

Four Levels of Healing Pt 1

By Todd Bentley

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When God called me into the healing ministry, I didn't have a healing gift or a healing anointing. I didn't have a visitation of a healing angel, and I wasn't moving strongly in the word of knowledge. I saw healing in the bible. I read stories about men and woman used by God, and I said, "Oh God, I know that there is a need for miracles in the church today, but I don't know if I am specifically called to the healing ministry. Maybe that is just for Reinhardt Bonke, Benny Hinn, and T.L. Osbourne. Maybe it isn't for Todd Bentley."

All I had was hunger and desire. Then I read John 14:12: "he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these will he do," and I said, "That sounds like me." Next I saw Mark 16:17,18: "And these signs will follow those who believe: In my name they will...

Lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." I said, "Gee, that doesn't sound like only Benny Hinn and Reinard Bonke; it sounds like these signs will follow them that believe. It sounds like it could be any believer's ministry. I believe. So should I be laying hands on the sick and seeing them recover?"

When I read James 5:15-"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick"- I asked, "Can I pray the prayer of faith?" I started seeing the promise of God that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). Everything I saw in the bible looked like healing was for me too! So I had a hunger to see healings and miracles, but I didn't have any sure personal word from God or any kind of supernatural experience or special anointing. In those days, all I had was T.L. Osborn's classis book, Healing the Sick, and the bible.

The I realized, "If I want people to get healed, it's in the Word, Preach the Word, teach the Word, present the Word, and the Holy Ghost will confirm the Word with signs following. That's it! Preach healing."

So I dug out all the truths in the Bible about healing. I went into my meetings and began my healing ministry by word of faith. I preached and taught the Word. Then I'd do the healing line. That was my only grid for healing. Bring them to the altar, pray the prayer of faith, anoint them with oil, and the Holy Ghost confirms the Word with signs and wonders. People ask, "Todd where did you get that healing ministry?" I reply, "I got hungry for it." I desired the kind of miracles I'd read about in the book of acts and the gifts available to us to earnestly desire- some of those gifts are faith, healing, and miracles. God doesn't want us to desire something He doesn't want us to have. And so, I pursued the miracles, even though I didn't know that God gas called me specifically to a healing ministry. All I had was the Word of God. That was enough! I operated in the faith realm- in the word of faith and the prayer of faith.

The Healing Models

As I searched out God's truths about healing, I discovered four different healing models. Two levels of healing operate under the realm called faith. The first level is the word of faith; the second is the prayer of faith. Under the sovereign realm, we find two other levels of healing: the first level is the word of knowledge, and the second is the healing anointing.

Each person's healing ministry will be marked by different characteristics or it will operate from different strength. One is not better than the other; they are just different. I see other people in healing ministry who never move in the faith realm. They rely solely on the word of knowledge and the healing anointing; they don't operate by the laying on of hands, through prayer of faith, or by teaching faith.

Sometimes, as ministers of healing, we will use just one of the four healing levels. At other times, in a specific situation or setting, we will use more than one of the levels. We can maximize our effectiveness by operating in all four levels.

Maybe you have never prayed for the sick, or perhaps you've never seen a miracle take place when you've prayed. But here's a key to the healing ministry: just because you don't have a healing gift today, doesn't mean that you can't have one tomorrow.

The Faith Realm

1. The Word of Faith

We see what I call the word of faith in Psalm 107:20: "He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." We have an example here of healing in the Word. That is what the word of faith is. No, I am not talking about the healing anointing that is in the Word itself, the healing anointing that is in the spoken word.

Proverbs 4:20-22 says, "My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those that find them, and health to all their flesh." See, the healing is in the Word, in the declaring of the Word, in the preaching of the word, in the hearing of the word, in the confessing of the Word, and in standing on the Word-God has ordained healing.

Many people have testimonies of the power of the Word-they heard the Word, believed the Word, confessed the Word, and meditated on the Word. They kept God's Word in their heart, read every scripture in the bible on healing repeatedly, listened to tapes, and even read the healing books-then one day their tumor fell off or they were healed of a terminal illness.

Kenneth Hagin was one of those people who heard the Word, believed the Word, and confessed the Word. God gave him a powerful revelation of Mark 11:23: "whoever says to this mountain, 'Be removed and be cast into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he say will be done, he will have whatever he says." He believed God's word and began to speak to his sickness and command it to leave his body. One day he got up out of his bed, healed of terminal illness. He didn't receive a word of knowledge or healing prayer from a healing minister. People like Kenneth Hagin didn't even need to get into a healing line. They were just healed by the Word of God-there is healing in that place.

How does the Holy Spirit confirm the Word? Is it with signs and wonders or is it with accompanying signs? Take a look at Mark 16:20: "And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the Word through accompanying signs. Amen."

Do you know what the verse means by "accompanying signs?" It means that every word has a certain sign that follows each particular message. It's not just that miracles, signs, and wonders randomly follow the Word, No, God has ordained certain signs to follow certain messages. You see, a lot of teaching-type ministries don't have faith for the realm of miracles. They are good at setting it up, but they don't follow through with healing/miracle ministry.

A lot of pastors believe that they pastor the flock but it's up to the evangelist who comes in to move in the signs and wonders. That is so not true. Every believer is called to a healing ministry in one form or another.

There is healing in the Word. If you teach healing in your meeting, healing manifests. Teach the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and people are baptized. Teach family values, and healthy families grow. In the beginning of my ministry, I taught healing first and then laid hands on the sick and watched the Holy Spirit confirm the Word, because healing is in the Word. Listen-the healing is in the Word! A three-year-old can present the healing truth, and miracles will happen, not because of the anointing on the three-year-old but because of the anointing on the Word that he or she spoke. Anybody who teaches healing will have healing show up, even if that person does not have a gift of healing.

