

Hidden Barriers To Healing

Every time a sick person approached Jesus for healing, they were always healed. Some healings were in the body, and some in the mind. Sometimes deliverance from an evil spirit was necessary, and sometimes a straightforward cure was needed. In every case, Jesus did exactly what was necessary in order for the person to be healed. There are so many scriptures about healing in both the Old and New Testaments, we can not possibly look at all of them but we will look at just a few. Whenever a person asked if it was Jesus' will that they be healed, Jesus always said it was His will and He told them to be healed (Luke 5:12 & 13). From that we can deduct that it is always God's will for people to be healed. However, in order to be healed, we need to meet God's strict conditions.

In all four Gospels, Jesus healed usually by simply speaking the word or touching the sick person. Some of the healings were different though, in that the sick person needed to have evil spirits cast out of them in order for the healing to take place. That is mentioned in Matthew 8:16 but there are many other scriptures about that form of healing. Jesus said in John 16:13 to 15; "When He, the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all truth. For He will not speak of His own authority; but He will tell whatever He hears from the Father. He will declare to you the things that are to come. He will honour and glorify Me (Jesus) because He will take of what is Mine and will reveal it to you. Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He will take of what is Mine and reveal it to you."

Notice this important fact: the Holy Spirit is a 'He' not an 'it'. He is part of the Godhead. He is a Person and He wants to be treated and respected as a person. Everything that the Father has, has been invested in the Son. Everything that the Father and the Son has, is utilised by the Spirit. He is the Steward – the Keeper of the storehouse. It pays to be good friends with the Holy Spirit.

We need to face the fact, that although there are many wonderful healings in the church – not every person will receive healing. There have been thousands of divine healings in the church over the years – but there have also been a number of inexplicable deaths of God's choicest people. The hardest death of all to understand, is the death of a baby or a young child. That cannot be explained and only God knows why but we need to know within our hearts that (1) God is in control and (2) God knows what is best. Turn to Deuteronomy 29:29; 'The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but the things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all of the words of this law'.

There are two kinds of things: the secret or hidden things that belong to God and there are the revealed things; things that are revealed so we may do them. For example; God has called us to be teachers of His Word and He has revealed many depths of the Word to us so we may share them with others, and it is our responsibility to act on it. There is no harm in asking God to reveal His will for our lives, so we can work together in harmony and without confusion. It is truly edifying to the soul, when God reveals small secrets to us. Knowing some of His secrets brings the Lord so very close to our hearts, just as it would – for example – if an earthly king revealed some of his ideas with us as his servants. God will only reveal what He wants us to know and will never overload us with information, so there is no danger in asking Him to reveal secrets. In fact it can be very, very exciting.

With the Lord's help, we will reveal some hidden barriers to healing that may be in the hearts and minds of God's people. If there are any barriers, they are not on God's side. When Jesus died, every barrier on God's side was removed. Through Jesus, we have unlimited access to God. In order to be able to receive healing, those barriers have to be dealt with. Let's mention some of the common barriers that can prevent people from receiving healing, and the solutions to those barriers.

Unforgiveness: Jesus said in Mark 11:24, 25 & 26; "For this reason I am telling you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that it is granted to you and you will get it. And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop (let it go), in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your sins. If you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive you." Matthew 6:15; "If you do not forgive others their sins, neither will your Father

