

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF HEALING IN THE MINISTRY OF JESUS AND
THE EARLY CHURCH

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ABSTRACT

There are a lot of misconceptions about divine healing in the body of Christ. This research was a practical and theological study of divine healing. Therefore the Healing Ministry of Jesus and the Early Church were used as a model. This will be done through library research of Books, Journals, encyclopedia, internet and the Bible. Healing in this context is defined holistically as that which involves the Spirit, Soul and body. God is seen as the healer and his will is for all to be healed. God is seen as the ultimate healer who can heal using various means including medicine. Jesus was constantly healing the sick in his three and half years of ministry. He commended people who has faith, and used his authority to heal the faithless. Healing can be now or futuristic. The consummation of all healings will be perfected in heaven. The Greatest miracle is not the healing of the physical body, but it is the salvation of the soul. The desire of Jesus is for all believers to be a healing evangelist .The price for healing was paid in the atonement. Therefore If Christ saves in the past present and future it implies that he heals in the past, present and future.

5.2 Conclusion

The church needs a **balanced ministry** of healing today. Balanced in the sense that healing should be **presented the way the Lord Jesus presented it to Apostles the early church**. **Physical healing is partial and temporary healing**. The permanent healing is the one that involves the **Spirit soul and body**.

God and not man should be seen as **the only source** of healing. What God cannot do no man can do. **All power and all authority belongs to him**. (Mathew 28:18). He declared himself as the **"God of all flesh there is nothing difficult for him to do"** (Jer 32:27). Man is a vessel that is used by God and **thereby he should not be proud but surrender himself to the use of the Lord**. The early **Apostles could achieved much** because they did not abrogate the glory of God to themselves, rather they attributed all glory to God.

There is salvation past , present and future, we are saved from the penalty of sin committed in the past ,saved from the sting and power of sin in the present and we will be saved from the presence of sin in the future. If this statement is correct the same **can be**

said of healing that we are saved from sickness and disease in the past, we can overcome the power of sickness in the present and be saved from sickness in eternity. This assertion is true because there is healing in the atonement. If Christ can save our soul from eternal destruction, he can definitely save our body from disease, sickness and demonic oppression.

5.3 Recommendations

The contemporary church should learn from the healing ministry of Jesus and the early church.

Therefore based on these models the following recommendations are made:

1. Healing should be seen as that which was purchase by the blood of Christ.
2. The church leadership should teach the members that healing ministry is for all believers
3. Total faith and consecration to God should be imbibed by every believers
4. The contemporary church should be challenge by the healing ministry of Christ and the early church, and therefore emulate them by demonstrating the raw power of God.
5. Medicine should be seen as an avenue by which God can use to heal. Doctors only cures the real healing of the body can only be perfected by God and not the doctors.
6. Local churches should have time to teach their members that it is God's will to heal any ailment or sickness, so that their faith will be activated in the healer.

7. The Holy Spirit should be rely upon to activate believers' faith through the word of God, since faith comes through hearing of the word (rayma).
8. Pastors should teach their members that the greatest miracle is not the healing of the physical body but the greatest miracle is the salvation of the soul.
9. Care should be taken in the use of Handkerchief, anointing oil, and water in the course of healing ministry. These are only symbols they are not power in themselves, they are just a means to an end.
10. There is no rigid method in the course of divine healing , the Holy Spirit should be relied upon on the type of methods to be used per time