

Jesus heals at the pool of Bethesda

John 5 v1-20

A large crowd of sick people were lying in the porches – the blind, lame and paralysed. ⁵A man was there who had been sick for 38 years. ⁶Jesus saw him lying there, and he knew that the man had been sick for such a long time; so he asked him, “Do you want to get well?” ⁷The sick man answered, “Sir, I don't have anyone here to put me in the pool when the water is stirred up; while I am trying to get in, somebody else gets there first.” ⁸Jesus said to him, “Get up, pick up your mat, and walk.” ⁹Immediately the man got well; he picked up his mat and started walking. The day this happened was a Sabbath.

[The authorities caught him carrying his mat on the Sabbath, and he said the man who healed him told him too, but he didn't know Jesus' name, until Jesus found him later and told him to stop sinning.]

¹⁵Then the man left and told the Jewish authorities that it was Jesus who had healed him. ¹⁶So they began to persecute Jesus, because he had done this healing on a Sabbath. ¹⁷Jesus answered them, “My Father is always working, and I too must work.” ¹⁸This saying made the Jewish authorities all the more determined to kill him; not only had he broken the Sabbath law, but he had said that God was his own Father and in this way had made himself equal with God. ¹⁹So Jesus answered them, “I tell you the truth: **the Son can do nothing on his own; he does only what he sees his Father doing.** What the Father does, the Son also does. ²⁰For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. He will show him even greater things to do than this, and you will all be amazed

You get one question?

I was thinking if you were allowed to sit down physically with Jesus and ask him one question what would it be. What would your one question be? I posed this to my 17 year old son, who has a Saturday job in a coffee shop, “ what one question would you ask Jesus if he came in for a cappuccino?”. He replied, I would have to ask him ‘ Regular or large?’.

But what would you ask Jesus? For many people I think there would be a specific question about why a prayer was or wasn't answered. Why did she have to suffer like that? Why did he die of cancer, when that awful man in the next bed get better? Probably a question to help us understand the pain and confusion that we had been through, when we felt our prayers had been ignored by God.

These come out of the big questions, of why do we see answers to some prayers and not others? And the important sub-set: Why are some people healed when we pray and not others? So today, I want to explore those really big questions with you, and see what we can learn from the scriptures to help us.

By the pool

To do so, I want to look at one of Jesus' healing miracles. The one he did at the pool of Bethesda. This is a pool of water which was near the sheep gate entrance to Jerusalem, and in Jesus time was outside the city wall, and the pool was probably used as a source of water for the temple. The pool surrounded by 5 arched covered colonnades, under which people gathered and waited, but for what? The waters in this still pool occasionally moved, most likely caused by an intermittent spring beneath the pool rocks. I am told there is one similar such spring in Jerusalem today. However they believed that an angel stirred the water, and if you jumped in first then you would be healed, and there was probably enough reports of healing, true or otherwise, to have made this place popular as a healing shrine, which were common throughout the ancient world. This belief in the magic powers of these stirring waters was enough to turn this place into an open hospital, where a large crowd, of blind, lame and paralysed people led, waiting for that one chance to be healed.

Jesus gets stuck in.

Jesus was in the capital for a festival, but perhaps he had enough of all the religious pomp and splendour, and wanted to get out where the real needs was, where the raw needy edge of society lived, and feel the holy spirit coursing through him again as he gets stuck in again.

I have a phrase for this type of situation, I call it 'Gods great dance floor'. It takes a bit of courage for people to step out on to a dance floor, not worry about what people think of you, or if you are gonna mess up and look silly, but just get out there and go for it and enjoy yourself dancing. Pull some crazy moves. I enjoy dancing and in some ways I feel more alive out on the dance floor when there is a tune I really love. It's the same for me when I step out to do Gods work and the Holy Spirit starts working through you. It takes some nerve, and you have to step out of your comfort zone, but once you let yourself go it's exciting and its fun. I think Jesus was looking for that Holy Spirit moment and where better to go than out the sheep gate to the healing shrine at the Bethesda pool.

The sick man

Jesus walked around lines of sick people, he is listening for his Fathers voice, and knows that the man he is now looking at has been sick for 38 years. This is longer than many people lived to at that time, so he must likely would have been sick for at least all of his adult life. Of all the blind, lame, and paralysed people, why this one person? Was it because he had been the ill the longest?; there was certainly more credibility amongst healers if the person had been ill for a very long time. Did perhaps Jesus see that this man had more faith than the others? It doesn't look like that from what happened next.

