

Chapter 15

The Healing Power of Jesus

When the even 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

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 happen because weeds are the curse for man's sin. We will always battle sickness and diseases. But God can suspend the curse for a moment with the great flow of life that comes from Jesus, our Savior. It is available to all of us.

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)

Can God Heal?

Of course, God can heal. That fact is powerfully demonstrated all through the Scriptures. He is able, always able. The real question most of us struggle with is, "Will he heal me? Is it his will to heal me of every disease all 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 comes 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 to be healed. 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 actual struggle in his life was whether “God willed to heal.” 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, whatever 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 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 has set before you were born. But God has provided a gift of His healing touch for our bodies when we call upon Him. He is still able and willing to respond when we call on Him.

What Do I Need to Do?

See a Doctor

By all means, see your doctor. We believe God created all medicines on the earth at creation. Your medical professional has studied God's natural world and nature's cures. He can be of inestimable value in diagnosing your illness and helping you define the disease that afflicts you. After God heals you, the doctor can testify to your recovery. 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, the doctor can pull it out and sterilize the area, but again, God does the healing.

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. Paul said, 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

Ask Hard Questions of Yourself

Most people are not willing to ask the hard questions of themselves when they face illness. There are some important questions that need to be asked and answered in our heart before we ask the Lord to take away our affliction.

1. Do you believe God wants to bless you?
2. Do you believe God wants to heal you?
3. What exactly do you want God to do for you?
4. Is there sin in my heart that hinders God from answering?
5. Is there anything hurting in your heart?
6. Is anything upsetting you emotionally?
7. Are you angry or disappointed with God?
8. Are you angry or bitter toward anyone?
9. What will you do with your healing once God gives it?
10. Will you serve God differently with this healthy body?
11. What promise of God are you clinging to for healing?
12. Are you living in peace with your spouse?

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.”* This 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.

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 you 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 our 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 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. Most of us are, in reality, more concerned about our bodies than our souls. Therefore, sometimes the Lord sends affliction so that we might seek the Lord with all our hearts. Our sickness drives us to our knees. In such cases, it is good for us to be sick or we would not seek the Lord at all. In truth, we all should seek His face (that means His presences in our lives) and not just His hand of healing.

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, *"Do you believe your daughter can be healed?"* He answered honestly and said, *"Yes, I believe, but help my unbelief."* (Mark 9:24) In other words, "Help my doubting mind!" 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 precious promises so that we can be like Jesus.

"Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these you 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 before the Father in prayer.

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 did all she could to draw near to Jesus and touch the hem of his garment. She believed if she could but

touch him, she would be healed. She approached Jesus with a strong faith, fully convinced that he was able and willing to heal her. 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.

Think About It

Chapter 15:

Where Does That Leave Us?

If God would heal you, how would you use it?

Do you need to be healed? Of what? Why?

Do you have the faith to trust God to heal you?

Measure your faith. How strong is it?

Is it 100%, 90%, 80%, 70%, 60%? 50%

What should you do to strengthen your faith?