

Facts About Disease and Healing

The Curse and the Healer

God cursed the earth, man and all of creation because of Adam and Eve's sin. We cannot ask God to remove the weeds from our garden...well, we can ask, but it won't be done because weeds are the curse for man's sin. We can ask never to have to work and sweat again, but it won't happen in this life because God has ordained it as part of the fall. Women will have pain in childbirth, also as part of the fall and the curse. God can suspend the curse for a moment, but the great flow of life is that all things will deteriorate and die because of the fall. You will have temptations and trouble all your life. It is part of the curse of the fall. You can ask for help in those times, but your prayer will not remove God's curse on the earth or mankind.

Infirmity with Purpose

Sometimes, God allows us to continue in an infirmity for His higher purpose. Yes, God uses disease for his purposes. Paul sought the Lord passionately to heal him of an infirmity and three times the Lord said, "No." to him. That doesn't mean the Lord has said "No" to you. Paul heard a very clear, still small voice of assurance that God was at work in his infirmity for His glory and Paul's ultimate good. In Paul's case it was, "*My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.*" (2 Corinthians 12:9) Though Paul was not healed, the Healer enabled him to withstand the constant physical attacks as a testimony to God's grace and power.

Enlarged Your Faith

"*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.*" (Romans 10:17) Your faith may be small, even non-existent at times, but God cares to help your unbelief. Jesus asked a father if he believed his daughter could be healed. He answered honestly and said, "*Yes, I believe but help my unbelief.*" (Mark 9:24) In other words, "Help my doubts go away!" The best way God can do that is to flood your mind and heart with the word of God, specifically His promises.

Claim the Promises of God

God's Word is filled with God's precious promises so that you can be like Jesus. "*Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature*" (2 Peter 1:4) The Bible is God's Word to you! Learn it. Get familiar with God's promises. There are over 7,000 promises in God's Word. As God leads you to one in particular in your sickness, memorize it and claim it in prayer before the Father.

Touch the Hem of His Garment

Jesus often told people that according to their faith it would be unto them. There was a woman who determined in her heart to be healed. She decided to do all she could to draw near to Jesus and touch the hem of his garment. She had determined in her heart that if she could but touch even the hem of his garment she would be healed. As she approached Jesus, it was with a strong faith that he was able, even when he did not himself will to touch her. She believed that if she touched him it would happen. And so it did. When she touched him in a crowd, she was immediately healed - power went out of Jesus because she dared to pursue him and touch him.

Ask Difficult Questions of Yourself

Most people are not willing to ask the difficult questions of themselves when they face illness. However, there are some important questions that need to be asked and answered in our hearts before we ask the Lord to take away our afflictions.

- Is this God's chastisement?
- Have I brought this on myself through disobedience?
- Is there anything (sin) in my heart that hinders God answering my prayer?
- Do I have anything against a brother in Christ?
- Have I confessed and repented of every known sin?
- What will I do with my healing once God gives it?
- If healed, would you live your life any more faithfully than you do now, while sick?
- Will you serve him differently with this healthy body?
- Are you making any promises to God, and will you fulfill them?

THE HEALING POWER OF JESUS



When the evening was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: - Matthew 8:16

Questions and Answers

Can God Heal?

Of course God can heal. That fact is powerfully demonstrated all through the Scriptures. He is able, always able. The real questions that most of us struggle with are, "Will he heal me? Is it his will to heal me of every disease all of the time?"

Healing is a gift from God.

It is not an "on demand" contract with the Father and the Son. It is listed among the gifts of the Spirit. Healing is a gift. Never forget that. "*Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.*" (James 1:17) We cannot earn healing. We don't deserve healing. Healing is God's gift and his choice, not ours. He gives it as he wills. We can ask, just as children ask good things from their loving father.

Will God Heal Me?

An elder in my church once confessed that he had no trouble believing that God can heal. The real struggle in his life was whether "God willed to heal him". God's will is important in anything we ask. "*And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us:*" ¹⁵ *And if we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.*" (1 John 5:14)

Does God Always Heal Us When We Ask?

The answer is simple: No. Otherwise, we would never die. Our bodies were made "very good" at creation, but not perfect. They were not even made to live forever. (Genesis 2:9) The tree of life is in heaven, not on earth. Our ultimate healing in Jesus is in heaven, not on earth. All men die. It is an appointment God set before you were born. But during our lives, God has purposed to extend our lives according to his will and to heal our bodies when we call upon him.

What Do I Need to Do?

Pray!

"*Is any afflicted among you, let him pray.*" (James 5:14) Prayer is the believer's lifeline. It is our umbilical cord to God, our Father. Ceasing to pray is a sin. (1 Thessalonians 5:17) "*Praying always with all prayer and supplication with thanksgiving,*" is a command for every day of our lives. (Philippians 4:6, Ephesians 6:18,) David said, "*It was good for me to be afflicted.*" (Psalms 119:71) Why? Because his affliction caused him to seek after God.

See a Doctor

By all means, see your doctor. We believe that God created all medicines in the earth at creation. Your medical professional has studied God's natural and nature's cures. He can be of inestimable value in the diagnosis of your illness and helping you define and treat the disease that afflicts you. After you are healed, it is the doctor who can testify to your healing. If you have a broken bone, the doctor can set it, but God does the healing. If you have an infected sliver in your foot, he can pull it out and sterilize the area; but again, God does the healing.

If you have high cholesterol, the doctor can show you how to eat properly to avoid that disease taking an unnecessary toll on your life. Medicine is one of God's instruments for healing. Paul encouraged Timothy to "*Take a little wine for [his] stomach and frequent infirmities.*" (1 Timothy 5:23)

Examine Your Heart

Many illnesses are brought on by bad habits and unwise choices we make. If you are a smoker, a drinker, or an abuser of your body through drugs, illicit sex or any of a myriad of physical abuses, you can expect sickness to follow. Some sickness, and Paul says MANY SICKNESSES, are brought on by sin in our lives. "*For this cause, many are weak and sickly among you and many have died.*" (1 Corinthians 11:30)

Call for the Elders to Anoint You

"¹³*Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.*" ¹⁴*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:* ¹⁵*And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him.* ¹⁶*Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.*" (James 5:13-16)

Confess Your Sins to One Another

This is an often forgotten mandate in the healing passage. God promises to forgive sins, but in the same context says that we are to confess our failures, our sins, one to another in order to be healed. You see, God isn't just concerned about your body. He is more concerned about your soul. If our souls would hurt as much as our bodies, maybe we would cry out to Him more.

Seek the Lord Continually

It is not possible for us to seek healing without regard to seeking the Lord. God's purpose is not to make you feel good. His purpose is that you might seek him and be holy as He is holy. He is more concerned about the state of your soul than the state of your body.

In reality, most of us are more concerned about our bodies than our souls. Therefore, sometimes the Lord sends affliction so that we might seek him with all our hearts. Our sickness drives us to our knees. In such cases, it is good for us to be sick or we may not seek the Lord at all. In truth, we all should seek his face (that means his presence in our lives) and not just his hand of healing. Dr. A. B. Simpson, founder of the Christian and Missionary Alliance and one who had the gift of healing, established cottages of prayer to help men and women dealing with illness to seek God. He encouraged them to spend a week or more in fasting and prayer, searching their hearts and searching the Scriptures for God's word to them about healing.