

Matthew 8:1-4 – The leper knew Jesus was able, so he asked if he was willing. Others would say, “Have mercy on me,” and every time, Jesus was willing and healed them.

The leper’s humility stands out, for he bowed down before Jesus. Leprosy had no cure, yet the Law had provision for those who are healed (Numbers 5:2; Leviticus 14:1-57). Included in it was a peace and thanks offering plus cleansing.

### 3 – I am willing!

Matthew 8:5-13 – The centurion had humility and faith along with a clear understanding of Jesus’ authority. **Jesus had and has absolute authority over sickness and disease.** Luke 7:1-10 - He had great faith without seeing Jesus.

13 – Jesus did not have “special magic words” that dispelled sickness and disease, no more so than an adult has over a two-year old. The adult exercises his authority numerous ways. **The issue is not a set procedure but unqualified power.**

Matthew 8:14 and 15 – He never saw or touched the centurion’s slave, but Peter’s mother-in-law he touched; hence, there is no set, consistent technique.

16 and 17 – Those who are demon occupied are cared for just like those who are physically sick. Demon possession and sickness are identical in that they afflict people and Jesus has equal authority over both. He is willing to heal all just as was prophesied about him. Jesus constantly did God’s will and was always willing to heal all who came to him. Has Jesus changed?

Jesus had authority over the demons, and they had to obey. The Hollywood nonsense shown in movies is inspired by the devil to prevent godly action by diversionary tactics. These movies promote fear, confusion, or disbelief.

18-22 – Jesus was not impressed by their words of commitment; rather, he confronted them with the reality of discipleship. He was asking to stay with his father until he died. There is only one right time to follow Jesus – NOW!

28-34 – His authority is so dominant that with one word, “go,” they all obeyed. Jesus’ power in comparison to that of demons is obviously much greater. They were in subjection to him then and now even more so.

*The demons cried out but not with a weird science fiction or horror movie voice, rather with the man’s voice. Those listening would think it was the man himself as he would also conclude. A demon speaking through someone is not like dictation or translation where the demon speaks, the person listens, then repeats. The demons influence the thinking of the victim who in turn considers it his own idea and speaks as he always does. They work in the same way that the holy*

*spirit inspires those walking with God. The exception to this maybe is when a medium has a familiar spirit and mimics the voice of a dead person.*

...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him. 1Peter 3:21-22

He [God] brought about in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly *places*, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come. And He put all things in subjection under His feet

Ephesians 1:20-22

Matthew 9:1-8 – Herein we see the connection between sin, forgiveness, and healing. God gave the authority to Jesus who exercised it to forgive and heal.

18-23 – The woman had faith in Jesus. Again, we see there is no set technique, rather faith.

21 – She decided that touching his hem was all that was needed. Many people have been healed but have faith in certain people or things.

to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets, and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. And also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits; and they were all being healed.

Act 5:15-16

And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. Acts 19:11-12

24-26 – Jesus was unflappable, the master of confidence and faith. He was never rocked.

Matthew 17:14-20 – The disciples allowed the circumstances to influence their faith – something Jesus never did. When ministering to others, we must be prepared for the unusual to take place because we have an active devil who knows if he can shake our confidence and faith that we will get derailed.

Matthew 9:27-31 – Their healing was according to their faith (8:13; 9:22; and 15:28).

Faith starts with hearing the Word of God, praying, acting on and confessing the truth even when circumstance present contrary information.

Positive confession or positive affirmations are much better than negative ones. Many motivational books or self-help books focus on this subject. However, we are not talking about self-help, rather God help. Indeed, our confession is positive but much more as it is a confession

of God's truth that He will back up. "*Homologeo*" is declaring the Word of God which is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword.

32-35 – An evil influence was always present to attack Jesus when he did God's will for humanity. Demon possession can also cause physical problems, but not every physical problem is caused by possession.

12:9-21 – The extraordinary authority and power that Jesus consistently manifested convincingly confirm that he is the Christ. The prophets who came before Jesus did some of the same miracles, but no one came close to doing all he did. Some of the miracles no one had done before.

Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He has not lessened in ability or willingness. Hebrews 13:8 – Jesus still heals today if we allow him to do so.



Matthew 9:36-38 – Compassion moved him to send out the 12.

10:1-8 – Jesus gave them authority to act on his behalf as his agent or proxy. The remainder of the chapter clearly indicates that his instruction pertains to far more than this one event.

Luke 10:1-24 – The seventy were given the same authority.

### Power of Attorney

Matthew 8:5 and 6 compare to Luke 7:1-10 – Those who went to Jesus had the power of attorney to speak for the centurion. Matthew records their words as if it were the man himself.

Power of attorney is a legal document that gives someone you choose the power to act in your place.

A health care proxy is a document that lets you appoint another person (a proxy or agent) to express your wishes and make health care decisions for you if you cannot speak for yourself.

Proxy is a person who is given the power or authority to do something (such as to vote) for someone else; power or authority that is given to allow a person to act for someone else.

Jesus gave the apostles and disciples the power of a proxy for him.

Genesis 18:1, 2, 9-20 – Angels serve as Yahweh's proxy with His power and authority, and often speak as if they were He. They use the pronouns like "I" and "me" as if they were God.

Isaiah 1:1, 9-15 – Prophets also serve as Yahweh's substitution, representation, proxy. They speak and act on Yahweh's behalf, and God backs up their words.

John 5:19; 12:49; 14:7-11 – Jesus was God's proxy.

He who receives **you** receives **me**, and he who receives **me** receives **Him** who sent me.  
Matthew 10:40

The one who listens to **you** listens to **me**, and the one who rejects **you** rejects **me**; and he who rejects me rejects the One who sent me." (Luke 10:16)

Jesus was God's proxy (substitute); the apostles and disciples were Jesus' proxy.

The 12 and the 70 had the power of attorney to serve as Jesus' proxy. Since his ascension, we have an even greater connection.

John 14:12-20, 25, and 26 – He now lives in us, and we serve on his behalf. 15:26, 27; 16:12-15

2 Corinthians 5:15-21 – He took our place so that now we can take his place as ambassadors. We are authorized representatives and messengers for Jesus Christ in a “foreign sovereign.”

We have his authority to do the works that he did by his working in us through the holy spirit.

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; 2 Timothy 3:16

For no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God. 2 Peter 1:21

Inspired by God and moved by the holy spirit do not necessarily mean word for word dictation; rather, the spirit worked with their minds to understand what God wanted communicated, and they wrote it out with their vocabulary. God could have increased their vocabulary or spelled the words for them. Sometimes He told them to write things that made no sense to them and perhaps that was line by line.

Jesus always spoke and did God’s will, but he was not a robot or dictation machine. The spirit worked with him. As a healthcare proxy, I was never given exact words rather the desire or concept to represent the person. To have power of attorney implies you know what the principal desires and you carry it out in his stead. We should think of healing others in this way. The person with the power of attorney, the proxy, and the ambassador carry out the desires of the principal within the scope of their own skills inspired by the holy spirit. They are not responsible to back up the principal; rather, the principal backs up them. When I tell people to forgive, pray, turn the other cheek, control their minds..., I am not required to make good on the results; God is. I never heal anyone. Jesus does!

- Are you confident that you are Christ’s ambassador, agent, proxy?
- Are we convinced that God’s will is to heal the person?
- Ask God for guidance, direction.
- Act.
- Do not be put off if the person does not receive what you are inspired to do or say.