

Healing - Part 3

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. Basis of Healing

Psalm 103:2 - 3 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,

Question: How many sins does God forgive?

Answer:

Question: How many diseases does God heal?

Answer:

Isaiah 53:5 - But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Question: Jesus was crushed and pierced for what?

Answer:

Question: By what are we healed?

Answer:

1 Peter 2:24 - "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Question: What did Jesus bear in His body on the cross?

Answer:

Question: What do Jesus' wounds give us?

Answer

James 5:14 – 16 - Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.

Question: If someone is sick what should they do?

Answer:

Question: If they have committed a sin what will happen?

Answer:

As you look at these promises of healing from both the Old Testament and the New Testament, a couple of things become very clear. First, God is trying to communicate to us that He wants to provide healing. These are just a sampling of His promises to provide healing through Jesus Christ. Second, forgiveness for sin and physical healing are always linked together in the Bible. Sin is the entry point for all that is bad and destructive on this planet and in each of our lives physically, emotionally, and spiritually. Since that is the case, then with the forgiveness of sins comes physical healing. There is a very clear example of this in Jesus' ministry.

Read *Mark 2:1 – 12*

Question: What does Jesus first tell the paralytic (verse 5)?

Answer:

Question: What does Jesus tell the paralytic the second time (verse 11)?

Answer:

Here Jesus clearly links the forgiveness of sins and physical healing. He first tells the paralytic that his sins are forgiven. When the religious leaders started to murmur about this, Jesus' question to them was simply which is easier to forgive sins or to heal somebody after which he told the paralytic to get up and walk. The point Jesus was making is that for Jesus it is no harder to forgive sins than it is to heal someone.

All of this is important because in the previous lesson we learned that on the cross all sin for all people for all time was paid for. Therefore, all sickness and disease for everyone

anywhere at any point in time has already been paid for, and the healing is available just as salvation for anyone is available because of the work on the cross.

II. God is Honest

Numbers 23:19 - God is not human, that he should lie, not a human being, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill?

Question: Does God change His mind when He says something?

Answer:

Psalms 119:89 - Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.

Question: What is the condition of God's Word?

Answer:

As we look at all these verses about God and His heart for healing everyone as it was demonstrated through Jesus Christ, it is important to understand that God doesn't lie or change His Word. He has recorded for us in His Word promises of healing, examples of everyone getting healed, and exhortations to believe Him because of these works. We can stand solidly on the fact that Jesus paid for healing for all, God's desire is for all to be healed, and He stands ready to heal any and all who come in faith. It is this condition of faith that we want to look at next.

III. The Importance of Faith

Hebrews 11:6 - And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Question: Without faith what is it impossible to do?

Answer:

James 1:6 – 7 - But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

Question: One who doubts is like what?

Answer:

Question: Will this kind of person receive anything from the Lord?

Answer:

As you can see from the many passages we have looked at, faith is absolutely essential for healing. Without faith we cannot please God. We must believe He rewards those who seek Him. If we doubt, we certainly will not receive anything from the Lord. As much as God wants to heal, His hands are tied if faith is not active here on earth to receive what He desires to give to us. Because this is such an important part of healing, we have only introduced briefly the topic of faith here. We will have a whole separate lesson on faith.

IV. Proclaiming Christ and Healing

So how do you begin to express faith whether for healing or for anything else in God's Kingdom? You have to first begin by knowing what you already have received. The following quote from Andrew Wommack says it well:

God loves you whether you feel it or not! His love has been poured in your heart—in other words, in your spirit. And His love isn't conditional upon your good actions, or holiness. You've got to start from this place that "God has already provided everything, and if I don't feel His love, it's not that God didn't give; it's that I don't realize what I have." When you know that you have something, it takes the struggle out of it. It takes you out of condemnation. It takes you out of a legalistic mentality of trying to earn things from God. It removes doubt. How could you ever doubt that you'd get something that you already have? It's really that simple.

Healing is no different. It is not something that we need to get from God or to get God to do for us. We already have it. Let's look at this verse again.

1 Peter 2:24 24 - "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."

Question: What has already happened because of the wounds of Jesus?

Answer:

We don't have to ask God to do something for us. He has already done all that needs to be done through Jesus Christ, and He has said "yes" to all the healing needs through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 18:21 - Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

Question: What kind of power is in the tongue?

Answer:

If we already have healing in Jesus Christ and the power of life is in our tongue, then in order to express faith and release life we need to speak and declare the life and healing we already have. We praise and thank God for the healing He has already giving us even though it may not have manifested in the physical realm. We praise and thank God for it until it manifests.

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.