

The Basics of Healing

I. Introduction

- A. When Jesus was here on earth He always showed compassion for the sick and suffering.
- B. The apostles who were eyewitnesses to the ministry of Jesus reported again and again that people brought sick, weak, and demonized people to Jesus and He healed all of them.
- C. The writer of the Book of Hebrews happily reminds us, "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8).
- D. We'll look at ten ways a person may be healed.

II. Natural Healing

- A. The life God gave us at birth has an amazing ability to mend physical wounds and fight off invading germs and viruses.
- B. Doctors know that the body, if given a chance, will often heal itself.
- C. Many people get well regardless of the treatment they receive.
- D. No wonder David said, "I praise you because you made me in an amazing and wonderful way..." (Psalm 139:14).

III. Medical Healing

- A. Modern medical science has gone a long way in producing medicines that can help the body's healing powers.
- B. I have met some Christians who refuse to take any medicine and boldly declare, "The Lord is my healer." I know that He is.
- C. While doctors still admit that they are "practicing medicine," it is amazing how skillful they have become in their practices.

IV. Attitude Healing

- A. If the cause of the sickness is in the soul, it is not likely that it can be cured in the body, even if that soulish problem has produced a physical reaction.
- B. Maybe this is why the Bible repeatedly talks about dealing positively with forgiveness, anger, bitterness, and interpersonal relationships.
- C. This is an excellent reason for praying for sick people, for prayer often makes us aware of our inner being while we are in the presence of Jesus who forgives sin and cleanses our lives.
- D. Before the introduction of sin, there was no sickness. After all sin is removed (in heaven) there is no more sickness. Clearly there is a cause/effect relationship.

V. Divine Healing

- A. The Bible makes it very clear that God has made a way to heal a human body by direct involvement of His will through His Holy Spirit.
- B. **Isaiah 53:5** But he was wounded for the wrong we did; he was crushed for the evil we did. The punishment, which made us well, was given to him, and we are healed because of his wounds.

James 5:13-15 Anyone who is having troubles should pray. Anyone who is happy should sing praises. ¹⁴ Anyone who is sick should call the church's elders. They should pray for and pour oil on the person in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer that is said with faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will heal that person. And if the person has sinned, the sins will be forgiven.

- C. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament are full of demonstrations of this healing grace God has promised.
- D. In both Testaments, God's provision of healing for the entire person can be viewed in three categories:
 1. Healing by covenant
 2. Healing by the Word
 3. Healing by identification

VI. Healing by Covenant

- A. Adam made a covenant with death through his disobedience. Jesus made a covenant of life by His complete obedience.

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 Death has come because of what one man did, but the rising from death also comes because of one man. ²² In Adam all of us die. In the same way, in Christ all of us will be made alive again.

- B. God showed the power of this covenant of divine health to the Israelites very soon after their deliverance from Egypt.

Exodus 15:25-26 So Moses cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree. When Moses threw the tree into the water, the water became good to drink. There the Lord gave the people a rule and a law to live by, and there he tested their loyalty to him. ²⁶ He said, "You must obey the Lord your God and do what he says is right. If you obey all his commands and keep his rules, I will not bring on you any of the sicknesses I brought on the Egyptians. I am the Lord who heals you."

- C. As we live in obedience to God's will, we can expect the covenant of divine health to apply to our lives.
 1. Since God sealed this covenant with His name Jehovah-Rapha, (God who heals), divine healing is more than a gift of health. It includes a repair department.

VII. Healing by the Word

- A. "God gave the command and healed them, so they were saved from dying." Psalm 107:20. God's earliest covenant of healing was based on His name.
- B. We need to remind ourselves that God's Word is creative.
- C. Jesus often cured illnesses and diseases with His spoken word.
- D. God's healing word often includes instructions on what we are supposed to do next.
- E. Sickness in any form can make us feel trapped, but Jesus came to set the captive free.

Luke 4:18-19 "The Lord has put his Spirit in me, because he appointed me to tell the Good News to the poor. He has sent me to tell the captives they are free and to tell the blind that they can see again. God sent me to free those who have been treated unfairly ¹⁹ and to announce the time when the Lord will show his kindness."

- F. The Word of God commands us to obey all of His commands.
- G. Healing formulas and rituals are always empty without God's nature and creative, directive, and imperative Word.

VIII. Healing by Identification

- A. Jehovah-Rapha of the Old Testament and Jesus Christ of the New Testament are the same person.

John 1:1 In the beginning there was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 The Word became a human and lived among us. We saw his glory—the glory that belongs to the only Son of the Father—and he was full of grace and truth.

- B. In becoming human flesh and living with us, Christ identified completely with us.
- C. The seven wounds of Calvary (head, hands, back, feet, and side) inflicted by thorns, whip, nails, and spear all brought Him into identification with our sicknesses.
- D. At Calvary, we can identify more fully with the finished work of God through Jesus Christ.
- E. The sprinkled blood of Calvary not only cleanses from sin, but it also offers us physical healing as part of the package.
- F. Just as Christ identified with us at Calvary, we can identify with Him both for the release from sin and sickness.

IX. Healing by Grace

- A. Some groups of Christians have made divine healing a ceremony of the church.
- B. There is much more about divine healing that I do not know than what I do know.
- C. Every time we try to make a doctrine out of divine healing, it holds back the flow of this grace of God.
- D. I believe that every work of divine healing is an active work of God's grace extended to needy people.

X. Healing in the Gifts of the Spirit

- A. In listing the nine gifts of the Spirit, the Apostle Paul included "gifts of healing" (1 Corinthians 12:9).
- B. It would seem that the gifts remain in the Holy Spirit, and He lives in believers.
- C. While the other gifts of the Spirit are given in the singular, this wonderful flow of power that produces healing in the human body, soul, and spirit is listed as plural—"gifts."
- D. It is wise to avoid using the title of "healer" when God uses us in easing suffering in others.

XI. Divine Healing Requires Faith

- A. Although divine healing is not "faith healing"—Jesus, not "faith," is the Healer—the operation of faith is essential for divine healing to flow.
- B. Jesus did not always demand that faith come from the sick person. There were at least five channels of faith that produced healing miracles in the days of Jesus:
 1. The faith of Jesus Himself
 2. The faith of the sick person

3. The faith of the people who brought the sick
 4. The faith of the disciples who helped minister to the sick
 5. The faith of God—the gift of faith that makes it possible for anyone present to believe.
- C. God isn't too particular whose faith touches Him. All He wants is the channel of faith through which He can flow a measure of His nature to the suffering person.
- D. Just as the channels for faith were varied, the way faith was released or the point of faith's release, were equally varied. There are five or more ways illustrated in the New Testament.
1. Confession—a declaration to Christ that they did, indeed, believe
 2. Desperation—as illustrated by the woman who rushed up behind Jesus to touch the hem of His garment and received healing
 3. Obedience—as when Jesus told the cripple at the pool to take up his bed and walk. It was when he obeyed that he released his faith
 4. Anticipation—as when the people placed the sick in the streets anticipating the passing of Peter's shadow
 5. Association—as when the sick asked for articles that had been close to Paul's body
- E. The real diversity is not in the healing, but in the method used for touching the nature of God for that healing.
1. That will be as varied as the nature of the sick person or the manner that is comfortable to the person who ministers God's healing grace.
 2. Who cares how it came? We just rejoice that it did!