

GOD'S PLAN FOR HEALING

Many people have not received God's healing for their bodies because they are not certain it is God's will to heal them. They believe God heals others; but interestingly enough, many believe it is not God's will to heal them.

When Jesus Christ prayed, *"Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven,"* He was saying, "Move in this earth, Father, as You do in heaven." In heaven, according to Revelation 21:4, there will be no more tears, death, sorrow, or pain. There will be no sickness.

It is important for us to establish God's will and plan for healing. Then we will be able to receive healing for our own bodies. We must know for a fact what God's will is for us. Let us turn to His word, which is His will. Let us put aside our experiences or others' experiences concerning healing or the lack of it. Let us see what God has to say!

In Genesis 1-3 we see that man was created in God's image. Sickness was foreign to him. Sickness and disease are a part of the decaying process of death which also had no part in God's original creation. *"The wages of sin is death (physical and spiritual)."* When man fell into sin, he fell into bondage and captivity to Satan. According to Jesus, *"The enemy (Satan) has come to steal, to kill, and to destroy."* (John 10:10) Man became susceptible to sickness in his body as a result of Satan becoming his lord.

Sickness Is Not From God

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power; who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." (Acts 10:38)

"And behold there was a woman which had a spirit (demon) of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and would in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, 'Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.' And he laid hands on her: and immediately she was made straight and glorified

God..." (vs. 16, 17) *"And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?...and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him."* (Luke 13:11-17)

The power of God was flowing through Jesus to accomplish the works of the Father in this world ruled by Satan. The power and will of God is to release people from Satan's oppression and bondage. As Jesus pointed out, sickness is oppression from Satan. To have sickness does not mean we are possessed (filled and controlled by a demon), although sickness may be a result of being filled. In most cases, sickness is an oppression of Satan attacking our bodies or our minds.

Why did Jesus come?

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19)

Jesus came to free us all from the bondage, oppression, and power of Satan. Satan is defeated because Jesus has bound him and given us authority in Jesus' name to bind him. (See Matthew 12:28-30 and Matthew 18:18, which tell of forgiving sins or not forgiving sins - loosening or not loosening the power of Satan.)

Jesus said, *"The thief cometh not but to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."* (John 10:10)

A New Covenant

As shown in the Old Testament, under the old covenant, God promised blessings to His people if they were obedient to Him. (See Deuteronomy 7:11-15, Deuteronomy 28:1-14). They would have everything - prosperity, fame, fruitfulness of crops and the womb, and no sickness would be found among them (Deuteronomy 7:15). If they were disobedient to God's law, there were curses or punishments which included poverty, barrenness, sickness, diseases, and death, etc.

The only problem with the old covenant was that no one could keep God's law perfectly. So God gave a new covenant (promise) centered around Jesus Christ.

"But now hath he (Jesus) obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises." (Hebrews 8:6)

God established a new covenant promise with mankind based on better promises fulfilled in Jesus Christ for us.

"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident; for the just shall live by faith. And the law is not of faith: but, the man that doeth them shall live in them. Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: that the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." (Galatians 3:11-14)

Jesus, at the cross, took the curse of the law (poverty, separation from God, barrenness, death, and sickness) in our place, freeing us to receive the blessings of God (prosperity, communion with God, fruitfulness, life and health) by faith. We receive all these blessings as our inheritance by faith in Jesus Christ.

God has given us a free will to decide what we want.

Under the old covenant God said, *"I have set before you blessing and cursing - life and death – Therefore, choose life."* (Deuteronomy 30:19-20). To choose blessings and life was to choose to be obedient to God's law. God desired that we have all blessings from Him.

Under the new covenant, every blessing of God has already been provided for us by Jesus' death and resurrection. To choose blessings and life is to choose to receive them by faith in Jesus Christ. God desires that we have eternal life, health and every blessing [abundant life] that He has already provided in Jesus Christ. We choose to receive Jesus by faith, or we choose to reject Him, condemn ourselves, and cut off God's blessings. (John 3:15-21). Health is a part of our blessings in Jesus.

"Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the

chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5)

If you look up some of the terms in a Hebrew concordance, you will find what Jesus accomplished for us at the cross. These verses are often used to verify that Jesus took our sins away on the cross. True! However, Jesus also accomplished more for us.

According to Strong's concordance, the Hebrew meanings of the following words are:

grief – malady, disease, worries, sickness (verse 4)

sorrow - anguish, affliction, grief, pain, sorrow.

heal - cure, heal as a physician, thoroughly make whole. (verse 5)

(Note: It does not say to go to a physician to be healed, but we are healed by Jesus' stripes.) At the cross Jesus freed us completely from the bondage of Satan, our sins, death, maladies, disease, worries, sickness, anguish, affliction, grief, pain, and sorrow. Jesus made us thoroughly whole in spirit, mind, and body. To us who believe in Jesus Christ, we can live on earth as in heaven by faith in Him according to His prayer. Other things are going on in the world around us. However, we need not have them because in Christ we are "in the world, but not of the world." (John 17:14-17) The power of the indwelling Christ lives within us, and He prayed that we might be kept from evil.

"When the even was come, they brought unto Him many that were possessed with devils: and He cast out the spirits with His word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." (Matthew 8:16-17)

"Who His own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed (made whole)." (1st Peter 2:24)

"For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, arise and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy) 'Arise, take up they bed, and go unto thine house.' And he arose, and departed to his house." (Matthew 9:5-7)

Jesus pointed out that forgiveness of sins and healing of body and mind go together, and He has power to do both.

To those of us who truly believe God at His word, we clearly see that He has also given a ministry of healing to His church. We go forward in the name of Jesus, proclaiming the gospel that He has set us free - spirit, mind, and body from the oppression of Satan. This is what God says. We can receive and believe it, or we can disbelieve and reject it. Just because we do not believe it does not mean that God is a liar. Just because we do not believe it does not mean that God would not do it if we would believe. Today, all over this world God is healing those who believe according to His word.

At Nazareth, Jesus didn't do many signs because of the people's unbelief (Matthew 13:58). Let there not be unbelief present among us in our churches or in our hearts. Let the churches teach God's people to believe what God says and what He says is ours in Jesus Christ (the gospel).

Jesus said, *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them: they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."* (Mark 16:15-18)

"Is any sick among you? let him call the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer of faith shall save [the Greek term means to save, deliver or protect, heal, preserve, save (self), do well, be (made) whole] the sick. The Lord shall raise him up; and if he has committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." (James 5:14-16)

This passage deals with believers, and we believers have been made the righteousness of God in Christ. God will raise up, heal, and forgive all who want to be healed and forgiven on the basis of His word, if we believe when we pray.

Jesus said, *"Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that you receive them, and ye shall have them."* (Mark 11:22-24)

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me [us] the works I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will do, that the father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it". (John 14:12-14)

There are those who have the gifts of healing by the Holy Spirit. However, these passages apply to all believers in Christ. We are to pray, lay hands on people, and expect God to heal. We may not see results in that instant, but the person will receive healing. (In the spirit, the healing occurs the moment you speak the word. Then the manifestation in the physical realm will occur).

It is God's will to heal! Jesus healed all who were brought to him. Jesus' ministry was in perfect obedience to the Father:

"For I come down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me." (John 6:38)

"Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Phillip? He that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father? Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works." (John 14:9-10)

Jesus said the Father did all those healings and mighty works through Him. It must be God's will to heal everyone who seeks him. (See Acts 10:38, Matthew 4:23-24, Matthew 8:16-17, Matthew 9:35, Matthew 10:1, 12:15, 14:14, 14:34-36, Luke 4:40, Acts 5:16.)

Either we believe that God can and already has healed us (1st Peter 2:24), or we do not believe He can heal us. Sickness need no longer live on our bodies because we are God's children by faith in Jesus Christ. It is amazing how it is possible for people to believe that their sins are

forgiven, yet not believe that God heals. How do we know that it is God's will that we be saved? – On the basis of God's word. How do we know it is God's will that we be healed? - On the basis of God's word. If God does not want us saved or healed, why bother to pray for salvation or healing? We would be wasting our time.

