

"Get Up and Walk!" Faith and Healing

Matthew 9: 5.



“Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’?”
Matthew 9: 5



I. Introduction: HEALING

Healing is the process through which God with His unlimited power produces strength of body, cleansing of the soul, and uplifting of the spirit. Jesus, during His ministry, showed that He is the source of not only the physical recovery but also of the spiritual awakening. He gave to human beings a foretaste of the everlasting life in His presence.



“All the saving events and all the saving blessings of the gospel are means of getting obstacles out of the way so that we might know and enjoy God most fully. Propitiation, redemption, forgiveness, imputation, sanctification, liberation, healing, heaven – none of these is good news except for one reason: they bring us to God for our everlasting enjoyment of him.”
John Piper, God is the Gospel, p. 47.



“This life is not godliness, but growth in godliness; not health, but healing; not being, but becoming; not rest, but exercise. We are not now what we shall be, but we are on the way; the process is not yet finished, but it has begun; this is not the goal, but it is road; at present all does not gleam and glitter, but everything is being purified.”

Martin Luther, A Defense and Explanation of All Articles, AE 32:24.



“The sick one who is acquainted with his sickness is easily to be cured; and he who confesses his pain is near to health. Many are the pains of the hard heart; and when the sick one resists the physician, his torments will be augmented.”

Isaac the Syrian, 7th century,
“Six Treatises on the Behaviour
of Excellence”



“If Christ has healed you, obey Him! Obey Him at once, obey Him exactly, obey Him in everything, be it little, or be it great! If some say it is nonessential, remember that what is not essential to salvation may be essential to obedience! Do it if Jesus commanded it. Do it whether it appears to you to be essential or not!... if He puts it to you, ‘He that believes and is baptized shall be saved,’ believe and be baptized. Be obedient unto Him who deserves to be obeyed.”
John Wesley, 1895, Sermon #2417



“Jesus is still in the healing business. He is able to heal us from whatever ails us. Whether we are suffering physically, emotionally (from depression), or some sin that has us in its grip, God is able to heal us. For those whose lives have thrown them into intense bondage, there is something that is necessary on your part. You must give your life to Jesus. It’s usually the case of those who have sold out to sin that they must fully surrender to Christ with all their heart. It’s then that salvation, deliverance and complete wholeness comes into their life. On the authority of God’s Word, God is still in the business of saving, delivering and healing.”

Gary Linton

“If we are honest with ourselves, we must admit that we, more often than not, tend to fix our eyes on the problem. Then as we dwell on it, we allow it grow until it becomes to us this huge mountain before us. However, in the eyes of our great and awesome God, it is but a speck of dust, which He can blow away by the gentlest breath. It can become all too easy to take our eyes off the awesomeness of God, to fleetingly gaze upon the circumstances, rather than fix our eyes upon our God who is able to do far above all we can ask or think.

My friend, let me encourage you today with these words from Ephesians 3:20 (KJV), “Unto Him that is able He is to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we can ask or think.” Our God is able to do whatever it is you need Him to do. Our God is able to heal you, to rescue you, to save you. He is able to meet all your needs, to turn things around for you. He can restore you, heal your broken marriage, forgive you, and show you mercy and grace. Our God is able to answer all your prayers.”

Matthew MacDonald

“Jesus was moved by compassion for those in need. Matthew records that as He went throughout the cities and villages, “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd” (Matt. 9:36). On another occasion when Jesus saw the only son of a widow being carried out for burial, He had compassion on the woman and raised her son to life (Luke 7:11–14). Jesus’ acts of healing, then, had a two-fold purpose. Clearly, they were needed as an authentication of His divine Sonship. But in the process Jesus wanted to respond to true human needs.”

