

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY

REMINDER

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NEXT SUNDAY IS -

TIME CHANGE SUNDAY!



IS HEALING PART OF THE ATONEMENT?



by Evangelist David Cloud

“And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus’ feet; and he healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see; and they glorified the God of Israel” (Matthew 15:30-31).

“And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon’s porch. ... Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one” (Acts 5:12,15-16).

One teaching which seems to attract many to the Charismatic movement is the idea that physical healing is promised in Christ’s atonement. It is commonly taught by Pentecostal-Charismatic preachers that if a person is saved and right with God he never has to be sick. Healing is guaranteed, so to speak, for those who exercise faith. This doctrine has been closely connected with the Pentecostal movement throughout the twentieth century. The *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* notes: “The formative years of development for the classical Pentecostal churches were from 1907 to 1932. As the movement aggressively grew and spread, so the doctrine and practice of divine healing was extended since it was one of the movement’s cardinal doctrines” (p. 370).

Most Pentecostal historians trace their movement to the “tongues speaking” experience of students at **CHARLES PARHAM’S** Bethel Healing Home in Topeka, Kansas, in January 1901. Parham believed that healing is in the atonement. One of Parham’s disciples, **WILLIAM SEYMOUR**, founded the Azusa Street Mission in Los Angeles, California, in 1906. From Seymour’s Azusa Street and Parham’s Apostolic Faith movements, Pentecostalism spread and gained momentum. The *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* notes that all of the Pentecostal denominations today—including the Assemblies of God (1914), the Church of God (1907), and the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel (1923) - find their

roots in the aforementioned movements.

From its inception, then, the Pentecostal movement was affiliated with the doctrine that physical healing is in the atonement. The man called the father of healing revivalism in America was **JOHN ALEXANDER DOWIE** (1847-1907), who established a community in 1900 called Zion City north of Chicago. Dowie’s magazine, *Leaves of Healing*, had a worldwide distribution and a vast influence. He taught that healing is promised in the atonement and insisted that those who sought faith healing must give up all medical care. He viewed druggists and physicians as instruments of the devil. When his own daughter was severely burned, he banished one of his followers for trying to alleviate her pain with Vaseline. He refused to allow her any medical treatment and she died in that condition. Many others who came to his faith cure homes died of their illnesses without any medical attention. The *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements* notes that many of the most famous Pentecostal evangelists - including F.F. Bosworth, John Lake, Gordon Lindsay, and Raymond Richey - went out from Zion (p. 368) and dozens of Parham’s followers at Zion joined the Assemblies of God at its formation in 1914. In fact, three of the original eight members of the AOG general council were from Zion City (p. 370).

The largest Pentecostal denomination, the **ASSEMBLIES OF GOD**, founded in 1914, promote the doctrine that healing is in the atonement. Consider their **Statement of Fundamental Truths, section 12**: “*Divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement, and is the privilege of all believers (Isaiah 53:4,5; Matthew 8:16,17; James 5:14-16).*”

AIMEE SEMPLE MCPHERSON (1890-1944), founder of the International Church of the Foursquare Gospel, exemplified the widespread Pentecostal view that the Gospel includes physical healing. Her autobiography of 1921 was entitled *Divine Healing Sermons*. McPherson taught that



healing is guaranteed in the atonement. She falsely promised to the eager crowds: “*Your chains will be shattered, your fetters crushed, your troubles healed, if you only believe - for where the spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty*” (Epstein, Sister Aimee, p. 221). It is blessedly true, of course, that the Lord is a very present help in time of trouble and that He goes with His children through all their trials, but to promise that in this present life all problems will be removed and all sicknesses healed if one only has enough faith is a false promise. McPherson warned against saying, “*If it is His will to heal me, I am willing.*” She said such an attitude brings no results (Epstein, p. 224). In fact, McPherson claimed

that physical healing is part of the gospel. The “foursquare” gospel she promoted was Jesus Christ as Savior, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, Healer, and Coming King. She claimed that she had obtained this gospel through a vision in 1922, in which God showed her that the Gospel was for body and soul and spirit. It was the same “foursquare gospel” being preached by the Elim Foursquare Gospel Association in Ireland (McPherson had worked with Elim’s founder, George Jeffrys), the Assemblies of God in the States, and other Pentecostal groups.



SMITH WIGGLESWORTH (1859-1947) was a famous Pentecostal evangelist and faith healer. Many books about his life are still widely distributed in Pentecostal-Charismatic circles. Wigglesworth believed that physical healing is guaranteed in the atonement of Christ. He taught against the use of all medicine. He believed that signs and wonders should always follow the preaching of the Gospel. He taught that a Christian can be justified and sanctified but still not have everything

necessary from God. *“People are never safe until they are baptized with the Holy Ghost”* (Wigglesworth, “The Place of Power,” June 1916, reprinted in *The Anointing of His Spirit*, p. 151). He taught that handkerchiefs which are prayed over will bring life if carried in faith to the sick (*The Anointing of His Spirit*, p. 231). He taught: *“Jesus came to set us free from sin, to free us from sickness, so that we should go forth in the power of the Spirit and minister to the needy, sick, and afflicted”* (Wigglesworth, “Divine Life Brings Divine Health,” *Pentecostal Evangel*, Jan. 17, 1942). He claimed that the Christian has the power to speak things into existence: *“God declares, ‘You have an anointing.’ Believe God and you will see this happen. What you say will come to pass. Speak the word and the bound shall be free, the sick shall be healed”* (Wigglesworth, “Power from on High,” *Pentecostal Evangel*, May 27, 1944).

