

# What We Believe Pt. 8

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, September 23, 2018

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Main Theme – Considering the Sixteen Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God – “Part 8”

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## WORSHIP & PRAYER

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Upcoming Events (REGULAR)**
  - See Bulletin for Details on Ministry Meetings (SS, EE, CYC, MM, WM)
- **Upcoming Events (SPECIAL)**
  - Children’s Church Worker Training – TODAY Following Service
  - Fall Mission’s Emphasis – Ginger Asel (9/23) & Brian Mugabe (9/27)
  - October Missions Trip – Partnering w/ Mission E4 in Haiti (October ’18)
  - OCC National Collection Week – November 12–19 (More Info to Come...)

## MORNING OFFERING

At this time, I want to call forth our ushers.

-Thank you for your faithfulness in giving to the Lord/His work

-Your giving fuels the work of Christ in and through this church

May the Lord BLESS YOU as you give! May you experience His faithfulness in kind!

## BABY DEDICATION

Today is a special day for this assembly. A day in which we are going to dedicate a child (David) unto the Lord! At this time, I want to call **Jeff, Becki and David** forward. I also want to recognize their family members.

Psalms 127:3 states: "Sons are a heritage from the Lord, children a reward from him." This text emphasizes that children are a gift from God. They are a gift to be enjoyed. They are also a responsibility—a stewardship—of the highest order.

Because children belong first and foremost to God, it is only proper that they be dedicated back to Him. We are told in 1 Samuel 1 that Hannah presented her son, Samuel to the Lord. In Luke 2 we read that Joseph and Mary brought their child, Jesus, to the Temple in Jerusalem in order to present Him before the Lord. In the same way, Jeff & Becki today bring their son, David, presenting first themselves and then their child before God.

Jeff & Becki, I call your attention to the command of God recorded in Scripture (Deut. 6:4–7): "Hear O Israel: The Lord our God is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength. These commandments I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

I challenge you both to love the Lord with every ounce and fiber of your being, teaching young David to do the same. As you love God, one another, and your fellow man, you will model before this child a life in Christ that she will one day embrace for herself.

By coming before God and His people, do you declare your desire to dedicate yourselves and your son, David, to the Lord? If so, please respond by saying 'WE DO.'

Do you promise—with the help of God and the partnership of the local church—to provide him a Christian home of love and peace, to raise him in the truth of our Lord's instruction and discipline, and to encourage him one day to trust in Jesus Christ as his personal Lord and Savior? If so, please respond by saying 'WE DO.'

Finally, CHURCH, I ask that we make a commitment as well. There is an old proverb that states, "It takes a village to raise a child." Parents have first responsibility, but parents need the help and support of the community. Do you promise by God's help to be faithful in your calling as members of the Body of Christ to help Jeff & Becki in their role as parents; to help teach and train David in the ways of the Lord so that one day he might trust Christ as Lord and Savior? If you accept this responsibility, please respond by saying 'WE DO.' **PRAYER**

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- **CHILDREN DISMISSED FOR CHILDREN'S CHURCH**
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## INTRODUCTIONS

As always, it is wonderful to see you. I look forward to these weekly moments of worship and instruction. I pray that you are ready to receive what God has for you today! Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take some notes. We have MUCH TO COVER in a short amount of time.

## SETTING THE STAGE

For those who have not been here—and as a reminder/reaffirmation for those who have been present—we are in the midst of an EXTENDED SERIES on the fundamentals of our faith. i.e., We are identifying and discussing the 16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God.

**NOTE 1** – Thus far, we have covered a 9 of the 16 Fundamental Truths. We have touched upon an ARRAY OF TOPICS, including the Authority of Scripture, the Trinitarian Nature of God, the Humanity and the Deity of Christ, the Fall of Man, God’s Plan of Salvation, Sanctification (i.e., the Act and the Life-Long Process), the Mission of the Church, the Leadership Structure of the Church, and the Ordinances of Communion and Water Baptism.

**NOTE 2** – This morning I would like to spend time examining a VITAL Fundamental Truth that should likely be addressed more often from this—and every—pulpit. Consider the following:

### SLIDE

12) WE BELIEVE that divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of all believers.

**KEY** – I believe that this is WORTH REPEATING...

12) WE BELIEVE that divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of all believers.

## **FROM THE OUTSET**

**NOTE** – Something PECULIAR takes place upon the reading/hearing of this Fundamental Truth that DOESN'T tend to take place with the majority of the others. i.e., The moment we hear or read this, our mind begins to wrestle QUESTIONS that STAND IN OPPOSITION to what this statement declares.

- IF God is a healer, WHY isn't everyone healed?
- IF God is a healer, WHY wasn't someone specific healed?
- IF God is a healer, WHY is it that I'm not healed of my affliction?

