

# Contending for Healing

December 3, 2011

Tonight, I want to share with you about how to contend for your healing.

If you were to ask me about healing, I will tell you that it is a gift from God, and all healings happen because Jesus took our infirmities as the Sacrificial Lamb.

Isaiah 53:4

<sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted.

If, however, you were to ask me how the healing work or it is given, I would have to be the first to tell you that there is so much we do not know about healing, and much of it is a mystery. For example, sometimes, it is readily given to us when we are least expecting it, and sometimes it is very elusive and appears to be very difficult for us to receive it.

Let us think about it, the invalid sitting at the Gate Beautiful was not expecting to be healed, but when Peter and John came, God just gave it to him as a gift. Then, there is the Syro-Phoenician woman who had to overcome what appears to be a denial from Jesus in order to receive her daughter's healing. What is it?

Yes, we can all give a reason why the invalid at the Gate Beautiful received the healing – and we can say that he had faith. Then, we can also say that the Syro-Phoenician woman had faith as well. In fact, even Jesus commended her in her faith:

Matthew 15:28

<sup>28</sup> Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

You may ask, "Pastor John, I thought you said that healing is a gift from God, and all we have to do is receive it, because we surely cannot earn it?" And, my answer to you is, "you are absolutely right! Jesus has already paid for your healing on the Cross, and there is nothing you could do to add to His work. Healing is a gift of God." And I have seen many people who simply believed, and received the healing as a gift from God.

Matthew 9:27-30

<sup>27</sup> As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" <sup>28</sup> When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" "Yes, Lord," they replied. <sup>29</sup> Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you"; <sup>30</sup> and their sight was restored.

- Testimony of Primal Fernando – He did not have to work for his healing, he simply believed...

However, there are times when we have to contend for our healings.

- Why? – Because there are enemy forces out there that opposes the work of God.

Ephesians 6:12

<sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Then, what does the word “contending” mean?

Contending means: Striving against difficulties; Fighting against oppositions.

- Contending does not mean earning it or make the free gift any less free.
- The Syro-Phoenician Woman’s Experience
  - Her daughter’s healing was a gift from God, and it was absolutely free, but she had to contend over challenges at hand.
    - Jesus knew that she had faith to receive the healing for her daughter, and also Jesus knew that she had humility to contend over what appears to be a denial.
    - Yes! It certainly takes great humility to endure through the difficulties until the Word of God is demonstrated.
      - Often it is not God who is not willing to heal, but we are not humble enough to persist over the challenges.
- Daniel’s experience
  - Daniel 10:12-14
    - <sup>2</sup> At that time I, Daniel, mourned for **three weeks...**<sup>12</sup> Then he continued, “Do not be afraid, Daniel. **Since the first day that you set your mind to gain understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your words were heard, and I have come in response to them.** <sup>13</sup> But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me **twenty-one days.** Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia. <sup>14</sup> Now I have come to explain to you what will happen to your people in the future, for the vision concerns a time yet to come.”
  - In this Daniel’s experience, as soon as Daniel prayed, the answer to that prayer was sent to Daniel.
    - The answer was given to him as a free gift from God, because Daniel asked.
    - It was a gift, because Daniel did not have to earn it to have the answer sent to him.
    - However, Daniel had to contend for twenty-one days for Michael to overcome the price of Persia.
- Likewise, we sometimes have to contend for a long time before the healing comes.
  - We can give reasons or justifications or excuses as to why God did not heal instantly when He has the power to do so...but the truth is that God wants to heal His sons and daughters.
    - There may be delays due to oppositions or some greater purpose at work...and more we try to figure out the details of what appears to be the requirement for healing, one becomes overwhelmed, confused, and discouraged...because the process is completely left in the Sovereignty of God and the process is entirely a mystery to us as I have mentioned... and while we are contending for healing, we most likely will have no idea what oppositions or what greater purpose are at work...and only thing we can do is to choose to believe --- that is, choose to continue to believe God’s Word is the Truth and the truth is that Jesus took all our infirmities onto Himself, that God is as good as He says He is, and all God’s promises are Yes and Amen.

Therefore, I want to share with you three principles in how to contend for your healing so that you would be able to receive the free gift of healing from God.

1. Contending for your healing (or answer to any prayer) requires the knowing the Truth,
2. Contending for your healing (or answer to any prayer) requires applying the Truth in boldness, and
3. Contending for your healing (or answer to any prayer) requires contending until you receive your full healing.

1. Contending for your healing (or answer to any prayer) requires the knowing the Truth.

[John 8:32](#)

<sup>32</sup> Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

- Healing is a gift from God – We can receive it because what Jesus has done on the Cross.

