

YOU CAN PRAY EFFECTIVELY FOR HEALING

July 21, 2013 Various Texts by Bob Branch
Connecting With God Thru Prayer, Part 12

MAIN IDEA: You can effectively pray for healing... if you are willing to learn and step out in faith. Today, a more solid biblical foundation for healing prayer.

- **A biblical foundation can be new and threatening**
- **Much learning is involved...** with success and failure.
- **Why do some get healed and others don't?**
- **What if I don't have the gift of healing?** (1 Cor. 12:9; 28)

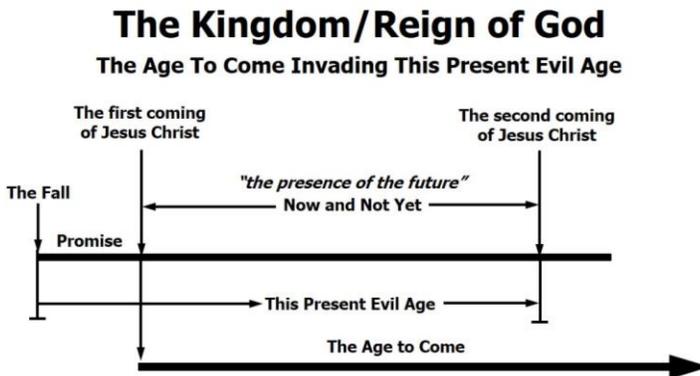
"these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." **Mark 16:17-18** (James 5:15)

"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father." **John 14:12**

Healing is in the KINGDOM.

"Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God is near you.'" **Luke 10:9**

"But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you." **Matthew 12:28**



- Jesus brought the kingdom of heaven to earth, the restoration power of the age to come has invaded.
- He promised that we would do the same things he did.
- Healing came with the kingdom, and it still breaks in thru us!
- We live in the tension of the ***now and the not yet***.

Jesus Is Our MODEL.

"...who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross." **Phil. 2:6-8** ESV

"For this reason he had to be made like them, fully human in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people." **Heb. 2:17**

“...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.” **Acts 10:38**

How Did Jesus Do It? He operated in at least 4 dimensions...

1. He was **ANOINTED** by the Spirit (and approved by the Father) at his baptism. (Mat. 3:16-17; Mk. 1:9-11; Luke 4:14, 18-21)
2. He looked for the **INITIATIVE** and leadership of the Father and joined him. (John 5:17, 19-20, 30)
3. He utilized the **GIFTS** of the Spirit with amazing fluency. (Lk. 5:17; 9:47; Mt. 9:4; 16:16-17; 21:2-3; Jn. 1:47; 4:18; 6:14; cf. 1 Cor. 12:7-11)
4. He was propelled by the **HEART** of the Father and on his mission. (Mt. 9:36; 14:14; 20:34; Mark 1:38)

All these are available to us. Doing the works of Jesus, the way Jesus did them. (14:12 promise).

1. You need to be anointed by the Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2:2-4, 17-18; 4:29-31) and move in the Father's love (1 John 3:1; 4-7-10).
2. We look for and follow the initiative and leadership of the Father and join him. (John 5:17, 19-20, 30)
3. We can utilize the gifts of the Spirit which are generously given. (1 Cor. 12:7-11, 31; 14:1)
4. We should be propelled by the heart of the Father and on his mission. (Mt. 28:18-20)
5. We can imitate Jesus' model as we pray for the sick. (Luke 4:39; Mark 1:25; 8:22-26)

Jesus came, not just to bring you to heaven, but to bring heaven to you, and to everyone else through you! Jesus did it. His disciples did it. 72 other disciples did it. Early church folk did it. We can do it!

We are invited to do the works of Jesus (bring the kingdom, healing and freeing people), the way Jesus did them, under the anointing of the Spirit, with the direction of the Father.