

NOTES

~ *Healing Through Application* ~

Introduction: Mankind's rebellion against God brought us sin, sickness, and death (**Romans 5:12**). Jesus wasn't killed and raised so we'd be healed physically, emotionally, or psychologically, but salvation can enable that kind of healing for Jesus' followers.

God's **promise**? That He will keep His word to redeem the obedient while providing His Spirit to help us while we're on earth.

Why Christ *really* died: To heal us *spiritually* and redeem us for our God (**1Peter 2:21-25**; Isaiah 53:1-6).

How or why physical healing may . . . or may not . . . happen:

- It may need to be a **process** instead of instantaneous healing.
- It may not happen at all because we don't enable God to act, or He has other plans. But we must persevere (**Romans 5:3-4**; 2Peter 1:5-7).
- All will die at some point (**Hebrews 9:27-28**; **Ecclesiastes 12:7**).
- By Christ's authority (Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:1; **Acts 3:6 & 16**).
- We should pray for each other (**James 5:13-16**).
- Healing can serve as a witness (i.e. John Chapter 9; Acts 3:16).

Enable God to work through obedience born of faith:

- Honoring Him with all we are, and have, through self-control (**Mark 12:28-31**; **Romans 12:1-2**).
- Being charitable to others; praying for them. This will keep our eyes off ourselves while also being obedient to God and Christ.
- What can prohibit healing? Anything that keeps God from working:
 - Not living right or being obedient (**1John 3:21-22**; John 15:7)
 - Impure motives (**James 4:3**)
 - Bad relationships (**1Peter 3:7**)
 - Lack of repentance (**Psalms 66:18**; Matthew 5:23-24)

Summary: We often need physical, emotional, or psychological healing for afflictions caused by our environment, our selves, or others. While God *can* instantaneously heal, it may not happen that way because it wouldn't be in our best interest, or because we're keeping God from working in our lives. Regardless, we must persevere through right-living, prayer, fellowship with other followers, and obedience out of faith.

~ *Healing Through Application* ~

Introduction – man introduced sin & death

Introduction: Mankind’s rebellion against God brought us sin, sickness, and death (**Romans 5:12**). This happened nearly 6,000 years ago and God has been trying to reconcile with us ever since. This is his desire and overarching will . . .

[**Romans 5:12**]

Jesus wasn’t killed and raised so we’d be healed physically, emotionally, or psychologically, but salvation can enable that kind of healing for Jesus’ followers.

God’s **promise** to redeem

God’s **promise**? That He will keep His word to redeem the obedient while providing His Spirit to help us while we’re on earth.

Why Jesus really died

Why Jesus *really* died: To heal us *spiritually* and redeem us for our God. (**1Peter 2:21-25**; Isaiah 53:1-6).

[**1Peter 2:21-25**]

The prophet Isaiah foresaw this by the Spirit of God 700 years before Jesus was born! The prophecy was a glimpse of how God would keep His promise to send one of His own to inhabit human form, be killed, and then be raised to give mankind a way out of sin and its consequences!

After all: God’s main desire to be reconciled with His creation . . .

How healing may or may not happen

How or why physical healing may . . . or may not . . . happen:

- It may need to be a **process** instead of instantaneous healing.

Although we’d certainly like to have all pain (emotional or physical) immediately removed, it may not be in our best interest to do so.

Perhaps underlying causes need to be rooted out and resolved first . . .

Perhaps the process will enable us to be better or stronger . . .

Perhaps the process will serve as a witness to others – during and after.

May need to be a **process**

- Not best for us
- Resolve underlying issues first
- Process to make us stronger
- Serve as a witness

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We don't enable God or He has other plans

- God may have other plans
- We can keep God from working

All will die

We *can* heal by Jesus' authority . . . but again, when God allows

'Name' = character and authority

Examples of healing

- It may not happen at all because we don't enable God to act, or He has other plans. But we must persevere (**Romans 5:3-4**; 2Peter 1:5-7).

[Romans 5:3-4]

God may have other plans that could preclude healing. Remember: everything was, is, and will be about God! He wasn't created for *our* good pleasure, but the other way around.

When God does desire to heal us (even if it's not as we imagine it should be), we may keep Him from working in our lives. Yes, God is God and will do as He will; however, His promises come, and are fulfilled, as part of a covenant. More on how we can keep God from working later . . .

- All will die at some point (**Hebrews 9:27-28**; **Ecclesiastes 12:7**).

[Hebrews 9:27-28]

[Ecclesiastes 12:7]

Yes, the flesh will die at some point at which our spirit will return to the One who created it. So, we won't/can't be kept alive forever!

- By Christ's authority (Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:1; **Acts 3:6 & 16**).

[Acts 3:6 & 16]

Jesus healed people as enabled by the Spirit of God. Anyone 'walking' in faith and obedience has been given the same potential by the same Spirit.

Note: Explain 'in My name . . .' = by Jesus' authority

Great examples can be seen in the New Testament accounts and heard in the testimonies of those who've healed, or experienced those healings. In fact, we see and hear of this happening a lot in poorer countries where people often have great faith and less distractions.

