



WHAT IS A HEALING SERVICE?

I hope you will find the following information in Q&A form helpful regarding prayer and healing ministry. It comes from the book *Healing Services* by James K. Wagner, published by Abingdon Press.

Why have a healing service?

While it is true that whenever two or three or more gather in the name of Jesus Christ many good things happen, the average Sunday morning worship service does not focus specifically on healing. Just as we have special emphasis on evangelism, music, stewardship, education, missions and social concerns, we need to have specific times to center on healing ministry.

Is Healing Ministry a Substitute for Medicine?

This is not a substitute for medicine or surgery. God uses countless ways of providing good health. Combining the best spiritual care with the best medical care is highly recommended.

What is meant by healing prayer?

Healing prayer means using prayer as a spiritual therapy in healing the whole person (body, mind, spirit, and relationships). Prayer ministry is healing ministry; healing ministry is prayer ministry. However, keep in mind that prayer does not heal; prayer connects us with God, the source of health and wholeness. When we pray for healing, we are not in a begging posture; rather we are coming to God with an attitude of cooperation, gratitude and receptivity in the healing process.

What is the significance of anointing with oil?

In the Bible, oil was at times used as a medicinal agent (Isaiah 1:6 and Luke 10:34). See also Mark 6:13. The oil does not do the healing. It reminds us of the healing presence of Christ. Today Christians interpret anointing with oil as an authentic biblical symbol for healing ministry.

When healing does not happen, then what?

This frequently raised question usually indicates the disappointment of not being healed physically. What some might label failure often disregards spiritual health, mental/emotional health, and healthy relationships. Although a specific cure may not happen, other kind of healings can be experienced.

After receiving prayers for healing, what should I expect?

Just relax and give God time to work. When we plant a garden, we do not pull up our seedlings every day to see how much they have grown. Adopt this same attitude. Sometimes prayers for healing are answered very quickly and sometimes gradually. God's health care plan is to heal the whole person.