- It is not something we could earn – so do not try to be bound to law, in order to receive the gift. Law will demand that you pay for or earn your healing.

[Galatians 3:5-6](#)

<sup>5</sup> Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard? <sup>6</sup> Consider Abraham: “He believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

- So, it is clear that in order to receive the gift of God, we need to believe the Truth.
- Then, how do you believe the Truth – and have faith?

[Romans 10:17 \[NKJ\]](#)

<sup>17</sup> So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- Yes, **faith comes from hearing, hearing the Truth!**
- I want to point out that the word “hearing”, because of the ending “-ing,” it is a process – that is, [we have to continually do or continually be in](#).
  - ➔ Many people say that they want faith, but they refuse to listen to the word of God.
    - [How could they have faith, if they do not hear the word of God?](#)
      - Many attend, but refuse to hear the word of God.
      - Many serve, but refuse to hear the word of God.
      - Many say they believe, but refuse to hear the word of God.
      - Many say they have faith, but refuse to hear the word of God.
    - [How could they have faith, if they do not hear the word of God?](#)
    - Now, “faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see” as in [Hebrews 11:1](#).
      - We become sure of the Truth, by continually hearing the Word of God.
      - We become certain of the Truth, by continually hearing the Word of God.
        - **There is no other way!**
        - One cannot say that he has faith, if he does not hear the Word of God.
        - One cannot say that he has faith, if he does not believe in the Word of God enough to practice the Word of God he heard.



- **Most want quick fixes, and very few really want to believe in the word of God, and even much fewer would believe in the Word of God enough to endure through the process – because unless there is faith, the Word of God is strange and foolishness to men.**

1 Corinthians 1:22-24

<sup>22</sup> Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

- So, I want to give you several Truths according to the Word of God, and I pray, hope and request that you would continue to hear the Word of God, and meditate upon them, and do not let it depart from your mouth, **so that you would BELIEVE!**
  - Healing is a gift from God.
  - The work for your healing is completed on the Cross by Jesus, so you do not have to.
    - John 19:30
    - <sup>30</sup> ...Jesus said, "It is finished." With that, he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.
  - There is nothing you can do to add to the work on the Cross, and you should not try.
  - It is God's will to heal you.
    - 3 John 1:2
    - <sup>2</sup> Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.
  - In fact, Jesus died so that you may be healed.
    - Isaiah 53:4-5
    - <sup>4</sup> Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. <sup>5</sup> But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
  - Healing is a nature of God – and that He is God Who Heals You – Jehovah Rophe.
    - Exodus 15:26
    - I am the LORD, who heals you.
  - He is here, right now, to heal you.
  - Healing is yours to claim and to receive.
- So, contend for your healing by (1) find the Scripture that pertains to healing, (2) hear them, (3) meditate upon them, (4) confess them, and (5) believe!...and repeat steps 1 through 6, again and again, over every obstacles (including circumstances and negative thoughts).
  - Of course, I am not saying forgo everything and only do the steps 1 though 6.
    - No, we must believe, that is do the steps 1 through 6, while doing everything possible in the process:
      - Doctors and medical professionals are healing hands of God, and God will use them to heal.
      - Eating right and exercising well are being a good steward of your body which you are trying to heal.

- Example: A woman with cancer testimony – cut & pasted verses related to healing all over the house, and read & meditated upon the healing Truths of God until she was healed.
  - Romans 10:9-10
  - <sup>9</sup>That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.
- Let me take the principles from Romans 10:9-10, paraphrase them, and apply them to healing.
  - “That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is the Healer,” and believe in your heart that Jesus took your infirmities on the Cross, you will be healed. <sup>10</sup> For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are healed.
- Why do you think God said, “Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” Joshua 1:8
  - It is all about our faith and what we believe!

2. Contending for your healing (or answer to any prayer) requires applying the Truth in boldness.

- One common characteristic in all healings of in the Bible is applying the Truth in boldness.
  - Examples:
    - Bartimaeus; Mark 10:46-52
    - Jairus; Mark 5:22
    - Demonized at Gerasenes; Luke 8:26
  - It often seems like Jesus correlates this boldness with the level of faith.
    - Many who were healed by Jesus were not polite.
    - Many who were healed by Jesus were not timid.
    - Many who were healed by Jesus were not passive.
    - Examples:
      - The woman with the issue of blood; Mark 5:34
      - Paralytic through the roof; Luke 5:19
  - It is because faith in the word of God manifests as boldness in the Word of God.
    - If you believe, you will be confident.
      - I am confident in love of God, because I believe it.
      - I am confident in my going to heaven, because I believe it.
      - I am confident in my prayers, because I believe it.
    - Boldness is a manifestation of Confidence, and confidence is being sure and being certain of the promise.
      - Hebrews 11:1-2
      - <sup>1</sup> Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. <sup>2</sup> This is what the ancients were commended for.
    - Therefore, boldness from confidence in the Word of God is an expression of faith.
      - You are bold because you are sure of what you hope for in the Word of God.
      - You are bold because you are certain of the Word of God.

