



Out For Delivery

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Eternally Speaking Now

The topic of healing was a focus in my Women's Bible Study this month.
The outcome of the study was powerful, and it must be shared.
It can be likened to the idea of a gift that's **out for delivery**.

Let's start with Matthew 8:16-17.

When evening had come, they brought to Him (Jesus) many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, *that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet*, saying: "He Himself **took** our infirmities and **bore** our sicknesses."

Jesus cast out spirits with a word.

He healed all who were sick.

Why?

To **fulfill** the word of God spoken through Isaiah almost 700 years prior.

And what exactly had Isaiah documented hundreds of years before Jesus walked the earth in human form? Here it is, in all its glory.

"Surely He **has borne** our griefs (sicknesses, weaknesses, and distresses) and **carried** our sorrows and pains [of punishment], yet we [ignorantly] considered Him stricken, smitten, and afflicted by God [as if with leprosy].

But He **was** wounded for our transgressions,
He **was** bruised for our guilt and iniquities;
the chastisement [needful to obtain] peace and well-being for us **was** upon Him, and with the stripes [that wounded] Him we **are** healed and made whole."

Isaiah 53:4-5 (Amplified Bible)

Hold on a minute. Let's pause to play a little Q & A.

Q: To whom is Isaiah referring in these verses?

A: Jesus, the Lamb of God who **would come** to take away the sins of the world.

Q: What is being foretold of Jesus?

A: That He **would** take upon Himself our griefs, sicknesses, weaknesses, distresses, sorrows, pains, punishment, afflictions, wounds, transgressions, bruises, guilt, iniquities...

Q: For whom **did** Jesus **do** this?

A: Anyone who places their trust in Him, believes He is the Savior of the world, repents, and **receives** His **free gift** of eternal life.

How can this be possible?

*Did you notice the **verb tenses** in Isaiah 53?*

(In case you didn't, please scroll up and reread.

*The verbs are in **bold**.)*

Jesus **was** wounded, **was** bruised...

and by His stripes we **are** healed.

Are you **getting it** yet?

To sum it up,
hundreds of years **before** Jesus walked the earth in human form,
and thousands of years **before** you and I came to be,
He **was** (wounded, bruised) ...so that we **are** (healed).

This is called a brain twister. A mind blower. Yet, it is more real than reality itself.

God extends Himself outside time, and His reality is simply **supernatural**. It's **other-worldly**, and it is **awesome**.

Jesus walked amongst us, casting out evil and healing sicknesses...
so that it would be **fulfilled** what God ordained centuries prior:
'He **bore** our sicknesses...By His stripes, we **are** healed.'

Your healing is a **magnificent package, a free gift,**
sent directly to you by our Heavenly Father.

And there's more!

Check out the Hebrew root word for our English word, healed. The Hebrew word is **rapha**, and here is its meaning:

רָפָא rāphâ', raw-faw'; or **רִפְּאָה rāphâh**:
to mend (by stitching), i.e. (figuratively) to cure:
cure, (cause to) heal, physician, repair, × thoroughly, make whole.

Jesus took upon Himself all our sin.
We surrender to Him as our Lord and Savior, and
by His crucifixion and resurrection,

we **are rapha**:

Healed.

Mended.

Cured.

Repaired.

Thoroughly.

Made whole.

What a **gift**.

Did you know that one of the Lord's titles is Jehovah **Rapha**?
This name of His literally means,
The Lord who Heals You.
(Exodus 15:26)

Because of Jehovah **Rapha**, who **bore** all our sin,
we are now **rapha**, **bearing** His very name.

CHALLENGE

1 Peter 2:24 echoes Isaiah 53, saying of Jesus,

"...who Himself **bore** our sins in His own body on the tree,
that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—
by whose stripes you **were** healed."

How cool is that.

The verses **before** the crucifixion say we **are** healed.
The verses **after** Jesus died, resurrected, and ascended
say we **were** healed.

Jesus **was**, that we **are**; Jesus **did**, that we **were**.

