

Common Questions About Healing - Part 3

1. If God wants to heal everybody, how would anyone die?

It is widely accepted that death is the end result of sickness in old age for most people, and they hope that somehow, they can avoid a lot of suffering. However, the Biblical way to die does not include sickness. Before dealing with this issue specifically, it is best to put it into a broader context of the whole issue of death. Death from a Biblical stand point is a choice, not an expected result. The curse on Adam, which stated, "If you eat of this tree, you will surely die," affected both his spirit and his body. His spirit died immediately but he lived to be 930 years old before his body died. Adam was created to live forever; and so, even after the life source of God in his spirit was severed, there was still enough life to keep his body going. This is clearly seen in Gen 3:22-24.

Jesus' death and resurrection reversed this curse of death on God's people. Rom 8:2 says, "the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus has made us free from the law of sin and death." This is a most important truth to grasp. It is no longer necessary to be trapped in the death cycle which this world has known. That does not mean that people will not die; instead, the change in perspective is that it is now in our hands to decide; in other words, death has been defeated. The choice of when to die is now legally ours; the choice should not be abandoned to the whims of sickness nor disease, nor given to doctors, and certainly not to satan. In fact, we should not leave that choice even to God; it is our choice. Did God not make clear to us that the choice belongs to us and not to Him in Psalm 91:16? That is where God said, "With long life will I satisfy them." So, the obedient children of God have the right to choose death whenever they are satisfied with the length of their days.

One of the best examples of the application of this truth is Paul. In Phil 1:21-26, Paul says, "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless, to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith; That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by my coming to you again." Notice that he was making a choice whether to die or not. His decision-making process did not seem to involve either prayer or direct leading by the Holy Spirit but simply the exercising of his own choice. At this point in time, he decided that he should stay and minister the gospel to the Philippians and others.

Paul later made a choice to die. In 2 Tim 4:6-8, Paul says, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." Paul is making the choice here to die, but not by circumstances nor by sickness. Over many years of ministry, Paul encountered countless situations that could have resulted in his death but they did not (cf. 2 Cor. 11:23-27); in fact, even though it appeared that he did die and was left for dead, he regained his life (Acts 14:19-20). He overcame death time and time again, and now, after having completed all the will of God (i.e., completed his ministry), he made the choice that now he was ready to offer his life.

God does not intend that we are to spend our lives fighting against death until it finally wears us down and wins. Rather, death is an enemy which we overcome in victory until we have accomplished all of

the will of God for us; then, if one desires to go and see Jesus face to face, one can choose death. So how does one die? Jesus is our example and He said that no man can take His life but that He chose to lay it down; then He went to the cross and gave up the ghost (spirit) and died. We can at any time in faith, not in fear nor desperation, ask Our Heavenly Father to remove our spirits from our bodies and take us home.

2. I am doing everything right. Why is it not working (i.e., I am still sick.)?

Hosea 4:6 says that God's people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. It is dangerous to conclude that we are doing everything right. If we were doing everything right, then we would not need a Savior. We always have to come back to the basic premise that God's Word is true. When God's Word says that we have been healed by the stripes of Jesus and circumstances do not seem to line up with the Word of God, then we must conclude that the circumstances are wrong and they, in time, must line up with God's Word. That being true, then our approach to our words and actions must also match the Word of God and support the Word. If you think you are doing everything right and circumstances are not changing, then there are only two conclusions that can be made: 1) you are doing everything right and the manifestation will occur in time as you keep standing on the Word in faith and patience, or 2) you are not doing everything right and there may be something you do not know that is hindering the manifestation.

During the process of standing in faith, it is always helpful to ask the Lord to reveal any hindrances to you: in other words, anything that you need to change in order to see the manifestation. An attitude of humility before God and His Word is important. Psa 25:14 says that God reveals his way to the humble. Those that are humble before God realize that God is smarter and that His ways are higher than theirs (Isa 55:11). The correct way to say it is, "Lord, I am doing everything I know to do. Show me what I am not understanding nor doing right." There are three areas of errors which show up most often that you might want to consider: 1) Putting "the healing" in the future with your thinking and speaking instead of putting it in the past when Jesus died. We have already been healed and we are enforcing the healing that belongs to us that satan is trying to steal. 2) Consistently failing to speak God's Word over yourself with affirmations. During a challenge you need to be affirming the Word a lot (100 – 1000 times per day or more, depending on the severity of the challenge). 3) Contradicting your prayers, your affirmations, and your faith by speaking everyday conversational words which contradict your statement of faith for your healing. Carelessly speaking words of unbelief, doubt, unforgiveness, gossiping, malice, envy, pride, impatience, and fear can hinder the manifestation of healing.

3. Since God is in control, won't He heal me if He wants to (when He is ready)?

There are two major aspects to this statement. One has to do with control and the other with knowledge. Let us start with the former. To say that God is in control of your life is not a Scripturally correct statement. Nowhere in the Bible does it say that God is in control. The Bible cannot say that because it states the opposite. God gave to each person a very precious commodity called Free Will. Because of this free will, we have the right to decide for ourselves what we will do with our own lives. In the ultimate area of salvation, we know that we can choose to accept Jesus and go to Heaven or we can choose to refuse Him and go to hell. People every day do one or the other. Every day, people choose to go to hell. Every day people die and go to hell after a lifetime of rejecting Jesus. Yet the Bible states that it is the will of God that all should be saved and that none should go to hell. So, since

it is the will of God for all to be saved, then, if God were in control, all would be saved and none would go to hell. The truth is that God will not force you to do anything that you don't want to do. You are free to choose life or death, blessings or cursings. Isn't that what Deut 30:19 states? It is all up to you. You may choose Heaven or hell, health or sickness, riches or poverty. The choice is all in whether or not you choose to do it God's way or your way; the latter, of course, is really the devil's way. You just think it is your way.

