

Healing, Restoration, Salvation

Matthew 8:1-17

Bill Reeves Jr.

Please turn to Matthew chapter eight, verses one to seventeen.

Genuine vs. Deception

It is intriguing that we have a profound desire to witness God's intervention in our lives today. Engage in prayer, utilize spiritual gifts, be filled with the Holy Spirit, exercise the gifts bestowed upon us, assist individuals in comprehending Christ as their Savior, and as they place their trust in Christ, their sins are forgiven, they are cleansed, and they are granted eternal life. The most remarkable miracle in life is present within these verses. Furthermore, we entrust our well-being to God.

Notably, the most significant aspect of trusting God for our health lies in remembering that Jesus is "the Great Physician". When we approach God directly for our health, we are essentially seeking our Father who cares for us and provides for us. He frequently intervenes to alleviate our ailments, diseases, and health concerns. He created our bodies with the ability to heal and fight diseases.

The period during which God worked directly through miracles, exemplified by Moses, Elijah, Elisha, and the Lord Jesus Christ during his three-and-a-half-year ministry, stands as a testament to this. As they carried out their mission, the apostles documented God's revelations to fulfill the New Testament canon. They performed numerous miracles that are verifiable.

Naturally, many individuals yearn for similar experiences to occur in the present day. However, the downside of this pursuit can be seen in instances where individuals make errors in certain areas in an attempt to gain some form of experience from the Lord. There have been instances of fraudulent healings and signs that individuals have sought to validate their actions. Unfortunately, these practices often lead to erroneous results or ideas. People continue to seek new revelations from God, despite Revelation explicitly stating that adding to the book is prohibited.¹ Despite this, individuals persist in attempting to create new revelations, and almost every cult has introduced new revelations that they claim are equivalent to or superior to the Bible, leading people astray. False teachings and false teachers, all promising, are perpetuated through these individuals.

Because people are suffering there has been many to exploit their need for healing with false claims to heal often making these charlatans rich. Faith

¹ Rev. 22:18, 19. Jesus talked of false prophets and Messiahs, Matt. 24:5, 11. Paul wrote of those adding to the gospel, Gal. 1:6-9. We have the record of Christ and the apostles in the New Testament. While ministries in the Church age have left records of their teachings, none of these writings are the Word of God. Thank God for skilled pastors, teachers, evangelists, and missionaries to both bring the Bible to new generations; their work is not new revelations.

healers have done this but so do health peddlers with products that make many false promises. They target the infirm and the aged like the snake oil peddlers of the past. They now use AI manipulation to sell these useless products.

One of the current techniques being used today is producing AI voices of celebrities who now endorse these snake oil promises. I have even heard celebrities who have died endorse products. I haven't been able to verify one recording in which the dead celebrity trusted in Christ. On one hand, I hope it's true that that person did trust Christ, but on the other hand, what if they use AI technology to produce a bad testimony?

Throughout history, humanity has been captivated by the concept of ghosts and spirits. People have engaged in practices such as using Ouija boards to communicate with the deceased and exploring spiritualism. At one time, spiritualism held significant sway, with individuals seeking to connect with the beyond. We are seeing a rise in witchcraft and paganism who act out many erroneous beliefs which are often irrational. However, this pursuit has often led to erroneous beliefs and superstitions. Even individuals with mental health challenges have reported visions or experiences that they attribute to divine intervention, either during manic episodes or delusional states. Unfortunately, these experiences are often harmful, nonsensical, and contradict the teachings of the Bible.

When reflecting on our contemporary experiences with God, it is crucial to discern whether they originate from the divine source and align with the Word of God. We can find great joy in witnessing God's work in our lives today. Nevertheless, it is essential to avoid straying down false paths.

Jesus Healing Ministry

Now, let us examine Matthew's account of Jesus' healing ministry. Jesus demonstrates his authority over sin, darkness, sickness, and death. The diseases he heals are severe and potentially life-threatening, and in one instance, he directly addresses a person who represents a specific sin, namely leprosy. Leprosy is a symbol of sin in the Old Testament and the Bible. Jesus' healing of the centurion's servant exemplifies his authority over sickness, as he does not need to physically visit the location. Instead, he heals from a distance. This demonstrates God's ability to heal today, as a great physician who operates from heaven. He does not need to descend to perform specific healings as he did in the New Testament on numerous occasions. His authority over healing is inherent. Furthermore, we must acknowledge the existence of numerous infectious diseases that pose a significant threat to human life. In some instances, amputation of limbs or other drastic measures are necessary to survive due to fever-inducing illnesses. While these conditions were prevalent during childhood, they could also be fatal in adulthood. Notably, Jesus possessed the power to overcome these ailments and even exorcise demons.

