

Gift of Healing

#0097

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—December 10, 1975

Whatever we do, whatever we study, should be against the backdrop of the setting sun. Earth's long day is just about to end.

The sunset burns across the sky,
Upon the air its warning cry;
The curfew tolls from tower to tower,
O, children, tis the last, last hour.

The work that centuries might have done,
Must crowd the hour of setting sun;
And through all lands the saving Name,
We must, in fervent haste, proclaim.

We hear His footsteps on the way,
Oh, work while it is called today;
Constrained by love, endued with power,
O, children, tis the last, last hour.

The last hour—a *solemn* hour, but a *gladsome* hour—because Jesus is coming soon. Why doesn't He come? Because His people are not yet prepared. There is a work that must be done to make ready a people prepared for the Lord. That is the objective of the third angel's message, and health reform and medical missionary work are a part of that wonderful program which came to this people by revelation to help us get ready to meet our Lord, and to help others to get ready.

This evening, our topic is the gift of healing. And, as we study from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy together, we want to find out the place of the health work in the work of the church.

“Wherefore He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ”
Ephesians 4:8,11–13.

We find that when Jesus ascended on high, He led a multitude of captives and gave gifts unto men. The entrance upon His priestly ministry in the Heavenly Sanctuary was signalized by the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in a greater measure than ever before in the history of the world. He gave some apostles and prophets and evangelists and pastors and teachers. Then He tells us what they are for. They are for the work of the ministry, the edifying of the body of Christ. And He tells us that these gifts are to remain until we are all brought to unity and to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. Quite a program!

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues” 1 Corinthians 12:28.

Note that, while Paul tells us the place of *origin* of these gifts, He shows us the place of *function*. These gifts that originate in the Heavenly Sanctuary are manifested in the church. God has set these gifts of His Spirit in the church.

If people understood this, they wouldn't be looking anywhere and everywhere, especially in Babylon, for the manifestations of the true Spirit of God. God has given the Holy Ghost to them who obey Him, and these gifts of the Spirit are to be found within the remnant church that keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus, which is the Spirit of Prophecy.

Notice that in this list of gifts is mentioned the gifts of healings. It is interesting that the words "gifts" and "healings" are both in the plural. Surely this world needs every gift of healing that Heaven can bestow in this sick, sad hour. And thank God, He has put these gifts in His church.

As far as Heaven is concerned, God intended that every Gospel message and every gift of healing to be within and from His church. You may ask a number of questions about that, but the statement stands. God has put the gifts of healings in His church. It's true that we have a great deal of healing going on outside, but we are studying the ideal—we are studying God's plan—and His plan is that the gifts of healings shall be set in His church and manifested through His church.

“And He said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover” Mark 16:15–18.

Somebody says, "Brother Frazee, you are talking about miraculous healing. You are talking about faith healing. You are talking about healing in answer to prayer. And we are here tonight in this seminar to study scientific medicine. We are here to study healing done through what might be called the physiological or the natural means."

Our subject tonight is to make clear the fact that, in God's plan and purpose, these two are one, my friends. They are not two separate things. The Christian worker who understands this subject does not look upon healing by prayer as something to be done as a last resort when all the medical means fail. This is not a true understanding of God's plan of healing. This Gospel commission, including the wonderful promise that they shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover, is intended by the Lord to cover the ministry of all medical missionaries. We will read some supporting statements from the Spirit of Prophecy in this. And God intends in His highest ideal that those who lead out in and carry the burden for this health ministry within the church shall be as truly called of God and set apart by God and by the church for this ministry as those who we ordinarily think of as the preachers of the Word.

For example:

"Every physician can and ought to be a Christian, and if so, he bares with him a cure for the soul as well as the body. He is doing the work of an apostle as well as of a physician"
Counsels on Health, page 535.

God's beautiful ideal is that the physician shall be an apostle. "Apostle" means "one sent." Sent by whom? By God.

The Christian physician who understands this will feel the call to the ministry as truly as the evangelist who stands on the public platform or who pastors a church. He will realize that he has been called of God as was Aaron. In the ancient service, the ministry of the priest included the body as well as the soul. In the plan of salvation, the atonement, accomplished by Jesus on the cross and in the sanctuary, includes the healing of the body as well as the salvation of the soul.

