How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 1

1. **Why did Jesus minister to the sick?**
2. **Jesus ministered because He felt deep compassion for people’s needs.**

**Matt. 14:14** -- 14 When He went ashore, He saw a large crowd, and felt compassion for them and healed their sick.

**Matt. 20:29-34** -- 34 Moved with compassion, Jesus touched their eyes; and immediately they regained their sight and followed Him.

**Mark 1:40-42** -- 40 And a leper \*came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, “If You are willing, You can make me clean.” 41 Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and \*said to him, “I am willing; be cleansed.” 42 Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

1. **Jesus ministered so that people would believe in Him.**

**John 5:36** -- For the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish —the very works that I do—testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me.

**John 9:35-38** -- 35 Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” 38 And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him.

**John 20:30-31** -- 30And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.

*(Questions: What must our motive be in seeking to heal as Jesus did? Among*

*those who popularly claim to heal the sick, what wrong motives often seem evident?)*

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 2

1. **How did Jesus heal the sick?**
2. **Jesus addressed all demonic powers by exercising His God-given**

 **authority and commanding them to depart.**

**Luke 4:31-39** -- **31** And He came down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee, and He was teaching them on the Sabbath; **32** and they were amazed at His teaching, for His message was with authority. **33** In the synagogue there was a man possessed by the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, **34** “Let us alone! What business do we have with each other, Jesus of Nazareth? Have You come to destroy us? I know who You are—the Holy One of God!” **35** But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be quiet and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in the midst *of the people*, he came out of him without doing him any harm. **36** And amazement came upon them all, and they *began* talking with one another saying, “What is this message? For with authority and power He commands the unclean spirits and they come out.” **37** And the report about Him was spreading into every locality in the surrounding district.

*(Questions: What did Jesus not do when confronted with a demonic power? Did the demonic powers obey or disobey? Why?)*

1. **Jesus took the same approach to illness. He did not pray for healing,**

**speak in tongues, touch people and knock them down, sing, dance, doubt, or walk or run away. In spite of the fact that illness and injury have no conscious being as we assume demons do, Jesus still exercised His God-given authority and simply “rebuked” or commanded illness to depart. The illness responded to His word or authority and obeyed.**

 **Luke 4:31-39 (cont)** -- **38** Then He got up and *left* the synagogue, and entered Simon’s home. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him to help her. **39** And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited

 on them.

*(Questions: Again, what did Jesus not do when confronted with an illness?)*

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 3

1. **How did Jesus acquire His authority?**

 **A. God the Father held all authority and power.**

 **Matt. 5:13b** – “For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever! Amen!”

 **B. God the Father gave all authority and power to His Son Jesus.**

 **Phil. 2:8-11 -- 8** Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by

 becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. **9** For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, **10** so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth, **11** and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**John 17:1-2 -- 1** Jesus spoke these things; and lifting up His eyes to heaven,

 He said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You, **2** even as You gave Him authority over all flesh, that to all whom You have given Him, He may give eternal life.

 **Matt. 28:18 – 18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All

 authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”

**Acts 10:38** -- 38 [[d](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2010:34-38&version=NASB#fen-NASB-27298d)]*You know of* Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, [[e](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Acts%2010:34-38&version=NASB#fen-NASB-27298e)]and *how* He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

**Luke 6:17-19 --** 17 Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and *there was* a large crowd of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, 18 who had come to hear Him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. 19 And all the [[i](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%206&version=NASB#fen-NASB-25166i)]people were trying to touch Him, for power was coming from Him and healing *them* all.

*(Questions: What is the difference between “authority” and “power”? How are the two related?)*

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 4

1. **Who else was given this authority and power over demonic powers and sickness, and how did they come by that authority?**

**Just as authority and power were delegated by God the Father to Jesus, so Jesus delegates that authority to His disciples – including a measure of authority over demonic powers and illness – especially to demonstrate the love and power of God within the context of evangelism. If we are disciples of Jesus, we have been given a measure of that power and authority which we may exercise over demons, illness and injury.**

 **The twelve: (Luke 9:1-2) --**  **1** And He called the twelve together, and gave

 them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases. **2** And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to perform healing.