Jerry Bridges

II. Context



The texts about the power of Jesus to heal people (Matthew 8: 28 – 9: 8) is inserted between the portions of the text regarding the importance of following Jesus (8: 18 – 27 and 9: 9 - 17). Thus, the ministry of healing is in the center of what can be considered as a transition between two majors speeches of Jesus in the book of Matthew (Sermon on the Mountain, chapter 5 – 7, and the Speech about Discipleship and Leadership, chapter 10)



The Gospel of Matthew, Jesus' Ministry of Healing. 8: 1 – 9: 38. Structure

A	8: 1 – 17	Jesus' Ministry of Healing
I	8: 1 – 4	Healing of a Leper
II	8: 5 – 13	Healing of a Centurion's Servant
III	8: 14 - 15	Healing of Peter's Mother-in-Law
IV	8: 16 - 17	Healing of the Multitude in Fulfillment of a Prophecy
B	8: 18 – 27	Following Jesus
V	8: 18 – 20	Homeless Teacher
VI	8: 21 - 22	Necessity for the followers to surrender everything to Jesus
VII	8: 23 - 27	The Disciples of Jesus followed Him in the crossing of the sea. Jesus rebukes winds
A'	8: 28 – 9: 8	Jesus' Ministry of Healing
VIII	8: 28 - 34	Healing of demon-possessed men
IX	9: 1 – 8	Healing of a paralytic
B'	9: 9 – 17	Following Jesus
X	9: 9 - 13	Matthew becomes the Disciple of Jesus
XI	9: 14 - 17	Jesus Considers the Disciples as Friends of the Bridegroom
A''	9: 18 – 38	Jesus' Ministry of Healing
XII	9: 18 – 26	Healing of a Daughter and a Woman
XIII	9: 27 – 31	Healing of Two Blind Men
XIV	9: 32 – 34	Healing of a Mute Man
XV	9: 35 - 38	Healing of the Multitude as the Fulfillment of the Mission of Jesus

Gradual increase of the impact of Jesus' Ministry of Healing

1	8: 4	A Secret Healing, without Publicity "See that you tell no one"
2	8: 34	Rejection of Jesus "And when they saw Him, they begged Him to depart from their region"
3	9: 8	Giving Glory to God "Now when the multitude saw it, they marveled and glorified God"
4	9: 26	Report into all that land "And the report of this went out into all that country"
5	9: 31	Report in all the Country "They spread the news about Him in all that country"
6	9: 33. 34.	Division among the multitude: Pharisees rejects Jesus "But the Pharisees said, "He casts out demons by the ruler of the demons"
2	9: 35	The Public Ministry of Jesus in all Cities and Villages "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages"

Five Speeches in the Gospel of Matthew and Five Books of Moses

The Meaning of the Law

The Torah Revisited

The Book of DEUTERONOMY

The New Meaning of the Law

The Spirit of the Law re-explained

The New DEUTERONOMY

Matthew
Ch. 5 – 7

Organization, Leadership

Moses sends 12 spies to explore the land

The Book of Numbers

Discipleship, Leadership

Jesus sends 12 disciples to transform the land

The New Numbers

Matthew
Ch. 10

The Great Controversy (GC)

The worship, the Atonement, GC (ch.16)

The Book of Leviticus

The Great Controversy (GC)

The Parable of the Tares and GC (36-52)

The New Leviticus

Matthew
Ch. 13

The Birth of God's People

Children of Israel coming out of Egypt

The Book of Exodus

The Church, new people of God

Children entering God's kingdom

The New Exodus

Matthew
Ch. 18

Creation, our Origins

Garden of Eden, God's plan for this Planet

The Book of Genesis

New Kingdom, Our Destiny

New Garden of Eden, God's plan for this Planet

The New Genesis

Matthew
Ch. 23-25

Five Speeches in the Gospel of Matthew

Speech #1 (Chapters 5 – 7)

The New Meaning of the Law (DEUTERONOMY)

Jesus' explanation of the Spirit of the Law, underlining the beauty of God's Revelation on Sinai

Speech #2 (Chapter 10)

The New Concept of Discipleship (NUMBERS)

The role of twelve disciples, their authority, and their mission. The new way of conceiving leadership.

