

## **Prayer Ministry and Divine Healing Class – Part 1**

By Moshe Schwab

There are a lot of things to learn about God and prayer in this important study. We learn that God is involved with and sustains His creation; that God's people experience Him; that God is a loving involved God; that we are to have faith in God; we learn that it helps to have a common-sense model for prayer (not a formula); we learn about types of prayer that we can use; we learn how to respect the people we are praying for and be courteous; we learn to be zealous for the things of God; we find that we can be thrilled by God as we encounter Him in this Messianic age.

Perhaps one of the most significant things overlooked by many believers in the Messiah is the powerful work of God in these Messianic times. When Yeshua (Jesus) the Messiah came He often healed everyone that needed healing. Matthew 9:35 CJB, "Yeshua went about all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and weakness." Isn't that amazing! Also, Yeshua sent out His 12 Rabbis<sup>1</sup> and He also trained 70 others to go out and pray. It says in Luke that He sent out, "Seventy other talmidim and sent them on ahead in pairs to every town and place where he himself was about to go;" Luke 10:2, CJB. Yeshua told them in verse 9 to, "Heal the sick there, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near you.'"

Yeshua wasn't training them for nothing. We see people being healed in the book of Acts and God leading and helping believers in Yeshua in the book of Acts. Praying for others and experiencing God's power is part of our messianic heritage! Shaul (Paul) said, "For the Kingdom of God is not a matter of words but of power. 1 Corinthians 4:40 CJB. Yeshua said that we receive power through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) and God can use us to accomplish healing and miracles through God.

### **It is an amazing experience to encounter God.**

When we pray, we are asking the God of the universe to do something extra ordinary. We are not praying for coincidences or good feelings, but to a God who can do anything. Israel encountered God at Mount Sinai. It was truly an amazing experience.

Ex 19:16,18-19 NKJV<sup>2</sup>

There were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, ... the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.

The people encountered God and they trembled. There was thunder, lightning, a loud trumpet that got louder and louder, the earth quaked, and they heard God speak (Deut. 4:33). Actually, Israel encountered God every day, didn't they. Maybe in not such a dramatic way as in Exodus 19. A cloud stood over the Tent of Meeting by day and a fire by night for 40 years not to mention that God gave them food and water every day in the wilderness.

Since the Messiah has come; shouldn't this messianic time be even more dramatic and filled with personal experiences of God. 2 Cor 3:7-8 NKJV, "But if the ministry of death, written and engraved on stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of the glory of his countenance, which glory was passing away, how will the ministry of the Spirit not be more glorious?"

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<sup>1</sup> The modern-day word for a Jewish teacher is rabbi. Yeshua was training teachers. Yeshua had a problem with calling people a rabbi in His time because it meant "great one." No one should be called a great one except for God. Rabbi no longer means "great one," but better describes the early Jewish teachers of our faith. They were all Jewish.

<sup>2</sup> I use a lot of scriptures so I have to use the New King James Version (NKJV) at times because of limitations put on quoting the Complete Jewish Bible (CJB). The CJB sometimes has a better rendering. Hopefully these limitations will change sometime.

I had a friend of mine that told me that when he began to go church, he was told that experiencing God was wrong. That's not what I see in the Bible. Some say that experiencing God is not found in the scriptures. Of course, they are wrong; people experience God and we also see that in the scriptures. We have to be careful that we don't limit God; after all, He is the creator. See my article entitled [In Tanakh Times](#) for some references of God at work in the Old Testament portion.

### **God cares about us and loves us.**

Since the inception of time, God has always wanted us to be in relationship with Him and receive His blessings. God placed man in the garden, but man went his own way. God reached out to man and made promises to man and to Israel.

In this messianic scripture we see God's love for those who love Him. "The Lord your God in your midst, The Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." Zephaniah 3:17 CJB.

In Ex 15:26 NKJV God tells the people of Israel: "I am the Lord who heals you." In the scriptures we see God healing and also Yeshua healing people miraculously. As I previously stated, at times it says that Yeshua healed all the people! Yeshua cared about people. God cares about us.

