

SIMPLY BELIEVE THE WORD

By Sue Whisenhunt

Lay Hands on the Sick

The Great Commission, stated in Mark 16:15-20, were Jesus' last words to his Believers while He was on this earth. Some say, He spoke this only to His disciples, the eleven that were closest to Him. But as we look at all the Scriptures, this is not so; for Jesus appeared, after His resurrection, to over 500 Believers at one time (I Corinthians 15:3-6). When do you think that occurred? Scripture alludes to when this occurred in Acts 1:9-14.

We are all commanded in Mark 16:17-20 NKJ; for it says, **"These signs shall follow them that believe;** In My Name they shall cast out demons, they shall speak with new tongues....they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover." Are you a Believer? The word **Believe** is broken down into two words - BE & LIEVE, which means BE LIVING. Therefore, a person who believes is BE LIVING what he believes. Are you casting out demons, speaking in new tongues,.....laying hands on the sick? Do these signs follow you? Signs will follow when you are a doer of His WORD, not a hearer only deceiving yourselves (James 1:22). Notice this scripture says "they shall recover." It is our responsibility as Believers to lay hands on the sick, obeying His command that comes with a promise. We are to be imitators of Jesus; He is our example (Ephesians 5:1-2). "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him" (Acts 10:38). This is what we are to do.

We are to lay hands on the sick and "they shall recover" is a command with a promise. Jesus, our Lord works with us "confirming the Word through the accompanying signs" (Mark 16:20). We are to walk by faith, not by our sight, no matter what our 5 physical senses are telling us. This is important to know

because our physical senses - what we see, hear, smell, taste and feel frequently gives us an inaccurate picture of what is truly happening.

Mark 9 tells us, for example, of a time when a father brought his demon possessed son to Jesus and asked for help. Jesus rebuked the spirit and commanded it to come out. What happened? From a purely natural prospective, it looked as though Jesus had made the situation worse because verse 26 tells us, "the spirit...rent him sore...and he was as one dead insomuch that many said, he is dead."

However Jesus was not moved by that boy's physical appearance or by what His physical eyes were seeing. He simply trusted that the demon had fled. As a result, Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose (verse 27).

I've been in similar situations. Thomas and I were asked to come to a home to minister to a 4 year old child that was autistic. Thomas cast out the demons and I was led by the Spirit of the Living God to speak a specific portion of the Word of God over him (Psalm 139:13-18a), as I laid my hands on his head. There was little difference in him when we left. The devil came to me and said, "that boy surely didn't get delivered and healed." But I would rebuke Satan and say, "the word says that when we command demons to flee, they flee. So as far as I'm concerned demons left that day and healing came to that little boy's mind." I never did hear from those folks what happened; but about 4-5 months later, a friend of theirs showed me a picture of that boy and he was whole, in his right mind and going to school. Praise to the God who heals, Jehovah Rapha!!!

I'm so glad I did not withdraw my faith just because that boy did not look healed—because healing begins on the inside, where it cannot, in many cases, be seen immediately.

Here's what we need to understand. God always does His part. He says when we "lay hands on the sick, they shall recover." We can rest assured that when

we obey Him in faith, healing always comes because He always does His part. Isn't that what He promised in His Word? Yes, it is!! Mark 16.20 says "And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the Word through the accompanying signs [attesting healing and miracles] following." It should be no different for us when we are bold and do His Word. We should expect nothing different than what happened with our Lord Jesus. After all, it's Him doing the healing or miracle anyway; the only difference is, it's our hands being laid on the sick person. We are co-laborers with Almighty God! How exciting!

When Thomas and I first started laying hands on the sick, we were actually months old in the Lord. This was 38 years ago. I asked the Lord one time, "What happens if they are not healed?" He spoke so clearly and sternly to me, it settled that question in my mind forever. He said, "That's not your part, your part is to lay hands on; My part is to heal!"

Sometimes people won't receive their healing; or sometimes they receive their healing with joy and then let it go, after a while, because they see no immediate changes in their body. They also let their healing go because the enemy of their soul comes and whispers discouragement and doubt in their ear. Instead of commanding him to leave, they entertain the thoughts and words the enemy is speaking into their soul. Then they agree with the enemy instead of with God.

