

UNDERSTANDING OUR GREAT SALVATION

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PURPOSE:

- The purpose of this course is to equip, activate and release you to become a fully functioning son or daughter of the Kingdom of God. Our desire is to stir you up, so that you become passionate about fulfilling Jesus' commission to His disciples to heal the sick, cleanse the leper, raise the dead, and cast out demons. We want your Kingdom ministry not just be in word only, but in power, for there should be signs to them who believe. Jesus promised that this ministry was to all who believed in Him, that they also would do His works, and even greater works than Him. Part of this is to be convinced in our mind, heart and spirit, of God's will concerning healing, and to be confident to expect it all the time, for all that we pray for.

KEY BIBLE VERSES:

- Matthew 10:1 - *"And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease."*
- "Sickness" = "Nosos" = "Malady, disease, infirmity, sickness" (ie. Things caused by viruses, bacteria, etc.)
- "Disease" = "Malakia" = "Softness, debility, weakness" (ie. Weaknesses of the body, pains)
- James 5:14-15 - *"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save [sozo] the sick ..."*

LESSON OBJECTIVES:

- Define the Greek word "SOZO" and look at scriptural examples where this word is used in the Bible.
- Describe and accept the commission of healing in Matthew 10.
- This lesson examines the scriptural foundation of salvation, rooted in the Greek word SOZO, so that we can recognize the full extent of the gospel (in receiving healing) and of our commission (to minister healing). If we are going to be released into the ministry of praying for the sick, we must have a revelation of the heart of God. We need to know that God's desire is to heal every sick person. The Bible tells us that Jesus was moved with compassion and healed all the sick. He healed every sickness and every disease that people were afflicted with.

¹ Parts of this teaching are taken and modified from: "Healings, Miracles, Signs And Wonders Today 101" by Todd Bentley, © 2004 Fresh Fire Ministries.

LESSON:

- If you really want to be released into a healing ministry, it is important to meditate on these verses daily, until your faith is transformed by these truths. The Bible says that “faith comes ...” How does it come? From hearing the Word of God.
- Romans 10:17, NKJV – *(17) So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

A. OUR CALL TO HEAL ALL THE SICK**1. Jesus Healed Everyone (Matthew 4:24; 8:16; Luke 6:17-19)**

- Matthew 4:24, NIV – *(24) News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralyzed, and he healed them.*
- “He healed them”. Who is “them”? “All who were ill.”
- Matthew 8:16, NIV – *(16) When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick.*
- There are many people recorded in the gospels, who were part of the great multitudes, that Jesus passed by every day and He didn’t heal. But there is not one person recorded in the gospels, who, when they came to Jesus to request healing, that He turned away or didn’t heal. Every time someone came to Jesus and they initiated the request for healing, Jesus healed every last one.
- Today, Jesus still passes by many, because they do not initiate and come to Jesus.
- Luke 6:17-19, NIV – *(17) He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coast of Tyre and Sidon, (18) who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by evil spirits were cured, (19) and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.*
- If we are going to be released into a ministry of healing the sick, we must have a revelation of the heart of God. If we cannot see the will of God in healing, that God will heal all of the sick, then we need to ask ourselves, “Why will God not heal all of the sick?” Because according to the Bible, God can and God does heal all who come to Him. We need to be absolutely convinced of that.
- But instead, we say, “Then what about all of the people today who are not healed? What about them?” And then we allow the experience of what we have seen or not seen in healing, to determine our faith level, so that our faith is based on our experience, not on God’s word. We MUST base our faith on what God has said,

not on what we have seen. None of us understand all of the mysteries of healing, but our faith must be based on God's word, and not on our experience.

- There's only one thing we can be sure of, and that's that God wants to heal. So if a person does not get healed, we may not understand why, but we can know that it was God's will to heal them. Our job is to believe the gospel.
- We know that God doesn't want anyone to go to hell, but many people die in their sins and go to hell. But we don't develop a theology based on our experience, that God wants some people to go to hell. So we need to be as convinced concerning God's will for healing, as we are convinced concerning God's will for salvation.
- We must be willing to accept the fact that, often, "... *They did not receive the things promised ...*" (Hebrews 11:13). We must come to a place where we are willing to not fully understand, but still be obedient to the truth.

2. Jesus Was Moved with Compassion (Matthew 14:14)

- Matthew 14:14, NIV – (14) *When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick.*
- Jesus healed because He had compassion. The foundation of all healing ministry is compassion.