Speech #3 (Chapter 13)

The New Vision of God's Kingdom (LEVITICUS)

God's plans for the triumph of His concept of love in the context of the Great Controversy

Speech #4 (Chapter 18)

The New Call to Come Out and to be Part of God's people (Exodus)

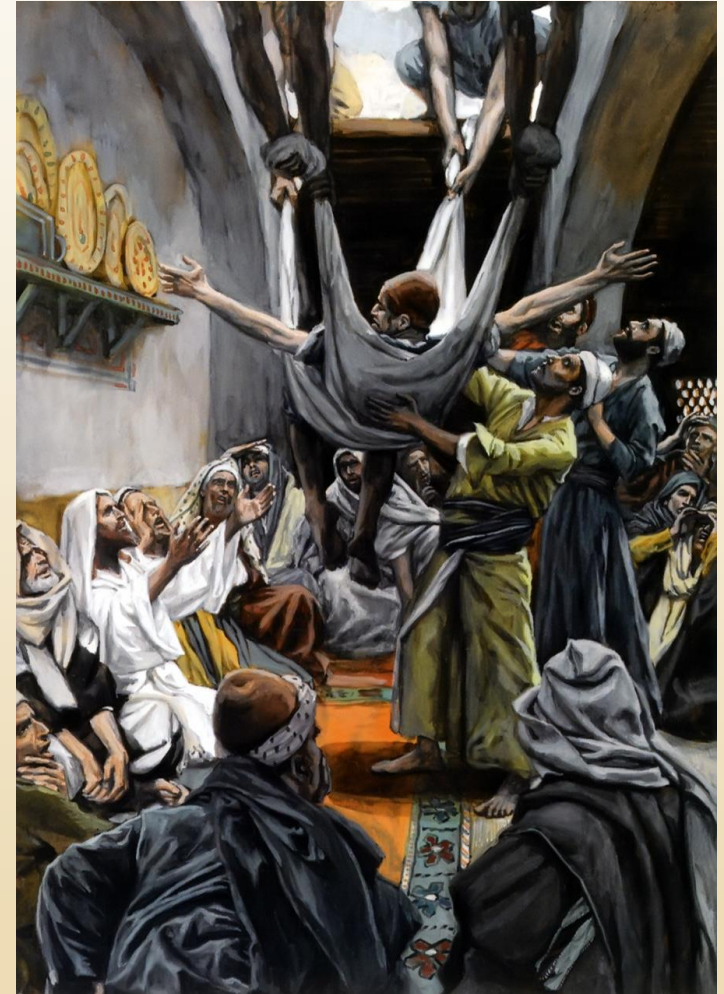
God's church (Ecclesia in Greek, which means "called out or forth").

Speech #5 (Chapter 23-25)

The New Presentation of God's Kingdom (Genesis)

After a long conflict, Jesus presents a place where we can live with God forever.

III. In the story of paralytic, the true character of God was displayed to men: His compassion and His desire to transform difficult human situations became so obvious. Jesus Christ was truly the long-awaited Savior.



