

David Pytches: Come Holy Spirit - Learning how to minister in power

Hodder 1995 (1985)

Notes Alison Morgan September 1999

1. Signs and wonders

1/5th of gospels dedicated to Christ's healing ministry and teaching about it.

Signs and wonders in NT

1 Cor 2.4 *my message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power.*

Heb 2.4 salvation announced by *signs, wonders and various miracles, and gifts of the HS distributed acc to his will.*

How did we lose sight of it?

- materialist and rationalist western world view
- idea of ministering in signs and wonders sounds presumptuous
- own sense of powerlessness; we know we haven't the resources. But Jesus only had resources of HS - he didn't need baptism for remission of sins, but even he needed baptism of HS and didn't minister till he'd got it
- we have no idea how to minister in power; no training or experience

But in 3rd world, signs and wonders has always meant rapid church growth

John Wimber.

2. Two spiritual kingdoms

'The kingdom of God is a reign of spiritual power which penetrates, permeates and integrates the material world' p.8. Signs and wonders were and are a visible manifestation of the kingdom.

Kingdom of God vs kingdom of evil.

Ways in which kingdom of evil manifests its power and the power of Jesus is shown to be greater:

- Satan manifests his power through sin
- disease Mk 5, Lk 13
- demonisation Mk 5, Mk 9
- destruction Jn 10.10, storm
- death Mt 9, Jn 11, Lk 7 raisings from dead; Christ's death and resurrection

Loosening of Satan's grip was proof the kingdom of God had come.

3. Wholeness

Christ's desire is to save us and cleanse us from sin. Also that this message should be accompanied by signs and wonders as proof of truth. Our attitude to sickness more influenced by Stoics than gospel. But sickness and pain came with Fall; not part of the plan. Jesus did not divide man into two - a soul to be saved and a body to be left sick and unhealed. Dealt with the whole person - paralytic, man at Bethesda, lepers.

Biblical view of man is wholeness.

But still part of fallen and groaning creation; not everyone is healed, just as not everyone is forgiven.

Appendix: word *sozo* means save, heal, make whole, preserve, rescue. List of instances.

4. Authority and power

What is spiritual authority and/or power and how do they relate to each other?

Authority is the right to exercise power.

God's absolute authority and power; delegated to us. Satan has temporarily usurped it (2 Cor 4.4), Christ came to re-establish it. Authority and power given to us.

Jesus experienced temptations (power, priorities, presumption); refuted them with truth; then received anointing of HS.

5. How did Jesus minister?

Without omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence.

The Son ... can do only what he sees his Father doing Jn 5.19. So through his relationship with the Father, Jesus knew who and when to heal:

- sometimes healed everyone
- sometimes refused to do it at all
- selective; eg at Bethesda
- refused to be emotionally pressured into a response, eg Cana, Lazarus
- wouldn't be manipulated into doing anything. Even when he did heal he did it in the way the Father wanted, which varied.
- acted out of compassion. But compassion alone not enough.

6. Introducing the gifts

4 listings: 1 Cor 12 (manifestation of the Spirit)

: 1 Cor 12.28 (ministries of the Spirit) - apostles, prophets, teachers, miracles, gifts of healings, helps, administration, tongues

: Romans 12 (gifts of grace) - prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, giving, organising, mercy

: Eph 4 (equippers of the saints) - apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastor/teachers

Plus miscellaneous - celibacy (1 Cor 7.7-8), philanthropy (1 Cor. 13.3), hospitality (1 Pe.4.9).

Chapter on gifts of spirit.

Purpose: given to use for others; not trophies, intended as tools for ministry.

Gifts are released on believers in context of gathering for worship. When an individual is often given the same gift (1 Cor 12) he may be recognised to have a particular ministry to do with that gift (later list in 1 Cor 12); when he exercises that he may be given office to do so more widely.

7. The gift of tongues

Not necessary; not possible without Spirit; only one for individual use.

3 types: specific language; glossolalia (interpretation thru Spirit); private use.

