

Jesus heals all who come to Him

Testimony of my healing – car crash 18 years ago left with bad back for many years, more than a decade. Over compensating with poor posture led to pain in my shoulders and restricted movement. Many things I couldn't do. Surgery on both shoulders, steroid injections, pain meds, physio – still in pain. Eventually the experts said there was nothing more they could do – if I had more pain they could treat with the occasional injection but no long term solution.

A few years back at staff Christmas meal I was given some squash balls as a prophetic gift – I used to play regularly but haven't in many years. This week, after much prayer, I played my first game of squash. My shoulders are fine – much of the rest of me aches now, but my shoulders are OK. I don't understand why it took so long for me to receive my healing.

Many of you will know that just over a year ago I had a heart attack – I was told afterwards that I had moderate to severe damage of my left ventricle and it wasn't able to function properly as a result. I was also told two other arteries were very narrow and that I would definitely need at least double by-pass surgery. All the doctors and consultants said this.

6 weeks after leaving hospital I went back, after prayer, for a stress MRI to check the state of my heart – God had done a miracle as while there was evidence of a heart attack it was only on the surface and didn't affect how my heart was functioning. All the arteries were working fine and supplying enough blood to my heart. I was discharged.

That seemed to be supernatural – in a short period the impossible happened. I don't know why my back and shoulders took nearly 20 years but my heart only 6 weeks or less.

What I do know is that the bible tells us that Jesus healed all those that came to him:

Jesus returned to the Sea of Galilee and climbed a hill and sat down. A vast crowd brought to him people who were lame, blind, crippled, those who couldn't speak, and many others. They laid them before Jesus, and he healed them all. The crowd was amazed! Those who hadn't been able to speak were talking, the crippled were made well, the lame were walking, and the blind could see again! And they praised the God of Israel.

Matt 15:29-31

We see it in many other verses in the bible too: **Matt 4:23-24, Matt 8:16, Matt 9:35, Matt 12:15, Matt 14:14** – and many more...

No-one who came to Jesus left with anything less than complete healing – many left with more, having also been restored and blessed in other ways. He healed all who came to him, of every type of disease, illness and infirmity.

The only condition I can see is that those who received this came to, or were brought to Jesus – it was simply about being in His presence – coming to Jesus, being with him, was what made the difference.

Interestingly, the Bible tells us that even where there was unbelief, no faith and he was limited and unable to perform any miracles, he still healed.

And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them.

Mark 6:5

That tells me something about the heart of God wanting to see his children healed and whole. It also tells me that healings aren't maybe miracles in the same way as we've possibly thought – miracles are by definition an extraordinary occurrence – extra ordinary, rather than ordinary.

Walking on water happened once as far as we know it. Calming a storm was a one-off. Finding a coin in a fish's mouth didn't happen regularly. Feeding the multitudes maybe happened twice. But while healing is supernatural – as it is beyond what we see as natural, it was everyday normality for Jesus, and is meant to be our everyday normal too.

We know that our experience tells us that not everyone seems to receive healing – many of us know what it is to have lost loved ones who we were praying for and wanting to see healed. Many of us here might still be in need of healing, having waited many years, but I want to encourage us that there is no deficiency on God's side of the equation – the best place to go with our need for healing is to Jesus.

If Jesus walked into the room now, I wonder how expectant we would be to receive healing. It is supernatural but completely natural for Jesus to heal. We would no doubt be like the crowds we read about in the Bible pressing in to see Jesus, to meet with Him, to simply touch his robes – expectant, hopeful, full of faith.

Today we live the other side of Jesus' death and resurrection. Jesus paid in full for our sins on the cross. His wounds paid for our healing, once and for all – our healing has already been bought and paid for in full. God never chooses not to heal – he's already paid for it. He's already decided to heal.

You wouldn't go out to a restaurant, pay for a meal and then not eat it! Jesus has already paid for healing – it is his intention to heal.

It is inconsistent to have Jesus pay a price for healing and for us to believe it is not God's intention to heal.

Bill Johnson

And the truth is that because Jesus lives in us. He has already walked into the room – He walked in with us and has been here all evening. Jesus heals all who come to him.

Let's be expectant, hopeful, full of faith as we come to him now.

Questions for connect groups:

Read Mark 6:5 – Jesus couldn't do any miracles due to unbelief – except healing people! Healings and miracles – often separated out as different things, yet in our minds we often place healings under the 'banner' of miracles.

- How does this impact our expectations given that miracles are usually defined as being rare occurrences?
- What would understanding healings as being a normal supernatural part of every day life do to our expectations?

Read some of the scriptures listed about Jesus healing those who came to him, Matt 15:29-31, etc

- What is our experience of this?
- How would we feel if Jesus walked into the room now? What would our expectations be?

Read the quote by Bill Johnson.

- What is our response to this?
- Have we blamed God when we've not seen healing in the past? Is there repentance needed?

Spend some time asking God to help realign our thinking and faith to know that there are no deficiencies with God and understand his heart and intention to heal.

Pray for one another, and specifically for those who need healing.