

Gospel Truth

Biblical Instruction and Encouragement for the Mission Field Worldwide.

THE GREAT PHYSICIAN

(The following account is a narrative of the event recorded in Mark 5:24-34, KJV).

People thronged about Jesus as He walked down the dusty road. The disciples surrounded Him and tried to create a barrier from the crowd that pressed into them closer and closer. The sound of laughter could be heard as children scampered about, running between the people. The voices of the men and women conversing and discussing the things they had seen blended into a dull roar. A lame man, unable to keep up, shuffled along behind the crowd. A mother, holding a fevered child, came rushing down the road trying to reach the Master.

In the sea of people, a woman slowly but purposefully worked her way through the crowd toward Jesus. The veiled woman was gaunt and pale, her hollowed eyes following Jesus as she weakly pushed her way toward the center of the multitude. This woman was very sick and had been bleeding for twelve long years. She had suffered much under the care of many physicians and specialists but to no avail. She had spent everything that she had seeking a cure and yet she grew worse, for no man could heal her.

One day she heard about a man called Jesus. She heard of how He went about from village to village healing all manner of sickness and disease. She heard of how He cast out devils, made the lame to walk and the blind

to see. "Oh, surely," she thought, "Jesus, this teacher and man of God, can heal me."

With hope and expectation, she sought out Jesus. Now that she had found Him, He was busy and surrounded by people. "If I can just touch the hem of His garment, I believe I will be healed." With this faith, she pressed through the crowd. When she was finally close, she reached around a disciple and her hand touched Christ's robe. Her body was flooded with warmth and immediately her body was healed and invigorated with strength and vitality.

As the woman stood in glorious amazement and thanksgiving, Jesus stopped and turned around asking, "Who touched me?" The disciples answered, "Lord, you see all the people that are brushing up against you, and you ask, 'Who touched me?'" Jesus continued looking around, for He had felt healing power flow from His body.

Now trembling, the woman fell at the feet of Jesus and told Him of her sickness and of how she had been healed instantly. With love and compassion, Jesus said, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, for your suffering is over."

How wonderful and how marvelous are the ways of Jesus Christ. While on earth, Jesus worked miracle after miracle when people put their faith and trust in Him. People who came in contact with the Messiah were never the



"If I can just touch the hem of His garment, I believe I will be healed."

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WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT...

Word of God

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 24:35

Relationship of Love

Matt. 22:37-40; John 14:21-23; 1 John 4:7-11

Repentance

Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30; 2 Cor. 7:10

New Birth

John 3:3-7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:1-4;
Eph. 2:1, 5-6

Freedom From Sin

1 John 5:18; Matt. 1:21; John 8:11

Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:2; Acts 15:8-9; Acts 1:8

Holiness

Luke 1:73-75; Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16;
Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 6:22

Kingdom of God

Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17; John 18:36

The Church

Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Col 1:18

Unity

John 17:20-23; Gal 3:28; Rev. 18:2-4

Ordinances

Matt. 28:19-20; Matt. 26:26-30;
1 Cor. 11:23-27; John 13:14-17

Divine Healing

Luke 4:18; Isaiah 53:4-5; James 5:13-16

Sanctity of Marriage

Matt. 19:5-6; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:2-3;
1 Cor. 7:10-11

Outward Appearance

1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 11:14-15; Deut. 22:5

End of Time

2 Peter 3:7-12; John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10;
Matt 25:31-46

Pacifism

Luke 6:27-29; Luke 18:20

Worship

John 4:23-24; Eph. 5:19; 2 Cor. 3:17

Great Commission

Mark 16:15

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same again. Jesus ministered to not only the spiritual being but also to the emotional and physical needs of mankind. Jesus did for that woman what learned men were incapable of doing for her—He divinely healed her body and miraculously cured her. Jesus was truly the Great Physician then and thank God, He is still the Great Physician today.



When hope is gone and there are no answers, the light and grace of divine healing from Jesus can penetrate the darkness and miraculously change the natural course of emotional and physical sickness.

The woman that was healed wasted so much time, energy, and money on seeking a cure for her illness.