Also, as I said, Yeshua sent out 12 Rabbis<sup>3</sup> and He was also training others to go out and pray. He trained and sent 70 others (Luke 10:1) out too. Rabbi Shaul was not one of the 12 or 70 and he prayed with power. We are also sent out to pray for others. Mark 16:17-18 NKJV, "And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ... they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."

A couple of months after my friend Dave came back from doing ministry in India he told me that he prayed for a blind man and all this stuff began oozing out of the man's eyes and the blind man was healed instantly. My friend Larry prayed for a teenage boy in Russia whose one leg was shorter than the other. He put his hand on the boy's leg and while he had his hand on the boy's leg, the leg grew to the same length as the other leg. Larry is a medical professional! My friend Harold prayed for a young man with the same problem and God healed the young man. Only God can do that.

In praying for people God will sometimes answer our prayers.  
Sometimes the answer is yes, and sometimes it is no.  
Sometimes the answer is not yet, but no matter what - God loves us.  
Ultimately, we will be completely whole in the new heaven and earth.

### **Understanding healing through Yeshua**

#### **1) Yeshua's ministry began after the Holy Spirit came upon Him.**

No doubt Yeshua did many miracles in his youth, but His ministry began when the Holy Spirit fell on Him. Luke 3:16,22 CJB, "So Yochanan answered them all, "I am immersing you in water, but he who is coming is more powerful than I - I'm not worthy to untie his sandals! He will immerse you in the Ruach HaKodesh and in fire." ... "The Ruach HaKodesh came down on him (Yeshua) in physical form like a dove." Immediately after that, the Bible says, "Then Yeshua, filled with the Ruach HaKodesh, returned from the Yarden and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness;" Luke 4:1 CJB.

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<sup>3</sup> The modern-day word for a Jewish teacher is rabbi. Yeshua was training teachers. Yeshua had a problem with calling people a rabbi in His time because it meant "great one." No one should be called a great one except for God. Rabbi no longer means "great one," but better describes the early Jewish teachers of our faith. They were all Jewish.

It says that He was being filled with the Holy Spirit in the NKJV. It's also the word used for when they were collecting the fragments of bread and fish in the baskets when Yeshua miraculously created food for the people – they were filling up the baskets. It's the Greek word plērēs (play'-race) – filled as in the sense of being filled up (see Vine's Dictionary). We should receive the Holy Spirit and “be filled” up (be filled over and over) with the Holy Spirit; we receive power through the Holy Spirit the Bible says. Acts 1:8 NKJV, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

It's one thing to accept the Messiah and have the Holy Spirit.  
It's another thing for the Holy Spirit to be working powerfully in us and through us.  
Yeshua was ready because He was being filled with the Holy Spirit.  
Are you ready, are you being filled with the Holy Spirit.

I used to go to a church/churches where we had lots of meetings and encouragement, but no power. Kefa (Peter) asked Yeshua to come out and walk on the water with him (Matthew 14:23-33). Are you willing to get out of the boat and let the Holy Spirit use you? Or are you just content to sit in the boat?

I heard an example from Dr. Morgan about how the Holy Spirit is like getting on a roller coaster. When we start to go up it is scary, but after we've been on the roller coaster, all those kids' rides down below look like nothing. Some of us have played make believe with dolls or plastic soldiers. Life without the Holy Spirit is like playing make believe.

This is my own experience. I pushed away the Holy Spirit and was scared to encounter God through the prophetic. It probably came out of my own ignorance. I should have understood that God loves me and wants to lead me and speak into my life. I didn't understand that it was biblical for God to act in the present. Sometimes we lack trust in God; a God who is a loving God – perhaps I was afraid that God would make me look foolish and or perhaps I wondered if I was really hearing from God right? We are all fools for something. Why not be a fool for the Messiah?

Part of why I did what I did is because I was taught that my walk/life was pretty much up to me. I understood that the Holy Spirit was working in me, but I still felt that what I did was pretty much my work for God. In other words, God was up in heaven and I was living life pretty much separate from Him. That is not a biblical viewpoint. God is always at work in His creation and sustains His creation. See my [God and His Creation](#) article.