Additionally, he demonstrated the ability to heal all individuals. This is precisely what we observe in this passage.

Healing Unclean Disease

Matthew 18:1-4

1When He had come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed Him. 2And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean."

3Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, "I am willing; be cleansed." Immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

4And Jesus said to him, "See that you tell no one; but go your way, show yourself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, as a testimony to them."

Instantly, the leprosy vanished. Jesus instructed the leper to remain silent and proceed to a priest, presenting the offering prescribed by Moses as a testament to his recovery.

This passage presents several noteworthy events. Notably, Jesus himself engaged in an action generally discouraged because it could render him unclean. Despite this, he extended his hand and touched the leper. The leper, in a remarkable display of faith, inquired, "Lord, are you willing to help me? I am aware of your ability to cleanse me, but are you willing?" Jesus's response was affirmative, and he touched the leper, resulting in immediate and complete healing.

The Healing Touches of Jesus

Healing Touches of the Messiah

The largest block of occurrences depicts Jesus extending His hand to restore life, cleanse disease, or impart sight. Examples include:

Matthew 8:3;	the leper is cleansed the instant	Unclean pictures sin II Corinthians 5:21 (NKJV)
Mark 1:41;	"Jesus reached out	For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.
Luke 5:13	His hand and touched him."	I Peter 2:22 (NKJV) "Who committed no sin, Nor was deceit found in His mouth"; I John 3:5 (NKJV) And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin.

Matthew 8:15	Peter's mother-in-law is healed when "He touched her hand, and the fever left her."	Infections and communal diseases Sicknesses part of the fall and curse Genesis 3:14-18 "Cursed" "Return to the dust"
Matthew 9:29	two blind men receive sight at "His touch."	The touch as all of these touches connected Jesus compassion and healing to one suffering. One sense unable but touch still communicated "I am the light of the world" John 8:12 light rules darkness. Darkness picture evil.
Mark 7:33	the deaf-mute's ears are opened after Jesus "put His fingers into the man's ears ... and touched his tongue."	The touch as all of these touches connected Jesus compassion and healing to one suffering. One sense unable but touch still communicated Pictures sin which separates us from others and God. We are spiritually dead and sedated from God. "for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God," Romans 3:21 Ephesians 2:13 (NKJV) But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Colossians 1:21 (NKJV) And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled
Luke 7:14	Luke 7:14 – the corpse of the widow's son is revived when Jesus "touched the coffin."	Death happens to all Jesus conquered death "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. " Romans 8:37ff For I am persuaded that neither death nor life,..., shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." 1 Cor, 15:54-57

In every case, the touch neither contaminates Christ nor compromises His holiness; rather, it transmits purity, power, and life. These narratives underscore His authority over sickness and death and foreshadow His atoning work, where the Holy One bears impurity to bestow righteousness.

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To further emphasize the significance of Jesus's touch, consider the numerous instances in which he touched individuals. Each touch was accompanied by a corresponding healing of a disease. In the biblical narrative, Jesus demonstrates compassion towards a leper who was being shunned by the community. Despite the potential health risks associated with touching someone with a communicable disease, Jesus chooses to touch the leper. While

² Chart is based on note in the Net Bible I added the significance in the third column.

it is not advisable to touch someone with a communicable disease in real life, Jesus's actions reflect his willingness to help those in need.

Jesus instructs the leper to seek the priest's guidance, stating, "I did not come to destroy the law, but to fulfill it." In Matthew 5:17, Jesus explicitly fulfills the word of God regarding this matter. He instructs the leper to follow the principles outlined in Leviticus chapters 13 and 14.

Leviticus chapters 13 and 14 describe the process of diagnosing and treating skin diseases, including leprosy. Leprosy was likely a group of communicable skin disorders that required medical attention. The skin did not heal on its own, and priests were responsible for allowing the body to heal. If the skin did not heal then the leper had to separate himself from the community and family. This was not a rash decision. There was a time element to see if the body could heal itself.

Medical isolation is still used as seen in the Spanish flu in 1918 and even in the Covid years. We may have to use isolation in future viral diseases.

When Jesus instructed the leper to show himself to the priest, he established a process for the priest to assess the condition and determine if the leper was healed. If the leper was healed, the priest would allow the leper to return to their family and community, enabling them to resume their daily lives and livelihoods.

Jesus's actions demonstrate his compassion and authority to address sin, including darkness, sickness, and death.

Jesus Authority Over Sickness

Matthew 8:5-13

5Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6saying, "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented."

7And Jesus said to him, "I will come and heal him."

