

Healing for Life!

Key Verse #1: "I am the Lord that heals you!" Exodus 15:26

Key Verse #2: "***And ye shall serve (abad: be a bondservant, slave and worshipper of) the LORD your God***, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee." Exodus 23:25

Key Verse #3: "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 53:5

God is our Healer! Healing is His idea! He authored all the healing promises! Healing is His hearts' desire! It is His expressed will for us, manifest through Jesus! You and I have nothing at all to do with providing healing except to *believe Him* and receive it from Him! (*Remember our definition from Lesson 9? Broad faith [vs. narrow or little faith], the faith that pleases God is simply, "Believing Him!"*)

Having No "Little Faith" For... Healing!

Before the fall of man in the Garden of Eden, there was no sickness and there was nothing but prosperity (definition to follow in next session!); Father clothed Adam and Eve in His glory and He created everything for them to richly enjoy, literally!

With the advent of sin, "bodily sorrow" - struggle, toil, labor, worry, pain, entered the world. At the same time, we lost the free flowing provision that Father had intended for man to enjoy, and, the stress-full cycle of "working-to-exist" began. Sickness and disease, striving and poverty came into the world with Adam's sin.

Everything changed for us when our ancestors fell. But Jesus came for the expressed purpose to reconcile all things to God... to put everything back on track! By the first Adam - sin, with the death that comes from sin, entered the world, and it reigned (and history and our present human condition stands as proof)! By the second Adam - who is Jesus - life, with the power that comes from redemption, entered the world and became available to all who would believe! As Adam's disobedience brought condemnation on us all and severed the full provision of God... So Jesus' obedience brought redemption (grace, mercy and righteousness) and reconnected the flow of the "life more abundant" that Father had planned!

Healing and prosperity are not in question! Jesus *substitutionary* sufferings (the things He suffered in our place vs. His exemplary sufferings, the things He modeled for us) paid the price and put the provisions in store for us. Healing and Prosperity are ours! The only question is, **DO YOU BELIEVE HIM?**

In the Old Testament, Isaiah looking ahead 750 years to the promise of the atonement (amends, reparation, reconciliation) of Messiah, prophesied:

"His appearance is astonishing! No one was ever so disfigured! He no longer had the appearance of a human being! This is how He will atone for the nations! And who will believe our message? He is despised and rejected by men. He is a man of sorrows, familiar with suffering. He is abandoned and we did not value nor regard what He was doing. He was lifted up with our diseases, the beast of burden for our pain, yet we judged Him beaten, punished and brought low by God (Interjection: that was *our* future, to be beaten, punished, brought low, and

completely disfigured until the image of God was wiped away!). But He was tormented, beaten and bruised for our rebellion, He was crushed for our perversity: the beatings of our wholeness were upon Him; *and with His stripes we are healed!*" Isaiah 52:14 - 53:5 (Paraphrased) **DO YOU BELIEVE HIM?**

The New Testament word for salvation: *soteria*: always means rescue, health, salvation and safety! That promise of redemption comes to us for our spirit (eternal salvation), soul (lifetime transformation) and body (from health → divine life → complete replacement). **DO YOU BELIEVE HIM?**

How can we *believe God* for salvation from eternal Hell, and then not have the "faith" to *believe God* for earthly healing? If you have the ability to believe Him for salvation, then you *have* the ability to believe Him for healing! It's the same work and promise of God! The *healing work* of Jesus was accomplished with the *redeeming work* of Jesus on the cross, two thousand years ago. The only way we can split the work of Jesus and the promise of God and make it of no affect is by NOT BELIEVING HIM! By choosing to believe what we see in our bodies (or someone else's) rather than believing God, we can stay sick in the midst of healing promises that are all "yes and amen!" Remember, we walk by faith, *believing God*, not by sight!

Bringing Faith For Healing Home!

So what do we do about the issue of healing when we think we are believing God for the restoration of our health and nothing seems to be happening? Maybe a fictionalized but functional run-through will help.

"I'm sick! My head is spinning, my throat is on fire, my stomach is churning, my hair hurts, my whole body aches. I'm dying!" This may be an accurate assessment of your situation. You are sick if you have all those symptoms... and of course, since the outward man is perishing daily, it's accurate, though not in perspective, to say you're dying! To think it is faith to deny you are sick, or to ignore symptoms is not only ignorant and dangerous ("my people perish for a lack of knowledge") but it is playing right into the hands of the enemy! [Please remember he is the one who has come to steal, kill and destroy your health! As in all things, he begins his attack by tweaking the truth! Don't you do it for him!]

