

Healing in the House

As we continue our series on what we believe, let's examine the 14th of the 22 tenets in the Foursquare Declaration of Faith: **Divine Healing. We believe that divine healing is the power of Christ to heal the sick in answer to the prayer of faith. He, who does not change, is still willing and able to heal the body, as well as the soul and spirit (Mark 16:17, 18; James 5:14-16).** Among the many accounts of Jesus healing the sick, the story of the paralytic in Mark 2:1-12 clearly illustrates the process of healing and how we can get involved:

1. **Jesus is the Source (Mark 2:1,2)**

The Foursquare Gospel centers on one person: Jesus is the Saviour, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, Healer, and soon-coming King. Some would suggest that the working of miracles, including healing, ceased after the church was established and the Bible was complete. However, the Foursquare theme verse contends that His nature and work on earth has not changed: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus promised that His followers would do greater works than He did (John 14:12), mostly because His work would be multiplied among all His followers over many generations. But we do these works according to His Word, through His power, in His name. He remains the Source and should always receive the glory!

2. **We are the Carriers (vs. 3,4)**

The actions of the paralytic's four friends illustrate our role in bringing healing: we bring the sick to Jesus, or better yet, we bring Jesus to the sick. The onus of healing is not "on us" but the responsibility of introducing our friends and family to the Great Physician is. In the same way infected people can be "carriers" of disease, people who have been made whole by Jesus can become carriers of healing (Mark 16:17-20).

3. **Faith is the Means (v. 5a)**

If we want God to do something for us or through us, be it forgiveness or healing, it requires faith. True faith is more than just words; it is lived out in our actions (James 2:14-26). Jesus looks for faith in action, the kind of faith you can see, either on the part of the one needing healing or the one interceding (Luke 7:1-10; 36-50). However, we need to be careful not to thoughtlessly blame the sick for their lack of faith, or worse yet, their sickness on personal sin (John 9:1-3). Nor should we blame God! While God does not cause sickness or injury, there are times he allows us to walk through the consequences inherent in our fallen world (2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Galatians 4:12-15; Philippians 2:25-27; 1 Timothy 5:23). The good news is that He walks through it with us.

4. **Wholeness is the Goal (v.5b)**

While physical healing is a wonderful blessing, the truth is we are all going to experience physical death (unless Jesus returns before we die). More important than a whole and healthy body is a whole and healthy spirit. That is God's ultimate desire for everyone and as His Spirit moves us to action, that should be our primary goal too. Healings and other miracles are to point others toward the greatest miracle of all: the forgiveness of sins and new life in Christ! (James 5:14-20; 3 John 2).

5. **Your Home can be the Location (v. 1,2)**

Sometimes the little details are significant – this miracle did not happen in the Temple in Jerusalem, nor in the synagogue. It happened in someone's home. The gifts of the Spirit are for our everyday relationships within our homes, neighbourhoods, and community life. Your home, your faith, your hands can be used by God to work a miracle in someone's life today!