

The Context for Healing Prayer

Introduction

- As important as healing prayer is – it must be recognized as only a part of the healing process God desires to bring to all of us. If there is only healing prayer – and no internalizing of some related truths – the effectiveness will gradually diminish – and produce confusion and disappointment.
- Healing comes to pass through personal relationships. It is a redemptive healing – through a personal relationship with God as mediated through personal relationships with His people. The importance of this truth cannot be overlooked.
- For healing to be Biblical and effective it must operate within a context of truths or principles that needs to be understood, internalized and practiced by faith, love and hope, with the help of Spirit-filled people. Most of us continue to live as wounded and frustrated people, in spite of the love and grace of God, because we want instant healing and/or try to do it all on our own.

Provisional Suggestions Regarding a Context for Healing Prayer

- God created us like Himself – a person – with many rights, privileges, and abilities. Everyone is important to God. We all have the same value before Him. He has not removed from us any of the rights He gave to Adam and Eve.
- The basic characteristic of our personage is that we are spirit – not primarily mind, will, emotions, body or a social person. We are, by nature, spirit(ual) people.
- One of our greatest God-given abilities is to be able to have a personal and growing relationship with God Himself. We were designed to hear Him, receive His love, speak to Him, give Him our love, worship and serve Him. That relationship was to be our greatest joy and bring unlimited growth and satisfaction.
- We were created to live in a personal relationship of love with Jesus Christ and through Him, with the Father, and with the Holy Spirit.
- That love relationship was designed to be reciprocal and always growing in intimacy.
- That intimate relationship of love was to be characterized by God continually giving us of Himself. On our part it was to be characterized by continually giving ourselves to Him in practical and worshipful expressions of love, faith and hope.

- That vertical relationship was given a parallel in the horizontal. We were also designed to have relationships of love with other people that would be characterized by joy, trust, companionship, unity, growth and mutual edification.
- The above relationships were extremely damaged and distorted by the entrance of sin into the human race and into our own lives.
- In the light of the above relationships -- we now live, even as believers, as wounded, scarred, often deceived, vulnerable to Satan, and to every form of error and evil.
- We are subliminally aware of our loss and live with an approach to life such as, “This is not the way it’s supposed to be.” We have tendency to blame God for everything from hangnails to wars.
- We all seek and need love, recognition, acceptance, forgiveness, companionship, friendship, a confidant, a confessor and a spiritual guide.
- Only God can supply what we need. He has not abandoned us nor changed His mind. His deepest desire is to have an intimate relationship of love with us.
- The process of healing usually comes through personal relationships with honest, Spirit filled people. While assuming personal responsibility and determined practice of the truth are vitally important, we must understand we are members of a spiritual body and cannot operate in violation of that principle. We need one another.
- Leaders must first know healing, be honest, responsible and accountable, be Spirit filled, know how to walk with God and deal with life. Then there can be healing.
- There seems to be at least four “levels” of relationships that produce healing.
 - Personal relationships of friendship.
 - Personal relationships in which one is a confessor and confidant.
 - Personal relationships in which one is a spiritual guide.
 - Personal relationships in which one can bring unusual healing – healing prayer – to those involved in the above relationships.

Common Hindrances to Healing

- Incorrect ideas about God – that He is an austere Dictator, operating only in justice.
- Incorrect ideas about self – that we are basically evil, worthless, and condemned.
- Incorrect ideas about Christianity – that it’s all about church and good works.
- Incorrect idea about life – that there is no plan, it’s all determined, and unfulfilling.

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