

Rev. Dr. Niveen Sarras
Matthew 4:23-25
Sunday, November 19, 2017

May grace and peace be yours in abundance.

My father was diagnosed with cancer, and he had to take intensive chemotherapy. My family was impoverished at that time. Life became very harsh. We spent all our resources on my father's treatment.

Our neighbor came to visit my father and asked him whether he and my mother will be comfortable to have Christian group to pray for him. The group came and prayed with my father. Two days later, my father went to the hospital. His doctors had a routine physical examination, ordered new MRI and blood test. The doctors were expecting to find cancer, but they were surprised not to. The doctors asked my father to have another MRI that confirmed that my father was cancer free. They asked him what he did. He answered them "God healed me." My mother shed the tears of joy.

When my younger sister was diagnosed with cancer, we prayed and prayed and prayed, but she wasn't healed. However, my sister experienced transformation through prayer. Praying, laying on of hands and anointing have comforted her. She experienced healing, and I believe in the healing power of prayer.

Jesus healed people with different kinds of sickness and diseases. Healing was a sign of the coming of the Kingdom of God. He healed by the power of God that it was within him. The sick came to Jesus asking for healing, and he healed them. If you want Jesus to heal you, ask him; Jesus will not heal you till you admit you need him to do so. He is the divine physician who heals your seen and unseen wounds.

I firmly believe that “healing is not always the only path that God chooses for us.”¹ Do you remember the Apostle Paul? Paul asked God to heal him, but God did not. God answered him "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9). When “we experience pain in our body, God changes us, molds us, strengthens us, and builds us through hardship.”² God will always walk with us in our dark hour because God loves us.

Jesus healed people by the power of God, and he gave his disciples the same power. Power to pray, lay on of hands, and anointing the sick. You, my friends, received the same power at your baptism. You are healer people in this world. You have the power to heal the sick and to heal the wounds of misunderstanding.

¹ Chris Russell, “Why Doesn’t God Heal Every Sickness, Disease, and Illness?” *Bible Study Tools*, <https://www.biblestudytools.com/blogs/chris-russell/why-doesn-t-god-heal-every-sickness-disease-and-illness.html> (Accessed on November 17, 2017).

² Ibid.

James in his epistle teaches, “Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord” (5:14). You are the church, and you are called to exercise this healing power. You have the same power that John and Peter used to heal the lame man (Acts 3). You have the same healing power that Jesus gave to his 70 disciples (Matthew 10). Prayer, laying on of hands, and anointing will help you in your weaknesses. You might not receive physical healing, but you will experience the strength and peace that only God can give.