

6-9-2024, COTR Texarkana

Title: The God Connection, pt-6

Purpose: Provoke people to have faith the Holy Spirit will work through us with the spiritual gift of healing to heal the sick and reach the lost.

Truth for Today: We should have faith the Holy Spirit will work through us with the spiritual gift of healing to heal the sick and reach the lost.

Text: Acts chapter 3

Topic: Holy Spirit, Divine Healing, Miracles, Faith, Great Commission

Series Title: The God Connection...The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Series Purpose Provoke people to (1) Develop a vital relationship with the Holy Spirit, (2) Allow Him to work in us, (3) Have faith to let Him work through us supernaturally using spiritual gifts.

The God Connection, pt-6

I. Introduction (Baptism Sat 10; SAM 2, 6)

A. Pic grandkids, babysitting. MIA last weekend. Great memories & respect single parent

B. Review Series: The God Connection...The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

We're viewing the Book of Acts not just as church history but a model or a handbook to encourage us to embrace the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit today.

1. The last 2 weeks we focused on the Holy Spirit in Acts ch. 1&2. Today we'll see in ch. 3 how a healing miracle for a cripple resulted in many coming to Christ.

We'll also see what else the NT teaches about divine healing, spiritual gifts in church history and, reasons why some people are not healed when we pray.

C. Title: The God Connection, pt-6

II. Acts Chapter 3: A miraculous healing results in many souls being saved

A. Acts 3:2 (NLT)...a man lame from birth was being carried in...so he could beg from the people going into the Temple. ³ When he saw Peter and John...he asked them for some money. ⁴ Peter and John *looked at him intently*, and Peter said...⁶...“I don't have any silver or gold...**But I'll give you what I have. In the name of Jesus Christ...get up and walk!**” ⁷ Then *Peter took the lame man by the right hand and helped him up. And as he did, the man's feet...were instantly healed...⁸ He ... began...walking, leaping, and praising God...]Pic Healing*

1. (1) 'looked intently', perhaps he was asking the Holy Spirit to discern God's will to heal and the faith that both he and the man had. (2) 'I'll give you what I have', What did Peter have? He had the Holy Spirit in him. Do we have what Peter had? If so, is it possible to do what Peter did and if not, why not? (3) Spiritual power was released by using the authority of the *name of Jesus*, (// as a boy, charge it to granddaddy) (4) 'Peter helped him up', Peter exercised faith, he didn't just pray a prayer, he helped him take his 1st step. (5) 'Instantly', This healing was instantaneous, not progressive. Faith is always required to exercise spiritual gifts. [Vs. 16, **“Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed...Faith in Jesus' name has healed him before your very eyes.**]

B. There is no question as to the healing ministry of Jesus and the apostles, but should divine/ supernatural healing be expected today? What does the NT teach?

1. [1 Cor. 12:7–10 (NLT)] A **spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other**...⁹ The same Spirit gives **great faith** to another, and to someone else the one Spirit gives **the gift of healing**.¹⁰ He gives one person the **power to perform miracles**...] **LaNell's mom healed polio**, documented.
 2. [James 5:14–16 (NLT)] **Are any of you sick?** You should call for the elders of the church to...**pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord**.¹⁵ **Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick**, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.]¹⁶ Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power and produces wonderful results.
 3. Jesus, [Mark 16:17–18 (NLT)] These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe...¹⁸...**They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.**”] There are manuscript ?’s but all translators include it and it is consistent with the practice of the early church so I believe it.
- C. **What can the early church fathers teach us about spiritual gifts?** (1) Tertullian (160–255 AD), addressed his baptismal candidates to expect the gifts. “When you come up from the most sacred bath of the new birth, when you spread out your hands ...ask your Lord, for the special gift of the charisms, i.e., spiritual gifts. (2) Clement of Alexandria, 215 A.D., believed that a “perfect man” is characterized by his reception of the gifts of 1 Cor. 12. 100 years after the crucifixion of Christ, and after the death of the last apostle, the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit were still in operation. (3) Augustine (354-430) initially advised Christians not to expect miracles. After several undeniable wonders in and around his churches, he revised his position, concluding that it wasn’t that miracles ceased, the Church had just stopped talking about them.¹
- D. **Why are some people not supernaturally healed or not healed in response to prayer?**
1. Lack of faith/ unbelief, Child demon oppressed with physical symptoms, [Mt. 17:14–20 (NLT)]...A man...said,¹⁵ “Lord, have mercy on my son. **He has seizures and suffers terribly. He often falls into the fire or into the water.** ¹⁶ So I brought him to your disciples, but **they couldn’t heal him.**”...¹⁸ Then Jesus rebuked the demon...and it left him...¹⁹...the disciples asked Jesus...“Why couldn’t we cast out that demon?”²⁰ “**You don’t have enough faith,**”...if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed...**Nothing would be impossible.**”]
 - a. LaNell and cancer...she had faith, but God used Dr’s and medicine to heal her. Faith is required but faith alone is not a guarantee.
 2. **Demonic opposition**, [Luke 13:10–13 (NLT)]...Jesus...¹¹...saw a woman who had been **crippled by an evil spirit**. She had been bent double for eighteen years...¹²...Jesus...said...you are healed of your sickness!”¹³ Then he touched her, and instantly she could stand straight.] An evil spirit controlled her body for 18 years.
 3. **Sin**, [John 5:5–15 (NLT)] One of the men lying there had been **sick for thirty-eight years**...⁸ Jesus told him, “Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk!”⁹ **Instantly**, the man was healed!...¹⁴ But afterward Jesus found him...“Now you are well; so **stop sinning, or something even worse may happen to you.**”

