

*The Lord is gracious,
and full of compassion;
slow to anger,
and of great mercy.
The Lord is good to all:
and his tender mercies
are over all his works.*

—PSALM 145:8,9

"The Lord's Compassion" is the title of one chapter in F.F. Bosworth's classic book on healing, *Christ the Healer*.¹ He begins the chapter with these words:

In the study of the Lord's compassion, we have, to my mind, a complete revelation of the Lord's willingness to heal. During His earthly ministry He was everywhere *moved with compassion*, and healed all "them that had need of healing"; and it is "this same Jesus" who, after saying, "It is expedient for you that I go away," is now seated at the right hand of God, "that He might be a merciful (compassionate) and faithful High Priest" for us.

The same Hebrew and Greek words in the Old and New Testaments are translated both "mercy" and "compassion." The Greek word translated "merciful" in Hebrews 2:17 can also be translated "compassionate."

HEBREWS 2:17

17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God . . .

He has lost none of His compassion. He is still the same compassionate Lord there at the right hand of the Father as He was when He walked the earth. No wonder we can by Him enter the very throne room of God and gain audience (Heb. 4:14-16).

Thank God, He is gracious and full of compassion now. He is full of mercy now. To have compassion is to *love tenderly, to pity, to show mercy, to be full of eager yearning*. Thank God, He is all of that now.

Bosworth comments on Psalm 145:8,9 as follows:

These sentiments concerning the nature of God are expressed over and over throughout the Scriptures. God is not anything so much as He is Love. The most conspicuous statements in the Scriptures about our heavenly Father are the declarations concerning His love, His mercy, His compassion.

the lord's compassion

by Kenneth E. Hagin



This is a side of God many have never seen. It really hasn't been preached as it should have been. Too often we have preached and emphasized another side of God—which actually is not like Him at all.

In the natural world we hear people ask about politicians, sports heroes, television personalities, and so on, "What is So-and-so really like?" I think if we'd ask ourselves the question, "What is God really like?" and we'd be honest with ourselves, it would be amazing what foolish ideas we have—or how we have been religiously brainwashed and have not received the true concept of what God is actually like.

Jesus is God manifested in the flesh. Jesus said, "*He that hath seen me hath seen the Father*" (John 14:9). If you want to know what God is actually like, all you have to do is look at Jesus. If you want to listen to God speaking, just listen to Jesus. For He said, "*The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself . . .*" If you want to see God at work, look at Jesus. He said, "*. . . the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.*"

And what did Jesus do? The Bible says that He "*went about doing good, and healing . . .*" (Acts 10:38). The good the Bible talks about here is healing. "*. . . who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil . . .*" Why did He do it? "*. . . for God was with him.*"

disposed to show favors

Many times in talking about healing and miracles and so on, we have magnified the power of God more than His compassion. We have

magnified His power more than the fact that the exceeding greatness of His power is "*to usward who believe*" (Eph. 1:19). We have left off magnifying His mercy, His grace, His love. Thank God for His power, but Jesus didn't heal the sick just to demonstrate His power. We have left that impression. No, again and again the Bible says, and we will get to some of these verses later, that He had compassion on them. He healed them because of His compassion. He healed them because of His mercy.

Bosworth points out that this statement in Psalm 145:8, "the Lord is gracious," means "He is disposed to show favors." Thank God, He is! "This glorious fact," Bosworth goes on, "that shines with such brilliancy throughout the Scriptures, has been so eclipsed by modern theology that we hear everywhere, the Lord is *able*, instead of, the Lord is *gracious*."

We hear Pentecostal, Full Gospel people who believe in divine healing saying, "The Lord is able," instead of saying, "The Lord is gracious, ready to bestow His favor."

We ought never say, "The Lord is able." Everybody knows that—even the devil.

We ought to say, "The Lord is gracious. The Lord is full of mercy. He is ready to bestow His favor. He is disposed to show favors."

When you know the Lord is gracious, you have no trouble concerning His willingness. The very fact that He is gracious, that He is disposed to show favors, that He is

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full of compassion, that He is full of mercy reveals His willingness.

