What is Faith?

Faith For Healing

by Ernest O'Neill Program 82

We've been talking this week about how a person can be healed by faith in Jesus. You remember, we're saying that if you don't believe there's a God, or you believe Jesus is some kind of ordinary person, then, of course, you can't be healed by anything but the doctors and the medics and the nurses. But if you believe there is a God who has made your body, then sheer logic dictates that He can do what any good manufacturer can do. He can repair any of the parts, or He can remake it completely if He wishes. So, there's no problem about the capability of God doing that. If you believe there's a God it's sheer logic that you believe He is able to do that. It's no problem to Him, because He's making all kinds of new people every day. The question is, "Does He do that kind of thing today?"

What we have answered is ... of course He does. I mean, the life of Jesus in the first century is full of people being healed of blindness, healed of leprosy, healed of paralysis, even raised from the dead, healed of lack of hearing, healed of all kinds of diseases and sicknesses, hemorrhages that they'd had for years and spent money on doctors for and couldn't cure. So undoubtedly people are healed in our human era, and that actually continued in the followers of Jesus. Peter and Paul and James and the others were able to heal people by faith in Jesus Himself. I testified myself that I have seen people healed and have had faith for people to be healed in my own life, and for myself to be healed. There are many of us who have been healed of sicknesses and diseases by faith in Jesus.

What we were talking about, of course, is how can you exercise that faith, and what in fact is that faith? You remember as I described it to you that that faith is believing that God has done what He has said He has done, and then acting in accordance with that. You remember, I detailed what He has done. I detailed it, you remember, in connection with that passage in Matthew, chapter 8 and verse 14, which runs, "And when Jesus entered Peter's house, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and served Him. That evening they brought to Him many who were possessed with demons, and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: 'He took our infirmities and bore our diseases.'" In other words, what Matthew is saying is, Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law of the fever, and healed all those people who were possessed with demons, and cast out the spirits, and healed all who were sick, because He had actually already taken their infirmities and borne their diseases.

Of course, Matthew quotes Isaiah who wrote that 800 years before Jesus actually died. He's implying, "Now, it's not only in His physical death on Calvary that He did this." That was just the expression in time-space of a miracle that God did in Jesus not simply 800 years before when Isaiah talked about it, because even he talked in the past tense as if it had happened even before Him.

But it's a miracle that took place from before the foundation of the world. That's actually what Revelation, you remember, in Chapter 13 says, "That the Lamb was slain from before the foundation of the world", in Revelation 13 and verse 8.
in other words, God is as good as a main frame, an IBM main frame computer. He is able to foresee the sicknesses and the diseases, to foresee even the things that you would do in your life, before He actually put you here on earth, because the

moment He conceives of you, that moment He sees you, that moment He foresees that moment. He is able to see what will happen, and yet not to exercise His will to overrule yours. He doesn't do that. He loves you so much, He lets you continue to act as a free agent. He wants you to be free in your will, so that you love Him because you want to love Him.

So, He still leaves you free, but He provides for the errors that you will make in your life, and He provides even for the sicknesses that will come upon you, by foreseeing all that, and then remaking you in His Son before He actually even made you the first time. So, it was because Jesus had already born those sicknesses and carried those diseases, because God, as it were, has a perfect "you" on a shelf in heaven available, that He can replace the imperfect, deteriorated, damaged "you" with. He can do that at any moment. He can bring timelessness and eternity into time-and-space.

He is able to do that. He can do it by our faith. The moment we believe that God has done those things, that moment God is able to manifest that healing in your own body. So, it is brought here into time-and-space, the healing that He has already wrought in your sickness and already carried in His own body, He is able to bring that into your life this very moment, here in time-and space. How? Through your faith. Through you believing that, and then acting in accordance with that.

Now what does that mean? Well, it means believing what God has done, not believing your symptoms. It doesn't mean saying this morning, "I believe I'm healed. Am I healed? I believe I'm healed. Do I still feel the pain? I believe I'm healed. Do I still feel the headache? I believe I'm healed. Do I still feel sick?" It maybe you still feel sick! God may allow the symptoms of the disease to continue, to see if you really do believe in Him and have faith in Him, independent of the removal of the symptoms.

Do you really believe that Jesus has borne your sickness, that when He died your sickness died with Him, and that God destroyed that, that God did what He said in His word, that He has borne your sickness and carried your pain? Do you really believe that, and do you believe that His life, His miraculous, supernatural, resurrection life, will enable you to do what you are supposed to do in this life even if the symptoms of the sickness continue? Do you believe that? Do you believe that your body could continue to be shot through with cancer, and the doctors could see it, and could see it under their microscopes, and yet you could live for years by the sheer power of Jesus' resurrection life?

In other words, do you believe that Jesus resurrection life is able to do in your body what normally the natural laws of health are supposed to do? Do you believe that? if you believe that, and you have faith in that, and you act in accordance with that, prepared to live off the resurrection life of Jesus and not of even the normal removal of the symptoms that occur when healing occurs through medicine, then you're in the same position as Jesus was. He came back with the wounds still in His hands, the wounds still in His side, and yet He didn't die of those wounds. The wounds were still there, but the blood didn't pour from them.

So, maybe the wounds still remain in your body. Maybe the symptoms still remain, but you continue to have faith that God has done what He has said He has done, that you are able to live by the power of His resurrection life, and His strength is made perfect in your weakness, not removing your weakness, leaving your weakness still there. By the strength of your own body you couldn't get up this morning, but by the strength of Jesus' life in you, you are able to get up. You do get up and you live by faith in His resurrection life. Then, it is up to God to remove the symptoms when He so chooses, or to leave you with

the symptoms throughout your life, or to say to you, "My grace sufficient to you," as He said to Paul.

But the fact is, the sickness, the power of the sickness to destroy your life, and to end your life, and to prevent you doing what God has for you to do today, that is removed. That is finished with. in that sense, you are healed completely. The sickness has no power to end your life. You won't die of cancer. That's one thing! You'll die only because God wants you to come to Himself. Do you have that kind of faith? If you have, you're healed this very moment, in Jesus' name.