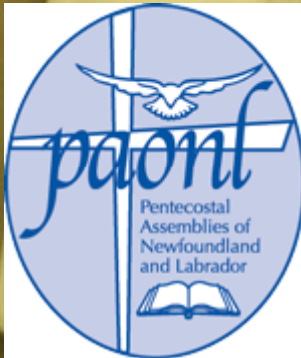


# Faith and Healing

## Family Camp 2008



# FAITH: A DEFINITION

- Heb 11:1 *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*
- Faith is NOT a leap into the unknown; it is moving from the unknown to what we know – the character of God
- Faith is *knowing God and acting accordingly*

# Every believer is given a measure of faith

- **Rom 12:3**
- 3For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with *the measure of faith* God has given you.
- **Rom 12:4-7**
- 4Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, 5so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. 6We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it *in proportion to his faith*.

# Faith comes from the Word of Christ

- **Rom 10:17**
- 7Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

# Faith is intended to grow and increase

- **2 Cor 10:15-16**
- Neither do we go beyond our limits by boasting of work done by others. Our hope is that, ***as your faith continues to grow***, our area of activity among you will greatly expand,
- **2 Thess 1:3-4**
- We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because ***your faith is growing more and more***, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing.

# Healing: A Definition

- The intervention of God in this world to provide physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health where disease and distress existed previously.
- It is a sign of the presence of the Kingdom of God on the earth

# Healing is based on the character of God:

- Ex 15:26
- 26 He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, *for I am the LORD, who heals you.*"
- *Jehovah Raphe*

# Healing is part of the Atonement:

- Isa 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and ***by his wounds we are healed.***
- 1 Peter 2: 24 He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you ***have been healed.***

# Healing announces the Kingdom of God:

- Matt 10:5-8
- 5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 7 As you go, preach this message: '***The kingdom of heaven is near.***' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

# Miracles are the work of God:

- John 9:1-3
- 9:1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?"
- 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that *the work of God* might be displayed in his life.

# Faith and Healing:

- Matt 9:20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. 21 She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." 22 Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "***your faith has healed you.***" And the woman was healed from that moment.
- Mark 10:51 "What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asked him. The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see."
- 52 "Go," said Jesus, "***your faith has healed you.***" Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus along the road.

# The faith of another is used for healing:

- James 5:13-16
- 13 Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. *14 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up.* If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.
- Luke 7:1-10 (The Centurion's Son)
- Mark 2:1-12 (The Paralytic lowered through the roof)

# What is Doubt?

- It is unbelief. It is lacking faith in God despite having received the Word of God and the work of the Spirit in our lives.
- It is refusing to believe that God is who He says He is, and that Christ is God incarnate.
- It is drawing upon ourselves and our strength as our ***first resort***.

# Doubt is NOT:

- Questioning the God we trust during difficult circumstances
- Wondering at times if God truly hears and answers prayer
- Acknowledging that we do not fully know the mind of God in a situation

- Dan 3:16-18
- 16 Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. 17 If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to save us from it, ***and he will rescue us*** from your hand, O king. 18 ***But even if he does not***, we want you to know, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

# Difficult Questions / Incorrect beliefs

# 1) Why are some not healed?

- **Sin**: Ps 66:18 “If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened”
- **Attitude towards the Body**: 1 Cor.11:30 “That is why many among you are weak, and some have fallen asleep”
- **Real Doubt**: Matt.13:58 “They took offence at Him...He could not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith”
- **The Sovereignty of God**

## **2) If healing is the Atonement, as is salvation, and we are guaranteed salvation by asking, are we not guaranteed healing by asking as well?**

- The issue here is our understanding of the Kingdom of God.
- The “Now but Not-yet”
- Now we see as through a dark glass; then we will see face to face. (1 Cor.13:12)

We are not fully saved yet;  
we all still sin.

Neither are we fully healed yet;  
we all still die.

1 Cor 1:18-19

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness  
to those who are perishing, but to us who are

***being saved*** it is the power of God.

### **3) If healing is in the Atonement, and faith heals us - and we have faith, is God not obligated to heal us?**

- Is your relationship with God a covenant or contract?
- New extremes on healing = old legalism
- God is obligated to do nothing; the Church has lost sight of the Sovereignty of God
- Isa 55:9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts<sub>20</sub>"

# People are always looking for the right formula; God is all about relationships.

- Luke 7:11 Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out—the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry."
- 14 Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother.
- Was this boy a believer? Did he have faith? Did his mother? Did they quote scripture? Did they doubt? Did they recognize that healing is in the atonement?

## **4) How can we pray with true faith if we do not know that God will heal every time?**

- There are 3 responses to faith and healing:
- 1) unbelief. Often, a lack of faith is demonstrated by disobedience. God tells us to move in faith, but we refuse.
- 2) faith in God, given to all believers, for healing
- 3) the Gift of Faith – 1 Cor.12:9

## **5) If someone is not healed, there was a lack of faith, unbelief was present, or there was sin in their life.**

- Acts 12:12:1 It was about this time that King Herod arrested some who belonged to the church, intending to persecute them. 2 He had James, the brother of John, put to death with the sword. 3 When he saw that this pleased the Jews, he proceeded to seize Peter also. 5 So Peter was kept in prison, but the church was earnestly praying to God for him.
- 6 Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains... 7 Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.
- And... 9 Peter followed him out of the prison...

- [Peter] went to the house of Mary the mother of John, also called Mark, where many people had gathered and were praying. 13 Peter knocked at the outer entrance, and a servant girl named Rhoda came to answer the door. 14 When she recognized Peter's voice, she was so overjoyed she ran back without opening it and exclaimed, "Peter is at the door!"
- 15 "***You're out of your mind,***" ***they told her.*** When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, "It must be his angel."
- 16 But Peter kept on knocking, and when they opened the door and saw him, ***they were astonished.***

**Despite his faithfulness, James  
was put to death**

**Despite the lack of faith of  
those praying for Peter's  
release, God delivered him**

## **6) Because Jesus has overcome the world, Christians are not supposed to suffer.**

- Tell that to the Apostles – all of whom except John were martyred for the faith!
- Again, a misunderstanding of eschatology
- John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

# What is our theology of suffering?

- 1 Peter 1:6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed.
- James 1:2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.
- Phil 3:10 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings...

# Conclusion:

- Healing is an important of the Atonement, a key sign in signalling that the Kingdom of God is moving throughout the earth
- God heals in response to faith, and in His own way, on His own time
- God cannot be manipulated into healing
- Sometime, the righteous suffer from sickness and are not healed. This we leave to the Sovereignty of God.
- “Now Elisha was suffering from the illness from which he died...” 2 Kings 13:14

**As a Church, we are called to  
proclaim the good news of  
God's Kingdom on earth,  
bringing His salvation, healing,  
and deliverance to those who  
desperately need it!**