

MY PERSONAL JOURNEY INTO THE HEALING MINISTRY Part 1
By Todd Bentley

This article is taken from "Christ's Healing Touch" Volume One.

Written by Todd Bentley

MY PERSONAL JOURNEY INTO THE HEALING MINISTRY

Part 1

Through the years of my ministry and Christian life, I have come to see that most believers are desperate to see God made real to them in their every day life. They want their faith to be more than just some fancy theological words, nice doctrine or a three-point sermon. They want a Christian life that reflects the Christianity of the Bible, a Christianity in which healings, miracles, signs and wonders are regular and normal experiences. Most believers yearn, deep inside, to find a Christianity powerful enough to meet their needs in body, soul and spirit. They want a faith that's real, that's exciting, that makes unbelievers sit up and take notice. This book is designed to take you into the world of the supernatural, of the power of God, and of faith adventures with God that rock your world and the world around you.

Before we dive into the teaching chapters on healing, I want to give you some personal insights about my journey into the healing ministry. I have told you my entire life story and testimony in my first book, "Journey into the Miraculous." In this chapter you can "listen in" on an interview and conversation between me and the book's editor, and personal friend, Kevin Peterson. (Kevin was a youth pastor that helped start and lead Fresh Fire years ago, when it was still a youth ministry and before it became my international evangelistic ministry.) My prayer is that through my responses below, you will begin to catch some of my passion and heart for Jesus and His healing ministry. I am praying that the Lord will begin to impart to you some of the radical faith that the Lord has gifted me with so I can help pioneer and restore the healing ministry to the church today. The church is preparing for a massive healing revival and we need as many gifted and trained healing warriors as we can get. Get ready to receive impartation and to be equipped for healing ministry as you read!

The Interview

Kevin: Todd, how did your healing ministry start?

Todd: Desire. I was hungry for the kind of power of God that I read about in the Gospels and in the book of Acts. When I looked at the church and the manifestation of the Spirit in the church, I didn't see the kind of miracles we read about in the Gospels and in the book of Acts. So I began to ask myself, if the kingdom of God was power and not in word only then where was the power? "If Paul's preaching didn't come with the persuasive words of human wisdom but in a demonstration of the Spirit of God and power," I wondered, "what does that look like in the church today?" I began to examine the Scripture, verse by verse, chapter by chapter—not just the Gospels, but what the entire Bible had to say about healing and the healing ministry.

I began to ask what the healing ministry of Jesus and the disciples looked like. I became convinced that from the beginning of the Bible to the end, divine healing was a vital part of God's plan of redemption and restoration on earth. I became certain that God is a good God who wants His people to prosper and be in good health (3 John 1:2). I saw that message throughout the entire Bible and so I became hungry to see God's healing power. The Bible says to earnestly desire spiritual gifts such as gifts of faith, healings and miracles. So I said, "I am going to desire!" Then I would take a day, two days, sometimes three days, praying and fasting for the manifestation and the experience of what I was reading in the Scriptures. The whole time I would read nothing else in the Bible except stories and verses about healing. I would go through the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—three or four times in a day, focusing on the accounts of healing and praying for the manifestation of those things in my life.

I also fed my spirit with the teaching of F.F. Bosworth, T. L. Osbourne (Healing the Sick) and John G. Lake. I was being provoked by the lives of men and women that God had used in the past in healing ministry. Today, I meet a lot of people hungry for revival and hungry for the power of God. All of them have read the classics like Smith Wigglesworth, John G. Lake or Maria Woodworth-Etter (The Diary of Signs and Wonders). They have been through the life and the testimony of Kathryn Kuhlman and they are excited about what God is doing in some of the contemporary healing guys today like Reinhard Bonnke and Benny Hinn. They have read all the books. Anyone who has been to any kind of Bible School has looked at the lives of those that God has used in revival. They've all done that. I've done that too. But I had a deeper hunger in my heart for the gift and ministry of healing to operate in my life. After studying the scriptures, I said, "There is nowhere in the Scriptures that says it's not for me. Healing is for today; I see it in the Bible. Jesus is the same today, yesterday, and forever, so healing must continue today."