 **The twelve:** (**Matt. 10:1-8) -- 1** Jesus summoned His twelve disciples and

 gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. **2** Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: The first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; and James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; **3** Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; **4** Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed Him. **5** These twelve Jesus sent out after instructing them: “Do not go in *the* way of *the* Gentiles, and do not enter *any* city of the Samaritans; **6** but rather go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. **7** And as you go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’ **8** Heal *the* sick, raise *the* dead, cleanse *the* lepers, cast out demons. Freely you received, freely give.”

 **The seventy: (Luke 10:1-9, 17-19) -- 1** Now after this the Lord appointed

 seventy others, and sent them in pairs ahead of Him to every city and place where He Himself was going to come. **2** And He was saying to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore beseech the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest. **3** Go; behold, I send you out as lambs in the midst of wolves. **4** Carry no money belt, no bag, no shoes; and greet no one on the way. **5** Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace *be* to this house.’ **6** If a man of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if

 not, it will return to you. **7** Stay in that house, eating and drinking what they give you; for the laborer is worthy of his wages. Do not keep moving from house to house. **8** Whatever city you enter and they receive you, eat

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 what is set before you; **9** and heal those in it who are sick, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’ … **17** The seventy returned with

 joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in Your name.” **18** And He said to them, “I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning. **19** Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing will injure you. **20** Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven.”

 **Believers: (Mark 16:15-20) --** And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. **16** He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. **17** These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; **18** they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly *poison*, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” **19** So then, when the Lord Jesus had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. **20** And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.

 **Believers: (Matt. 28:18-20) -- 18** And Jesus came up and spoke to them,

saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. **19** Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, **20** teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

 **Eph. 1:3 – “**Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has

 blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ,”

*(Questions: Are you and I included among those who have received authority? What qualifications does Christ say are prerequisite to receiving this authority? What qualifications does Jesus NOT say but which we, as believers, might expect would be necessary in order to receive and exercise this authority? For what purposes has Christ conferred this authority upon believers?)*

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 6

1. **Does Jesus confer this authority only upon those who are spiritually mature or exceptionally “righteous”?**

**Gen. 20:17-18** -- 17So Abraham prayed unto God: and God healed Abimelech, and his wife, and his maidservants; and they bare children. 18For the LORD had fast closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech, because of Sarah Abraham's wife.

**John 21:15-19** -- 15So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs. 16He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 17He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus saith unto him, Feed my sheep. 18Verily, verily, I say unto thee, When thou wast young, thou girdest thyself, and walkedst whither thou wouldest: but when thou shalt be old, thou shalt stretch forth thy hands, and another shall gird thee, and carry thee whither thou wouldest not. 19This spake he, signifying by what death he should glorify God. And when he had spoken this, he saith unto him, Follow me.

**Romans 5:17** -- 17For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.

**1 Cor. 1:30** -- 30But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

*(Questions: Are you righteous or unrighteous? Is God dependent upon your righteousness to accomplish someone else’s healing through you? What is your responsibility in this regard?)*

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 7

1. **How do we exercise this authority?**

1. **We exercise the authority God has given us as a function of His Kingly office, allowing His spirit in us to command healing and deliverance.**
2. **Explanation of Christ’s three “offices” and their functions:**

 **1. Office: Priest (Man to God)**

 **Functions: prayer, praise, worship, sacrifice, intercession**

 **2. Office: Prophet (Edification of the Church)**

 **Functions: prophecy, teaching, helps, pastoring – areas in**

 **which believers exercise spiritual gifts (including gift of**

 **healing) according to their gifting.**

 **3. Office: King (God to/through Men)**

 **Functions: warfare – casting out demons, exercising authority**

 **over illness.**

 **Healing for most believers is a function of Christ’s Kingly office and not a function of the Priestly or Prophetic functions. In recognition of this fact, we do not confuse offices and do not seek to overcome demonic powers or illness by the functions of the Priestly office or the Prophetic office. Although it is a good thing to always pray – a priestly function –**

**for the sick, the act of exercising God’s authority against illness or**

**injury is an act of warfare, a function of the Kingly office, and is expressed by speaking forth commands.**

 **Acts 28:8 --** And it happened that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with recurrent fever and dysentery; and Paul went in to see him and AFTER he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him. (Emphasis

 added.)