3. The Disciples' Commission To Heal (Matthew 10:1,7-8; Luke 9:1-2,6)

- Jesus healed all the sick, but then decided to pass on the healing ministry to His disciples.
- Matthew 10:1, NIV – (1) *He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.*
- Matthew 10:7-8, NIV – (7) *As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.'* (8) *Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.*
- What sick? Some of the sick, or all of the sick? Heal "the sick".
- Luke 9:1-2, NIV – (1) *When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, (2) and he sent them out to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick. ... (6) *So they set out and went from village to village, preaching the gospel and healing people everywhere.**
- We are told to "heal the sick". What sick? The sick "everywhere". We are waiting to be led by the Spirit to pray for the sick. Jesus told us to go out and heal the sick everywhere.

4. We Are Called To Do The Same Works As Jesus (John 14:12)

- John 14:12, NIV – (12) *I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*

5. Divine Healing Is A Process (Luke 17:12-14)

- Luke 17:12-14, NIV – (12) *As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance (13) and called out in a loud voice, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!" (14) When he saw them, he said, "Go, show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were cleansed.*
- Healing is a process, and so sometimes it takes time for the healing to be manifested. In this case, it was “as they went” they were healed. But it was also as they chose to obey Jesus and do what He said, that they were healed. God’s will was still healing, but the manifestation took a while.
- God doesn’t always promise instantaneous healings. He said you will place your hands on sick people, and they will “recover”. God healed all the sick, but He doesn’t heal all the sick instantly.

6. Miracles Are Instantaneous (John 5:1-9)

- John 5:1-9, NIV – (1) *Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. (2) Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. (3) Here a great number of disabled people used to lie — the blind, the lame, the paralyzed [— and they waited for the moving of the waters.] (4) [From time to time an angel of the Lord would come down and stir up the waters. The first one into the pool after each such disturbance would be cured of whatever disease he had.] (5) One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. (6) When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" (7) "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." (8) Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." (9) At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked. ...*
- A miracle is an “at once” supernatural event. Healing may come quickly or take a bit of time, but miracles are always “at once”.

7. Healing May Require Warring Against Sickness (Matthew 11:12; 9:20-21)

- Sometimes healing is a process, sometimes it is a miracle, and sometimes it is a warring and a contending.
- Matthew 11:12, NIV – (12) *From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it.*

- Matthew 9:20-21, NIV – (20) *Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. (21) She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed."* (22) *Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you."* And the woman was healed from that moment.
- The woman had to get forceful, and aggressive, and push through the crowds to get her healing.

B. UNDERSTANDING “SOZO” – COMPLETE SALVATION

1. SOZO Defined

- When we talk about salvation, or being saved, what does that really mean?
- “SOZO” is the Greek word that is translated “saved”. It is the salvation of the body, soul and spirit at the moment a person gives their life to Christ.
- The word “SOZO” means:
 - “To save one from spiritual death by forgiving their sin, to save one from physical death by healing”
 - “To preserve, make whole, keep safe and sound, rescue from danger or destruction, heal”
 - “To save one from the evils which obstructs from the reception of the Messiah’s deliverance”.
- SOZO (Salvation) is not just giving our lives to Jesus, being forgiven of our sins, being saved from hell and going to heaven.
- Basically, “SOZO” means to deliver you from everything that hinders and obstructs you from receiving the manifestation of everything that is good and heavenly and holy and spiritual and blessed”.

2. SOZO Prophesied

- This kind of salvation was prophesied hundreds of year before Jesus came. This is the kind of salvation that God has always wanted us to have.
- Joel 2:32, NIV – (32) *And everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved; for on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there will be deliverance, as the LORD has said, among the survivors whom the LORD calls.*
- “Saved” = Maw-lat (Hebrew) = to be made smooth, to escape, to release, to rescue, to bring forth young, to deliver, to leap out, to be left alone, to be let go, to preserve, to save

- When we think of salvation, healing and deliverance, we think of 3 different things. When God talks about salvation, He is also talking about healing and deliverance.
- When God talks about salvation (SOZO), He is talking about being made whole; body, soul and spirit.

3. SOZO Fulfilled On The Day Of Pentecost

- Acts 2:16-21, NIV – (16) ... *this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ... (21) And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.*
- So when Peter quoted the prophet Joel, he confirmed that the Hebrew word “maw-lat”, translated as “saved” is the same as the Greek word “sozo”, translated as “saved”, and that it involved deliverance, as well as forgiveness from sins.

