

## Why Miracles Happen - The Fingerprints of God's Love: Pt 1 By Todd Bentley

### BOOST YOUR FAITH

God wants to boost our faith in the power of the Atonement. It is God's desire for all of His people to walk in divine health and to minister complete healing to others. The commission of Mark 16:17, 18, should not merely be words on a page, but a daily reality.

"And these signs will follow those who believe: in My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents, and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

If you're a believer, then you are a candidate for this commission!

### HEALING IS FOR ALL

Surely He has borne (suffered for) our grief (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed (Isaiah 53:4, 5).

In a prophetic fulfillment of the healing power of Jesus' suffering, Peter writes, "By whose stripes you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). It is done! The cross is a done deal. Both Scriptures speak of how Jesus paid for sin and healing all at once through the Atonement. He not only bore our sins in His body, but also "surely" bore our sicknesses.

Although we see and acknowledge Christ's suffering for our cleansing and healing, we must also see Him as the overcoming One. He didn't merely suffer; He conquered sin, disease, death, and the grave! We must see Him as the victorious Christ who rose up on the third day with resurrection power over sickness, disease, and death. He took the curse of the Law and redeemed us, so we could once again come into the blessing of Abraham, and be whole in body, soul, and spirit (Galatians 3:13, 14).

### VICTORY OVER SIN AND SICKNESS

Christians today often fail to see Him as the resurrected, victorious Christ. They still relate to Him as the suffering, afflicted, wounded Jesus on the cross. Much of the church presents Jesus this way today. Isaiah is saying that surely, in the same way that He suffered for our iniquities, He was beaten for our sicknesses. After Christ suffered and died, He conquered the grave and rose victorious over sin and disease, so we can now walk in victory over these same enemies.

It is vital that the church begins to emphasize the overcoming power of Christ! Yes, He suffered on our behalf, but now He is the conquering One who has overcome sin, sickness, disease, death, and poverty. If we will put our faith in the victorious Christ, we can receive the blessing of sozo—the forgiveness, liberty, and healing He has provided for all through His atoning sacrifice. This sacrifice is freely given, so we can live a victorious Christian life by overcoming sin and sickness.

### THE FINGERPRINT OF GOD'S LOVE

The fingerprint of God's love is on all 15 reasons listed below, of why miracles happen! Everything in the Kingdom works by love. Faith, power, and the anointing have no lasting value unless motivated by love (Galatians 5:6). Thus, the number 1 reason miracles happen is:

#### 1. GOD'S LOVE

The Father's heart of love for people is the number one reason miracles happen. His love, expressed through the Abrahamic covenant thousands of years ago, now blesses us as 21st century believers with salvation, deliverance, prosperity, and healing. Under the New Covenant, we can receive those same blessings because we are redeemed from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13, 14). Love, compassion, and tender mercies motivated Jesus' ministry. "And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick" (Matthew 14:14).

#### 2. GOD KEEPS HIS COVENANTS

God's covenants are extremely powerful and sure, because God is a God of His word. His promises are even surer than His name, His very nature as God. If He promises something, He does it. It's as simple as that! God's promise of healing, "by whose stripes you were healed" is a sure thing we can stand on (1 Peter 2:24).

#### 3. GOD WILLS IT

God wants to heal, and He's willing to heal you. It's easy to believe that He wants to heal, but harder to believe that He's willing to heal you. The leprous man said, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean" (Matthew 8:2). Jesus responded, "I am willing. Be cleansed." Remember the Gentile centurion who didn't even have to ask Jesus to heal his servant? Jesus simply said, "I will come and heal him" (Matthew 8:7).

Similarly, the disciples prayed for God to release Peter from prison. Someone knocked at the door and Rhoda answered. It was Peter! (Acts 12:13.) Their answer was so immediate that they didn't believe Rhoda's report. Believe for an answer while you're still asking. God wills it. He wants to heal you! Jesus is just as willing to heal us. Believe in His goodness and His desire to heal. He is saying to each of us, "My son, my daughter—I am willing. Be made whole."

#### 4. MASS EVANGELISM

Lost souls are God's passion, and healing is the number one tool for the harvest. A great multitude followed Jesus "because they saw His signs that He performed" on the afflicted (John 6:2). Jesus reached the entire nation of Israel with the Good News, because He healed all kinds of sickness and disease, and His fame went through all of Syria (Matthew 4:24). We tell the world that God is real, but they cry out, "Show me!" Jesus showed them. He healed them and reached them, and they followed.

Two men, who didn't even receive prayer were totally healed when Jesus touched their eyes. They became known as the "two blind men." People were amazed by their testimony of God's healing power, and the news spread all over the country. That's the evangelistic power of healing and miracles.

#### 5. DEMONSTRATION OF DEITY

The healing power of God provides convincing proof of God's deity—it proves that He is God. Moses understood this truth. Remember when God told Moses in Exodus 33 and 34, that He wasn't going to accompany them into the Promised Land, He would instead send an angel to travel with them? Moses told God that they wouldn't go unless He did. Moses said that without God's glory, they would lose their distinction as God's people. Without the miracle-working power of God, Christianity is just another religion. What makes God, God, other than the demonstration of His deity? Jesus proved His deity through the miraculous.

Jesus began His ministry by turning water into wine. The Bible says: "This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him" (John. 2:11). This miracle was a manifestation of His glory as God in the flesh. This was the first miracle to demonstrate His deity. It was necessary, so that His disciples would be thoroughly convinced that He was God. Later in John's Gospel, Jesus said to His disciples, "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves" (John 14:11).

#### 6. TO FULFILL THE PROPHETIC WORD

Isaiah gave us a prophetic promise of healing, hundreds of years before Christ. In Isaiah 53, he spoke of Christ's suffering for our pain, sin, and sorrow before declaring: "By His stripes we are healed" (verse 5). Those many centuries ago, God prophesied healing in the Atonement. Isaiah prophesied that Christ would suffer for our pain, sorrow, and sickness just as He would suffer for our sin. Healing is for all, in the same way as the forgiveness of sin is for all. It's not just for some. All! No one is excluded from salvation or healing.

The Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 8:16, 17), confirms that Jesus' healing ministry fulfilled Isaiah's prophecy. Jesus healed all in order to fulfill Isaiah's prophecy, that He would eventually pay the price for our healing. Jesus didn't come just to die for our sin, but also for our sicknesses. Jesus, through His healing ministry, established forever the prophetic promise of healing for those who put their faith in Him.

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