

Divine Healing for Today Part-7

Good evening, everyone. As I said last week, we're going to begin tonight by addressing why all people are not healed. I can think of few things more discouraging about praying the prayer of faith for someone's healing and nothing seems to happen. It's been said that God answers prayer with no, yes, or not right now. But let's take a look at what the Bible reveals re: Healing.

The Lord has done so many things for us in our redemption from the power of sin & death. The Lord is our Great Physician; He's the same yesterday, today and forever, & He changes not. Scripture says that healing is provided in the Atonement (**Isa. 53:4-5**); and sickness is the Devil's work and Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil: **1 John 3:8 TPT** *"But the one who indulges in a sinful life is of the devil (or "is operating under the influence of the Devil" [that is, belonging to the Devil, not to Christ]), because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God was revealed was to undo & destroy the works of the Devil."* The Lord is full of Compassion & He's certainly All-powerful. So why then isn't everyone who is prayed for immediately healed of all their diseases? We know that it can't be God's fault.

The realization that there are more important things in life than the healing of a person's body must be a part of our mindset for today's subject. Spiritual growth & salvation are preeminent over and above physical health, and spiritual blessing must be given precedence over the physical blessing. We believe that God wants His children to enjoy the benefit of both blessings, spiritual & physical, however, there are at times hindrances that get in the way. Here are seven suggested reasons why immediate healing can be prevented from happening.

1) Seeking Healing Before Salvation.

Since Divine Healing is one of the covenant blessings from the Lord, it is for the members of the family of God, the children of the Kingdom. God has taken a solemn responsibility, as our Heavenly Father, to provide for His own, meaning those who are in union with Christ Jesus by faith. This does not apply to those who, because of their unbelief, are outside of the family covenant. This is not to say that God will not heal an unsaved person, as experience has taught us He will. However, there is no scriptural promise that the unsaved can claim. **Mt. 5:45**

TPT “[*Your heavenly Father*] is kind to all by bringing the sunrise to warm and rainfall to refresh whether a person does what is good or evil.” This has been referred to as “general grace”, but it does not include a reason for positive faith with regards to healing. The Lord might perhaps heal a person because it will bring him or her to salvation, but the general rule is to seek Christ for salvation and commit their life to the will of God, and then seek healing for their body.

2) Seeking Healing for the Wrong Purposes.

Seeking the Lord for healing that would simply make one more comfortable, or to use their health for carnal or worldly pursuits is not sufficient reason for the Lord to provide healing. **James 4:3** **TPT** says, “*And if you ask, you won’t receive it for you’re asking with corrupt motives, seeking only to fulfill your own selfish desires.*” Healing should be for the glory of God, and the service that He desires for us to be involved in. **1 Cor. 10:31 AMPL** says, “*So then, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of [our great] God.*” All that we do, whether mundane or significant, is to be for the honor of God more than self-centered motives.

3) Those Who Look to the Minister More Than to Christ.

Though God uses human vessels to bring His marvelous works to pass, it's important that the person seeking healing not focus on the channel, but look to the Source, realizing that the minister has no power to heal within themselves. The Great Physician's name is Jesus, not Terry.

Acts 3:4-6 TPT tells how Peter got the lame man's attention, *"Peter and John, looking straight into the eyes of the crippled man, said, "Look at us!"* But notice how Peter shifts the man's attention: *"5. Expecting a gift, he readily gave them his attention. 6. Then Peter said, "I don't have money, but I'll give you this – by the power of the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, stand up and walk!"* Jesus Christ is LORD. Amen.

4) Disobedience is a Hindrance to Immediate Healing.

Exodus 15:26 conditions healing on the basis of obedience. **NLT** reads thus, *"He (the Lord) said, "If you will listen carefully to the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, obeying His commands and keeping all His decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; for I am the LORD Who Heals you."* Here we see that healing is conditioned upon obedience to the Word & Will of God. If a person is disobedient to commitments made to the Lord, or is stubbornly resisting God's will in his life, then it is doubtful if that person can expect to be healed. Disobedience blocks the flow of covenant blessings, & healing is "the children's bread"!

5) Healing Hindered Because of Unconfessed Sin in the Life.