God is no respecter of persons. (Acts 10:34-38, Rom. 2:11, Eph. 6:9, Col. 3:25). He does not want some saved and others not! He doesn't want some healed and others not. He wants all men healed, and salvation and healing go together according to God's word.

You might be thinking, *Well, why isn't everyone healed?* For the same reason everyone is not saved. Some people choose to be sick. Some people actually do not want to be healed. Some do not believe God will heal them. Others are ignorant of God's promises and word concerning His will and the inheritance for them in Christ.

Misconceptions Concerning Sickness:

1. Sickness is the result of sin.

Many times this is the case. Worry, fear, guilt, etc., will bring on sickness. However, this is not always true. According to the promise of God (James 5:14-15), even if sin is the cause of sickness, it will be forgiven when it is confessed, and the person will be healed when we pray.

2. Sickness gives God glory.

Not true. In the gospels and book of Acts, God always received glory when the people were healed or delivered. Things from Satan do not give glory to God. Glory goes to God when a person is released from Satan's bondage.

3. Sickness is the result of God purging or disciplining us.

Jesus redeemed us from the curse or punishment of the law - sickness included. God doesn't teach us not to go out into the street by running over us with a car. God does not put cancer or heart trouble on us to teach us a lesson, although a lesson is learned as we seek God in the situation. God disciplines us with His word. *"But now you are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you."* (John 15:3) We do not break our children's arms to discipline them. We instruct them. God instructs us with His word. *"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth."* (Hebrews 12:6) The term "chasten" means "train up a child, educate, discipline, instruct, teach."

As we obey God's word, we are covered by His protection and the evil one touches us not (1 John 5:18). No sickness or disease can live on us any longer. However, if I disobey God, I choose to move outside of God's protection and Satan can harm me. God allowed sickness to come on those who disobeyed him - those who obeyed were not sick. Jesus Christ redeemed us from the curse or punishment of disobeying God's law - sickness, poverty, and second death. We are disciplined by His word. God cannot be tempted with evil. We can resist sickness that attempts to come on us from Satan. Sickness that is the result of our sin or abuse of our bodies by overwork, overindulgence, or wrong attitudes can be healed by confessing our sin and receiving God's forgiveness, healing, and power to stop opening ourselves up to sickness by giving into temptations.

4. Sickness is the result of a lack of faith.

Not necessarily. It is true that many people do not believe in resisting sickness nor in healing by God. However, in many cases people are sick because of a lack of knowledge concerning God's will and power to heal that is available to them. They need to seek out and meditate on God's promise knowing that healing is already provided for them in Jesus Christ according to God's word.

What about Job? Job received all his disasters at the hand of Satan. But didn't God allow it? Yes. God could do nothing else. Job had chosen

to move in fear rather than faith. *"For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me."* (Job 3:25) Job, by his fear, opened himself up to an attack and captivity by Satan for nine months, not a lifetime. Yet, in Chapter 42, when Job repented and prayed a blessing upon his friends, *"God turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before."* (Job 42:10) God healed Job and gave him double the wealth he had before and released him from Satan's hold. *"After this Job lived a hundred and forty years...So Job died, being old and full of days."* (Job 42:16-17)

What about Paul's thorn (2nd Corinthians 12:7-9)? God's word states the "thorn" to be an angel or demon of Satan, not sickness or disease (vs.7).

Some consider it to be a physical illness or handicap. (See Galatians 4:13-14 - Note: Galatia was Paul's first stop after Lystra). However, in my opinion, it would be more likely that when Paul's "thorn" (demon of Satan) stirred up persecution, Paul was stoned at Lystra. (Acts 14:19-22) The result of the persecution was an affliction. The thorn, however, was a demon, not a disease or sickness. We know Paul was shown by Jesus what great things he would have to suffer for Jesus' sake. (Acts 9:16) Everywhere he went he was buffeted by Satan through people, and he suffered persecution.

