

Power to Heal

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Acts 3:1-10.

B. Peter and John were in the Temple because the time had not yet come where the Spirit would indwell them.

II. The healing.

A. Jesus always captivated the attention of the one He wanted to heal.

B. This roused expectation and faith

1. To receive something from God one must expect it.
2. Many do not receive something from God because they simply turn off their minds.
3. Many can be raised in the church without showing any evidence of God because they have never really heard that word from God.

C. Peter admitted his physical need but spoke of his spiritual abundance as he brought healing to the man.

D. The church is called to declare its bankruptcy in the realm of the material and its abundance in the realm of the spiritual.

1. The church is not called to meet financial needs, although it must do so.
2. The church is called to meet spiritual needs at its core.
3. Witness is the human explanation of an act that only God can do.

III. Healing in the church today.

A. There are two types of passages from Scriptures on healing.

1. Those that were intended to be witnesses to the gospel and authenticate its messengers. (Mark 16, II Corinthians 12, Hebrews 2)
2. Passages indicating that God does heal any time by grace. (James 5)
 - a. God does not have to heal, and He does not always heal.
 - b. Paul could not heal Epaphroditus by himself. (Philippians)

B. Every miracle is a parable symbolically speaking to the important things happening inside a person.

1. God always offers to make the inside of a man whole.
2. Jesus is the secret to adequacy.

Application questions:

1. How would you respond to someone who says that it is more important to feed the poor than share the gospel?

2. Does God guarantee healing if one has enough faith? Explain.

3. How can the church be effective in healing today?