We don't know exactly what he was sick with, although the text implies he was lame or paralysed. Jesus asks him if he wants to get better. It is like when he asked blind Bartimaeus what he wanted ! The point is this man earns his food by begging, if he is healed with no adult skills, what would he do? The man said he had tried to get well, and presumably that is why he stays by the pool, unless he just enjoys the company and the begging there. He says the problem is, that when the waters are stirred someone always gets in before him. You do wonder though how much motivation he had? Couldn't he in all those years of devised some way of getting in first like having a mat at the top of a ramp, that he could quickly roll down into the water the moment it stirred. He had had 38 years to invent something!!

He gives an excuse, but he doesn't actually say directly he wants to be healed, nor make any suggestion that Jesus might be able to offer him healing. His faith is in an invisible angelic water stirrer not the visible son of God. That doesn't seem to bother Jesus.

Jesus heals him anyway

Jesus said, Get up, pick up your mat, and walk. Three instructions. Getting up and walking both required a miracle. The sick man was instantly healed when Jesus spoke the words of life into him.

In stark contrast is the man's long heart-rendering wait to be healed by dubious means in this pool, compared with the immediate presence and command that Jesus brings to the sickness, dispelling it with a simple command to get up. No need for physical water, still or stirred, Jesus brings his own life giving water.

Sabbath rules

is interesting that in his list of instructions, Jesus asked him to pick up his mat? Why- he didn't really need it anymore.

And it was the Sabbath, you're not supposed to carry mats on the Sabbath, and good 1st century religious people knew that. The tradition of the elders specified 39 categories of work that were forbidden on the Sabbath, and the 39th of these was that you could not carry a load from one dwelling place to another. So by picking up his bed-roll he was violating this rule. The Pharisees later saw him walking around with his mat, and were getting themselves quite upset about it too, so started having a go at him. "This is a Sabbath, it is against our law for you to carry your mat". It is hard to pick out the mans emotions in his response. You would expect him to be excited. "This man that healed me, yeah he told me to pick up my mat and walk". But it begs the question, wouldn't he be really keen to know more about the man who has just healed him after 38 long years of lying there, at least ask his name! And for me, he seems to me to be rather quick to deflect the blame. " Its not my fault, that I am carrying a mat on the Sabbath, the bloke that healed me, made me do it!" And what is incredible is that the Pharisees were not amazed that some-one who had

been paralysed for 38 years, had been miraculously healed, and set free, they just wanted to give him a hard time for having a roll-mat under his arm. They loved all the stuffy religious pomp and minutiae of the law, loving God that had out into the details of their textbooks and additional laws. They were the opposite to Jesus. He wanted out, on the dancefloor. He wanted to feel the power of the living God, pull some crazy moves, like healing a life-long paralysed man in a pagan worship shrine, come open hospital.

Jesus catches up with the man later, and tells him to stop sinning, or some-thing worse than being paralysed for 38 years would happen to him. What on earth could that be. Probably nothing **on** earth, but if he dies in a sinful state, then off the earth, he will face an eternal separation from God. That's far worse. This time he does get Jesus' name, and what does he do with it. He goes and tells the Religious Authorities – "You know that guy who made me carry my mat, well it was Jesus'.

Some commentators are kind to this man and assume he had the right motives, but I don't know. To me, it seems like he unnecessarily grasses on Jesus. But the point is Jesus knew he would, he knew it before he healed him, perhaps that's why he told him to carry his mat, because it gave him a public opportunity to challenge their interpretation of the Sabbath laws. As far as Jesus concerned, the Sabbath was for the benefit of man, and not the other way round. Man wasn't supposed to be paying pain-staking homage to the Sabbath. Of course you can do good on the Sabbath. You would release an animal that got trapped on a Sabbath, so you can release a man that has been in bondage for 38 years. If on your day of rest, you decide to move house, and spend hours lugging heavy possessions from one place to another, then you are not getting the rest that God wants for you on the 7th day, but putting a carry-mat under your arm is neither here nor there. It doesn't make sense, but Jesus can't seem get this rather obvious point home to the intransigent religious rulers.