Use in public

Use in private

Receiving the gift

Exercise of gift; may be in human or angelic language

Response

8. The gift of interpretation

Given in Spirit, like the original utterance

Exercise of the gift

Order

9. The gift of prophecy

Wagner definition - message of God through divinely anointed utterance.

Forthtelling: preaching, teaching, evangelism

Foretelling

All can prophesy; but only some are appointed to the ministry of a prophet

Prophecy is not the equivalent of scripture; is a particular word for a particular congregation at a particular time through a particular person. Scripture is for all Christians in all places at all times.

To be exercised in love; to be eagerly desired. May come through meditating on scripture, through visions, dreams, trances, impressions, voice, angel.

Warnings. Use in church meetings - not visitors.

10. The gift of discernment

A supernatural gift of perception to enable individuals to distinguish the motivating spirit behind certain words or deeds. Transrational; operates like jizz. More than normal discernment which comes from training in word and recognition of evil. Warning - discernment not the same as suspicion!

Operation of the gift in area of demonic; may see word over face, shadows, second face, shapes.
Operation of the gift in area of divine; may see flame, halo, aura

11. Words of wisdom

Key to unlock a situation; for application to problems of life itself.

4 kinds of wisdom:

- normal human wisdom; but danger of pride
- fallen supernatural wisdom; Eve
- spiritual wisdom; Proverbs, James 1
- word of wisdom; may come in flash or may just seem like common sense

4 may come on top of 1 and 3 or independently.

Recognised by its startling aptness. Classic example is Solomon and the baby.

Modern examples.

Gift is received by any who ask for it.

12. Words of knowledge

Supernatural revelation of facts.

Biblical examples; modern examples.

How received

How exercised - sensing the truth, seeing picture/word, hearing phrase or word, feeling sensation, feeling heat/heaviness/tingling in hands, feeling power come upon us

Share with person who has discernment

Always given because God wants sth done.

Warnings

13. The gift of faith

Supernatural surge of confidence from the Spirit of God which arises within a person faced with a specific situation or need whereby that person receives a transrational certainty and assurance that God is about to act through a word or action. Is 'both the irresistible knowledge of God's intervention at a certain point and the authority to effect his intervention through the power of the HS' (Grossman).

4 kinds of faith in NT:

- creed: the doctrine we believe
- trust in God for salvation
- a fruit of the Spirit
- a gift of the Spirit; a mountain-moving surge

Operation in scripture. Supernatural blessing (Isaac to Jacob); personal protection (Daniel, Jesus, Paul and snake in Malta); supernatural sustenance (Elijah); bringing about promises of God (Sarah); in administration of supernatural discipline of offenders; in victory over enemies (Moses); in solving problems (Elisha); in raising the dead (Jn 11); in curses (fig tree).

Modern examples.

Less spectacular than other gifts because happens over time.

14. The gift of miraculous powers

Jesus did miracles primarily out of compassion.

Accompanying signs: deep compassion/anger; faith

15. The gifts of healing

Excellent chapter.

Fundamental principle: *the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing*, Jn 5.19.

Forms of healing

medicine

sacramental (James 5)

itinerant

natural healing abilities in Christians

shrine ministries eg Lourdes

healing thru other spirits...

healing in church, 1 Cor 12.

Purpose of healing

- to contribute towards process of wholeness in individual
- alleviation of suffering/pain
- cleanse soul
- release emotions
- edify believers
- sign in world of kingdom
- glory to God

Healing is spiritual warfare - sickness is domain of devil (Acts 10.38) though permitted by God (Job). Those in healing ministry find selves in active spiritual conflict. Enemy attacks before, during and after healing ministry.

Common forms of attack: depression, fatigue, anger, conflict, blockage, unworthiness (before)

: distraction, doubt, feeling lack of faith/anointing, temptation to override one's faith or to stop listening to God; tendency to focus on the condition; discouraging/negative thoughts; desire to speed up and finish (during)

: depression, sense of failure, fatigue, confused/mixed feelings, pride (after)

Values to be accepted by those involved

Ministry of HS, Acts 13

Authority of Jesus

Relationship between prayer and client must be:

- adult to adult
- honesty and truth on both sides
- no manipulation on either side
- based on compassion and respect
- willingness to take time
- concern for whole person
- avoid emotionalism
- don't bring them into reliance on you
- don't condemn
- keep confidence

Setting for healing

Worship the ideal setting; cell group or other OK.