God's children need to realize healing begins on the inside. "They shall recover" means it's a gradual healing. There are different kinds of healings in the Lord. Some are immediate, miraculous healings; some are gradual healings. Some are creative miracles which happen when a part of the body is missing; and the creator Himself makes that part. For example, say a part of someone's ear was missing; Jesus creates that part of the body that is missing.

Sometimes, people are full of doubt, fear or unbelief and they can't receive or take what God is giving them. In these times you may coax, or persuade by soothing words, the person into receiving. In these cases, I tell the person that it's just like receiving a gift on their birthday; and that the healing anointing has gone into their body and will affect it beneficially. At times, the person needs to be taught about healing and the anointing which breaks every yoke. You must be sensitive to Holy Spirit and do as He leads you throughout the time of ministering to the sick person. If there is no physical change in the person whom you prayed for; the last thing you want to do is withdraw your faith and say, "Well, I guess it didn't work this time." No, don't do that! Your faith may be the only hope that person has! So, just keep on believing God for them.

Say to yourself, "Lord I did what your word said. I laid hands on the sick and as far as I'm concerned every person I lay my hands on is recovering. I'm standing in faith for that recovery. God, open the eyes of their understanding. Send laborers across their path with the word to encourage their hope and faith, so they can fully receive the manifestation of their healing, in Jesus Name."

Once you do that, never back off. Keep going forward in faith. Keep laying hands on the sick. Keep expecting God to do exactly what He promised. You keep learning; ask Holy Spirit questions while you are ministering to the sick and afterward. He wants to teach you how to do it better. There are people out there right now who need someone with enough faith to deliver their healing or miracle—people who are waiting for someone just like you!

Every believer has the authority in Jesus' Name to lay hands on the sick and expect them to recover. **All you need to do is believe and act on the Word of God.** You see, as a Believer, you are ambassadors of Christ in the earth (2 Corinthians 5:20). And when you operate in His Name, by faith in His

Word, God's healing anointing flows through you just as surely as it flowed through Jesus when He walked the earth.

I realized that when I believed in what Jesus did for me and received Him as my Lord, He gave me new life. My spirit inside me, the real me, was changed from death into life. I became a new creature inside; my nature of a sinner was changed into being a saint (2 Corinthians 5:17 & Ephesians 1:5-6 & Colossians 3:12). Then I received the baptism "with" or "in" the Holy Spirit; I realized that I have the most dynamic healing power in me (See Luke 24:49). This same Holy Spirit raised Jesus from the dead. Yes, Father God filled my spirit, soul and body with His Spirit; Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. Paul spoke of this as "Christ in me, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27). By knowing this, I know that the power of God's Holy Spirit within me is who heals the sick and sets the captives free. Jesus said, "I felt virtue (power) go out of Me." (See Luke 8:46) That's the power that heals the sick. You can also, at times, feel the power flow out of you into the sick when you continue to lay hands on sick people as you are commanded.

If I went to a doctor with an infection in my body, after diagnosing it, he would say, "Nurse, give her two cc's of penicillin, and that will kill the infectious germs." Suppose the nurse came back to the doctor holding the bottle of penicillin and the syringe needle and said, "Doctor, I don't know how to get this out of the bottle into her body." Suppose the doctor answered, "I don't either."

Would the penicillin heal the sickness? Of course not! When our spirits are totally and completely filled with Holy Spirit, we still must know how to dispense this Holy Spirit "penicillin" into the bodies of sick people to heal them. It is God's Holy Spirit power that heals, and the simple principle of healing is to dispense this power from the Spirit of God within our spirits into the bodies of the sick people.

Let us examine the way a doctor "heals" the sick. We will assume that we have caught the germ of some kind and have an appointment to see our doctor. He examines us and gives us his diagnosis.

Then he prescribes a certain amount of penicillin or some other medication and says, "That should cause you to get over this in two or three days."

You go home, take the medication and what happens? In two or three days you are well. Did the doctor heal you? NO, he only used his skill, knowledge and understanding in diagnosing you, and he prescribed the proper medication for the problem. Did the nurse who injected the medicine heal you? NO. What healed you, then? The penicillin or other prescribed medication did.