4. We give up too quickly in our prayers for healing. [Mt. 7:7 (NLT)] “**Keep on asking, and you will receive** what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find...” It’s hard to keep faith for a long time when we’re in pain.
5. God has a purpose in the sickness, [John 11:4 (NLT)]...Jesus...said, “Lazarus’s sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the **glory of God** so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.”] Paul’s thorn keep pride.
6. I don’t know... We see examples in the Bible of those who were healed but many weren’t. [2 Tim. 4:20 (NLT)]...**I left Trophimus sick at Miletus. 1 Timothy 5:23 (ESV)** (No longer drink only water, but **use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.**)]
 - a. Why didn’t God use Paul to heal his 2 friends like he did for others? Sometimes there is no rational answer and it makes Christians struggle and waver in their faith. Text Dan F. cancer, “Sometimes it **feels** like heaven doesn’t hear you...” Tension between facts, feelings and faith.
7. ***Bottom line: I choose to believe God’s Word, have faith for healing, anoint people with oil, pray and trust God no matter what. I don’t base what I believe on my experiences, but on what the Bible teaches. We must be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, have faith and pray for the sick...and leave the results to God.
8. God uses doctors and medicine to heal, [Isaiah 38:21 (NLT)] Isaiah...said... “**Make an ointment from figs (NIV poultice) and spread it over the boil, and Hezekiah will recover.**”] I see doctors and use medicine, but I visit Jesus the Great Physician 1st.

III. Conclusion: Supernatural works build a platform to tell people about Jesus

- A. [Acts 3:12–16 (NLT)] Peter saw his **opportunity** and addressed the crowd...¹⁹ Now repent of your sins and turn to God...Acts 4:4...**many** of the people who heard their message **believed it.**]
 1. The healing miracle became a platform to tell people about Jesus. This spiritual gift from the Holy Spirit helped a man and saved a multitude.
- B. [Acts 1:8 (NLT)] But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses**, telling people about me everywhere...]

IV. Response

- A. Prayer: Lord, fill us with your Holy Spirit, help us seek and use spiritual gifts and see multitudes come to Christ.
- B. Souls

V. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

1. <https://sermons.logos.com/sermons/1274133-greater-works>

VI. Supplemental Material

- A. Divine healing was common in the early church. [Acts 14:8–10 (NLT)]...at Lystra, Paul...came upon a man with crippled feet...he had never walked...⁹... Looking straight at him, **Paul realized he had faith to be healed.** ¹⁰ So Paul called to him... “**Stand up!**” **And the man jumped to his feet and started walking.**]

