to the life source and asking for the fullness of His Life to flow fully through us.
- We're not trying to impress anyone. Or build anyone's ego. This is all about the healer setting his people free.
- When we pray for people, we don't fix our eyes on the problem. We fix our eyes on the infinitely creative God.

The Scriptures give us a pattern for praying for the sick within our faith community.

- **Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. James 5:14**

God also wants us to practice taking his healing outside the church. Jesus was constantly taking the message out to the highways and byways.

- John Wimber used to teach: Faith is spelled R-I-S-K. You do have to put yourself out there. Peter & John didn't know when they told the man begging whether he would actually get up and walk.

Freedom to fail.

- Igbar in the Toronto airport.
- Man in front of cross connections.
- My wife and I have prayed for a couple dozen women with infertility. We've seen some miraculously healed. And some haven't been.
- Healing is like any other gift (1 Cor 12,140. We can all operate in it, but some people really carry it as their primary gift.

God thoroughly loves you. And he thoroughly hates disease, oppression, calamity, physical decay, & death. God hates Alzheimer's. Dementia. Cancer. Torn ligaments. And ruptured vertebrae. Fibromyalgia.

- When we begin to accept as unchangeable something that God detests confusion sets in. I think God wants to increase our compassion for people and our hatred for anything that holds people in prison.
- **Just because God didn't heal you, it doesn't mean he doesn't love you and care deeply about this part of your life. It doesn't mean he's angry and punishing you. Or saying you deserve this. It doesn't mean you didn't have enough faith to be healed. It only means – "Not yet. Keep asking."**
- Even if he doesn't heal? Is Christ enough for you?

Stories:

- Insurance adjuster (Cory Wilson) – was out on the job working with a client and he noticed the man couldn't see. After a message we had preached a few years ago he thought, here's my opportunity, so he asked if he could pray for the man. The man said, he was having vision out of his eyes which he had never had before.
- Story of Muslim-background believer who suffered very painful contusion on her leg. She could hardly make it through work. She didn't want to go to the doctor and miss work. That night she cried out to God. She had a vision of the man in white. She fell on her face. And just like that he was gone. She went to her son. They watched as her leg turned from a deep purple to healed flesh – an oil covered her leg, and a fragrant perfume filled the house.

Ministry Time: