

Healing for All

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Divine Healing

Text: Psalm 145:8-9, Psalm 107:20

When it comes to divine healing there are two questions that all of us must deal with.

- 1) Is it God's will that everyone is healed?
- 2) Why is it that some people do not get healed?

There are instances in the Bible where Jesus did not heal everyone. **Mark 6:1-6** Where there is unbelief there is very little divine healing. **John 5:2-9** When Jesus healed the man at the pool of Bethesda there were others waiting there to be healed as well. The Hebrew meaning of Bethesda is "Place of Outpouring or House of Grace". This day it is recorded that Jesus only healed one out of the multitude waiting for the stirring of the waters. For many there is only faith for healing when there is a stirring of the waters. With Jesus there never needed to be certain conditions except the condition of the heart.

Three things necessary for healing to take place:

- The understanding that God is willing to heal **Luke 5:12-13** The "I am willing" of Christ canceled the "if" of the leper.
- There must be a desire to be healed. **John 5:6** This is a great question. Some people like the attention, have gotten used to the sickness, or have taken on the identity of their ailment. This man took his eyes off the pool and put his hope and desire in Jesus.
- There must be faith for the healing. Healing comes the same way that we receive salvation. **Ephesians 2:8-9** We are healed by the grace or unearned favor of God through faith. One mistake many make is having faith in faith. Faith does not save or heal only God does. Faith is just the open door through which the Lord comes.

James 5:15

In answering the question is healing for all we must understand that healing is known as the children's bread. **Matthew 15:21-28, Mark 7:24-30**

Jesus came primarily to the Jewish people. **Romans 1:16** Those who become Christians are known as Children of God. Healing is first one of the great privileges of a Child of God. This Syrian woman or a Gentile was hungry for a touch from Jesus. In His compassion and because of her faith Jesus met her hunger and her need. **John 6:26-35, 48-51** As the bread of life, Jesus has made healing available for everyone.

There is a direct correlation between sin and sickness. It was when sin entered the world that **disease** entered the world. The fact that people get sick is because we live in a fallen world as a result of Adam's sin. As we have studied, many of the people that Jesus healed, He **forgave** first. **Luke 5:17-26**

One of the more interesting things Jesus said was to the man at the pool of Bethesda. **John 5:14** There are two times in the New Testament that Jesus gave this instruction, here to the man at the pool and also to the woman caught in the act of adultery.

Part of **continuing** in your healing carries the same requirement as walking out your salvation. Go and sin no more. The lady caught in adultery would render Jesus' forgiveness null and void if she went **back** to her old life. Some have gathered from the wording of the scripture that the man at the pool was sick because of past sin and that if he now being healed returned to his life of sin that a worse sickness would happen to him. **Luke 11:24-26** This is a valid rendering of this verse; however there is something worse than sickness and that is **eternity** without Jesus.

Another Key Question that we must honestly answer is this—Does God permit sickness to come into our lives for certain purposes? The simple and short answer to that question is **yes**. Because we live in a fallen world even Christians are not exempt from the reality that sin brought sickness and disease into the world. Sickness never originates with God, it always originates with Satan; but God does allow believers to experience sickness. We see this truth in both the Old and New Testaments.

a) The example of **Job**. **Job 2:1-10, Job 42:11-12a** No one in all of the written scripture suffered in the way Job did. It is important to understand that his suffering came directly from Satan but it was permitted by God. Job's life served as an **example** in both heaven and earth. Job's life became something that people and angels, both holy and fallen, were to consider and think about. As we have already studied in this series, there are many lessons that we learn from Job's ordeal. Notice that God **restored** everything to Job, including his health. Job did not remain in sickness, it was only for a season.

b) From the New Testament we have the example of the man born blind. **John 9:1-7** Again we see that God had a **purpose** for this man's blindness. This precious man's healing got the attention of the entire Jewish community in Jerusalem. This miracle sparked a greater conversation about who Jesus really is and the true nature of true sight and true blindness. **John 9:13-34** Healing always becomes an opportunity to share our **testimony**. **John 9:25** Many Christians are so focused on the unfairness and suffering sickness brings they do not understand that God has a plan. One of the main take things learned from this man's healing is that there is a blindness that is greater than not being able to physically see. **John 9:35-41**

It is important to notice that this man although blind from birth was ultimately **healed**. Both he and Job only experienced a **season** of sickness.

It is important that we do not confuse sickness and **affliction**. In both the Old and New Testament, God allows and uses affliction as a means discipline, correction, shaping and accountability.

David is one example of the use of affliction. **Psalm 119:65-72** Affliction is the difficulties, hardships and attacks of life. God used the afflictions of David to help him learn the wisdom of God's Word, laws and commandments. **Proverbs 3:11-12, Hebrews 12:5-11**

Nowhere in scripture do we see God using sickness as a form of discipline except against His enemies (the plagues in Egypt) or on those who **rebelled** against His established authority. (Miriam and Aaron)

The promise of Divine Healing does not rule out **suffering** for the sake of Christ and that of the Gospel. **2 Peter 2:19-21, 1 Peter 4:12-19, 2 Timothy 2:3-13**

Many people have mistakenly used Paul's **thorn** in the flesh as an example of how God uses sickness to refine a person. It is important that we understand that Paul's thorn was not sickness or disease. **2 Corinthians 12:7-10** Paul's thorn was a **messenger** of Satan sent to buffet and beat Paul with trial after trial because of all that God had revealed to him. **2 Corinthians 12:1-6** Paul pleaded with God to remove this thorn and God said no because it kept him **dependant** on the grace and favor of God. For those who claim that they have a thorn in the flesh, the question must be asked- what revelations have you been given by God that demands the attention of hell? To understand Paul's thorn we need to read the context before he talks about it. **2 Corinthians 11:23-33** Paul's thorn was not sickness but a relentless constant bombardment of trials meant to keep him from being effective for the sake of the Gospel.

Reasons that some fail to receive their healing

It is important that we honestly deal with the fact that not everyone we pray for **receives** the healing that is available through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ. Many people offer flimsy reasoning that blames the one seeking healing or the offer that it is God's desire for that person to remain ill. There are however some legitimate reasons why some people may not receive their healing.

- The first reason for not receiving healing is a lack of **instruction** in the Word. Some people are ignorant of the promises found in God's Word.
Psalm 107:20, Romans 10:17, Hosea 4:6, Proverbs 5:23
- A lack of **united** prayer **1 John 5:14-15, Matthew 18:19**
- Community **unbelief** We find that Jesus was only able to do a few miracles in Nazareth because of wide spread unbelief in the region. The disciples discovered that it was a lack of faith on their part that certain people were not delivered from demonic torment. They needed to pay the price of prayer and fasting.
- The **traditions** of men **Mark 7:8 (AMP)** Unfortunately many adhere to what people say more than what the Bible says. Some of those religious traditions are: God is glorified when His children endure sickness with patience. Some say that the age of miracles has passed. In order to be healed some have been incorrectly instructed to pray "if it be your will."

- Healing may not be received when we continue to break natural laws that God has put in place. Overeating, poor nutritional choices, purposeful sexual sins all come with consequences.
- Some are not healed because of the unbelief of the one doing the praying. Again Jesus rebuked His disciples for their unbelief.
- Some are not healed because they need deliverance; they are not suffering from a sickness but an evil spirit. Jesus did not heal an epileptic disease but an epileptic spirit.
- Some fail to receive healing because they have sin in their life. **Psalm 66:18**
- Luke-warmness in a church. There are churches that have not gone all out for Jesus. When there is luke-warmness, the work of the Power of God is tepid at best.
- An unwillingness to surrender everything to God.
- Some are not healed because they harbor unforgiveness in their heart.
- They have a need to seek forgiveness in their life.
- A lack of diligence. God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. It is the effective fervent prayer of the righteous that avails much.
- Those who seek instantaneous miracles instead of healing.
- Watching symptoms instead of fixing where they look - on Christ.
- A failure to act on faith. Naaman needed to dip in the Jordan, Paul needed to go to Straight Street so a prophet could pray for him. The blind man was to wash the mud off of his eyes in the pool of Siloam. The Lepers were to go show themselves to the priest.
- Waiting to receive before they believe. This is the reverse of what God expects from us. **Mark 11:24**

These are some of the hindrances to receiving divine healing. The truth is there are some things that we do not understand about why some people are healed and others are not. Just because we don't understand certain things does not mean we should stop believing for God to keep His word.