



## Power Healing

*John Wimber , Kevin Springer , Richard J. Foster (Introduction)*

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“A major work on divine healing, soundly based on biblical scholarship and thoroughly immersed in hands-on ministry experiences.”

—C. Peter Wagner, Fuller Theological Seminary

*Power Healing* by John Wimber, with co-author Kevin Springer, is an illuminating and inspiring look at the power of divine healing. Based on John Wimber’s profound belief that healing is fundamental to the ministry of Jesus Christ, *Power Healing* explores healing in the Old Testament and in the works of Jesus and his disciples, and offers practical models for today’s healing ministry. One of the founding leaders of the Vineyard Christian Fellowship and author of *Power Evangelism* and *Power Points*, John Wimber has given the world a classic overview of the curative power of faith.

### Power Healing Details

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## From Reader Review Power Healing for online ebook

### Álex Oliva Silva says

Era de esperarse que este libro mostraría entre sus páginas valores esenciales del Movimiento Viña (y más específicamente aún de la Iglesia en la que me congreco): Intimidación y Gracia; Vivir naturalmente lo sobrenatural de Dios; Entrenamiento; y, Comunión y Unidad.

Dios sana hoy. Está interesado en todas las áreas de nuestra vida incluida nuestra salud física y emocional (sobre todo nuestra vida emocional). La sanidad divina no es la meta, es uno de los tantos medios que Dios usa para que nos acerquemos a Él; es una "pequeña muestra" de lo que será el Reino de los Cielos Eterno.

El libro comienza respondiendo algunas preguntas para los escépticos doctrinales, "el problema del sufrimiento" como estilo de vida cristiana, el pecado y otros temas y conceptos interesantes de conocer; para continuar con los principios, valores y prácticas que forman parte de los modelos de programa que La Viña utiliza cuando oramos por sanidad.

Puntos extras para el análisis antropológico social de las señales y maravillas de una conferencia de sanidad en Sheffield en el año 1985.

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### Juanita Carter says

If you are a Christian and are interested in Healing, this is probably the book for you. John Wimber gives practical explanations for healing through prayer and also gives personal experience to go along and give examples to help explain. It is fairly basic, but I found that helped more than hindered. Being basic, it is still informative. Unless you are already really knowledgeable in this area. It helped me to define experiences that I have either had myself or seen happen to others. I used it as a sort of devotion to supplement my prayer time and found that God really used this time to grow my personal prayer life.

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### Brandon H. says

Power Healing by John Wimber is an excellent defense of the healing ministry in the church today. It's sad I have to frame it in those terms because many in the West have embraced the post-Biblical doctrine called, "cessationism." It's also an important resource for those in the church that are hungry to see God heal and move supernaturally. While I didn't agree with every single thing put forth in the book, the claims of the author are well grounded in scripture and well argued.

Besides the stories, I especially enjoyed the theological depth in the book, especially the discussion of whether or not healing is part of the atonement Christ provided in His suffering and death. After reading this section, I actually changed my position on that subject.

I also enjoyed that the author dared to address the somewhat controversial subject of the strange manifestations that often accompany healings, moves of the Spirit, revival, worship services, etc. A great companion book to that subject would be John White's book, "When the Spirit Comes with Power."

Overall, I'd recommend this book to anyone praying for a sick loved one, interested in ministering healing,

called to heal the sick, or any Christian that struggles with skepticism over the supernatural.

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### **Marco says**

Solid theology of healing meets real testimonies of God's healing power today. I enjoy Wimber's honest and holistic approach to healing. He is a breath of fresh air to a movement that is all too often hijacked by money hungry con-artists. Wimber gives me hope that healing and Spirit-led ministry can be done in a tasteful and God-honoring way.

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### **Darren Briggs says**

I read this book twice! My first reading began in the appendix section and from there I read the chapters that caught my interest the most. I realized that a cursory reading would not be enough, so I reread the book cover to cover.

