

# Divine Healing

## Part 1: Introduction

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### Full Text (for reading on your own)

#### *A Framework*

This will be the framework or border to the teaching on divine healing. If you understand this framework, it will help you in future teachings on divine healing to have a place to put things. All subsequent teachings are going to be in support of this framework. It is like looking at the picture on the box of a 1000 piece puzzle.

#### *The Principal Truths of the Kingdom*

Over the last 5 years, Pastor Brad has taught the principal truths of the Bible. Everything beyond what he has already taught is secondary. If he had the choice, he would re-teach everything he has taught over the past 5 years all over again ... and again ... and again. This is what he has done for himself over the past 33 years in the Lord. Going back over the foundational teachings is one of the best things you could do for yourself.

You may think “I’ve already got it” but a great litmus test is whether you could teach those topics yourself off the top of your head. Could you teach the gospel of grace? Could you teach on pride and humility? Could you teach on the fear of the Lord? Could you teach on the baptism of the Holy Spirit? If the answer to that is “no” then you need to spend some more time in it and learn it because you really don’t have it as well as you could. Those messages have already changed a lot of our lives, but they will change them even more your second time through!

You will find an outrageous benefit from going through the whole message a second time. Why? Because you now have a pre-established grid to put that information into as you hear it. The first time you heard it, it was all new to you. The second time you have a much greater ability to absorb.

All that to say, this is now a secondary truth from the Bible; it is not as important as the gospel of grace, for instance. However, in Pastor Brad’s opinion, of all the secondary level teachings, this message (Divine Healing) is his favorite! The reason this teaching is secondary is because it is simply not *necessary* for your eternal well-being. Divine healing does affect your life (and even your spiritual life) in many ways, but it is still secondary. So, knowing that it is a secondary teaching, let’s study it! It is a wonderful thing to know - and even more wonderful to walk in it!

## *Two Main Truths from Scripture about Divine Healing*

When we look in the Bible, we see Jesus healing the sick. We read that and it gives us hope. Hope that God still desires to heal today. But, what we see around us doesn't seem to support that idea. We see a different picture. We may even try ourselves to pray for the sick and our experience looks nothing like what we see in the Bible. So the questions begin in our minds. "Am I misunderstanding what I'm reading or seeing in the Bible regarding healing?" "Is it just Jesus who can do that?" But then we think about all the miracles that happened at the hands of the apostles. So, many of us have studied the scripture and come to the conclusion that healing is for today and it is for all of God's people to walk in it 100% of the time. Yet, for many of us that believe that still see very few or even zero healings take place.

In this teaching, the intent is to address and cover these issues. To that end here are two statements that will serve as a framework for the rest of the teaching:

1. It is God's will today (and will be forever) to heal spirit, soul, and bodily and to heal every single person without exception. In other words, it is God's will to heal ALL who are sick WITHOUT EXCEPTION.
2. Whenever someone is not healed, the issue (roadblock, hinderance) is ALWAYS on the part of man ... never on the part of God.

Whenever you encounter someone not being healed, to keep from developing false ideas / doctrines, remember these two statements of truth. It is still God's will to heal everyone today and whenever anyone does not get healed, the issue is always on the part of man.

Those two truths alone will go so far in our learning process because when we experience what might seem like failure, we will go down the correct path in trying to understand what's happening and it will eliminate so many possible wrong ideas that we can come up with.

### *Roadblocks to Healing*

If I am praying for someone and they don't get healed it means there is a problem with me or this other person or the combination of the two of us. Period. You may say "well there could be a demonic influence." That is actually still up to us! We're the ones that can deal with that and we're not dealing with it! The issue is on man's end. It's not on God's end. It is not God saying "not today." This is not Pastor Brad's opinion. This is the Word of God clear as day.

There are multiple possible hinderances that can be at-play when someone does not get healed. I do not know all of them; I am still learning. But of all the roadblocks there are and all the roadblocks that others who are even more experienced in healing know of, they all can be categorized under 4 categories. Here are the 4 roadblocks / hinderances to healing:

1. Ignorance (not stupid; simply ignorance of God's Will, i.e. the Scripture)

2. Unbelief
3. Unforgiveness
4. Violation of Natural Laws

As a 5th category, we could highlight demonic influence. Really, demonic influence could be categorized as ignorance (of the reality of the demonic realm and of our authority in Christ) or unbelief (in taking up that authority to come against the works of the devil). By the way, eating way too much or being caught up in constant worry violates natural laws and causes sickness and disease. The medical community has estimated that 80% or more of diseases are psychosomatic in origin. Being caught up in constant fear and anxiety produces stress and stress produces sickness in our bodies. We can tear down our bodies in that way - by not walking in the peace that God has given to us - and it can tear down our body.

### *Brad's Journey in Divine Healing*

In thinking through this message, I thought it would be very helpful to share my journey with divine healing because my particular journey is laced with several events that will serve as excellent teaching points in your learning process. Additionally, the format of a story can be a very powerful learning tool that increases our retention of key concepts!

