

**THE HEALING OF
CHRIST IN
HIS CHURCH**

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The Healing of Christ in His Church by James Moore Hickson

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JAMES MOORE HICKSON

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HIS CHURCH**

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

**The
Healing of Christ
In
His Church**

JAMES MOORE HICKSON

**Author of
The Revival of the
Gifts of Healing**



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INTRODUCTION

It is apparent on all sides that there is a gradual awakening in many hearts to the truth of the Healing Presence of Christ in His Church. Many are seeking the truth and longing for healing, and those who are seeking it in Christ Himself, who is the Truth, are finding the fulfilment of God's promises: "Seek and ye shall find: knock and it shall be opened unto you." "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled." I believe that God has much to teach us in the life of His Son Jesus Christ, and in the truth of His Presence in our midst, and this little book is sent out, with the consciousness of many imperfections and shortcomings, yet with the earnest desire that with God's blessing it may bring to the Church a helpful message of the Healing Presence of Christ. It is my great desire to see the Church, under the guidance of her Bishops, carrying on once more this part of her mission as the instrument of our Lord's Ministry of Healing, and I feel the great importance of the first steps. There are many rays of truth presented to the world at the present time, and the tendency is to accept this way or that as the whole truth. The whole truth is in Christ alone. He who is Truth and Light of Light gathers up all rays of light and truth in Himself, for all come from Him and all lead back to Him.

TO VINU ANSONIA

INTRODUCTION

If the Church will approach this subject from the spiritual side, she will find in Christ the source of all healing, and as the Church yields herself in renewed faith to Him, as His minister to a sick and suffering world, He will stretch out through her ministries a Loving Hand to save, and many a poor soul "whom Satan hath bound," and whom the Church seems at present powerless to help, will be sought by the Good Shepherd until He find it, and laid on His shoulder rejoicing. If the Church, waiting upon God, will go forward in faith, taking each step as it is revealed, she need not fear the dangers that surround her, for Christ Himself is the Way.

This little book is offered to God as a humble and all unworthy thank-offering for all His love; and for the revelation of His Healing Presence, and for the healing He has brought to many burdened lives.

I pray that God's blessing may rest upon it, and upon all the Church's Ministry of Healing, and that this message may be blessed to every heart to which it comes.

J. M. H.

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SPIRITUAL HEALING



We must understand that under the term "Spiritual Healing" are included differentiated powers.

There is first prayer, which is the vital breath of this work, as of all Christian life. Prayer is the turning of the heart's desire to God and the opening of our hearts to receive that for which we ask. Faith is the acceptance of God's promises and of His will as He has revealed Himself to us in our Lord Jesus Christ. We must not be content with the wavering, uncertain faith that says: "If it be God's Will He will heal me," but we must by the help of the Holy Spirit follow on to know the Lord, and know from our Lord's revelation of Himself that it is His Will to heal, and that the means He has appointed cannot fail of their effect. Faith is also the certainty that: "If we ask anything according to His Will He heareth us, and if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him" (1 St. John v. 14, 15). In prayer we are co-operating with God, for when our will is yielded to Him, the Holy Spirit prays with-

TO MARY
ANSONIA

in us, making intercession for the saints according to the Will of God with groanings that cannot be uttered. Our Lord shows the standard to which our faith in prayer needs uplifting in the words: "What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye have received them (R. V.) and ye shall have them" (St. Mark xi. 24). This is prayer in union with God; the very petition has been inspired by God, that our desire to receive may meet His desire to give; and that prayer can never fall to the ground. It is offered to the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ, and we know that He has heard us and that our prayer is granted. We may not see how the answer is coming, but faith rests in God and waits patiently in Him without an anxious thought or doubt, for He is directing all things towards the fulfilment of His Will, and will guide us in our co-operation with Him until the work is accomplished.

The soul which prays in faith, with the concentrated earnestness denoted by our Lord's parable of the importunate widow, cannot come away without receiving the communication of healing power, though he is perfectly content to know that the answer will not always be given according to the limitations of his desire, but rather with the fulness of love and knowledge and power which the Lord uses in His relation to us.

Our Lord has told us that: "If two of you

shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven" (St. Matt. xviii. 19), and these words are followed by the promise: "Where two or three are gathered together in My Name there am I in the midst of them" (St. Matt. xviii. 20). So mutual intercession and gatherings for intercessory prayer, looking to Christ, Who is present in our midst, are also means by which we are seeking healing from God for ourselves and others.

Then there is the Holy Communion, in which we spiritually receive the Body and Blood of Christ; this is our great help in spiritual healing, for it is the means our Lord Himself has appointed to communicate His life to us. "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His Blood, ye have not life in you" (St. John vi. 53).

The Prayer Book teaches us to approach these sacred mysteries with our whole being receptive to God, and the need of such receptivity ought to be more deeply realized. We come to Christ "that our sinful bodies may be made clean by His Body, and our souls washed by His most precious Blood." Christ comes to our whole being: "The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ . . . preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life."

Then comes the thankful acknowledgment that we are Christ's and must glorify Him in