We are assured that the promise we read in Mark 16—"they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover"—is just as trustworthy now as in the days of the apostles. What does "trustworthy" mean? Dependable, worthy of trust. What is God's plan for healing people? What is God's plan for sick people? That they shall get healing from the church through the ministry of those whose hands are laid upon them.

You say, "Brother Frazee, that's talking about special healing services when the elders are called, like in James 5."

True, but it's not *restricted* to that. Listen:

“The Lord's promise, ‘They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover’ (Mark 16:18) is just as trustworthy now as in the days of the apostles... Christ's servants are the channel of His working, and through them He desires to exercise His healing power.

...“Christ desires to manifest His presence in the sickroom, filling the hearts of physicians and nurses with the sweetness of His love” *Ministry of Healing*, page 226.

So this promise in Mark 16, as it is to be fulfilled in the Advent movement, includes the total medical ministry of the church. It includes the physicians and nurses as well as the ministers and Bible workers. And what does Jesus say? “They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” The prophet says that through personal ministry, through direct contact, the blessings of the Gospel are to be communicated.

This is not some mystical, mysterious essence or influence that is to be brought like some electric impulse. No, no. The Spirit of God is to be upon every medical missionary. And that Holy Spirit is to use the physician, the nurse, the minister, the Bible worker, the teacher, the helper in any line, to reach the sick with healing power. Isn't that a wonderful thing that you and I are privileged to be the channels for the Holy Spirit to bring healing to people—healing of body, healing of soul?

This lifts prayer for the sick out of the realm of some gimmick, some therapy, something that can be taught like teaching nurses in a regimented way to be sure and have a goodnight prayer with the sick to help them go to sleep. We are talking about something infinitely higher than this. We are talking about something that cannot be taught as a technique. The gift of the Spirit of God is not gotten that way.

Simon Magus, seeing the miracles of healing that Philip wrought, offered money to Peter and John that *he* might receive that power. God, through Peter, spoke to that man who had missed the whole point, “Your money perish with you because you have thought that the gift of God might be purchased with money.”

God's gift of healing cannot be purchased with money. The patient cannot buy it with money, and the physician and nurse cannot purchase it with money. There is no way that it can be learned as a technique. It is a gift of the Spirit of God. Therefore, we should pray for it with all our hearts.

How foolish, how tragic, how criminal to dare to minister to the sick without this power from God!

“Therefore personal religion for all physicians in the sick room is essential to success in giving the simple treatment without drugs” *Medical Ministry*, page 235.

This is a key statement in our study. Science looks for a method that will always work regardless of who administers the treatment. God has not given us such a program. He deliberately plans a program that can be successful only as men and women are Spirit-filled. And those who are chasing that will-of-the-wisp, running after that illusion that if there is only enough scientific research, that science will at last come up with an antidote for every poison, a remedy for every disease, they will never find the end of that road.

You say, "Brother Frazee, what about scientific research?"

Certainly. But I trust that tonight God will make it abundantly clear to us that "the work of the true medical missionary is largely a spiritual work" (*Counsels on Health*, page 540).

You say, "If two people give the same treatment to patients in similar needs, and one of them is a man of prayer and deep spiritual experience and the other is unconverted, that there will be a difference in the results?"

That's exactly the truth, my friends. And why shouldn't it be? Certainly, if two men go out to preach this message and one is converted and the other isn't, we should expect that God would bless the Spirit-filled, converted man with greater power in his ministry than the one who merely recites sermons. Equally true in this medical missionary work. And thank God it's so. God has never intended that either the minister or the physician should be successful without Him.

I'm glad it is so. I don't want to work apart from God in either physical ministry or spiritual ministry. What do you say? Thank God for partnership with Jesus.

Now notice that the statement I read mentions the *simple* treatment. There are remedies described in the Spirit of Prophecy as *natural* remedies, *simple* remedies, *rational* remedies, that God has promised especially to bless. But notice that the success in *using* these remedies depends upon a personal connection with Jesus Christ. It is part of the exercise of the gift of healing.

