

GOD WANTS TO HEAL YOU

***1997 by Mark Beard**

Text: Isaiah 53:4-5

Since the beginning of the New Testament church many have preached the doctrine of Divine Healing. Although, at times those of us who believe in divine healing have been mocked and ridiculed for our belief in anointing with oil and praying for the sick, God has continued to heal and deliver his people.

We base our belief in divine healing, in part, on the words of Isaiah recorded in Isaiah 53:4-5

■ “He certainly has taken upon himself our suffering and carried our sorrows, but we thought that God had wounded Him, beat Him, and punished Him. He was wounded for our rebellious acts.

He was crushed for our sins. He was punished so that we could have peace, and we received healing from His wounds.”
(God's Word Translation)

Look with me into the Word of God and let us see together what the scriptures teach concerning the teaching of divine healing.

I. IT IS THE NATURE OF GOD TO HEAL.

A. In the Old Testament, one of God's names in the Hebrew language is JEHOVAH-RAPHA: meaning "I am the Lord that healeth thee."

This denotes or speaks of His healing nature.

B. There are at least FOUR METHODS that God uses to heal.

1. MIRACULOUS HEALING. This is when God does something in an extraordinary and instantaneous way. Immediate results are seen.

2. PROGRESSIVE HEALING. It is an extension of the first. When one recovers over a period of time of something that he or she should not be able to overcome. Also, it is when recovery comes more quickly than is natural.

3. PHYSICIAN HEALING. God uses doctors. Who do you think gives them their knowledge. All healing is from God. "Every good and perfect gift is from the Father of lights." Satan has only come "to steal, kill, and to destroy," but Jesus "has come to give life."

4. ETERNAL HEALING. This healing takes place when a child of God dies in the faith and goes on to receive their glorified body. (Source Unknown)

■ **Revelation 21:4 says,** "there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain."

UNDERSTAND: "Heaven is never second best."

C. There are also TYPES of HEALING.

(Emotional, Psychological, Spiritual, as well as Physical)

All of these are covered in our text.

(v.3a) "A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief."

(v.4a) "Surely He has born our grief and carried our sorrows."

(v.5) "But he was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement of our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

THE KEY

The key is to remember that God's love is unconditional. There is nothing of God that we can merit. God will heal one just like he will another. In fact, it is God's good pleasure to give us the Kingdom and all it's blessings.

II. HEALING WAS A CHARACTERISTIC OF JESUS' MINISTRY.

A. Jesus was known for His healing and miracles.

■ Acts 10:38 tells us Jesus..."went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil."

B. The cross was the basis of His healing ministry.

Healing became possible when Jesus took our sickness upon Himself. He did not just bear our sin on the cross; he bore our sickness as well.

■ *"We received healing from his wounds," one translation says.*

Before Jesus ascended back to the Father he assured His disciples that His ministry would not only continue; but be broadened in scope once the Holy Ghost was sent to empower them.

Beginning of PART 2

Recently, I saw a news segment on one of the winners of the Reader's Digest 10 million dollar sweepstakes. Some do not believe that they actually give the money away. Some say you have to buy magazines. Some probably think it is rigged. But, evidently, the truth is that real people DO win and no one can win if they don't "send it in."

The truth about divine healing is similar. Some people say it is not real. Some say God does not even do miracle any more. But the truth is that people actually DO receive divine healing and no one is healed if no one prays.

I simply believe that God wants people to ask for healing. I base this, not only on Isaiah 53, but also on James 5:14-15 that says, *"Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven."*

III. THE MINISTRY OF HEALING BELONGS IN THE CHURCH—THE BODY OF CHRIST.

A. The gift of Healing is a working of the Holy Spirit though the church—not a man centered or controlled gift.

It is not confined to, or possessed by, a select few. This gift was put in the church for the good of the church and for God's glory. *Healing is a ministry of the church. It is a part of the work within the community of faith.*

■ **I Corinthians 12:11 speaking of the gifts says, "But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills."**

B. Through faith we seek a transformational encounter with God—just as with any other work of God's grace.

Believing the Word of God, in a very personal way, is important to receiving the work of God in our lives.

