**Praying for Healing: Handout TMTPL # 19**

Health needs are one of the top reasons for prayer requests. It can be the faith of the individual, or a loved one, and/or of the healer. Someone has to believe that God can and will heal.

**James 5:13-18 NIV**

**13Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.**

**17Elijah was a human being, even as we are. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and a half years. 18Again he prayed, and the heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops.**

No matter the problem we face, we are extolled to pray. When we are happy, we are told to sing praise. I wonder how many illnesses are the result, in whole or in part, of failing to put this simple counsel into practice.

True fellowship calls us to walk humbly with God and with one another, to practice love, not judgment, and to truly share with one another in ways that will build us up in the virtues of Christ. We need to pray with one another much more often than we do. We can’t simply pray for one another, though that is good. We must pray with one another, acknowledging our mutual needs for God’s grace. In this way, we practice love for one another.

**Matthew 9:1-8 NIV**

**9 Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. 2Some men brought to him a paralyzed man, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, “Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven.”**

**3At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, “This fellow is blaspheming!”**

**4Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, “Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? 5Which is easier: to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven,’ or to say, ‘Get up and walk’? 6But I want you to know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.” So he said to the paralyzed man, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” 7Then the man got up and went home. 8When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and they praised God, who had given such authority to man.**

This is an instance of the faith of others being instrumental in healing. This paralyzed man was loved by the men who brought him to Jesus. Those men believed that Jesus could heal their friend. And Jesus responded to their faith.

Let us never forget that the greatest illness is sin. Sin is a deadly disease, and only the salvation of God can save us from it.

**Matthew 9:18-26 NIV**

**18While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.” 19Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.**

**20Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. 21She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.”**

**22Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed at that moment.**

**23When Jesus entered the synagogue leader’s house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, 24he said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep. ”But they laughed at him. 25After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up. 26News of this spread through all that region.**

True need drove both people to Jesus. We can go to Jesus in our need and we will find that He still responds to our desperate faith.

**Matthew 9:27-31 NIV**

**27As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”**

**28When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”**

**“Yes, Lord,” they replied.**

**29Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you”; 30and their sight was restored. Jesus warned them sternly, “See that no one knows about this.” 31But they went out and spread the news about him all over that region.**

I wonder how many times we pray with faith blinded by the impossibility of the healing we need. These men saw Jesus as the promised Messiah even when their eyes did not work.

Faith is never about what God can or will heal; faith is always about who God is and how good and loving He is.

From this we learn that to be healed:

* Someone has to believe God will heal.
* Prayer, praise, worship, Christian fellowship and confession of sin are essential elements of both spiritual and physical health.
* Receiving and practicing the love of God is a profound well-spring of health and healing.
* Love and faith are the wings of prayer that bring healing, forgiveness of sins, and praise and glory to God!
* We can go to Jesus in our need and we will find that He still responds to our desperate faith.
* Faith is always in God, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, it is not in what we are praying for. God is the one who acts, who saves, who heals, it is in Him that we trust.
* Today, the great God of the Bible offers the same power, the same mercy, the same love and invites us to pray together and ask for our needs to be met, even our healing.