

**WYT2608HF Christian Healing:
From Early Church to Alternative Therapies**

SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. David A. Reed, Professor Emeritus of Pastoral Theology and Research Professor

WELCOME

Welcome to this course on “Christian Healing: From Early Church to Alternative Therapies.” It is listed here as a theology course but may be taken in history or pastoral as well. I hope you find the learning experience of working online to be both enjoyable and worthwhile. I look forward to sharing this course with you.

PERSONAL INTRODUCTION

I was introduced to Christian healing as a child, having been reared in the Pentecostal tradition in New Brunswick. After a brief teaching career at New Brunswick Institute of Technology, at age 26 my wife and I became Episcopalians while studying in Rhode Island. Following ordination, I pastored for 18 years in Massachusetts and Connecticut. In 1987 I joined the faculty of Wycliffe College in Pastoral Theology and as Director of Field Education.

Somewhat to my own surprise, my doctoral work on a Pentecostal topic has led to a continuing and broader involvement in Pentecostal-charismatic studies. That in part explains my personal interest in this course, as well as the reason why I give the Pentecostal-charismatic movement more attention within what is surely a much broader and equally worthy topic of healing. I would only add that the global Pentecostal-charismatic phenomenon has been in our time a major factor in the openness to, as well as skepticism of, the viability of spiritual or “divine” healing in the church today.

DESCRIPTION

This is a survey course combining historical and theological-praxis themes. Though there is a concentration on the 19th and 20th centuries, we will begin much earlier. As a course in Christian healing, we first locate healing within its biblical framework, particularly the ministry of Jesus and the early church. We then catch a glimpse of specific practices and trends in the church’s history that help us understand the place of healing in our own time.

We then turn to the theological and practical expressions of Christian healing in the church. Particular attention will be given to the 19th century, the Pentecostal and later charismatic healing movements, the practice of healing—including sacramental and

liturgical approaches— in mainline churches, and the challenge of recent alternative therapies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

1. the healing ministry of Jesus and the early church, and the theological perspective that attended them;
2. certain healing practices in the history of the church, especially the use of relics in the early Catholic period and the Protestant Puritan spiritual practices, the waning of healing in the wake of the Enlightenment, and its revival in the 19th century;
3. the theology and practice of healing in Pentecostalism, as well as its formative roots in the 19th century Holiness movement;
4. the various trajectories of the mid-century healing evangelists, healing in the charismatic movement, inner healing, signs and wonders, and deliverance ministry;
5. the relationship of Christian healing to the emerging new alternative therapies.

READING

Ronald A. N. Kydd, *Healing Through the Centuries: Models of Understanding* (Hendrickson, 1998)

Other readings will be available online or in a Reading Packet that will be available for purchase through Wycliffe College. Any additional books you may wish to purchase can be ordered by calling Crux Books, 416-599-2749 or email at: crux_books@hotmail.com

ASSIGNMENTS and GRADING

1. Complete the assigned readings each week.
2. Submit six (6) 500-700 word reflection papers based on the weekly assignments; you choose six (not including the first one, Session #1) except: *two* must be selected from assignments *before* Reading Week (the other four may be selected from any of the remaining assignments).
DUE: Two (2) by Friday, October 24, posted by 12 midnight. You are encouraged to submit the **remaining four** as you complete them. But they are **finally due by Friday, December 12, posted by 12 midnight.** 40%
3. Write a 5-page book review of a book by a healing practitioner. 20%
DUE: Friday, October 24, posted by 12 midnight
4. Write a final 10-12 page essay on a topic of your choice, in consultation with the professor. 30%
DUE: Friday, December 12, posted by 12 midnight
5. Class participation. 10%

6. A Bulletin Board will be made available for interaction with members of the class. This will count as your class participation. I ask only that each person be courteous in your contributions and exchanges.

COURSE CONTENT

Week of:

Sept. 8 Introduction

Sept. 15 Healing in Scripture

Readings:

R. Kydd, *Healing through the Centuries*:

“Introduction,” xv-xxxi

“Jesus the Healer,” 1-17

Max Turner, *The Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts*, chap. 14, “Gifts of Healing in the New Testament,” 240-60

Sept. 22 Historical—The Early Centuries

Readings:

Kydd, *Healing through the Centuries*:

“The Early Years,” 19-33

“Relics and Blessing: Bones of Blessing,” 117-29

“The Intercessory Model: Saints on High,” 63-81

James E. Bradley, “Miracles and Martyrdom in the Early Church: Some Theological and Ethical Implications,” Harold Hunter and Peter D. Hocken, eds., *All Together in One Place: Theological Papers from the Brighton Conference on World Evangelization*, 227-41

Augustine, *City of God*, Book XXII, chap. 8

Sept. 29 Historical—Post-Reformation and Enlightenment

Readings:

Michael MacDonald, “Religion, Social Change, and Psychological Healing in England, 1600-1800,” in W. J. Sheils, ed., *The Church and Healing: Papers Read at the 20th Summer Meeting and 21st Winter Meeting of the Ecclesiastical History Society*, 1982, 101-25

Richard B. Gaffin, Jr., “A Cessationist View,” *Are Miraculous Gifts for Today? Four Views*, 25-64