Reading John Wimber confronts my own notions about "divine healing" and how the Spirit of God works in a believer. Wimber was greatly influenced by the Theology of George E. Ladd's Kingdom of God teachings. This book makes me excited about getting in on all that God is doing, but at the same time it has made me question the relationship of healing and the atonement. Wimber has led me to further study of the Scriptures and other authors like Jack Deere, Ken Blue, Charles Kraft, John White...

I appreciated John Wimber's desire to be authentic and his concern for relationship rather than mere formula. He tried to avoid the entrappings of many faith healers like those in the Word of Faith Movement, better known as the health and wealth gospel.

more later...

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### **Fred Morris says**

This book was a bit challenging to me. I had already read a good bit of Dallas Willard but was trying to overcome the results of my own prior deep conviction that all divinely manifested power had left with the death of the last person who was directly empowered by the original apostles and Paul.

Fortunately, Wimber starts with his own early experiences and deep struggles with much the same misunderstanding.

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### **Carey Oster says**

Couldn't put this book down! Loved it!!

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## Chris says

In, *Power Healing*, John Wimber seeks to place healing in the biblical and ongoing ministry of the church and offer a practical model for this ministry.

“By 1977 I believed God could heal the sick today. There were many factors that contributed to the evolution of my thinking and attitude about divine healing: new knowledge gained from Scripture study and prayer; my experience... and the Holy Spirit’s Continual prodding” (44).

In his study of scripture Wimber looked for patterns. He would look at instances of sickness and healing in the old and new testaments and chart the characteristics of the events (like the one in Appendix D). In this way he built himself a biblical systematic theology of healing. This is the way he handles the scripture in this book as well. He gives us the characteristic patterns of healing citing various instances in scripture to support his claim. In this way his treatment of scripture isn’t an inductive exposition as much as it is a look at scripture through the lens of divine healing.

Wimber alternates between his story of reluctantly coming to the healing ministry and exploring the patterns of healing he discovered in scripture and practice. The way he builds his argument from experience into scripture has the effect of taking skeptics of their guard. He was a skeptic and makes his arguments implicitly, as an explanation of his personal discoveries. I get the sense that the experiences he describes at the beginning of a chapter set up some assumptions for the rest of the exploration. The rest of the treatment, then, isn’t so much a proof as it is an exploration of the outcomes of these assumptions. For instance in his chapter, “An Unlikely Healer,” Wimber describes his encounters with God that convince him that God is still active in healing ministry, then the rest of the chapter he discusses reasons that God does heal today, using the patterns in the Old and New Testaments that he had found. The experiences brought Wimber, “to a place where I was open to his supernatural work in my life” (34). They changed his underlying assumptions about scripture and invite the reader to approach the scriptures he will present with the assumption that the supernatural is at work today.

My own experience has lead me to a place similar to Wimber as he started out. As I entered early adulthood I was desperately hungry to see God move through me. I have always been hounded by fear. To begin with I wanted God to give me the boldness to evangelize, then in college the boldness to speak up when I felt I had a word of prophesy or interpretation of tongues. I have had an enchantment with the Power of God and I too wanted to play in that power.

A couple of things slowed down my search and probably still affect me as I read Wimber. Once, when I was beginning to experiment in delivering a word, the pastoral staff called me out as being out of order. I made an inward vow that night to no longer seek God to use me in that way again. Another, more positive, lesson learned was that I didn’t have to run after displays of God’s power to enjoy God’s presence and activity in my life. When I was a youth sponsor, the youth group made a few trips to a revival that was going on in Pensacola Florida. It was wonderful and refreshing to be immersed in worship and the ministry of the Spirit in power. One trip, though, I couldn’t go. God made it all right by meeting me in a more powerfully personal way that week alone. While I don’t doubt the power of the Spirit moving today and I still hunger for God to move, these experiences left me struggling with the place of these displays of power and my own roll in them. I appreciated Wimber’s story and the way he struggled with me as I read.

