

We Believe
Healing Is For Today
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.”

Church I have good news for you today! It is Gods will to enjoy the benefits of divine healing today, this instant, without hesitation! Right now!

Sickness and death came into humanity because of sin. I don't want to oversimplify it or to imply that if you were dealing with sickness you were somehow in sin. If we believe the Bible from cover to cover then we also believe that through the tragedy of the fall in the garden of Eden, sin and death passed on to everyone.

Romans 5:12 says, “therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned.”

The Bible also teaches that death is considered a curse. Even the apostle Paul taught that ***“the last enemy to be destroyed is death.”***

We also need to be careful not to make the mistake of assuming that all sickness and every death is the direct consequence of sin. Let me give me an example: Jesus and his disciples were walking along in John chapter 9 and his disciples saw a blind man and they ask him this question, ***“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”*** ***“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,”*** ***said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in him.”***

Until Jesus returns, humanity will continue to deal with suffering and sickness and disease, But I know a God who not only died for our sins but also made a way for our healing as well. He is called the Great Physician in Exodus 15:26. It is God's nature to heal.

There is no disease that he cannot heal. It is his nature to move against all that affects and torments those who come to him believing that he can. During Jesus' earthly ministry, he and his disciples healed all who came to them.

Matthew 8:16 *"When evening came, many who were demon possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed ALL the sick."* And again in Acts 5:16 *"Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and ALL of them were healed."*

Now I know some of you may be tempted to say "well all of that was good for the Son of God And his disciples but this is today." Follow me to the book of **John 14:12**. Jesus said, *"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even GREATER things than these, because I am going to the Father."* In the book of Mark just before Jesus goes up into heaven he says something very astounding. Listen to what he said, *"These signs will accompany those who believe: in my name they will place their hands on the sick and they will recover."* This authority that he gave to believers has not been rescinded it is for today! Amen!

This should be the expectation of a church that believes in the great physician. We shouldn't have to have a special service or a special speaker or a particular person that deals with healing. This should be the norm of the Church of Jesus Christ!!!

James gives us some guidelines concerning healing so let's take a look at it. **James 5:14-15** *"Is anyone sick among you? 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."*

I don't want you to miss this. This portion of scripture in James is telling us that we do not have to go to healing conference to be healed or a person that specializes in healing ministry. The *"prayer of faith"* speaks of the conditions necessary for receiving healing. And this occurs in the local church.

Some may be saying this morning, "Pastor that's fine for people that are full of faith and power but what about me? I'm struggling in my Faith and have little to spare." Or maybe you or someone you love has been struggling with sickness for years and are struggling to believe. I'm about to bring some good news to you this

morning. Jesus did not turn away from those who had little faith or weak faith. Jesus did a lot to help them. Sometimes he laid his hands on them or touch them.

Once, he put clay on the eyes of a blind man and gave him the opportunity to express obedient faith by washing his eyes. And another time people express their faith by touching him or his clothing. Remember the story of the woman with the issue of blood? She touches the hem of his garment and she was instantly healed. Peter took the hand of a crippled Man and told him to get up and walk and he did it. Later there were times where people were healed when Peters shadow fell on them in Acts chapter 5. In acts chapter 19 people were taking handkerchiefs that Paul had touched and brought them to the sick and their illnesses were cured just by touching it. I love how God is so creative in meeting us right where we are in our faith

Let me give a word of caution about this. There was no magic or virtue in the means used to encourage faith. Their faith had to be in the lord not Paul's shadow or the handkerchief. No one starts a shadow ministry or handkerchief ministry or by all means a spitting in the eyes ministry. I'll leave that one up to the Son of God.

And lastly I can't really speak on the topic of healing and not try to address the elephant in the room which is, why are not all people healed?

There are mysteries that transcend our understanding in this world. Some answers we must leave with God himself. But we do know that it is God's nature to heal. We know that healing has been provided for us in the atonement of Christ. Faith is the key that unlocks the door to divine blessing. When we have done our part, we must leave the rest to God.

Even Jesus Performed many miracles in an atmosphere of unbelief but the provision for healing is available for us today. Sometimes we have to humbly admit that we do not have all the answers to why some people are not healed. But we know and have experienced the biblical truth that God does heal today.

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