

Series: How Jesus Acts Through Us Today; *Sermon:* **Healing in a Time of Sickness**; *delivered by* **Josh Moody**, senior pastor, on April 26, 2020

Bible text explored: Acts 5:12–16

¹²Now many signs and wonders were regularly done among the people by the hands of the apostles. And they were all together in Solomon's Portico. ¹³None of the rest dared join them, but the people held them in high esteem. ¹⁴And more than ever believers were added to the Lord, multitudes of both men and women, ¹⁵so that they even carried out the sick into the streets and laid them on cots and mats, that as Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on some of them. ¹⁶The people also gathered from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing the sick and those afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all healed. [ESV]

Review and application:

1. In what (*verse 12a*) were the apostles regularly engaged?
What (*Exodus 7:3*) was the origin of this expression?
(See also, Moses' summary in *Deuteronomy 29:2-4*.)
How, on the Day of Pentecost (*Acts 2:16-21*), had Peter drawn on this concept to explain the coming of the Holy Spirit?
What (*Acts 2:43*) was the prompt outcome of his preaching?
When threatened by the authorities (*Acts 4:29-30*), for what did the believers pray?
2. As our nation endures the COVID-19 pandemic, do you sense a growing hunger for healing power?
Do we share the infant church's view of itself as a spiritual hospital engaged in a rescue operation?
3. Besides the miraculous healings, what other quality (*verse 12b*) contributed to the appeal of the infant church?
4. What (*verse 13*) explains the wariness of some about identifying with the admired apostles in a rapidly expanding church?
5. What kind of "patients" (*verse 14*) made up the bulk of the multitudes drawn to this "hospital"?
What did being "added to the Lord" require? (See *2 Corinthians 5:15, 17*.)
Are you ready to "doubt your doubts," exploring belief with an open heart?
6. Who (*verse 15*) experienced physical healing?
What is an essential trait of a genuine faith healer?
Why should healing not be viewed as a permanent cure?
We may all pray for physical healing. While that outcome is not assured, what benefits of peace, joy, and trusting may we confidently expect?
7. Demon possession (*verse 16*) is not acknowledged in our society. Is it a real malady?
Why do we need to carefully distinguish it from psychiatric disorders?
How did Jesus deal with unclean spirits? (See *Mark 5:8* and *6:7*.)
How may believers withstand Satan? (See *Ephesians 6:12* and *James 4:7*.)