forgive your sins.” If we go back to Mark 11:24, we see that unforgiveness is a barrier to receiving answers to prayer. If you are praying and seeking God for a healing, then forgiveness may be the key – before you pray you may need to forgive. The words ‘anything’ and ‘anyone’ does not leave anything or anybody out. It literally includes anything that any person has done to offend or hurt you. For God to ask us to forgive abusive parents, an unfaithful or abusive spouse or a drunk driver who ran over and killed your child can be very, very difficult. One day holocaust survivor, Corrie Ten Boom was speaking on forgiveness, when a former Nazi officer approached her and asked her forgiveness. She said it was the hardest thing God had ever asked her to do, but she knew there was no choice – Corrie had to forgive the same man who once tortured her and her sister – who later died. Most of us have no more than a bossy sibling to deal with, but some of us have had the most dreadful experiences in our lives caused by evil people. Even so, we must forgive them. It is even harder to forgive and then honour a sadistic, abusive parent, but in God’s Kingdom we must. We don’t have to agree with everything parents do, but we must have an attitude of respect for them – even if they have since died. We have no choice. We have to honour our father and mother no matter what they have done to us and we have to forgive them, for it is an essential requirement for our blessing in God. That is so hard! But for our sakes we have to forgive and allow God to heal our broken hearts, and let Him deal with our bad parents. Forgiving is not an emotion; it is a decision of our will. Forgiving is enlightened self interest; our prayers are answered, we are healed, we prosper, all will be well with us, we can have a long life and we can draw closer to God because there are no barriers. Solution: Ask the Lord to help you to forgive anybody and everybody who has sinned against you; ask Him to reveal any unforgiveness in your life; speak out your forgiveness by faith – remember it is a matter of your will; ask God to forgive your unforgiveness; thank Him for His help in solving your problem of unforgiveness. The Lord may give you a specific name or names or bring to mind a specific situation. We could pray something like this: Holy Spirit, I ask You now to speak to my heart. Show me if there are any areas of bitterness, resentment or unforgiveness. I renounce it now. I lay it down. If anyone has ever harmed me or wronged me, by faith, I forgive them now as I would have God forgive me. In Jesus’ Name, I ask Your help to forgive them. Thank you Lord. Amen.

Ignorance: Ignorance of God’s Word, His will and His promises. Many Christians are not aware of the teachings in the word of God. Isaiah 5:13; ‘Therefore My people go into captivity (bondage) because they have no knowledge of God’. That is they have no deep, intimate knowledge of God and what Jesus accomplished on the cross. We are told in Isaiah 53:5 that Jesus was whipped (striped) so we could receive healing. The Lord says something very similar in Hosea 4:6; ‘My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge’. Solution: We need to take the time to study God’s word and see what He is saying to us personally, so we need to set time aside every day to read the Bible. We are ‘washed’ and cleansed, just by reading His Word (Ephesians 5:26). Don’t rely solely on what you are taught in church because your pastors are only human, and cannot possibly teach you all the things that God has for you to learn. You need to study the Bible as often as you can, because that is the only way God can tell you His will for your personal life. A pastor can only tell the church collectively, but God can teach you personally; that is only if you take the time to learn. We could pray something like this: Lord, give me a hunger and a thirst for Your Word and help me to understand more deeply, the hidden truths in Your Word. Reveal to me Your will for my life, so we can work together and walk side by side, in harmony. Amen.

Unbelief: This is not a harmless weakness; God says it is wickedness and sin. We need to rid ourselves of this sin and believe God for that which He has promised. Hebrews 3:12 to 19; ‘Beware brethren, take care, lest there be in any one of you a wicked, unbelieving heart, leading you to turn away and stand aloof from the Living God. But instead warn one another every day that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become fellows with Christ and share in all He has for us, if only we hold our confidence unshaken to the end. Then while it is still Today, when you would hear His voice, do not harden yourselves as in the rebellion when the people provoked God. For they who came out of Egypt, heard, yet were rebellious. He was grieved for forty years with those whose bodies were strewn in the desert. And He did swear that those who disobeyed should not enter His rest. So we see that they were not able to enter into His rest because their unbelief shut them out’. Solution: We need to replace the negative of unbelief with the positive of trust and belief. We may need to repent of the sin of unbelief. We could pray something like this: We believe in God