Since God is available and at work in His creation we can expect miracles and healings. Also, God wants to lead us personally. The Bible says we are to be led by the Holy Spirit, not just the Bible (Romans 8:14) – God is almighty God and is still able to accomplish great miracles and healings and to speak to us today. When we hear from God we are to test what we receive from God with the Bible and with the help of responsible and knowledgeable people. “But do test everything - hold onto what is good;” 1 Thessalonians 5:21 CJB.

If you want to minister effectively, you need the Holy Spirit. I challenge you to step out of the boat and if you've stepped out of the boat, start walking on water with Yeshua. What an exciting opportunity we have that Yeshua has invited us into. Ananias was sent to heal Shaul (Paul). “The Lord said to him, “ Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying. And in a vision he has seen a man named Ananias coming in and putting his hand on him, so that he might receive his sight;” Acts 9:11-12 NKJV. How is that for giving direction? Ananias was an ordinary follower. It doesn't give him a title or position. He was probably just a believer like you and me.

Yeshua said that we can do great works through Him. John 14:12 NKJV, “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

As I invited the Holy Spirit to work more in me, the Holy Spirit has worked more in me. There needs to be cooperation on our part. We have to decide to cooperate with God. We need to believe that God will not give us a rock instead of bread. Luke 11:11-13 NKJV:

If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

Jeremiah 17:5 NKJV says, “Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength.” We have learned to trust in ourselves and in others; what about trusting in God? The Bible says that God is love; and He wants to lavish us with His love. For serving others, we need the power of God. We can’t heal anybody, but God can.

## **2) God wants to heal**

Yeshua did many mighty works and tremendous healings. He restored sight to the blind, healed those with leprosy, and even healed all those in some towns who needed healing, how amazing. Luke 4:40 CJB, “After sunset, all those who had people sick with various diseases brought them to Yeshua, and he put his hands on each one of them and healed them.” It says that Yeshua healed all who came to Him. It is comforting to know God’s heart for man. We are not God and Yeshua was; so, when He prayed for someone they got healed. That’s a good thing to think of when praying for others. God has compassion and wants to heal.

This also probably tells us that healing does happen contrary to those who say it does not. We should also be expecting healing and asking for things in faith. Don’t give up after a few tries. Pray for a couple hundred people and write down answered prayers. You will see healing and answers to prayer if you begin praying. That is also my experience with prayer. One weekend I experienced 3 healings. I told my wife that I needed healing and she prayed for me. The next day she asked me how I was doing and I said I got healed; this happened three days in a row! You can’t explain that away.

As we saw in the Tanakh, feeling and experiencing God are more the normal in those who are in relationship with God. When Solomon dedicated the Temple, they experienced God. 2 Chronicles 7:1-2 NKJV, “When Solomon had finished praying, fire came down from heaven and consumed the burnt offering and the sacrifices; and the glory of the Lord filled the temple. And the priests could not enter the house of the Lord, because the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house.” Wow, what an experience!

When we feel or experience something during prayer we can relate that to God. One time I got prayer for my shoulder. My friend asked me a couple of weeks later how my shoulder was. I realized that I was healed. There were no “bells or whistles;” God healed me in the moment and I forgot all about it. I had been having trouble lifting my arm, so it was a big deal. I have had no more trouble with my arm since that healing.

Experiencing something during prayer or afterwards helps us to connect our healing to God. Otherwise, people might feel that it was just a coincidence that they were healed. My friend prayed for a woman who had been in a car accident. She broke her nose in the accident and had terrible headaches for years and her nose was also crooked. My friend prayed for her and she kept feeling the presence of God all that evening

and into the night. When she woke up the next day she looked in the mirror and her nose was straight and she stopped having headaches, whew, praise God.

We should think of experiencing God as the normal rather than the abnormal. See my [God Can Do What He Wants](#) article. Healing is a spiritual gift that is listed in the Bible – Shaul says this is a gift to the messianic believers; it is not for just a few; and it is not something that ended in the New Testament or with the apostolic rabbis (Yeshua’s talmidim).

### 3) God cares, has compassion, and He loves us.

When we understand that God loves us it will increase our faith. When we know that God has compassion we will want to pray. Luke 12:6-7 NKJV, “Are not five sparrows sold for two copper coins? And not one of them is forgotten before God. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.” Also, in Matthew 9:35-36 NKJV, “Then Yeshua went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd.” All I can say is wow.

