



**Christian Life Fellowship**  
*Becoming fully devoted followers of Christ*



## **Fit for Life – Healing**

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### **Introduction:**

This morning we are going to be praying that God would be gracious and heal those who are sick among us. When I ask you if you believe in healing, what comes to your mind? When we talk about healing, do we simply talk about medicine and surgery, doctors and nurses? Is there any relevance to God's healing power working today or do we have medicine figured out to where we don't need God?

Does God want us to be whole? You bet He does. During this Lenten season, we consider Christ's passion and read in scripture how we are healed by His stripes. The diseases and illnesses that plague us are a direct result of sin. Disease often leads to death and we know that death is a consequence of original sin. The passion our Lord has for us caused Him to be beaten, whipped and crucified so that we might have healing. The scourging He bore was not only for our sickness, but also for our sins.

**1 Peter 2:24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.** The book of Leviticus tells us how people who had leprosy would be healed. Then they would go to the priest so they could be pronounced "clean" and could live in the community again. The story of Nahman in the old testament is an interesting story of healing. Even before Jesus came to suffer for our healing, people were being healed by the divine power of God. **Isaiah 53:5 tells us ..... But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.**

David the Psalmist must have experienced some healing because he wrote in his Psalms about healing coming from God who sent out His word to heal the people. He indicates that healing did not just make them well, but also brought them from the grave which would indicate death. **Psalm 107:20 He sent forth his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave.**

As recorded in Exodus, the Lord promised the Children of Israel that if they would obey Him, listen and follow His directives, He would heal them. When they were bitten by serpents in the wilderness, God instructed Moses to lift a brazen serpent on a pole and whoever looked at it would live. Healing from the bite that was a consequence of their sin would come to them by looking at the defeated serpent on a pole. This speaks of Jesus being lifted up on a cross and His victory over the serpent.

During the time Jesus walked the earth in His physical body, there were many people who were healed at His word and with His touch. Would you consider with me this morning some insights from the story of God's

incredible power from Luke 8:43-48. The story is about a lady who had suffered for 12 years from a blood disorder. She came to Jesus and found healing from Him in the midst of her suffering. **Luke 8:43-48 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped. "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me."**

**Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."**

**I. She had decided Jesus could help her.** She was expecting something would happen. She did not come just thinking, "Maybe I'll get healed today." She knew Jesus was the source of wholeness and because others had been healed, she would be healed too.

**II. She was determined to touch Jesus.** She came from behind Him so He could not see her when she touched Him. The touch of faith is always different than any other touch. It connects the answer to the problem. It brings the solution to the point of need. It reaches beyond simple determination, beyond hope, beyond wishes. It speaks of confidence. It says, "I know without a doubt that here is my answer."

**III. She was not deterred by the crowd.** The crowd pressed in all around Jesus. Many in the crowd had bumped into Jesus and had brushed the border of His garment, just like this woman did. What was different was the touch of faith. Jesus indicated that she was a person of faith. When He spoke to her, He said, "Your faith has made you whole." Her confidence in God's power and ability to heal her made the difference in her receiving virtue from Him. Virtue is another word that means anointing. It has to do with the presence and power of God's Spirit that mended her and made her well. The word virtue here is the same word "dunamis". It means force or power that was present at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit was given and it is the same dynamic power that was present when Jesus rose from death.

Does that mean that if someone believes and is not healed, their faith is at fault? Not at all. We have to leave room for God's plan and His will to be done.

Remember Lazarus? He got sick and his family sent word for Jesus to come and heal him. It was the delay of His coming that resulted in natural causes of death. Not much glory for God in that moment, except that Jesus now had opportunity to show an even greater miracle of resurrection.

**IV. She was not stopped by the law.** The law said she was unclean. In Leviticus we read that someone who was hemorrhaging was considered unclean. This meant that she was not supposed to be in contact with the community. She was considered unclean and should have been in quarantine or in some place where no one could be near her to become contaminated.

**V. She was not hindered by culture.** In her day, a woman did not touch a man or his cloak and so she overcame what was culturally unacceptable by pressing through the crowd so she could touch the hem of Jesus' garment.

The length of her sickness was irrelevant. This lady had suffered for twelve years. It is amazing to me that she hadn't died. She must have been very weak. This lady had many things against her. She was sick; she was considered unclean. She was poor because she had spent all her money on doctors but was not healed. She was a woman who should not be touching a man's garment. She was weak because of the condition she had suffered for 12 years. She was in a huge crowd that could have kept her from getting close to the Lord. Scripture indicates that she had spent much on doctors. In fact, we read that she spent all she had and grew worse. Can you imagine spending every bit of savings you had, exhausting every penny and getting sicker not better? The medicine didn't help, surgical procedures didn't help, whatever other techniques that were available didn't work.

Sometimes people give up on healing because they think, "I've been sick for so many years and I have

endured so much so my case must be incurable.” It doesn’t matter how long you have been sick. It doesn’t matter if doctors can’t seem to figure out what’s wrong. God has answers and solutions that doctors know nothing about.

I am thankful for doctors and medicine. God has given them knowledge and the ability to use that knowledge to help bring relief and healing to many people. But doctors aren’t God. They don’t always have the answers, or the medicine, or the surgery that can rid an individual of illness or disease.

**VI. Healing is available from God.** After Jesus rose from death, we read accounts in Acts of many people who were healed. People were raised from death, people who had been crippled were able to walk, people who had been deaf were able to hear,

#### **Conclusion:**

I hope during this sermon your faith has been challenged. I hope that you do believe that healing is for today and that faith in God’s word still works the impossible. What is hindering you from healing? Have you sought for God’s touch? Is your confidence totally in Him? Are there things that are prohibiting you from pressing through to Christ? Let me encourage you. Christ is still the healer. He lives today and is ready and waiting for any of us to press through and touch Him in faith.

We are going to anoint those who are sick and pray for their healing. Jesus is present. Wherever Jesus is there is forgiveness, healing, cleansing, victory, joy, peace on and on I could go, but know He is here to meet you. I am not the healer. No one who is going to pray for you this morning is a healer. We are simply here to agree with you, to pray for you and trust God to do His work.

people who were blind were able to see, and it was all because of God’s power.

**James 5:16** Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. We are instructed to confess sin to each other and pray for each other so that we may be healed. The reason for confession to each other is to encourage us to deal with issues that keep us broken, sick, unhealthy. It is a means of accountability. We also are instructed in James that if any is sick among us, he should call for the elders of the church to anoint him with oil and pray for him. There is assurance here that the Lord will forgive if there is any sin and will heal the sickness.