

PRAYER

The Promise of Healing through the Laying on of Hands

*Mark 16:15-18 (nkjv) And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶ He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; **they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**”*

As we read through the gospels, we see this is the most common method that Jesus used to bring healing to people - He laid His hands on them.

Faith is the catalyst that releases God’s power to heal. *“They **will** lay hands on the sick, and they **will** recover.”*

The word “*recover*” implies that healing may be gradual.

Even in the ministry of Jesus, some lepers were healed as they went (*not immediately*).

Often healing is a process.

We need to keep our faith plugged into God promise to heal, continuing to believe until His promise of healing becomes a reality.

Call for the Elders.

*James 5:13-18 (nkjv) Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him **call for the elders** of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Confess your Trespases to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*

The word “*save*” is literally translated as “*heal*.” Therefore, the prayer of faith heals the sick!

Is anyone among you sick? It says, “*Let him call for the elders of the church.*”

Notice it did not say, “*Let someone else call for him.*”

The sick person is the one who is supposed to call. That is important. It is an expression of faith.

Anoint with Oil.

James 5:14 (nkjv) Let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will heal the sick.

Oil was used as a sort of medicine – or at least some type of healing agent.

Oil is also a symbol of the Holy Spirit (*as used in the anointing of Kings 1 Samuel 16:1-13*).

To anoint with oil was a statement that we're trusting in God to heal. It is a physical sign of an inward faith in God's ability to heal.

Prayer of Faith.

James 5:17-18 (nkjv) Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed earnestly that it would not rain; and it did not rain on the land for three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth produced its fruit.

When Elijah prayed for rain, he was on Mount Carmel, and he sent his servant seven times to see if there was any sign of rain.

Elijah sent word to King Ahab, through his servant, saying, *“Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops you” (1 Kings 18:44).*

Elijah said, *“There is a sound of a heavy rain.”*
(*1 Kings 18:41*).

There wasn't a cloud in the sky; there was no lightning and no wind. Yet he said, *“There is a sound of a heavy rain.”*

He heard it by faith. What then is faith?

Hebrews 11:1 (nlt) It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see.

God said it. It must be, and it is this type of prayer of faith that heals the sick.

James 1:5-7 (niv) If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. ⁶ But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. ⁷ That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

The prayer of faith is a prayer that does not doubt.

The prayer of faith is based on the truth of God's Word.

It is not based on feelings or circumstances.
It is based on the promises of God.