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Need to **pray** for healing

- Discuss how prayer works

Can serve as a **witness** & build faith

- **Example:** Jesus & the **blind man**

Enable God to work

- The first commandment
- Self-control through renewing (training) of the mind

- We should pray for each other (**James 5:13-16**).

[James 5:13-16]

Those of us who walk in the Spirit and, therefore, are in covenant with God and the Christ can enable and invoke many amazing things through prayer. After all, this is our spiritual communications with, not at, God.

By the way, let's briefly discuss the model for prayer given to us by our Savior.

- Healing can serve as a witness (i.e. John Chapter 9; Acts 3:16).

The knowledge of someone being healed can definitely build confidence in our God, His Spirit, and our Christ!

Although you'll find several good examples of healings done to serve as an example of the power of God's Spirit, one good one can be found in John Chapter 9. There, we read that a man had been [allowed to be] blind from birth to set the stage for healing by Jesus as a witness to God's power through the Spirit.

Enable God to work through obedience born of faith:

- Honoring Him with all we are, and have, through self-control (**Mark 12:28-31; Romans 12:1-2**).

[Mark 12:28-31]

[Romans 12:1-2]

This is the first of two commandments Jesus gave that summed up the Law and prophecies. Everything was made by Him and we were made for Him. There's nothing that doesn't belong to our God.

Paul informed the Church in Rome that we are to do this through self-control. And that we enable this control by renewing our minds, which comes through knowledge and training (after all – how will we understand what God desires if we don't learn??).

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Self-control = **worship**

Charity = NOT self-absorbed

What can keep God from working?

Lack of obedience

Actionable *agape* love

We're either *with* Him or *against* Him

Impure motives

Seek the kingdom of God first

Honor manmade covenants out of obedience

Obedience out of faith is the greatest form of worship (assigning of worth to the God we value); it proves we love our God and Christ, and *neighbor*.

- Being charitable to others; praying for them. This will keep our eyes off ourselves while also being obedient to God and Christ.

What can prohibit healing? Anything that keeps God from working:

- Not living right or being obedient (**1John 3:21-22**; John 15:7)

[**1John 3:21-22**]

Our mind – heart – must be intent on following our Christ and being obedient out of faith. The kind of love God had and has for us – **actionable** *agape* love – is what we've to have for Him and our fellow man. If we love, we will obey. Our actions should reflect our heart/mind.

We can't have things both ways: we are either in this two-way covenant with our God and Christ, or we're not.

- Impure motives (**James 4:3**)

[**James 4:3**]

Again, we **MUST** have a mind for God and Christ, seeking their kingdom above all things. Impure motives suggest the opposite is true . . .

- Bad relationships (**1Peter 3:7**)

[**1Peter 3:7**]

This too falls in line with obedience, as we're to treat others '*better than ourselves*' and honor our own human covenants.

We must repent to be forgiven and keep our covenant with God

Summary

- Lack of repentance (**Psalm 66:18**; Matthew 5:23-24)

[**Psalm 66:18**]

God and the Christ call us to repentance, which is a '*change in behavior that comes from a change of heart*'. There is no forgiveness and, therefore, no relationship without this change in direction. No relationship, no partnership with our God and Christ.

Summary: We often need physical, emotional, or psychological healing for afflictions caused by our environment, our selves, or others. While God *can* instantaneously heal, it may not happen that way because it wouldn't be in our best interest, or because we're keeping God from working in our lives. Regardless, we must persevere through right-living, prayer, fellowship with other followers, and obedience out of faith.

Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned — **Romans 5:12**.

For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, WHO COMMITTED NO SIN, NOR WAS ANY DECEIT FOUND IN HIS MOUTH; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; **for by His wounds you were healed**. For you were continually straying like sheep, but **now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls**. —**1Peter 2:21-25**.

And not only this, but we also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance; and perseverance, proven character; and proven character, hope —**Romans 5:3-4**.

And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. . . . then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it. —**Hebrews 9:27-28 and Ecclesiastes 12:7**.

But Peter said, "I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: In the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene--walk!" . . . And on the basis of faith in His name, it is the name of Jesus which has strengthened this man whom you see and know; and the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect health in the presence of you all." —**Acts 3:6 & 16**.

Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much. —**James 5:13-16**.

One of the scribes came and heard them arguing, and recognizing that He had answered them well, asked Him, "What commandment is the foremost of all?" Jesus answered, "The foremost is, 'HEAR, O ISRAEL! THE LORD OUR GOD IS ONE LORD; AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH.' The second is this, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' There is no other commandment greater than these." —**Mark 12:28-31**.

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. —**Romans 12:1-2**.

Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God; and whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do the things that are pleasing in His sight. —**1John 3:21-22**.

You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures. —**James 4:3**.

You husbands in the same way, live with your wives in an understanding way, as with someone weaker, since she is a woman; and show her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life, so that your prayers will not be hindered. —**1Peter 3:7**.

If I regard wickedness in my heart, The Lord will not hear —**Psalms 66:18**.