

— HOW TO —

HEAL

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DIVIDE



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HOW TO HEAL THE DIVIDE

One of the things that I have found in walking with God is, if you want to see the goodness of God, the best God has, you have to cooperate with what His Spirit is emphasizing. You have to have an ear that is tuned to where the focus of the Holy Spirit is. If you cooperate with Him, then things will begin to go more smoothly and you will also begin to see greater results.

THE CHURCH AND THE PREVAILING CULTURE

The church of the Lord Jesus Christ was never intended by God to be an entity that exists independent of its culture and surroundings. The church is meant to be an influence to that culture and to that surrounding; it is meant to change and transform them. Whenever God is sending an answer to the nations, He sends it through the church.

We, Christians, know and say that Christ is the answer. Yet, if Christ is the answer and we are the body of Christ, why is it that He is the answer, but we are not supplying answers? Perhaps it is because the mind is in the head, not in the body. Sometimes, the head is thinking one way but the body has another set of ideas. That's why the Bible exhorts you and I to have the mind of the Anointed One.

Part of our pursuit is to produce a prophetic people by the grace of God. What does prophetic people mean? Prophetic people are those who are not just hearing what God has said, but are hearing what God is saying. One of the great responsibilities of the church is to take the eternal message, which does not change, and make it applicable to an ever-changing culture. The mind of the culture changes, the ideas of the culture changes, but the Word of God doesn't change. So, how do you take an eternal, unchangeable Word and make it relevant to a culture that is going one way this year, and next year another?

Remember that the Word of God is always right. Prophetic people have to hear what God is saying and should be constantly interpreting without compromising the Word of God, at the same time, keeping it relevant.



UNDERSTANDING MINISTRY

When you preach the gospel of salvation, the tendency is that people stop at salvation and their mentality becomes: "Once I'm saved, I'm done. Now, I'm just going to hang out here and wait for Jesus to come and get me out of this hell hole called earth. Come quickly Lord Jesus!."

That is the mentality of many people who have been indoctrinated only with the gospel of salvation. However, the gospel of the Kingdom is a fuller gospel. It is the totality of the gospel. The gospel of the Kingdom is the gospel of the dominion of God in heaven and on earth, the rule of God. The gospel of the Kingdom says you're not just to be saved; you are to be saved and deployed. You are to be saved, then you are to go into some area of this world's system to occupy and influence it with a greater understanding, greater purpose and a higher mentality. Your job is not just to make money; your job is to transform culture.

The gospel of salvation which most Christians are indoctrinated in gives them the idea that coming to church a couple times a week is ministry. No! You come to church to receive instructions for your ministry. Ministry is not done by simply coming to church, ministry is done beyond the church. You come to church to be uplifted, encouraged, inspired and illuminated so you can go into the culture and influence and bring people into the Kingdom to get the same training, illumination and inspiration you got. By doing this, they can now go with you out there and get more people to come to church because they are beholding your way of living.

The gospel of salvation also creates a mentality that the person with the microphone on the platform is supposed to do all the converting. On the contrary, everyone has to do this out there and carry this responsibility as well.

Harvesting and healing are key elements to the assignment of this ministry. It is to help harvest people and then to help get them healed. Healing is not only physical, there are also people whose finances need healing. In the Greek New Testament, one of the words for healing is 'therapeuo', from which we get the English word 'therapy'. Some healings are activated by therapy; there are people who need psychological healing in the church and they can't afford a therapist. That's why you have to understand the power of the Word of God. If you get the Word of God and start applying it to them, it's medicine for their spirits.



Just like the public school system, God's ministry also has different levels. He has elementary school level ministry, middle school level ministry, high school level ministry, and graduate level ministry. Not all ministries are to do the same thing. This one is a graduate level ministry. Although it is already on the graduate level, it doesn't mean that there is no more training up. There are still systems that can help you grow further.

HEALING THE DIVIDE THROUGH JESUS

I am convinced that part of the assignment of this ministry has to do with the idea of Healing the Divide. This is also significant in the nation today because people everywhere are saying that never before has the nation been so divided. You have to understand that whenever there is a problem in the culture, God will send the answer or a portion of the answer through the church because we are His voice to the culture. There has got to be some level of healing that should happen. The Scripture says in II Corinthians 5, that God has committed to us, both the ministry and the Word of reconciliation. Reconciliation has to do with bringing enemies together or bringing opposing sides together, which is part of what happens in John Chapter 5. John Chapter 5 is the foundational scripture out of which the vision of this ministry is birthed.