- B. Mark 9:14–26 (NLT) When they returned to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd surrounding them, and some teachers of religious law were arguing with them. ¹⁵ When the crowd saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with awe, and they ran to greet him. ¹⁶ “What is all this arguing about?” Jesus asked. ¹⁷ One of the men in the crowd spoke up and said, “Teacher, I brought my son so you could heal him. He is possessed by an evil spirit that won’t let him talk. ¹⁸ And whenever this spirit seizes him, it throws him violently to the ground. Then he foams at the mouth and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast out the evil spirit, but they couldn’t do it.” ¹⁹ Jesus said to them, “You faithless people! How long must I be with you? How long must I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” ²⁰ So they brought the boy. But when the evil spirit saw Jesus, it threw the child into a violent convulsion, and he fell to the ground, writhing and foaming at the mouth. ²¹ “How long has this been happening?” Jesus asked the boy’s father. He replied, “Since he was a little boy. ²² The spirit often throws him into the fire or into water, trying to kill him. Have mercy on us and help us, if you can.” ²³ “What do you mean, ‘If I can’?” Jesus asked. “Anything is possible if a person believes.” ²⁴ The father instantly cried out, “I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief!” ²⁵ When Jesus saw that the crowd of onlookers was growing, he rebuked the evil spirit. “Listen, you spirit that makes this boy unable to hear and speak,” he said. “I command you to come out of this child and never enter him again!” ²⁶ Then the spirit screamed and threw the boy into another violent convulsion and left him. The boy appeared to be dead. A murmur ran through the crowd as people said, “He’s dead.”
- C. Jesus to 70/ 72, [Luke 10:9 (ESV) **Heal the sick** in it and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’] Jesus didn’t tell the disciples to ‘pray for the sick’ but to heal them. If I consider the possibility that God will heal with more than Tylenol, I’ll push myself to a higher level of faith rather than just post praying hands.
- D. [Mark 9:22–24 (ESV) And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” ²³ And Jesus said to him, “ ‘If you can’! **All things are possible for one who believes.**” ²⁴ Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “**I believe; help my unbelief!**”
- E. [Acts 3:16 “Through faith in the name of Jesus, this man was healed... Faith in Jesus’ name has healed him before your very eyes. Whose faith, Peter and John’s, the man’s or both? If faith is missing miraculous healings will never happen.

F.

VII. Ideas

- A. Acts 4:1 **While Peter and John were speaking to the people, they were confronted by the priests, the captain of the Temple guard, and some of the Sadducees.** ² These leaders were very disturbed that Peter and John were teaching the people that through Jesus there is a resurrection of the dead. ³ **They arrested them and, since it was already evening, put them in jail until morning.**
1. Demonically inspired persecution to oppose the work of God.
- B. Early Church Fathers History indicates that when Christians in the early Church prayed, they expected the Holy Spirit would manifest with powerful signs. This was

also assumed during baptisms. These Christians came to depend upon the experience that when a convert was baptized, he or she might rise up out of the baptismal water and begin to prophesy, speak in tongues, see a vision, or be delivered of demons.

1. Tertullian (ca. 160–255 AD), one of the great defenders of orthodox Christianity, addressed his baptismal candidates to expect the gifts. He would proclaim, “When you come up from the most sacred bath of the new birth, when you spread out your hands ... ask your Father, ask your Lord, for the special gift of his inheritance, the distribution of the charisms.” Other Church fathers likewise professed charismatic experiences.
2. Justin Martyr (ca. 100–165) and Origen of Alexandria (ca. 185–254) spoke about exorcisms.
3. Clement of Alexandria (ca. 215) believed that a “perfect man” is characterized by his reception of the gifts of 1 Corinthians 12. Thus, more than 100 years after the crucifixion of Christ, and well after the death of the last apostle, the charismatic gifts of the Holy Spirit were still in operation.
4. Be that as it may, Egyptian monk Pachomius (ca. 346) is said to have spoken in the tongues of angels.
5. Major church father, theologian, and bishop, Augustine (ca. 354-430) initially advised Christians not to expect miracles. After several undeniable wonders in and around his churches, however, he revised his position, concluding that it wasn't that miracles ceased, the Church had just stopped talking about them.
<https://sermons.logos.com/sermons/1274133-greater-works>
6. Irenaeus, theologian of the Holy Spirit, "The Spirit continues Christ's work in the church, which is itself a gift from the Spirit "<https://sermons.logos.com/sermons/1274133-greater-works>