DIVINE HEALING (RANDY DRAKE email: AHOPEANDAFUTURETODAY@GMAIL.COM)

Today we will look at divine healing, the barriers to receiving healing and ministering in healing.

As humans in a fallen world, sometime during our lives we will all find ourselves in an emergency room or a hospital room or a doctor's office needing medical attention.

It's not a pleasant thought but a reality of life.

The ministry of Jesus is fascinating; he walked around his peers with love and compassion and often healed the sick. It was part of a normal day in life.

After the sermon on the mount Jesus public ministry began with three healings: a leper, the roman captain's servant, and peter's mother-in-law near death. (Matthew Chapter 8)

Jesus is showing us that healing is a big part of his gospel. Healing is a core doctrine of most Pentecostal churches.

LET'S GET OUR SCRIPTURAL FOUNDATION

- LUKE 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon Me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,

- LUKE 7:21-23 And in that same hour He cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. Then Jesus answering said unto them, "Go your way, and tell John what things ye have seen and heard; how that the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in Me".

Jesus Testifies about John

Sickness and disease are not fun. Healing is all part of God proving His love for us:

- ISAIAH 53:4-5 Surely, He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.

EMOTIONAL HURTS – God is equally interested to bring emotional wholeness to us as He is physical healing:

- PSALM 147:2-5 The LORD does build up Jerusalem: He gathers together the outcasts of Israel. He heals the broken heart and binds up their wounds. He tells the number of the stars; He calls them all by their names. Great is our Lord, and of great power: His understanding is infinite.

Inner healing is often needed in order for emotional wellness. We exchange prior hurts and brokenness for the peace offered by Jesus.

We don't understand everything about healing. Like why does God heal some and not others? Or the timing factors, healing some instantly and others through modern medicine?

I have witnessed healings, been healed and prayed for other's healings. Some were healed and others were not.

PRINCIPLE 1 – WE ARE TO TRUST GOD AND BELIEVE HIM FOR THE OUTCOME.

As we trust God and believe Him for the outcome the healing candidate and the healing minister have some responsibilities.

Sovereign healing and deliverance of the believer and the unbeliever requires no preparation. God can move and he requires nothing from us.

THE HEALING CANDIDATE AND THE MINISTER

There can be several barriers to healing but we do not judge a person's life that is seeking healing. These are personal challenges that each of us must face if we are receiving healing or being a healing minister.

1. UNCONFESSED SIN

Scripture is clear that we are to confess our sins:

- **PROVERBS 28:13** He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.

Scripture also provides the solution:

- **1 JOHN 1:9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. UNFORGIVENESS

Scripture is clear we are to forgive one another:

- **MARK 11:25** And when you stand praying, forgive, if you have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses.

Jesus is telling us that before we pray we check ourselves. If we pray with resentment and unforgiveness in our hearts those feelings are a barrier to the answer to our prayer.

3. UNBELIEF

Unbelief is an obvious barrier to healing. The disciples after spending 3 years with Jesus, still could not believe the witnesses.

- **MARK 16:14** Afterward He appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen Him after He was risen.

Jesus rebuked the disciple's unbelief and hardness of their hearts:

- **HEBREWS 3:19** So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief. The nation of Israel could not enter the promised land due to unbelief
- **EXODUS 23:30** By little and little I will drive them out from before you, until you be increased, and inherit the land.
- **DEUTERONOMY 7:22** And the LORD your God will put out those nations before you by little and little: you may not consume them at once, least the beasts of the field increase upon you.

Sometimes healing and deliverance is little by little.

PRINCIPLE 2 - WE DON'T WANT ANYTHING TO BE A BARRIER TO GOD'S HEALING POWER.

The healing minister must do all of the above and be broken

- **MATTHEW 5:**3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Not in poverty of material things but putting others' needs above ourselves:

- **2 CORINTHIANS 12:9** And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for you: for My strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

Strength is made perfect in our weakness.

FEAR GOD

We must keep God and his glory the motive.

We are told to heal, but it is God that provides the gift of healing and in his timing and will.

- **PSALM 89:6-7** For who in the heaven can be compared unto the LORD? Who among the sons of the mighty can be likened unto the LORD? God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about Him.
- **ECCLESIASTES 12:13** Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
- **PROVERBS 23:17** Let not your heart envy sinners: but be in the fear of the LORD all the day long.
- **PROVERBS 29:25** The fear of man brings a snare: but who puts his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

LISTEN FOR INSTRUCTION – The GRAVEYARD SHIFT

CONCLUSION:

We believe that healing is included in the atoning work of the cross. However, we do not create a new theology. The gospel is about redemption from sin and the resulting eternal life victory over death.

Physical healing is at best a temporary deliverance because we all must die.

The greater physical deliverance is when our bodies are not only resurrected but transformed never again to be sick or diseased.

- **MATTHEW 10:8** Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely you have received, freely give.

Whenever the opportunity avails itself, we should pray for the sick:

- **JAMES 5:14-15** Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him
- **MARK 10: 46-52** blind Bartimaeus - abandoned his beggars cloak. By faith he was healed
- **JOHN 9:6-7** When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

DIVINE HEALING MEANS HEALING FROM GOD!