How much faith does it take to say, "The Lord is able"?

The devil knows that God is able. He also knows that God is willing—but he has kept people from knowing it. He doesn't care for them knowing that God is able. He knows that is not sufficient basis for faith. But he knows the Lord's compassion and willingness is—so he tries to keep people from finding out that God is willing to heal them.

Often I have asked people in healing lines, "Will you be healed when I lay hands on you?" Too many times, folks would tune up and start crying and say, "I sure hope so, Brother Hagin." I knew right away they did not know about His mercy and His willingness.

Sometimes people would say, "I know He is able."

Let's stop and analyze that. I would rather doubt His ableness than to doubt His willingness. I would rather God just could not do it, that He just did not have the power, that He just was not able, than to doubt that He could do it and was not willing. What kind of a Father would He be then?

Jesus who came to portray the Father to us said, *"If you then, being evil (natural), know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?"* (Matt. 7:11).

How much more! Those words send a thrill through my spirit. How many parents have worked and sacrificed so their children could obtain a better education than they had, so it would be better for them in life than what they had? We're just that way, aren't we? How many parents have as their will that their children go through life sick and afflicted, bedridden, poverty stricken, nose-to-the-grindstone, living on Barely-Get-Along Street way down at the end of the block right next to Grumble Alley? I dare say not a one of you reading this article. Well, what Jesus is saying is that if you being natural parents know how to give good gifts to your children, *how*

much more will your heavenly Father give good things unto them that ask Him?

One of those good things is healing. Jesus went about doing *good* and *healing* (Acts 10:38). Healing is a good thing.

We used to say in the denomination I was in, "God is able. He can do anything. He is All-Power. BUT—it might not be His will. God could heal me if he wanted to—BUT it might not be His will to heal me."

A leper who came to Jesus said, "If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean" (Matt. 8:2). He believed that Jesus could do it. But he didn't get healed just by believing Jesus was able to heal him.

Jesus settled the issue. Jesus said, "I will; be thou clean."

Jesus is God speaking. I like to say it like this: God said, "I will." Jesus never did say, I won't, because God never did say, I won't. He always said, "I will."

So let's stop saying He is able. We all know that. Let's begin to say *He is willing*.

He delighteth in mercy

MICAH 7:18

18 Who is a God like unto thee, that pardoneth iniquity, and passeth by the transgression of the remnant of his heritage? he retaineth not his anger for ever, because he delighteth in mercy.

God delights in mercy! Feed on these Scriptures until they get down into your inner-consciousness—that is when they will change your life. Here we have His attitude more fully expressed:

2 CHRONICLES 16:9

9 For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole world. Why? To show Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him. This text shows our Lord is not only willing, but *eager* to pour out His blessing in great profusion upon all who make it possible for Him to do so. The eyes of the Lord run to and fro! He's looking for somebody to

bless! Just out looking for them! Bosworth says, "He is ever hunting for the opportunity to gratify His benevolent heart because He delighteth in mercy."

In the summer of 1951 I was preaching a campmeeting for the Assemblies of God. One night, just as I finished my sermon, the word of the Lord came unto me saying (as a man was pointed out to me), "That man is a sinner. He has a double hernia. Call him out and tell him if he will come down here you will lay hands on him and both of his hernias will disappear instantly."

I pointed out the man and said, "You sir, step out into the aisle." He did. Then I said, "The Lord shows me that you are a sinner."

He spoke right out and said, "You've got it right so far, boy."

I said, "The Lord shows me you have a double hernia or rupture."

He said, "You're right again."

I said, "He told me to tell you if you'd come down here both your hernias will disappear instantly when I lay hands on you."

He didn't wait. I never saw a fellow take such long steps. Immediately, almost, he stood before me.

Now I will stop long enough to tell you something else. The presbyter of this section for the Assemblies was also pastor of the church in this man's hometown. He told me afterwards, "When you pointed out that fellow I didn't even know he was in the meeting. I thought, *Oh my, doesn't Brother Hagin know who he is? He's the worst man in our town. He's so vile decent people won't have anything to do with him. He's the worst sinner in our city and everybody knows it.* I said to myself, *God won't heal him. He sure missed it.* About that time you said, 'God shows me you are a sinner.' When you mentioned those hernias, I knew about it. His wife is a member of our church. I knew that two operations had failed to correct them."