We have the privilege to know of Jesus and we need not wait or linger. We can bring our problems and needs to Him at any time and He is waiting with love to do for us what we cannot do for ourselves. ■

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Editorial



[God] hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. —Ephesians 2:6-7

The graces of the Lord Jesus Christ are still flowing down to us in this present age. What a blessing to be personal recipients of love and kindness from the Saviour. The topic this quarter is divine healing.

This subject, in its practical application, has proven controversial for many throughout history. This periodical is designed to promote biblical teaching, irrespective of generational teachings and understandings. Even in the Church of God, there has been an ebb and flow of different applications and standards from minister to minister and from generation to generation. This is why it is imperative for us to preach the Word and recognize the Spirit will give it life and lead us in the way God would have us to live.

There is a grace of physical healing that still flows from the throne of God. I have personally found a life of faith to be rewarding and comforting in the storms of life. The saints of today could tell story after story of God's miraculous intervention in the natural course of sickness and disease. Without medical intervention, God divinely raised me from my death bed. He has healed me of various diseases and sicknesses. The medical world said I might end up a paraplegic, but after years of suffering and hardship, the Lord worked a miracle in my body. I have personally been under the power of the Spirit when devils were cast out and people healed. God has worked physical miracles for my children of which I have not space to write. Divine healing is not just something of days gone by—it is real, and it works today.

The key is finding a place of trust in God that no matter what happens, our faith is fixed. I have seen and experienced times of suffering when it appeared that God was not answering. In those times I have witnessed God work in ways that went beyond the physical. Can we not then trust His wisdom as much as His healing power?

We live in a generation that does not want to suffer nor do they want to wait. To serve God acceptably in faith, we must find that place of peace in our submission to God's will and purpose. The Spirit of God will be faithful to lead each one individually within the parameters of truth. It takes a depth of spiritual maturity to truly accept that the Holy Spirit can and will work on an individual basis, and there may be some minor differences from situation to situation.

Children of God have used doctors and medical knowledge in various capacities through the years. There are decisions of health that must be left to individuals in their personal walk with God. Faith and trust in the Lord are not always to the exclusion of medical intervention; however, trusting in the Lord is a teaching of the Word of God whether it be in spiritual things or in issues of finance and health. There is not a biblical law preventing medical intervention, but there is an encompassing standard of faith. God wants to be the center of all decisions and practices in life. Our trust is in Him.

I cannot write all of the "dos and don'ts" when it comes to some of these issues, for somewhere in the list I would fall into the quagmire of inconsistency, man's opinions, or a double standard as many have unfortunately so done in the past. I recommend placing your trust in the Lord and seeking His divine will in every aspect of life. We could not ask for a better saviour, friend, provider, or doctor. Truly, He is worthy of our trust.

Michael W. Smith

April 2018

Editor's Note July 2023: There have been a few revisions made to Issue 24 to provide greater clarity on this subject.

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Bible Study Guide

Subject: Doctrine of Divine Healing

Scripture Reading: *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.* — Isaiah 53:4-5

Summary: Part of Christ's purpose is to minister to the physical and emotional needs of mankind. His ministry, and that of the apostles, was full of healing the sick. Jesus made provision on the cross for the healing of the body. Trusting in the Lord for healing is still a wonderful, active privilege of God's children today.



I. Prophecy of Christ's Healing

- A. Isaiah 61:1-2 Jesus came to bring healing.
- B. Isaiah 53:3-5 He bore our griefs and sorrows.
- C. Isaiah 35:4-6 Prophecy of the Messiah's miracles.

II. Christ's Healing on Earth (Prophecy Fulfilled)

- A. Matthew 8:16-17 Isaiah's prophecy fulfilled in Christ.
- B. Matthew 11:4-5 Healed the blind, lame, leper, deaf, and dead. (Matthew 15:30-31).
- C. Matthew 4:23-24 Healed all manner of sickness and diseases. (Luke 4:40, Luke 7:21).
- D. Acts 10:38 Healed the oppressed.
- E. Acts 2:22 Messiah proven by miracles, wonders, and signs.

