

Week 1.

- What is your first thought when considering the subject of healing?
- Read James 5:13-18
- In what context is James considering suffering and sickness?

'Are any among you...' *'Corporate faith, steadfast living, fervent prayer & corporate care are contagious evidences of spiritual health.'*

[NRSV Spiritual Formation Bible]

- **Roman Williams writes :** *When Jesus heals, [there] 'seems to be restoration of relation, inclusion in community, the bridging of the gulf between spirit & empty or alienated flesh.'*
Do you agree with him? Can you think of passages in the gospels where this happens?
- What does this say about humanity in general?
- Have you ever prayed for healing and that prayer has not seemed to have been answered? Share your experience.
- How do you respond to 'unanswered' prayer?
- Do you think the Church should be a therapeutic community?
- What might need to change if the church is to become a safe place for hurting and broken people to find healing and peace?
- James cites personal confession & prayer on a one to one basis as a healing action. Do you think this kind of accountability is helpful?
- Close in prayer using the prayer opposite which was part of the Liturgy used at a Service at Thorpe House (Centre for Health & Pastoral Care).



Healing

'Healing is...more than simply the act that brings physical health..... Healing frees the person to express what they are made and called to be, which is members of a community that lives in gratitude & praise....in which flesh gives voice to spirit....& creates further networks of healing & [integration].'

[Wounds That Heal, Theology, Imagination & Health : (Chapter 1. A Theology of Health For Today : Rowan Williams) : Editor J Baxter : SPCK : 2007 : p. 7]

**God of grace
you seek us out
When we hide from you,
you call our name
when we least expect to hear,
you believe in us
when we live in doubt.
Lay hold of our hearts,
our minds, our lives,
as we commit ourselves
afresh to this healing ministry,
of loving one another,
accepting ourselves
and proclaiming your justice in the world.**

Amen [Burgess 2004 in Wounds That Heal : p.32]

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