

# HEALING – Why and When God Heals, Part 1

## When and how we'll see more Dramatic Healings

by Philip Shields

August 2009

www.LightontheRock.com

Summary: God still heals, but why aren't we seeing more dramatic healings than we are? There are very real reasons we reveal in this 2-part series why and when God says He heals. We also cover many other points on healing that will get you thinking along fresh lines. If you want to see more healings in the church, you will want to hear these messages.

.....

[Note: Though I use the name "Jesus", by now you know I prefer the name He was actually called: *Yeshua*. It means Salvation, and it's "anglicized" equivalent would more properly be Joshua. He never heard the sound "Jesus" as a man. I also often refer often to the Eternal God as *Yahweh*, the name He said was His name. It's meaning is "The Eternal" – not LORD. Correctly using One's name is important. Except in limited cases – such as in American Indian tribes – we use the sound of the name, not the translation. So that is why you'll see I use both Jesus and Yeshua as the name of our Savior, and prefer Yeshua.]

.....

### *TRACK ONE – Greater Works than These...*

Greetings, brethren, this is your brother in the family of God, Philip Shields, with a 2-part topic I hope will change your life and mine.

Have you in the past year or two had the privilege to watch a spectacular, instant, undeniable miraculous healing of a major health problem like someone dying of cancer be instantly healed, or watch a large tumor disappear before your eyes, or watch a lame man from birth jump up, or talk to a dead woman who has been resurrected right there before your eyes or delight with a man blind for years and years suddenly be able to see? Have you?

Our Savior promised that if we believe, we would be able to do even greater works than He did (John 14:12). Let that sink in. Where are those greater works, especially in terms of healing, we were promised? I believe in healing, I've been healed spectacularly myself at times, I've been involved in some spectacular healings when I've prayed for others. But for the most part, we're not seeing a lot of these, and neither am I. Why? We read about them in Jesus' day, and in the book of Acts – so what's happened to resurrections, instant healings, and shadows causing healings, miracles galore? I've heard a lot of reasons and excuses why we're all OK and there's really nothing to worry about... but I'm not convinced God has put His powers on hold or lost them. I don't think the problem is with Yahweh.

So that's going to be our topic today: How and When God will produce more dramatic healings for His church once again.

I've heard a lot of excuses why the promise Yeshua made that if we ask anything in His name, it will be done (John 14:13-14; 15:16; 16:23-24). Brethren, if you've absorbed the depth of

what it means to be “in Him” – not just God in us, but we are “in Him” – praying in Yeshua’s name takes on new meaning!

But still, I know healing has to be according to God’s will. I know we have to believe. I know there could be many other moving parts to this topic of healing – but surely we should be seeing way, way more healings than we are. The problem is not with Yahweh. Surely not. For He calls Himself our Healer (Ex. 15:26) and He wants to pour out His blessings. He’s willing and able to do far more than we can imagine, one verse says.

As a good friend of mine in New York wrote me “God is not a stingy God. He is more generous than we can imagine. If we don’t fully realize the power we have available to us through Him, we won’t use it, or know how to use it – and we aren’t experiencing our lives to the fullest potential”. I can’t agree more!

There’s the story of one of the kings (2 Kings 13:15-19) striking the ground only three times and the prophet Elisha got very angry because the king didn’t realize he could have had far more victories over Syria, represented by the number of strikes. Read that story, as it is there to tell us something. God hasn’t changed. We have not, for we ask not, or we limit God – at least not believing fully. He’s like a billionaire willing to write us some huge checks but we’re content to think in terms of just \$2 – in this analogy, as my friend says. He’s got a point.

Wouldn’t you have loved to have been present for some of the powerful and moving healings of the Bible? What would you pay to have had a front row seat at Lazarus’ resurrection? To get to watch the Son of Man command a corpse, now dead for four days, to arise and come out of the tomb. To feel the awe and excitement – perhaps even initial fear - - to watch Lazarus come to life? Can you imagine it? You’d feel the skepticism in the air, by some, as the stone closing the cave-like tomb was rolled away, and then to curl up your nose as the decaying stench of a long dead cadaver hits your nostrils. But wait, Jesus is saying something! “Lazarus, come forth”. What? Has Jesus (Yeshua) lost his mind? Helping the blind to see is one thing, but this cadaver has been dead long enough that the stench of his decaying body hangs thick in the air.

And then you’d feel the hairs on the back of your neck stand on end. Chills would race up your back as – what is this? Is that decaying corpse moving? Wow, it’s trying to stand up! Jesus has a warm smile now as He orders someone to please – don’t just sit there -- unwrap the man who wants to leap and shout – for the dead man, His friend Lazarus, was once again alive.

Can you imagine what that would have been like?