1. Jesus had the authority to forgive sins

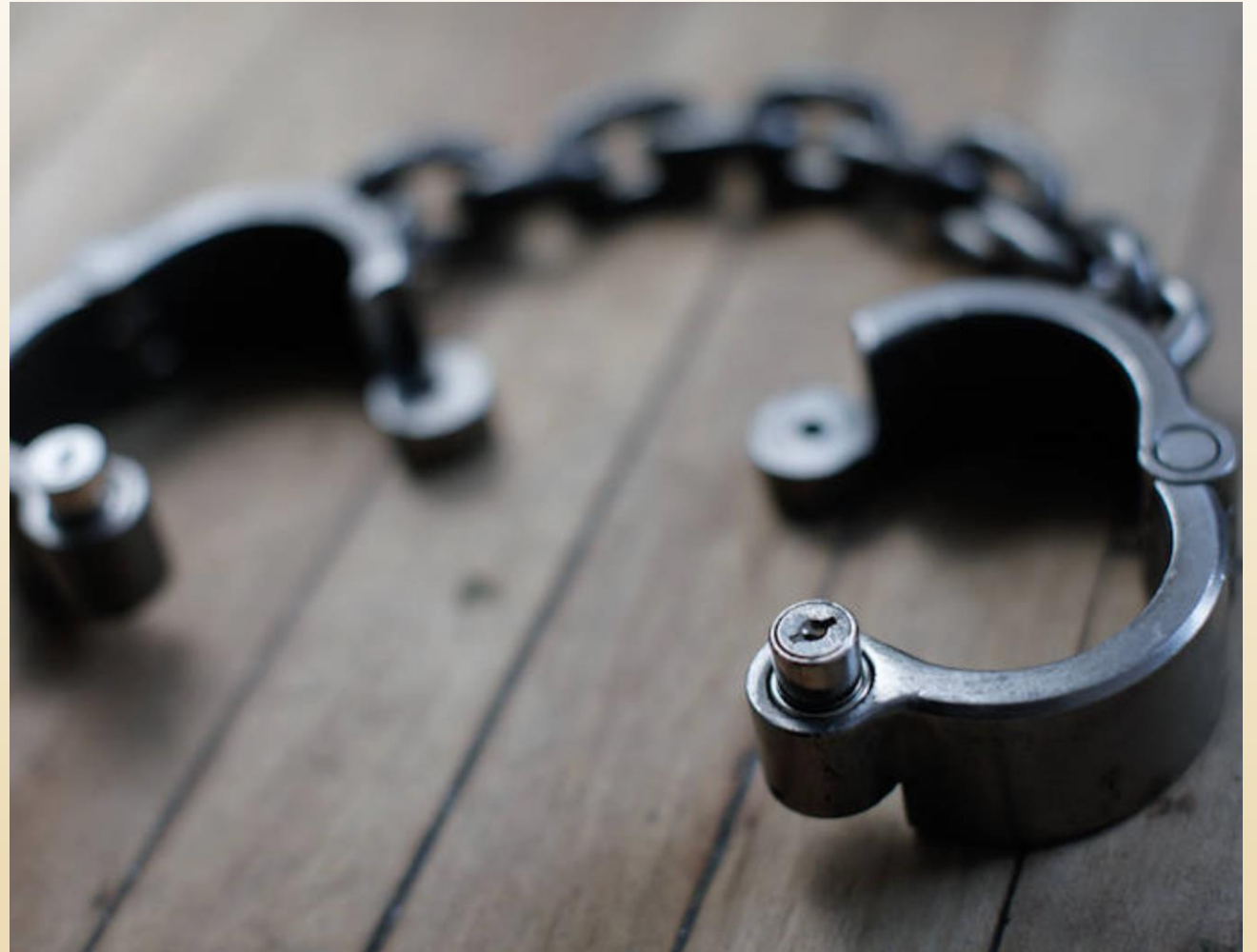
"Your sins are
forgiven"



