**HELPING PEOPLE GET WHOLE**

**James 5:13-16**

**Introduction- As we look at the scriptures this evening regarding the ministry of healing, it will stir numerous questions and responses. Healing was and is a major part of the Ministry of Jesus. Let’s quickly examine a few verses that describe His ministry. See Matthew 8:14-17; Mark 1:34; Luke 4:36-41. Jesus commissioned the twelve and the seventy to do the same ministry. See Matthew 10:1, 8; Mark 3:13-15; Luke 10:9**

**Jesus told us to heal the sick, cast out demons, cleanse the lepers, and raise the dead. He modeled these types of ministries, but there is seemingly no place that gives us the one, two, three steps on how to do these things.**

**Also, we are puzzled iaswe have tried to heal the sick and prayed for them, because, the truth of God’s word and our circumstances do not always mesh.**

**\*Illustration= show them the two separate hands…**

**Transition- Let us not try to alter the truth or fake our circumstances. We must admit that we do not always understand the why of things not happening according to what we read in the Bible.**

**-We need more revelation and understanding**

**-We must learn to live with mystery and not give up or stop believing!**

**The church is given instruction by James, the head of the church in Jerusalem in about 47-48 AD. We shall look together at one way for people to experience healing. This does not negate the “Gifts of Healing” found in I Corinthians 12:9 which Paul, the apostle, received in about 58 AD. Notice that the gifts of healings are multiple. Some are instant miracles, others process healings over a short period of time. Some healings are attached to deliverances; still others are practical and medical. Jesus has paid for our healing, so do not own your sickness…**

**We are now jumping into the correct starting point according to the Scriptures.**

**I. Sometimes, sickness and suffering are attached [James 5:13]**

**A. Sickness is not intended as a blessing… That’s why we attempt to get rid of it or get over it asap.**

**B. No where in the Bible does it say God puts sickness on you to teach you a lesson. His desire is to heal.**

**C. Suffering is defined as “affliction; hardship; pressure from evil. We suffer according to the scriptures because of persecution for the gospel’s sake, standing for righteousness, and because we live in a fallen world. I know that people battling sickness and disease often suffer. Here is the instruction for that situation.**

**1. If people do not become whole immediately, do not condemn or abandon them.**

**2. Minister compassion and stand with them in faith.**

**II. Is anyone among you sick… four required actions [James 5:14-16]**

**A. We must call for the elders of the church: start here first, not last.**

**B. Be anointed with oil in the name of the Lord- JESUS.**

**C. Pray the prayer of faith:**

**1. SOZO= save, heal, deliver, and restore to wholeness… whatever is needed is available**

**2. The Lord will raise him/her up**

**D. Confess your sins to one another**

**1. To the elders or someone you trust: why?**

**a. Humble ourselves and become accountable.**

**b. Expose the enemy and his tactics of shame and condemnation.**

**c. It is attached to forgiveness and being healed.**

**2. Saving the soul- I Thessalonians 5:23-24; III John 2**

**a. The health of the soul…**

**b. Is connected to healing**

**III. The effective prayer of a righteous man [woman] can accomplish much: [Jewish elder verse Paul’s revelation]**

**A. Elders are righteous in Christ and walking in righteousness if we are doing our jobs.**

**B. The person being prayed for needs to be established in righteousness to pray/believe in agreement.**

**C. That kind of praying is powerful and accomplishes much!**

**Conclusion- My recent circumstance having the elders anoint me and pray over me at Mercy Hospital… I started getting well much faster than the doctors said and continue standing in true hope of total healing. Testimonies from our recent home group… It is a safe place where people asked to be anointed by elders, confessed, and received the prayer of faith. Several were healed, delivered, and some are in the process of seeing breakthrough and answers.**

**Our faith is not in people. It is in obeying the Lord and His word. Doing what He says and how He says it, begins a powerful process. Let us establish the biblical practice of calling the elders. We will anoint, pray the prayer of faith, and you will be healed. Have the courage to confess your sins if the Holy Spirit reveals and convicts you to do so.**