

4. How Does God Heal

Introduction to the 5-Step Healing Model

Best & David, *Kingdom II*, 51-56; Wimber, *Power Healing*, 181-207, 208-209

1. **Translating knowledge through to action**
 - **Model is a training and equipping tool**
 - **Has a Biblical context, but not found explicitly in scripture**
 - **Not a formula**
 - **The model is definitely a creation of John Wimber and the early Vineyard movement. Drawn from three main activities:**
 1. JW's own experience of learning to pray for healing.
 2. Based on the church's practice and theology of divine healing.
 3. Tested on his own church congregation, as a way of helping Christians learn to pray

2. **The model**
 - Deceptively simple to remember:
 1. **Interview**
 2. **Diagnostic Decision**
 3. **Prayer Selection**
 4. **Pray (& Watch !)**
 5. **Post Prayer Direction**
 - More later on what lies beneath.

3. **The principles**

These are foundational beliefs, which provide a **safe environment in which to practice the model:**

- **God wants to heal**
- **Importance to God of corporate ministry in the church context**
- **Importance of faith being demonstrated in action**
- **Empowerment of the Holy Spirit**
- **Context of loving relationships in the church body**
- **God wants to heal the whole person**

This holistic view asks: **'what kind of person has the bug?'** The bug itself is much less important

4. **Values**

- **A healing environment**
 1. **An atmosphere full of faith and hope** (Mark 5:35-42) for the following:
 - The people praying
 - The subject
 - Anybody watching
 2. **Look to remove unbelief, concentrate the faith elements** (Matt: 18 v19).
 3. **Avoid emotional 'work-ups'**. The Lord comes first, healing second.
 - Emotionally-charged environments actually undermine the ability to see divine healing, and actually block training.

- **Ministry Times**

1. Wimber: 'I am more interested in ministry than neatness!'
2. The clinic allows **anyone to become a participant.**
3. **Teams rather than individuals:**
 - Power can be multiplied (Matt 18: 19)
 - Better learning environment
 - No prima donnas
 - No false dependencies generated
 - Good sense – provides personal protection

- **Training**

- The melee nature of the way the model is used is key to helping new people learn how to watch what God is doing, and try it for themselves.
- Giving away any gifts of healing is central to the model.

- **Healing as a Lifestyle**

- No setup needed. Ready to go at all times.
- But we are not aiming for a healing-focused lifestyle
- Analogous to evangelism
- No pressure (really!). It's not us doing the healing.

5. **The practices**

The practices are probably the most central part of the model:

▪ **Hearing God**

- Emptying oneself
- Divine healing is a gift not a right, it is all about what God wants to do.
- Developing the sensitivity to let God implant insights as we pray and also let him speak through us.
- John 14:26, John 16:13-15

▪ **Seeing with spiritual eyes**

- When the Holy Spirit comes upon a human being there is a reaction. We need to look for this.
- Physical manifestations are often there even if not dramatic.
- It is the Holy Spirit doing the work.

▪ **Speaking**

- Building faith in the prayer subject is important, and words can help if they are from the Lord. Too many of our own words can do quite the opposite!
- Examples of words being important:
 - **Commands:** Mark 7: 32-35,
 - **Declarations:** John 4:46-50
 - **A test of obedience:** John 9:1-7
- Health warning: the ministry team are supporting God's ministry. The healing process is not a test of God's commitment to the person.

- **Touching**

Laying on of hands:

- Scripturally supported (Luke 4:40)
- Has a clear connection with the power of God being transferred to the subject
- Has no mechanical explanation
- Plenty of practical considerations to avoid the subject being destabilised.

6. **The Personnel**

- **Requirements**

- FAITH + RECEPTIVITY
- Maturity is not important

- The focus of God's healing ministry is within the context of **the corporate body**. 1 Corinthians 11:17-14:40.
- **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit** are used extensively, but can be transferred within the body during the training process. John Wimber helpfully added his own interpretation to the gift of discernment:
 - Inspirations
 - Dreams & Visions
 - Impressions
 - Scripture Verses
 - Pains in the body

7. **Conclusions**

- The 5 step healing model is a **template for ministry**, drawing together all these facets of healing with the context of the church body. It helps us all **move from theory to practice**.
- It is also an **invaluable tool** while actually praying - and better still - it takes the pressure off everyone and prevents us making errors of judgement.

Scriptures Relevant to the 5-Step Healing Model

Mark 5: ³⁵While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. "Your daughter is dead," they said. "Why bother the teacher any more?" ³⁶Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, "Don't be afraid; just believe." ³⁷He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. ³⁸When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. ³⁹He went in and said to them, "Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep." ⁴⁰But they laughed at him. ⁴¹After he put them all out, he took the child's father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, "Talitha koum!" (which means, "Little girl, I say to you, get up!"). ⁴²Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished.

Matthew 18: ¹⁹"Again, I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything you ask for, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven.

John 14: ²⁶But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

John 16: ¹³But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. ¹⁵All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

Mark 7: ³²There some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly talk, and they begged him to place his hand on the man. ³³After he took him aside, away from the crowd, Jesus put his fingers into the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴He looked up to heaven and with a deep sigh said to him, "Ephphatha!" (which means, "Be opened!"). ³⁵At this, the man's ears were opened, his tongue was loosened and he began to speak plainly.

John 4: ⁴⁶Once more he visited Cana in Galilee, where he had turned the water into wine. And there was a certain royal official whose son lay sick at Capernaum. ⁴⁷When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death. ⁴⁸"Unless you people see miraculous signs and wonders," Jesus told him, "you will never believe." ⁴⁹The royal official said, "Sir, come down before my child dies." ⁵⁰Jesus replied, "You may go. Your son will live." The man took Jesus at his word and departed.

John 9. *Jesus Heals a Man Born Blind.* ¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³"Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the work of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶Having said this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. ⁷"Go," he told him, "wash in the Pool of Siloam" (this word means Sent). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

Luke 4: ⁴⁰When the sun was setting, the people brought to Jesus all who had various kinds of sickness, and laying his hands on each one, he healed them.