Still, I had some questions to resolve: "Am I called to the healing ministry? Is this for me or is it only for the ones that God has used in healing. Am I called?" I knew healing is biblical and is for today. But I needed to find out whether this healing gift was for me or just for Benny Hinn and Reinhard Bonnke. I wondered, "Do I have to be called, or can God use me?"

Then I saw in Scripture that "the prayer of faith will save the sick." (James 5:15) I said, "It's the prayer of faith, not the prayer of Todd Bentley and not the anointing of Todd Bentley." I realized that healing is in the prayer, not in the person praying the prayer." Then I saw Mark 16:17 which says, "These signs will follow them who believe." I said, "I am a believer!" As I continued to read those verses, I said to myself: "This is for me!" The Bible says to earnestly desire spiritual gifts, and spiritual gifts are faith, healing and miracles. So I asked myself, "Why would God want me to desire something He didn't want me to have?"

During those days, the Lord answered three main questions for me. First, I wanted to know whether it is God's heart to heal? I became convinced in my heart that is His heart. My second question was: "How many will God heal?" The Holy Spirit showed me in Scripture that healing is for all, all the time. The third question God answered is this: "Is healing for me?" I began to realize that it is God's will to use me just as much as He has used anyone else in healing throughout history. That's when miracles started for me.

After my questions were answered, then it was on to step #2.—I realized that if I believed it, I needed to preach it and that the Holy Ghost would confirm the Word with signs and wonders. I knew He would work with me. You know—Mark 16—the Lord working to confirm the Word. The Lord had shown me that, "If I want healing, I need to preach healing. If I want prosperity, I need to preach prosperity. If I want deliverance I need to preach deliverance. If I want fruit in the family, I need to preach family." So I began to preach healing wherever I could. I preached everything that the classic healing evangelists did; I preached everything on healing and then I prayed for the sick in faith. I believed that God would confirm the Word if I laid my hands on the sick believing that God would do what He said He would do. Very simply—I followed the faith model. I talk more about this in the chapter on the Four Levels of Healing, but that is basically how it all started for me.

Kevin: What stirred the passion in you for healing and miracles?

Todd: What really stirred that passion was the fact that I wanted the deaf to hear because my mother was deaf. God actually used that situation in my life to fuel the fire in me. When I learnt that healing was a part of the Christian faith I asked, "God, are you going to heal my Mom?" After I got saved I prayed over and over that God would heal my Mom. This was even before I started pursuing healing in my own life and ministry. When my Mom wasn't healed, a holy zeal and determination rose up within me: "The deaf are going to hear!" It became a rage within me, fuel for the fire for healing to work through me. My number one passion in the healing ministry was that the deaf would hear. So in my healing meetings I would always go for healing of the deaf—that would sometimes be one of the first altar calls that I would give. In those days, I remember inviting all the deaf up for prayer and none would hear, or perhaps one would partially hear. But that was how I began to increase in my healing gift. I teach more on this in the chapter about the deaf and dumb spirit.

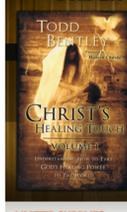
Kevin: Describe how you got into the healing ministry and how you developed your gifts and your anointing.

Todd: All the different healing ministers kind of helped mentor me in my early days of healing ministry. I would look at the strengths of healing ministers like T. L. Osbourne and notice that their strong points were in the Word, faith and authority. Then I would look at ministers like Kathryn Kuhlman and Benny Hinn and the healings that came through the worship, the atmosphere the anointing and the Presence. Then you have guys like Kenneth Hagin and Oral Roberts—although anointed healing ministers, their strength and ministry of healing came through the presentation of faith and the belief that "faith comes by hearing." I would ask, "God, how can I take the best of every stream?" Then I would look at prophets like William Branham and I would wonder: "How can I combine the prophetic gift with healing ministry, so it's not just about anointing and faith?" I wanted to be able to combine the office of the prophet with that of the evangelist in healing ministry.

