

# What we believe about healing...

John Wimber's teaching really captures the spirit of we are trying to communicate in this paper:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U7wLM77curg>

We believe the fight is on for a greater and more consistent breakthrough with healing that is lined up with Who God is and what His Word teaches us.

We will not solve everything to do with healing! There is an element of mystery to physical healing. Smith Wigglesworth known as the 'Apostle of Faith' had a daughter, Alice, who was never healed of her deafness despite praying for her many times. He himself experienced illness and disability. Wigglesworth said this: '**He who can explain divine healing can explain God**'.

## Summary Points from this Paper

1. **God is healer:** God is called Healer and wants to heal and has always been healing. His identity is healer.
2. **God heals because of covenant not performance:** Healing comes from God's nature and covenant with us, not our performance. Our God is a healing God. It is in His nature to put things right. *Rev 21*
3. **God answers specific prayers for healing:** *James 5*
4. **Jesus represents the Father:** Jesus is the radiance/outshining of the Father *Hebrews 1* and modelled a lifestyle of Kingdom advance including healing. Jesus demonstrated the nature of God by going around doing good, healing the sick and setting the captives free, and in doing so waged war on the Devil. *Acts 10:38*
5. **Everything flows from the victory of the cross:** Christ the winner/victor is ringing in our ears. *Col 1*
6. **Jesus views sickness as an enemy and fights:** Sickness was never meant to be part of things. As a result of the fall, it came into creation as an enemy. It remains, however, under the sovereign will of God (His permissive will). The primary source of sickness is from the devil and the product of a fallen creation. God's sovereignty means He must

always have allowed something, but this does not mean that He sent it. Sickness is *always* seen as an enemy by Jesus and He attacks it like one.

7. **God's will is to heal:** Jesus healed everyone who approached Him for themselves or on behalf of someone else and *faith* was in the mix somewhere! There is not one account where Jesus turned a sick person away refusing to heal them.
8. **Jesus was motivated by compassion:** Jesus felt compassion and ministered with compassion. Healing must be motivated by love and compassion.
9. **Jesus loves faith:** Jesus marvelled at the Centurion's faith! Faith is always present somewhere and in someone.
10. **Kingdom healing means we aim for the whole package:** Saved, healed and delivered.
11. **Jesus' divinity and humanity:** Jesus is fully man and fully God. His ministry was a product of His Spirit filled life, with him choosing not to minister out his divinity, therefore He is an example to us of what is possible for us as Spirit filled believers.
12. **Apostolic Assignment:** We have been commissioned to continue the work Jesus begun on the earth ([Acts 1+2](#)) and as we do we wage war on the enemy. (Apostolic assignment).
13. **Mystery:** We are comfortable with the answer "I don't know" (mystery) when someone is not healed, but our starting place is expectation for a miracle. Today is a great day for a miracle! We go after the miracle and pastor people in the process.
14. **Living in the radical middle:** The challenge is to step out and believe for more, risking disappointment, whilst also trusting God to be God – **Miracle with Mystery!** *"I don't know how much of the Kingdom we are supposed to see come but it must be more than we are seeing" (Simon Holley).*

**Simon Holley Helpfully writes:**

*"We have found that sticking to a simple theology is the best way to keep the heart free from this unpleasant rock of disappointment. God is good. Devil is bad. God can use bad for good but he doesn't want bad...There are nuances, there are complications but fundamentally it was the devil who came to 'steal and kill and destroy' (John 10:10), while Jesus on the other hand, 'came doing good and healing all those who were oppressed by the devil' (Acts 10:38). We would do well not to forget it"*

**The following captures the prevalent theological principles and practices related to healing:**

**Healing Certifies Lordship:** Healing certifies the resurrection, Lordship, glory and the message of Jesus. It is part of the Kingdom of God being near. Proclamation is accompanied by demonstration. [Matt 9:35](#);

**Willing:** God is always willing to heal.

**Faith:** The importance of faith being in the mix with someone.

**Compassion:** The importance of compassion.

**The Name:** The importance of the name of Jesus

**The Cross:** There is a definite link between the cross and healing; [Matt 8 and Is 53](#).

**Intimacy:** The importance of intimacy with the Holy Spirit and ministering healing.

**Warfare:** Healing is a matter of spiritual warfare.

**Our Authority:** We have been commissioned to heal; [Matt 10, John 14:12](#).

**Demonic Sickness:** Normative NT view is that sickness is from Satan.

**Transformed thinking:** It is normative to see sickness as a work of the enemy and therefore ministering healing is a matter Kingdom warfare. This takes away doublemindedness.

***Adrian Holloway writes:***

***In summary, God heals because of...***

- a) His eternal desire to glorify Himself and His Son.
- b) His deep compassion for those who are suffering.
- c) His constant willingness to respond to those who have faith.
- d) His response to His own command and promise to the church.

None of these have changed since New Testament times. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever [Heb 13v8](#). Death and disease have no part in God's original purpose for us, and they play no part in his ultimate purpose for us in the new heaven and new earth. God is against sickness and disease, and Jesus has inaugurated the Kingdom and commissioned His church with authority to see the Kingdom of God come on earth. [Luke 22:29](#).

## Practical Suggestions

1. Recognition that the Christian life is not *like* a war, it *is* a war.
2. We press even more intentionally for healing, on the streets and in our meetings, based on the nature of God, the lifestyle of Jesus and the apostolic assignment that we have been given that requires faith-filled militancy to see the Kingdom of God come.
3. We are to live out Jesus' apostolic prayer [Matt 6:10](#) 'On earth as it is in heaven'.
4. We are comfortable with saying that it is normative for sickness to be from the devil and that God's will is to heal, whilst accepting there is some mystery and need for pastoral sensitivity and discernment.
5. We approach sickness as an enemy that we are assigned to attack and minister Kingdom healing to.
6. We are diligent about building a culture that can cope with disappointment and mystery without it impacting the confidence to keep pressing for more.
7. We multiply the contexts we are praying for the sick and we run with everything we have after this.