

Does God Always Heal?

Joh 5:2-20 ESV Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. **3 In these lay a multitude of invalids--blind, lame, and paralyzed.** 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, "Do you want to be healed?" 7 The sick man answered him, "Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me." 8 Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked. Now that day was the Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, "It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed." 11 But he answered them, "The man who healed me, that man said to me, 'Take up your bed, and walk.'" 12 They asked him, "Who is the man who said to you, 'Take up your bed and walk'?" 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, **for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place.** 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, "**See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.**" 15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. 16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, "**My Father is working until now, and I am working.**" 18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. 19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.** 20 For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel.

- Not everyone was healed by Jesus
- There were/are causes for this man's issue - in this case SIN
- What is the Father doing? - This is what Jesus was doing - and why he walked away

I am sharing this message for several reasons...

1. Partly to **address some things that were said last week** during an exhortation...(*"We don't need to go home sick. We need to go home when it's time."*)
2. Partly to help us understand there are **tensions in scripture** (not contradictions) that have to be embraced for proper understanding (Grace & Mercy in tension w/ Judgement) -- I think there are some in the area of healing
3. You may think when I share this that I don't believe in healing - but I am speaking to one extreme
4. Partly because there is some confusion around the subject of divine healing (God doesn't heal today --- God heals everyone) (Where does sickness come from?) etc --- I want to explain how I understand it today - I am growing constantly
5. Partly because it is crucial to rightly divide the word on any subject -- not just healing
6. You may disagree -- but healing is a secondary doctrine
7. I want the church to be strong where Jesus wants us strong - includes miraculous healing

Personal experience

I have been healed, and I have NOT been healed

I have prayed for those who have been healed and I have prayed for those who have NOT

I don't always understand (nor do I have to) there is a bit of a mystery in it

The Basis for Healing is the Work of Christ on the Cross

Miraculous healing is FOR TODAY and it is made possible BECAUSE of the death of Jesus

- Isa 53:3-5 ESV ...has borne our **griefs [sickness]** and carried our **sorrows**;.....he was pierced for our **transgressions**; he was crushed for our **iniquities**;..... and with his wounds we are **healed**.
- Mat 8:16-17 ESV That evening they brought to him many who were **oppressed by demons**, and he cast out the spirits with a word and **healed all who were sick**. 17 This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: "**He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.**"

Yet death, mourning, crying and pain will not cease until He returns

- Rev 21:4 ESV He will wipe away **every tear** from their eyes, and **death** shall be no more, neither shall there be **mourning**, nor **crying**, nor **pain** anymore, for the former things have passed away."

Along with miracles Scripture shows other ways where healing occurred

There is natural healing - our body heals itself without any intervention (**but God created it**)

- Dan 8:27 ESV And I, Daniel, was overcome and **lay sick for some days. Then I rose** and went about the king's business...

There is healing from "medicine" - but **God put the plants** or the chemicals here, and **gave man the wisdom** to utilize what He created - to subdue the earth (Hobart Freeman - 90 people lost their lives)

- 1Ti 5:23 ESV No longer drink only water, but **use a little wine** for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.
- Isa 38:21 ESV Now Isaiah had said, "Let them **take a cake of figs and apply it to the boil, that he may recover.**"

There is the resurrection - ultimate healing - we will receive an immortal, and incorruptible body

- 1Co 15:53 ESV For this perishable body must put on the **imperishable**, and this mortal body must put on **immortality**

There is healing for inanimate object I will heal their land (2 Chron 7:14)

There is healing related to the salvation of sinners (sozo and soteria - Gk healing and salvation)

- (He was eating with tax collectors and sinners - "**it is the sick who need a physician**" - **Matt 9:12**)
- **Healing their backsliding (Hosea 14:4)**

- **The context of 1 Pet 2:21-25 is more about healing our sin than our body ...** 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.** 25 For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls. **--- in context is talking about the healing of our sinful way**

Does God Always Heal? (with respect to miraculous healing)

Trophimus was left ill by the apostle Paul

- 2Ti 4:20 ESV Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus.

Jesus went to the next town --- it is fair to say some sick were left behind

- Mar 1:32-38 ESV ... they brought to him **ALL WHO WERE SICK** or oppressed by demons34 And he **healed MANY WHO WERE SICK** with various diseases, and cast out many demons...35 he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed.38 And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out."

At the pool of Bethesda - Jesus singled out ONE MAN and left the others without healing

- Joh 5:2-21 ESV 3 **In these lay a multitude of invalids--blind, lame, and paralyzed.** "Do you want to be healed?" 8 Jesus said to him, "Get up, take up your bed, and walk." 9 And at once the man was healed,.....13 **for Jesus had withdrawn,** as there was a crowd in the place.

What is the source of sickness?