John 5:1-2

- 1) *After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.*
- 2) *Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew, Bethesda, having five porches.*

The word *Bethesda* means 'place of grace' or 'place of outpouring'. That's where the name of the Place of Grace (Full Harvest International Church) comes from. Bethesda is 'house of Heseb' in Hebrew, meaning house of loving kindness or house of grace or mercy. It has five porches, five avenues, a type of a five-fold ministry: apostle, prophet, pastor, evangelist, and teacher.

John 5: 3-6

"In these lay a great multitude of sick people, blind, lame, paralyzed, waiting for the moving of the water. 4) For an angel went down at a certain time into the pool and stirred up the water; then whoever stepped in first, after the stirring of the water, was made well of whatever disease he had. 5) Now a certain man was there who had an infirmity thirty-eight years. 6) When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he already had been in that condition a long time, He said to him, "Do you want to be made well?"



That last verse is very significant. Jesus not only saw him; He not only saw the condition the man was in, but He also immediately knew how long the man had been in that condition. The man's sickness had not only affected his body, it had also affected his psychology, mentality, and his perspective. The way he viewed people, things, and the world around him was no longer just a product of the fact that he was sick, but it was also a product of how long he had been sick. The Bible says that he gives the explanation why he's been in the same condition for so long. He said, "Every time I get ready to go down, somebody steps in front of me and they get theirs before I get mine."

John 5:8-11

8) Jesus said to him, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." 9) And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. 10) The Jews therefore said to him who was cured, "It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed." 11) He answered them, "He who made me well said to me, 'Take up your bed and walk.'"

Jesus came to the pool of Bethesda to heal the divide between what was originally purposed to happen there and what was actually happening. The place was named 'The Place of Grace' or 'The Place of Undeserved Favor'. It, however, had turned into a place where only the first person in the pool could get well. This means that the original intention of God for the place had been distorted into an environment where you have to merit your healing, instead of getting it freely.

It's no longer a place of grace if you have to earn it. So, Jesus came to restore the place to its original intention. He comes to heal the divide. You must understand that the gospel heals the divide between God and man. It heals the divide between spirit, soul and body. It heals the divide between cultures and ethnicities. It heals the divide between the systemic 'haves' and the systemic 'have nots'. The gospel heals divides!! "You must be born again;" that heals the divide between God and man.



Jesus came to heal the divide and He did this by the presentation of Himself at this place. He comes and tells the man, who thinks that to be well he needs people to put him in the pool and an angel to come and stir the water, *“All you actually need is Me. All the systems, trappings, and the things that people have told you that you need to get well, are not actually required. That’s the system that has been built around the place, but that’s not My intention for the place.” That’s good!!*

The first thing Jesus does to heal the divide is the **presentation of Himself**. It is the presentation of Jesus of Nazareth, as Savior, Deliverer and Healer that begins to heal the divide between God and man. There is no other way.

The second thing that Jesus did to heal the divide is the act of addressing the condition of the man and changing his perspective. The Bible says Jesus saw the man and knew that he had been in that condition for a long time. How does He change his perspective? The man thought, “I need this and I need this...”, but Jesus came and said, *“Rise. Take up your bed and walk.”* What is He doing? He is altering this man’s perspective by the renewing of his mind. He is changing the man’s mind about what he needs to get well. He is telling him, *“You don’t need all of this, all you need is My Word. And, if you will dare in your broken down, depressed, dejected, systemically disenfranchised state, to follow My Word and not your mind, you can get well!!”*

You may say, “How do I get my mind renewed?” It’s very easy, get the Word of God in front of your eyes, get the Word of God in your mouth, and do what it says. When you think you need something but God says something else, then you follow what God says instead of what you think. At every juncture of the renewing of the mind, you and I will have the opportunity to say, “No, God, it doesn’t work like that.” At every opportunity where your mind or my mind needs to be renewed, we will have the opportunity to say, “Don’t you see where I am? That doesn’t work! I have been here 38 years, Reverend Jesus. Nobody has ever come by here and said to anybody, “Do this and they got well.”