If we believe, we are supposed to be able to do even greater works than that (John 14:12). I believe. Do you? I believe also that if we align with the elements that allow Yahweh to work that magnificently with and for us – we WILL see these huge and dramatic miracles happen.

Besides Lazarus, there were so many hundreds of other healings. This young man Yeshua, just in his early 30’s, also claimed He could do nothing of Himself without the Father’s power. Yet he was out there healing the sick, raising the dead, letting the blind see, the lame leap like a deer, the mute could sing... Wow! How exciting that would have been to have witnessed.

But wait! Are you hearing Yeshua’s words? We could be witnessing it. We should be experiencing it – in fact, far more than we are and even far more than Yeshua Himself did. I’m

not going to excuse away what my Messiah promised simply because we aren't experiencing what He promised. Something may be wrong with us, and certainly not with Him or His promises.

John 14:12 – “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater than these he will do, because I go to my Father”

There you have it.

Yeshua – or you say Jesus – said that those who believe in Him would see signs that follow, including -- “you shall lay hands on the sick and they shall be made well” (Mark 16:17-18). When He sent His disciples out by twos, they were to preach the kingdom of God and heal the sick (Luke 9:2; Matt. 10:1, 5-8). So where are all these healings? We see some here and there, but not as many as we should be seeing, and few very dramatic clear cut miracles.

Our Creator God claims to be our healer.

Exodus 15:26-- "If you diligently heed the voice of Yahweh your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am Yahweh who heals you."

David, under inspiration, penned this for us

Psalm 103:2-3 – “Bless Yahweh, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: [ARE we?]  
3 Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases...”

Why does all this even matter? Well, the fact is – though we all will someday die – it seems too many are dying prematurely, or living with horrific health issues that go unhealed.

*We will all someday die... God won't heal everyone endlessly*

I'm not saying Yahweh is bound to heal all His children all the time.

- Sometimes someone suffers to accomplish some aspect of His will – like the man born blind (John 9:1-3)
- Sometimes even very righteous men die of an illness, though God may have used them to heal others, such as Elisha (2 Kings 13:14). Trophimus was left in Miletus sick – and not healed (2 Tim. 4:20). Timothy had “frequent infirmities”. And ALL of them have since died. If Messiah doesn't return soon, all of us will someday die too. These were righteous people. Their illnesses were not because of any sin of theirs, apparently.
- We will all die of natural causes, including old age, if the Messiah doesn't return in the next 20-50 years. Isaac, and Jacob and others were simply cases of old age resulting in blindness (Gen 27:1; 48:10). Ditto for the prophet Ahijah (1 Kings 14:4) who was blind by reason of age. King David couldn't get warm in his final weeks.
- On the other hand, God can keep one strong, as He did for Moses when God took him at 120 years, yet his eyes were not weak or his strength gone (Deut 34:7). Caleb, at 85 said, “I'm as strong today as the day Moses sent me out [40+ years earlier]; and I'm as

vigorous to go out to battle now as I was back then” (Josh 14:11). My brother pointed those out to me, and I agree.

Sometimes God may even take one early in life because He sees the good in this person – look at this verse my brother sent me... in fact you should read the whole context in 1 Kings 14:5-13. Wicked king Jeroboam’s wife had come to ask righteous prophet Ahijah to pray for their sick son. God decided to let the boy die but at least have the honor of being buried in a grave... Now listen to Yahweh’s words why He was going to let a good boy die:

1 Kings 14:13 – “because in him there is found something good toward the Lord God of Israel in the house of Jeroboam.”

Yahweh may not have wanted him polluted. Or perhaps there was some other plan He had. He honored a child with death, in this case. Death was preferable in God’s eyes to growing up in a horribly wicked environment had he lived. Isn’t that interesting? Clearly it wasn’t because the boy was evil. I hadn’t thought of that one, but my brother told me about it. Of course Ps 116:15 says, “Precious in the sight of Yahweh is the death of His saints.”

There are many factors in cases of healing – or not -- and we simply can’t know God’s entire mind on every case. So please understand that I know that, I accept that, I state that, and I see that. But I still think we should be seeing more healings than we do.

I also know very well that sometimes we suffer because God wants us to learn from the suffering. As Paul put it, he was being made perfect in weakness. Turn with me to 2 Corinthians 12. The context of what we will read is Paul asking to be healed three times for his “thorn in the flesh”. What we’re about to read should be remembered for ALL of us while going through a trial.

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

“And He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”

When we’re in pain, when we’re not being healed, a carnal and normal reaction is to get upset and angry with God, who is able to heal us. ‘Why isn’t He?’ we might ask. I’ve felt that frustration too – but we must resist thinking that way. Satan will take advantage of those thoughts, and we need to remember we committed our lives to God. The Eternal One is in charge of every aspect of it, whether we live or whether we die, whether we are in pain or whether we feel great – everything we do and everything we go through is for Him.