Healing comes by the Grace of God. It is not a reward for holiness in a person's life. But due to known sin in a believer's life, faith will be hindered and result in a delay of the reception of what God has for that person. **Psa. 66:18-20 TPT** *"Yet if I had closed my eyes to my sin (or "If I had cherished iniquity in my heart), the Lord God would have closed His ears to my prayer. 19. But praises rise to God, for He paid attention to my prayer and answered my cry to him. 20. I will forever praise this*

God Who didn't close His heart when I prayed and never said no when I asked Him for help. He never once refused to show me His tender love."

I had a secretary named Paulette in our church in Canada who was terribly addicted to cigarettes for years, even as a Christian. She told me that the harder she tried to quit, the more she would smoke. Until one day, the Lord told her to retrace her steps back to the time she first began to smoke. It was as a teenager in rebellion to her mom & dad. When she repented of that rebellion, the bondage of cigarette addiction totally lost its grip, and she didn't have another cigarette since!

6) Unbelief Hinders Healing in a Believer's Life.

This works one of two ways:

1) In the one who prays. **James 5:14-15 TPT** *"Are there any sick among you? Then ask the elders of the church to come and pray over the sick and anoint them with oil in the name of our Lord. 15. And **the prayer of faith will heal the sick** and the Lord will raise them up, and if they have committed sins they will be forgiven."* **It's the elders' faith here.**

2) In the one prayed for. **Heb. 11:6 TPT** *"And without faith living within us it would be impossible to please God (or "we are powerless to please God."). For we come to God in faith knowing (or "Anyone who approaches God must believe") that He is real and that He rewards the faith of those who passionately seek Him."*

James 1:5-8 TPT *"And if anyone longs to be wise, ask God for wisdom and He will give it! He won't see your lack of wisdom as an opportunity to scold you over your failures, but He will overwhelm your failures with His generous grace (or "with an open hand"). 6. Just make sure you ask empowered by confident faith without doubting that you will receive. For the ambivalent [conflicted] person believes one minute and doubts*

the next. Being undecided makes you become like the rough seas driven and tossed by the wind. You're up one minute and towed down the next. 8. When you are half-hearted and wavering it leaves you unstable (or "restless" or "disengaged"). Can you really expect to receive anything from the Lord when you're in that condition?" Half-hearted, wavering & unstable = faith vs doubt!

7. Failure to Stand in Faith Until the Answer Comes.

Heb. 10:36 AMPC *"For you have need of steadfast patience and endurance, so that you may perform and fully accomplish the will of God, and thus receive and carry away [and enjoy to the full] what is promised." Even though the people whom Jesus and His disciples ministered to received healing virtually immediately, there are times when the manifestation of the answer to our prayers for healing & victory are delayed. When Daniel sought the Lord, his answer was delayed for 21 days. The word of the Lord that came to him: "He [the angel] reassured me by saying, "Daniel, don't be afraid, for I have come to bring to you the answer to your prayer (or "I have come because of your words"). From the first day you sought to understand the revelation and humbled yourself (or "afflicted yourself", a reference to fasting) before God, your words were heard in heaven. 13. However, for the past twenty-one days, the principality over the kingdom of Persia stood to oppose and resist me. Then Michael, one of the chief princes of heaven, came to my assistance. I was left there, confronting the king of Persia.* 14. Now I have come to help you comprehend what will happen to your people in the final days, for the vision pertains to a time still to come (or "for it is a new vision about those days")." *TPT note: One of the reasons for a delayed response to our prayers can be demonic interference in obtaining the answer. This is why we should never stop praying or lose hope." **Luke 18:1 TPT** *"One day Jesus taught the apostles to keep praying and never stop or lose hope. He shared with them**

this illustration.” It was about the poor widow, who was seeking justice and protection from her oppressor, and the godless judge who ignored her pleas for quite some time.

We know that disease comes from Satan, and there will be times when he tries to hinder the answer to our prayers for healing. The best thing that we can do in this case is to stand in faith, believing God’s Word, until the answer is manifested!

Next week: How to retain your Divine Healing.

Do any of you have a testimony of how the Lord has healed you?