

HEALING AND HEALTH

Laying Hold Of God's Provision

Introduction

Part One

"The Fundamental Question"

Tonight I want to show you how to lay hold of 2 of the greatest blessings that God has provided for His people; healing for our sicknesses and pains and the blessing of divine health for our physical bodies.

Most Christians believe divine healing and healthy living is at least *possible*: but I can speak from many years of experience and tell you that most of God's people do not know how to "lay hold" of it.

All the blessings of God flow from His love and grace to us; but many of His blessings are conditional; you must "lay hold of them"; you must act on your faith and DO something! Like the woman with the issue of blood...

And suddenly, a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years came from behind and touched the hem of His garment. For she said to herself, "If only I may touch His garment, I shall be made well."

Matthew 9:20-21

She had *heard* about Jesus; about how he healed others. But she had to do something to "lay hold" of His healing power for herself.

We see a similar picture in Matthew 14:

And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.

Matthew 14:35-36

Notice in both stories, the healing power of God was *available*; the problem was that the sick had to "lay hold" of it.

The same is true today.

Healing is available. But HOW DO WE LAY HOLD OF IT?
Where do we begin? With 2 Things.

- #1 First, There is one great fundamental question we have to answer.
- #2 Second, There is one great fundamental decision we have to make.

Let's begin by settling in our minds the answer to one great fundamental question...

I. The Fundamental Question: Is It God's Will to Heal His People?

You can never lay hold of God's provision of healing and health until you have settled this question in your soul with the correct answer. Logically, there are...

A. Three Possible Answers: Never, Sometime, or Always

1. Never. Very few believe that it is never God's will to heal.
2. Most believe "sometime" is the answer. Sometimes God will heal the sick, but sometimes He will not.
 - a. Some even believe that God will *make* you sick; as a punishment for some sin you committed; or that He brings sickness upon people to *test* them or to *teach* them some kind of spiritual lesson.
3. But the correct answer is choice #3: that it is ALWAYS God's will to heal His people and that they walk in health!
 - a. Many believers, perhaps even some of you, may struggle with this statement.
4. But I can tell you from experience that you cannot lay hold of God's provision to live in healing and divine health until you have answered this fundamental question about God's will; you have to begin by believing that it is always God's will to heal His people!
5. In this first teaching, I want to show you...

II. 3 Ways We Know That It is Always God's Will to Heal His People

- By the revealed Nature of God-Who He IS
- In the Earthly Ministry of Jesus Christ
- And through the Work of Christ on the Cross

A. The Nature of God

1. The primary reason that we can know it is always God's will to heal is not based on what He does; it is based on who He is!

a. There's an old song from a Broadway musical...

“Fish got to swim, bird's got to fly”. But *why* do fish swim and birds fly? It is because it is in their very nature to do so; it's because it's who they are! I would add, God's got to heal! Why? Because Healing is who He is!

2. The nature of God as Healer is first revealed in the story of the Exodus. God has just delivered His people out of Egyptian bondage by the blood of the Passover Lamb and led them into the wilderness through the Red Sea...

Exodus 15:23-26

**23 And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah.
24 And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink?
25 And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them,
26 And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians:
for I am the LORD that healeth thee.**

Exodus 15:23-26

3. Please notice v.26: “I am the Lord that healeth thee”.

This phrase is 3 words in Hebrew and I will say them out loud: Anee Yahweh Rophaka.

“Anee” = I am
Yahweh = the LORD

Rophaka = your Healer or more literally, your “Doctor”!

a. The Hebrew root word **Rapha, 7495 in Strong’s, means (to cure, to heal, to repair thoroughly, to make whole; the noun is Physician or Doctor.** Even today, there is a medical journal in Israel: Harefuah Hebraee: The Hebrew Doctor.

4. God is literally telling His people: I AM THE LORD YOUR HEALER! I AM THE LORD YOUR DOCTOR!

a. In Hebrew, the word “Ropha” is the present tense of the participle of the verb “to heal”; Literally, I AM THE LORD WHO AM HEALING THEE!