When they tackle Jesus about healing on the Sabbath, he enrages them further by saying he is always working like his Father in heaven. Always working? The inference is that God does not need to have a break once every 7 days. As he puts the breath in our lungs, we are rather glad he doesn't have a day off. If scientists are right than God started creating the universe with a Big Bang nearly 14 billion years ago. Whilst man has been on earth a relatively short time. So the 6 days of creation could have taken billions of years – its hard work making a universe. The Bible says after introducing mankind, he took the 7th day or period off, which if you follow the logic, would mean that this current age, the age of man, the period we are in is the Sabbath rest for God. He has come off the heavy creation work, and is doing lighter duties, where his work is continual but in another sense natural and effortless. The 6 days of creation being hard work like moving house, and the 7th day activities being lighter duties, such as walking around with a rolled up mat, or freeing one of your animals caught in a thicket, or a well. Jesus is saying that he is like God, and needs to keep doing his Fathers work in the same natural way, even on the Sabbath. The gospels tells us that up to that point they already wanted to kill Jesus, when they heard this, they wanted to kill him even more!

Was the man deserving?

So what of the man who didn't bother get Jesus' name until he was in trouble with the authorities, and then reports Jesus to them. Of all those lying there, did this man deserve to be the one that was chosen to be healed. Couldn't Jesus though have picked some that was a bit nicer even if they had only been lying there for 28 years !

Why did he pick this seemingly ungrateful man? The truth he was underserving of Gods Grace, but them we all are. We have all fallen short of what God wants for us, we are all sinners, and none of us have done anything to deserve God grace and healing touch. So in one sense it does not really matter who got healed because we are equally all undeserving.

So this big question comes back here, on why some people get healed and not others. Why was this one man healed and not any or all of the others in this large crowd of sick people? Is there something specific about people that get healed compared to those that don't. I have always found this fascinating. I have studied the miracles of Jesus and the apostles, read about healing ministries of people such as Smith

Wigglesworth, Kathryn Kullman and others. Been to healing meetings, watched youtube videos, and got personal experience of healings, and so have thought about this question a lot.

Was he healed because he has been sick the longest? There certainly seems to be some weight in the argument that the long term healings (such as some one that was blind from birth) gives more credit to the 'healer' than a recent lesser illness, though both are equally miraculous. But this is not a helpful precedence to set, as we do not see today that the really big asks such as cancer, dementure etc being consistently healed with more frequency than headaches and shoulder pains. Often the reverse is true.

Perhaps he has the most faith in Jesus, which is why he was chosen. But my experience suggests that the person who is being prayed for does not **have** to believe in Jesus, or have faith they can be healed. Although often it helps.

The person who is praying for some-one to be healed, will themselves believe in Jesus, but does not have to have the faith that the person can be healed through their prayers. Although often it helps.

Some people Jesus healed, or healed on behalf (such as Jairus for his daughter, and a centurion for his servant) had clear faith in the power in Jesus to heal. Others such as them man at Gaderene with a legion of demons in him, and this guy at the pool of Bethesda, were not coming to Jesus looking for healing, but had healing thrust upon them.

Jesus clearly believed in his healing abilities, although it does say that in his hometown few were healed because of their lack of faith. But plenty of others I know of, or have met have seen Gods power be used in them to do miraculous healings that they were not expecting to happen. Some years ago, I had being doing a concert at a Christian festival, with a dance music outfit called S'dANCE and was asked by some fans of the group, late night after a concert, if could go and pray for one of the girls who was suffering badly from asthma. I had seen a couple of amazing answers to prayer already that night, but being an asthma sufferer myself I felt that this was something I couldn't do, and used the late hour as an excuse. Late that night, she got so bad she was taken into hospital. The next day, I heard what had happened, but that she was now back on site. I went to their caravan, apologised for not going when asked, and offered to pray for her now anyway, and asked Jesus to take her asthma away completely, with zero confidence that he would. A few months later we were doing a concert in South Devon where they came from, and unexpectedly they turned up at our gig. Afterward I went to speak to the girl, and asked her how her asthma was. Bear in mind, I have had asthma since the age of 4 and still had it, and hers was a worse case than mine. She looked at me blank, and asked what I meant. I repeated the question, thinking she had mishear d me, but she hadn't. She said 'Don't you remember? You prayed for my asthma to go. I have not had it since.'. I was gob-smacked.