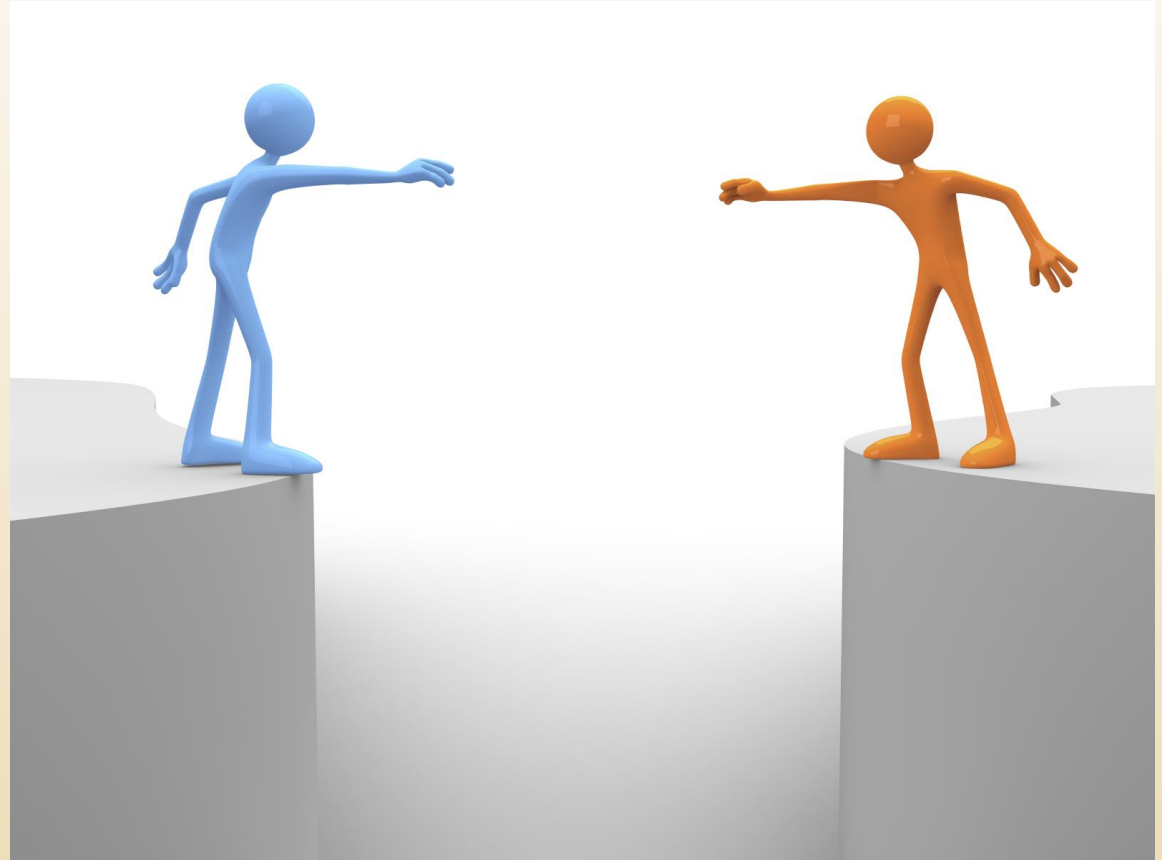
“The paralytic found in Christ healing for both the soul and the body. He needed health of soul before he could appreciate health of body. Before the physical malady could be healed, Christ must bring relief to the mind, and cleanse the soul from sin. This lesson should not be overlooked. There are today thousands suffering from physical disease who, like the paralytic, are longing for the message, “Thy sins are forgiven.” The burden of sin, with its unrest and unsatisfied desires, is the foundation of their maladies. They can find no relief until they come to the Healer of the soul. The peace which He alone can impart would restore vigor to the mind and health to the body.”

Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 77.

“God's forgiveness is not merely a judicial act by which He sets us free from condemnation. It is not only forgiveness for sin, but reclaiming from sin. It is the outflow of redeeming love that transforms the heart.”
Ellen G. White, Thoughts From the Mount of Blessings, p. 114.



“The best way to cooperate with God's healing work in your soul is to go find other people who are hurting and be a blessing to them.”
Joyce Meyer



Repentance is part of the process
for the forgiveness of sin

“Be ashamed when you sin, don't be ashamed when you repent. Sin is the wound, repentance is the medicine. Sin is followed by shame; repentance is followed by boldness [Boldness means to beg God for undeserved mercy]. Satan has overturned this order and given boldness to sin and shame to repentance.”