Divine healing is similar in principle. The power is injected by the laying on of hands for healing. It is the Giver of Life and Power, who has filled you with that Life and Power so it can flow out of you into the sick and make them well. You are partnering and working with Holy Spirit.

When we receive the baptism "with" or "in" the Holy Spirit, we have the most dynamic healing power of all within us. We are endowed with the power of Holy Spirit of the Almighty God! (See Acts 1:8). Scripture tells us that we must ask Holy Spirit to come in us and make His abode with us (Luke 11:13). This same Holy Spirit hovered over the waters, during the creation recorded in Genesis chapter one, and waited for the Word of Elohim-God the Creator-and after hearing the Word, He, Holy Spirit made the earth and all that filled it. Yes, this same Holy Spirit that worked closely with your Father God is in you and works closely with you to "confirm the Word with signs following." The Holy Spirit is the Power part of God. Jesus did no mighty works until after He was water baptized and then filled with the Holy Spirit at His baptism.

What an honor!! What a privilege!! What a responsibility!! When this divine power is dispensed into a sick body, the power does the healing. We always

give thanksgiving and Glory to God and Christ Jesus. When ministering healing do it in the name of Jesus.

You're simply the "conductor". You are like a wire that conducts electricity from an electrical outlet to a light bulb. You're connected to the Power Source! If you will keep that in mind, it will keep you from getting under pressure about whether people receive healing when you pray for them. You will realize that you are not the Healer. You're simply the hands. He's the strength. He's the power. He's the anointing.

You'll be surprised what will happen if you'll just begin to minister. You don't have to be a great teacher or preacher. Only a BELIEVER! Just take your Bible with you and read healing scriptures to those who are sick. Bring along a good book on healing such as F.F. Bosworth's Christ The Healer--my personal favorite--and read to them as you visit sick people at home or in the hospital.

This is what happened to my husband and me as we went forth in our early days in the Lord, 38 years ago. We were asked to come and pray for people. We would pray in the Holy Spirit, as the Bible says, "in other tongues," before we left home and while we were driving to the home or the hospital. We had prayed in the Holy Spirit to tune into the leading of Holy Spirit and to hear from Him what to do and what to say. Sometimes we would hear special instructions and sometimes we would not. But we went in faith always. There was a need and Jesus was the answer to that need!

People got healed and demons were cast out because they heard the Word and because we expected God to keep His Word as we worked with Him and as He worked with us.

F.F. Bosworth said the same thing about himself. Many extraordinary healings took place as a result of his ministry, yet he professed not to have any special healing gifts. He said, "I just preach the Word and the Word brings healing."

Mark 16:20 NKJ

And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and **confirming the word with signs following. Amen.** Do you know what Amen means? It means: I Agree and So Be It to ME.

So follow these examples. Be bold, be courageous and be strong in the Lord. Believe the Word. Share the gospel however you can, and then obey Holy Spirit.

DECLARE and SAY:

“Lord Jesus, in Mark 16, You said for Believers, and that includes me, to lay hands on the sick and they would recover, so I’m doing this in obedience to you. Thank You for releasing Your healing power through me. Holy Spirit, I hear your voice and Your directions easily and I thank you, ahead of time, for confirming the Word with signs following.”

SALVATION PRAYER

If you do not know JESUS as your Savior and Lord,
Simply pray the following prayer in faith and JESUS will be your Lord!

Heavenly Father, I come to you and say to you, Your Word says,
“Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved” And
“If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shall believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Acts 2:21 & Romans 10:9-10) You said that my new birth was the result of your Holy Spirit giving me new birth (John 3:5 & 15-16).
And that if I would ask, You would fill me with Your Holy Spirit to be my helper, comforter, intercessor, advocate, & counselor, and give me the ability to speak in other tongues (Luke 11:13 & Acts 2:4 & John 14:16-17, 26).
I take you at Your Word; I confess that Jesus is Lord of my life. I believe in my heart that You raised him from the dead. Thank you for coming into my heart, for giving me Your Holy Spirit as You have promised. Amen.