The man at Bethesda, had faith in some mystical stirring water, enough to keep him rooted there all his life. His faith was not in Jesus, but that did not seem to bother Jesus, who healed him anyway without any long fussy prayers like the Pharisees used. On this occasion he did not even speak to the illness, and tell it to go, or even tell the man to be well. He just said, get up, pick up your mat and walk, and the man was healed.

But there does seem to be a good reason why Jesus picked this man, and I think it's a key verse into this passage.

V19 – Jesus says “I tell you the truth: the Son can do nothing on his own; he does only what he sees his Father doing. What the Father does, the Son also does. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing”.

Jesus healed the man, because that what he saw his Father wanting to do. It is important not to miss the point here, because we could easily transfer the question to 'Why did the Father want this man to be healed?'. If we do that we miss the point Jesus is making. He takes his lead from his Father. If he can see in his mind that this is his Fathers will, its part of his Fathers plan, then he has the confidence to step out and do it, because he expects Gods will be done on earth as it is in heaven. This healing is part of seeing

his will done. So he does it. That's why the man got chosen and healed, because Jesus saw his Father doing it.

Who then do we pray for.

This Easter, myself and two friends Jason and Richie had been invited out to Macedonia to put on a conference for a group of 27 free churches from amongst the poorest people in a very poor country. We wanted to see people saved, and we wanted to see people healed. Before we went, I prayed for a word about who did God want us to pray for to be healed. We prayed and listened. I got the impression, that there would be some-one come forward for prayer who would be **completely deaf** in the **left ear**. A very specific ailment.

On the day of the conference, many more people came than we expected, and half of them did not know Jesus personally. We worshipped with them, gave testimony, had the children give prayers, we gave on preach jointly between 3 of us, tagging each other in and out through translators for an hour and a half, explaining what Jesus did at Easter, and on the cross, and how they needed him in their lives, today. We then gave an appeal for those who wanted to accept Jesus, and hands went everywhere. When we got over the shock of the size of the response, we invited people forward for healing prayer. I remembered the word I had heard, and we invited forward first anyone with ear problems. The team split up and took a translator each. I said to mine, let's go and pray for the lady on the end, we'll start there. Ask her for her name and what's wrong. He told me her name and then he said ... she is **completely deaf** in her **left ear**. Less than 5 minutes later, she could completely hear in her left ear. Her hearing was fully restored by the power that came through praying in the name of Jesus. Between us we must have prayed for over 100 people over the next 2 hours for all sorts of problems and illnesses. Some were fully healed, some were partially healed, some were things you could not test straight away, like anxiety and high blood pressure, some had desperate lives and just wanted a blessing. Others went away and discovered later that they were healed. Some left with no physical healing at all, including one 19 year old boy I prayed for who was stone deaf in both ears and needed signers, but they all still went home knowing the touch and love of the living God. Recently I was talking to Richie about this first healing of the day, and he said that he had also prayed for some-one who was completely deaf in their left ear, and found out that there was part of the ear missing so it was impossible for her to ever hear in that ear again. He prayed for her, and her ear and hearing were fully restored. We had read about such outpourings of Gods power but were not expecting to see such a tide of desperation for Gods healing touch, and experience such an outpouring ourselves, not really, not to that extent.

We prayed for everybody who wanted it, even though at point there were queues in front of us all, with people pushing in. We didn't finish praying until the last coach had departed taking the people back to their distant towns and villages. But although we made sure everyone who wanted prayer got it, it was interesting that whilst a mixture of full healing, part healing, delayed healing or not at all, the two we came across that we had a word for, that would be fully deaf in their left ears with quickly, miraculously and fully healed. Perhaps that's what Jesus meant by doing only what the he sees the Father doing.

That doesn't mean that others won't get healed, but I can think you can be more confident that you will see a healing if you get that word from God, it certainly gives you more confidence and expectation when you are praying.

No sickness in Heaven

But even though Jesus didn't go looking to heal everybody, he never refused anybody that came to him and asked for healing. In the gospel, every single one that did ask of Jesus, got the healing that was asked for.

Even if we don't get a direct word, we can still have confidence that praying for sick people is still within Gods will. How come? Because Jesus taught us to pray to God – 'Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven '. How much cancer is there in heaven? How much dementure? How many deaf

ears? How much sickness of any type? There is none. There is no pain, sickness, or suffering in heaven. So we have every right to praying against sickness on this earth, knowing full well that in doing so we are praying heaven come, we are praying his pain free and sickness free kingdom to come on earth.

