

Healing - Part 1

Key Verse

James 2:24 - He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.

Exploring the Bible

I. **Believing in Healing**

Healing is a very important topic for believers to embrace, yet many believers struggle in this area. Usually their struggle with healing is twofold. First, they believe that God can do anything, but they are not sure that God will do something specific for them. Second, they feel like God still has to do something for them or to them in order for them to be healed. Many believers pray as though they need to convince God to act on their behalf if they are going to receive a miracle whether it is healing or some other miracle. Many times they end up begging God to act on their behalf using a variety of reasons to convince God that He should do something for them.

If you are struggling in either or both of these areas, I have good news. God has done something for you and wants you to receive all that He has already provided. Let's look at a couple of passages in the Bible to see what God says.

Mark 1:40-42 - A man with leprosy came to him and begged him on his knees, "If you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus was indignant. He reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed.

Question: What did the leper say to Jesus?

Answer:

Question: What was Jesus' reply to him?

Answer:

This leper had the same question that many believers have when it comes to healing. I know you can do it Jesus, but are you really willing to do it for me? Jesus didn't hesitate. He said yes to the leper and healed him. In fact Jesus didn't do anything to the leper for his healing. Instead He simply made a declaration for him to be clean and it happened.

2 Corinthians 1:20 - For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.

Question: What answer does God give to all the promises of the Bible?

Answer:

God has already acted on your behalf when it comes to healing, salvation, or any other need that you have. When Jesus Christ died on the cross and rose again, all was paid for including your sin, your healing, and all provision you would ever need for yourself or for the work of the Kingdom of God. When it comes to healing, there is literally nothing that God has to do or can do on your behalf for healing because it has already been done for you through Jesus Christ. In this verse, God makes it clear that not only is it all completed and provided for you, but God has already said yes to you when it comes to obtaining it. Just like with the leper, there is nothing more to do than to receive it and declare it because all the hard work in healing has already been done by Jesus Christ. All of this becomes a matter of faith. There is nothing that strengthens our faith like seeing what the Bible has to say about this matter of healing. So, let's continue to look at some passages in the Bible that give us a picture of our God who heals.

II. Does God want to Heal?

One of the most important questions to answer is the following: does God want to heal people?

A. OT Examples of Healing

Genesis 20:17-18 - Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelek, his wife and his female slaves so they could have children again, for the Lord had kept all the women in Abimelek's household from conceiving because of Abraham's wife Sarah.

Question: What did God do when Abraham prayed?

Answer:

Exodus 23:25 – 26 - Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span.

Question: What does God promise to take away from the Israelites?

Answer:

Read *2 Kings 5:1 – 14*

Question: What disease did Naaman have (verse 1)?

Answer:

Question: Who did Naaman go to see for healing (verse 9)?

Answer:

Question: Did Naaman get healed (verse 14)?

Answer:

God demonstrates His desire to heal before the law, to the generation who receive the law, and to a foreigner during the time of the prophets. Before Jesus ever came to this earth and performed all the miracles of healing, God was healing people under the old covenant.

B. The Anointing

When Jesus came to this earth, His ministry was a powerful demonstration of healing, deliverance, salvation, and restoration. But all of this was not something He just "happened" to do while He was here with us. He was anointed by God for a specific purpose and He took that anointing and walked out that purpose. So let us look at what Jesus was anointed to do.

Luke 4:18-19 - The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Question: Name all the things from these verses Jesus was anointed to do.

Answer:

Christ is not Jesus' last name. It means the anointed one. Jesus is called the Christ because He is the anointed one. He was chosen by God the Father for this mission and anointed by the Holy Spirit to be empowered to carry out this mission. He was anointed to bring healing this earth. Because He rose again after His death on the cross, His anointing still remains on him for the work listed in these verses. That is why throughout the New Testament He is referred to as Jesus Christ, Jesus the anointed one.

Read *Romans 6:1-5*

Question: Whom were we baptized into when we got saved?

Answer:

When we were baptized into Christ, it was the step that allowed us to be "in Christ." That same anointing that was on Jesus Christ is now on us. We are to carry out the exact same mission for which Jesus was anointed because we are in Christ. This is not a nice thought or a cool idea. It is the core mandate for every believer on this earth. That is why we are in Christ - so that we can carry out the mission he was anointed for across this world. As you can see, God the Father takes the mission of bringing healing to this earth very seriously. It is at the core of doing the Father's will here on earth.

Practical Exercise:

One of the most practical ways to build faith is to take the words of God and turn them into declarations for our situation and our needs. Here is a simple declaration for healing that you can use to declare healing for yourself for any need you may have:

Isaiah 53: 5, 1 Peter 2:24 - By the stripes of Jesus I have been healed.

Psalms 103:3 - You forgive my sins and heal all my diseases.

Father, I thank you for the healing you have already provided for me through Jesus Christ. I speak death to this sickness (name the sickness). I curse it and command it to leave. Father, I speak the life that you've already put on the inside of me. I release it to flow through my body.

Let's gather in groups of three to four people and pray for anyone who needs healing.