I also believe sometimes the Eternal is *making* us stop or slow down.

“He makes me lie down in green pastures” – Ps 23.

Listen to your body. Yah may be allowing the trial to make you slow down for your own sake. I know people who’ve had heart attacks often end up healthier at the end of a few years as the heart attack became their “wake up call” to get their weight, diet and health into better shape. Many of us, including me, are overweight. We’ve got to spend time getting all that under

control. It's tempting to say our weight is just fine; we're just too short – but that's deceiving ourselves. Anyway, sometimes even godly activity has to be put on hold if it's time to stop, to rest, to let the body heal.

God is really, really good at being God, knowing what's best for us and when. So understand as I give this topic that I realize there may be reasons someone is sick, or even died, that we'll never understand until we can ask Him in person. We have to trust Him no matter what happens, even if He makes us walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we should fear no evil, knowing He walks with us, always, in all circumstances – if we but have eyes to see (Psalm 23). Our true peace will come when we focus and stay our minds on Him (Isaiah 26:3) regardless of what's going on around us.

As I give some reasons we may not be seeing the healings we should be, understand I also know there are cases and situations where God has His own reasons for not healing, beyond the reasons I will give. In the end, we should say – since we are His – “whether I live, or whether I die – I live or die unto the Lord. So be it. Praise God.” I hope that helps.

#### Philip's own situation

Some may be tempted to assume I can speak this dogmatically because I've never had to face a serious health issue myself. But in fact, as I speak, I have (very visible on X-ray) a very large 11 mm (1/2”) kidney stone, I've very painfully passed some smaller stones, and now my urologist wants to also check me for possible bladder cancer. So far, I have not been healed of the kidney stone – but expect and hope on Aug 19 to be told it is a lot smaller or has totally disappeared and I hope the blood in my urine is also gone. Some of you are praying for me and we'll see what happens. If not, then we deal with the facts on hand. But we'll see.

Brethren, I know our God is the God who heals. I know He still heals. I know there are people still being healed. I myself have been healed miraculously several times in my life. When I was a ten-year-old boy, I remember my first impression with personal healing. We lived in the Philippines at the time and I had agonized through a series of boils, one after the other. Sometimes I had 7 or 8 at a time, until I had had 99 of them. At that time we finally were able to have a Filipino minister make it to our home. He prayed over me and anointed me with oil and I remember believing. I never got another boil in the Philippines after that.

Around 1992 I went through a bout of a painful flare-up of diverticulitis for which I was hospitalized for 3 days. I got anointed and prayed for. The pain went away – but best of all, in my last colonoscopy they said there is no trace of any diverticulitis at all. Some years later, I had a most dramatic healing that stunned the doctors: all my signs of liver and pancreatic cancer after several tests – just disappeared, after people prayed with me about this. Without that healing, I surely would have died within a few months. It reminds me of David's psalm 30:2 – “Oh Yahweh my God, I cried out to you and you healed me”.

Yahweh has even allowed me be His instrument pray for, anoint and lay hands on the sick and be a participant in many dramatic healings over the years. Here are 2-3 of the dozens I've been a part of.

- I prayed for a woman in the late 1970's who hadn't been able to bend over for years and years due to severe back pain. Within seconds of the “amen”, she was so excited as

she could feel her back be instantly better. She started doing jumping jacks and then she bent down and touched her toes – within seconds of the “amen”.

- Another woman in the early 1980’s had a large ovarian tumor, which was going to be surgically removed. We anointed her and when she went in for the operation, they found the tumor had totally disappeared.
- Around 1994, a young mother gave caesarian birth to a fetus that was only 5 months along, 4 months short of full term. Doctors gave this tiny 2 or 3 lb fetus virtually zero chance of surviving after the caesarian. We anointed the baby in spite of protests from the doctors, and today she is a very short, but happy, bouncy teenager. God healed her after I prayed for her and anointed her in her incubator.

I could go on and on. But I certainly would never claim to have the gift of healing. I’m just like most ministers who have seen a few dozen dramatic healings when God used us as a conduit of his power and healing. But most of us also wish there were many, many more healings than we have seen. We’ve all also seen too many not be healed after being anointed. Too many are dying prematurely. Even after I have prayed for them. Why?

Oh yes, I could also tell you about some over whom I prayed -- who died. There were many who never got well. One of them was my own little boy David – for whom I prayed and thought God had healed him, but we found him breathless and blue on our bed. So I’m not trying to say I have a gift of healing. Far from it – or my little boy would be young man of 27 years today. I am grateful that Yahweh gave us a 2nd boy – Jon – who is 21 as I preach this sermon.