John Chrysostom



2. Jesus has the
authority to heal
any sickness
"Arise and Walk"



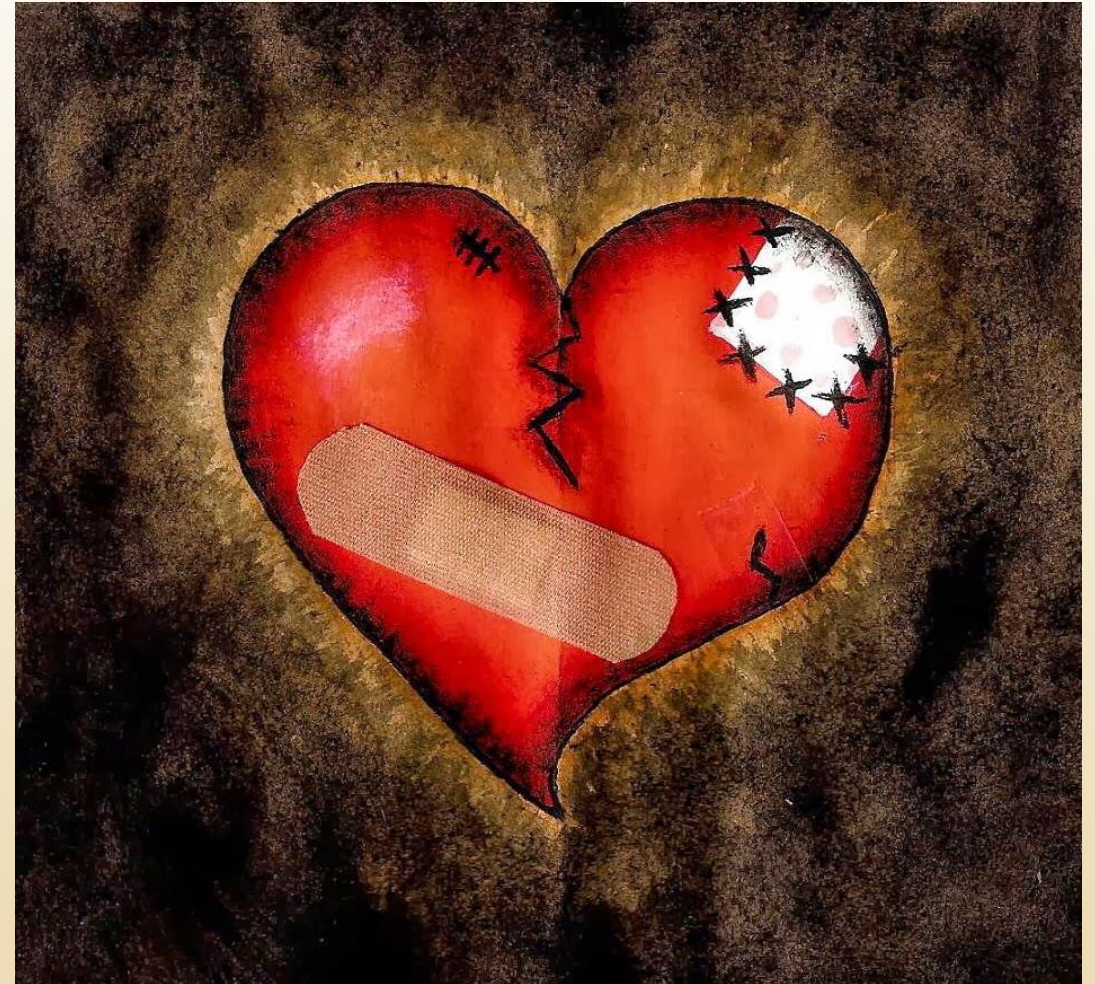
“God’s view of our needs (and His view of the entire world) is much higher and grander than our own. We generally see our need as the solution to some short term problem, but our true need is always to grow by drawing closer and loving Him more. Let’s take our eyes off the crutches we think will “fix” our problem and look instead to the One who is calling, to the One who patiently says, “Trust Me and come into My presence as you arise and walk!”
Steve Troxel



“But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—He said to the paralytic, ‘I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.’ Immediately, he arose, took up the bed, and went out in the presence of them all, so that all were amazed and glorified God, saying, ‘We never saw anything like this!’ ” (vv. 8–11). The supernatural wonder that occurred was a confirmation of the word of truth that Jesus had pro-claimed. The sign validated the word. The sign did not make the word true. The word that Jesus spoke was already true, and the supernatural sign simply confirmed that fact.”
Derek Morris, Ministry Magazine, July 2015.

“The forgiveness of sin and the healing of diseases were inseparably connected by our Saviour in His expressions concerning His miracles... The gospel of Christ is a gospel of health; and we are health reformers by reason of our faith in Christ. Our religion and our principles of health reform are inseparable.”