5. Up until this incident, Israel only knew God as “Yahweh”; but here at Marah, God revealed Himself to them as Yahweh/Ropha; that He is the Lord their Doctor. BUT HE DID GIVE THEM CERTAIN CONDITIONS::

Exodus 15:26 KJV

26 And (God) said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.

a. “If you will diligently hearken” could be translated, “If you will listen listening”; *to “listen listening” means to listen to God with BOTH ears!*

“The great secret to receiving healing and walking in health is to ‘listen listening’; with both ears and with all your heart.”

Derek Prince

6. The reason so many cannot lay hold of healing is because they listen to God with one ear and to the Devil with the other; the result is CONFUSION!

7. God says, “If you will diligently hearken (listen listening) to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight and give ear to all His commandments...THEN GOD GIVES THIS PROMISE...

I will put none of these diseases upon thee which I have put upon Egypt...

a. Here is proof that God will not make you sick! WHY? Because of who He IS...the Lord our Doctor!

8. But you may say, “That was then; BUT sometimes He might be different”. But no! Healing is God’s nature, and God never changes!

**I am Jehovah. I am the Lord. I change not therefore you sons of Jacob are not consumed.
Malachi 3:6**

a. God’s nature is to heal; and He does not change. Ever.

b. The proof that God never changes is in how He has preserved Israel, the “sons of Jacob”, down through history! The survival of Israel through the past 4000 years, in spite of dispersion, persecution, the holocaust, and a world full of anti-Semitism is proof that God’s nature as Jehovah the Healer never changes!

c. The New Testament says it this way:

**Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.
James 1:17**

Review

So the 1st way we know it is always God’s will to heal is the unchanging nature of God! I AM THE LORD YOUR DOCTOR! The 2nd proof is found in the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

B. The Earthly Ministry of Jesus Christ

1. In Acts 10 we find the Apostle Peter speaking to the house of Cornelius summing up the ministry 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 of the devil; for God was with him.
Acts 10:38**

1. First notice how the TRINITY is involved in the healing ministry of Jesus: GOD (the Father) anointed JESUS (the Son) with the HOLY GHOST and power! To do what?

**He went about doing good; (and what good did He do?)
HEALING ALL that were oppressed of the Devil!**

a. Notice that sickness is “oppression” by the Devil!

**For this purpose was the Son of God manifested, that He might destroy the
works of the Devil.**

1 John 3:8

2. Jesus did not heal *some*, or *most*...He healed them *all*! There is no record in the Gospels of *anyone* who ever came to Jesus who was ever denied healing! Not one!

**He healed them ALL!
Matthew 12:15 and Luke 6:19**

3. Do you see the connection between God the Father in the OT (I am the Lord that healeth thee) and Christ the Healer in the NT? Jesus did the will of God perfectly!

**He that has seen Me has seen the Father.
John 14:9**

4. How can anyone look at the healing ministry of Jesus, how He healed them all, and still wonder if healing is always God’s will?

**I came down to do the will of Him who sent me.
John 6:38**

**PAUSE AND REVIEW
FIRST 2 WAYS WE KNOW HEALING IS THE WILL OF GOD**

1. It is His very nature; Who He is; our Healer
2. Through the healing ministry of Jesus.

5. But the greatest proof is THAT PHYSICAL HEALING FOR OUR BODIES IS INCLUDED IN THE ATONEMENT; IN CHRIST’S WORK ON THE CROSS!

C. Healing is in the Atoning Work of Christ on the Cross

1. We get this from the great Messianic prophecy in Isaiah 53; spoken 700 years before the birth of Christ, where the prophet saw the purpose for the suffering Messiah:

Surely He has born our griefs and carry our sorrows: but we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him AND BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.

Isaiah 53:4-5 KJV

2. Every Christian recognizes that on the Cross Jesus was “wounded for our transgressions and bruised for our iniquities” and that He died for our sins; but many leave out the provision for physical healing contained in the same passage!

3. The proper translation of the Hebrew text in V.5 says....

Surely He has born our griefs (should be “sicknesses”) and carried our sorrows (should be “pains”)...the chastisement of our peace was upon Him AND BY HIS STRIPES WE ARE HEALED.

