

Your skin is a very special creation by God. And one of the primary functions of your skin is to help you “feel” the world around you. There are at least 5 different types of receptors in the skin that help us to respond to pain and to touch. And in blind people, the brain becomes rewired so they can respond to stimulus received through touch and hearing. Thus, the blind literally “see” the world thru touch and sound. The ability to touch and “feel” the world around us is critical to us.

There was once a very sick woman in the hospital. The sign read on the door read: “Please see nurse before entering.” When he went to the nurse’s station, the nurse explained that they didn’t know what the woman was suffering from but they believed she was contagious. Her pastor came to visit her and was instructed to wash his hands put on a cloth gown, latex gloves, and a cloth cap. And only then could he go into the patient’s room.

When he got to the woman’s bedside, she smiled weakly and told him how good it was to see him. They talked for a long while and when the time came for him to leave the preacher asked if there was anything he could do for her. She answered: “I just wish somebody would hold my hand without one of those gloves on.”

She longed for the touch of a human hand. A touch unhindered by the shield of a latex glove. A human touch that said she was cared for and loved.

That’s why Jesus touched so many people during His ministry. Jesus was the Son of God. “God in the Flesh.” Touching people was one of the most basic ways that Jesus (God in the flesh) could tell people He loved them, and that He cared for them, that He had pity on them for what they suffered in this world.

In the story of Jesus healing the leper, the REAL story is NOT that Jesus healed the leper. The real story here was that Jesus TOUCHED the man. Jesus did not have to touch the leper to cure him. The Lord could have merely spoken the word. But Jesus shows us something very human here, something very necessary—the necessity of human touch.

The Bible gives us two powerful examples for the use of touch: For the transmission of power, authority and the presence of God; and for healing. The Holy Spirit moves powerfully through touch.

Psychologist Matthew Hertenstein, PhD said: "Compared with other cultures, we live in a touch-phobic society that's made affection with anyone but loved ones taboo." (And, even more so in the pandemic!) Many daycares and schools have adopted no touch/low touch policies. Residential homes for the elderly often implement no-touch regulations for those in their care. And, that’s too bad, because appropriate human touch has measurable health benefits.

We must always be prudent and respectful, but let’s not be afraid to reach out and touch someone. It may just be the healing agent they need.