

**“Flying Closer to The Flame: Experiencing
God Through Healing – Part 2” * Aug.5,
2007 * James 5:13-18**

I. A visit back to my college church

II. Healing And Its Relationship To Prayer

A. Lesson 1 – When you’re sick, talk to
God about it.

1. In James 4:2, what principle is mentioned?

“You do not have because you do not ask God.”

2. Are there blessings we can miss out on simply
because we do not pray?

Absolutely!

3. What image of prayer does Jesus give in Matt.7?

That of a child talking to his or her father.

4. What’s the point of praying if God already knows
everything?

Not to get something out of God, but to get God.

B. Lesson 2 – When you’re sick, get other brothers &
sisters in on it also.

1. Could it be that I am not experiencing God because
I’m trying to do it all on my own?

**God may not move in our lives until we learn to
humble ourselves before others.**

2. What does the phrase “God of the gaps” mean?

**Dietrich Bonhoeffer said too many Christians believe in the “God
of the gaps”. God is there to fill in all the gaps and loopholes of
life which science and medicine can’t yet figure out. If you treat
God that way, forget it. God doesn’t want to be your last resort,
but your first instinct. The reflex of your heart. You turn to him**

**first and last and everywhere in between, even as you’re visiting
the doctors and taking the medicines.**

III. Healing And Its Relationship To Faith

A. Did Jesus heal in response to faith?

On several occasions. (Matt.8, Luke 5, Mark 9...)

B. What does God love – and not love – in his people?

1. Hebrews 4:16

When we approach his throne with boldness.

2. James 1:7

He doesn’t love it when we doubt him.

C. How does Jesus want me to view sickness?

**As an enemy, as a work of Satan, as a sign of the fall. Just like sin,
sickness is not something to wilt before, or casually accept as
though normal. Jesus saw sickness as something evil and alien to
the body.**

D. Does this mean when a sick person doesn’t get well
that it’s automatically a faith problem?

**Not so fast. You know what: more often than not, the people of
greatest faith which I’ve met in my life are the people who are not
experiencing God’s power the way they’d like and yet they refuse
to turn away from Jesus Christ. They refuse to fall to the ground,
kick and scream, have a tantrum, tell God they’re not going to
believe in him anymore. Instead, they keep on keeping on. Keep
on going to church. Keep on reading their Bibles. Keep on
praying. Even though they’re not getting everything the way they
wanted.**

E. Great faith shows itself in one of two ways: Through...

1. ...great deliverance from evil.

2. ...great endurance through evil.

F. Lessons from Hebrews 11:32-39:

Take note of how the passage shifts suddenly from describing saints whose faith delivered them from evil, to those saints whose faith gave them endurance in the midst of evil.

IV. Healing And Its Relationship To God's Will

A. Why might God allow sickness to go on?

- 1. To remind us of our **need** for him.*
- 2. Because there is **sin** in our lives.*
- 3. Because we're not taking care of our **bodies**.*
- 4. Because we live in a **fallen** world where bad things are allowed to happen for a time.*

B. God reveals his will in one of two ways:

- 1. He has a **perfect** will.*
- 2. He has a **permissive** will.*

C. So why would God permit evil? Or not heal every sickness here and now?

The bridge that fell in Minneapolis, How could a good God allow that to happen? Because this good God created a world where we were given freedom and responsibility and authority and dignity. And if every time we made something that was “structurally deficient”, God changed it on us, or yelled at us from heaven, “Hey, you better look at that again!” what would happen to our freedom? If every time a criminal was about to fire a gun, God turned the bullets into Styrofoam or the club into a feather, what would happen to our freedom? In short order, it would be gone. Jesus said in Matthew 10:29 that a sparrow cannot fall to the ground apart from the will of the Father. Which will is that? That's God's permissive will. It's not his perfect will that nature suffers and animals die. But he allows it because this cursed and fallen order must continue on its way for a short while longer.