So, you've made a fairly accurate assessment and what you do next is very important! Next you will choose who or what you will believe, and at this point there are two basic players, God's Word and your sick body. Your mind will side with one or the other, putting you in the hands of the Lord or of the devil!

"Okay, I'm sick and You are the Lord who heals me... Healing is the children's bread... By Christ's stripes I have been healed! That's what the preacher said... That's the Word and 3x oughta' do it" Let's see, how do I feel? I still feel sick! Let's try that again with a little more vigor and volume! **"You are the Lord who heals me...Healing is the children's bread... By Christ's stripes I have been healed!" (6x)** How do I feel now? Worse! Now I feel sick and stupid! One *last* time... Now with great fervor, tears and sprinkles of spiritual language! **YOU ARE THE LORD WHO HEALS ME...HEALING IS THE CHILDREN'S BREAD... BY CHRIST'S STRIPES I HAVE BEEN HEALED!** Still nothing... and that makes me mad and hurt and worse, it leaves me hurting and vulnerable. It's the devils turn, he moves near, and with a sneer in his voice (how come we can always hear the devil so clearly and complain that we can't hear God?) he says: "God doesn't care for you the same way He does others. He's unfair like that you know... and it let's you know right where you stand too." Then with a smile on his face, "Let's get you to bed. Forget about this talking into the air! Take two aspirin and call your doctor in the morning." Now struggling to

restrain his pounding heart and wiping away his drool: "I want a whole night to make you and your family miserable and to torment you about the silliness of your faith!"

In a hundred variations, this is pretty much the scenario that plays out in us. We make the mistake of thinking that saying a thing and believing it is the same! We make the mistake of thinking there's a faith-talking formula to take the place of a lifestyle of believing God! We make the mistake of thinking that because the preacher says it, that's good enough for us! We make the mistake of judging the faithfulness of God by surveying our circumstances! We make the mistake of setting limits on God, as though He was to conform to our wills, or on the number of approaches we will make, as though we were to conform to His. And we make the could-be-fatal error of listening and giving in to the enemy's suggestions. It not only defeats us now, but it sets the stage for "faith failure" later!

 **What are some of the "Mistakes" that you have made in the past when asking the Lord to heal you according to His promises?**

A better way! **"Father, I'm not sure why this got through to me, but my body is sick and hurting! As Your child I know nothing gets by You that You have not deemed winnable for me. If this challenge is the result of sin I ask you to forgive me and set me back up on my feet.** This is the place to start when we are sick because we have abused, overindulged or deprived our bodies. A lot of our sickness and disease (also simple dis-ease) would be done away with if we would just use some common sense. It's also the place to begin when we ignore Bible directives of how to care for our bodies with proper diet and balanced work-exercise-recreation-rest-sleep routines (We never break God's laws, they always break us somewhere.). But even when we are the source of our own troubles it does not mean we should hesitate to come to Father, ask forgiveness and seek His power to turn things around!

"Father, if this challenge is because of sin that I don't see, please show me. I want to ask your forgiveness and receive the power to repent of (turn around) my actions. Sometimes we are doing things that we don't recognize as sin and we need help to see it. Sometimes there are cultural issues, habits, tastes, (im)maturity issues, etc. that Father wants to deal with. When we won't respond to Spirit leading, He pulls back His supernatural protection and we see and feel the results of that sin (Circumstance leading, yuck!); In this instance we have a need to see, so in wisdom we pray, "open my eyes!"

[Necessary Note: Included in these first two points of prayer would be the issues of dealing with "suicidal spirits" which exercise themselves in the things that we know bring death to our physical lives. Drugs, alcohol, tobacco, habit-forming dietary (or otherwise) aids, sugar abuse, aspartame, illegal steroids, etc. Eating disorders: over eating, bingeing, anorexia, bulimia, etc. fall into this "suicidal" category too! We may, or may not know we have a problem, or recognize the depth of the problem, but the results are the same! Those "spirits" open the door to destruction and the only way out is praying for "sight," obtaining forgiveness, asking the Lord to rebuke those controlling spirits (Jude 9) or rebuking them as the Holy Spirit directs, laying hold on repentance, deliverance and restored health!]

Sin separates us from God, and no matter how much He has provided for us, His promises will never be ours if sin is ruling in our bodies! Let's continue in our approach...

