

PRAYER AND HEALING

Dr. Matt Jones, Pastor Del Rey Church, 2016 Month of Prayer

I. Introduction

- A. What is prayer?
- B. We're called to be a people of prayer...
- C. Kinds of prayer (cf. Eph 6:18, 1 Tim. 2:1):

- Prayer of worship (praise)
- Prayer of thanksgiving
- Prayer of consecration
- Prayer of intercession
- Prayer of imprecation
- Prayer of request (or supplication)

II. Sickness, the Sovereign and Supplication

- A. Why we get sick (Genesis 1-4)
- B. Who we run to - the Sovereign (Ex. 15, Matt. 8)
- C. How we offer supplication (Acts, James 5)

Philippians 4:4-6

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! ⁵ Let your gentle spirit be known to all men. The Lord is near. ⁶ Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

III. Assurances in Time of Suffering

- A. God is good and He answers prayer

B. Grief/suffering is rather unescapable in life

C. Good times will come: in fact, the best is yet to come!

The one we're praying to is coming back to heal our sick bodies and renew creation for His glory. Come Lord Jesus!

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

Reflective Questions for You and Your Small Group

1. Read 1 Corinthians 15 together and discuss its victorious language over death. How does this comfort us in the midst of sickness and death (see also 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 [especially note verse 13]).
2. What is the worse sickness you've ever had?
3. Besides the havoc illness brings to the body, discuss its impact on the mind? How do you mentally react to sickness?
4. In light of the above question concerning the mental impact of illness, discuss the social impact? How does illness impact family, friends, co-workers and the church?
5. In light of questions 2 and 3, we can see how false preachers and healers can easily exploit the sick. As well, false nutritionists and quack pseudo-medicine (e.g. miracle pills, snake oil, etc.) can victimize the sick. Have you or a loved one ever been taken advantage of by such persons? If so, share. What did you learn from the experience?
6. As it relates to praying for the sick, have you had bad experiences (maybe say with Word of Faith false teachers) with people trying to pray for healing? On a more personal note, do you find it difficult to pray in a biblical manner with genuine hope for healing? Do you wrestle with doubt, despair or indifference when praying for healing?
7. As a church, beyond praying for healing, how do we (and how can we better) minister to the sick in our midst?
8. What fears do you have of sickness or death? Share. How does the gospel address our fear? How does the company of saints encourage us in times of despair as we wrestle with illness?