The second aspect has to do with knowledge: specifically, the knowledge that every blessing of God has a condition. If you meet the condition, then you get the blessing. Let us put that another way: walking in the will of God requires a partnership between you and God. God tells you His will, and you do it. His general will for your life is specified in the Bible. Everything that you receive from God is based on this partnership which is described in your covenant (or legal agreement), which is the Bible. The Bible tells you what God has promised you in the covenant (or testament) and also tells you what your part of the contract entails (i.e., what you must do to partner with God on any and all promises).

Hebrews 11:6 says, "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." To receive the rewards or benefits of our salvation which God has for us requires seeking after Him with diligence. Another word for diligence is work. We are to seek Him with work, with effort. Since every promise of God has conditions, we have a part to fulfill and God has His part. We are partnering with Him to see His promises come to fruition in our lives.

What does effort look like? Jesus said in John 8:31-32 to those Jews who believed on Him, "If you continue in My Word, then are you My disciples and you shall know the truth and the truth will set you free." To be set free requires continuing in God's Word. If you want to be set free in the area of healing, then keep diligently continuing in God's Word on healing and you will be set free. The effort looks like this: It is spending time in God's Word studying, memorizing; and speaking God's Word over one's life with affirmations. It also means desiring to abstain from sin, repenting, (i.e., turning our backs on previous sin), and growing more and more towards God which is another way of saying we're sinning less and less.

In conclusion, I hope you understand that God is not in control unless we partner with Him by expressly using our free will to choose His ways. Therefore, the concept that God will heal me if He wants to is soundly unbiblical. God has already provided healing for you through Jesus Christ. Choosing to accept His blessing and partnering with Him to bring it to pass is the way we receive the blessing and make it ours.

4. I am suffering for Jesus. That is my cross to bear. The Bible says we are to partake of His sufferings, right?

Jesus' passion for us, which included His suffering and death, purchased for us an amazing salvation. This salvation package includes being set free from sin, sickness, emotional and mental hurts and anguish, severed relationships and more. Look at what the Spirit of God says through Isaiah about the suffering Messiah, "Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and carried our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy]. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for

our guilt and iniquities; the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us was upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we are healed and made whole.” (Is 53:4-5 AMP). Notice that the words for griefs and sorrows also included sickness, weakness and pain. Jesus suffered for us and bore all of these for us. Why? To set us all free from them. Jesus suffered with these so that we do not have to.

Paul in his epistles talked about his suffering for Jesus (2 Cor 11:30; 12:9-10; Phil 3:9 and Col 1:24). Please look carefully at the context of each of these passages. Each one refers to the persecutions and ardent efforts which Paul had to endure to be a faithful apostle to his Lord Jesus. Even the “thorn in the flesh” was not a physical ailment but refers to a demonic entity stirring up opposition and persecutions (see Common Questions About Healing Part 1). Jesus did the suffering to take sickness and disease away from us. Therefore, to accept sickness as a suffering would be to deny what Jesus did for us. Instead, we should resist sickness and disease.

If we think that we should suffer for Jesus, what then do we think about those who say that they should be crucified for Him also? People still do that today, submit willingly and voluntarily to be crucified on Good Friday to show their love for Jesus. Don't we think that there was only one perfect Lamb, worthy of the sacrifice of the cross? Shouldn't we also think that this one perfect Lamb was the only One Who could take the sufferings of the cross? Don't we denigrate, make light of, or lessen the work of the cross by saying that His work was not enough, so we need to be crucified with Him and/or suffer with Him to make up for the fact that His work on the cross was incomplete and so we need to help Him with the work of the cross? But the truth is that His work on the cross was perfect and complete. We have nothing to do but receive it and walk in its blessings by meeting the conditions of the promises. Refer to the Question above. To suffer for/with Him is similar to receiving a free gift from a loved one for your birthday and insisting that you need to pay for part of the cost of the gift. In fact, it is similar but much more insulting because none of us can pay for any part of the work on the cross.

5. Does God put sickness/disease on me to teach me (humble me) (break me)?

James, the brother of our Lord, says in James 1:17, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” Compare this verse to what Jesus said in John 10:10, “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” There is no place in the Scripture that indicates that God puts sickness on anybody. Sickness according to Deut 28:15-68 is part of the curse of the Law and Jesus came to redeem us from the curse of the Law (Gal 3:13). Sickness is not one of God's tools to teach His people.

The Scripture further tells us how God teaches His people in 2 Tim 3:16, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.” In addition to the Word, God also has given His people the Holy Spirit. 1 John 2:27 says. “But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.” The Word and the Spirit are the teachers of the Church. This does not mean that we do not learn things from the trials that we go through. If we allow Him to bring good out of what Satan meant for evil by working with Him and counting it all joy (James 1:2-4), then, God is able to bring good to us out of any situation. However, the attacks on our bodies, our finances, and our relationships are part of the spiritual warfare (Eph 6:10-13) that we encounter. We are fighting

against the enemies who are attempting to steal from us all for which Jesus died and for which He has already paid the price on the cross.

Here is another approach to this question which many tend to overlook. If God brings sickness and disease on us to teach us, then why would anyone go to the doctor and spend thousands of dollars trying to fight against “God’s will”? Philosophically, they would say that sickness is bad and do everything they can do to fight it but, when it comes to the spiritual, they think that sickness is good because they “learn” so much. The Biblical approach is that sickness is from the devil (Acts 10:38), who is attempting to steal our healing for which Jesus paid the price; and our response should be to fight him with our spiritual weapons to enforce our healing. It is in this process of enforcing our healing that the Word and the Spirit teach us and we grow from faith to faith, from glory to glory.