“Father, if this is an assault of the devil or of circumstances in my life I ask you to rebuke him (or them) for my sake and to glorify Yourself in this momentary trial in my life! Sometimes physical assaults come and we have absolutely nothing to do with it! Job is an Old Testament example of this. The devil initiated the assault on him. Father was present throughout the contest and in the end He glorified Himself and restored twice what was taken from Job. The New Testament also carries examples, one of which is in John 9, “For whose sin did this blindness come? This is not a matter of sin but an opportunity for Father to show the glory and beauty of His kingdom!” Sometimes it’s just a matter of something not working or wearing out in our body... we are not to despair there either! Whatever we have need of, our Father wants provide it!

“...I have written to *you that believe* on the name of the Son of God, that *you may know* that you have eternal life and that *you may believe* on the name of the Son of God! And this is the confidence (parrhesia: the all out-spokenness) that we have in Him, that is we ask anything according to His will, He hears us: And if we know that He hears us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him!” 1John 5:13-15

“I know that your Divine will and provision for me is that I be well! The price was paid so that I could be whole, thoroughly furnished and equipped for every good work... so I look to you Father for all I have need of! I receive Your provision for me in Jesus! As Your child, I live by and I will die by Your hand alone...

 **Can you name two or three sources for the sicknesses that make their way into our lives?**

 **What is Father’s divine will for us concerning sickness and disease?**

So far, you are praying the type of prayer of one who believes God! But there are two very crucial steps left, one that generally gets misinterpreted, the other ignored!

Entrust yourself to the Lord! **“Father, manifest my health according to Your divine will...** Make an assessment of your situation (Restored? Well? Hurting? Weak?) *but remember that this assessment only tells you whether or not healing has come or is still on the way!* It’s not a matter of Father’s faithfulness! It’s not a matter of being healed or not! It is a matter of the *manifestation* of your healing: has it arrived or not! (When you buy something online and give the people your credit card number, the product is yours *then...* You don’t actually have it yet, but you own it! It a “done deal” and you anticipate its arrival. At this point there’s not a bit of doubt that it’s on the way. You don’t think the Company doesn’t like you because you don’t have it yet.

You don't bad-mouth them. You just go about your business until it comes, sometimes forgetting about it until it arrives! That's faith in action!) (How about your work experience? You go to work each day, do your best, put in your time... But in most cases you know, and accept, that you won't be paid for this week's work for another week or so! That's faith in action! If we can have faith in an Internet company or in the folks we work for, can we have the same faith in God and the same action of faith?) Do not let the devil challenge you concerning the faithfulness of God! Do not assess, misinterpret, and then doubt! Healing is yours! He is your Healer! Anticipate the embrace of your healing!

"Count it all joy when you fall into diverse temptations... The trying of your faith (believing God) works endurance... Let endurance have her way that you may be mature and whole, lacking nothing... If any of you lacks wisdom (to endure) let him ask in faith (believing God), nothing wavering, for he that wavers is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. Let not that man think he will receive anything from the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways!" James 1:2-8

"God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord." 1Corinthians 1:9

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." 1 Corinthians 10:13

"Cast not away your confidence which has great reward. For you have need for patience that after you have done the will of God [interjection: which Jesus said was believing!] you might receive the promise! Hebrews 10:35-36

God is faithful! Settle the issue! You said you *believed Him!* Is He good? Is His Word true? YES! AMEN!

The second and last thing to do is, get up and get "back in service!" **"As Your servant, I am going back to work now Father..."**

Now that doesn't mean you can't stay in bed and rest, it may be the very antidote to what made you sick in the first place (Sometimes sleeping is the most spiritual thing you can do!)! It doesn't mean you ignore the doctors' orders to rest or take your medicine, etc....

[Necessary note: Taking an aspirin to defeat the pain of a headache is no more a lack of faith for healing than is the case of changing the channel when there's something on the TV causing you to struggle with lust! Cutting off the symptoms that interfere and compete with believing God is wisdom! And why would we consider the man who changes channels for relief to be spiritually mature and someone taking an aspirin for relief to be less (especially remembering both are seeking relief from the "flesh")! Both are clearing the distractions on the pathway of faith! No thinking person who takes an aspirin or other medication believes he is healed because the symptoms are masked. He remains in the place of believing God for the healing of whatever is causing the headache, just without the distraction of the pain!]

In fact, with each occurrence of sickness the actual physical thing you do next may be different... But "as a man thinks in his heart, so is he!" If you are *believing God* for your health then you *are healed* because Jesus paid the price to fulfill Father's will for our lives! If you *are healed*, then think of yourself *as healed* and *act* that way (*not fake it till you make it... but take action!*)! Remember the ten lepers of Luke 17:12ff, their prayer: "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us..." Jesus response (confirmation):

“Go your way...show yourselves to the priest” The assault of doubt: Show him what? Nothing is changed! Their (decision to take) action: “*and it came to pass that as they went (believing) they were cleansed!*”

So, here is the progression of a person standing in faith for healing:

Recognition: “I have a problem and my Father has the answer for me!”

