

## MIRACULOUS HEALING-A CHRISTIAN BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

### WHY DO WE PRAY FOR THE SICK?

1. Compassion – God is love. Jesus was “moved with compassion and healed their sick.” (Matthew 14:14) The love of Christ is what moves Him to heal through us.
  - “Is any one of you Sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up... Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.” (James 5:14-16)
2. It advances His kingdom – Many come to Christ for salvation once they are healed or see someone else healed.
  - Jesus said, “As you go, preach The Kingdom of Heaven is near, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons.” (Matt. 10:7)
  - Jesus told 72 men, “When you enter a town and are welcomed... Heal the sick who are there and tell them the Kingdom of God is near you.” (Luke 10:8)
3. It glorifies God – “Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.” (Matthew 5:16)

Jesus told us to pray for the sick. He also said He only did what He saw His Father God doing-and healing was a big part of His daily ministry.

**WHY DO WE BELIEVE THE SICK GET WELL?** There are many examples of healing in the Old and New Testaments. Not only do we see that Jesus healed everyone in numerous towns, but the Apostles also healed without Jesus being present (Luke 9 and 10; Acts 3:6). There were also non-Apostles who healed and provided miracles for many people (Acts 6:8 and 8:6-7). Jesus’ brother James (who did not believe in Him before the resurrection) also confirmed we would be healed in Jesus’ name (James 5:14). See modern healing examples at [www. SidRoth.org](http://www.SidRoth.org) and [Ibethel.org](http://Ibethel.org). The Gathering Place Church also maintains a “book of testimonies.”

**WHERE DOES THE POWER TO HEAL COME FROM?** Jesus said He would send the Holy Spirit to each believer, to do even greater works than Jesus did (John 14:12). Peter explained in Acts 3:16 “By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus’ name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see.” The Holy Spirit provides Gifts of Healings (1 Cor 12 and 14), along with Gifts of Faith and Miracles which empower healings. While we sometimes speak of certain people as “anointed” in healing it is God working through an atmosphere of faith providing Holy Spirit power to accomplish healings through all.

**WHY DOESN'T EVERYONE GET HEALED IMMEDIATELY?** We don't understand everything in the spiritual realm or know what God has planned for each person. But a general rule is that **Healing and health are God's ideal**. Jesus overcame Satan and his devices (sickness, sin and temptation), but Revelations says there is going to be a final battle when Satan is defeated and we will then ascend or be resurrected to live with God in full health and happiness. Thus, we are in the "Now, but Not Yet" period of time when the full perfection of the Kingdom has not yet arrived to completely take away sin, sickness and demonic influences. We will continue to fight battles one person at a time with Christ. Jesus gave us insight on the issue of interference in spiritual blessing in the Parable of the Sower (Mat. 13). Although heavenly seed is being poured out now, only the seed poured out on fertile ground (a faith-filled and obedient heart) will be able to grow into a full blessing (with 100x results possible!). Unfortunately, other people will fight battles:

1. "Following the crowd" along the hardened "worldly" path will cover over fertile soil (your heart), and heavenly seed can't penetrate. The devil can take it away before it grows.
2. Some, like seed on a rock, hear the Word and enjoy a brief success, but then start doubting and don't water the seed in faith, and so the blessing withers away without root.
3. Some will experience successful blessing, but will live among "thorns" in the world which interfere with their faith and obedience to God, reducing or killing the blessing.

"Persecution" and trials of "suffering" in the NT do not refer to sickness so we should not wear sickness like a badge of honor. Our loving Father does not give us bad gifts (Matt. 7:9-11). Jesus never said "My Father is making you sick until you learn a lesson." God may have **special timing** for you-recall some of the healings Jesus did were at a specific time to prove a point (healing on the Sabbath, healing through forgiveness of sins, etc.) and these people had been in public places and probably could have been healed earlier. When Daniel prayed (Dan. 10), the answering angel was delayed by **spiritual warfare**. When Jesus visited Nazareth after performing successful miracles elsewhere, He did only a few healings (no miracles) due to their **lack of faith**. Sometimes, healing was delayed until an **act of obedience** was performed (John 9:6-7). We simply won't know why a healing is delayed, lost or prevented.

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I GET A MIRACULOUS HEALING?** Give praise and thanks to the Lord. Don't be surprised if you start doubting your healing, as Satan would like you to doubt or deny it and steal your faith. Pray in faith that God has healed you and stand on His Word (pray out loud the verses in paragraph one above and thank God for the healing (See also Psalms 30 and 103 praise for healing).

**WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I DON'T GET HEALED IMMEDIATELY?** The promise for healing body and soul started when Jesus was crucified (Isaiah 53:4-5; Matt. 8:16-17). Don't lose hope! Praise Him and thank Him for His Word for Healing. Repent sin, and any bitterness or unforgiveness which may be separating you from God, and live more in obedience. Meditate on the Gospel examples of healing, and testify about other healings you are aware of to help build your faith. Pray to God for the result you desire in Jesus' name (John 15:16-17). Seek to receive the prayer of faith (James 5:14). Remember, the power and timing to heal is from God and we cannot force a healing to come on our terms-it could even occur in stages (Mark 8:22-26). Focus also on the ultimate promise of perfect health in the resurrection body so you do not lose hope as you pray for healing today from our loving God.