4. SOZO For The Spirit: Salvation”

- Matthew 1:21, NIV – (21) *She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save [sozo] his people from their sins.*
- Romans 10:13, NIV – (12) *For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile — the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, (13) for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved [sozo].”*
- Acts 2:47, NIV – (47) ... *And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.*
- Romans 10:9, NIV – (9) *That if you confess with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved [sozo]. (10) For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved [sozo].*

5. SOZO For The Soul: Deliverance

- Luke 8:36, NIV – (36) *Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured [sozo].*

6. SOZO For The Body: Healing

- Mark 5:34, NIV – (34) *He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed [sozo] you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”*
- James 5:15, NIV – (15) *And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well [sozo] the Lord will raise him up. ...*
- Mark 6:56, NIV – (56) *And wherever he went — into villages, towns or countryside — they placed the sick in the marketplaces. They begged him to let them touch even the edge of his cloak, and all who touched him were healed [sozo].*

- Note: God's people are "destroyed for lack of knowledge". So many people in North America are saved in their spirit, but sick in their body and tormented in their soul, because they do not understand what is available for them. We need to start preaching SOZO for the moment of salvation, for body, soul and spirit, and not just for spirit.

C. PROPHETIC IMAGERY

1. Out of Egypt

- Egypt in the Bible is a prophetic symbol that represents the world, sin, bondage and oppression. While in Egypt the Israelites were whipped, beaten, oppressed, abused, and enslaved. The night that they were to come out of Egypt, they first had to slaughter the Passover lamb (representing Jesus), put its blood on their doorposts (representing redemption and forgiveness of sins), and then eat the meat of the lamb (representing receiving Jesus our Saviour into our lives). After that they were allowed to leave Egypt. However, something happened to them after they celebrated the Passover.
- Psalm 105:37, NIV – *(37) He brought out Israel, laden with silver and gold, and from among their tribes no one faltered.*
- Even though they had been oppressed, beaten, abused, and enslaved, after they celebrated the Passover (representing salvation), the Bible says they came out of Egypt laden with riches (representing our new life in Christ), and not even one of them faltered. This means that not even one person was feeble or weak. Therefore, they came out of Egypt healed and free.

2. Experiencing The Cross In The Desert

- Exodus 15:22-26, NIV – *(22) Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea and they went into the Desert of Shur. For three days they traveled in the desert without finding water. (23) When they came to Marah, they could not drink its water because it was bitter. (That is why the place is called Marah.) (24) So the people grumbled against Moses, saying, "What are we to drink?" (25) Then Moses cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood [a tree]. He threw it into the water, and the water became sweet. There the LORD made a decree and a law for them, and there he tested them. (26) He said, "If you listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, who heals you."*
- God said that in Egypt (representing the world) there was sickness. Once they left Egypt (representing bondage), and the Red Sea (representing God's miraculous provision), after 3 days (representing the 3 days that Jesus was in hell and winning our salvation), when they came across bitter water (representing sickness), Moses was to throw the tree (representing the cross) into the bitter water (representing sickness) and the water would turn sweet (representing healing). God said that this was an expression of Him being our healer, and if they would walk in covenantal relationship with God, God would continue to be their healer.

- Deuteronomy 29:5, NIV – *(5) During the forty years that I led you through the desert, your clothes did not wear out, nor did the sandals on your feet.*
- Because they were now in a covenantal relationship with God, God supernaturally provided for them and sustained them.

3. Keep Looking To The Cross

- Numbers 21:4-9, NIV – *(4) They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; (5) they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!" (6) Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. (7) The people came to Moses and said, "We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us." So Moses prayed for the people. (8) The LORD said to Moses, "Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live." (9) So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.*
- When the people grumbled and took their eyes off the Lord, and began to speak against God (vs. 5), they were no longer under the protection of “the Lord who heals you” and they were bitten by the snakes (representing Satan) and many died. When they repented and looked at the pole (representing the cross) where a snake was made and hung (representing Jesus’ victory on the cross over Satan), they were healed. Note that every person (all) who looked at the pole was healed and lived.

D. VICTORY IS MANDATED BECAUSE OF CHRIST

1. The New Covenant Demands Our Healing

- Romans 8:1-2, NIV – *(1) Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, (2) because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.*
- We are redeemed from the curse of the law (the law of sin and death). Instead, we now live under a new law (the law of the Spirit of life) through Christ.
- Under the curse of the law, sin and death always work together. Sickness is the manifestation of physical death, and sin is the manifestation of spiritual death. If you are under the law, you will experience all of the manifestations of the law (sin, sickness, disease, poverty, oppression, etc.)
- But in Christ Jesus there is a new law, the law of the Spirit of life. It also is a law, and so there are consequences of being under the new law, and those consequences include salvation, healing, deliverance, freedom, prosperity, etc. Because it is a law, we are not just free to be healed, there is a law demanding our healing.