Research: “I will ask if there is any reason for this in me.”

Repentance (if necessary): “I will receive my forgiveness and turn around.”

Reliance: “Into Your hands I commit myself! I know Who I have believed, and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him...”

Return: “I will go my way believing, regardless of how I feel or what it looks like to my natural eyes, because I know my Father and that He is faithful!”

Faith for Healing Comes By Hearing His Word on Healing!

Faith does come by hearing, and hearing, by the Word of God! There are multiple promises for healing in the Word of God... From Father's O.T. description of Himself as Jehovah-Rapha, the God that heals you – to the N.T. scriptures, showing us His heart, expressed in Jesus, and giving us the testimonies of healed multitudes proclaiming Father's complete faithfulness! But we cannot place our faith in the promises but on the Promisor (We can know the promises and never be healed!)! Our faith must be in the One who authored the promises! They're His word all right, but He is what makes the words good! Listen to His Words of promise and provision, meditate on them, rolling them over and over in your mind, and let them convince you that “Faithful is He that promised” because He is “the One who promises a thing and then makes it good!” (Numbers 23:19)

[Special note: nothing can take the place of personally digging through the Word of God and letting His truth wash away doubt and fear... But there are also several good topical books available that give you a condensed version of healing promises.]

If Faith for Healing can come... it can also go! Things that defeat our faith and let sickness in:

1. Ignorance of God's Word. “My people perish for lack of knowledge!”
2. Unbelief! “He could do no mighty works there because of unbelief!”
3. Accepting the words of men over the Word of God! “God gave you this sickness”
4. Sin alive in our hearts! “Your sins separate us!”
5. No diligent search for the Lord! “Apathy is a killer!”
6. Unforgiveness in our hearts when we pray! “When you pray, forgive...that you may be forgiven of your sins... and be healed!”
7. Walking by sight not by faith! Just the opposite of walking in the Spirit!
8. Faith without works (is dead!)! “Once you pray, believe, and act like a believer!”
9. Husband and wife in strife! “Prayers not answered!”
10. Breaking natural laws and common sense over and over again!

11. Limiting Father's response to you! "I'll only accept healing if it comes this way..."
12. Fear!
13. Living in a bad previous experience! "It didn't work last time..."
14. The Perceived Benefits of Sickness! Attention, money, rest, avoidance, etc. are lures that can have serious consequences for our lives.
15. Self-Rule! "It's my body, I'll do what I want with it!"
16. Pride! "I don't want anyone to know!"

Ways To Let Healing In!

*Find a believer and let Him lay his hands on you!

"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover!" Mark 16:17-18

*Call for the Elders of the Church!

"Is any sick among you? 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 of faith (Is it the eloquence or fervency of the prayer or pray-er or believing God that) will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven!" James 5:14,15

*Find someone who can agree with you!

"Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven!" Matthew 18:19

*Ask in Jesus Name!

"If you ask anything in My name, I will do it!" John 14:14

*Take Communion, rightly discerning the Lord's body (broken for you)!

And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me... For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord's death till he come... But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup... For he that eats and drinks unworthily, eats and drinks damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body... For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. 1Corinthians 11:24-30

*Walk in faith, *believing God* for the health Jesus provided at the cross!

"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.*" 1Peter 2:24

"Be of good comfort (cheer and gladness), your faith (your persuasion and conviction in God) has made you whole!" Matthew 9:22

God promised. Jesus provided. We were healed at Calvary. If we were healed then, we are healed now. And believing God means we receive what He says is done, as done! "It's a new and living way, walk in it!" And that's something to cheer (up) about!

Response To Truth

 **What are the names of some "believers" that I can call on?**

 **What are the names of some of the "elders" in our church that I can call on if I have the need?**

 **What are two or three different things I can do to get healing into my body?**

 **Thinking back on our studies so far, what is the bigger, broader definition of "faith that pleases God?"**

 **Thinking about it now, what is the easiest way to walk in divine health?**

 **One thing that I've learned from this study is...**

Limiting God/listening to the devil/looking at circumstances/saying one thing and believing another; sin/the devil/wear and tear/circumstances; That we are all well; personal response; personal response; Ways to let healing in [bullets]; Believing Him!; personal response