 **John 11:41-43 -- 41** So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes,

 and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. **42** I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.” **43** When He had said (AFTER) these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.” (Emphasis

 added.)

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 8

1. **We also command healing as a function within Christ’s Kingly office.**

Acts 3:1-8 -- **1** Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the ninth *hour*, the hour of prayer. **2** And a man who had been lame from his mother’s womb was being carried along, whom they used to set down every day at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, in order to beg alms of those who were entering the temple. **3** When he saw Peter and John about to go into the temple, he *began* asking to receive alms. **4** But Peter, along with John, fixed his gaze on him and said, “Look at us!” **5** And he *began* to give them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. **6** But Peter said, “I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene—walk!” **7** And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. **8** With a leap he stood upright and *began* to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.

*(When we command someone to be healed, are we commanding God to do something? To whom or what are we speaking? Why should your commands bring about results? If you are drawing upon both the authority and the faith of God, what part of this process is your responsibility?)*

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 9

1. **When we command healing, what does that “look like”? What do we actually do?**
2. **First, Follow the leading of the Holy Spirit within you to discern**

**whether you should command healing in this person or not. Sometimes there may be other issues that would dictate you NOT command healing.**

1. **Ask questions. Be gentle, appropriate, unhurried and systematic. You want to understand these things:**
	1. **What is wrong with the person?**
	2. **What symptoms is the sick person seeing or feeling?**
	3. **Does he or she want to be healed?**
	4. **Do his or her actions reflect a desire to be healed?**
	5. **Is he or she is struggling with spiritual issues such as anger or depression which either caused or are a result of their illness? Is there a demonic issue that needs to be addressed as well?**
	6. **Exactly where does he or she hurt?,**
	7. **How will he or she be able to tell if healing is accomplished? (Is there some action or movement which you can’t do now because of this illness but which you can ask them to do after you command healing?)**
2. **Ask permission to “pray” for the sick person. If they give you**

**permission, explain to them exactly what you are going to do and that you expect God to act and to heal them.**

1. **Ask permission to place your hand(s) in an appropriate spot on or close to where the pain or illness most clearly manifests. Be very gentle. Be very careful not to touch anyone inappropriately.**
2. **I usually speak first to any spiritual powers which may be associated in any way with the illness, binding them and declaring to them that their assignment here is cancelled and their time of influence over this person is terminated permanently. As you do this, watch the person carefully and try to listen to the Holy Spirit as He may lead you to address particular spirits.**

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 10

1. **With the spirit realm addressed, then speak directly to the illness. You may choose to speak to specific symptoms, physical processes such as “blood-flow” or “inflammation,” or parts of the body such as, “Hand, be healed” or “Muscles, relax.”**
2. **Speak with authority. (This does not mean that you have to yell.) Command the symptoms not only to leave but also not to come back.**
3. **Speak in such a way as to honor God and not draw attention to yourself. Remember, you didn’t make the pizza and you don’t own the company; you’re just the delivery boy. Make sure your language reflects the understanding that it is God doing the healing, that it is by His favor and His power that you are acting, and you are only serving as His agent in this process.**
4. **When you are through speaking, step back. Give the person a moment to evaluate what has happened. Then, if he or she is not responding verbally, ask the person questions. “How do you feel now?” “Are you feeling differently now than you did just a few minutes ago?” “Is the pain entirely gone, or are you still hurting?” “If the pain is not entirely gone, can you tell me on a scale of one to ten how the pain is different than it was a few minutes ago?” “Can you move your hand (shoulder, leg, back, etc.) now?” “Will you try to walk now?”**
5. **Very often, the symptoms may be partially but not entirely relieved. In fact, there may be very dramatic change or almost no change at all at first. In that case, ask the person if you can repeat the process.**
6. **Explain to the person that the healing they’ve experienced happened NOT because of any special gift that you have but because Christ Himself loves them and wants to demonstrate the reality of His care and concern for them.**

