

JESUS' HEALING POWER: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO OUR SUFFERING TODAY?

Can Jesus heal us today in the way He healed when He walked the earth?

The speaker at our church on Sunday said that “talking about Jesus starts with gratitude and amazement.” Gratitude for what He did for us and amazement about how He can heal...and He still *can* heal, even today. As we discuss this topic today, let's keep this picture of Jesus in mind.

Although there have been many reports of total healings, even today, I believe that Jesus doesn't usually heal in one fell swoop. It's done bit by bit as we trust and obey, as we persistently ask for His help.

What could you ask for? What could you hope for?

- Times of a little less pain?
- A glimmer of light shining in the darkness?
- Refreshment of some kind now and then?
- The comfort of a hug from a friend?
- Moments of peace?
- A touch of courage?
- A strengthening of the spirit?

These, and many other things, can all be parts of the healing Jesus brings to us. Healing can come in bits and pieces as we trust and obey.

Often healing means simply recognizing Christ's love and sensing it within you. It might mean sharing that love with others. It might mean being so absorbed by Christ's love that you can't help showing it to others – being so absorbed by it that our own pain lessens.

Note this powerful statement of God's love:

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

1 John 3:1

And note also how God wants us to love and help others as Jesus does for us:

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.

1 John 3:16

On Sunday, the speaker touched on some of these things. As we sang the last song, I couldn't help being carried away with the moment. I noticed a young woman I knew in the pew in front of me, obviously in some emotional distress. I leaned over and hugged her gently, telling her I loved her. I felt her suffering and, feeling God's spirit within me, I wanted to comfort her. In

doing so I felt myself absorb some of her pain. I felt Jesus within me and it helped me feel whole.

I told my husband about it when I got home, telling him how it had made me feel. Not understanding, he said it was an inappropriate thing to do. But in the presence of God – in the sanctuary – surely it *is* what God would want us to do.

As God comforts us, we can comfort others “with the same comfort God has shown us.”

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

As I said, so much of our healing comes as the result of love – the love we receive, but I think, just as much by the love we give.

- Have you ever felt a measure of healing after showing love to someone?

Refer to the list of healings at the beginning of this handout.

- What healings have you experienced? And how did it happen?

Jesus can heal because, in love and with compassion, He understands our pain. And can we not be for Him as His apostles were? Agents who could bring healing on His behalf? After all, each of us knows pain.

- How can we help bring Christ’s healing power to others? What could we personally, with the help of God’s spirit, do?
- Through that, how can we ourselves find healing too?

As we said at the beginning, be persistent in asking Jesus for healing in whatever ways He chooses to give it to you.