Preparation before ministry to others

Remind selves of who Jesus is, what he has done, what he has told us to do

Seek to empty ourselves of self

Armour of God

Empty mind of preconceptions and presumption

Ask for fresh infilling of HS

Ask God what he wants to do

Pray in tongues

Envisage affected part of body well and functioning properly

How the ministry of healing begins

Inviting and honouring ministry of HS
Through inspiration
Vision/picture
Impression/knowing
verse coming to mind
word describing condition

The place of faith in healing

Must be there, either in the person, the friends/relations, the prayers
Good to ask person what he wants Jesus to do for him; encourages their faith
Remove obstacles - unbelievers
Told to command the mountain to move; not told to pray
Good to envisage the person whole when praying
Jesus asked for faith response - take up your bed, stretch out your hand etc
Importance of forgiveness in healing; ministers need to have received it and live it, client likewise (though may come after healing if not Christian). Unforgiveness may cause affliction to return.

Phenomena often experienced by those involved in healing

Heaviness/heat in hands; shaking of hands; tingling; sense of anointing. Inward witness of Lord's presence to heal; sense of knowing, sense of detachment, seeing Lord working; sense of electrical currents through the body. Sometimes no feeling at all; then we minister out of our authority. Client may feel heat or cold (deliverance); electrical current, shaking, stiffness, movement under skin, fatigue, peace, deep breathing, joy, falling. None is proof of healing.

Points

Never rely on own emotions; never ignore them
some develop faith for one particular area of healing
ministry can go in waves

16. Dreams, visions and 'enigmatic speech'

Not included among gifts of the Spirit, but are frequently integral to the work of the HS.
Dreams in scripture
Visions in scripture
Enigmatic speech - God takes roundabout approach
Tests for these: does it agree with scripture; does it draw us closer to God; has there been any occult contact; who gets the glory; seek confirmation; offer in submission.

17. Inviting the Holy Spirit

Times when it good to do this; reasons from scripture and tradition
Manner of invocation
Allow time for HS to work
Next - team may go to those who are being anointed
Thanksgiving

18. 'Falling' under the power of God

Will happen sooner or later...
MacNutt et al.
Falling in scripture - Ezekiel, Daniel, John
- priests in 2 Chron 5.14
- disciples at Transfiguration
- some of those being delivered
- Paul on Damascus Rd, Acts 9.4

- Jesus on arrest Jn 18.6 – he says ‘I am he’ and accusers fall to the ground

Falling in history

What happens: conversion; power encounter light vs darkness; revelation; anointing; inner healing.

Warning: snare for Christians who like the unusual, for outsiders who fix on it, for those who go for it as boost to spiritual pride, and for those who want to draw attention to their ministry (may even push).

19. Values in the healing ministry

and hazards to avoid.

Value the work of the Spirit

Keep spiritual and physical eyes open; vital to know what HS doing.

Say as little as possible when ministering in the Spirit

Value biblical authority

Value harmony in relationships

Value the individual person

Don't impose your will on them; ask rather than tell; don't accuse.

Value the body of Christ

20. Reasons why we have not healed the sick

We don't pray for them - faulty world view, belief gifts of Spirit no longer available, lack of power, lack of effective model, fear, inadequate theology of healing, lack of encouragement.

Reasons to pray: common sense, scripture, history

Does everyone get healed? Jesus didn't heal everyone.

Gradual healing. Medicine. Death.

All sickness came originally through the curse of sin, but not all sickness is caused by specific sin in the afflicted individual.

When people aren't healed: may be no explanation, but check unforgiveness, deeper emotional hurts, unbelief.

