Do We Seek Healing from the Holy Spirit? Part 2
By Charles Feinberg

Thus far in our study of the question do we seek healing from the Holy Spirit? We’ve seen first of all that healers take advantage of psychological phenomena. They choose their subjects all too often. They practice deception. They themselves die of diseases also. And sadly enough, they misinterpret scriptures. We mention especially Isaiah 53:5, Matthew 8:14 to 17 we indicated in a preliminary way James 5:13 to 16 and this part of the message we shall be dealing more fully with it. Now we come to another phase of this subject. Someone may say why bother with this matter of healing all together? If some people want to feel that way, let them do it. And if some don’t, let them exercise their liberty and freedom in that way. Why engage yourself with such subjects as this? Don’t bother with it. Well I want to say now that we have a right to investigate especially when individuals are telling us that this is a part of scriptural privilege for everyone. You want to see if it is. We have a right to investigate. Notice Matthew 24:24. In a coming day our lord Jesus is speaking of certain individuals who will come on the scene of history for false Christ and false prophets will arise. And were not saying these healers are such but I’m just using this passage to show that we have a right to investigate for false Christ and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders so as to mislead if possible even the elect. The devil is out to mislead the children of god. They are his first targets. He strikes at Christ through us. So Matthew 24:24 shows that in a coming time, those that will be on earth during a time of great agony, will have to investigate. They’ll have to inquire. They’ll have to scrutinize. They’re not going to be able to take things at just face value. And then 1 john 4:1 certainly makes it clear. Beloved, do not believe every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they are from god. Because many false prophets have gone out into the
world. And it’s so easy if were not careful it’s so easy to be duped and to be led astray. There are supernatural healings apart from gods working all together. You speak to a missionary. You speak to folk who have worked in heathen lands where the power of darkness is strong. You ask concerning things even in our own land and you’ll find that there are some healings beyond nature. Not divine, but supernatural healings apart from gods working all together. Here’s a true account of a missionary in Africa. In Africa there was a river fisherman who had developed one of the fearful African tropical ulcers on his leg. But he was treated in the missionary hospital by the most scientific advanced medical methods. Prayer was made and all but that ulcer would not heal. And the fisherman desirous of having it his way, and going back to the old customs, decided ultimately when those things wouldn’t avail when his ulcers wouldn’t heal. Well, he would go to the witch doctor in his village. That’s what he did. This witch doctor killed a chicken, spoke an incantation, this actual case. Pretended to draw out of the sore the bullets of the quote unquote witch gun which had made the wound. And within a short time it healed. That ulcer that was treated in the missionary hospital by scientific medical methods of the most advanced type. And that ulcer that did not respond and didn’t heal, within a short time it healed with that witch doctor. See, there’s supernatural healings that are apart from gods working all together. The missionary kept those so called bullets a souvenir that there is more to healing than science. Now you wouldn’t call such healing divine because it was actual because real because it was valid because the man got well. Oh you say well am I to understand then that you’re not to look for god to heal anybody at all? Oh no. I must come to this. God can heal, god does heal. I often put it this way. If you have ever been ill as a believer. Surely you must have been ill at one time or another. Anybody who has been ill at one time or another and is now well, that person has been healed by the goodness of god. Either without medicines or with him.
Why rule god out of nature as well as the realm of the miraculous. Look at Hezekiah. Isaiah 38 verses 21 22 remember Hezekiah was ill. Now Isaiah had said let them take a cake of figs and apply it to the boil that he may recover. Then Hezekiah had said, what is the sign that I shall go up to the house of the lord? And when Isaiah applied that cake of figs to the boil, we read that that dear godly pious king in Israel of the Davidic line did get healed. He was healed. Isaiah 38:21 and 22 Hezekiah lived on. It’s by the power of prayer. Now let’s go back to James 5:13 to 16. It’s not as its said healing in the atonement. It’s in answer to prayer according to the will of god? James 5:13 to 16. Let’s read this carefully again now. Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful let him sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? Notice these different expressions. Cheerful, let him sing praises. Suffering, let him pray. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church and let them pray over him anointing him with oil in the name of the lord. And the prayer offered in faith. Oh that is so important. This is the part that is the crux of the matter. It’s the heart of the matter. The prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick. It doesn’t say the medicines, it doesn’t say the elders? It doesn’t say the wish of the man. It doesn’t say the anointing with oil. but it’s the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who was sick and the lord will raise him up and if he has committed sins, evidently this illness in this particular case is with reference to sin they will be forgiven him. Therefore confess your sins to one another. Pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Now we have James 5:13 to 16. Notice how he indicates that this is not to be in the modern type of a healing meeting. It’s not to be in a certain trumped up atmosphere. It is to be done very quietly. The initiative if you will, is to come from the one who was ill himself. He’s not to get. He is to call for the authorities in the church. Showing that he’s subservient to the church and the important thing is prayer. Let them