I know that today God has placed on our ministry an apostolic anointing in which my two strongest suits are the call of prophet and the call of evangelist. I've had to learn how to operate in the office of the prophet and the office of the evangelist and then learn how to mix those two gifts together in the healing ministry. The Lord taught me how to move in Elijah/Elisha-type miracles by preaching the Word of God, speaking the word of knowledge and by decreeing what the Lord is doing. He also taught me how to operate in healing ministry by the faith model. So I would combine all those elements: prophesying healing; inviting the healing presence of the Lord as well as releasing healing by the Word and faith. Examining the strengths and weaknesses of different healing ministries allowed me to learn from each one.

William Branham would hardly even preach, at times, in the beginning of his ministry. He would just do the word of knowledge and healing stuff. On the other hand, F.F. Bosworth and others had tremendous teaching ministries for healing—but when they saw the prophetic gift on people like William Branham, they made room for the guys with the powerful revelatory gift for healing. Today, through Fresh Fire, we seek to combine the revelatory gift for healing, while strongly emphasizing the presence, anointing and the atmosphere of the Holy Ghost and the scriptural teaching of healing to stir faith. Past healing ministries would seldom walk in more than one of these many aspects of healing ministry. We are operating in what I call faith, anointing and prophetic—each facet comes from the Holy Spirit, but they all operate in different ways.

**ENJOYING THE ARTICLE?
ORDER YOUR COPY TODAY!**



Quick Overview
Christ's Healing Touch is written as a complete war manual on the healing ministry, to you, like Jesus, can heal all who are "oppressed by the devil" (Acts 10:38).

PRICE: \$20

LIMITED SUPPLIES **CLICK HERE TO BUY NOW**

Kevin: Describe how you developed your gifts.

Todd: I grew in the healing ministry by believing that God gave gifts of healing and gifts of miracles—more than one healing gift, more than one miracle gift. I came to see that there could be one hundred people in a room with gifts of healing but that the gift would function and flow through their lives in different ways and strengths. Each one may see all kinds of healing but will probably have what I call a healing strength—yours could be back; Mike's may be blind eyes while Joe's specialty is cripples. My healing strength is deaf ears. I've been especially blessed with a strong gift of healing for the deaf. Yet we have still seen healings from just about every kind of sickness and disease. I can't think of a healing that we haven't seen, other than the dead being raised...and that would be a creative miracle. Still, we are contending and praying for the dead to be raised all the time.

But here is the thing, I didn't always have a healing gift for the deaf. It's developed gradually as I've exercised it. I've always had a healing anointing for all sickness because healing is for all. But how did I develop a healing strength so that today, in some meetings, all the deaf hear, whether it is 20 or 30? I've been in meetings where 80 percent of the people would hear or all but two would hear. So what happened? I developed strength in healing. I believe, even though you have a healing gift, a healing anointing and a healing call, you can cultivate special healing strengths in several areas. I've learned how to develop the healing anointing into a healing gift specifically for the deaf. I began to pray for the deaf and when the deaf didn't hear, I'd pray for the deaf. And when the deaf didn't hear I'd pray for the deaf and when the deaf didn't hear I'd keep on praying for the deaf!

Wherever I was not seeing a great level of success, I would focus my prayer and faith. If I was seeing many arthritics healed, lots of deaf people healed and many people with pains in the stomach healed, yet there were no blind seeing in my meetings, I would begin to contend for breakthrough. I'd say, "OK, tonight we are going for the blind. Before I do anything else, I'm going to pray for the blind." And I'd do that in every meeting until the blind began to see and I developed authority in that area. As I contended for victory in an area of sickness, I would increase in authority until I was seeing miracles and until I got several healed of that affliction. Suddenly those types of healings became easy. Then I would go, "Now where am I a little weak? Is it cripples?" So I would begin to open up meetings by saying, "Let's pray for all the cripples first." Instead of seeing one out of every 100 cripples healed, soon it would be one in every 20 cripples first, all because I took time to specifically sow into that area until it became a strength, an area of new authority in my ministry.

Kevin: Describe the greatest influences that propelled or helped you walk into the healing ministry.