In Joshua 23:13 God told Joshua that if Israel did not continue to love God, the people of Canaan would become a "thorn" in Israel's eyes and side. (The same thing is found in Numbers 33:55 and Ezekiel 28:24.) In Paul's lists of things he endured for Christ, he does not include any sickness, but all he endured had to do with persecution for Christ's sake (2nd Corinthians 6:4-10; 11:23-27).

God would not remove the messenger of Satan, Paul's thorn, because Satan's day is not yet up until Christ returns. Paul was praying for Satan to be removed. God could not grant that prayer until the fulfilled time. However, God gave Paul (and gives us) grace (power) that is sufficient for victory against the devil. *"Resist the devil and he will flee from you."* (James 4:7)

We cannot use Paul's thorn as an excuse for us to endure sickness since it is questionable that Paul's thorn *was* sickness. Let us not use Paul's thorn as an excuse for unbelief concerning God's will and desire that we have health and healing. Jesus, our example, was never sick.

What heals? God's word heals...Our faith in God's word is how we receive His healing.

"He sent his word, and he healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." (Psalm 107:20)

"My son, tend to my words; incline thy ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health (medicine) to all their flesh." (Proverbs 4:20-22)

How to Receive Healing

1. Desire healing.
2. Find God's word for you.
3. Believe it!
4. Pray on the basis of God's word.
5. Thank God that you received your healing. (Mark 11:24).
6. Confess what God's word says, not what you see or feel. *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* (Hebrews 11:1) Your faith in God's word is the substance and evidence of your healing until you see and feel it in your body. According to God's word, you will see your healing. Praise and give glory to God! You can continue to thank and praise Him that by Jesus' stripes you were healed.
7. Act on your healing. Do what you normally would do.

God's Word for Healing

Healing...in the Atonement

"Surely he hath borne our griefs [literal Hebrew is sicknesses] and carried our sorrows [pains], yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of

God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed." (Isaiah 53:4-5)

"...And he...healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias (Isaiah) the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." (Matthew 8:16-17)

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." (1st Peter 2:24)

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree." (Galatians 3:13)

According to Deuteronomy 28:15-22, 27-29, 35-61, all sickness and disease is a curse of the law. But praise God, according to Galatians 3:13, Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law!

Healing...the will of the Father

"...For I am the LORD that healeth thee." (Exodus 15:26)

"And ye shall serve the Lord your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfill." (Exodus 23:25-26)

"For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him..." (2nd Chronicles 16:9)

"There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling...With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation." (Psalm 91:10,16)

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." (Psalm 103:2-3)

"He sent his word, and healed them..." (Psalm 107:20)

"So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

"If ye then, being evil [natural], know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?" (Matthew 7:11)

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights..." (James 1:17)

"And behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean." (Matthew 8:2-3)

Jesus said of Himself, *"I am not to do my own will but the will of Him that sent me."* (John 6:38) Everything Jesus did in His earth walk was the will of the Father. He was the will of God in action. If you want to know the will of the Father, look at Jesus.

Healing...the works of Jesus

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed o the devil;..." (Acts 10:38)

A fact to settle in your heart: Christ is the Healer, Satan is the oppressor. *"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."* (John 10:10)

"And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching...and preaching...and healing every sickness and every disease among the people." (Matthew 9:35)

"And great multitudes came unto him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them. Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, the maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see: and they glorified the God of Israel." (Matthew 15:30-31)

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to-day, and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

Healing...the ministry of the Church

"Verily, verily, I say unto you. He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. (John 14:12)

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature...And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils...They shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16:15,17-18)

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray for him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him." (James 5:14-15)

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." (3rd John 1:2)

Healing...God at work within

"Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." (1st John 4:4)

...Faith for healing

"For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith." (Mark 11:23)

...Prayer of faith

"Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." (Mark 11:24)