III. Apostles Healing Power

- A. Matthew 10:1, 7-8 Christ gave the disciples power.
- B. Luke 10:1, 9 The seventy commissioned to heal the sick.
- C. Mark 16:17-20 The Word was confirmed with signs.
- D. Acts 5:12-16 Apostles wrought many wonders.
(See also: Acts 6:8; 14:8-10; 19:11-12; Acts 28:8)

IV. Gift of Healing

- A. 1 Corinthians 12:4, 9 Healing is a gift.
- B. 1 Corinthians 12:29-31 Not all have the same gift.

V. Christ's Power the Same Today

- A. Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same.
- B. Matthew 28:18 Christ has all power.
- C. Ephesians 3:20-21 Able to do above what we ask.

VI. Instructions for the Sick (Call, Anoint, Pray)

- A. James 5:14-16 Elders are to anoint the sick.
- B. Mark 6:12-13 Disciples anointed the sick.
- C. Acts 28:8-9 Laying on of hands. (Mark 16:18).

VII. Necessity of Faith

- A. Mark 11:22 Have faith in God.
- B. Matthew 13:58 Unbelief hinders Christ from working.
- C. Matthew 17:20-21 Miracle working faith comes by prayer and fasting.

VIII. Importance of Seeking God

- A. Psalms 103:2-3 Healing comes from God.
- B. Matthew 7:7-11 Ask and it shall be given.
- C. 1 John 5:14 Ask according to His will.
- D. Hebrews 11:6 God rewards the seeker.
- E. 2 Corinthians 12:7-9 Healing not always God's answer.

IX. The Compassion of Christ

- A. Matthew 14:14 Jesus was moved with compassion.
- B. Mark 1:40-43 Jesus heals a leper.
- C. Matthew 9:35-36 The people needed a shepherd.
- D. Hebrews 4:15-16 Jesus touched with our infirmities.

Conclusion

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen. — Ephesians 3:20-21

THE BLESSING AND PRIVILEGE OF Divine Healing

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised."



"Jesus reigns supreme and is still able to heal all manner of sickness and disease."

One of the most beautiful passages of scripture is recorded in Luke 4:18 where Christ publicly read in the synagogue on the sabbath day from the prophet Isaiah and stated the purpose of His call and ministry. The paramount, overriding theme and ministry of Christ was the spiritual healing of the soul. Through no merit of our own, He freely bestowed the grace of healing on the souls of mankind and brought reconciliation between man and God through His atoning blood. The captive was set free from sin, the spiritually blind received illumination, and those in despair were given hope through salvation of the soul.

Isaiah Prophesies of Christ

This wonderful healing of the spirit by Christ was also prophesied in Isaiah 53:4-5: "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows.... But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities.... and with his stripes we are healed." Contextually and interpretively, the healing by His stripes refers to the provision that Christ made for the spiritual healing and redemption of the soul from the power of sin. In addition, the scripture states that Jesus bore our griefs. The word "griefs" is more properly translated "sickness, disease, anxiety, affliction." Jesus fulfilled this and other prophesies which foretold of His miraculous physical healings where the eyes of the blind would be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped (Isaiah 35:4-6).

Christ Healed the Sick

It is nearly impossible to separate Christ's ministry of spiritual healing on earth from His ministry of physical healing, for they were integrally tied together. Jesus told the disciples of John the Baptist to go and tell him how "the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the

dead are raised up" (Matthew 11:4-5). Matthew 8:16-17 very directly confirms that Christ's physical healings were fulfilling the prophecies. "[He] healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." Jesus healed all manner of sickness and disease (Matthew 4:23-24) and healed all that "were oppressed of the devil" (Acts 10:38). Jesus was shown to be approved and sent from God by the miracles, wonders, and signs which He did before the people (Acts 2:22).

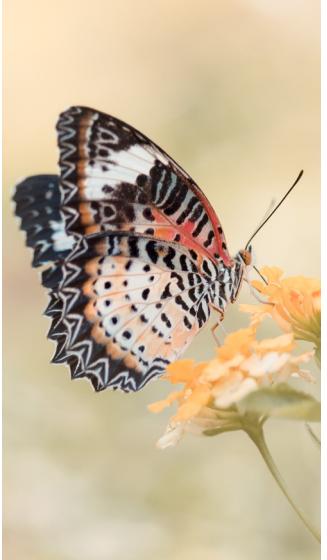
The Disciples Healed

Jesus also gave His disciples power "to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease" (Matthew 10:1). The seventy that were sent out to preach the gospel were instructed to "heal the sick" (Luke 10:9). Acts 5:12 reads, "And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people." The Word of God was confirmed by the signs that followed the apostles of the early morning church (Mark 16:17-20).