Do sickness and suffering come from God? Well; there are beatitudes for those who are poor in spirit and those who are persecuted, but not for those who are sick! It is God's nature to heal; it is not his primary purpose to teach us through sickness. Sickness is never made to appear beneficial in NT.

21. Who should minister?

Character deficiencies in the disciples! Character deficiencies in the church at Corinth!

Links 1 Cor 13 (love) with Galatians 5 (fruits of Spirit); love is mother of the fruits of the Spirit.

Ministers must be subject to faith, prayer, anointing, authority, teachable, open to receiving healing.

22. Equipment for those ministering

Ephesians 6.

23. Health and forgiveness

Clearly linked in Bible. Ps 103.3; paralytic Mt 9.

Mt 18 parable (NB jailors = tormentors)

Jesus - forgiveness costly, unconditional, unlimited, obligatory

Receiving forgiveness - people don't because they don't understand how it is possible; they are too proud; they won't forgive others.

Forgiving - others, selves

24. Healing of the Spirit

Regeneration and restoration of a person's spiritual life. Sickness of spirit is caused by the individual's own sin.

Adam and Eve

Esau

Saul

David

Nebuchadnezzar
Paralytic Mk 2
Impotent man Jn5
Sinful woman Lk 7

25. Healing of the Body

Where there is no spiritual component.

Naaman the leper, 2 Kings 5

Bartimaeus

Guidelines for ministering healing to the physically unwell

Invite HS

Watch for manifestations of HS on person

Listen to God to find root cause; lay hands

Listen for words of knowledge or instructions

Find out where the faith lies

Ask them to pray

Calm them down

Break power of any unbelief

Tell the condition to go or be healed (mt is a Jewish metaphor for difficulty, Mt 17; Jesus rebuked fever in Peter's mother in law)

Ask how they feel and continue if necessary

Close when HS no longer working in power

Some conclusions

They know if they are healed - don't tell them

healing may be progressive

if symptoms recur there may be underlying cause

devil will attack them afterwards

listen to person and ask while praying

faith necessary (in you, them, or those who brought them)

26. Healing the oppressed

Some mental or physical illness is the result of demonic activity. Healing must therefore include the expulsion or deliverance from whatever demonic influences may be causing the disease.

Jesus cast out demons. He:

- did not seek out the demonised
- never argued with demons
- sometimes bound them first
- commanded them never to return
- addressed them directly
- once cast them out from a distance
- delivered demonised children
- ministered to the demonised in synagogues, open air and in their homes
- asked qs to help diagnose the problem
- showed demons had to obey his orders
- showed multiple demonisation is possible
- made disciples work in pairs

Degrees of demonisation

- : afflictions, like darts
- : footholds (sin, occult, unforgiveness)
- : strongholds (from longstanding rebellion)
- : bondages

: possession

Discerning the presence of demons (see Richards)

- personality changes
- physical changes
- mental changes inc psychic powers
- spiritual changes inc aversion to sacraments etc

When HS invoked over oppressed person there is often a manifest 'power encounter' - shaking etc; but this can also be due to suppressed emotional trauma.

Don't diagnose evil spirit without corroboration and manifestation.

In doubt, can command any dark spirit to manifest itself

Preparation for those ministering

right relationship with God; LP; fasting; meditation on cross, victory and authority given to disciples

confession

Eph 6

Ministering deliverance

in groups if poss

quietly but firmly

in circle

in private

avoid shock

show love; confidentiality

prayer for protection

begin with dialogue covering following areas:

- personal occult involvement
- family history
- false religion, cult, masonic links
- sexual liason with demonised/occult person
- general case history

they repent and renounce all work of occult and flesh

call down HS on person

person to cooperate where possible

in addressing spirit, look into person's eyes where possible

look for God's leading; counterproductive if they not prepared for ongoing discipleship

demons will try every trick to stay

if it won't come out, stop and ask Lord to reveal the foothold

send it to place prepared for it

person to renounce it and tell it to go

sometimes more than one spirit to cast out

person may have kind of post-op depression, and problems may reassert themselves; will pass; but they

need someone on hand to minister truth

further deliverance ministry to be done by same team

person to be discouraged from believing further ministry necessary and taught to resist

Appendix

Form of prayer of renunciation and ministry for release from occult

Thanks

confession and renunciation

Prayer minister: 'in the name of Jesus I break any curse placed on you from occult sources. I break all psychic heredity and any demonic hold upon your family line due to any disobedience of your ancestors. I break any bonds of physical and mental illness and all demonic subjection to your mother, father, grandparents, great grandparents or any other human beings'.