the Father, His Son Jesus and in the Holy Spirit. We believe the Bible is the true Word of God. Father, please forgive us for the sin of unbelief and impart to us faith, through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Unconfessed sin: Proverbs 28:13 tells us; 'He who covers his transgressions will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes his sins will obtain mercy'. We can not hide our sins from God, and if we try to, we will not prosper. That is a scriptural principle. He is not asking us to confess our sins so He can find out what we have done – because He already knows and we can't shock Him or take Him by surprise. There may be sin that we are too embarrassed to tell another person, but we can tell God; He is never embarrassed. Confession is what He wants us to do. God is asking us to confess our sins because we need to take responsibility for our sins and turn away from them; we need to give them up. The best way to learn good Christian behaviour is to be regularly confronted with our sins, and the sense of shame we feel when we know we have offended God, should make us stop. We need to confess all – that is all – our sins to God and He is faithful and just to forgive our sins and then He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Isaiah 53:5 says Jesus was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities. Jesus took our sins on the cross but we must first confess them to God, then we can claim Romans 4:7 & 8 which says 'Blessed are those whose sins are forgiven and whose sins are covered (by the blood of Jesus). Blessed is the person of whose sin the Lord will take no account against them'. Do you see the principle? If we try to cover our sins, we will not prosper but if we allow our sins to be covered by the blood of Jesus, we are blessed. Solution: We may need to repent of unconfessed sin and when God forgives our sin, He blots them out and our lives are cleansed as though we had never sinned and we are refreshed (Acts 3:19). The Lord will never mention that sin again; we need to let it go and maybe even forgive ourselves. If there is any unconfessed sin; even from years back, tell the Lord. You may need to ask the Lord to help you remember so you can deal with it. If you have ongoing sin in your life, then you would need to ask God's help to do away with it. We could pray something like this: God, I acknowledge my sin of (identify, name and confess the sin) and am sorry. Please forgive me and cleanse me. Wash me in the blood of Jesus. Thank you for forgiving me, Lord. God now that you have forgiven me – I forgive myself. Amen.

Occult involvement: Being involved in the occult in any way; freemasonry, fortune telling, tarot cards, ouija boards, horoscopes, superstition, cults, witchcraft, wicca, iridology, reiki, keeping idols like buddha or the hindu gods and goddesses, hard rock music, thrash metal music, some science fiction, illegal drugs, ornamental idols, some souvenirs, the sun god, sorcery, divination, mediums, wizardry and many other things. These are major barriers to healing and worse; they can put you under a curse and you may need deliverance from it. We are not to bring idols into our homes because if we do, we bring the curse with it. We can assure you, idols do not bring 'good luck' – they bring a curse. If you have an idol – such as a buddha at your front door or Egyptian hieroglyphs hanging on the wall – burn them or smash them to pieces and toss them in the rubbish. Utterly destroy them. Don't give them away because you will only curse another person with it (Deuteronomy 7:25 & 26). That is very important. God has an intense hatred of all kinds of idolatry and it is an abomination to Him. Deuteronomy 18:12 tells us that all who do these things are an abomination to the Lord. Even the people who make the idols are cursed. Other scriptures about how much God hates these things can be found in Deuteronomy 18:9 to 12; 20:18; 27:15; 32:16. Exodus 23:24 & 25 then 32 & 33 tells the children of Israel they were not to take part in any of these evil practices because it is sin and it would be a snare to them. Verse 26 indicates early death, barrenness and miscarriage are due to the above practices. If we totally break with and renounce the above practices and serve God, then we can expect prosperity, increase and good health. If you have ever been involved with the occult and you have never dealt with it in your life, for your healing and spiritual growth, it needs to be dealt with. If you have dealt with it then good, you are free. Solution: Renounce every and any involvement in the occult. We could pray something like this: Lord if I have ever been involved in the occult – knowingly or unknowingly – what ever it was, I confess it as a sin. I should not have done it. I renounce it. I ask you to forgive me and release me from its consequences. I deeply apologise for offending You. I commit myself now, that never again will I allow myself to be involved with those things. Forgive me Lord and release me from their influence, right now in Jesus Name, Amen.

Exodus 23:32 warns us not to make a covenant with anyone but God Himself. Fabianism and freemasonry are very evil covenants and if you or any members of your family have ever been involved with either fabianism or freemasonry, you will most certainly need deliverance from its curse and from its grip. Not only you but also your family are under the curse. They are evil false religions and freemasonry is not secret. For example; the royal arch degree acknowledges a god whose name is jabulon. 'Ja' is short for Jehovah; 'bul' is short for baal and 'on' is short for osirus and any religion that combines God the Father with wicked gods is an abomination in the sight of the Lord. Solution: If you have a chronically sick child, have a look at the family. If there is either one of these two wicked cults in the family, first break away from the religion and renounce it then seek healing for the child. Renounce any connection to any secret society. We could pray something like this: Lord Jesus Christ, I want to serve You and to love You. If there is in my life or in my family, the curse of freemasonry or fabianism or any other wicked society or cult, I ask You to release me, and forgive me, and break its power over me and my family right now, in Jesus Name. Amen.