8The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. 9For I also am a man under authority, having soldiers under me. And I say to this one, 'Go,' and he goes; and to another, 'Come,' and he comes; and to my servant, 'Do this,' and he does it."

10When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, "Assuredly, I say to you, I have not

found such great faith, not even in Israel! 11And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. 12But the sons of the kingdom

will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” 13Then Jesus said to the centurion, “Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you.” And his servant was healed that same hour.

Jesus then instructed the centurion to go his way in faith, assuring him that his request would be fulfilled. His servant was miraculously healed that very hour.

This incident highlights the centurion’s profound faith and his willingness to extend his request beyond his own authority. Unlike the leper who approached Jesus with a simple request for healing, the centurion demonstrated a deep understanding of authority and its implications. He recognized his own power and authority over his soldiers, and he applied this knowledge in his request for Jesus to heal his servant.

Jesus’s reaction to the centurion’s faith was one of amazement and admiration. He had not encountered such great faith in Israel, and he expressed his astonishment at the centurion’s willingness to trust in his authority and his ability to heal. Subsequently, he elaborated on the concept of a future era when individuals from all corners of the globe will reside within the kingdom. The Gentiles will be granted inclusion in this realm. This is precisely what He is referring to. They will be united with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob within the kingdom. However, there will be those who belong to the Jewish lineage due to their unbelief and will not be part of the kingdom. Instead, they will be cast into outer darkness.

This outer darkness is akin to the darkness encountered in caves, where the lights are extinguished. While I conducted these visits before the advent of cell phones, I am curious to speculate on how many individuals would resort to cheating and activating their phones when the lights are turned off. However, when the lights are extinguished in these caves, one is enveloped in absolute darkness. It is an unsettling and disorienting experience.

In contrast, when one ventures outside, the stars' light illuminates the surroundings. There are also various light-producing devices, ranging from fires to electric light bulbs, that reflect light even through clouds. There is light everywhere. On a clear night, even without the moon, the stars provide illumination. Once one’s eyes become accustomed to this light, they can navigate through the darkness. However, in outer darkness, there is no light.

This is a metaphor for sin. Sin is depicted as darkness. But what can dispel this darkness? The light. Jesus proclaimed his identity as the light, stating, "I am the light."³ The darkness represents sin, death, sickness, and all the negative aspects we are discussing, particularly in relation to our eternal salvation and eternal life in heaven. When we embrace Christ, the darkness is dispelled, and we confront it.

There are indeed dark films and novels characterized by their exploration of the complexities of sin and the ways individuals harm one another. These films can become quite dark in their portrayal. Occasionally, individuals must study individuals engaged in the most heinous acts of evil to comprehend their mindset. This endeavor is profoundly dark, but we are destined to become children of light, and our lives should reflect this transformation. When we illuminate our path⁴ with our light, it provides vision on Earth, enabling us to effectively confront and overcome evil. His actions are truly remarkable.

He instructs the Centurion, as you have stated, your servant has been healed. Upon returning home, the individual verifies the occurrence and notes that it transpired only a few minutes ago, covering the time they walked from Jesus to Capernaum. This confirms that the miracle occurred at the precise moment Jesus spoke.

Matthew 8:14, 15

*14Now when Jesus had come into Peter's house,
He saw his wife's mother lying sick with a fever. 15So
He touched her hand, and the fever left her. And she
arose and served them.*

Jesus's actions were remarkably simple, demonstrating his authority and power to heal individuals, even those suffering from internal infections. During that era, penicillin and other effective treatments for infections were not available. Many infections caused fevers and led to death. Jesus touched her again, and she was immediately healed. She regained her strength and took on her role, instructing Jesus to leave her kitchen. She possessed the strength not only to overcome her illness but also to restore her physical strength, enabling her to serve once more.

Jesus Authority Over Darkness

At this time, various forms of darkness were actively attempting to thwart Jesus's mission. The demonic world engaged in numerous actions to hinder his work.

Matt. 8:16, 17

³ John 8:12

⁴ Psalm 119:105

16When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, 17that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying:

*“He Himself took our infirmities
And bore our sicknesses.”*

There was no elaborate incantation, counter-spell, or any other form of ritual involved in the exorcism. It was solely a word. Observe there are two different groups. One type involved demonic activity. This is another area where people are so desperate to see the supernatural they get involved in the occult and see demons every where. There is lot written and pseudo documentaries about these things. That is a bad approach to this subject. I recommend that you don't get preoccupied with these things. If you'd like to study the Bible about Satan and his kingdom in the footnote, I suggest some good studies.⁵ The demons emerged, accompanied by other individuals who were not connected to the demonic possession. These individuals were also sick, despite not being possessed by demons. They suffered from various ailments, although the specific nature of these illnesses is not explicitly mentioned. Regardless, Jesus healed them. This act of healing was fulfilled as prophesied by Isaiah the prophet, who stated, “He himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.”

