

HEALING THE SICK AS PART OF THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

(Wellsford Fellowship – 14/9/86 – EKB)

One of the covenant names of God is in *Ex 15:26*, where the Lord says: **I AM THE LORD THAT HEALS YOU.** Jehovah Rapha – The Lord our Healer. The condition given is that **we walk in obedience to His Will**, that is that we have a clear conscience before God. *Heb 9:14, 1Jn 1:9, Pro 28:13.*

There are many other references to the promises of God to be our Healer.

- Ex 23:25,26* “I will take away sickness from the midst of you...and I will fulfil your days.”
Num 21:8,9, Jn 3:14 An Old Testament type of Christ, who has made a sin offering for us, *2Cor 5:21*, and brings healing to those who look up at Him.
Deut 28:15-68, Gal 3:13 We have all broken God’s laws and deserved the curse of the law, which is a curse of poverty, destruction, and sicknesses, but Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us.
Ps 103:3 “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits, who forgives all your iniquities and heals all your diseases.”
Mal 4:2 “The Sun of Righteousness is risen with healing in His wings.” When Jesus arose He delivered us from the power of sin and sickness. The tomb is empty and we have been healed.
Ps 107:20 “The Lord sent His Word and healed them, and delivered them from all their destructions.”
Pro 4:20-22 “My son and My daughter, attend unto My Word, incline your word unto My sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes, keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to all those that find them, and health, healing and medicine to all their flesh.”
Jam 4:15,16 “The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up, and if he has committed any sins, they shall be forgiven him.”
Also: *3Jn 2, 1Cor 12:9,30, Mk 16:18, Lk 10:1,2,9.*

The first issue to settle is to see whether or not it is God’s will to heal the sick. The references covered so far show this to be so, but we will look further at the ministry of Jesus in *Mat 8-15*.

- Mat 8:2,3* Jesus healing the leper. He said His Will was for the leper to be healed.
Mat 8:5-13 Healing the centurion’s servant. Jesus was amazed at his faith, *v10*, and the clarity of his understanding **of the power and effectiveness of the Word of God**, *v8*. Jesus commended his faith, *v10*.
Mat 8:14,15 Jesus’ healing of Peter’s wife’s mother.
Mat 8:16,17 **Jesus healed all the sick that came to Him**, (the first reference to healing *all* that came). *V17* says that this is a fulfilment of *Is 53:4*, “Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.” Note the Holy Spirit’s commentary on the meaning of *Is 53:4*, given in the KJV as “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.”

Using “Young’s Concordance” – *Is 53:4,11,12*.

- Griefs choli(or koli) in the Hebrew, occurs 24 times in the OT, and is translated 20 times as sicknesses and diseases and 4 times as griefs.
Borne nasa in the Hebrew, and the same word is translated bear in *v11*, describing how Jesus has borne our iniquities.

Sorrows makob in the Hebrew, and is translated variously as sorrows and pains.
 Carried sabal in the Hebrew, and is translated *bare* in *v12*, to describe the way Jesus has borne our sins.

We conclude that Jesus has borne our sicknesses and pains as He has taken our iniquities and sins.

- Mat 9:1-8* Healing of the paralysed man, when Jesus said, “What is easier to say? Son, your sins are forgiven, or arise and walk?” In *v6* Jesus says that His healing of the sick demonstrates His power to forgive sins.
- Mat 9:18,19,23-26* The healing of Jairus’ daughter, (*Lk 8:41*, the name of Jairus is used), or rather the raising of her from the dead. In Mark’s account, *Mk 5:36*, Jesus said to them, “Be not afraid, only believe.”
- Mat 9:20-22* The healing of the woman with a bleeding problem. In each situation Jesus is pleased with the faith of those who come to Him seeking relief and wholeness, *v22*.
- Mat 9:27-31* The healing of two blind men.
- Mat 9:32,33* The healing and deliverance of a man who was dumb, and whose dumbness was caused by an evil spirit.
- Mat 9:35* **Jesus healed every sickness and every disease among the people**, in all cities and villages. This is the **second time**; it is said or implied that Jesus healed all.
- Mat 10:1,2,7,8*, The twelve apostles are commissioned and sent out to duplicate Jesus’ healing ministry as they preached the Gospel of the Kingdom. **Sickness is not part of Jesus Kingdom.**
- Mat 11:2-5* **The proof of Jesus’ ministry, and His Messiahship, was the presence of the power of God to heal, and the preaching of the Gospel – the Kingdom in power and in Word, *Lk 7:22*.**
- Mat 12:10-13* Healing the man with the withered arm.
- Mat 12:15* Jesus healed great multitudes. This is the **third reference** to Jesus healing all.
- Mat 12:22,23* Healing the demonised man who was blind and dumb. See Acts 10:38
- Mat 14:13,14* A great multitude and Jesus healed the sick. This is the **fourth time** it is implied that Jesus healed all.
- Mat 14:34-36* The people sent out into all that country round about, and brought to Him all that were diseased, and they were healed by touching the hem of His garment. This is the **fifth reference** to Jesus healing all.
- Mat 15:22-28* Jesus heals the demonised daughter of the Canaanite lady, who eventually discovers how to come on the right **ground** of approach. (I have been using the word healing for deliverance from demonic oppression as it is in *Ac 10:38*.)
- Mat 15:30,31* Great multitudes came to Jesus with the lame, blind, dumb, maimed and many other conditions, and He healed them – *all* implied. This is the **sixth reference** to Jesus healing all.
- Ac 10:38* **God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil, for God was with Him.**