"Because we have sanitariums for the healing of the sick we are not to cease to call upon the Great Healer. When we are urged to establish sanitariums, it is not that we may depend alone upon the simple remedies used, but that we may point the afflicted ones to the Mighty Healer of disease" *Medical Ministry*, page 28.

I trust I will not be misunderstood, but this is not just some holy water sprinkled on things. It isn't some religious tranquilizer to make the patient feel good. This is the essence of the whole program. Without the presence of the Spirit of God, the use of these remedies will not be as effective and effectual as God intended. Really, these

remedies that God has given us are the channel through which God works—the agencies that He uses. They are not the end; they are the means.

“When we are urged to establish sanitariums, it is not that we may depend alone upon the simple remedies used, but that we may point the afflicted ones to the Mighty Healer of disease. We are to plead for His power to work in harmony with our medical ministrations.

...”Let us present the gospel to the sick, connecting Jesus, the Great Healer, with the simple remedies used; and our living faith will be answered. But those who come to the Great Healer must be willing to do His will...” *Ibid.*

Notice the partnership of it. We do not say to the patient, then, “We will do all we can medically, and if your case is beyond the reach of those, then you may call if you wish for the chaplain to pray for you, and maybe God will heal you miraculously. That’s not the program, my dear friends. We are to present Jesus, the Great Healer, and connect Jesus with the simple remedies used. And our living faith will be answered. But those who come to the Great Healer must be willing to do His will.

The unconverted practitioner cannot qualify to have these experiences. This is a call to heart-searching on the part of every medical missionary.

“Christ declared that He came to recover men's lives. This work is to be done by Christ's followers, and it is to be done by the most simple means... In the work of healing let the physicians work intelligently, not with drugs, but by following rational methods. Then let them by the prayer of faith draw upon the power of God to stay the progress of disease. This will inspire in the suffering ones belief in Christ and the power of prayer, and it will give them confidence in our simple methods of treating disease” *Medical Ministry*, page 29.

We’re not quacks when we follow God's program. We’re not faddists when we follow God's program. We are scientific in the sense that we are in harmony with natural law. And the thing that gives people confidence in using these simple, natural, rational methods is the prayer of faith by the bedside of the sick, acquainting the sick with the fact that we know that God blesses these natural remedies. They were never meant to be the methods used by the irregulars and faddists. God forgive us that we ever go anywhere near that road. God intended that every rational remedy, every natural method, should be a part of the gift of healing in His church. That is why He has given us literally hundreds, yes thousands, of details in the writings of the modern prophet to guide us in our practice of medicine.

Can you think of a more exalted privilege than to be the channels for the outworking of God's mighty power in relieving the diseases and healing the sicknesses of men and women? This is the precious privilege, the glorious opportunity that God has given us in this remnant church.

All this costs something. The cost is revealed to us:

“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all” Isaiah 53:6.

This shows us the cause of sin, the cause of sickness. It also points us to the remedy. Our sins, our transgressions, the result of following our own way, it's all been laid on Jesus.

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed” Isaiah 53:5.

Is healing expensive? Oh yes, my friends, healing is expensive. “With His stripes we are healed.”

That there may be no question as to the application of this to physical healing, I quote:

“Christ is the Great Physician, not only of the body but of the soul. He restores man to his God. God permitted His only-begotten Son to be bruised, that healing properties might flow forth from Him to cure all our diseases. Physicians are to act in Christ's stead. Every physician who has planted his feet upon the Rock of Ages draws from the Great Physician his restoring power” *Medical Ministry*, page 120.

Dear brethren in medical ministry, where lies your healing power? From Jesus, the smitten Lamb, the dying Sacrifice. With His stripes we are healed. Here at the cross, the fountain has been opened. Thank God, here at the pierced feet of Jesus, we receive not merely forgiveness for sin; we receive healing for the wounds that sin has made in both body and mind.

Do you see how utterly unrealistic it is, then, to think that we could carry a program like this without truly converted people on the staff, at every level? It is utterly impossible to reach God's ideal without that. Healing is expensive. It comes through the blood of Jesus Christ.

