

9. How does God heal?

The role of faith

1. **There is a positive link between healing and faith**
 - **Examples:**
 - Matt. 9:20-22: Woman with blood problem.
 - Matt. 9:27-30: 2 Blind men
 - Mark 10:46-52: Blind Bartemaeus
 - **'The reward of faith with the granting of a request for healing is an important theme in Matthew'.**
 - Donald A. Hagner, Word commentary on Matthew, Vol.1, p.442.
2. **Different loci of faith**
 - i. **No notion of personal responsibility**
 - ii. **Communal unbelief**
 - iii. **Lack of faith on the part of people praying.**
3. **The two modes of faith in the New Testament**
 - i. **Person-centred faith as trust in God**
 - ii. **The God-given gift of faith**

4. **The difference between 'little faith' and 'unbelief'**
 - i. **Little or weak faith – God can still move**
 - ii. **Unbelief – an active disbelief**
 - they actually believe God cannot work and in these circumstances Jesus could do no miracles only a few healings.

5. **The mystery of the healing ministry**