

Luke 17:14, NASB – “... And it came about that as they were going, they were cleansed.”

WORKS THAT RESULTED IN THE LEPERS’ HEALING

1. Faith With The “Work” Of Obedience
 - Consequences: possible public retaliation and rejection
 2. Faith With The “Work” Of Forgiveness
 - All 10 put aside the offenses of the past, and they humbled themselves, forgave the priest, and offered him a gift
- Matthew 6:21, NIV – “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”
- Giving a gift [a treasure] to someone who has offended you, is an outward manifestation of the forgiveness in your heart.

3. Faith With The Work Of Gratefulness

Luke 17:15-19, NASB – (15) Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, (16) and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. (17) And Jesus answered and said, “Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine -- where are they? (18) “Was no one found who turned back to give glory to God, except this foreigner?” (19) And He said to him, “Rise, and go your way; your faith has made you well.”

- The other nine were all cleansed of their disease, but one received something even more
- “Made you well” (Greek) = “completely saved and whole in every area” - KJV - not just “healed”, but completely “whole”

RELEASING GOD’S BLESSINGS THROUGH FAITH WITH WORKS

- Have the offenses in your past become insurmountable obstacles in your present, and are they hindering God’s purposes for your future?
- God wants to pour out His abundant blessings upon your life, but He can only bless you according to the level of your faith.
- Faith is not just measured by the confession of your mouth, it’s measured by the level of your obedience, the depth of your forgiveness, and the sincerity of your gratefulness.

BIBLICAL FAITH PRINCIPLES

3 - Faith With Works

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FAITH NEEDS “WORKS”

James 2:14, NASB – *What use is it, my brethren, if a man says he has faith, but he has no works? Can that faith save him?*

James 2:20, NASB – *But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?*

- Foolish fellow (Greek) = “kenos” = “empty man”
- Useless faith (Greek) = “argos” = “inactive or idle”

James 2:21-22, NASB – (21) *Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? (22) You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected.*

- Perfected (Greek) = “teleioo” = “brought to an end, completed, perfected”
- James 2:26, NASB – “For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.”

- Dead (Greek) = “nekros” = “dead”, “without life”

FAITH NEEDS THE RIGHT KIND OF WORKS

- Faith needs our obedience, faith needs our ears, faith needs our forgiveness.

FAITH NEEDS FORGIVENESS

- God’s blessings on our life are contingent on the level of our faith
- One of the greatest expressions of faith, is forgiveness
- “The level of your faith is at the level of your forgiveness.”
- Faith and forgiveness together are imperative to unlocking God’s blessings on your life.

FORGIVENESS AS A LIFESTYLE

Matthew 18:21-22, NIV – “Then Peter came and said to Him [Jesus], ‘Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to seven times?’ Jesus said to him, ‘I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven.’”

FORGIVENESS AND FAITH

Luke 17:1, NASB - *And He said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks [offenses] should come ..."*

- "Stumbling block" (Greek) = "Skandalon"
- "A snare, a trap, a stumbling block, an offense"

Luke 17:3-4, NRSV – *"Be on your guard! If another disciple sins, you must rebuke the offender, and if there is repentance, you must forgive. And if the same person sins against you seven times a day, and turns back to you seven times and says, 'I repent', you must forgive."*

Luke 17:5, NIV – *"The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!'"*

- To forgive, we must have faith that:
- God will redeem the situation
- God will balance the books, so that we don't have to try
- What was done to us will be used by God for our benefit
- God will vindicate us, at the right time
- Biblical faith leaves the life of the offender, and the one being offended, firmly and solely in God's hands

FORGIVENESS AND HEALING

1. The 10 Lepers Ask For Mercy For Healing

Luke 17:11-19, NASB – (11) *And it came about while He [Jesus] was on the way to Jerusalem, that He was passing between Samaria and Galilee. (12) And as He entered a certain village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; (13) and they raised their voices, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" (14) And when He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." (15) And it came about that as they were going, they were cleansed. (16) Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice, (16) and he fell on his face at His feet, giving thanks to Him. And he was a Samaritan. (17) And Jesus answered and said, "Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine -- where are they? (18) "Was no one found who turned back to give glory to God, except this foreigner?" (19) And He said to him, "Rise, and go your way; your faith has made you well."*

Matthew 8:2-3, NASB – *"And behold, a leper came to Him, and bowed down to Him, saying, 'Lord, if You are willing, You can make me clean.' And He stretched out His hand and touched him, saying, 'I am willing; be cleansed.' And immediately his leprosy was cleansed."*

2. Jesus Sends The Unhealed Lepers To The Priest

- Jesus didn't pray for the lepers
- Verse 14 - *"Go and show yourselves to the priests"*

3. Jewish Laws Concerning Leprosy

a) When Leprosy Is Discovered

Leviticus 13:2-3, NASB – *"When a man has on the skin of his body a swelling or a scab or a bright spot, and it becomes an infection of leprosy on the skin of his body, then he shall be brought to Aaron the priest, or to one of his sons the priests. And the priest shall look at the mark on the skin of the body, and if the hair in the infection has turned white and the infection appears to be deeper than the skin of his body, it is an infection of leprosy; when the priest has looked at him, he shall pronounce him unclean."*

b) When Leprosy Is Healed

Leviticus 14:2-4, NASB – *"This shall be the law of the leper in the day of his cleansing. Now he shall be brought to the priest, and the priest shall go out to the outside of the camp. Thus the priest shall look, and if the infection of leprosy has been healed in the leper, then the priest shall give orders to take two live clean birds and cedar wood and a scarlet string and hyssop for the one who is to be cleansed."*

Leviticus 14:10-13, NIV – *"On the eighth day he must bring two male lambs and one ewe lamb a year old, each without defect, along with three-tenths of an ephah of fine flour mixed with oil for a grain offering, and one log of oil. The priest who pronounces him clean shall present both the one to be cleansed and his offerings before the LORD at the entrance to the Tent of Meeting. Then the priest is to take one of the male lambs and offer it as a guilt offering, along with the log of oil; he shall wave them before the LORD as a wave offering. He is to slaughter the lamb in the holy place where the sin offering and the burnt offering are slaughtered. Like the sin offering, the guilt offering belongs to the priest; it is most holy." (see also verses 14 to 32)*

4. What If You Were A Leper?

5. The Price Of Healing - Forgiveness

- Verse 14 - *"Go and show yourselves to the priests"*