What we are studying is an experience in the life and ministry of Dr. David Paulson, one of the greatest medical missionaries in the history of this denomination.

The story is related by Dr. Magan, for many years the president of the College of Medical Evangelists at Loma Linda. Dr. Magan tells this story which was related to him by Dr. Franklin H. Martin, the director-general of the American College of Surgeons a few weeks before Dr. David Paulson died. I will read it so you can get it as he told it:

"We, Dr. Martin and I, had walked together from the Hinsdale Sanitarium to the Highland Station where we took a train for Chicago. I asked Dr. Martin what he thought of our dear friend's chances for recovery. (Dr. Paulson was lying sick.)

He replied, "I fear they are very slender. 'Then he added, 'Let me tell you a story.'"

Here is the story from the man who was a great leader for many years in the American College of Surgeons.

"I was called to Hinsdale one day to operate on a woman who was afflicted with an abdominal cancer. A few moments sufficed after we commenced our work to satisfy me that surgical aid was impossible and futile. I told the nurses and the poor patient's people that we were powerless.

"After leaving the operating room, I came along the same walk that we trod today. Soon I was conscious that someone was following me with quick and hurried steps. I turned to see David Paulson coming after me.

He caught me by the arm and said, 'Dr. Martin, what about this poor woman?'

"I replied, 'Nothing can be done for her,' to which he rejoined, 'Well, maybe you are right. Humanly speaking, I suppose you are. But after all, Franklin Martin, there is a God in heaven. And that God can raise people up when you and I fail. 'Then he turned and went his way back to the sanitarium, and I went on mine to the Highland Station.

"Dr. Magan, let me tell you two things. If anyone else in all the world had talked to me after David Paulson's manner, I would have set him down at once as a fanatic and a visionary religionist, but it was never so with David Paulson. Somehow or other, when that man spoke, a feeling amounting to certain knowledge took possession of my soul, and I felt I was in the presence of one to whom God was a real, living, personal friend. It was ever thus.

“And again—and this is the second thing I must tell you—the Hinsdale Sanitarium is a good place. Dr. Mary Paulson is a talented woman, and her nurses have done great things. But when all is said and done, many a soul who has come to the Hinsdale Sanitarium for help would be beneath the sod today were it not for the fact that David Paulson had prayed them back to life and health.”

Dr. Martin continues:

“Months passed away, and one day this woman whom I had pronounced hopeless walked into my office. At first, I did not recognize her. Then it was that she told me this story:

“I was lying on my bed still partially under the influence of the anesthetic. I heard my relatives saying that Dr. Martin had told them I could not live. A horror of great darkness filled my soul. I felt I could not go and leave my husband and children who needed me so badly. Soon I heard the voice of David Paulson praying. He seemed to be talking with God about me and telling his Father in heaven how greatly my family needed me. I lay very still, and the prayer continued and went on and on and on. Then it was that a great peace filled my soul. I knew that there was one man who could talk with God most intimately and whose heart longings God hears. ”

Dr. Martin concludes:

“I examined that woman and found no trace of malignancy within her, and she is living and well today.”

Some dear physician and some nurse is saying, “I wish I could have an experience like that.” My dear friends, you can. You can't be David Paulson, but you can do something which for you is better. You can be the man that God meant you to be, the woman that God intended you to be.

My burden tonight is that if God has called you to medical ministry, if it's a calling from God, then behold this wonderful fact that you can receive, if God has called you, the gift of His Spirit, the gift of healing. Do not run without it. Do not get used to operating without that unction. Oh, don't. You cannot go. What profit is it to carry glasses to sick patients that have no water in them? What profit is it if we go through the movements, the techniques, of our medical and nursing work, without this mighty power of the Holy Spirit working in and through us? How can we receive it?

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that

asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened” Matthew 7:7–8.

“The Lord has given me light that when the Israel of today humble themselves before Him, and cleanse the soul-temple from all defilement, He will hear their prayers in behalf of the sick and will bless in the use of His remedies for disease”
Testimonies for the Church, Volume 9, page 164.

Let's be satisfied with nothing less than that. What do you say?

[Testimony service follows]

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