When John the Baptist questioned Jesus, “Are you the one? Are you the Messiah? Or should we be looking for someone else?” Jesus responded to the people who had come from John by instructing them to inform John of his actions. He quoted Isaiah and emphasized his ability to heal the blind, the feeble, and others in need. John was sufficiently convinced by Jesus's words to recognize him as the Messiah.

People expected the Messiah to liberate them from Roman rule. However, Jesus's primary objective was to become the savior. He understood that individuals required forgiveness of their sins, as the shedding of blood was necessary for this process. The numerous healings performed by Jesus were intricately connected to the concept of spiritual sickness, specifically sin. Sin

⁵ Chafer, Lewis Sperry Satan 1909, Moody Press Chicago 1919 https://archive.org/details/satan0000lewi_n5q1/mode/2up Published The Sunday School Times Philadelphia, Pa. 1922 https://archive.org/details/satan0000lewi_g0t2/page/n11/mode/2up Honduran Published book in 1964 <https://archive.org/details/satanhismotiveme0000lewi/mode/2up> You can order a copy from Amazon as well. Satan, His Motives and Methods Unger, Merrill F. biblical.demonology: a study of spiritual forces at work today Published by Scripture Press Wheaton Ill. 1963 - you can get a paperback or a Kindle book from Amazon. A very good study in the subject. Epp, Theodore The Believer's Spiritual Warfare Back to the Bible Lincoln Nebraska 1973

has caused humanity to fall short of God's glory. Jesus's crucifixion on the cross was a means of expiating our sins. Through his sacrifice, every individual has the opportunity to experience deliverance from sin and attain eternal life. Those who have been tainted by sin and influenced by darkness can now embrace the light and undergo purification, becoming whiter than snow. By placing their trust in Christ as their Savior, they can achieve this profound transformation. It is a truly remarkable and transformative experience. In conclusion, there are three key takeaways from this discussion. Firstly, it is essential to recognize that you have trusted in Christ as your Savior. You can do this by acknowledging that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and by believing in Him as your Savior. The Bible states, "For as many as call upon the name of the Lord, they shall be saved." By believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, you can be saved.

Secondly, we all desire God's presence in our lives and seek His guidance and assistance. However, we often encounter challenges such as sickness, sin, darkness, and even terminal diseases. In such situations, it is crucial to seek the help of the great physician, God Himself. There is no greater source of healing than God. Additionally, we have the unique ability to support others in their struggles. We have gained valuable insights into helping individuals overcome their illnesses. This is a divine calling that requires compassion and dedication.

The first great hospitals emerged because Christians were motivated to care for the sick. Medicine is indeed a remarkable field, and we should pray to the great physician for healing. Furthermore, we should allow others to assist us in our journey. Numerous instances have demonstrated how God has intervened in our lives during difficult times. Reflecting on these experiences, we can see the divine hand at work.

Lastly, we must recognize God's authority to guide us in walking in light and embracing the new way. We should emulate Christ's example, treating others with the same compassion and love that He demonstrated. This involves sharing the gospel and imparting truths that will empower believers to walk in the Lord's path. Indeed, this approach is highly practical, and by engaging in these activities, we will witness God's transformative work in our lives. We will observe the miraculous power of the gospel, where individuals find salvation. We will witness the miraculous application of God's Word, as demonstrated in the Scriptures, and the support we provide one another in our journey with the Lord. We will witness the miraculous transformation of lives, where individuals now walk in the light of God's truth. Remarkable experiences await us.

It is crucial to avoid seeking guidance from deceptive sources that distort reality and prioritize self-interest. These false teachers often derive substantial financial gain from the suffering of others, creating a stark contrast to the genuine teachings of God.

By aligning ourselves with God's intended path, we will witness His transformative power in our lives. Engage in these activities, and you will experience God's presence and guidance.

Thank you, Lord, for your Word. We trust in your guidance and seek your help. In our moments of weakness and illness, we ask for your strength and support. We also ask for your guidance in helping one another. Thank you, Lord, for the knowledge and wisdom you have imparted to us. In science, medicine, and everyday life, these insights have proven beneficial in addressing challenges and improving well-being. Finally, we ask for your continued guidance as we strive to walk in your footsteps and restore our health. May we emulate the example of Peter's mother-in-law, who exemplified love, compassion, and dedication to God's work. Thank you, Lord, in Jesus' name, Amen.