

Common Questions About Healing - Part 2

1. Why does it appear that God heals one and not another?

First, it is important to clarify what the Bible says about Jesus' suffering and death on the cross as they apply to healing. Isaiah 53:4-5; Matthew 8:16-17 and 1 Peter 2:24 make clear the argument that Jesus bore in His body our sicknesses, diseases, pains and infirmities as well as our sins. This does not apply to only a few people but rather applies to everyone. Healing is available to all Christians in the same way that salvation from sin is available to all people. What a person does with that information is what makes the difference. We would never say that God was capricious when it comes to salvation by saying, "Well, Mr. Jones wanted to get saved but God just wasn't ready today, maybe tomorrow." We would look at Mr. Jones and ask what it is about Mr. Jones that is hindering him from receiving salvation. Unfortunately, when a Christian comes to Jesus for healing and doesn't appear to have received it, we have a tendency to ask what is wrong with God instead of what is hindering the person from receiving. Hindrances can be broken down into three basic categories: lack of knowledge of God's Word, sin, or demonic influence.

Hosea 4:6 says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." It is what we do *not* know about God's Word that can keep us from experiencing all God has for us and allow the enemy to destroy us. Faith for healing comes by hearing the Word of God on healing. Spend time in God's Word studying the Healing Scriptures.

In Psalm 66:18, the writer says that if I regard iniquity in my heart, God cannot hear me. One of the most common sins is taking offense (i.e., getting offended) and the resultant unforgiveness that occurs. Unforgiveness can block all of our prayers. Therefore, anytime one approaches God in prayer, confession of sin is mandatory to be able to receive from Him.

Jesus freed a woman in Luke 13:11-16 from a demon which had kept her bowed down for eighteen years. Acts 10:38 says that Jesus was anointed with the Holy Ghost and power, Who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed of the devil. While all sicknesses and diseases can ultimately be traced back to a demonic source (e.g., in the extreme to Adam and Eve), much healing can be received without the need to address the demonic basis; however, some challenges do require that the demonic causes be specifically dealt with through deliverance.

Healing is available for all Christians. We have found that, as we take a step toward God by removing hindrances such as lack of knowledge of God's Word, sin, or demonic influence, the way for healing is opened and God takes a step toward us.

2. Sometimes when a person is healed by God, why does it appear that the sickness comes back?

In Jesus' death and resurrection and in the salvation package we received when we accepted Him as our Savior, we received healing: complete, full and whole. However, every promise of God is based on a partnership. We have our part and God has His part. On top of that, we have an enemy who is trying to destroy us. Once we see the manifestation of the healing for which we have been standing in faith, then frequently satan tries to attack us with lies or lying symptoms. By using these attacks, he hopes that we will accept the lying symptoms and conclude that we were really not healed after all. Each time it appears that a sickness or disease is trying to come back, it should be treated as an attack of the enemy; one more

attempt with his fiery darts. We have our part, which is to continue to stand in faith not only with our words but also with our actions. God has His part which is to provide the anointing in our lives to bring the manifestation. If we were to give-in to the symptoms and back off from our faith, then it would appear that we have lost our healing.

3. Some people believe that sickness is not always the result of sin because Jesus said about the man blind from birth that neither this man sinned nor his parents.
John 9:1-4.

Jesus was responding to a specific question by the disciples, “Who did sin, this man, or his parents?” Jesus answered truthfully that it was not the man (as an infant he was born in sin but not with sin) nor his parents, who brought the effect of sin. In other words, since Scripture says in Exodus 34:7 that sin is visited down to the 3rd & 4th generation, it could have been his grandparents or great grandparents or great-great-grandparents.

Jesus said, “Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but tht the works of God should be mad manifest in him” (the blind man). Then Jesus went on to say that He (Jesus) must do the works of Him (God) that sent Him. We know that Jesus came to set the captives free and to free His people from these bondages. Jesus was here to bring the Kingdom of God; therefore, He was going to show the glory of God by breaking the bondages and effects of sin on this blind man and He was going to set the captive free by healing him.

4. Some say that healing is not for everybody, because they knew an Aunt Sophia, who believed God for her healing (standing in faith) and she died.