The Gift of Healing

The gift of healing is a divine gift also given by the Holy Spirit to the church (1 Corinthians 12:4-9). It is one of the diverse gifts that God can give for the profit of the gospel as He sees fit. The gift of healing by the laying on of hands is not given to all saints. 1 Corinthians 12:29-30 asks: "Are all apostles? Are all prophets?... are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing?" The answer to these questions is clearly "no." Not all have the same gifts, but the Spirit of God bestows the gifts that are right for the individual and body of believers at the proper time in a given generation.

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While historically there seem to be greater manifestations of instantaneous physical healing in time of reformation, the awesome power of the Messiah is undiminished in this generation. He is still savior of the soul and healer of the body and mind. Jesus reigns supreme and is still able to heal all manner of sickness and disease. "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever" (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.... I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:18-20).

Divine Intervention

There is wonderful grace bestowed upon God's children in times of sickness and suffering. While saints are not exempt from sickness and disease, there is provision for the healing of the body through Christ. Divine healing is not a natural occurrence or something that comes from man's ability. It is the divine intervention of God changing the natural and working the impossible. Looking to Jesus for the healing of the body and emotions is a privilege of God's children and is one of the benefits of serving the Lord. God has proven Himself as a healer of His children in this present age.

Instructions for the Sick

The Bible gives instruction for the sick in James 5:14-16. "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

The sick are instructed, of their own volition and faith, to call for the elders of the church. The elders are to follow the example of the disciples (Mark 6:12-13) and anoint the sick with oil. The power is not in the oil itself but in obedience to God's Word. The elders are to follow the precedent set by Christ and the apostles and lay hands on the sick and pray (Mark 16:18, Acts 28:8-9). There is an imparting of blessing and strength through the laying on of hands that God honors in His holy servants.

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The Requirement of Faith

Sometimes people are healed through the faith of others and sometimes through their own faith. What is important and necessary is that faith and trust is in God. Jesus Himself, while in Nazareth, did not perform many miracles because of the people's unbelief (Matthew 13:58). While faith in God as a grain of mustard seed can move mountains, it is also noteworthy that miracle-working faith only comes by prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:20-21). Though there are times God chooses not to heal, faith need not waiver, for the object of faith is Christ Himself, not the outcome of our prayer.

The Privilege of Trust

True healing comes from God "who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:3). The scripture teaches us to build our faith and to trust in God for all things that affect our lives. "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). The sick and suffering, in faith, are to seek after God with expectation. Coming to God should not be a last resort, but we should come to Him as a Father who desires to give good gifts to His children. The doctrine of divine healing was never intended to be a burden. It is a privilege to place ourselves in the hands of a loving God. There is great peace in uncertain times when trust is placed in the Saviour.

Come with Assurance

On earth, Jesus ministered to the broken hearted and to the emotional and physical sicknesses of mankind. He did so because He was "moved with compassion" (Matthew 14:14). Christ Jesus is today "touched with the feeling of our infirmities" (Hebrews 4:15-16). Every person who sits in emotional darkness or physical pain can come with assurance to the throne of grace and find strength and help. It is a wonderful benefit and privilege to trust in the Messiah as our spiritual, physical, and emotional physician. ■



Is sickness always a result of God's judgment for sin or wrong in one's life? Is it from God or the Devil?

Sickness and disease in the world are consequences of sin committed in the Garden of Eden. Physical sickness and death is a part of life from which saved people are not completely exempt. Sometimes saints are sick as a result of environmental or physical conditions. Death, by whatever cause, is the gateway to eternal life with God.

Satan can bring affliction as he did with Job; however, everything which touches our lives must first go through God. It is also true that God can cause or allow sickness to come upon our bodies. Is it not during times of suffering that we can draw closer to God? Even in suffering we can commit ourselves without fear into His care, knowing He will do that which is best.