**KEY** – I can UNDERSTAND why we ask such questions. I have asked them MYSELF time and again. Of course, I believe that—in many respects—Scripture DOES provide answers (though they provide LITTLE relief in the moment of suffering in most cases). Herein a little bit of FAITH is of much greater value than a lot of KNOWLEDGE!

**Q. But what if we are asking the wrong questions? What if there are deeper questions to ask?**

- What does the BIBLE reveal re: divine healing (v. my experience, hurt, etc.)?
- Why am I slow to believe? i.e., Why is DOUBT v. faith seem to be my DEFAULT position?
- How can I move to a greater place of FAITH re: divine healing (in terms of experience & usage)?

## **THE PLACE OF FAITH PT. 1**

**KEY** – Let us NOT diminish or downplay the place of faith...

**1) Consider how often Christ CHALLENGES the condition of our faith:**

**Matthew 14:31 (NIV) [Peter Sinking into the Water]**

31 Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?"

**2) Consider how Christ calls us to a CHILDLIKE faith**

**Matthew 18:3**

3 And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. [i.e., inclined to belief v. disbelief; reverential and willing to trust]

**3) Consider that Christ could NOT perform miracles in an environment of disbelief:**

**Mark 6:5–6**

5 He could not do any miracles there [Nazareth] , except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 He was amazed at their lack of faith.

## THE PLACE OF FAITH PT. 2

**KEY** – I am NOT saying that ALL people stay sick, etc., due to a lack of faith. I AM saying that there are cases where a lack of faith is a HINDERING ELEMENT to the reception of divine healing. AGAIN, we cannot and must not downplay the role of FAITH as it relates to this overarching Fundamental Truth...

12) **WE BELIEVE** that divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of all believers.

**NOTE** – Today, don't get SO LOST in your questions that you MISS the clear teaching of God's Word. MIX what you hear/receive with FAITH! Thus said, since faith is BOLSTERED by the Word of God, let's spend some time examining Scripture.

## TO THE WORD PT. 1

**KEY** – Let's play a little game...

If I asked you FILL IN THE BLANK, "God is a God of \_\_\_\_\_" there are MANY answers you could posit. God is a God of love, compassion, mercy, grace, empathy, provision, justice, holiness and righteousness, among many other answers. In fact, God's Word provides NUMEROUS possible replies.

**NOTE** – But one REPLY that we see again and again (OT & NT) is that God is a God of HEALING.

## TO THE WORD PT. 2

In the OLD TESTAMENT, the Lord is ADDRESSED by MANY names and titles. Each name or title provides INSIGHT into the nature and character of God:

- YHWH Jireh – The Lord Our Provider
- YHWH Sabaoth – The Lord of Armies
- YHWH Shalom – The Lord Our Peace
- YHWH Rohi – The Lord Our Shepherd
- YHWH Shammah – the Lord is With Us
- YHWH Tsidkenu – The Lord Our Righteousness
- YHWH Mekaddishkem – the Lord Our Sanctifier

**KEY** – In the OT God was known as/called the Lord our HEALER (i.e., YHWH RAPHA).

**NOTE** – Rapha means to 'restore' or to 'heal' (literally 'to make healthful')

**Exodus 15:22–26**

22 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. 23 When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) 24 So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, “What are we to drink?”

25 Then Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a piece of wood. He threw it into the water, and the water became fit to drink.

There the Lord issued a ruling and instruction for them and put them to the test. 26 He said, “If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you.” [YHWH RAPHA]

**TO THE WORD PT. 3**

**NOTE** – This sentiment is AFFIRMED time and again throughout the Old Testament. God’s healing power is on FULL DISPLAY in the pages that precede the coming of Christ. He healed the barren of FIVE occasions. He healed those suffering from plague borne of sin on FOUR occasions. The Lord healed lepers at various points (e.g., Moses, Miriam and Naaman). Overall, we witness SIXTEEN individual healings and seven mass healings recorded through TWENTY-THREE separate accounts within the Old Testament record.

Let US celebrate this facet of the Lord’s nature, as did the PSALMIST...

**Psalms 103:1–3**

- 1 Praise the Lord, my soul;  
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- 2 Praise the Lord, my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits—
- 3 who forgives all your sins  
and heals all your diseases...

## TO THE WORD PT. 4

**KEY** – But the story does NOT end there. This facet of God’s nature is on FULL DISPLAY in the NT

### **Matthew 4:23–24**

23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people. 24 News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them.

### **Matthew 8:1–3**

When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” 3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

### **Matthew 8:14–17**

14 When Jesus came into Peter’s house, he saw Peter’s mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. 15 He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.

16 When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah:

“He took up our infirmities  
and bore our diseases.” [cf. Isaiah 53]

### **Matthew 9:18–25**

18 While he was saying this, a synagogue leader came and knelt before him and said, “My daughter has just died. But come and put your hand on her, and she will live.” 19 Jesus got up and went with him, and so did his disciples.

20 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. 21 She said to herself, “If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed.”

22 Jesus turned and saw her. “Take heart, daughter,” he said, “your faith has healed you.” And the woman was healed at that moment.