But my impression is strong that we used to see more healings 30-50 years ago. Certainly the early church of the book of Acts did. I’m just saying, Almighty God heals, still heals, still wants to heal, will heal, hasn’t lost his power to heal --- so why aren’t we seeing so many more dramatic healings than we are?

In fact, what do we see going on in the Body of Christ, the church?

- People not even bothering to ask for anointing.
- Not bothering asking *others* to pray for them – though Yahweh demands both: ask for prayers, as well as anointing (James 5:14-17).
- We hear about details for a funeral for a friend far away – and sometimes we didn’t even know anything was wrong so we could pray for him or her. What’s going on? I hope it is not because some assume the brethren wouldn’t care enough to pray. As my brother says, “No child of God should ever stand alone, especially in these dark moments of despair.”

## TRACK 2

“WHY DOES THIS EVEN MATTER?” someone is bound to ask. Why does it matter??? It matters, because there are too many little boys and girls, too many of our moms and dads, too many of our very own brothers and sisters languishing in pain, or confined to nursing homes – unhealed, not being made whole, because - I contend - God is getting our attention that

something is missing, or wrong, in the Body. Something can be done about it. Almighty Yahweh is holding back for some very specific reasons and will start healing much more often when we change what He wants us to change.

Why does it matter? Because we're going to see prophesied massive epidemics sweeping the world and we're going to have to have divine protection and healing. In the 1918 swine flu epidemic, did you know 100 million people died around the world? 100 million! The current swine flu pandemic could become as bad – or not – but we may really need God's healing in the coming pandemics.

### *What can we learn from a health issue we have going on?*

God may be trying to teach us something and in all our health issues. Sometimes we just wish we could die and live unhappily through our pain and suffering and lack of healing. But we could be missing some important things. I preach to myself here too. I have to grow here too.

We should be asking our dear Father, or our Husband Yeshua, to show us, gently, what it is He wants to teach us. We should ask to be shown where He wants us to grow, what He wants us to do. One of the best things about a problem is that can drive us to our knees, and that's always a good thing. So we should note that the trying of our faith is designed to refine us, purify us, strengthen us, mature us as we go through it (I Pet 1:6-9; James 1:3). I find people who have never had any serious trials or tests can often be very shallow people.

I hope it's clear I'm not saying we should always expect healing. Or that something sinful is always at the core of an unhealed issue. I'm not saying that at all. Personal sin could be involved – but I'm not pointing primarily in that direction, though it's possible. Regardless, we should ask Him to reveal Himself to us in our trial. We should pray we grow closer to Him in our sufferings. We ask Him to show us what we are to learn in every issue in our lives – rather than get discouraged and just hope to die.

We don't want to fight what God is doing or permitting in our lives. What He is doing always has a reason and a divine purpose behind it. We are the clay and He is the Potter fashioning and molding us.

But do be aware that God permits things but He is also very willing to change His course of action if, or when, we as members of His family get in line with what He wants us to see and learn. The Bible is full of examples of God changing course when people prayed or repented or learned valuable lessons.

So obviously, if something is going on, God is obviously permitting it. Ex. 15:26 talks about it being God who puts diseases on people. It's not always Satan. Even if it were inflicted by Satan, God had to be the One to allow it in the first case - - as in Job's case.

If someone has cancer, God is obviously aware of it and permitting it. I may have bladder cancer, even as I speak to you. I could be diagnosed with it, and I could die of it, or be healed of it – or not have it at all. But what am I supposed to learn from this? How can I grow in this? How can I get closer to God in this? That's what I'm asking.

Having said all that, Yahweh Himself tells us things we can do in order to see Him intervene with divine healing more often, more dramatically. That's what we are covering today and next time. I'm hoping and praying that by the end of this sermon, you will join me in your own faithful, believing, obedient prayer humbly repenting where we need to repent, as a church and as a body, so God will once again shower His healings down on us, much more so than He has been doing.

I beg you brother or sister in Christ listening today – do not fall for the trap of thinking there is no problem, and that we are OK, that we have nothing to worry about. Please don't just wag your head and say, "Philip's making a mountain out of a molehill. We have no worries. There's no real problem," you could say.

That would be so Laodecian.

What did the Laodecians say? They seemed to have a lot to say. The other six churches didn't talk back. "Laodecia" means, "the people judge". Democracy. Power to the people. Hmm. What do we see in the church today? "We are fine, we are spiritually rich and increased with goods and in need of nothing". Or you could say, "We're not doing that badly, so relax, take a deep breath, calm down..." - - and the lack of powerful healings will just continue if we take that tact.

I think we are in need of everything from Yahweh right now. Please be turning now to 2 Chron 7. I think as a body, we are spiritually naked, destitute, have nothing, and are spiritually bankrupt. I include myself in that. I want to see more healings; I want to see God more visibly involved than I perceive we see today.

