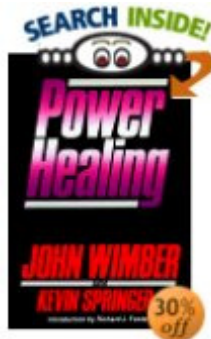


TYPES OF HEALING

Although various categories of healing are mentioned for the sake of understanding, we seek healing for the whole person. This often leads to prayer for more than just need the person first presents. (This material is adapted from Power Healing, by John Wimber, Harper & Row, 1987)



A. Healing of the spirit. This is returning to health in one's relationship with God.

It is common for multitudes of people to live aloof from God and in league with their fallen nature. Many are involved with sexual immorality, discord, fits of anger, envy, impure thinking, intoxication, and similar things. (Galatians 5:19-21)

What happens to your health long term when such a lifestyle is lived and its guilt is not dealt with?

Healing here is the receiving of forgiveness and freedom from guilt, which Christ provides in response to repentance and faith (1 John 1:9).

For spiritual health to happen, the person needs to turn away from these things, come to Christ, and nurture a life walking in the Holy Spirit. This increases the love, peace, kindness, joy, truthfulness, thankfulness, forgiveness, self-control and similar things in a person's life. (Galatians 5:6, 13, 22-25, Ephesians 5:3-20, Romans 14:17)

Possible Stories To Use In Worship

- Adam and Eve (Genesis 3:1-24) - shame, guilt, hiding, fear
- King David's internal struggles after adultery (Psalm 32:1-7. Psalm 51:1-19)
"When I declared not my sin, my body wasted away," Psalm 32:3
- Nebuchadnezzar's sickness and healing (Daniel 4:19-37) - pride, the mental effects, disruption, then restoration of health and relationships
- The Woman that anointed Jesus (Luke 7:36-50) - acceptance, forgiveness, release from social stigma

B. Healing of life's hurts. It is an inner healing from damaged emotions and painful memories. It is a returning to health in our emotional life. It is mending "the broken hearted" (Luke 4:18).

What happens when people are held down by the hurts of the past?

Hurts are often complicated by an unhealthy reaction (bitterness or sense of worthlessness) to the negative experience. The result of both the hurt and the reaction to it may affect our emotions, social relationships and physical health.



- Victims of abuse need to be removed from the harmful situation.
- The harm to children from sexual abuse is enormous. Many women are often unable

to deal with these memories until their 40's.

- If bitterness is involved, healing comes when a person can forgive. Often improved physical health follows.
- If a sense of worthlessness is involved, healing often comes by meditating on our identity in Christ. (Neal Anderson's material is excellent here.)



Possible Stories To Use In Worship

- a. The unforgiving Servant (Matthew 18:15-35, 5:23-24) - how unforgiveness will effect your life.
- b. Peter's denial of Jesus and the healing way Christ restored him (Mark 14:27-31, 66-72, John 21:15-22)
- c. Joseph sold into slavery (Gen. 37:19-28, 39:1-23, 43:6, 45:1-8, 50:15-21) Joseph's story tells of how reinterpreting unjust events in light of God's larger purposes is healing (Genesis 50:15-21, Romans 8:28).

C. Healing of the body. This is the partial or full return to normal body functioning.

- A person's spirit, mind, social relationships, emotions, and body are so interrelated that returning to health in one of these other areas can improve one's health and immune system.
- Occasionally substantial physical healing occurs as a result of prayer. The exact time it takes to return to health may vary from minutes to days to weeks. (scientists label it as spontaneous healing).

Possible Stories To Use In Worship -

Note the variety of ways it happens.

- a. King Hezekiah's illness and healing. (2 Kings 20:1-11, 2 Chr.. 32:24-30) This story shows healing as the result of both prayer and medicine.
- b. Naaman the leper (2 Kings 5:1-15) healed after laying aside his preconceptions and dipped himself in the river as an act of faith.
- c. A blind man healed. (Mark 8:22-26) This story tells of a healing that took more than one prayer. It also involves the laying on of hands.
- d. Peter's Mother-In-Law healed. (Luke 4:38-39) This story shows healing by speaking to (rebuking) the disease itself.
- e. Healing by the anointing with oil. (Mark 6:13, James 5:14-16)
- f. Aeneas healed by Peter. (Acts 9:32-35) This story shows healing through speaking to the person himself.
- g. Paul's eye's healed through a series of prophetic dreams and the laying on of hands (Acts 9:10-19).

D. Healing of relationships. This is returning to harmony and mutual support as we interact with our spouse, children, parents, church family, or coworkers. It is repairing ruptured relationships (Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15-17).

Unhealthy relationships can be one of the factors complicating illness. When the other party does not want restoration, still a peace comes to the one that has done everything possible (Romans 12:18).