God moved in my meetings, even before I was anointed for a healing ministry. Now, however, I can step into healing and miracles even before I speak the Word because I have a healing anointing; physical healing and miracles happen even if the Word doesn't come first. I can teach godly family values and still move in healing at the end of the night. If I have a healing gift, I can step into that that gift even if I am teaching on finances. But in the dimension of healing through the Word, I can expect deliverance and freedom from evil spirits as the accompanying sign when I teach on deliverance. There are signs ordained to the Word-to the message. You get what you preach. But even though you may not have it (the healing anointing) now, don't despair, because there is always healing in the Word!

2. The Prayer of Faith

The prayer of faith is the second healing model under the faith realm. "The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up" (James 5:15). So the healing is in the prayer of faith. If you can pray in faith that God will do what God said He would do, God will do it-not because you have a gift of healing and miracle and you are an anointed vessel, but because healing is in the prayer of faith. In the early days of my ministry, I preached every T.L. Osborn healing message and any message that anyone (anointed) had on healing. Then, at the end, not feeling anything, I would give an altar call, lay hands on the sick, and sometimes hundreds wouldn't be healed. And the next day, I'd do it all over again. There were times it seemed like I prayed for a thousand, and no one was healed. But I vowed that I'd pray for another thousand. Before I developed an anointing, I prayed for hundreds of deaf that did not hear using the principles of the prayer of faith and the word of faith.

I got so hungry to see healing that I determined to sow healing seeds until I received authority, victory, and breakthrough. I sowed myself into praying for the blind until I received an anointing for the blind. Then I sowed myself into praying for the crippled until I received the anointing for that. There was no anointing on me for healing tumors, but I sowed prayer for that until I received authority. And now in just about any meeting, at about any time, even before I preach, I can give an altar call and see tumors healed. At any crusade in Africa, before I've even heard God, by raw faith, I can step out on the platform and say, "bring me ten deaf" and they will hear! Why? Because I am anointed with a gift of healing, particularly for deaf ears and tumors.

The healing revivals of the 40's and 50's mostly demonstrated the prayer of faith. There was a model and a method. For instance, Oral Roberts and other ministries at that time used the prayer card. You received a prayer card when you completed a teaching on healing and on faith. And when they felt you were ready, they'd position you in the healing line and then read your request from the card. "Timmy has cancer in his liver." Then they'd interview him, lay hands on him, and pray the prayer of faith and rebuke the cancer. And he'd fall under the power, and that would be it! They'd bring up the next person and do the same thing.

Often in those meetings, if you healing didn't happen, they'd ask you if you had enough faith, or if you believe that God could heal you, and then they might suggest you go home, get into the Word, perhaps listen to some tapes, and return again into the healing line to receive the prayer of faith.

If you are sick, the prayer of faith can operate on my faith or on yours. I can carry you through to your healing on my faith, or you can carry yourself through on your faith, or your faith and my faith can come into agreement and you can be healed. I don't need any faith for the prayer of faith to work if the one receiving the prayer has faith. But how much better when we both believe?

We see this prayer of faith model in many churches today. Faith is good; we need to use faith and we need to move in healing on the principles and on the basis of faith. But we limit our ability to receive healing if we only depend on faith to receive (without being open for sovereign realm healing). In the faith realm healing our miracle will always depend on how much faith we have, or on how anointed the teacher is to teach and build faith to see miracles.

However, just releasing the prayer of faith alone can be very powerful. Elijah understood that the prayer of faith got things done in the kingdom. He prayed earnestly for rain and when it didn't happen, he prayed again, and when it didn't happen he prayed again (I Kings 18:41-46). He prayed seven times! The next time you're tempted to quit praying remember that old prophet-who had the same nature as you do and wasn't even filled with the Holy Spirit- who just wouldn't give up until he saw results! If you don't have an immediate manifestation of God's healing power, it doesn't mean you're not healed. You might have a progressive healing, and you'll get better over a period of time. It's ok not to be instantly healed. But, I believe we need to understand it's alright to keep on asking, keep on knocking, and keep on seeking (Matt. 7:7,8). God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hew. 11:6). Faith is the prayer that keeps on praying until it gets the job done, even if you have to pray for many years. They prayer of faith will heal the sick!

The Sovereign Realm

The sovereign realm only works if the minister has the word of knowledge and the anointing is present. If there is no healing anointing or word of knowledge or angel or dream, then there is no healing. Some ministers can only move in the sovereign realm based on what they see: "I saw these eight that you get tonight," if the prophet doesn't hear or see, that's it-nothing happens. They don't know how to initiate and pray allows us to pray the prayer of faith-we can initiate healing.

However, within the sovereign realm, we need to wait for the stirring of the waters, like the people at the pool of Bethesda. Sometimes we will sense the anointing and presence of the Holy Spirit sometimes we won't. At times God will give us words of knowledge at other times He won't. However, when the sovereign power of the spirit moves into a meeting, people can even be healed without any prayer of faith.

Register Below for The Healing Campmeeting

I love the message of the Kingdom! We want to see His Kingdom come in great demonstration. Fresh Fire Ministries Healing, Signs & Wonders Campmeeting will be a great time to learn how to see a revival culture in your ministry, learn to preach the gospel with signs and wonders, demonstrate healing and the word of knowledge. You will learn how to move in kingdom authority and power. All this and more will be taught in Todd Bentley's Ministries Healing, Signs & Wonders Campmeeting will devote the evening services to miracles, healing signs and wonders. There will be focus on the gift of faith, words of knowledge, personal ministry and healing at night. If you or anyone needs a healing or miracle don't miss this event. Come hungry!!!

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