



When You Come for Prayer and the Laying on of Hands

By Brother David Jardine

Prayer and the laying-on of hands is a very powerful way to receive the grace of God. When we come for this ministry two important processes are at work. Those who are praying for us will be asking that the power of God's Holy Spirit will come into every part of our lives. But we have an important role to play as well. It is always helpful when we can co-operate by being open to receive the Spirit.

This leaflet gives some advice on how to prepare ourselves to receive God's healing.

Our relationship with Jesus - the closer we are to Jesus the better position we place ourselves in to receive His healing. So it is worth looking at our relationship with Jesus from time to time. Are we offering our whole selves to Him? Are we really trying to live our lives for Him? This is certainly the most important step of all.

To make this act of commitment of our lives to Jesus will bring healing itself and will also make us more open to receive healing for the particular need that we bring to Him. Prayer, bible-reading, worship, attendance at Holy Communion, Christian fellowship and living in obedience to Jesus will all help us to build on this relationship.

It is certainly true that when He was here on earth Jesus healed many people who were not his followers. He can and does do that today. But I still believe that the closer we are to Jesus the better position we place ourselves in to receive His healing.

Do you want to get well? — that was the question Jesus asked the man at the pool of Bethesda who had been

crippled for thirty eight years. It may seem a silly question to ask someone who had been disabled for so long. But Jesus is making it clear here that our attitude is important. We must want to get well. We must be prepared to make any changes in our lives that God asks us to make. He may be asking us to put right a relationship, to stop holding a resentment, to give up a particular sin, to take more exercise, to lose weight, to stop smoking, to put right our relationship with Him. When Jesus asks us, *'Do you want to get well?'* we must strongly answer *'Yes'* and be prepared to take any measures that He asks to quicken up the healing process.

Keep your eyes on Jesus - remember when you come for prayer that it is to Jesus you come. He is the one who heals. So when those ministering place their hands upon your head it helps to picture Jesus coming and placing his hands on top of theirs and releasing His mighty healing power in every part of you. Keep your eyes on Jesus during ministry and then go away afterwards with your eyes still focused upon Him. Do not go away from the service wondering if anything happened or, worse still, convinced that nothing happened. Go away giving thanks for the prayer, giving thanks by faith that Jesus is responding to that prayer and bringing healing into your life. Praise and thanksgiving can help to nurture the seed of healing that has been sown.

If you like, you can take five minutes three times per day to give thanks in this way, and then at other times during the day, if you start to think negatively about your health, very gently replace that thought with a very short prayer of thanksgiving that God is healing you.

Jesus wants to heal you - Jesus never refused to heal any sick person who came to Him when He was here on earth. He does not want people to be ill. He wants them to be well. He came that we might have life and have it in all its fullness. He died on the cross to set us free from everything that oppresses us, including sickness. So when you come for ministry remember that you are coming to One who is on your side and is yearning to set you free from your own particular illness.

'Let us boldly approach the throne of our gracious God, where we may receive mercy and in His grace find timely help'
Hebrews 4:16

Wholeness - when you come for ministry be specific about the healing that you are looking for; do not be vague. When two blind men came to Jesus He asked them *'What do you want me to do for you?'* *'Sir, we want our sight back!'*

That answer was specific. Be specific when you come for ministry: Tell those praying for you that you want ministry for a broken arm, arthritis in the knees, cancer of the liver, anxiety about your son, or whatever. But don't just come for a physical cure. Come for the healing of the whole person - body, mind, spirit, relationships with others, emotions, relationship with God, etc.

'Divine healing is an endeavour through prayer, counselling, the laying on of hands and anointing with oil to bring someone in need of wholeness the healing love of the living Christ'

Be steeped in the Scriptures - especially the Gospels, because the Gospels tell us about Jesus and His healing ministry. Remember that Jesus came not just to preach and to teach, but also to heal the sick. He wants the Church to have that threefold ministry today. You can receive a lot of encouragement from the healing miracles that Jesus performed. It did not matter how long the person had been ill for, how serious or deep-seated the illness, in every single case He was able to make them well.

'All who were ill were brought to Jesus and He was begged to allow them to simply touch the edge of His cloak, and all who touched it were completely healed.'

Unfortunately, not everyone who comes for prayer today is healed exactly as when Jesus was here on earth. But if you are steeped in the Scriptures it will give you encouragement to believe that the healing touch of Jesus is for today and that He really does want to make you well.

Medical treatment - in the Ministry of Divine Healing we wish to work hand-in-hand with the medical profession. Every one of us have reason to be grateful to them on many occasions in our lives for their skill, knowledge and expertise. We thank God for them. But the ministry of Divine Healing offers another dimension, a spiritual dimension. It can quicken up the effects of medical treatment; it can guide doctors in their diagnosis and treatment: It can bring spiritual and psychological healing and peace while medical treatment is being received. Indeed, when the medical people can do no more, the Church's Ministry of Healing can still offer the possibility of healing. Do continue to go to your doctor,

and obey his instructions, but remember that the ministry of prayer also offers at the same time a vital complimentary ministry.

Our response to healing received - our response must be one of thanksgiving and offering ourselves in a deeper way in God's service. We are not healed by God just to use that selfishly for ourselves. We must use whatever measure of healing we receive in His service, to glorify Him. For healing received our prayer ought to be:

*'Lord send us out in the power of Your Spirit, to live and work to Your praise and glory'.
Amen*

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