

PHYSICIAN HEAL YOURSELF



Their Pain is My Pain By Ineke Hopgood

There was this little old broken-down church in a broken-down part of town with only a handful of broken down people left in it. One Wednesday night prayer meeting they were especially dismayed. They prayed, *“Lord, you know we’re too old and too weak to go out there, into the streets with your gospel. If you want us to serve you here, bring to us some people who need the gospel.”*

The prayer was answered. Sunday morning as they gathered for their dry little service people started coming in off the street. That first Sunday there must have been fifty of them. But the weird thing about it was that every single one of the newcomers was sick.

- Some were on crutches,
- Some were talking to themselves,
- Some could hardly breathe,
- Some were drunk.

It looked like the emergency room of the city hospital.

“How can we preach the gospel to these wrecks, Lord? They’re too sick!”

A prophecy came forth in the meeting for the first time in ten years..... ***“Heal them!”***

“How can we heal them, Lord?” said the Christians, *“we’re too sick ourselves!”*

Then an old man with Parkinson’s disease who had been going to that church for years stood up, his body shaking so violently it was a wonder it didn’t fly apart, and he prayed,

“Lord, manifest your love to these friends who have come to us today.”



Give Heed to the Voice of My Cry By Ineke Hopgood

Suddenly there was shouting in the back of the church.

"Thank you, Lord! I can see!"

"Thank you, Lord! I can walk again!"

"Thank you for giving me back my mind!"

When the service was over the little old man with Parkinson's disease was still shaking, but there wasn't a more joyful man in all the world than this trembling...servant of God.

As the weeks passed more and more sick people kept pouring into that place and found healing... and many of those who found healing opened their hearts to the healer and entered the kingdom of God --



Homeless: Walking in Joy and Walking in the Light of the Lord By Ineke Hopgood

---- and the little old man with Parkinson's disease kept right on shaking.

You could say that the platform from which the gospel of Jesus Christ is proclaimed with power is the platform of healing. There has to be some evidence that the river of mercy which started flowing on this earth at Calvary is still flowing. The call to proclaim the gospel is always a call also to heal. We've been ordained to a healing ministry just as surely as we've been sent to preach that gospel.... but we tend to hold a shallow view of what this ministry involves and what it costs.

We look at the successful American physician with his status in the world, his power to make things happen for people..... *"We'll operate the day after tomorrow at 8:00"* his fabulous income. Or perhaps we can look at men and women who have notable healing ministries and how the crowds are always waiting at the door of the auditorium hours before the meeting begins.

And then we look at ourselves bogged down with problems.

- Problems in our circumstances,
- Problems in our relationships,
- Problems in our bodies, and even in our heads.

We may look normal enough on the outside, but inside we're so weighed down we can't even swim to the top of our own mess much less help anyone else's mess. How can I even begin to think about exercising a ministry of healing and help for others until I get this pain out of my own life? And so we wallow in our unhappiness and dream about the things we would like to do if ever this load is lifted from us enough to be able to help someone else.

But a valid ministry of healing in the name of Jesus bears no similarity whatsoever to the career of a successful surgeon or that of a celebrated healing evangelist. The model we have to look at is Jesus.... and when we look at Jesus what do we see?

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up; and he went to the synagogue, as his custom was, on the sabbath day. And he stood up to read; and there was given to him the book of the prophet Isaiah. He opened the book and found the place where it was written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.”

And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” And all spoke well of him, and wondered at the gracious words which proceeded out of his mouth; and they said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?” And he said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Physician, heal yourself;’....

Luke 4:16-23a

That’s how his ministry began....and this is how it ended.

And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads and saying, “You who would destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross.” So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, “He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him; for he said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

Matthew 27:39-43



Endured the Cross By Ineke Hoppood

***.... despised and rejected of men.
A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief.***

Who, when he got to the real moment of healing for the world....broke the curse through his own agony and death, received no thanks or applause.

All the world could say was,

“Physician, heal yourself!”

But it was this apparent defeat and all the pain and loneliness and disgrace that went with it which opened the healing fountain for us and for the world.