pray over him. That’s mentioned twice. Yes. Twice in this part. Let them pray over him, and prayer offered in faith will restore him. That’s just twice but now watch. And pray for one another. Third time. And then he winds up the discussion with the effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. Think of it. Prayer is mentioned 4 times. Means are not prominent there. Well somebody says the prayer offered in faith, that means a a prayer that a person offers because he has a certain amount of faith. No it’s not praying believing that god can heal anybody. That is not what’s meant here by James. It is actually a prayer offered in faith is the prayer of faith. Not a prayer of faith. Mark you it’s a definite article. It’s a specific type of prayer. And it’s the prayer that is prayed that god alone can give when the individual who has prayed it gets up and says I know of assurity that you will be healed. That is the prayer of faith. One of the great evangelists of another day, it was Dr. Torrey actually when he was in Chicago preaching. They used to have a group of men women would come on Saturday evening and pray for the services of the next day. And had some of the most marvelous prayer times possible. Then after a period of time some noticed that when others left the prayer meeting, that Dr. Torrey would remain behind. And he did it once and then again and again. He was doing it consecutively. Someone asked him dr Torrey you don’t seem to leave the prayer meeting when we do, you remain around. You remain behind. What are you doing if I may ask? Well he said I just feel as if I want to pray a bit longer. The lord exercises my heart that way. Well some of them asked if they couldn’t continue with him or he said of course there’s nothing binding or legal possible or impossible on this angle. I’m not the one who has charge of this kind of thing. Why sure, prayer is open to all. And they did. And during that time it grew larger and larger more would stay that remained afterwards. Some would go after the first prayer meeting, but was in that prayer meeting that Dr. Torrey in prayer felt very definitely that god wanted him to
go around on an evangelistic tour of the world. And when he came up when he rose from his feet from praying he said to those gathered he said I have in prayer felt the deep conviction from god that he’s going to send me around the world on an evangelistic tour. And that actually happened. That was not just praying in faith but a particular prayer of faith. A prayer directed to the certainty that that person will be healed. A missionary once told this incident. An Arab woman who had been won to the lord Jesus Christ from Islam which is a very tightly knit system. Binds individuals in home and whole societies and government and we see it on the march militantly. Today Islam to come to Christ from Islam meant not only social ostracism, ostracism from the family but often death. It’s still illegal in parts of Muslim countries. And some of them awesome countries to invite someone to receive Christ out of their Muslim faith. Well this dear Arab woman had been won to Christ from Islam. Her family coerced, they argued, they threatened, they tried every means to draw her from her new wonned faith. But it was marvelous the keeping power of god. Whatever they did was in vain. Then, they said we’ve got to try other means. They concocted a, they worked up a simple but a deadly poison. And unknown to her, they put it into her food secretly. Well when she had eaten the meat with the poison, she knew very quickly what had happened and she knew how deadly it was. She had seen it work before. She knew she was doomed to death. The poison would first make her very irritable, then very dull, then it was due to affect her mind even still more. And then her whole body until in an agony, death would finally overtake her. Well naturally she was greatly startled. She was distressed. She didn’t know what to do. She knew what they had done. She didn’t want to at this moment to deny the faith because of that; she didn’t know what to do at first. And as she sat without even planning to, she began to repeat the name that great name which is that glorious name, which is as an ointment port forth. She didn’t do it out loud. But
she began to repeat that name to herself. And the more she repeated it; she did it with greater intensity. Jesus, Jesus, Jesus. For 2 or 3 days she continued. It’s a true account. And the poison gradually receded from her blood. And her family watched with strange eyes almost besides themselves. They knew that poison. They’d used it before on occasions. That poison had never failed before. She told the missionary afterwards, I felt as though each time I said that name, there was like a wave of life and in between like a wave of death. No medication. But that dear soul found out that god can. God does heal when he wants to magnify his word. When he wants to magnify his truth. When he wants to show his marvelous greatness over all situations at all time. God can heal, he does heal. But on other occasions, he may have some greater purpose to accomplish in the life of that individual. It was so with Paul. It was so with job. God could have healed him right away. God could have restored what we find in the 42nd chapter of job. But no. and hear this dear soul, she said every time I mentioned that blessed name, like a wave of life and in between like a wave of death. The death was becoming less and the life more. Till the utter astonishment of all to her great joy she was free. Oh don’t forget it my dear friends. God can. God will heal. He can and he does heal. We find from the scripture that there be no illness in the millennium. Isaiah 33 verses 20, verse 24. Isaiah 33:24 tells us that in that day no man shall say I am sick. Bless god. There will be no sickness in heaven. Revelation 21:4. No sickness, no pain, no crying, no tears. And revelation 22 verse 2 for the old things have passed away. My dear friend, remember. God may have a purpose that you don’t see at all in your illness. But don’t miss it. Don’t miss it. You say I want to be healed at all costs don’t you want to be healed in the will of god? I remember a very definite case of a minister. He’d been a student of mine years ago in seminary. One of his children was in a terrifying accident and it had left him in a coma, in an unconscious state for a long long time. This dear brother asked so