2 Chronicles 7:12-17

"Then the LORD [Yahweh] appeared to Solomon by night, and said to him: "I have heard your prayer, and have chosen this place for Myself as a house of sacrifice. 13 **When I** shut up heaven and there is no rain, or command the locusts to devour the land, or *send pestilence among My people, 14 if My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.* 15 Now My eyes will be open and My ears attentive to prayer made in this place. 16 For now I have chosen and sanctified this house, that My name may be there forever; and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually"

Remember we are His House today. We are His temple, we are where He has placed His name today, so all that should apply to the church today and to us individually. Here Yah admits HE is the one who sends pestilences. Again, God heals. But why are we hearing far more announcements about prayers for surgeries, hospitalizations and even funeral announcements – but so few announcements praising God for a powerful total healing, someone being made whole, 100% well, from head to toe? And being made whole spiritually as well.

### Doctors and Surgery

One more thing: Neither should you read into my sermon that I'm saying you should never go to doctors or have surgeries. I'll take Jesus at his word: "The well do not need a physician, but the sick DO" (Luke 5:31). Sick people need doctors, according to Yeshua, so it's not wrong to



go see doctors. I'm seeing a doctor about my kidney stone and other issues, but I first and primarily was anointed and am receiving prayers in my behalf for it. It's not either or. (I know Yeshua was also speaking spiritually, but the physical statement that sick people need a doctor, can't be ignored either.)

But there are brethren who don't even bother being anointed anymore unless there's nothing a doctor can do and now "it's all in God's hands". Oh my. Surely we should realize it always was in God's hands. It is wrong to leave God our Healer out of things. For example, Asa, overall a righteous king of Judah got sick and did not seek or involve God in it, and God faulted him for that. Some have read into the passage that it is always wrong to see a doctor. Jesus clarified that in Luke 5:31. What's wrong is relying solely on man and leaving God out.

2 Chronicles 16:12

"And in the thirty-ninth year of his reign, Asa became diseased in his feet, and his malady was severe; yet in his disease he did not seek Yahweh, but the physicians."

If you go back and read verses 7-10, you'll see Asa falling down on this matter of reliance on God. He relied on the King of Syria, instead of God in another incident. He got on the wrong path of relying on man and not God.

It is wrong to trust in a doctor exclusively for healing and not rely on God. It is just as wrong to rely on so-called "natural remedies" instead of God. I am taking some natural remedies to try to dissolve my stone but I'm also diligently asking Father and Yeshua to heal me. I'm asking God to dissolve the stones. Jeremiah 17:5 "Cursed is the man who trusts in a man and makes flesh his strength...." GOD IS OUR STRENGTH, HE is our healer, HE is our provider and in HIM we trust.

One reason we may not be seeing so many healings is that too many are not even bothering to be anointed, to ask for prayers, to believe in healing. When we're sick, God's word tells us to call on an elder and be anointed and the prayer of faith will heal the sick (James 5:14-16). Seek God our Healer first and frequently and consistently - - even if you decide to also check with an MD.

So I'm not going down the route some of you want me to - to say it's wrong to see doctors, or have surgery. Luke was called the "beloved physician", not "ex-physician" and I am sure there were many times Paul was SO happy to have a doctor in attendance after being stoned, or beaten.

### **TRACK 3 --The Usual, more common reasons given for healing**

You know the standard answers given for lack of healings: lack of faith, and disobedience - often tied to the familiar "Blessings and Cursings chapters" of Deut 28 and Lev. 26. Those messages are real, are powerful, and they are true. If you haven't read Deut 28:58-63 and Lev. 26:14-16 lately, you should. But they don't explain all the reasons why we aren't seeing more healings.

But even then: we can't suspect someone has sinned every time he or she is ill. John 9:1-3 - Jesus makes it clear that the man was born blind not because he sinned or his parents sinned, but so the glory of God could be revealed.

In many cases as I'll show even today and next time, sin is involved, but it's not the sin of the one sick, but the sin of the group. We'll get to that later.

Faith and obedience are huge reasons for healings. Jesus so often said, "your faith has healed you", or "Be it according to your faith", and so on. Since so many sermons have been preached on faith, and how by our faith we are healed, we should know that faith factors mightily into any subject on healing. The Gospels recount how even Jesus could not heal but a few in Nazareth because of their unbelief. Read it for yourself in Mark 6:4-6. It's a terrible indictment on his own countrymen.

#### **TRACK 4 – WHY AND WHEN GOD INTERVENES DRAMATICALLY**

So I'll discuss those two reasons also, but I want to focus on some reasons and strategies that don't get as much air time perhaps. So here we go with the first 2 things we can start doing that could lead to more frequent healings and more involvement from God.

