

Thoughts on Ministry of Healing

(4) The Touch of Faith (pages 59-72)

Summary:

The key to connection with God is “the touch of faith.” That means to reach out to God with a whole heart, out of great need, in growing trust, and with a deep sense of purpose.

Thoughts:

Jesus was able to distinguish the touch of faith from the casual touch of a careless crowd. The woman touched Jesus with a “deep sense of purpose.” (60) I suppose the question is, to what degree is faith the central focus and concern in a person’s life? Whole-hearted faith is powerful to connect with God.

Faith is more than an opinion or an assent to certain ideas as truth, it is trust in a person that connects one into covenant relationship with God. It is a life-changing transaction. (62)

Genuine faith makes humble people confident in spite of their sense of unworthiness. You can have confidence distrusting yourself, when your confidence is based on the mercy of God. God does not accept us because we are worthy, He accepts us because He promised to. (65-66)

In some instances of healing, Jesus delayed granting the request, especially when it has to do with “earthly blessings.” But He never delays granting requests for deliverance from sin. (70)

We can trust ourselves to God because in the Elder Brother (Jesus) He knows by experience our weaknesses, our wants and needs, the strength of our temptations. God “gets” us. And that makes it safe for us to “get” Him. (71)

There is a lot of research recently on the power of touch. Touch is a good health practice and promotes wholeness. Animals often go to the one who touches them more than the one who supplies food! Cornell has or recently had a masters degree in therapeutic touch. The Loma Linda community has a “Healing Hands” massage ministry.

In this chapter the word faith is tied to many metaphors: touch, transaction, energy, purification, also legal and athletic (or pilgrim) metaphors. It is hard for human beings to get a handle on faith intellectually.

Is there a physiological aspect to faith? (Think wholeness) Symbols and metaphors participate in the reality that they point to. All aspects of the person are intertwined.

The diversity of people in this chapter shows that Jesus is open to all kinds of people.

Quotable Quotes:

“The faith that is unto salvation is not a mere assent to the truth of the gospel. True faith is that which receives Christ as a personal Saviour.” (62)

“Many hold faith as an opinion. Saving faith is a transaction, by which those who receive Christ join themselves in covenant relation with God. A living faith means an increase of vigor, a confiding trust, by which, through the grace of Christ, the soul becomes a conquering power.” (62)

“In working for the victims of evil habits, instead of pointing them to the despair and ruin toward which they are hastening, turn their eyes away to Jesus. Fix them upon the glories of the heavenly.” (62)

“The centurion said of himself, “I am not worthy.” Yet he did not fear to ask help from

Jesus. Not to his own goodness did he trust, but to the Saviour's mercy. His only argument was his great need." (65)

"As you come to Him, believe that He accepts you, because He has promised. You can never perish while you do this—never." (66)

"When we pray for earthly blessings, the answer to our prayer may be delayed, or God may give us something other than we ask, but not so when we ask for deliverance from sin." (70)

"The Elder Brother of our race. . . knows by experience what are the weaknesses of humanity, what are our wants, and where lies the strength of our temptations." (71)

"The weaker and more helpless you know yourself to be, the stronger you will become in His strength." (72)

"Human love may change, but Christ's love knows no change." (72)