We didn’t do anything to deserve God’s love, but after we commit our lives to Him, God wants to help us to live right and live in power through the Holy Spirit. In Romans 5:8 it says, “But God demonstrates his own love for us in that the Messiah died on our behalf while we were still sinners.” That’s compassion. Yeshua has compassion for us – He wants to be our shepherd.

### 4) Yeshua healed in the presence of faith and expectation

Yeshua loves faith and wonderful things happened in the presence of faith and **expectation**. Expectation is important – it is a component of faith. My experience is that the people who don’t want prayer often don’t believe it will help; their expectation is low. Yeshua didn’t do many mighty works in His home town because of their unbelief. Matt. 13:58 See my [Faith Leaking](#) article about how sometimes we talk ourselves out of believing in God.

The centurion’s servant was healed; he had great expectation and faith. The centurion said to Yeshua, “But say the word, and my servant will be healed;” Luke 7:7 NKJV. Yeshua marveled at (admired)<sup>4</sup> the centurion’s faith (verse 9). Yeshua is not asking us to have a ton of faith nor is faith a formula for pleasing God. **There are a lot of things that please God not just faith.** Faith is important, but we are not asked to have lots of faith. If we have a little faith like that of a tiny mustard seed Yeshua said, God can use that to do amazing things it says in Luke 17:6.

We planted a tiny banana tree in our back yard and it turned into a giant plant. A tiny seed is all that God is asking us to start with, and just like that mustard seed it can grow into something great. The more I pray for people, the more I realize it has little to do with my faith and all to do with trusting God; perhaps just like planting seed and knowing it will grow into a plant.

Did you know that the guy that Yeshua told pick up his bed and walk didn’t even know who Yeshua was! John 5:8-13 NKJV

Yeshua said to him, “Rise, take up your bed and walk.” And immediately the man was made well, took up his bed, and walked. And that day was the Sabbath. The Jews therefore said to him who

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<sup>4</sup> Definition from Greek for the word marveled is from Strong’s Dictionary.

was cured, “It is the Sabbath; it is not lawful for you to carry your bed.” He answered them, “He who made me well said to me, ‘Take up your bed and walk.’” Then they asked him, “Who is the Man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk?’” But the one who was healed did not know who it was.

If he didn’t know who Yeshua was, do you really think it had anything to do with his faith? And, we know that this guy also reported on Yeshua when he found out who healed him and so he wasn’t what we would call a caring appreciative person – he was more concerned about getting himself out of trouble with the religious leaders. I often think that God can and will do what He wants.

I was praying for this young woman in Brazil for some very general things like God blessing her and God to help her. I don’t speak Portuguese and so I was just praying for people what I thought God was telling me to pray for. After I finished praying for her, the local missionary came over and the girl told him that while I was praying for her she was healed of the pain running down from her back into her leg and she was healed from the pain in her shoulder. I can’t say that her healing had anything to do with me – do you understand; it’s up to God.

I am satisfied with having some faith when I pray for people. I know God can heal them and I know it’s not up to me. It also takes the pressure off of me. After all, I can’t heal anyone anyway. The idea that you have to have faith (do the work) in order to be healed is more of a works thing. Healing can’t come from us; it is God that does the healing – faith in your faith is works; it is not “faith in me” or faith in my faith. See my [Faith in God](#) article for more explanation on this. So, we put our little bit of faith in the hands of our gigantic powerful God and at times we get to see the amazing love and power of God.

As we can see, God is a powerful God who is not disconnected from His people and the world. Man said that He can manage things on His own and so we have lots of pain and brokenness in the world. But when we come back to God He is there for us. He loves us and has demonstrated His love for us in the past and still does mighty works for mankind. The Holy Spirit helps us to pray for others; we need the Holy Spirit. God wants to heal and there is no limit to what He can do. Experiencing God is normal for believers. God cares for us and has compassion for man. We should never forget that and we should trust Him and pray with expectation. ‘With God all things are possible,’ (Matthew 19:26) so we should never give up praying and asking God for His help and healing.