This first point, I guess in a way, is a variation on faith – and I want to cover it this way:

***1. "Take away the stone" and start thanking God for having heard us, even before we see the physical evidence of healing.***

"Take away the stone" will become more meaningful in a few minutes.

We all know that we should be grateful and express gratitude. But too many of us want to start thanking after we see Him heal us. That's backwards from what our Father wants us doing. He wants our faith so strong that we thank Him even in, during and *for* the trial, the pain, and the illness – knowing He works in our lives, and knowing He is in charge of things.

He knows what He is doing. God is so good at being God, at doing His job, that we should not be anxious if we really, truly understand that. I preach to myself here also. Watch now how we're instructed to thank God IN and FOR all things we go through:

Philippians 4:6-7

Be anxious for nothing, but IN everything by prayer and supplication, ***with thanksgiving***, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 5:20

"giving thanks always FOR all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ..."

I don't say these things lightly. Even recently, I've been in serious pain, as it appears my body is trying to pass a kidney stone. I'm thanking God for the stone, for the pain, in the pain, for His presence in my life, for His power to heal, and for healing me... but I'm still sometimes in terrible pain.

This faith of a mustard seed lets us love, trust and know God so well that no matter how horrible the health trial is, we thank God for it and in it. Yes, I've been there. Yes, I know it's hard. When we found our little boy, our only son at the time, lifeless on our bed, I knelt on the bedside and thanked God that He was there even in this. I said, "Somehow, some way, this is in your divine purpose and plan, so thank you for the short little while we did have our son, our only son. I don't understand, but thank you for being you, for being there".

I will confess that the next day I did go through stages of feeling grief, anger and abandonment, but tried to keep coming back to quiet acceptance and thankfulness. In this case, my son was dead. The pain was awful. The grief was unspeakable – and yet we also experienced a great peace even in the grief.

Isaiah 26:3 promises "He will keep in perfect peace whoever's mind is stayed on Him, because that person trusts in Him."

As we thank and praise -- watch out – sometimes a dramatic healing could be about to happen. So many miracles happened after the people started praising and blessing God even before the requested help was apparent. 2 Chronicles 20 is a great example. Jehoshaphat and his people went out to meet the surrounding armies – and once they put the praisers in front and began to praise and sing – God brought confusion on the enemy and they all killed themselves!

Americans like to say, "I'll believe it when I see it". Those of you who are children of the Almighty, don't go there. It's not the Kingdom's way. After Yeshua's resurrection, Thomas had said he would believe it only if he could put his fingers in his nail holes in his body. When Jesus (Yeshua) met up with them, He taught us all a new and better way of the Kingdom. (Most of us would have said the same thing Thomas said, because we say variations of this all the time.)

John 20:29

Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

To thank our Healer before we see the healing is demonstrating absolute belief, the kind Jesus speaks of. We must learn to believe before we see – and thank before we see what we're asking for. We are to be giving thanks to Him in Jesus' name, in everything we do (Col. 3:17). Let's look at some examples, like Jesus at Lazarus' resurrection Please be turning to John 11. What did Jesus do? Thank God the Father AFTER the healing? NO. Let's read it.

John 11:38-39

Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. 39 Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Before we will see any healing, we too must take away the hard stone of unbelief, whatever is the barrier to walking again with God, just as the stone was barring Lazarus from walking with God. Take away your stone, so your own Lazarus can come out. What a powerful statement. To Jesus, it was a foregone conclusion that this Son of Man was going to be used by God to resurrect a man over whom hung the pall, the stench, of death. He had no doubt. Remember this Jesus is the same one who said He could do nothing of and by himself (John 5:19). Nothing. But By His Abba (Father), He could do everything. He did the works of His father.

We too are children of Abba. We too can do nothing, see nothing, be nothing – on our own (John 15:5) – for without Yeshua we can do nothing. But in Christ, all things are possible.

So why do we hold off thanking Him for the healing – even though we haven't seen it yet? We know we shall, at least at the resurrection, so if nothing else start with that, if that's all you can muster right now. Let's continue in Luke 11:39b now. Focus on verse 41 especially.

39b - Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been dead four days."

40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"

***41 Then they took away the stone from the place where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.***

Before the healing, while Lazarus was still very, very dead, Yeshua is saying – “Thank you Father, for having already heard me.” Let's continue.

42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said this, that they may believe that You sent Me." 43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth!" 44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with grave clothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Loose him, and let him go."

When Yeshua multiplied the fish and loaves, did He praise God after they were multiplied? No, my brothers and sisters! He blessed the food while there were still only 5 loaves and 2 fish apparent. If you don't have the rent money, or the healing, or anything you're petitioning God for – start thanking before you see the answer.