The effects of a curse can impede healing. If several of these following things apply to you or your family it may be an indication of a curse. The good news is: Jesus was made a curse for us and He took the effects of the curse on the cross, so that we may be redeemed from the curse and receive the blessing (Galatians 3:13). But most times we need to renounce the cause of the curse and claim the release. A list of common indications of a curse over a person's life or family can be: a history of mental and emotional breakdown; hereditary and chronic sicknesses – the mark of a curse is that it goes from generation to generation; barrenness, repeated miscarriage or female problems; repeated breakdown of marriage, family alienation and feuding; poverty and constant insufficiency; accident prone – a person that is an accident always waiting for somewhere to happen; falling down, breaking bones, burns, banging the head, car prangs or breakdowns, slipping and tripping over and finally a family history of suicides or unnatural deaths. That dark shadow that has been hovering over your life, and has followed you everywhere, tripping you up and stopping you from succeeding can be destroyed, freeing you to live a new carefree, curse free life. The frustration can be halted. If you have been a person who has all the hallmarks of success, yet just as you are about to make it, something strange goes wrong and your success fails over and over again; that is a curse. Solution: Take a little time to consider your life and have a look and see if you have the marks of a curse. We could pray something like this: Thank you Lord Jesus that You were made a curse that I might be redeemed from the curse and enter into the blessing. And because of what You did for me on the cross, right now Lord Jesus, in Your precious Name, I release myself and my family from every curse over me and over them, and I claim the blessing that you purchased for me with your blood. Thank you Lord Jesus. Amen. When you pray that prayer, let it all go. Something wonderful can happen to you right now. You can be set free. You can be a different person.

There may be other hidden barriers to healing, but these are usually the most common. Sometimes sickness can be caused by evil spirits. Not always but sometimes. For example; sometimes deafness is caused by an evil spirit and other times it is not. Epilepsy is sometimes an evil spirit and other times it is not. Sometimes healing comes only by driving out these evil spirits. Jesus dealt with evil spirits and so must we. Jesus said "In My name they will cast out evil spirits (Mark 16:17)." So then, with Jesus' ministry of healing, came also the driving out of evil spirits. When the supernatural power of God comes into operation, evil spirits can't stand it and they have to flee.

There are two main ways in which evil spirits are associated with sickness; they can be direct causes of sickness or the evil spirit can overtake the person or 'possess' and control them (Matthew 8:28; 15:22). In the scriptures there are evil spirits mentioned that cause infirmity (Luke 13:11); deafness and dumbness (Mark 9:25 and Luke 11:14); depression or heaviness (Isaiah 61:3) epilepsy (Mark 9:18 to 29) mental illness (Mark 5:2 to 18 and Luke 8:27 to 36) phobias and fears (2 Timothy 1:7) bondage; Tourette syndrome is a good example of an uncontrollable spirit of bondage (Romans 8:15) and there are spirits that cause death and crippling. For example; curvature of the spine, spina bifida and cerebral palsy can sometimes be caused by a crippling spirit. For a person suffering from any one of these illnesses, they may possibly need deliverance from that crippling spirit. The woman bent double was crippled by a spirit of infirmity and Jesus didn't treat it as an illness, He rebuked the spirit

and the woman immediately straightened up (Luke 13:16). Some illnesses are a direct result of sin and once the person has repented, they are healed (Matthew 9:1 & 2; John 5:14).

There can also be a spirit of death. Such sufferers tend to be maudlin, pessimistic, wear dark clothes, are sickly, too thin or obese, have skin problems, digestive problems and they often are very morbid. Cancer is a good example of a person with a spirit of death. It slowly saps their lives until there is no life left. People who always wear black may need to look at themselves and see if they have a dark attitude. That is not to say people should never wear black; that is saying people who only ever wear black need to look carefully at their outlook. One way the spirit of death comes in is through being discouraged, disheartened, disappointed, oppressed or rejected by a parent; and when you speak out negative words like: "I wish I were dead" "I wish I was never born" "What's the good of living" it is an invitation to a spirit to come into your life and take over. Depression can then take hold and in Isaiah 61:3, it is called a spirit of heaviness. Depression can lead to suicide which is the aim of the spirit of death.