*(Is there any part of this process which is unclear? If so, what questions are left*

*unanswered?)*

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 11

1. **Is this the same as the “gift of healing”? Are you saying that all believers have been afforded the “spiritual gift of healing”?**

 **The spiritual gift of healing is NOT afforded to all believers but to a**

 **chosen few in the same way that a gift of teaching or preaching is**

**afforded. The spiritual gift of healing is part of the prophetic office and is given to select people for the “edifying of the church.” (1 Cor. 14:3, 12)**

 **This teaching is not about the spiritual gift of healing but is about the authority to heal which is afforded to all believers. These are two separate concepts. Every believer has been afforded a measure of authority to heal; not every believer possesses the spiritual gift of healing. The apostle Peter apparently had a spiritual gift of healing as recorded in Acts 5.**

 **Acts 5:12-16 --**  **12** At the hands of the apostles many signs and wonders were taking place among the people; and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s portico. **13** But none of the rest dared to associate with them; however, the people held them in high esteem. **14** And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to *their number*, **15** to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. **16** Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.

*(Do you need to be blessed with a “spiritual gift” of healing in order to be an instrument of God’s healing? Can the same thing be said of the gift of teaching, the gift of helps, the gift of administration?)*

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 12

1. **Is faith important in a ministry of healing?**

 **The Scripture indicates that God acts in accordance to the faith of men.**

 **Matt. 13:58 -- 58** And He did not do many miracles there because of their

 unbelief.

 **Matt. 9:28-29 -- 28**And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. **29**Then touched he their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you.

 **Matt: 9:2-9** -- **2**And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. **3**And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. **4**And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? **5**For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? **6**But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. **7**And he arose, and departed to his house.

 **Faith involves a decision on our part to accept and embrace that which God has already accomplished and offers us because He loves us. Yet even faith itself is a gift from God; we do not conjure up or manufacture faith out of our own consciousness or human spirit. Faith is not a product of the natural man. Thus the entire process of belief in Him begins and ends and is continuously upheld by and in Him, and we are**

 **limited to receiving and exercising that faith which He provides. It is**

 **His faith -- the faith of and by God – which makes healing possible.**

 **The moment you begin to take credit for someone being healed, at that moment you have forfeited your faith in God and are drawing upon a counterfeit faith which is in yourself. God will not and should not honor**

**this counterfeit faith.**

**At the same time, your willingness to minister healing to someone who is sick is, in itself, a statement of faith that the Word of God will indeed**

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 13

**overcome illness and heal the sick. If you will honor Christ and manifest the faith to lay hands on someone and command healing, God will act on your behalf.**

 **Luke 17:5-6 -- 5** The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” **6** He replied, “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it will obey you.’

**Acts 3:16 -- 16**And his name through faith in his name hath made this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith WHICH IS BY HIM hath given

 him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all.

*(Where does faith come from? How do you acquire faith? What is the opposite of faith? Can the opposite of faith prevent someone from being healed? What can you do to prevent this from happening?)*

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 14

1. **Does the sick person have to be “saved” to be healed?**

 **No.**

 **As a matter of fact, healing is presented in the New Testament over and over again as a function of God acting among unsaved people to demonstrate His power and His love for them. Healing is a demonstration of God’s love which, in dealing with lost people, demonstrates the living reality of the Lord Jesus Christ, His power over sickness and sin, and His love for the lost. Heal people first, and then share the Gospel with them.**

 **John 9:1-12, 35-38 --**  **1** As He passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. **2** And His disciples asked Him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?” **3** Jesus answered, “*It was* neither *that* this man sinned, nor his parents; but *it was* so that the works of God might be displayed in him. **4** We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming when no one can work. **5** While I am in the world, I am the Light of the world.” **6** When He had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to his eyes, **7** and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which is translated, Sent). So he went away and washed, and came *back* seeing. **8** Therefore the neighbors, and those who previously saw him as a beggar, were saying, “Is not this the one who used to sit and beg?” **9** Others were saying, “This is he,” *still* others were saying, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the one.” **10** So they were saying to him, “How then were your eyes opened?” **11** He answered, “The man who is called Jesus made clay, and anointed my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash’; so I went away and washed, and I received sight.” **12** They said to him, “Where is He?” He \*said, “I do not know.”

