



Hard Questions About Healing

The doctor's words came like a bombshell, "She has cerebral palsy, she may never be able to walk!" Maybe you have heard similar words that have crushed your hopes and dreams. "It's cancer!" "It's a stroke!" Whether it concerns a mate, a child, a friend, or even yourself, the news comes and you are devastated.



It must have been like that for Jairus, the synagogue ruler. His little girl was seriously ill. When word came that she had died, he wanted to die too. She was only twelve. Why did it have to be her? How could his world go on? Then Jesus entered the scene. Somehow He always brought hope where there seemed to be none. He spoke to the corpse, "Little girl, I say to you, arise," and according to Mark 5:42, "immediately the girl arose and walked, . . . and they were overcome with great amazement." Unless we have personally experienced reversals in hopeless situations, it may be difficult to imagine the mood swing that permeated that father when his child was restored to life.

What about the girl with cerebral palsy whom the doctors said might never walk? People prayed. Today she not only walks, but she runs and plays sports. You would never know that this former Foursquare missionaries' daughter ever had a disability. Jesus still heals today!

Overview

In previous lessons, divine healing was described from the perspective of the character of God (Lesson 9), the biblical record (Lesson 10), and the sacrifice of Jesus (Lesson 11). God's purpose and His desire to heal His people have been well established.

Although God does heal people, there are sincere skeptics who ask

the following questions:

- Why does God allow sickness and death?
- Does God use doctors to heal?
- Why are some not healed?

These are valid questions and will be examined in light of God's Word. Keep in mind, however, that, as long as people live in a sinful world, disease and death will

continue. Our bodies are still sometimes subject to the destructive influence of environmental conditions, the results of sinful behavior, genetic illness and other conditions caused or influenced by the presence of sin. We will not experience complete release from these elements until we leave this planet to receive our "glorified bodies" (Revelation 21:4).

DECLARATION OF FAITH

We believe that Divine Healing is the power of the Lord Jesus Christ to heal the sick and afflicted in answer to believing prayer; that He who is the same yesterday, today and forever has never changed, but is still an all-sufficient help in the time of trouble, able to meet the needs of, and quicken into newness of life the body, as well as the soul and spirit in answer to the faith of them who ever pray with submission to His divine and sovereign will.



Insight

What is God Doing About Sickness?

Sickness came into the world as a result of the original sin of man. God told Adam that, if he ate the forbidden fruit, he would die (Genesis 2:17). God was not being petty or controlling. He explained that the price for rebellion would be a person's life. The minute Adam ate the fruit, his body began the process of decay. Because of our genetic link with Adam, we too, are susceptible to sickness and eventually death.

God is completely fair and could not reverse the process of death without dealing first with man's sin. When Christ died on the cross, He dealt with sin and sickness in order to deliver us spiritually and physically (1 Peter 2:24). God made provision for our healing and wholeness. The fact that people still experience sickness proves that we live in a sinful world. The fact that God heals proves that He can overcome sin, sickness, and death (Mark 2:1-12).

When Will Sin and Sickness End?

Unfortunately, much of the heartache and pain we see in the world today is due to the sinful nature of people. Greed and hatred cause war. Sexually transmitted diseases continue to spread at alarming rates because of immorality. It is not God who causes this sickness and death, but the people who make poor choices and receive the consequences of those choices which destroy their health and vitality.

Sometimes sin and sickness affect people who were not the initial cause. Babies born to drug-addicted mothers, for example, suffer sickness they did not

- Aimee Semple McPherson,
Founder ICFG

cause. We have difficulty understanding this type of illness, especially when healing is slow or does not come at all. The blessing in all of this is that, when Jesus returns, we will be removed from the very presence and power of sin. In that day, there will be no more sin, no more sickness, and no more death (Isaiah 25:8 and Revelation 21:4)!

Is It Alright To Go To A Doctor?

The Bible does not forbid the use of medical science (Matthew 9:12). In fact, the Bible author Luke was a medical doctor. God often uses doctors and medical science to heal. We must remember, however, that God is our healer. If a doctor participates in the process, God should still receive the credit.

We must be careful to maintain a balanced perspective regarding divine healing and medical science. When medical science has no cure, God still heals (Mark 5:26-29). Medical experts have acknowledged a higher rate of recovery among people who pray than among people who do not.

Why Are Some Not Healed?