- That is why the LORD is telling Joshua, “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous.” [Joshua 1:8-9](#)
  - Moreover, boldness is required for healing, because healing is often about warfare, and no one wins battles without being bold and brave.
    - Once again, that is why the LORD is telling Joshua “Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. Be strong and very courageous.” [Joshua 1:8-9](#)
    - [Luke 11:20-22](#)

<sup>20</sup> But if I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you. <sup>21</sup> “When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. <sup>22</sup> But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.
3. Contending for your healing (or answer to any prayer) requires contending until you receive your full healing.
- I am not saying that all sicknesses come from demons, but sometimes demons interfere, prevent, and take away the gift of healing God has already sent.
    - All I am saying is that, if we were to allude that your body is the treasured possession, then sickness can be viewed as the strong man that needs to be attacked, bound and chased out by the power and the Spirit of God, so that the treasured possession can be free.
    - So contend for your healing, and remember that God’s answer to Daniel was sent as soon as Daniel started to pray, but Daniel had to contend for 21 days.
      - How long would you be willing to contend for your healing?
      - A day?
      - A week?
      - A year?
      - 10 years?
      - Or until it is fully healed?
  - Now, contending is continually fighting – and knowing that you are the victor with Jesus always!
 

[Matthew 11:12](#)

<sup>12</sup> From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.

    - So, please do not be disappointed if your healing does not happen right away – it is a process of believing and standing in faith.
      - The tipping-the-scale principle.
        - The enemy’s resistance is waning continually, but until the threshold is reached, it may appear as nothing is happening.
        - Healing often happens a little here, a little there, a little yesterday, much today, and a little tomorrow...until the full process is complete.

- So, if you do not receive your healing manifest immediately, then continue to believe that the healing Jesus gave you on the Cross must manifest in your body.
  - If you are healed, then you have received the gift of healing, and you are healed.
  - Remember that it is not based on your works.
  - ➔ That is, if you have prayed, then your healing is on the way – and that you are now contending for your healing.
  - If you are contending for your healing, then
    - Believe that God wants to heal you,
    - Believe that God has already sent your healing, and that your healing is on the way,
    - Believe that we live by faith, not by sight, 2 Corinthians 5:7,  
2 Corinthians 5:7  
<sup>7</sup>We live by faith, not by sight.
    - Continue to see doctors and medical professionals (because they are the tools of God uses rather often),
      - It is by faith, and it will help you, if you see their work as a part of healing hand from the LORD – for God uses all things to work for good of those who love Him.  
Romans 8:28  
<sup>28</sup>And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.
      - Removing the symptoms of sickness by taking prescribed medicine and procedures to enhance your faith.
        - Example: God used many doctors and surgeries to bring so much healing for Pastor Michele over the last three years...and it is still a process, and we will stand in faith till everything is healed and restored, renewed and better!
    - Continue to hear and meditate upon the word of God – especially related to healing.
- So, let us rely on the Word of God, and let us boldly contend for our healing – and Do Not Give Up.  
Luke 11:8-10  
[After Jesus taught His disciples of the Lord's prayer...he tells His disciples about a parable of a man asking for bread from his friend at midnight...]<sup>8</sup> I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.  
<sup>9</sup>“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

## MINISTRY

→ Salvation Call.

→ Now, ask for your healing boldly – from God.

Hebrews 4:16

<sup>16</sup>Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

→ A paraphrased combined word based on Jeremiah 29:11-13, Jeremiah 33:3-9 & Hebrews 4:16

“For I know the plans I have for you...plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future...you will call upon me and [you will] come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me[,] when you seek me with all your heart...Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and unsearchable things you do not know... I will bring health and healing to [you]; I will heal my people and will let [my people] enjoy abundant peace and security.... Then [you] will bring me renown, joy, praise and honor before all nations on earth that hear of all the good things I do for [you]; and [all nations on earth] will be in awe and will tremble at the abundant prosperity and peace I provide for [you]... [So, now, come and] approach [My] throne of grace with confidence, [and you will find Me, and I will extend My hand to you,] so that [you] may receive mercy and find grace...in [your] time of need.”