

Introductory Comments

During Jesus' ministry on earth, healing was an integral part of His proclamation of the Good News. He explicitly passed that ministry on to his disciples as shown in Luke 9:1-2

“When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick “

and Scripture makes it clear that the church is to continue to offer a ministry of healing for the whole person James 5:13-16

“Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

If you look throughout the scriptures there are many instances where Jesus went about “...healing all who were oppressed by the devil...” (Acts 10:38) or “healing every sickness and every disease among the people.” (Matthew 9:35).

When you read the Gospels it is evident that not once did Jesus turn away anyone or state it was not His will to heal them. In one instance Jesus even told a leper that it was His will to heal him.

A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean. Then Jesus, moved with compassion, reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cured of his leprosy.

(Matthew 8:2-3)

It is therefore out of faithfulness to Jesus Christ that we offer prayers for healing. What we are doing here tonight is NOT a magic trick. We are simply claiming God's promises, which He has made to all of us regarding healing.

God cares for us as whole people, not just certain parts. Healing comes in many forms, so feel free to come for prayer concerning any area of life. Although prayer for physical hurts and diseases are common, so also are prayers for emotional pains of the present and the past, as well as requests for spiritual needs.

As for the rocks. These rocks represent your burdens, your sicknesses, your problems... Everything that is not right in your life. As you hold the rock, run your fingers over it, get to know how it feels. One thing you should notice is it is not flat, or completely smooth. It probably is even a little rough and ragged around the edges much like our lives. As the slides play and you prepare to come for prayer I want you to transfer those issues to that rock.

It Is God's Will To Heal. One of the reasons for the Bible is to show God's will for man. As we have seen part of the reason for our Lord's sufferings is our healing. Since the word “salvation” literally means “healing” the two seem inseparable. Therefore, we must make the connection that it is as much God's will to heal you as it is to save you!

Read it here in 2 Peter 3:9, “...He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance...”

In history it was common for a man to derive his name from what he did for a living. For instance, those named "Smith" came from a long line of blacksmiths. It was also a great way to advertise their trade to others, "I'm Henry the Smith."

Well God has done the same thing in Exodus 15:26 He proclaims His name to be Jehovah Rahpa or "I am the Lord who heals you."

What a way to reveal His will to us. How could God reveal more clearly His will than to give Himself a name that says He heals you? Not only is it His will, it's His name! It's who He is and what He does!

We hope you enjoy this evening and that it is a blessing to you, however, the slides and music playing are really designed to create the opportunity for you to Encounter God as, "Jehovah Rahpa" (The Lord that heals you). At any time during the evening we invite you, as you feel led, to come to one of the stations where a prayer team will be waiting. You may come alone or with a friend or loved one if you wish.

Please place your rock in the bowl of water; this is a symbol of laying your sickness and troubles at the foot of the Cross where Jesus' blood can wash them away. If you want you can say a little prayer as you do this or if you can't think of anything else you can use the suggestion we have given on the placard next to the bowl, "Spirit of God, wash over me and make me clean."

After you lay down your burdens, pick up your "life" at Christ's table. This is not the church's table or my table it is Christ's table and He invites you to partake freely with Him as long as you are in right relationship with Him. Only you and He know that. None of us is qualified or capable of judging properly.

Next, please proceed to the first available prayer station. After hearing your request, the prayer team will pray with you in faith for forgiveness and healing from God. These prayers are not based on "gifts of healing" possessed by the prayer team, and are not surrounded by a carnival atmosphere or emotional manipulation. Our reverent trust for healing is not in our prayers or actions, but rather in the healing power of Jesus Christ, our Creator and Redeemer.

Please know that whatever you share with the prayer team will be held in strictest confidence.

They will lay hands on you in the name of the Lord and anoint your forehead with oil as Scripture encourages. This is a physical sign given to us in Scripture that signifies both God's blessing and healing presence in our lives. The oil is pure olive oil. If you choose not to be anointed, please let the prayer team know.

There is a point where the slide show says Thank you for participating. This is not the end. The pictures from that point on will not have any words with them. Allowing you a time to reflect on all that has happened here tonight.

When you have finished praying with the prayer team, the music and pictures will continue to play, you may return to your seat for silent prayer and reflection or you are free to leave.

May God Bless you all.