2. Stripes For Our Healing

a) Jesus Bore Three Things On The Cross For Us

- Isaiah 53:4-5, NKJV – (4) *Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. (5) But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*
- 1 Peter 2:24, NKJV – (24) *who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness — by whose stripes you were healed.*
- What did Jesus do for us on the cross? He bore and carried three things:
 - i. He has borne our griefs (“khol-ee” = our maladies, our anxieties, our calamities, our diseases, our sicknesses).
 - ii. He has carried our sorrows (“mak-ob” = our anguish, our afflictions, our griefs, our pain, our sorrows).
 - iii. He bore our sins (“hamartia” = sin)
- On the “tree” (the cross) Jesus carried these three things.
- Notice that in Isaiah 53:5, it is “by His stripes we are healed”, but in 1 Peter 2:24 it is “by whose stripes you were healed.” Why? Because Isaiah 53 looked forward to the cross, 1 Peter 2 looks backward to the cross, where our sickness was paid in full.

b) Jesus Suffered For Us For Four Things

- Isaiah 53:5, NKJV – (5) *But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.*
- Jesus suffered for us, so that we would not have to pay the punishment for our sins for ourselves. How did He suffer and what did He suffer for?
 - i. Wounded For Our Sinful Actions
 - He was wounded for our transgressions (“pesha” = revolt, rebellion, sin, transgressions, trespasses – our actions of sin).
 - ii. Bruised For Our Sinful Condition
 - He was bruised for our iniquities (“avon” = perversity, evil, fault, iniquity – our condition of sinfulness)

iii. Disciplined For Our Peace, Prosperity And Wholeness

- The chastisement of (disciplined for) our peace (“shalom” = welfare, peace, prosperity, wholeness) was upon Him.

iv. Whipped For Our Healing

- By His stripes (whip marks) we were healed (“raphe” = mended, cured, healed).

c) Why We Fail To Receive Healing Today

- Isaiah 53:4-5, NKJV – *(4) Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.*

i. God’s Perspective:

- “Surely” He has borne our griefs (our sickness) and our sorrows (our pain).

ii. Our Perspective:

- We “esteem” (think or regard) Him stricken (beaten), smitten (slaughtered) by God, and afflicted (made low). We consider Jesus simply to be beaten and slaughtered and made low as a suffering servant, for our sins.

iii. Our problem is that we only esteem (see) Jesus as a suffering servant, who suffered for our sin and sickness. We do not see Him as a victorious King, who conquered sickness and disease.

3. Forgiveness And Healing Go Together

- Psalm 103:2-3, NIV – *(2) Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits — (3) who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases.*
- Do we have any doubt that Jesus forgives all our sins? No! Then why do we doubt that Jesus heals all of our diseases?
- Isaiah 33:24, NIV – *(24) No one living in Zion will say, "I am ill"; and the sins of those who dwell there will be forgiven.*
- Isaiah tells us that health and forgiveness are both promised for those living in “Zion” (believers / the church).
- Mark 2:3-12, NIV – *(3) Some men came, bringing to him a paralytic, carried by four of them. (4) Since they could not get him to Jesus because of the crowd, they made an opening in the roof above Jesus and, after digging through it, lowered the mat the paralyzed man was lying on. (5) When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven." (6) Now some teachers of the law were sitting there, thinking to themselves, (7) "Why does this fellow talk like that? He's*

blaspheming! Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (8) Immediately Jesus knew in his spirit that this was what they were thinking in their hearts, and he said to them, "Why are you thinking these things? (9) Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk'? (10) But that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins..." He said to the paralytic, (11) "I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home." (12) He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone and they praised God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

- In these three examples, forgiveness and healing are connected together, and go hand in hand. If we can expect complete forgiveness, we can also expect complete healing.

LIFE APPLICATION:

- One of the reasons we do not see the sick healed is because every time we pray for the sick, there is still a part of us that says, "Lord, if it's Your will" or "Lord, if it's Your timing. But somewhere deep inside, these nagging thoughts are really doubts. When you pray for the sick, do you pray with expectation? If not, meditate on God's Word about healing, praying for transformation of your mind until faith rises and destroys all doubt.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's great SOZO provision for you and to show you how He wants you to apply this lesson to your daily life, so that you become more like Jesus in heart, mind and deed.

PRAYER:

- Thank You Jesus that you healed everyone and every sickness and that You're still the same today. I believe that You are still moved with compassion when those You created are sick. Please give me a revelation of Your heart for the sick and poor, and fill me with that same compassion You have. Lord, let the understanding of SOZO, Your covenant with Your people for wholeness in body, soul and spirit, grow deep within my heart. Let that seed grow into radical faith. I pray, too, that You would help me to obey that same commission You gave to Your disciples to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead and cast out demons. With Your help, I choose to walk in radical obedience, and to war against sickness and disease. Thank You that today You are bringing us, Your people, out of Egypt, out of bondage to sickness in body, soul and spirit. I declare to the heavenly realm that You are the God who heals! From now on I choose to live like a believer in Your word of SOZO — salvation, healing, and deliverance, until I see the full manifestation in and through my life. Amen.