 **35** Jesus heard that they had put him out, and finding him, He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” **36** He answered, “Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?” **37** Jesus said to him, “You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you.” **38** And he said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Him.

*(Do you know how to introduce someone to Christ -- to pray with them to ask the Lord Jesus to forgive their sins, breathe His Holy Spirit into them, and give them the assurance of His acceptance and eternal life?)*

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 15

1. **What happens when “nothing happens”?**

 **I try to analyze those situations where no healing occurs according to two criteria: (1) the truth of the Scripture and (2) our experience as we seek to follow Him. It is the preaching of some that God does not ever**

**want any believer to be sick and that, if someone is not healed, it is always attributable to unbelief. I do not believe this is what Scripture**

**teaches.**

 **If you as a believer lay hands on a person who is sick or injured and he**

 **or she is not healed, one of these reasons may apply:**

 **1. You may be facing an illness that does not respond immediately. You can lay hands on that person again and command healing as many as five or six times or more before you**

**see a significant result. The great healer john G. Lake used to send his students out with the name and address of someone who was sick and instructions not to return until they were well. Sometimes illness takes time to overcome. Sometimes healing is a process rather than a single momentary flash of spiritual power. Don’t quit.**

 **Mark 8:23-25 -- 23**And He caught the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village; and when He had spit on his eyes and put His hands upon him, He asked him, Do you see anything? **24**And he looked up and said, I see people, but [they look] like trees, walking. **25**Then He put His hands on his eyes again; and the man looked intently [that is, fixed his eyes on definite objects], and he was restored and saw everything distinctly [even what was at a distance].

 **2. It may be that you, the sick person or someone with you is**

 **holding on to unbelief.**

 **Matt. 13:58 -- 58** And He did not do many miracles there because of

their unbelief.

 **Matt. 17:14-21 -- 14** And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a man, kneeling to him, saying, **15** Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is epileptic, and suffereth grievously; for oft- times he falleth into the fire, and off-times into the water. **16** And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. **17** And

How to Minister Effectively to the Sick 16

 Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I bear with you? bring him

hither to me. **18** And Jesus rebuked him; and the demon went out of him: and the boy was cured from that hour. **19** Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast it out? **20** And he saith unto them, Because of your little faith: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. **21** But this kind goeth not out save by prayer and fasting.

 **3. You may be confusing offices. Although you can and perhaps**

 **should pray for the sick person, you do not heal by praying – a priestly function. You heal by commanding – a kingly function. If you confuse or blend the two, the healing may very well not happen. Just as you cannot provide confused directions to a child and expect him or her to obey, you should also not expect obedience if your direction to an illness or demonic power is confused or unclear.**

 **John 11:41-44 --** Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me. **42** I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me.” **43** When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth.” **44** The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus \*said to them, “Unbind him, and let him go.”

 **Acts 28:8 --** And it happened that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with recurrent fever and dysentery; and Paul went in to see him and after he had prayed, he laid his hands on him and healed him.

 **4. The sickness may be a “sickness unto death.” Even Lazarus died. In my work as a Hospice minister, I do not try to minister healing to many of my patients because I believe theirs is a “sickness unto death.” Rather, I focus on the symptoms of their illness which may be causing pain or discomfort. Often in my**

 **experience, God will relieve symptoms of an illness even as he**

 **does not eradicate or heal the sickness itself.**

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**John 11:1, 3-4 --**  **1**Now a certain man was sick, named Lazarus, of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha. **2**(It was that Mary which anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.) **3**Therefore his sisters sent unto him, saying, Lord, behold, he whom thou lovest is sick. **4**When Jesus heard that, he said, This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God might be glorified thereby.

