

Healing **Does God heal today?**

In heaven there will be no more suffering or pain, but while we are here on earth we are invited to pray for glimpses of heaven to collide with earth. God is a healer. It's part of His character. Everyone is invited to ask God for physical healing. While not everyone will be healed instantly, we can expect to experience moments of God's healing power demonstrated as we pray.

Questions:

- What is your most embarrassing moment? (OPTIONAL QUESTION).

- Would you rather give an unprepared speech in front of your class or sing a solo without any musical accompaniment?

God The Healer

- + “All I could think was, ‘Jesus is about to heal me!’ And I have never been that confident of something in my entire life.” - Krystle
- + “I am the Lord, your healer.” - Exodus 15:26
- + All through the Gospels we read about Jesus repeatedly healing people.
- + Healing is in God's character, and it's part of His love for us.
- + God's power and willingness to heal is demonstrated in the Old Testament, in the life of Jesus, in the early Church, and in the world today.

Questions:

- Do you believe that God heals people today? Why or why not?

- What do you think about Krystle’s story?

- Physical healing isn’t the only type of healing someone can experience. What are some other ways someone could be healed?

The Kingdom Of God

- + “The kingdom of God isn’t a geographical space. It captures the idea of God’s rule and reign in any city or country around the world.” - Ben
- + 2,000 years ago, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and this marked a new era of God’s kingdom.
- + “Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness.”
- Matthew 9:35

- + God's kingdom is marked by peace, joy, love and healing. Broken things are made new, lost things are found, and tears are wiped away.
- + Jesus told his disciples that He would return one day. This would mark the beginning of a new era. There are over 300 references in the New Testament to the second coming of Jesus.
- + The kingdom of God is here and now, and yet, we anticipate a day in the future, when Christ will return and the fullness of God's kingdom will be revealed.

Healing Today

- + "In Matthew 10, Jesus gives His disciples authority to heal the sick. And it wasn't just limited to them. In Luke 10, He's with 72 of His followers, and He sends them out to do the exact same thing. And then it gets more exciting: the Word of God invites us—that's me and you—to participate in healing." - Jason
- + 1 Corinthians 12 describes spiritual gifts that God gives to His children, including gifts of healing.
- + Nowhere in the Bible does it mention that these gifts are limited to a certain period of time or to a small group of people. All of God's children are invited to ask for and receive healing.
- + "We're free and able to ask the Holy Spirit at any time to heal us. But if the Spirit does not do it, there is no reason to think that it is because we have no faith or because God does not love us or is punishing us."¹¹ - Father Raniero Cantalamessa (The Preacher to the Papal Household)
- + "Some of us can relate to the miracles we've shared, and others of us know the feeling of loss too." - Jason
- + When people experience healing, their faith increases. Even when there is no healing, people often feel closer to God as they sense His presence and peace.
- + Regardless of the results of our prayers for healing, God wants to meet each of us in the middle of what we are going through.

Questions:

- Have you ever prayed for someone to be healed? What happened?
- How do we make sense of the times God doesn't heal someone when we as
- Have you ever been sick or injured and had someone pray for you to be healed?
- Have you heard of anyone being healed supernaturally?
- What do you think of ordinary people praying for others to be healed?

Praying For Healing

- + Each one of us is invited to be prayed for and to pray for others.
- + God does the healing, not us. There are no magic techniques or secrets.
- + When we pray for God to heal, we can:
 - Pray in Jesus' name
 - Lay hands on people when appropriate
 - Ask God for wisdom and discernment
 - Ask the person being prayed for how he or she is feeling
- + One pastor used to say, "When we pray for no one, no one gets healed. Instead, we pray for everyone and not everyone's healed, but some are."
- + "I wonder if you'll give this a try: would you let someone pray for a need that you may have? Or maybe you'll be brave enough and have the faith to pray for someone who needs healing!" - Ben
- + The kingdom of God is here and now, and yet, we anticipate a day in the future, when Christ will return and the fullness of God's kingdom will be revealed.