When I was 17 years old, I had an ulcer. Highly unusual for a 17 year old! I am not positive what the cause was, but I suspect it could have been from the trauma of my parents divorcing when I was 10 years old, which was quite traumatic for me and my whole family. So, my anxiety turned into an ulcer. Now, ulcers are when the inside lining of your stomach is eaten away and as a result when your stomach acid touches the ulcer the pain can be excruciating due to the protective inside lining being gone. At 17, as I drove around and my car went over bumps in the road, my ulcer would fire up so bad that I had to pull off to the side of the road. When I would lay down, I had to lay on one side and not the other so that I would not be in pain.

Fast forward 5 years, and I had just gotten saved at the age of 22. I was in a service of about 2,000 people at Wiley Tomlinson's church in Jacksonville, FL. This particular Sunday he was teaching on divine healing, which was totally news to me! I had grown up Catholic and had never heard that God was healing people today. So when I heard him speak I was like a dog looking at a new pan - didn't know if I should eat out of this one or not! But, I had so much confidence in Wiley Tomlinson's knowledge of the Word that when He called those forward who would need healing, I was the first one who got to the front out of the 30 or 40 people that came up for prayer. I ran up there! But I was disappointed because he had the elders pray for each of us; I had wanted Pastor Wiley to pray for me!

So the elder comes up to me and hears that I need prayer for an ulcer. He laid his hands on my shoulders and started praying and I felt a "cool wind" go out of his hands down into my stomach, out of my stomach, and then seemed to go back into him and then back out of his arms into me. I

could tell the “cool wind” was flowing in a circular motion like that and it did so for as long his hands were on me and then as soon as he lifted his hands off, it stopped. He then said “OK, I believe you’re healed.” I said “I felt this cool wind ...” He said “yeah, me too! It was flowing through me the same way. That’s why I know you’re healed!” I thought “Praise God!” Previous to that day I had to be so careful with my ulcer. From that day, I could jug tobacco sauce and drink as much coffee as I wanted. I have never had another symptom since! Ulcers typically never fully heal. They certainly don’t heal in a moment! I was instantaneously healed!

That was my introduction to healing - I heard a teaching and then I got healed. That is very helpful! As a result of that day, I went to the Word and I started devouring the Bible about healing. I got books from Osborne, Kenyon, and Bosworth. I studied the Bible. I studied those writers’ books and I was so excited that I went out and started praying for anything that moved! And nothing got healed. It seemed like if I laid hands on them it got worse. I just kept going because I knew it was real!

Fast forward one year. I had a problem with getting in-grown toenails (I know it’s disgusting). About once a year I would need to go to the doctor to have that fixed and it was miserable what they would have to do to fix it. So, my big toe started to get bad and I thought “I’m not having this!” I knew healing was real and believed 100% in healing. I had experienced healing for myself even, but still no one was getting healed when I prayed for them (including myself). So, I decided “this is it.” I am drawing the line in the sand about this toenail. I prayed over my toe for about 3 months and it never got better. It got so bad I had to buy new shoes that were one size too big to give my aching toe more room. Finally, I caved and went to the doctor. When the doctor took off my sock he exclaimed “Oh! Why’d you wait so long!?” He was mad and he looked at me like “what the heck is your problem!?” It had gotten so bad that it was a full-blown surgery now to repair it. They had to pull a curtain midway so that I wouldn’t watch.

About a few weeks later, I was living at my mom’s house and my brother (who was living there as well) and he got a really bad flu that was going around - the kind where you ache from head to toe. Then my mom got the flu and was sicker than a dog too. So, my brother is about a week into it and my mom is like 3 days into it and I was feeling encouraged because I was still feeling great. “Man of faith! I believe in healing! Amen!” But, the next day I woke up and I hurt from head to toe. “Nooooo!” There was no question, now I had the flu too. My throat hurt, my hair hurt; everything hurt! I walked around the house that morning totally miserable for about 4 hours. About noon, I got ticked. I got this righteous indignation. So I went up into my bedroom and started pacing the floor back and forth and I said “in the Name of Jesus, by His stripes I was healed. By His stripes I was healed. Surely He has born my sicknesses and carried my diseases! By His stripes I was healed.” I kept pacing and quoting scripture. And one of the times I said “I was healed” the “was” caught me in a way that it had never caught me before. It exploded in me with understanding “wait a minute ... I WAS healed!” That revelation hit me so deeply “I know what the problem is; I am trying to get healed. That is not what it says, it says I WAS healed. Wait a minute, if I WAS healed, what is this

sickness doing in me??? SICKNESS GO!” And with that word, it was gone! I was instantaneously perfect! It was incredible to have that sort of flu symptom “poof” vanishing. There was nothing gradual about it. I started dancing around and going nuts! I started celebrating “It worked! It worked!”