 **5. The person may not want to be healed. For example, I will not try to minister healing to a lung cancer patient who continues to smoke. I have another friend who consistently asks for healing but, in counseling, will confess that, if he is healed, he will have to assume greater responsibility for his marriage, children and business…and he doesn’t want to do that. Finally, back pain is often associated with anger; a person who wants to be healed of back pain may have to first give up whatever it is that he or she is angry about for the healing to be effective.**

 **John 5:5-6 --** A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. **6** When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He \*said to him, “Do you wish to get well?”

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**XII. Special Note: Demonic issues.**

**There are illnesses unto death. There are illnesses unto the glory of God. And there are illnesses caused by or accompanied by the influence of demonic powers. If you lay hands on someone who has an illness caused by or accompanied by the influence of a demonic power, God in you still holds the authority to cast out the demonic power and the illness as well. You have all the more reason to minister in faith to this person!**

 **By experience of myself and others, an illness of demonic origin may be indicated through any one or more of the following symptoms:**

 **1. A complaint of pain which, upon the first laying on of hands, simply moves to another part of the body or manifests immediately in entirely different symptoms such as a choking sensation;**

 **2. The sick person hearing voices, often including profanity, or derisive laughter.**

 **3. The sick person experiencing a sudden dramatic shift in mood – becoming very angry, very frightened, or sad and withdrawn.**

 **4. The person being overcome by a spirit so that he or she begins to**

 **scream or shout, speak in other voices, curse or use profanity, or repeatedly collapse.**

 **5. The person going into a religious hysteria.**

 **IMPORTANT TRUTH: Understand this: while demons are also subject to the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ, the sick person has probably unintentionally “invited” that demonic power into a place of influence in his or her life through some sin, some trauma, perhaps some unknowing incident involving the occult. Even as you may have the authority to cast out that demon and effect a temporary healing, the sick person will probably require some sort of continued assistance to be able to remain free from the influence of that demonic power. That assistance will probably need to come from a pastor, counselor or other professionally trained person. First, do not walk away from this person, satisfied that your work is done, and leave them to their own devices. Encourage them strongly to pursue pastoral counsel, and** a

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 **follow-up to make sure that they do as you encourage. Second, tell your pastor about the incident and pass on the contact information to him.**

 **Luke 13:10-16** --  **10** And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. **11** And there was a woman who for eighteen years had had

sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all. **12** When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, “Woman, you are freed from your sickness.” **13** And He laid His hands on her; and immediately she was made erect again and *began* glorifying God. 14 But the synagogue official, indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, *began* saying to the crowd in response, “There are six days in which work should be done; so come during them and get healed, and not on the Sabbath day.” 15 But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites, does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the stall and lead him away to water *him*? 16 And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, whom Satan has bound for eighteen long years, should she not have been released from this bond on the Sabbath day?”

**1 John 3:8B --** The Son of God appeared for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

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**XIII. What Happens if Symptoms Return over Time?**

 Sometimes people may experience (1) an illness or injury which partially responds to ministry or (2) an illness or injury which seems to be healed but then “returns” after a period of time. Why do these things happen, and what can we do about them?

 **Partial Healing:** In my experience, partial healing happens for two reasons.

 The first is that we as ministers quit too soon, that we are fooled into thinking that a healing simply won’t happen at all or is completely accomplished when it is not. It is the nature of the illness and the enemy to resist. Like a child, they will try to avoid obedience by offering partial compliance or delayed compliance. In healing, partial compliance means an incomplete eradication of an illness as judged by perhaps reduced but ongoing symptoms. It is up to us to discern the activity of the enemy and demand full compliance. In the ministry of healing, this may mean a longer time of ministry or repeated incidents of ministry, sometimes six or seven until the symptoms are completely gone or the Holy Spirit indicates that our work is complete. In most cases, I try to continue ministry until the healing is complete unless (1) the Holy Spirit directs me otherwise or (2) the patient asks me to stop.

 **Temporary Healing:** Often, a person who submits to healing ministry will experience a temporary period of relief and then, at some point, symptoms return.