many in his church and friends. Ministers and laymen to pray to pray. And he and his wife were before the lord. Oh you must heal him. You must heal him. You must heal him. And the lord allowed that child to live on. But that child was never right. And that pastor himself dear man of god still in the ministry of the word, a very precious brother. Said in a meeting, in a public meeting once, he said we better be careful how we insist, how we demand practically that god do this or god do that. In this matter of healing. Oh, it’s true. We all want to be well. We all want to be free of pain. But my dear friends have you realized that some of the greatest saints of all have been in tremendous pain. Some have given us tremendous hymns, tremendous works. One of the men of god in my own native city of Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. MacConkey I understood that he was in such pain that he could scarcely do any writing or any work. But 15 minutes at a time and how god used it. How god used it. There was a dear man of god years ago was lying on his bed of illness. And a dear friend said do you see any purpose of god in your sickness? He said I can’t see any purpose but he says the will of god is the highest purpose of god. The glory of god. And whether I see it or not, if it is the will of god it is of gods highest doing and it’s done in love. Don’t miss what purpose god may have in your illness. In jobs illness it’s what we know of medical science today as elephantiasis. The limbs become like an elephants. Large. And encrusted with terrible terrible oozing sores. And yet what does scripture say? It tells us he said oh I did know you before lord. But the way I knew you before compared to the way I know you now is as the hearing of the ear before I knew thee. I knew thee by the hearing of the ear but now mine eye seeith thee. Wherefore I abhor myself not these who have been hurting me so with their words and their empty advice. Their unfeeling opinions and philosophies. No he says I abhor myself and repent in sackcloth and ashes. Oh what he learned. I know that my redeemer liveth. And at the end he’s going to stand upon the earth and he says
even if it’s without my body even though the body has decayed yet I shall see him and not as a stranger. I shall see him myself. In 2 Corinthians 12:7 to 10 we have that with reference to the apostle Paul. And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations for this reason to keep me from exalting myself. Think of how important god thought that was. To keep Paul humble. To keep me from exalting myself. That one that god used to write more books in the New Testament than any other one. Yet he says for this reason to keep me from exalting myself there was given me a thorn in the flesh a messenger of Satan to buffet me. To keep me from exalting myself. Concerning this I treated the lord 3 times that it might depart from me. And he has said to me my grace is sufficient for you. You’re going to learn my grace in a new way. For power, my power, is perfected. Yes. In weakness, most gladly therefore, I will rather boast about my weakness that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore I am well content with weaknesses. With insults. With distresses, with persecutions. With difficulties. How could you do it Paul? For Christ’s sake. For when I am weak. Then I am strong. And the strength comes not for some wishing of his own. Not for some gritting of his teeth. Not from his going into it with a stiff upper lip. But all the more leaning heavily upon him. It was after Jacob had prevailed with the angel of the lord at peniel [sp?] that the hollow of his thigh was touched. And there was the victory. After that, he had to lean. He leaned upon the angel of the lord the preincarnate one. And he said I will not let you go except you bless me in his utter weakness, Jacob was made strong. The prophet Isaiah says so. He struggled with man and with god and prevailed. It was dear dr. pason [sp?] in his last illness enduring dr. pasons last illness the friend coming into his sickroom. Said well I must say I’m sorry to see you lying there on your back. Oh you have been a great power for god. You have always been active hithering yon. I’m so sorry to see you inactive lying there on your back. Dr. pason asked him, do you not know why
god puts us on our backs? He said no. the man actually didn’t know and didn’t know what was in the mind of dr. pason. He says no I don’t know why god puts us on our backs. And dr. pason answered so truly, in order that we may look upward. In order that we may look upward. Dear friend. If you’re suffering and have sought healing in so many different ways, natural means, other means, don’t become embittered. Don’t think folk are unfeeling when they say leave it with god. Leave it with him and his will and answer to prayer. If he wishes you to get well, he will do so. He will heal you through a physician or even without it. If it is in his will. And above all, ask what does god want to teach me through this time of weakness, of infirmity, of being set aside. That above all else lord I want to learn. May god bless you, may god keep you, may god encourage you in every difficulty, in every illness. May he do that to the praise of the glory of his grace. And that to the father, to the son, and to the Holy Spirit.