

Does God heal today?

EXPLORING HEALING MINISTRY

ACTS 19:8-12

JOHN 5:1-9

First principles

- Sickness and disease - consequence of a fallen, imperfect world
- Mustn't draw a direct line between sin and suffering - John 9 :3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him."
- Dire consequences – hurtful and damaging
- Complex and sensitive issue

What does the bible say about healing?

- Nature of God:
- Sovereignty: Luke 1:37 'For nothing will be impossible with God'
- Love: Exodus 15:26 'I am the Lord who heals you'
- Lots of evidence throughout Scripture
- 25% Gospels and a lot of the Book of Acts
- 2 such examples of divine healing in our readings, Acts 19 and John 5

John 5:1-9

- Twin characteristics of sovereignty and love
- Compassion - literally 'to be moved in one's bowels'. Strong, visceral emotion that results in action
- Jesus issues a command: 'Get up! Pick up your mat and walk.'
- Authoritative - Jesus is in control
- The impossible made possible

God's kingdom (1)

- 'Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven has come near' Matthew 3:2
- God's heavenly (perfect) kingdom is established on earth through Jesus.
- Signs, wonders and healing. Heaven coming to earth

God's kingdom (2)

- However, 'now but not yet'
- All sickness, disease and sin will be banished only when Jesus returns and establishes His reign and rule forever.
- Future hope - Revelation 21:4
- But for now, we live in between the times

Unanswered prayer

- Personal experience
- Why?
- John Wimber – ‘when we didn’t pray, no one got healed; now we pray, some get healed’ (but not all).
- Possible barriers to receiving healing:
 - ignorance and resistance
 - unconfessed sin
 - open doors to the enemy

Natural as well as supernatural

- Medical profession – skills, experience and knowledge
- Advances in science and medicine
- But first and foremost, reliance on God

Our response

- John 5:6 'Do you want to get well?'
- Resignation – what's the point?
- Self-worth – surely not me!
- Personal desire / openness and engagement with God