

DIVINE HEALING

1. WHY DO WE HAVE SICKNESS AND DISEASE IN THE WORLD?

Sickness, disease and all forms of suffering came into the world as a result of sin. Because the Devil introduced sin into the world, he, not God, is the author of all affliction and adversity.

A. When Adam sinned against God, death, sickness and disease entered the world.

"But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die."

Genesis 2:17

"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**

B. Through sin, Satan gained dominion (power) over man. Now, Satan's desire is to destroy all men through sickness, disease and death.

"Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head." **Job 2:7**

"The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly."

John 10:10

2. HAS GOD MADE A PROVISION FOR OUR HEALING?

YES! God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus, into this world to redeem every man from the curse of sin. The blood of Jesus Christ is not only the propitiation (the acceptable sacrifice) and satisfaction for our sins, but is also the means of our receiving healing for EVERY sickness and affliction of the body, the soul and the spirit.

"And when evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill in order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, saying, 'He Himself took our infirmities, and carried away our diseases'." **Matthew 8:16-17**

"But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed."

Isaiah 53:5

3. WHY, THEN, IS THERE STILL SO MUCH SICKNESS AND DISEASE IN THE WORLD?

Sickness and disease will be in the world as long as sin is in the world. A great majority of the people in the world do not know of the COMPLETE deliverance from the power of Satan that is theirs because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

"When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him." **Colossians 2:15**

4. WHAT ARE SOME DIFFERENT SOURCES OF HEALING?

A. The human body has God-given natural healing abilities.

"A joyful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones." **Proverbs 17:22**

B. God has endowed people with the potential for medical healing. Throughout history there have been physicians who have ministered to the physical needs of the body.

"But when He heard this, He said, 'It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick!'" **Matthew 9:12**

C. God has revealed Himself to man as Jehovah our Healer. This occurs when God overrules both nature and man to bring forth healing. This is known as Divine Healing.

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases." **Psalms 103:2-3**

5. CAN EVERYONE RECEIVE DIVINE HEALING?

Everyone who has heard and believed the gospel and has personally accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord can experience the healing power of Christ. NOTE: There are instances in the New Testament of non-believers being healed, but these were "signs and wonders" granted by the Lord to confirm the preaching of the gospel

See Acts 4:29-30; 5:12-16 and Hebrews 2:3-4).

6. HOW CAN I BE DIVINELY HEALED?

I receive healing when I exercise faith in the provision Christ made for my healing at Calvary. I must ask the Lord (with faith in His Word) for my healing.

"Ask, and it shall be given to you; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened to you." **Matthew 7:7**

7. WHAT IS FAITH?

Faith is believing in, trusting, relying on God's Word. Faith is believing God will do what He promised in His Word.

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." **Hebrews 11:1**

8. IS FAITH NECESSARY FOR DIVINE HEALING?

Yes, divine healing is received by faith.

"Then He touched their eyes, saying, 'Be it done to you according to your faith!'" **Matthew 9:29**

9. WHAT MEANS ARE EMPLOYED BY THE LORD TO ADMINISTER HEALING TO US?

The Bible gives us *several* means which are employed by the Lord to administer healing. They may be used individually or together, such as "laying on of hands" with the "gifts of healing". Remember that God is SOVEREIGN, and as such, is free to move in any way He chooses. We should not limit God by setting our own guidelines within which we expect Him to work. Rather, we should ask according to His will and then BELIEVE.

"And this is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests which we have asked from Him."

I John 5:14-15

A. PERSONAL PRAYER

"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 5:16**

B. PRAYER AND ANOINTING BY THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them 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."

James 5:14-15

C. THE LAYING ON OF HANDS

"And these signs will accompany those who have believed; in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it shall not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." **Mark 16:17-18**

D. THE GIFTS OF HEALING

"To another faith by the same Spirit, and to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit." **I Corinthians 12:9**

E. THE SENT WORD

"He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions." **Psalms 107:20**

F. PRAYER CLOTHS

"So that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out." **Acts 19:12**

G. BY WORSHIP -- As we worship, God's presence brings healing and deliverance.

"Thou art my hiding place; Thou dost preserve me from trouble; Thou dost surround me with songs of deliverance."
Psalm 32:7

10. WHAT ARE SOME CAUSES OF SICKNESS?

There are many reasons why we do not always receive healing when we ask for it. We do not have all the answers for this. Divine healing is a spiritual matter and must be "spiritually discerned" **I Corinthians 2:14**.

A. Our natural bodies wear out

"Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away." **James 4:14**

B. Lack of faith

"And He did not do many miracles there because of their unbelief." **Matthew 13:58**

C. Result of known sin

"And He said, 'If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the Lord, am your healer'." **Exodus 15:26**

There would be no point in going before the Lord for healing with a heart which harbors sins or a neck which has been stiffened against Him. "If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear." **Psalms 66:18**

NOTE: It is not the right or responsibility of one Christian to judge as to why sickness or suffering is present in the life of another. No doubt every Job must have his "friends", but to a Christian who is suffering, it is most disheartening for a fellow believer to infer that there must be some secret sin involved.

D. For the glory of God

"Jesus answered, 'It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was in order that the works of God might be displayed in him'." **John 9:3**

"But when Jesus heard it, He said, 'This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified by it'." **John 11:4**

E. In accordance with God's plan

"And if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him. For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us." **Romans 8:17-18**

"Therefore, since Christ has suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same purpose, because he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin. Therefore, let those also who suffer according to the will of God entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right." **I Peter 4:1,19**

F. Not discerning the Lord's body

"Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly. For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep." **I Corinthians 11:27-30**

G. Demonic attacks

"Then there was brought to Him a demon-possessed man who was blind and dumb, and He healed him, so that the dumb man spoke and saw." **Matthew 12:22**

H. Neglecting laws of nature

"For the churning of milk produces butter, and pressing the nose brings forth blood; so the churning of anger produces strife." **Proverbs 30:33**

11. IS THERE ANYTHING THAT CAN PREVENT ME FROM BEING DIVINELY HEALED?

A. Sin

The sin of unbelief is the most common reason healing is denied. We may hold resentment within us. We may have failed to make restitution in a particular case. All these things prevent us from receiving healing from God.

"But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, so that He does not hear." **Isaiah 59:2**

B. Lack of knowledge of God's provision.

Many Christians are not aware of all that has been purchased for them, and as a result, they suffer needlessly.

"My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your sight; keep them in the midst of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, and health to all their whole body." **Proverbs 4:20-22**

C. Not believing that Jesus can heal you.

"And He could do no miracle there except that He laid His hands upon a few sick people and healed them. And He wondered at their unbelief." **Mark 6:5-6**

D. God's sovereignty.

Christians need to remember that *God is God*, and He can do what He chooses to. He has a plan and a purpose for each of us- and many times we don't understand, OR we do not know the big picture of what God is doing. There are times God does not answer our prayer for healing and we need to just trust that He has it all under control- and leave it there!

While we might not understand it (or like it), it should not effect our spiritual walk. We are to walk by faith- not sight or feeling!