27. Inner healing

Normal processes of healing are frequently impeded by deep inner hurts from the past; and sometimes deliverance from a demon may only result when the associated inner hurt has been dealt with first. Use any secular counselling model which is compatible with scripture.

Assumptions: Christians have problems that can remain untouched by confession, repentance, conversion, renewal of HS, deliverance, Bible study, prayer and sacraments

: hurts and traumas in subconscious affect present life

: purpose of inner healing is to minister to those memories in such a way that they are no longer associated with pain and have no negative effect in person

Origins of traumatic experience: sinful world; inflicted by others; inflicted by self (eg wrong choices)

Reaction to traumas:

- nursed; leads to anti-social behaviour patterns
- confession and repentance
- suppressed; leads to depression, phobia, illness, neurosis

Don't let person remain passive during ministry; you can't do it for them.

Don't let person become emotionally dependent on you

To relieve the emotions isn't enough

To find the root cause isn't enough

There must be:

- commitment to taking responsibility and owning one's bad decisions
- forgiveness to those who have caused the hurts
- repentance for resentment and acceptance of forgiveness from the Lord
- openness to receive the healing love of Jesus thru the HS
- commitment to seek Lord's answer for right living in kingdom

Appendix - a prayer of forgiveness

28. Ministering healing to the dying and their families

Acc to God's creative will no one should die from sickness or accident

Acc to God's permissive will some do.

29. Raising the dead

Widow's son 1 Kings 17

Shunammite woman's son 2 Kings 4

Elisha's bones 2 Kings 13

Jairus's daughter Mk 5

Widow of Nain's son Lk 7

Lazarus Jn 11

many holy people Mt 27

Dorcas Acts 9

Eutychus Acts 20

Other examples, historical and modern

30. Ministering to those in hospital

Preparation

Concentrate not on the condition but on what God is doing/saying

31. Ministering to children

When praying for sick children always picture them as happy and well

32. Keeping our healing and deliverance

It is possible to lose one's healing - cp Jesus' warning to man at pool

It is possible to lose one's deliverance; cp swept house Lk 11

Important to repent continuously; to keep being filled with the HS; to keep forgiving; to resist the devil

33. Worship: where it all begins

William Temple: 'worship is the submission of all our nature to God. It is the quickening of the conscience by His holiness; the nourishment of the mind with His truth; the purifying of the imagination by His beauty; the opening of the heart to His love; the surrender of will to His purpose - and all this gathered up in adoration, the most selfless emotion of which our nature is capable and therefore the chief remedy for that self-centredness which is original sin and the source of all actual sin'. P. 263.

There is the order of death - a cemetery
and the order of life - a nursery, where order is teased out of untidiness and constantly restored.

34. Operating within a liturgical structure

Pavlova, asked why she danced; 'if I could tell you, I would not dance'.

35. Organising the healing ministry

Kind of people required: converted and anointed; teachable; who relate well to others; common sense.

Phases of ministry

Ask what the person wants Jesus to do (keep dialogue to minimum)

Seek to discern level of faith of person and encourage them to state belief that Jesus can heal

Invite HS, relax and wait

Wait for further words of wisdom/knowledge; ask what they feeling

Hands on or off not a major issue

Encourage person to be open to HS, relaxed

Let HS do the convicting

Encourage person to come again if ministry has been partially beneficial

Speak to the condition if necessary

Encourage person to take a step of faith - eg bend the arm etc

Appendix

Complete list of scripture refs for healing and deliverance

Toronto blessing - matters arising.

www.alisonmorgan.co.uk