Early in the healing movement, those who practiced and believed in divine healing were know to testify, **"The Word of God became the Word of God to me."** *The testimony of the scriptures became their story—not just principles to live by—it was THEIR story. It was real to them!*

C. Too, many want to see the ministry of Jesus as entirely about forgiveness.

Although salvation is most important, there is much to be said about the “parallel ministry” of Jesus. Parallel, in that forgiveness and healing were both important parts to the ministry of Jesus.

However, this is not to say that the two are connected to the point that if one is sick it is because of sin in his/her life.

Important: God is doing a continual work in us. God offers us more than just forgiveness. Salvation is only the beginning. ***We are saved, we are being saved and we will be saved.***

IV. HOW CAN WE BE HEALED?

A. We can be healed by the laying on of hands in the act of prayer.

Laying on of hands is mentioned in the Great Commission (Mark 16:18) *“they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover.”*

The writer of Hebrews list it among the ***basic doctrines of the faith***

Hebrews 6:2 Doctrines of baptisms, the resurrection of the dead, eternal judgment, and of laying on of hands...

B. We can be healed through faith in the power and truth of the Word.

Mark 16:20 says, "And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs."

Bruce Thielemann told this story in one of his sermons. "A friend of mine who was a minister in southern California told me recently of a woman in a mental sanitarium there. She'd been in the sanitarium for many years with an extreme depression. She used to just sit on a bench every day staring at the earth--no conversation, no response. And one day a new doctor who'd never seen her came down the hall and greeted her. He said, "Good morning!" She made no reply. "What is your name?" he said. No answer. "Well, my name is Doctor Heven, H-E-V-E-N, and I'll be by to see you again tomorrow." Then he started away.

But she lifted her head and said to him--and because he did not know the patient, he did not know how remarkable it was that she was saying anything at all--"What did you say your name was?"

He said, "Heven, H-E-V-E-N."

Now, somehow in the confused processes of that wounded mind, that woman confused the word Heven with the word heaven, and she began thinking about heaven. As she thought about heaven, she thought about God, and she thought of God's love made known to us Christ. The next day she said to everyone she met in the hospital, "This is the day which the Lord hath made." And the day after that, "Yea, I walk through the valley of the shadow of evil, but I fear no evil." Within six days she was saying, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Within five weeks she had been released from the hospital, and for the last fourteen years she has been carrying out her responsibilities as a leading teacher in southern California.

-- Bruce Thielemann, "Christus Imperator," Preaching Today, Tape No. 55.

C. We can be healed through anointing with oil in the name of the Lord.

The oil is only symbolic of the Holy Spirit; the prayer of faith must accompany the anointing. When we pray "in the name of the Lord," we are praying with and by the authority of the Lord. Anointing with oil is a "sacramental sign of the Holy Spirit's work." We Pentecostals believe that something happens

James 5:15 says, "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. (KJV)

■ The NIV renders James 5:15 "And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. (NIV)

D. We can be healed by various other methods.

The apostle Paul used handkerchiefs and aprons in **Acts 19:12**. They were used as a means of contact when the apostle was unable to go to the person who was sick. It was a symbol of the healing power of God.

CONCLUSION

Dr. Charles Cullis is widely held as the father of the modern healing movement. Ironically, he was a physician. After his conversion and the death of his wife he began caring for the homeless of Boston. In the late 1860's while doing his work with the homeless he began considering James 5:14 and 15. As he

studied the text he began practicing what he saw in the text. In 1879 he wrote, “The command and promise of James 5 has become so real to me that hundreds of sufferers have been healed.”

On one occasion he treated and prayed for a woman with a brain tumor and he was healed. He said that there was an instant change and that she had experienced a gradual—but complete—healing. --Historical Theology II notes, Spring 2002 – Dr. Kay Alexander

Too often we try to figure out how, when and where God is going to answer our prayer for healing. Don't let yourself fall into that trap. ■ As someone said, “My responsibility is to pray, God's responsibility is to heal. If he chooses not to do so, then he's responsible for that.” -- John Wimber, Leadership, Vol. 6, no. 2.

References

*This sermon was adapted from pp 39-46 of Church of God Distinctives by R.H. Hughes