Todd: When I look at men of God today who stir me to go deeper and higher, I think of guys like Reinhard Bonnke who is reaching millions in a crusade when we are reaching 10's of thousands in our crusades. So I am saying, "Holy Spirit, that's where I want to be." And I think of guys like Benny Hinn and the healing ministry that God has placed on his life today. I'm not even so much moved by the kind of healings that happen, but by the Presence of God involved. I was deeply touched by Benny's ministry, years ago, when I was only saved a few months. At that time, in my first six months as a Christian, I would consume anything that I could get my hands on that Benny had taught, both books and tapes. So, as for contemporary guys—as I've grown in the Lord I've continued to love and be blessed by the anointing and presence of God upon Benny's ministry, while being challenged by the miracles and crowds in the ministry of Reinhard Bonnke. But as for guys from the past, the greatest influences for me would be John G. Lake and William Branham. Benny was the first to expose me to anything to do with the anointing, the presence of God and miracles—that's how I came to learn about Kathryn Kuhlman. I had only been saved two months and so I knew nothing about anything. I didn't know that there was anybody who, years ago, had been used in healing or had a healing ministry. All I ever knew was the reality of the Holy Spirit and Benny Hinn. I was living in a small community of about, 3,000 people, just coming off the street as a drug addict. I hadn't even seen Benny Hinn on TV at this time. I just had his book "Good Morning Holy Spirit."

It was at that time, in those first few months, as I began to listen to tapes and videos of Benny Hinn, that I said "Holy Spirit I'll pay the price." Just like Benny Hinn said, "I'll pay the price" for the anointing he saw on Kathryn Kuhlman, I said, "I'll pay the price" for the anointing that was on both Kuhlman and Benny Hinn. That decision became rooted deep within me. That was before I even knew there were guys named Kenneth Hagen, T.L. Osborn or Reinhard Bonnke. That was before I knew anything about church history and revival. I just got saved and was filled with the Holy Ghost at the Full Gospel Business Men's meetings. I was reading the Bible everyday and praying and thanking for God when somebody gave me Benny Hinn's book on the Holy Spirit and that was it. I said, "God that's what I want! That's what I want on my life. I want to do that. I want to do healing. And that was how it all started.

I learned to move in my healing anointing by developing my personal intimate fellowship with the Holy Spirit. It became as natural as breathing for me. People ask, "Todd, how did you learn to give out words of knowledge or, "Todd, how did you learn to prophesy?" or, "Todd, how did you learn how to move in the power of God?" It's become second nature to me. It's become like breathing. People ask, "How did it become so normal and easy for you to flow in miracles, to flow in words of knowledge and to flow in prophesy?" I'd say that it came out of those 4-12 hours a day those early months as a new Christian coming into those personal intimate encounters with the person of the Holy Spirit. I kept saying, "Holy Spirit I want to know you." As I developed in my intimate relationship with the Holy Spirit, asking Him questions and coming to know Him as a person, all that other stuff just began to happen—like a river, it began to flow. It was without effort. I didn't have to struggle to get into the world of knowledge. It became second nature because of the Holy Spirit. Some of those other things teachings from men of God helped me learn to flow and direct my river. So, intimacy with the Holy Spirit was the foundation for all the other stuff.

Like 42 people like this. Sign Up to see what your friends like.

WRITINGS

All Writings

Articles

Missions Reports

Desk of Todd Bentley

Reports from the Road

Honoring our Partners

Testimonies

TWITTER @IAMTODDBENTLEY

It's great for the skin and tattoos! <https://t.co/lnq2j3w0>
Posted 4 days ago. From [Twitter for iPhone](#)

The Liquid Gold Series for women! Yes ladies, this is for you! [#liquidgoldseries](https://t.co/2BujOPW0Yf)
<https://t.co/gm2ZV1MKZ>
Posted 2 days ago. From [Twitter for iPhone](#)

Our new hair, skin and beard treatment Liquid Gold Series has arrived! <https://t.co/MHe0BRU35y>
Posted 2 days ago. From [Twitter for iPhone](#)

Last updated: Jan 27 @ 4:26 pm est.

CONTACT INFO

Fresh Fire USA
P.O. Box 820
Pineville, NC 28134

info@freshfireusa.com
803.802.8932

CONNECT & SHARE:

[FACEBOOK](#) [TWITTER](#) [INSTAGRAM](#) [YOUTUBE](#) [Todd's iTunes](#)