Sometimes it is from Satan

- Luk 13:16 ESV And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom **Satan bound for eighteen years,** be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"

Sometimes it is by our own doing

- 1Co 11:28-30 ESV - Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 **That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.**

Sometimes is it a matter of age & the "effects of fallen man" - "the outward man perishes"

- Gen 48:1 ESV After this, Joseph was told, "Behold, **your father is ill.**" So he took with him his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. ... Gen 49:33 ESV When Jacob finished commanding his sons, **he drew up his feet into the bed and breathed his last** and was gathered to his people.
- 1Ki 15:23-24 ESV [King Asa] ... in his old age he was **diseased in his feet.** 24 And Asa **slept with his fathers and was buried**
- 2Ki 13:14 ESV Now when **Elisha had fallen sick with the illness of which he was to die...**

Sometimes it is from the LORD

- Num 12:9-13 ESV **THE LORD struck Miriam with leprosy for her rebellion**
- 2Sa 12:15-19 ESV **The LORD afflicted the child of David & Bathsheba, he became sick and died**
- 2Ki 15:3-5 ESV [Azariah] did what was right in the eyes of the LORD...Nevertheless, the high places were not taken away...And **the LORD touched the king**, so that he was a **leper** to the day of his death
- 2Ch 21:12-19 ESV **the LORD struck King Jehoram** in his bowels with an **incurable disease**. 19 In the course of time, **at the end of two years**, his bowels came out because of the disease, and **he died in great agony**
- Act 13:9-11 ESV **The Lord struck Elymas** with temporary blindness for opposing the gospel
- Act 5:3-5 ESV **The Lord struck Ananias and Sapphira dead for lying**
- Act 12:21-23 ESV **The angel of the LORD struck Herod down** because he did not give God the glory

Sometimes the LORD is doing a deeper work

- Paul and his thorn in the flesh (not a sickness) it is something the LORD left remain - in order to keep him from being conceited

So, how should we approach healing?

We should have a zeal like was in the early church for God to stretch out His hand to heal - and that zeal includes our preaching his word with boldness - Healing is ultimately for the glory of Jesus and was often seen in the NT as a proof of the resurrection

- Act 4:29-31 ESV And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your **servants to continue to speak your word** with all boldness, 30 **while you stretch out your hand to heal**, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

We should embrace the authority of Christ

- Deu 32:39 ESV "See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god beside me; I kill and I make alive; I **wound** and I **heal**; and there is **none that can deliver out of my hand**.
- Lam 3:37 ESV Who has spoken and it came to pass, **unless the Lord has commanded it?**
 - **Confessing something does not make it a reality**
- **We have authority when we are under authority** - I cannot demand something of God - He does respond to faith, he responds to asking, but at the end of the day He is not at my beck and call
- Psa 135:5-6 ESV For I know that the LORD is great, and that our Lord is above all gods. 6 **Whatever the LORD pleases, he does**, in heaven and on earth, in the seas and all deeps.

We should pray

Jas 5:13-18 ESV Is anyone among you **suffering? Let him pray**. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. 14 **Is anyone among you sick?** 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** will save the one who is sick, and **the Lord will raise him up**. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, **confess your sins** to one another and **pray for one another, that you may be healed**. The **prayer of a righteous person** has great power as it is working. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and **he prayed fervently** that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 **Then he prayed again**, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

We should seek to understand the will of God

- We have been made to think it is immature, or wrong to end a prayer for healing by saying “Your Will Be Done” - but isn’t that exactly what Jesus prayed? --- Nevertheless Not MY will, but Yours be done...
- 1Jn 5:14-15 ESV And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.
- People may say it destroys faith to end a prayer for healing with “**If it is your will**”
- You can also destroy faith by claiming and proclaiming healing, but if the LORD hasn’t spoken it or if he doesn’t heal, where do you stand, **isn’t that destructive to a person’s faith?**

What if I don’t receive a healing?

1. Do you know His will? (If you pray according to His will He hears you etc)
2. Is God working, is it his timing, is there something more He is working?
 - a. Jenny and Rheumatoid Arthritis - we prayed and NOTHING until she dealt with unforgiveness - that was the work of the Father
3. Did you ask? (Paul prayed 3x)
4. Are you willing to accept “No” or “Wait” as an answer?
5. Is there sin? (don’t agonize over this - I believe the LORD will be clear with you)
6. Is there faith?
 - a. Mat 13:58 ESV And he did not do many mighty works there, because of their unbelief
 - b. Lord I believe help my unbelief
7. In the end you have to stand for the LORD
 - a. Dan 3:17-18 ESV If this be so, our God whom we serve **is able to deliver us** from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. 18 **But if not**, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Pro 18:14 ESV A man's spirit will endure sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?