I am sure that Aunt Sophia was a woman of great faith. However, we always have to come back to the Scriptures for our understanding of all of the circumstances of life. Has God provided healing as part of our salvation package? Does every Christian have access to that package? Since the answer to both questions is a resounding “Yes!” then the short, blunt answer must be that the problem had something to do with Aunt Sophia and not with God or His Word. Actually, since God is perfect, He never makes mistakes and never changes. The perceived problems are never with Him. Since God and His Word are one (John 1:1), then God cannot break His Word. Refer to the answer to question #1 above for a general overview of the hindrances to healing.

One great misunderstanding which often takes place, is with the *tense* of our faith. What do I mean by *tense*? Consider the following; are we putting our faith in the *present tense*, receiving our healing right now as a completed spiritual truth based on what Jesus has already done on the cross 2000 years ago? Or are we looking towards the *future*, focusing on the physical manifestation of our healing based on the absence of symptoms? **Effective faith is in the present tense.** “I believe *now* that I have already been healed by the stripes of Jesus” not “Jesus is going to heal me.” We need to see ourselves as the healed, enforcing the healing that Jesus has provided. This belief in our heart (heart faith) will cause us to do things differently. Keep in mind that Christians must be obedient to legal authority, including their doctors. Therefore, if the Christians have doctors, they should be subject to the doctor’s instructions.

Heart faith will cause people with pain to push against the pain as they act in faith, simply because they believe that they have been healed. It will cause those challenged with cancer to refuse to lie in bed even though they feel terrible. In general, it will enable all those who are standing in faith to accomplish what

God has called them to do as best as they can under the challenges of the circumstances. Faith requires works, even the work of maintaining a normal schedule as part of standing in faith. Biblical faith is aggressive, expecting God's Word to be true and not allowing circumstances to determine the results of their faith. Matthew 11:12 states that the violent take the kingdom by force!

Last, but perhaps the most important, is what you say (Mark 11:23). A common hindrance to healing is the words of your mouth. When you believe that you are healed, you will talk like it. Watch the words that you use, especially when someone asks how you are doing. Your words in speaking of the circumstances can actually claim the challenges as your own, reinforce them or empower them in your body and so can easily cancel your prayers and your beliefs. We can also reveal the *tense* of our faith by our words. While our faith must be in the *present tense* our words reflect our present faith by speaking in the *past tense* (i.e., "I *have been* healed by the stripes of Jesus.") One man we know kept saying, "I know God is going to heal me (notice the *future tense*). For 20 years he kept putting his words and faith in the future. Finally, just before an impending surgery, he was shown his error and changed his words to *past tense* and woke up the next morning healed and his surgery was cancelled.

5. Is it God's will to heal all Christians?

God's character, God's actions, and God's Word all confirm that it is God's will to heal every Christian. God's names reveal His character. Jehovah-Rapha, found in Exodus 15:26, means: "I am the God that heals you." Since He is the same yesterday, today and forever, then He is still Jehovah-Rapha. In the prophetic word found in Isaiah 53:4-5, the Messiah would bare in His body sicknesses, diseases, pains, and infirmities. That prophetic word was fulfilled in Jesus' ministry (Matthew 8:16-17) and through his death (1 Peter 2:24). Jesus' life was characterized by "going around and healing all who were oppressed by the devil" (Acts 10:38). In the life of the church in the book of Acts, signs and wonders were going on continually, especially in the area of healing. One interesting passage in James 5:14-15 says, "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: 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." The implication in the question is that it would be unusual for one of them to be sick.

You might ask, "But everyone?" The salvation package that Jesus purchased for us on the cross was for everyone, and it included everything. All who are open to receive the healing provided in the package will receive it as they partner with God. Acts 10:34 states that God is no respecter of persons. In other words, what God has done for one, He will do for all. The Bible tells us that Jesus healed everyone who asked Him. Therefore, today He must heal everyone who asks Him today. Remember what Jesus said repeatedly to those who were healed, "Thy faith has made thee whole" (Luke 8:48); "Be it done unto you according to your faith" (Matt 9:29); "If you can believe, all things are possible" (Mark 9:23). Today, He is still saying the same thing to you and to me and, remember, our faith grows by hearing and acting on the Word of God (Rom 10:17).