Our will comes into play here, and we can swap the negative speech for the positive. Psalm 118:17 says "I shall not die but live and shall declare the works of the Lord."

Let's stand and say that again. Don't let the evil one have place in your life. Trample him underfoot. Stand and say with a loud voice seven times to someone, to yourself or to God, "I shall not die but live and declare the works of the Lord." You will certainly feel better after saying that seven times!

Can a Christian have an evil spirit lurking inside? Yes. We see in Luke 4:33 where a believer had an evil spirit. We know he was a believer because he was in the synagogue. Mary, the sister of Martha had seven demons cast out of her (Mark 16:9 and Luke 8:2) and she was most certainly a believer and one of Jesus' closest friends. About a week before Jesus died, Mary was the one who wept over Jesus' impending death, poured the ointment over His head and feet and wiped His feet with her long hair, to prepare Him for burial. Jesus said everywhere the Gospel is preached, what Mary did would be told and He told her to go in peace once she was cleansed (Matthew 26:7 to 13; Mark 14:3 to 9; Luke 7:37 to 50 and John 11:2 then 12:2 to 7). In Isaiah 61:3 we are told to put on the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness and only a believer can genuinely praise the Lord; only a believer would be seeking the Lord and reading the Bible.

When Jesus was on earth, He gave believers the authority over the devil and all evil spirits, and that newly given authority surprised the apostles as we read in Luke 10:17. The Lord Jesus gave to Christians divine authority over all the authority the devil once had (Luke 10:19). Read Ephesians 6:11 to 18 to learn how to keep yourself free from the evil one. James 4:7 tells us to submit ourselves to God, resist the devil and he must flee. Luke 4:40 & 41, tells us Jesus would not allow the evil spirits to speak. He had total authority over evil and we have that same authority now too, through the blood of Jesus.

Now that we have thoroughly examined our own hearts to find out what barriers there were to healing and have dealt with them; we need to praise the Lord and thank Him for the healing. Even if there is no immediate evidence of healing, thank Him in advance by faith and keep thanking Him until the illness goes. Praise Him like this: Praise the Lord. Thank You Lord. Glory to Your name. Thank You for the victory. Thank You for giving us the victory through the blood of the Lamb and the Name of Jesus. Thank you Lord; thank You, thank You, thank You. Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Hallelujah. You're so good. Thank You for going to the cross Lord Jesus. Thank You for giving us healing in body, soul and mind. Bless You Lord. Amen and amen.

The Lord is big enough to deal with every situation mentioned in this text. Just by praying, you can receive individual attention from God. Another way to increase your faith to receive healing is by quoting scriptures appropriate to your illness; "I am the Lord that heals you (Exodus 15:26)." For mental illness or phobias: 'The Lord has not given us a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7).' For blindness: 'The blind receive their sight (Matthew 11:5)' 'Blessed are your eyes, because they do see (Matthew 13:16).' For the lame: 'The lame walk (Matthew 11:5)' 'Rise up

and walk (Acts 14:10).’ For the deaf: ‘Blessed are your ears for they do hear (Matthew 13:16).’ In the New Testament, all skin conditions were called leprosy, so for skin problems from leprosy to eczema: ‘The lepers are cleansed (Matthew 11:5 & Luke 7:22).’

There are too many illnesses on the earth to mention here, but if you have an illness and you want healing, quoting scriptures appropriate to your particular sickness will help. There is at least one scripture in the Bible that can be matched with almost every illness on earth. We need to seek out the correct scripture for each illness and quote those scriptures to God every day. Healings are sometimes instant and sometimes they take time. You may need to remind the Lord the curse is broken over you, the believer. Never put your illness before your relationship with the Lord; don’t say to Him “I won’t believe until I am healed” because you need to believe so you can be healed. Thank the Lord in advance by faith, and once you have received your healing, don’t forget to thank and praise Him (Luke 17:14 to 17). Praising the Lord before you have seen an answer will surely speed things up. Praise the Lord. Hallelujah. Bless His mighty Name. Glory be to God.

Amen and God bless you as you are healed.

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