23 When Jesus entered the synagogue leader’s house and saw the noisy crowd and people playing pipes, 24 he said, “Go away. The girl is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him. 25 After the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took the girl by the hand, and she got up.



**Matthew 9:27–30a**

27 As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, calling out, “Have mercy on us, Son of David!”

28 When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?”

“Yes, Lord,” they replied.

29 Then he touched their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you”; 30 and their sight was restored

**Matthew 20:29–34**

29 As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. 30 Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

31 The crowd rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!”

32 Jesus stopped and called them. “What do you want me to do for you?” he asked.

33 “Lord,” they answered, “we want our sight.”

34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

## TO THE WORD PT. 5

**KEY** – But the story DOESN'T end there. You might think that was just the ministry of Christ. No! The healing power of the Lord was evident in the ministry of the apostles (consider the following excerpts)...

### **Acts 3:1–10**

One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer—at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man who was lame from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, “Look at us!” 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them.

6 Then Peter said, “Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.” 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

### **Acts 5:12, 15–16**

12 The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people.

15 As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. 16 Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed.

## **TO THE WORD PT. 6**

**KEY** – And this was NOT limited just to the apostles! Consider the following excerpts...

### **Acts 6:8**

8 Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, performed great wonders and signs among the people.

### **Acts 8:4–8**

4 Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. 5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Messiah there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the signs he performed, they all paid close attention to what he said. 7 For with shrieks, impure spirits came out of many, and many who were paralyzed or lame were healed. 8 So there was great joy in that city.

## **TO THE WORD PT. 7**

**NOTE** – The healing power of Christ was ANTICIPATED by the Early Church. They were instructed to rely upon His healing virtue! Consider the following text...

### **James 5:13–16**

13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

**NOTE** – This is something that WE will PUT INTO PRACTICE at the conclusion of service.

## **DELVING DEEPER PT. 1**

**KEY** – As we move to a close, allow me to address SELECT segments of this Fundamental Truth:

12) WE BELIEVE that **divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement of Christ**, and is the privilege of all believers.

**NOTE** – We must recognize that Jesus did NOT die JUST to procure our entry into heaven. It is true that eternal bliss with the Lord is a driving factor/priority in the sacrificial death of Christ (i.e., atonement), but His atonement has BROADER IMPLICATIONS worth noting:

**KEY** – In a broader sense, the death of Christ REVERSES the FULL CONSEQUENCE of sin and its power. All of those connected to ADAM experience the cost and consequence of sin. All of those connected to CHRIST experience a REVERSAL of what Adam unleashed into this world. i.e., Christ's death breaks the power of sin and brings life! [cf. Romans 5]

- Sin brings DAMNATION – Jesus provides JUSTIFICATION
- Sin brings CORRUPTION – Jesus provides REGENERATION
- Sin brings DEFILEMENT – Jesus provides SANCTIFICATION
- Sin brings SEPARATION – Jesus provides RECONCILIATION

-Sin brings PHYSICAL AFFLICTION – Jesus provides HEALING

### **Isaiah 53:4–5**

4 Surely he took up our pain  
and bore our suffering,  
yet we considered him punished by God,  
stricken by him, and afflicted.  
5 But he was pierced for our transgressions,  
he was crushed for our iniquities;  
the punishment that brought us peace was on him,  
and by his wounds we are healed.

**KEY** – You CANNOT separate physical healing from His Passion. Thus, divine healing is AS MUCH A PART of the atonement as pardon for sin. Christ provides a HOLISTIC cure for what ails us: spirit, soul and body! Pardon for sin and healing comprise the overarching elements of the Gospel we proclaim!

## **DELVING DEEPER PT. 2**

**KEY** – That’s why this facet of the 12<sup>th</sup> Fundamental Truth is vital...

12) WE BELIEVE that divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement of Christ, **and is the privilege of all believers.**

### **1) This is a benefit in Christ that ALL believers can and should PURSUE**

i.e., If you are sick in body, it is your divine right to petition the Lord for healing!

### **2) This is a benefit that—one way or the other—ALL believers will EXPERIENCE**

i.e., God’s healing power will touch your body one way or another. You will experience His healing power as you call upon Him in the here and now **OR** you will experience His healing power when He glorifies your body at the end of the age (Fundamental Truths 13–16)! Either way, the eradication of disease/ailment will occur in His sovereign timing.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

### **Q. So what is it that we believe?**

12) WE BELIEVE that divine healing is an integral part of the gospel. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the atonement of Christ, and is the privilege of all believers.

### **Q. So what are the practical applications of this sermon?**

- 1) Believe in the Lord for your healing if you are in need (physically)
- 2) Believe in the Lord to use you as a vessel for healing as His witness

### **James 5:13–16**

13 Is anyone among you in trouble? Let them pray. Is anyone happy? Let them sing songs of praise. 14 Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. 15 And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. 16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.