The doctrine of healing in the atonement did not die out in the early part of the last century. There was a revival of healing fervor in the middle of the century, led by men such as **William Branham, Oral Roberts, Jack Coe, and A.A. Allen**. A publication which had widespread influence in reviving the doctrine that healing guaranteed in the atonement was **Atomic Power with God through Fasting and Prayer** by **FRANKLIN HALL**. He had a “revival center” in San Diego, California, and taught that fasting and prayer were the means to the restoration of apostolic miracles for the end times. He taught that the “fire of the Holy Spirit” would eliminate the potential for sickness, tiredness, and even body odor (*Dictionary of Pentecostal*, p. 346). Pentecostal historian David Harrell, Jr., notes that though Hall was somewhat isolated because of his doctrine, his book on fasting had a major impact on the Pentecostal movement and most of the healing evangelists used it (Harrell, *All Things Are*

Possible, p. 81).

One of the most influential Pentecostal publications of the century, the ***Voice of Healing***, edited by Assemblies of God preacher **GORDON LINDSAY**, was established in 1948 to promote the healing ministries of these men, all of whom believed that physical healing in this life is promised in the atonement of Jesus Christ. Lindsay warned that “it is a very serious offense to deny that divine healing is in the Atonement” (David Harrell, Jr., *All Things Are Possible*, p. 85).

WILLIAM FREEMAN was one of the many Pentecostal evangelists who led the healing revival of the 1950s. In 1949 he began publishing ***The Healing Messenger***. He listed “four steps to healing” -- (1) Stand on the atonement, trusting that with Jesus’ stripes we are healed. (2) Know that it is God’s perfect will to heal you. (3) Understand that sickness is the devil’s oppression. (4) Set the time of your deliverance.



ORAL ROBERTS, another of the pioneers of the “faith healing” movement, has promoted the healing in the atonement doctrine widely. His ministry was originally called Healing Waters. His first book, published

in 1947, was entitled ***If You Need Healing--Do These Things!*** He listed six steps to deliverance, the first being, “Know that God’s will is to heal you.”

Roberts gave a classic statement of this doctrine in the September 1976, issue of *Abundant Life* magazine:

“For the knowledge of the truth look toward Jesus of Nazareth who himself took our infirmities and bear our sicknesses. If Jesus took our sicknesses we need not bear them any longer. Sickness is part of the curse and Jesus came to destroy the curse. He suffered in our stead because he did not want us to suffer disease. He took our specific diseases and infirmities upon his own sinless, perfect body in complete payment for the penalty of sin.”

“I know it is God’s highest wish for you to be in health.”

“Sickness is not part of God’s plan and not devised by God’s will.”

“One of the things I have always appreciated about physicians is that they are all against disease and they work to bring healing. You see, doctors are not hung up on theology. Yet some ministers and many Christians are not quite sure where sickness comes from. I mean they are still asking the question, Is it God’s will to heal? Some ministers are still praying, Father, if it be thy will, heal. I wonder if they could be sued for theological malpractice? Well, it’s a thought” (Oral Roberts, “Why I know that God wants to heal you,” *Abundant Life*, Sept. 1976).

- more next week

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Rebekah White
 Cradle Roll 2: Nathaniel White
 6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Bertha Segebarrt
 Cradle Roll 2: Janet Bridges
 Wed. Eve. Service ----- Volunteers Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of October 24, 2010

Sunday School ----- 26
 Sunday Morning Service ----- 47
 Sunday Evening Service ----- 30
 Wed. Eve. Service, 10/27/10 ----- 18

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of October 24, 2010

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,157.00
 Insurance Fund ----- \$ 37.00
Total Received for Week of 10/24/10: \$ 1,194.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00

INSURANCE FUND REPORT THIS MONTH:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 273.08
 Amount Received 10/03/10 ----- \$ 213.00
Amount Still Needed By 11/06/10: \$ 60.08



WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. ***Admit that you are a sinner.***
2. ***Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.***
3. ***Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.***
4. ***You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).***
5. ***By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.***

Please Remember To Be Faithful to Give!



As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go **up**. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start **today - OK?** Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
 Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
 Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
 Larry Mathews, Caryn Quinnely, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
 Larry & Mary Byars, Brian & Charity Crawford, Dwayne English ----- Outreach
 Flowers ----- Hannah and Shirley White