J. H. Waggoner, *The Health Reformer*, July, 1871, pp. II, 12.

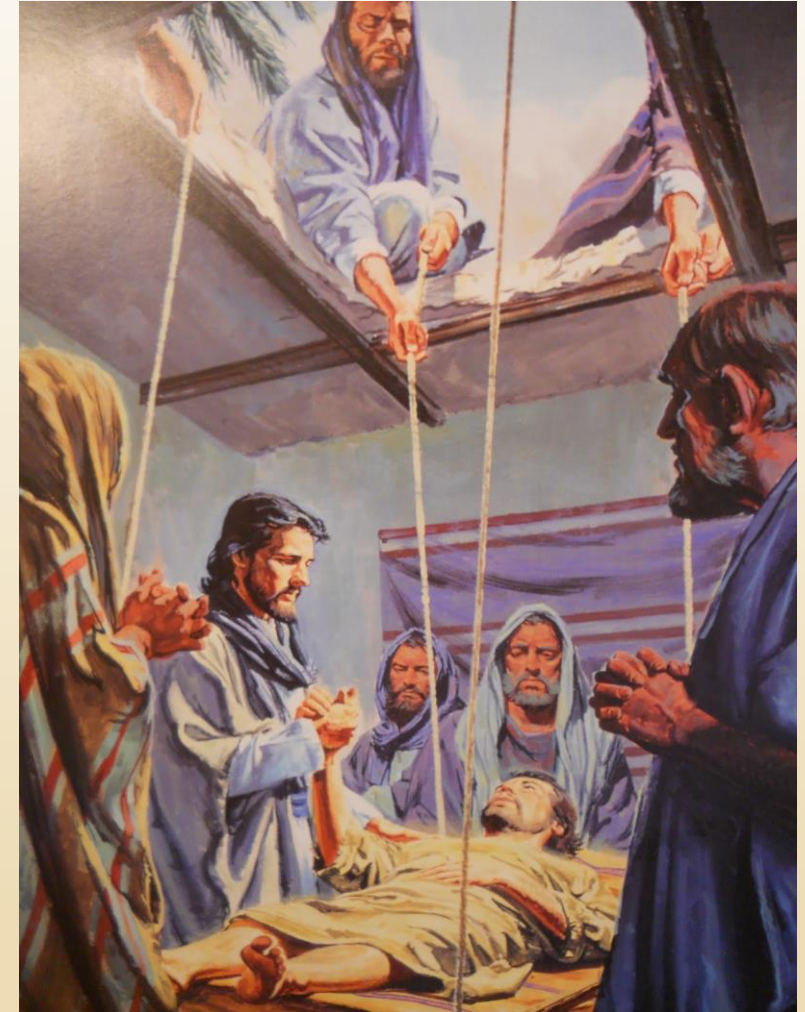


“The pardon of sin and the healing of sickness complete one the other, for in the eyes of God, who sees our entire nature, sin and sickness are as closely united as the body and the soul. In accordance with the Scriptures, our Lord Jesus has regarded sin and sickness in another light than we have. With us sin belongs to the spiritual domain; we recognize that it is under God’s just displeasure, justly condemned by Him, while sickness, on the contrary, seems only a part of the present condition of our nature, and to have nothing to do with God’s condemnation and His righteousness. Some go so far as to say that sickness is a proof of the love and grace of God.”

Andrew Murray

3. Through the authority of healing sick persons Jesus shows his divinity

“Which is easier”



"But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"

"That they might have a visible proof, an ocular demonstration, that though he was the son of man, truly and really man, yet not a mere man; but also as truly and properly God, God and man in one person, and so hath power on earth to forgive sins: not only ability as God, but even authority to do it as mediator, even whilst he was on earth, in a state of humiliation, in fashion as a man, in the form of a servant, conversing with sinful mortals."

John Gill



“Three miracles are wrought in this case. (I mean, by miracle, something produced or known that no power is capable of but that which is omnipotent, and no knowledge adequate to but that which is omniscient). The miracles are these:

1st. The remission of the poor man's sins.

2d. The discernment of the secret thoughts of the scribes.