Matthew 14:17-20

17 And they said to Him, "We have here only five loaves and two fish."

18 He said, "Bring them here to Me." 19 Then He commanded the multitudes to sit down on the grass. And He took the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, He blessed and broke and gave the loaves to the disciples; and the disciples gave to the multitudes.'

Are we getting it? Probably even after the thanksgiving and blessing, there were still only 5 loaves and 2 fish. But he believed and started breaking them and handing them out. This continued over and over until everyone was fed. I personally don't think that suddenly there appeared dozens of baskets full of bread and fish.

There are so many examples of this in the Bible. Let's look at one more.

Praise and thanksgiving in the pain and in the crisis, before we see the healing, is the proper order. Start doing it. It's a marvelous experience to look past the pain and trouble to the One who stills all storms of doubt.

Paul and Silas in prison – what a marvelous lesson. They had just been brutally beaten with rods. One smack would have been very painful. But can you imagine their pain, their wounds, their sores, the blood and bruising after beating after beating? Then to be slapped into stocks in

the innermost dungeon. How would you feel? Most of us would feel pretty forsaken by the One who could have protected us, who could have healed us, who could have delivered us. “Where is God when we need Him?” – someone would be bound to ask. But what did Paul and Silas do?

Acts 16:22-26

Then the multitude rose up together against them; and the magistrates tore off their clothes and commanded them to be beaten with rods. 23 And when they had laid many stripes on them, they threw them into prison, commanding the jailer to keep them securely. 24 Having received such a charge, he put them into the inner prison and fastened their feet in the stocks.

25 But at midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. 26 Suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were loosed.

Are you in some type of spiritual or emotional or physical prison? Would you like that prison you're in to be shaken to its very foundations? Then let's do what Paul and Silas did. In their pain, while still bound, while still bleeding, while still cut and hurt -- they began to sing, they began to praise, they began to pray – and in that midnight hour, their chains were loosed and they were freed.

One of my favorite songs by the group Selah, in their album “Hiding Place”: “

“Some midnight hour, if you should find, you're in a prison in your mind, Reach out and praise, defy those chains. And they will fall, in Jesus' name.

We bless your Name. We bless your name. We give you honor, we give you praise.

You are the life, the truth, the Way, We bless your name, we bless your name.”

That story is there to build our faith and to help us follow that example. God is with you no matter where you are. Whether in prison or in heaven or on earth – God is with you. You can't ever escape His presence with you, if you remain with Him. He promises, “I will never, ever, ever leave you nor forsake you” (Heb. 13:5).

Believe it, and prove you believe by heartfelt gratitude even if the pain is still there, even if the lump is still evident, even as we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, we shall fear no evil, for He is with us. Whether you're in the high places of life and its blessings, or in the depths of tribulation – feel His presence, thank Him, ask Him to show you what you need to learn, and praise Him in and for all things. And then look out! You've just set the atmosphere in which miracles happen more often.

“I thank you, Yahweh our Healer, for your wonderful ways and for healing me. In Yeshua's name, I rebuke this tumor, this pain, and in His powerful name give you praise, honor and glory. Whether we live or whether we die, we are yours, and may your name be glorified in all you do and all I go through with you.”

There is no cancer bigger than God. There is no pain, no heart disease; there is no malady, no illness that God isn't bigger than! In the powerful name Yahweh, through Yeshua our Healer, we have victory and power over any disease or problem. Start thanking, start praising, and start believing like never before – before you see the evidence of the healing.

How about the ten lepers whom Jesus healed? Have you read the story carefully? Jesus told them to present themselves to the priests. As they looked at themselves, nothing had changed. But they obeyed. They believed and they started acting like they were already healed. How? By going to the priest while they were still lepers. And what happened? What if they had said, "That's nonsense. We'll go to the priest after we're healed, but this is crazy to go now, as lepers. What kind of fool do you make us out to be?" No, that's not what they did.

Luke 17:11-19

Now it happened as He went to Jerusalem that He passed through the midst of Samaria and Galilee. 12 Then as He entered a certain village, there met Him ten men who were lepers, who stood afar off. 13 And they lifted up their voices and said, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!"

14 So when He saw them, He said to them, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And so it was that as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, returned, and with a loud voice glorified God, 16 and fell down on his face at His feet, giving Him thanks. And he was a Samaritan. 17 So Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But where are the nine? 18 Were there not any found who returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?" 19 And He said to him, "Arise, go your way. Your faith has made you well."

You "act as if" when you believe. How many of us aren't being healed because we have not rolled away the stone of our hardhearted doubt or waiting until we see the healing. Or because we aren't singing praises even while we're in our own midnight hour of emotional prison. Or because we want to see the healing before we start acting like we're healed – like the ten lepers.