The Bible consistently reveals God's desire to heal. However, practical experience tells us that not every person who is prayed for becomes well. Scholars have debated this paradox. The truth of the matter is that we can only speculate on the reason. Some obvious reasons for a person's not being healed include the following:

- Unconfessed sin (James 5:16),
- A lack of faith for healing (Matthew 9:29-30),
- Ignoring Biblical advice (1 Corinthians 11:30-31),
- A blessing in disguise (Genesis 32:24-28; Romans 8:28).

We must keep in mind that God is the only righteous judge. We cannot accurately determine the reason a person is not healed. Our duty is to contend in prayer for complete healing and leave the results up to God.



Personal Response

Christians can sometimes become discouraged when physical healing does not take place or is delayed. God’s Word is true, and His character remains consistent even at times when physical evidence may seem otherwise. As Christians who trust the authority of the Bible, we must not compromise on the truth of God’s Word. Further, we must resist the urge to abandon the truth of divine healing. Read the following Bible verses and write, in your own words, what that verse says about our responsibility and privileges as we pursue divine healing.

Matthew 18:19 - _____

Mark 11:22-24 - _____

John 14:13-14 - _____



HEART PERSPECTIVE

Jesus is never too busy to take time for someone in need. Mark 5 tells the story of a woman who touched Jesus while He walked through a crowd. He was really on the way to heal the daughter of Jairus, the ruler of a synagogue, and, because of the delay caused by the woman, the daughter died. However, Jesus later raised the daughter from the dead. The story gives us the assurance that Christ is never in a hurry; He is never too busy to meet our need; and He is never too late to fulfill His promises in our lives. In the story, a “nobody” became “somebody,” when Jesus said, “Somebody touched me.” He went further and called her “Daughter.” Divine healing does more than relieve us of our sickness; it carries with it a significant relationship with the Healer.

Christ cares about people. He wants to heal hurting persons both physically and spiritually. In France, there was a statue of Jesus with its arms missing. They had been blown off by a canon shell during the First World War. However, the arms were not replaced after the War. The idea behind this was that believers are Christ’s hands extended. It is Christians, not a lifeless statue, that need to reach out and touch our fellow man with God’s love. We can do this by praying for the sick and sharing the wonderful message of salvation through Jesus with those who do not know Him personally.



FAITH SHARING

Lesson 12 Teaching Outline



Hard Questions About Healing

REFERENCE POINT

(15 minutes)

Spend a few minutes discussing any personal experiences the students have had with healing. Have they or someone close to them been miraculously healed? What emotions accompany a person being healed?

Ask a volunteer to read the *Reference Point* and allow students to share personal experiences with difficult health issues they have faced. Ask if God was invited to bring change into these situations. Discuss the outcome of these situations.

OVERVIEW

(10 minutes)

Begin to explore the confusion which arises when healing does not occur the way we think it should. What emotions accompany a person not being healed?

What questions about healing cause your students concern? Ask volunteers to share some of the questions they have struggled with regarding healing. At this point, do not try to answer the questions, simply identify them and see how many of the questions may be answered as you move to the *Insight* section of this lesson.

INSIGHT

(25 minutes)

Read the questions and answers one at a time. Each question will provide enough material for at least a 5 minute discussion. Keep the discussion focused on biblical answers by looking up the suggested verses.

Emphasize that God does heal and that we can turn to Him in time of need. If there are those in the class with doubts, spend time trying to assure them of God's care and willingness to heal. Take time to pray for any of the students that need a healing touch.

TAKING IT HOME

PERSONAL RESPONSE (Conclusion, 10 minutes)

Matthew 18:19 - Praying in agreement with another Christian is an effective way to healing.

Mark 11:22-24 - Be assured that a prayer of positive faith will bring results.

John 14:13-14 - Asking for healing in the "Name of Jesus" will result in answered prayer.

HEART PERSPECTIVE (Personal Devotions)

If some students feel their faith is not strong enough, explain that there are two ways to increase their faith. The first is to ask Jesus to increase it (Mark 9:23-27). The second is to be cognizant of a special personal promise from the Lord that we know is specifically for us (Romans 10:17). Either way, God builds stronger faith in us.

FAITH SHARING (Follow-Up)

Help students realize that we are Christ's hands on this earth. We need to share Jesus' love with a hurting humanity. If we do not share His love, who will? We cannot always depend on the other person to do it. We must do our part.