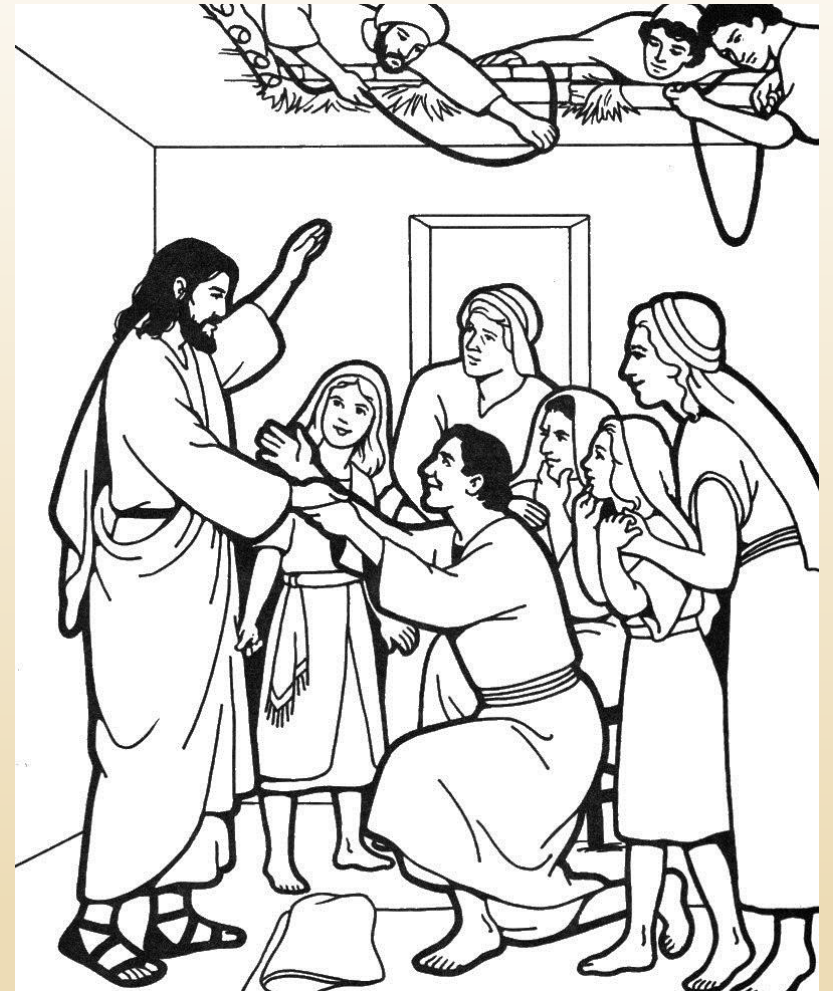
3d. The restoring of the paralytic, in an instant, to perfect soundness.

Thus one miracle becomes the proof and establishment of another. Never was a clearer proof of omnipotent energy and mercy brought under the senses of man. Here is an absolutely perfect miracle wrought; and here are absolute incontestable proofs that the miracle was wrought; and the conclusion is the fullest demonstration of the Divinity of the ever-blessed Jesus.”

Adam Clarke

“The acclamation of the multitudes soon turns to opposition. But the greatest lesson of this incident is undoubtedly that that has to do with the Messianic power of the Son of Man. It is here that we learn without question that the Lord Jesus has the power to forgive sins. That divine prerogative belongs to him.”

John MacArthur



V. Conclusion



“If we would attempt to good purpose the healing of men's souls, we must go forth in the name and power of Jesus Christ, calling on helpless sinners to arise and walk in the way of holiness, by faith in Him. How sweet the thought to our souls, that in respect to all the crippled faculties of our fallen nature, the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth can make us whole! With what holy joy and rapture shall we tread the holy courts, when God the Spirit causes us to enter therein by his strength!”
Matthew Henry



“Christ is the true head of the medical profession. The chief Physician, He is at the side of every God-fearing practitioner who works to relieve human suffering. While the physician uses nature’s remedies for physical disease, he should point his patients to Him who can relieve the maladies of both the soul and the body. That which physicians can only aid in doing, Christ accomplishes. They endeavor to assist nature’s work of healing; Christ Himself is the healer. The physician seeks to preserve life; Christ imparts life.”

Ellen G. White, *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 111.

“The grace can put the Spirit of Jesus Christ within us; it can help us when we are down; it can heal us when we are wounded; it can multiply pardons, as we through frailty multiply transgressions.”
John Bunyan (1628-1688)



“No one heals himself by wounding another.”
Church Father Ambrose
(337 – 397)



"Get Up and Walk!" Faith and Healing

Matthew 9: 5.