About several minutes into my celebration I just stopped and asked God “why now!?! Why’d that not work for my toe? Don’t get me wrong; I’m really thankful ...” I was still dealing with the embarrassment of my toe with that doctor and everything. “Why now?” I immediately hear in response “Mark 4:26-29.” That’s what I heard so I grabbed my Bible. I had read it but did not know it by address so I looked it up: *“The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head. But when the grain ripens, immediately he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come.”*

When I finished reading that passage, the Lord spoke to me “it is not what you did today that got your healing. It is what you did yesterday, and the day before, and the day before that. Your harvest has come. Now you can lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.” From that day forward, I started praying for people and seeing supernatural healing. Not every single person (because I am still growing in it), but I have seen hundreds of people supernaturally and undeniably healed. It is real, it for God’s people, it’s alive and well today, and it is up to us to understand it, receive it, and then walk in it.

It is not up to God. He’s already made up His mind. He gave it to us, and it is not only for us. It is also a ministry to minister to other people. We just need to understand it, receive it, and then walk in it. Amen!

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## Text Summary (for reading as a group)

Over the last 5 years, Pastor Brad has taught the principal truths of the Bible. Everything beyond what he has already taught is secondary. If he had the choice, he would re-teach everything he has taught over the past 5 years all over again ... and again ... and again. This is what he has done for himself over the past 33 years in the Lord. Going back over the foundational teachings is one of the best things you could do for yourself. You may think "I've already got it" but a great litmus test is whether you could teach those topics yourself. Could you teach the gospel of grace? Could you teach on pride and humility? Could you teach on the fear of the Lord? Could you teach on the baptism of the Holy Spirit? If the answer to those is "no" then you would benefit to spend some more time in it and get it all the more deeply. Now, in Pastor Brad's opinion, of all the secondary level teachings, this message (Divine Healing) is his favorite! The reason this teaching is "secondary" is because it is simply not *necessary* for your eternal well-being. Divine healing does affect your life (and even your spiritual life) in many ways, but it is still secondary.

When we look in the Bible, we see Jesus healing the sick. We read that and it gives us hope. Hope that God still desires to heal today. But, what we see around us doesn't seem to support that idea. So the questions begin in our minds. "Am I misunderstanding what I'm reading or seeing in the Bible regarding healing?" In this teaching, the intent is to address and cover these issues. This particular sermon will serve as the framework or border to the whole teaching on divine healing. If you understand this framework, it will help you in future teachings on divine healing to have a place to put things. It is like looking at the picture on the box of a 1000 piece puzzle. To that end here are two statements that will serve as the border for the rest of the teaching:

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be categorized under 4 categories: Ignorance (not stupid; simply ignorance of God's Will, i.e. the Scripture), Unbelief, Unforgiveness and Violation of Natural Laws. As a 5th category, we could highlight demonic influence. Really, demonic influence could be categorized as ignorance (of the reality of the demonic realm and of our authority in Christ) or unbelief (in taking up that authority to come against the works of the devil).

### **Brad's Journey in Divine Healing (told from Brad's perspective)**

When I was 17 years old, I had an ulcer and as I drove and my car went over bumps in the road, my ulcer would fire up so bad that I had to pull off to the side of the road. Fast forward 5 years, and I had just gotten saved at the age of 22. I was in a service of about 2,000 people at Wiley Tomlinson's church in Jacksonville, FL. This particular Sunday he was teaching on divine healing, which was totally news to me! But, when He called those forward who would needed healing, I was the first one who got to the front out of the 30 or 40 people that came up for prayer. I ran up there! So an elder comes up to me and hears that I need prayer for an ulcer. He laid his hands on my shoulders and started praying and I felt a "cool wind" go out of his hands down into my stomach, out of my stomach, and then seemed to go back into him and then back out of his arms into me. I could tell the "cool wind" was flowing in a circular motion like that and it did so for as long his hands were on me and then as soon as he lifted his hands off, it stopped. He then said "OK, I believe you're healed." I said "I felt this cool wind ..." He said "yeah, me too! It was flowing through me the same way. That's why I know you're healed!" I thought "Praise God!" Previous to that day I had to be so careful with my ulcer. From that day forward, I could jug tobacco sauce and drink as much coffee as I wanted. I have never had another symptom since! Ulcers typically never fully heal. They certainly don't heal in a moment! I was instantaneously healed! That was my introduction to healing - I heard a teaching and then I got healed. That is very helpful! As a result of that day, I went to the Word and I started devouring the Bible about healing. I got books from Osborne, Kenyon, and Bosworth. I studied and studied and got so excited that I went out and started praying for anything that moved! And nothing got healed. It seemed like if I laid hands on them it got worse. I just kept going because I knew it was real!

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## Points to Ponder . . .

- What are the two most important statements about healing?
- In what ways does Brad’s story encourage you?
- How does Mark 4:26-29 apply to the process of faith?
- How does the standard of “being able to teach it” apply to the sermons that we hear?