I called for three ministers to examine the man. They could feel the ruptures. Then I laid hands on him. Then I asked those ministers to take him into the prayer room behind the

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platform and examine him. The ministers said, "We can't find them. They're gone!"

Somebody said, "How come God to heal that old sinner?"

He's looking for somebody to help. He wants to display His mercy. That was a revelation of the grace of God to the whole crowd. The Lord is gracious. If it had been us, we wouldn't have done it. But a night or two later, the fellow came and was saved. Then he was filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues.

The man joined the church where his wife was a member. And his pastor, the presbyter, told me later, "Just as that fellow was 100% for the devil, he is now 100% for God. He puts more money in this church than any three or four men. He's won more souls. He's done more praying. He does more work than all the other men in the church put together."

I challenge you to do something. (Now don't do it just because I tell you to—it won't work for you to say, "I believe I'll try that.") Get into the Word of God. Get into the Bible. Study these Scriptures and others along the same line. Then once you become enlightened (it won't work until you do become enlightened), if you need help, just throw yourself over on His mercy. I challenge you to just throw yourself over on His grace and see what happens.

I'll tell you what will happen—He will meet you! Because He is the same compassionate Lord today that He was then. Jesus Christ is no different now than He was in His earth walk. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb.13:8)!

Tomorrow He will be the same. He never changes. So let's settle it in our minds that when it comes to healing, God is not only able, BUT HE IS ALSO WILLING!

He is full of compassion. Full! If a glass of water is full to the brim, it is impossible to get anything else into the glass. If it is full, there's no room for anything else. He is full of compassion!

He is slow to anger. Aren't you glad! If He was not slow to anger, we would all be in a mess. He is slow to anger and of great mercy. When I think how the Lord is so full of compassion, of such great mercy, slow to anger, it so floods my heart with His tender love until I am able myself to endeavor to help the sick, to have that same yearning. After all, God works through us. If we are close to the Lord we will have the same thing He has. The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts and that same yearning to reach out to help people. I know we don't all have the same ministry. But we ought to have the same love and compassion that God has.

His mercy in healing

God's compassion in the area of healing is just as real as His mercy in connection with the forgiveness of sin. It has been emphasized that God is full of compassion and mercy toward the sinner—that He invites the sinner to come to Him and be saved. How strange that some will say, "God's mercy relative to the sinner is the same it has always been. But His mercy relative to the sick is not the same. That part of His nature has changed." No, it has not!

One fellow, supposedly a minister, said, "In the Old Testament God did heal. His mercy was revealed in healing people. But He doesn't do that now."

Absurd! We are living under a better covenant that has better promises (Heb. 8:6). God should be as real to us as He was to them—more real, in fact. Just because we live under the new covenant doesn't mean that God changed. His nature is just the same now as it was then. He is the same compassionate Lord now that He was then. How long does His compassion last?

PSALM 103:17

17 But the mercy (compassion) of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him . . .

The word "fear" here means a reverential trust. His compassion is from everlasting to everlasting, not upon sinners alone, but upon them that trust Him.

PSALM 103:13

13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him.

One definition of compassion is to have pity. The Lord has compassion upon those who reverence and trust Him. Hallelujah!

PSALM 103:11

11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.

How high is His mercy? As high as the heaven is above the earth! That's a great expanse. So great is His mercy toward them that fear Him. We have preached that to the sinner—and it is so toward the sinner—but it is true concerning the sick Christian as well! The sick Christian can say like Solomon:

2 CHRONICLES 6:14

14 . . . O Lord God of Israel, there is no God like thee in the heaven, nor in the earth; which keepest covenant, and shewest mercy unto thy servants, that walk before thee with all their hearts:

The sick Christian can be assured that:

PSALM 25:10

10 All the paths of the Lord are mercy and

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