So if we haven't got a confident word about what God is doing, we can still pray for anyone who is sick.

When people come to you for prayer, you can ask God, what are you doing in that person's life, how do you want me to pray for this person. One lady we prayed for in Macedonia had bronchitis, and we prayed directly for that, but then God revealed to us that the real problem was unforgiveness in her heart, which had taken deep root when a relationship broke up, so we had to pray for that first.

Some-one once said to me, don't pray for 3 people for healing and come back to me and say healing prayer doesn't work, or I can't do this. Pray for 100 people then come back and tell me. Perhaps you have tried yourself praying for people and been disappointed. Don't be, your willingness to try and your obedience to the will of God, is far more important than seeing the physical healing.

As you stop doing the things that you know are wrong in your life (i.e. live in righteousness), as you spend more time in prayer and worship (i.e. in relationship with Jesus), and then as you listen more to God and persist in praying His kingdom come over all sorts of problems and illnesses, then surely you will see God move in powerful ways.

So why does the Father do what the Father does?

So if Jesus does what he sees the Father doing, then why did the Father choose that one long-term sick man, over the others. Good question, which I can't answer. But do I need to be able to understand everything God does. Would that not make me equal to God, or perhaps I could just simply trust him, trust that he knows best.

When you have a toddler, you might give her a toy in which she has to put shapes into different size holes, and when she does that she gets lots of hugs and praise. But when she puts a coin into the DVD player, you don't seem very pleased this time, then when she found that little screwdriver and poked it near those inviting holes in the electric socket, you start shouting at her. From her young perspective she is doing what she has been encouraged to do, and doesn't understand why sometimes it goes well for her and sometimes it goes all wrong. The toddler is bright for her age, nothing wrong with her at all, but she has limited knowledge, life experience and her worldview is very restricted. You the adult, have a much wider and deeper understanding, and you know what is good and safe for your toddler, and know what is wrong and that which is downright dangerous.

We might not understand God's ways, and why something happens the way it does, or why he leads us in a certain direction. But that's okay. He is God, we are his creation. The bible says this (Isaiah 55 v 8-9). **For my thoughts are *not* your thoughts, neither are your ways *my* ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are *higher than* the earth, so are *my* ways.**

If God chooses to use me to heal a lady that is totally deaf in one ear, and another who was partially deaf in both ears, but not a young man that is fully deaf in both ears, which is what I experience in Macedonia then who am I to question him, or argue with him about it? If none of us are deserving of his grace, and his gifts, then surely he has the right to choose where his healing power goes, without us questioning it?

What we have to learn is obedient trust. Our success is not measured in numbers, or by the miraculous. It is not measured by how many people are healed or saved. Our success is measured

in how obedient we are to what Jesus calls us to do, whether we like the idea of doing it or not, whether we see the results we want or not.

I used to sing these words in Church as a small child in the 60s, but they are so true today:-

*When we walk with the Lord in the light of His word, what a glory he sheds on our way
While we do his good will, he abides with us still, and with all who will trust and obey.
Trust and obey, for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.*

This is how I would define success as a Christian. Listen – trust – obey.

But could do the Father do more? Could we do more?

When Jesus walks into the healing shrine he picks his way amongst a crowd of sick people and just heals one, because that is all he saw his Father doing. Sometimes people who are sceptical about healing prayer, say “Well if you believe in healing why don’t you just walk into a hospital and empty it”. Well, one reason is that Jesus never did that. He walks into this open hospital waiting room and just heals one person.

So why isn’t everyone you pray for healed instantly? This may come as a shock to some people, but God does not always get what he wants on earth, at least not yet. There will be a day when all things will be restored and all the things that God wants will happen, but that day is not today. When Jesus taught his disciples to pray ‘ your kingdom come, your will be done’, the clear implication is that Gods will is not currently being done on earth as it is in heaven, that is why we have to pray for it to happen.

There are two eras, or two ages to consider, this current age, and the age to come. We currently live in this age, an evil age, the age of darkness, if we don’t experience this in our own lives, then we only have to take a glance at our newspapers to know that it is true. There is evil, pain and suffering all around us. We live in a fallen world, and even if we are healed for a while, eventually we will become sick again and die. Everyone Jesus healed, later died. The bible tells us that this age will last until Jesus comes again, and brings in the age to come, the heavenly age, and age where there will be no more tears, no more pain, for those that have believed in Jesus.