And Jesus is like, “Cool. This is your shot. Rise!”



“Jesus, don’t you think, if I could rise I would have risen before You got here?”

I’m giving you all the unspoken words in that exchange. You know them because you think them, and so do I. Every time God tells you to do something, you say, “Well, that doesn’t have anything to do with what I’m dealing with. How can doing this help with that? You’re going to tell me to give again. When I gave last time, it didn’t do anything. And, you’re telling me to pray. You’re telling me to speak the Word in my bathroom and what You don’t understand is they are attacking me on my job, Jehovah!”

And, Jesus says, *“Rise. Take up your bed and walk.”*

If we’re going to heal the divide, we have to create a place where Jesus is allowed to show up and where people’s minds get renewed.

Just like Jesus knew how long the man had been in that condition, He also knew what the man was thinking.

“I know you’re thinking this is not going to work, but what you don’t understand is who I am and the power of My Word.”

All of us in the body of Christ are in that situation. Jesus does not change His medicine to bring healing to the man. He knew what the man was thinking, but He is married to His Father’s Word. God’s Word is medicine! He will not alter His Father’s Word for whatever people are thinking.

“I know you think this won’t work, but all I’ve got for you is the Word. All I got for you is the mind of God. All I got for you is the anointing of God. I don’t have anything else; I have been sent with a Word.”

What we need in our cities and in America as a whole, is a group of people who are so married to the Word of God that they are convinced the Word of God will change it. We don’t have anything else to give you; the only thing we have is the Word and what the Word produces and brings forth. Every system, program, committee and auxiliary in God’s kingdom has to be based on something the Word has said. I know it is not popular, but I am telling you as a prophet in this generation, that’s all we have to offer. I can preach it because of this: when I was down, it was nothing but the Word that lifted me. When I was sick, it was nothing but the Word that healed me. When people told me I’d never make it, I hung onto the Word and the Word helped me through. When I was broke and I spoke the Word, the Word prospered me. When I was kicked down and people said I would never get up again, it was nothing but the Word that made me rise up.



In **John 5:8**, Jesus told the sick man to ... **"take up his bed and walk."** In John 5:10, the Jews said to the cured man that it was not lawful for him to carry his bed on the Sabbath day. He answered them, *"The Guy who healed me is the one who told me to walk differently from the rest of you. The Guy healed me when all of your systems, programs, government aid, and everything else couldn't help me or my family. It was the Word that transformed my life. The Guy who gave me that Word was Jesus. He told me to be visibly and distinctly different from the culture He knew I had to walk in. The Guy who transformed me is the one who made me stick out like a sore thumb in a compromising culture."*

According to the culture that this man lived in, it was not legal to do any work on the Sabbath day. What Jesus actually does is set him up for a confrontation with his culture, because He's telling him, *'If you want to stay well, you're going to have to confront the culture you live in and not let them change what I told you to do! You're going to have to change them!'*

If you're willing to walk with something that makes you stand out; if you're willing to walk with something that God commanded of you, that makes you different from everybody else you come into contact with, you will overcome. People will tell you, "That is outdated, antiquated, nobody believes that any more." But you must tell them, "Yeah, I know, but the Guy who saved and healed me told me that it should be this way."

Why is that so important? Because you and I are called to change culture, not to gallop with the gang. If you give in right after you get well, you will not be able to walk this out and be a transformer. You cannot be a transformer if every time somebody tells you that's not popular, you get quiet. When they tell you it is okay to live this way, or it's okay to do that, you should say, "Well, that's not the way the Guy (Jesus!) who healed me said it should be."

Here's the beauty of the story, which you will find when you read the rest of the passage. When asked who cured him, the man said he had no idea who it was. Jesus healed him and made him well, yet he didn't know who He was. When I read this, the Word of the Lord came to me; "God is ready to heal people who don't even know who He is. He's going to make people well and they won't even know how they got well." That's what can happen when people come into a place where the people actually believe whoever can be healed of whatever, and anybody can get well of anything. They don't even have to know what happened to them. The Bible says that the Jews asked the man and he didn't know who healed him. Now, what does that tell us? That tells us that God can change people's lives before they have a full picture of who Jesus is. It tells us, that people are going to encounter Jesus before they actually know Him.

By heeding the call of our ministry, we can bring God into other people's lives and we can do our part in healing the divide.





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