4. The Hebrew words for “Griefs” and “sorrows” should be translated “sicknesses” and “pains”!

a. In the German version of Luther, all Scandinavian versions read this way; also modern Apologetics Bible translation says this:

Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses and He carried our pains...and we are healed by His wounds.

Isaiah 53:4-5

The Apologetics Bible

5. The Cross of Christ dealt with our PHYSICAL needs as well as our SPIRITUAL needs. Don't leave out the physical provision!

6. In relation to the atonement, the scripture never uses the future tense in regard to healing; always the past! We ARE healed because the work of the Cross is already accomplished!

a. More proof is found in how two Jewish writers of the New Testament agree with this translation.

b. Matthew was a Levitical Jew, completely familiar with Isaiah's prophecy and referred to it in Matthew 18:

And when evening was come, they brought to him many that were possessed with devils and He healed all that were sick so 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

b. It's tragic that the translators of the King James Version of the Bible were not consistent here; they got it wrong in Isaiah but got it right in Matthew.

c. Also notice how the Apostle Peter connects the forgiveness of sins and physical healing to the work of the Cross in 1 Peter 2:24...

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed.
1 Peter 2:24

d. Peter is saying that the same One who bore our sins so we might be forgiven also took the stripes that we might be healed!

7. The point is that Matthew and Peter, both Jewish writers familiar with Isaiah's prophecy agree: there is forgiveness *and* healing in the work of the Cross!

"There was a 'Great Exchange' at the Cross; Jesus took all the evil due to us because of our sin so that we might receive all the good due to Jesus because of His righteousness."
Derek Prince

8. All the evil due to us because of our sins includes sickness and death; all that came upon Jesus. So that all the good due to Jesus because of His righteousness, including eternal life and physical healing might come upon us.

9. If we claim to be Christian and lay hold of the forgiveness of our sins, why would we not lay hold of the healing of our sicknesses at the same time?

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.
Hosea 4:6

10. Knowledge of God's word is our protection from destruction.

III. Review and Close

A. We Have Answered The Fundamental Question: “Is it Always God’s Will to Heal His People?”

1. We showed 3 ways we know this is true.

REVIEW

- **God’s nature** is to Heal; He does not just Heal; He is our Healer/Doctor
- **The earthly ministry of Jesus** proves that it is God’s will to “heal them all”; to never turn anyone away
- **The work of the Cross**-He died for the forgiveness of sins; He took the stripes for the provision of healing; a great exchange.

2. If you have “listened listening” you now know that is ALWAYS THE WILL OF GOD TO HEAL HIS PEOPLE. God is our Healer; and...

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Hebrews 13:8

**Jesus never said “No” to anyone who came for healing!
And He never will!**

5. Healing is God’s will; it is available; in our next session we’ll look at how to lay hold of it; but we had to begin with settling the question. Let us seal it with a declaration prayer before the Lord.

PRAYER OF DECLARATION

Heavenly Father, tonight I see that it is always your will to heal your people who meet the conditions set forth in your word.

I believe it is your will to heal because it is your very nature; Healing is not just what You do; it is Who you are; and I receive you tonight as my Healer; You are my Doctor.

I see that it always your will to heal because of the earthly ministry of your Son; who healed all who came to Him and never denied a one; that He came to do good and to heal all who are oppressed of the Devil.

And finally, Father, I see that it is always your will to heal because of Christ's work on the Cross; who died not only for the forgiveness of my sins, but also for the healing of my sicknesses.

Therefore, I lay hold of your provision of healing right now; I believe the work has been done. I declare that by His stripes I am healed. And I give you all the glory for my salvation, my healing, and my health.

In Jesus name, Amen.

TITLE

Additional Material

"Health is like money. We never have a true idea of its value until we lose it."

Josh Billings

American Humorist

"It is health that is real wealth and not pieces of gold and silver."

Mahatma Gandhi

For many Americans, the #1 political issue is healthcare: The problem of sickness and disease affects us all more than we may know:

- The health care industry in America is \$4 trillion a year.
- Over 35 million Americans were hospitalized this year
- 38% of all debt in the United States is medical debt

It pays to walk in divine health!