Jon Ruthven, “Answering the Cessationists’ Case Against Continuing Spiritual Gifts,” *Pneuma Review* 3/2 (Spring 2000)

<http://www.pneumafoundation.com/resources/articles/answers2.pdf>

Oct. 6 Pre-Pentecostal Healing Movement—19th Century Roots

Readings:

Donald Dayton, chapter 5, “The Rise of the Divine Healing Movement,” *Theological Roots of Pentecostalism*, 115-41

Ronald Kydd, chapter 3, “J. C. Blumhardt: ‘Jesus Is Victor!’” *Healing Through the Centuries*, 34-45

R. J. Cunningham, “From Holiness to Healing: 1872-1892,” *Church History* 43 (December 1974): 499-513

Jonathan R. Baer, “Redeemed Bodies: The Functions of Divine Healing in Incipient Pentecostalism,” *Church History* 70/4 (December 2001): 735-771

Oct. 13 Pentecostal Healing Teaching and Practice

Readings:

Malcolm Taylor, “A Historical Perspective on the Doctrine of Divine Healing,” *EPTA Bulletin* XIV (1995): 54-84 [in UK]

David Petts, “Healing and the Atonement,” *EPTA Journal* XII (1993): 23-37

Wilkinson, John. “Physical Healing and Atonement,” *The Evangelical Quarterly* 63/2 (April 1991): 149-167

Oct. 20 Reading Week

Oct. 27 Salvation Healing Movement

Readings:

David Harrell, chapter 3, “Two Giants,” *All Things Are Possible*, 25-52

Richard Riss, “The Latter Rain Movement of 1948,” *Pneuma* 4/1 (Spring 1982): 32-45

Henry H. Knight, III, “God’s Faithfulness and God’s Freedom: A Comparison of Contemporary Theologies of Healing,” *JPT* 2 (April 1993): 65-89

Nov. 3 Charismatic Healing and Deliverance Ministries

Readings:

Max Turner, chapter 19, “Healing Today,” *Holy Spirit and Spiritual Gifts*, 329-46

Linda Malia, “A Fresh Look at a Remarkable Document: *Exorcism: The Report of a Commission Convened by the Bishop of Exeter*,” *Anglican Theological Review* 83/1 (Winter 2001): 65-88

- David W. Van Gelder, "A Case of Demon Possession," *Journal of Pastoral Care*, LXI/2 (June 1987): 151-61
- James Wright, "Profiles of Divine Healing: Third Wave Theology Compared with Classical Pentecostal Theology," *Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies* 5/2 (2002): 271-287

Nov. 10 Inner Healing

Readings:

- Francis MacNutt, chapters 11-13, *Healing*, 129-54
- Charles Hummel, chapter 10, "Inner Healing," *Fire in the Fireplace: Charismatic Renewal in the Nineties*, IVP, 1993, 159-177, 300-301 [footnotes]
- "Inner Healing," PsychoHeresy Awareness Ministries
<http://www.psychoheresy-aware.org/inner82.html>
- "Inner Healing/Healing of Memories: Christian Or Occult?" Biblical Discernment Ministries
<http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/Psychology/inheal.htm>
- De Arteaga, William D. "Agnes Sanford: Apostle of Healing, and First Theologian of the Charismatic Renewal," Paper read at 2002 Meeting of the Society for Pentecostal Studies

Nov. 17 Ecclesial/Liturgical/Sacramental Healing

Readings:

- Morris Maddocks, "Part Two: Healing in the Church," *The Christian Healing Ministry*, 97-160. 224-27
- Robert Bruce Mullin, "The Debate over Religion and Healing in the Episcopal Church: 1870-1930," *Anglican and Episcopal History* LX/2 (June 1991): 213-235

Nov. 24 Healing and Positive Confession Theology

Readings:

- Geir Lie, "The Theology of E. W. Kenyon: Plain Heresy or Within the Boundaries of Pentecostal-Charismatic 'Orthodoxy'?" *Pneuma* 22/1 (Spring 2000): 85-114
- Keith Warrington, "Healing and Kenneth Hagin, *Asian Journal of Pentecostal Studies* 3/1 (2000): 119-138
<http://www.aps.edu/ajps/00-1/00-1KWarrington.pdf>
- Thomas Smail, Andrew Walker and Nigel Wright, "'Revelation Knowledge' and Knowledge of Revelation: The Faith Movement and the Question of Heresy," *JPT* 5 (October 1994): 57-77

Dec. 1 Healing and Alternative Therapies

Readings:

Karla Poewe, chapter 11, “Rethinking the Relationship of Anthropology to Science and Religion,” *Charismatic Christianity as Global Experience*, 234-58

Sharon Fish, “Therapeutic Touch—Healing Science or Psychic Midwife?” *Christian Research Journal* (Summer 1995)

<http://www.equip.org/free/DN395.htm>

<http://www.watchman.org/touchpro.htm>

Walter Hollenweger, chapter 11, “A Plea for a Theologically Responsible Syncretism,” and chapter 18, “Signs and Wonders,”

Pentecostalism: Origins and Developments Worldwide, 132-41, 228-45

David A. Reed, “Christian Healing: Therapeutic Touch and the Church’s Healing Ministry” ” (Unpublished paper)

CONTACT

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