Imagine these two ages as two solid circles, but instead of being separate they overlap. For Mathematicians think of a two circle Venn diagram. Where they overlap is where we are. It is the period between Jesus coming for the first time and the second time. The overlap of the current evil age and the coming heavenly age.

Paul underlines this in his letter to the Galatians (1v4) where he says “**in order to set us free from this present evil age, Christ gave himself for our sins**”. The freedom does not come when we die, but when we accept that Christ died for us. We are not taken out of this evil age, but we receive his freedom within it. My friend Jason, when he accepted that Christ died for him years ago, he was set free straight away from depression, anxiety, and from heavy use of drugs, smoking and alcohol. He received freedom.

When you accepted Jesus into your heart you were born into kingdom life, it was the first day of your eternal life. You were born in this current age with your human nature, but when you accepted Jesus, you were born again, and had a new spiritual nature, a new kingdom nature.

Because you have both your human nature and your spiritual nature, then you are living simultaneously in the present evil age and the heavenly kingdom age. This explains why we can experience Gods kingdom power now (which includes miraculous healing) whilst at the same time be subject to sorrow, heartache, tragedy and further sickness.

This explains why not everyone is healed. The kingdom of God is not yet resident here, but in this time of overlap, it is able to break through. It doesn’t explain why specific prayers are not answered when others are, but it does explain why not **all** prayers are answered, because if they could all be answered, and Gods will could be completely done on this earth as it is in heaven, then we would already be in the heavenly age to come, which we are not.

Carrying on the ministry of Jesus

What is healing ministry anyway. Probably everything that Jesus did and does could be called healing ministry. He heals our spirits restores our souls, putting us into a good relationship with God. That's healing. He addresses our past hurts from abuse, rejection and betrayal and teaches us to forgive. That's healing. He teaches us to truly love not only our friends and families including those that really annoy us, but also to love our enemies, restores and enhances our relationships – that's healing. Then he also heals us from sickness, pain and infirm bodies.

That is the ministry of Jesus, and that's our ministry.

As Christians we are saved into a relationship with Jesus, to worship him, and to do his will. That will is to simply carry on the work he was doing.

To give your life to him, be rooted in him, build your life on him, listen to him, and bring the healing touch of God into every life you touch.

Don't believe the lies, that you can't bring healing to others, Greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.

You don't feel up to it because you don't feel worthy. Of course you don't, none of us do. If we did then we would be in trouble. The bible tells us that he puts his treasure in clay pots.

“We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. (2 Corinthians 4v17)

Choosing life

If we really met Jesus in a coffee shop, we might find it very frustrating to only be allowed to ask him one question, when we want to know why this happened, and that didn't happen etc. But perhaps my son was right after all, you only need one question and is one that stays in the moment. What do you want from me right now Lord Jesus is it a regular or a large Cappuccino?

I trust you with all the stuff that has already happened. I trust that in your infinite wisdom, that you had a reason, which is right now beyond my understanding and I accept that your ways are not my ways, and that you see the bigger picture that I don't. So accepting that which has past, what do you want right now from me, from my life. How can I be obedient to you and align myself with what you have already started, what you are already doing.

We may have lots of questions and doubts burning within us, of why this happened that way, and that happened this way. We could spend our lives asking questions on what has already gone, or we could instead spend our lives providing answers for current and future problems. Provide the answers and resolution to problems and sickness by devoting our lives, to living right lives, living in relationship with Jesus, listening to God, determining what the Father is doing, and praying it to those areas, for his kingdom to come and his will to be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Don't let fear hold you back, but make yourself available to do whatever Jesus wants to do for you and through you. He loves you so much, and wants the very best for your life, no matter how inadequate you feel. Stop doing the things you know are wrong, spend more time in prayer and worship, and then make yourself available for God to work through you in the ways he has already destined and planned you.

The words that the Lord said to Paul in a vision are true for you today **“My grace is all you need, for my power is greatest when you are weak.”** (2 Corinthians 12v9)

So don't hold back from carrying on the work of Jesus, which in every aspect was a healing ministry, take his cue - listen, trust and obey, because there is no other way to be happy in Jesus.

Amen.