Because Jesus only did the revealed will of the Father, *Jn 4:34, Jn 5:19,30, Jn 6:38, Jn 8:26-29*, His healing ministry was a clear expression of God’s will in the Gospel.

There is no record of Jesus not healing somebody who came to Him to be healed, or of Him saying it was God’s will for them to be sick or diseased.

There is no record to say that sickness and disease glorifies God, but **the Word of God frequently says that when sick are healed it brings glory to God.** *Mat 15:30,31, Mat 9:8, Lk 18:41-43, Lk 17:15, Lk 13:13,17, Lk 7:14-16, Ac 3:8,9, Ac 9:32-35, Ac 9:36-43.*

A number of times the Word of God records that **healing and forgiveness go together**. *Mat 9:5, Ps 103:3, 1Pet 2:24, Jam 5:15, Is 53:4,6,11,12, Mal 4:2, Num 21:8,9.*

From our experience not everybody is healed when they are prayed for.

Some conclude that therefore it cannot be God's will to heal all.

But if we keep to the teaching of God's Word we cannot make that conclusion.

Our doctrine and belief must be based upon God's Word not upon our experiences and reasoning.

If we pray for someone and they are not healed we must not lay the blame upon them, condemn them for lack of faith, or discourage them in any way. Our job is to encourage people to come to Jesus, help them to be able to receive God's grace, and do all we can to strengthen their faith.

There are certain barriers to receiving healing, and we need to assist people to avoid these obstacles, with sensitivity and gentleness, not in an accusing sense.

1. **CONDEMNATION** can be a barrier, also guilt and unworthiness. Minister the fulness of forgiveness. *1Jn 1:7,9, 1Pet 2:24, 1Pet 3:18, 1Cor 15:3, Eph 1:7.*
2. **FAILURE TO DISCERN THE LORD'S BODY**, *1Cor 11:27-30*. Proud, critical attitudes of judgmentalism within the Body of Christ prevent healing, and cause weakness, sickness, and death.
3. **REBELLION**. Known, deliberate disobedience to the revealed will of God. *Ps 66:18, Pro 28:13, Pro 1:23, Ex 15:26, Is 59:1,2.*
4. **UNFORGIVENESS**, bitterness, grudges, resentment, hard feeling towards others. *Mat 18:21-35, Mk 11:25,26, Mat 6:14,15, Lk 11:4.*
5. **UNBELIEF**, doubt, *Heb 3:12,13, Heb 11:6, Jam 5:15*. Unbelief is not a harmless human trait; it is deadly sin against God's integrity and character. *1Jn 5:10, James 1:6,7*
6. **FEAR**. *Lk 8:50*. Fear not, only believe and she shall be made whole. Refuse anxiety, worry. *Mk 5:36*
7. **OCCULT INVOLVEMENT**. *Deut 18:10-12, Deut 7:25,26, Ex 23:23-26, Num 33:52,55,56*. An occult involvement needs to be confessed, repented of, renounced and cut off in Jesus' Name.
8. **CURSES**. Sickness and disease may be due to a curse, or curses, laid on a person or family. Cults, secret societies, lodges can be the cause of curses coming on a family. *Gal 3:13,14 Is 54:17.*
9. **DEMONIC INFLUENCE**. Sickness may be due to the presence of demons. *Mat 12:22, Mat 15:22, Lk 13:11-17, Ac 10:38, Mk 9:25, Lk 4:39, Mat 9:32.*
10. **OTHER BARRIERS** that hinder healing may be: human striving to make it happen, human reasoning, expectation of a certain way it is to happen, e.g. expecting an instant healing when God's purpose is for a gradual process.

Praying the Prayer of Faith

Jam 5:15, Mk 11:24, Heb 11:6, Jn 16:23,24, 1Jn 4:14,15, Mat 21:21,22, Mat 17:20.

Pray according to God's Word, *2Pet 1:4, 2Cor 1:20*

Receive the answer when you pray, *Mk 11:24, Jam 1:6, Matt 7:7.*

Keep an attitude of believing, *Mk 9:23, Lk 8:50.*

Maintain a positive confession of faith, *Heb 10:23.*

Continue in praise and thanksgiving, being open to the Word and the Holy Spirit.