Will God always heal physical sickness when people exercise faith?

God desires to save every soul and He promised never to leave nor forsake His children; however, He did not promise to physically heal every illness. There is a balance in the Scripture between asking in faith, believing, and in submitting to the will of God.

Paul had a thorn in the flesh (a trial or affliction of some kind) and he asked God to remove it. Paul prayed multiple times. God's answer was, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." Paul did not have

sin or a lack of faith; but when God's answer was "no," he responded, "Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.... for when I am weak, then am I strong" (2 Corinthians 12:7-10).

We must pray according to the will of God with faith, believing in His power. Pray with expectation but also with a spirit of submission. When God gives an answer, accept it with faith and confidence knowing His grace will work sufficiently whether in healing or in sickness.

In John 9:1-11, Jesus healed a man that was blind from his birth. His disciples asked, "Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him."

God often works spiritual good through sickness not only for the individual but also for others. 2 Corinthians 4:15-17 eloquently addresses this question: "For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

Is "trusting the Lord" to the exclusion of medical intervention?

The Scripture teaches divine healing as a privilege and blessing to God's children.

It also teaches that to please God we must have faith. Many people define faith as relating too exclusively to the healing of the body. This does an injustice to the Scripture. Faith covers every aspect of life and is more about relationship with God than about what someone does or does not do medically.

Romans 14:22-23 says, "Hast thou faith? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

There are some areas in which the Bible does not list all the particulars and we err to fill in that gap for others. There are varying degrees of faith which means God may inspire and lead differently from person to person and situation to situation. While saints have used doctors in some capacity while maintaining faith, there are times that faith and personal inspiration preclude medical intervention. Excluding medical help when sick should never result from coercion by others but from a personal decision of faith.

It is vital that we place our trust and confidence in the Lord. Seek God and submit to His will and purpose whether in suffering or in health. "Lord, increase our faith!"



DID YOU KNOW?

Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you? ...Glorify God in your body. —1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Unhealthy diet contributes to approximately 678,000 deaths each year in the United States due to nutrition and obesity related diseases. In the last thirty years, obesity rates have doubled in adults, tripled in children, and quadrupled in adolescents (cspinet.org).

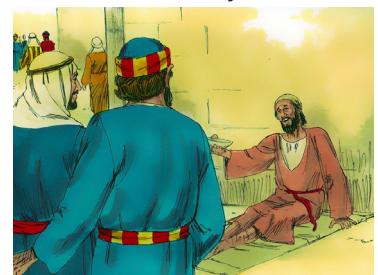
A child of God is to recognize his body is the temple of God and care for it accordingly through healthy practices of good nutrition and exercise.



IN THE NAME OF JESUS

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. —Acts 3:6

When the lame man at the gate of the temple looked to Peter and John expecting to receive alms, they lifted him up in the name of Jesus, and the man was divinely healed. The people marveled and Peter informed them that it was not their own power or holiness which made the man to walk. “Faith in his name hath made this man strong.” Healing came through faith in the name of Jesus.



There is today still power in the mighty, wonderful, awesome name of Jesus. Many times, we conclude in prayer: “In the name of Jesus.” That is truly a fit ending to prayer, but power in the name of Jesus is the heart and substance of seeking God for divine intervention, not just a conclusion. There is no other name given under heaven like the name of Jesus. When we call on the name of Jesus, we are evoking the name of the one who is the creator of mankind, the saviour of the world, head of the church, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end.

Satan hates the name of Jesus and he trembles before it. Evil spirits must flee when holy people call on that mighty name. We can face the forces of evil with confidence, the afflictions of life with courage, and the darkness of the world with hope, for we have access to the one who vanquished all enemies, even death. As ministers and gospel workers, we need not be afraid of failure or lack of results. The power to heal or the grace to sustain is not ours but God’s. Let us leave the results to God.

Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith. May our faith and trust be inspired when we pray for souls bound and addicted to sin. We can pray with authority and confidence when we pray in the name of Jesus. When the sick and suffering are desperately in need of help, we can seek God with assurance through His dear son. In spite of our humanity and weakness, as God’s children, we have power in the name of Jesus. ■

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HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD