

SCHOOL OF HEALING

Chronic and Long-term illness

JUNE



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Get Involved



- Acorn Team will open microphones at the start of the Webinar for guests
- You can choose to turn your microphone on or off
- Depending on your device, you will have the option to turn your video camera on or off

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Acorn School of Healing
August :

School's out for Summer!



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School of Healing #1

September 12th

Healing in the Old Testament /
Is healing in the Atonement?

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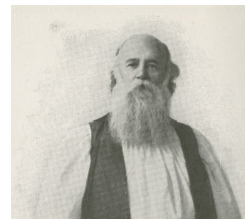
School of Healing #2

September 5th

The Life and Ministry of
John Alexander Dowie
(1847 – 1907)



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Prayer needs:



info@acornchristian.org

DM: @acornchristian



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School of Healing #2



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Programme:

- 10:00: Part 1 - The Challenge
- 10:30: Break
- 10:40: Part 2 - A Different Story : Ministry Issues
- 11:10: Break
- 11:20: Part 3 - Praying for : Partying with
- 11:50: Break
- 12:00: Part 4 - The Ministry of Jesus
- 12:30: Close

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Part One: The Challenge



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This is something of which Jesus was aware:

- Mark 5: Woman with Haemorrhage - 12 years
- Luke 13: Crippled woman - 18 years
- John 5: Invalid man - 38 years
- John 9: Man blind from birth - 12 years at the very least
- Mark 10: Bartimaeus - life-defining

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- Disease that persists for a long time / 3 months+
- Cannot generally be prevented by vaccines or cured by medication and does not just disappear by itself.
- Some can be immediately life threatening e.g. heart disease or stroke.
- Some can linger over time requiring intensive management e.g. diabetes (type 2).
- Some persist throughout a lifetime, but are not necessarily fatal e.g. arthritis.
- Some can often be managed through diet, exercise, lifestyle and medical care - but are some not!

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- Alzheimer's Disease
- Other Dementias
- Neuro-degenerative diseases
- Arthritis
- Asthma
- Cancer
- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease *emphysema/chronic bronchitis*
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Autism
- Eating Disorders
- Heart Disease
- Kidney disease
- Obesity
- Osteoporosis
- Stroke
- Tobacco Use & impacts
- Addictions
- Mobility issues/Back pain
- ME

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- Adjusting to the demands of the illness & the therapy used to treat it
- May bring additional pressures and stress - it may:
 - change the way you practically live
 - change the way you see yourself
 - change the way you relate to others
- Dealing with the emotional impact as well as the physical
- There is often someone else involved - a carer / family

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Ministry: Chronic/Longterm illness



10 Emotions:

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| Helplessness | Anxiety |
| Frustration | Irritability |
| Hopelessness | Tension |
| Sadness | Stress |
| Resentment | Anger |



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A Part Two: A Different Story : Ministry Issues

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What are the issues involved in ministry?

- What is the response of the church?
- What should be the response of the church?
- How do we minister with wisdom, and yet also faith?
- What happens when the church prays, but there is no immediate change?

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Dealing with issues of faith:

Psalm 42

- 1 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.
- 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?
- 3 My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?"
- 4 These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.

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Dealing with issues of faith:

- 5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.
- 6 My soul is downcast within me; therefore I will remember you from the land of the Jordan, the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.
- 7 Deep calls to deep in the roar of your waterfalls; all your waves and breakers have swept over me.
- 8 By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me— a prayer to the God of my life.

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- 9 I say to God my Rock, "Why have you forgotten me? Why must I go about mourning, oppressed by the enemy?"
- 10 My bones suffer mortal agony as my foes taunt me, saying to me all day long, "Where is your God?"
- 11 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.

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- How did the church respond initially? What happened?
- What happened to the church when healing was not forthcoming?
- What did it feel like for you as the person who was ill, and for the person caring for you?
- What would have been helpful?
- Were you aware of how the church's ethos and theology shaped their response; initially and then after there was no immediate answer?
- How do you see faith and the faithfulness of God?

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2 Stories

- Wesley
- Lake



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Part Three: Praying for : Praying with

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Dealing with issues of faith

- Why God?
- Why me - what have I done to deserve this?
- Why haven't You answered me?
- Why is this taking so long?
- Is this too hard for God?
- The will of God

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Peter Scazzero - "Emotionally Healthy Church"

- 'losses unattended to over time, prevent us from entering into walking freely with God and others'
- 'pay attention to the pain'
- 'wait in the confusing in-between'

This is also part of the ministry - journeying together over the hurdles

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Dealing with significant pastoral issues:

- Time consuming
- Requires perseverance
- The challenge of immediate result
- Discerning Imperceptible changes
- Non-condemnatory
- Discerning the root
- Promises you cannot make - promises you can

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Dealing with significant pastoral issues:

- Exhausted hope v expectant faith
- Prayer fatigue
- Past unhelpful ministry and disappointments
- Emotion - a sense of loss
- Picking the right moments
- Setbacks may come

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Praying for / praying with:

- Ask how far am I prepared to go with this?
- Should I start to be involved?
- Do not jump to the obvious conclusion that you understand the problem
- Becomes a multi-layered reality
- Listen to their story
- Hear the Spirit of the law as well as the letter
- Pray for what you have joy for - a sign of the presence of faith
- You have to be more focused - words build or destroy

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How can the church develop a better praxis

- Make compassion the central ingredient - make your love tangible
- Being willing to just journey with people whatever the outcome
- Pray about other stuff too!
- Keep on blessing
- Do your blessing with the person - do your battling elsewhere

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- Do 'normal' life as well as clinic moments
- Do not forget family/others in your prayer moments
- Let the person make their own decision about ministry
- Disappointment and your face
- Keep faith without naïveté - or presumption
- Feed your faith - worship, scripture, stories.
- A high anthropology but a higher Christology

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Part Four: The Ministry of Jesus

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This is something of which Jesus was aware:

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Luke 13: Crippled woman - 18 years

John 5: Invalid man - 38 years

John 9: Man blind from birth - 12 years at the very least

Mark 10: Bartimaeus - life-defining

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Mark 5: Woman with Haemorrhage - 12 years

- suffered under the medical practice of the day
- spent all her resources on seeking a cure - presumably she began with resources that she no longer had
- the condition not only did not improve but became worse
- would have been regarded as socially and spiritually unclean
- carrying a degree of shame and guilt for her action in touching Jesus

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Luke 13: Crippled woman - 18 years

- Possibly Kyphosis - bent forward/unable to stand straight
- 'infirmary' - caused in this case by a spirit (bondage v16)
- she immediately 'began praising God'
- Jesus calls her a daughter of Abraham - why? - the attitude of others? herself?
- The sabbath issue v14/16 - a religious spirit?

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John 5: Invalid man - 38 years

- Location - 'a place for invalids - blind, lame, and paralysed' - a hospice/sanatorium?
- Abandoned - 'I have no one to help me' (v7)
- In this case linked to the man's sin (v14)
- Jesus acts without the man being aware of who Jesus is - this is utterly a 'grace' moment - he does not follow Jesus afterward
- Jesus says 'This is the Father's work' (v17) - this mattered to the Father!!

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John 9: Man blind from birth

- 12 years at the very least probably more "Ask him he is of age" (v21/23 - parents)
- This man has never seen - ever!
- Spit and mud and a washing! (v6)
- Never been done before! (v32)
- Man finds faith in Jesus (v38)
- The challenge concerning the source (10:21)

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Mark 10: Bartimaeus - life defining

- Based on the man himself exercising faith
- Based on a cry for mercy, met with compassion
- The man asks - Jesus declares it so
- Jesus says 'You can leave now' - the man says 'I want to stay with you!'
- He follows Jesus into Jericho - perhaps even to the Cross?

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Mark 9: A father's son

- like this from childhood; a distinct period to this very moment
- It might have looked like 'epilepsy' but there is a malevolent and evil spirit behind this (v20)
- Jesus casts it out - rebukes (forbids it to act) / orders it to come out (to depart)
- The 'boy' looked dead - Jesus takes him by the hand and lifts him up.

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Coffee Pods

6 part series podcast in June
inspire - enable - explore

The BIG questions on Christian Healing.
Details: www.acornchristian.org