 In my experience, these occurrences are very often anchored in deeper spiritual issues. What I believe is that, as people experience life, the enemy often waits for times of stress or trauma and uses those occasions to attack us. When it attacks, it’s as if it draws upon the turmoil of some traumatic circumstance to plant a lie into our hearts or minds. Common lies are things like these:

1. “You’re a failure! You’ll never be good at anything!”
2. “This bad thing that happened is your fault!”
3. “This thing is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_’s fault. You have every right to be angry and hate them for it!”
4. “You’re unlovable! No one will ever really love you.”
5. “Are you kidding? God heal you? Look at the kind of person you are!”
6. “This injury (illness) is God’s judgment upon you for your sin. You deserve it and must bear up under it.”

When people embrace the lies and accusations of the enemy, the lies grow and fester, producing stress in that person’s life and, often, the lives of people

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around them. Very, very often that stress manifests within their physical bodies, causing muscles to tighten, blood vessels to constrict, digestive acids to increase, blood pressure to increase, etc. When spiritual roots are left unaddressed, the continuous lingering stress causes further problems such as ulcers, high blood pressure, chronic back or shoulder pain, migraine, immune disorders, etc.

 In these cases, healing ministry may produce dramatic but temporary effects. The physical stresses and pain can disappear completely, but the underlying lie is still intact, still present, still unaddressed. Over time, that lie will continue to fester, producing more stress, and symptoms will re-emerge.

 What can we as ministers do? If symptoms re-appear, then a longer and deeper ministry is needed. With the sick person’s permission and cooperation, you need to ask questions, listen to his or her story, explore emotions and history – all the while asking God to reveal the lie which rests at the very root of their pain. This must be a careful process, always carried out with utmost regard for the patient and both of your well-being and potential exposure. Once the lie is identified and made plain, the sick person can then speak out God’s truth, professing His truth, breaking down the root of illness or injury, and handing that matter over to God. These incidents are literal instances of a great spiritual law: the truth will always set you free. (John 8:32) Once the lie is identified and truth received, we can minister healing again, and, very often, symptoms will not re-occur.

 My recommendation is that, in the event that this second intervention is necessary, you as the minister always have someone else there with you, a person in whom you have confidence, a person chosen by you and acceptable to the patient – but NOT a person chosen by the patient. That additional person should be a mature believer, above reproach, and should be of the same gender as is the patient. That second person needs to be there NOT to take the lead but to provide you with legal covering, a second set of ears to hear both the patient and the Holy Spirit, and prayer support.

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**XIV. Important Do’s & Don’t’s!**

1. **Do follow the leading of the Holy Spirit in all things. God may lead you NOT to minister healing to a particular person or may give you some spiritual knowledge as to factors causing or contributing to the illness. LISTEN to the voice of the Holy Spirit.**
2. **Don’t think that you possess this authority out of some special blessing, personal holiness, or exclusive divine favor. It’s not about you. It’s all about Him. Don’t confuse this authority which is given to all believers with the more exclusive spiritual gift of healing. Once again, it’s not about you. You’re a delivery boy, nothing more.**
3. **In the same way, don’t be discouraged if there appears to be no immediate result from your ministry. Review the facts in your mind, pray for revelation, embrace the possibility that it may be a healing which God accomplishes “by process” or over time, and continue to watch and pray for that person. Once again, listen to the Holy Spirit.**
4. **Be as modest and appropriate as possible. You are talking about**

**people’s bodies and bodily functions. Do not, under any circumstances, let your ministry lead you into a sexual situation. Do not touch anyone inappropriately. If you minister to a person of the opposite sex, draw in another person of the same gender as the sick person to be there with you so as to avoid any opportunity to fall into temptation.**

1. **Try not to minister in the presence of a lot of other people. You don’t know what sort of spiritual influence or unbelief they may carry with them. If you are uncomfortable in some situation, call someone else that understands healing or can be there to pray for you and provide a witness, and ask them to come along with you.**

 **6. Don’t confuse offices. Don’t pray when you need to be commanding.**

1. **Do be ready to share the Gospel with those who are healed or those**

**who witness the healing.**

1. **Finally, please stay in touch. I’m Dave Diamond, and you can reach me at (985) 630-1186 or by e-mail at dave@davediamond.net.**