The fact that we're burdened with problems hurting in our own souls will never hinder us from healing others in the name of Jesus. In fact, these wounds within us may be just what we need to be effective.

But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, to show that the transcendent power belongs to God and not to us. We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh. So death is at work in us, but life in you.

II Corinthians 4:7-12

Of course the sin in our lives that God has put his finger on has to go.

- The grudges we've been holding,
- The fantasies of self-pity or lust or revenge,
- The covetousness which keeps perverting us into takers instead of givers....

These things have to go. But....

the wounds,
the weakness,
the afflictions,
the pain....

The things we have thought of as signs of defeat...

These can be turned into the very means by which life flows to others.

For while we live we are always being given up to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

So death is at work in us, but life in you.

Each of us, individually and all of us as a body have been called to a healing ministry. And the basis of our healing power is the cross... the place where God the Son was hung up to die

in weakness,
in agony,
in loneliness,
in disgrace.

Every healing Jesus ever performed came from that cross. And every healing that has ever taken place since, in his name, comes from that cross.

But we have to touch that cross of Jesus not just with our intellect. We have to touch it with our life. And the place where our life touches the cross of Jesus is the place where we are weak, where we hurt.

- These weak spots in our lives,
- These afflictions, hardships, and calamities,
- These things that keep us low,



The Lord is Close to the Brokenhearted By Ineke Hopgood

.... are the doorway to blazing communion with the crucified God.

And to keep me from being too elated by the abundance of revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan, to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I besought the Lord about this, that it should leave me; but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." I will all the more gladly boast of my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

II Corinthians 12:7-10

This weakness in my life drives me to the Master, and in a mystery I come forth with healing life for others. This pain in my soul (or in my body) brings me down into fellowship with the afflicted of this earth and helps me to be the living link between their pain and the Lamb who bears away their sickness and sin.

Until this sorrow came I was comfortable and blind.

But now I have some idea of the sorrow that afflicts this race.

The sorrow in my own heart drives me to God for comfort and in a mystery gives me power to comfort other hearts... to heal them through the wounds and sorrows of Calvary which have now become part of my own life. This frustration that once drove me out of my mind has now become the death of Jesus dwelling in my mortal flesh...the very power of Calvary by which I can set others free.

Until the Lord comes back every one of us who follows Jesus will have a wounded thigh like Jacob, a thorn in the flesh like Paul --- something that limits us, holds us down, causes pain, keeps us weak.

And we have a choice:

- We can spend our lives wallowing in this thing, using it as the excuse for wrapping the gifts God has given us in a napkin and doing nothing with them.
- We can take this thing which keeps us nailed to the cross of Jesus and make it the doorway to daily fellowship with our Lord and the fountainhead of healing for the sick ones around us.



To Those who Call Upon You By Ineke Hopgood

Satan will say to the wounded servants of the Lamb what he said to the Master through those sneering voices on Good Friday, *“Physician, heal yourself!”*

But the Lord says,

“Weak as you are, I send you forth in my name to heal the sick and raise the dead and bring the lost back to the Father’s house.”

“My grace is sufficient for you. My power is made perfect in weakness.”



The Lord Make His Face Shine Upon You By Ineke Hopgood

Message: Richard E. Bieber 1980

Featured Art: Kindness and courtesy of Ineke Hopgood ...with Rosalyn Field in some paintings... at inekehopgood.weebly.com

Prayer- Lord how good you are, how wonderful... that you find us in our defeat, our anguish, our shame, our pain, our loneliness and even in the midst of sneers and rejection. This is where you meet us. This is where you have been. This is where we cry out to you, where we draw close to you in our need. Alleluia. Lord may we continue in our weakness and sorrow to be drawn to you for our comfort. And may this empower us, soften us, prepare our hearts to comfort others. How beautiful that we, as weak and wounded as we are, can be sent forth with your life and healing. And yes, yes, may we find your holy, beloved grace sufficient for us and may your power be made perfect in our weakness. Amen. Maranatha Mirror.

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