I find Wimber’s experiences and the practical model for healing prayer that he offers to be the strengths of the book. He gives me permission to hunger again and challenges me to make healing a part of our ministry. I wrestle with how to do this. His integrated method for praying takes time and a lot of emotional investment. Even if I was completely prepared to make that kind of commitment, my congregation, who are quickly out the door are likely not. I have started making more of a concerted effort to pray for healing individually

during the service, touching each with my hands and anointing with oil. I would like more involvement from the congregation. Often my experiences with healing services include getting lost in worship for extended periods. Getting my congregation to worship is difficult, perhaps there is a connection to explore in relation to the move of the Spirit.

Where I have a hard time agreeing with Wimber is when he discusses sexuality. I suspect he inherited the Augustinian view of sex that twisted the church for so long (though I'm not convinced that Augustine was as hard on sex as the church later would be). I am not convinced that homosexuality is a disease in need of cure or that masturbation is inherently sinful. That aside, Wimber's warning that these may be indications of demonic influence for people bound sexually is well taken.

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### **Pete Husky says**

The definitive biblical and practical book. Scholarly, full of integrity, and with a humility which is refreshing. John Wimber is the most gifted healer of my generation.

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### **Jessica says**

Brought God into today for me.

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### **Heather Tomlinson says**

This book describes Wimber's walk from a Christian perspective that didn't really believe in healing and the supernatural, to one where he was seeing it everyday. He also gives advice for people in this kind of ministry.

I found the parts describing his journey the most interesting - they were frank and honest, and insightful. Essential reading.

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### **Charles Redfern says**

A landmark book in my own ministry. I had heard of Wimber shortly after becoming a pastor in 1989 and understood he was a man of integrity -- which was vital to me: most "healing ministry" I witnessed involved shouting and the infliction of guilt over the unhealed. Wimber was far different. He anchored his ministry in a solid theology and counseled gentility while praying -- and no fair blaming those who saw no results. Wimber didn't try to make the Holy Spirit do anything; rather, he tapped into the activity of the Holy Spirit and went with His will. After a long dry spell, he saw people healed and experienced God's out-of-this-world activity. I was spellbound by this book -- and even more so when I implemented its teaching and saw results before my eyes.

I read both the first and second editions. The first was far better.

## Chris says

A great book on miraculous healing. The name of the book sounds sensationalist, but the book is actually very down-to-earth, informative, and scripturally based. I found it immensely helpful to my own limited understanding of this kind of ministry.

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## Jacob Aitken says

This is a calm and gentle read, if books can be said to be such. Wimber develops a biblical theology of healing. He gives a brief rundown of cessationism and in response develops a biblical, supernaturalist worldview. He notes that cessationists often misunderstand the purpose of healing. It isn't simply to "prove that Jesus was God or the Apostles were right." It was more. It:

Demonstrates Christ's compassion and mercy (Matt. 14:14).

Demonstrates God's kingdom has arrived (Matt. 4:23).

Brings people to repentance (Luke 10: 8-12).

Shows the gospel is intended for Gentiles as well (Luke 7:1-10).

Healing is more than just healing of the body. It is holistic (Wimber understands that word can be misused by New Agers, but it's still a good word). Healing includes: forgiveness of sins, restoration from sickness, breaking oppressive structures, deliverance from demonic power, and raising the dead (Wimber 38).

Is sickness the Devil? Sometimes. Sometimes we get sick because of natural causes, sometimes because of demonic activity, and sometimes both. Wimber does deal with the inner healing model, but since other writers (Kraft et al) have focused on that, I will move on.

### Visible Manifestations

This area really challenged me, as I am wary of Charismatic excesses. Yet, there are Scriptural precedents.

Shaking and trembling: Gen. 42:28, Exod. 19.16; Ezra 9.4; Isaiah 66.5; Jer. 5:22, passim

Falling over: Dan. 8:17; 10:8-9; Acts 9.4

Appearing Drunk: Hannah, in 1 Sam. 1:12-17

Divine healing is applied to at least four areas: the spirit, the effects of past hurts, the body, and demonization (224).

### Conclusion

Much of the book is anecdotal, which made it extra engaging. It's hard to find where Wimber is wrong. I am convinced.

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## **Jacque says**

A must read for all who want to learn how to pray for others!

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