*We profusely thank and praise before we see the healing from now on. That proves our humble belief, reliance and faith.*

## **TRACK 5 – another way to see more healings**

### **2. ESTEEMING or DISCERNING THE BODY OF CHRIST**

We will just have time to barely start this point, and so I'll flesh it out in much, much more detail next time, along with many other points that could result in many more dramatic healings from our Healing God.

This next point is one I almost never have heard in connection with healing or the lack thereof, though Scripture is very clear about it. I spoke at length on it in a full sermon just on this topic in April 2006, available on the web: "Dramatic Healing and its Tie to Passover".

1 Corinthians 11:27-32

"Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. 28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. 30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.

31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged. 32 But when we are judged, we are chastened by the Lord, that we may not be condemned with the world.”

WHY does Paul say many are sick and even “sleep” (die)? Because they’re not discerning the Lord’s body.

What is the Master’s body? Obviously it includes His own literal body (1 Pet 2:24; John 6:51) – but in context of all scripture “the Body of Christ” refers to the church, the called-out ones who have His Spirit, who in fact are in Him, part of His very body (Col. 1:18, 24; 1 Cor. 12:27; Eph. 1:23).

What is the context of the whole book to the Corinthians? The way they were treating and mistreating each other. He taught them that they are the temple of the Spirit, that God Himself resides in our bodies by His spirit, making our bodies – and each and every one of us in whom resides God’s Spirit -- the very Holy of holies, the “*naos*” of God’s temple – the inner holiest part where the *Shekinah* glory resided. In fact, more than even just being His temple, we are actually His very own body.

Are we getting it, brethren? When I mistreat you, or you mistreat me, I am treating God’s presence with that disrespect. I am also treating Jesus Himself with that same disrespect! Yeshua teaches us in Matthew 25 that whatever I do – or don’t do – to even the “least of these my brethren”, He takes personally. “You are doing that to Me directly”, He says. That’s why when calling Paul on the road to Damascus, Yeshua asked Paul why he was persecuting Him (Acts 9:5). Are we getting it? Whatever Paul was doing to the brethren – beating them, torturing them, imprisoning them – Paul was doing to Christ himself, since those brethren were the body of Christ.

When you talk about or act in a certain way – good or bad, accepting or refusing someone, loving or turning your back on a brother or sister – those ways are the ways we are actually treating Yeshua Himself.

If we won’t forgive someone, I say it is very possible that attitude is enough to be keeping God from wanting to heal the Body. If we gossip about those brethren in that other fellowship, He takes it personally. When we do wonderful acts of love to his brethren, He is personally moved by that and will look for ways to give us extra blessings.

I gave a whole sermon recently on this – “Least of these my brethren”. The King of Kings says He identifies himself with every single part of His body just as you identify with your thumb, your face, or even your backside. They’re all a part of you. It is you. If I mistreat your backside, kick it real hard, but smile to your face – you would not be happy with me! That’s what’s happening in the church. We praise the Head of the church (Christ) at the same time we gossip and despise other parts of His body. God is tired of the way we are abusing parts of HIS body. Are we getting the message? Paul made it clear “that is why some of you are sick and some sleep – or die”.

James says it is incongruent to with the same tongue praise God and curse brother and this is why. Jesus says the way we treat the person we despise the most when we see him or her gathered among us – is the way He sees us treating HIM Himself.

We not only have splintered up as members of God's body into competing groups that have little to do with one another – but we often won't fellowship with other ministers or brethren. This cannot make Father happy. And because we are not discerning the Body, many are sick and many sleep! Paul laid it on the line. God will provide the rain and the sunshine as he does for everyone – but extra blessings, like healing, come when you please Him.

This isn't pleasing Him when you or I condemn Christ Himself by condemning someone whose sins we've heard about, but who has long ago repented. Yeshua takes it personally when we won't visit someone in an emotional prison. When we won't cover the shame of someone's forgiven sin that has exposed him or her like a naked person – we're leaving Yeshua Himself stark naked, unloved, unwanted, not accepted.

Brethren, this one point alone can begin to cause us to see many, many more healings. Paul made it very clear: sometimes, many times in fact, people are remaining unhealed not because of their individual sin but because God is unhappy with all of us, with the way we've been with one another in the greater body of believers, scattered into many fellowships.

I'm just getting started on this point and so we'll start up with this next time and then continue with other huge reasons GOD says He is holding back healings. Tell your friends about this sermon and let's spread the word: we need to repent of a lot of things and beseech God to look kindly on us again and heal our many, many sick folk. "If my people, called by my name, ..." -- remember that one? If we repent, and seek Him, and humble ourselves, and start to exhibit his way of Love more to everyone – everyone – all the time – look out. Healings could become very, very frequent.

We've covered a lot of ground today and I hope I've made you think. Until next time, when we finish this topic, this is your brother Philip Shields in the Messiah, Jesus the Christ.