There's no way around it-- if you're born again and your Lord and Savior
is Jesus Christ, then you've been **given** a big, beautiful, **free gift**: *you
are healed.*

That's a fact, and I believe the Holy Spirit is challenging us to
align our thoughts and words with this truth.

Dare we no longer say,
"I'm not healed yet," or "It didn't work," or "I've been overlooked,"
and instead proclaim,
"I **am** healed by the stripes of Jesus!"
...even as we await seeing and feeling this reality?

Hang in there with me. I'm only going to challenge you to the extent that the Lord has challenged me. And for years He has challenged me to continue walking in greater heights and depths of His truth in all this.

At this point, you may be wondering,
"How can we say we are healed,
when we still feel sickness and pain in our bodies?
How do we believe we are healed,
when the x-ray still shows an abnormal growth
or the blood test comes back positive...again?"

I've wrestled with these questions myself.
They are worthy of being asked.
And answered.
As long as we don't waver from the truth in God's Word.
After all, He's the One who created our bodies,
and He's the One who has **granted** our healing.

Throughout my life in Christ, I've experienced what seems to be every scenario when it comes to healing: some healing has **manifested** immediately, some has **appeared** gradually, and, as of this writing, some **evidence** of healing has yet to be **revealed**. Some of you reading this (along with I, who am writing it) are currently struggling through the difficult diagnosis of someone dear-- even one who is a passionate Jesus-follower. Others of you are mourning the recent death of a loved one, after having believed wholeheartedly in their complete, **revealed** healing.

How do we reconcile this?

**I realize life is complex and messy.
This writing isn't intended to ignore that.**

There are many other Scriptures on healing beyond what is included here. I pray the Holy Spirit speaks comfort and encouragement in the way each of us needs to hear it today.

In the midst of the mystery,
it's important to stick to the Word of God,
while keeping at the forefront of our minds the
supernatural, other-worldly, awesome nature of God's reality.

Remember, His ways and thoughts are higher than ours. (Isaiah 55)
As high as the heavens are above the earth, so are His ways above ours.

His economy is one of faith.

Not sight.

This can be hard for us to wrap our heads around, but the Lord has described for us what faith is:

Faith is the substance of things **hoped for** and the evidence of things **unseen**. (Hebrews 11:1) If you don't need to **hope for** something anymore, and you can **see evidence** of it, then you don't need faith.
Inherent to having faith is it being directed towards something unseen.

We believe by faith that we are saved, yes?
Then we shall believe by faith that we are healed.
This is the Word of God.
Yes?

For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and that not of yourselves;
it is the **gift of God**,
not of works, lest anyone should boast.
Ephesians 2:8-9

May I share something one of the women in our Bible study said after this teaching?

*"I heard a good analogy for when we wait for healing to manifest:
It is like buying something on Amazon.
You buy it, you see that it's shipped,
and you are waiting expectantly for it to arrive."*

Isn't this marvelous?

How many times have we put an item in our online cart,
clicked the **order** button,
paid with the card on file or Paypal,
and then...
waited for days until our **package** arrives?

We **know** it's **fully paid for**.

We **know** we **own** it.

We **know** it's **ours**.

We're **assured** of this without thinking,
even though the box has yet to appear on our doorstep,

Did you know this principle is in the Scriptures as well? Daniel 10 documents how Daniel fasted and prayed for 21 days. On day 21, an angel came to him and said that his prayers had been heard from day 1, but the **delivery** of his answer was held up because of the fierce spiritual battle between the forces of evil and good.

I wonder what kind of spiritual battle is taking place right now,
as you ask for the **manifestation** of the healing
you know you have in Christ.

Whether your wait has been days, weeks or years,
please don't stop believing and praying the Word of God.

The spiritual battle is still fierce,
and we are in the middle of it. (Ephesians 6)

As with your salvation, your healing is a **gift** to you, dear believer.

Not only that, but it's **free!**

Oh, it was definitely purchased.

It's been **paid for in full**, by Jesus, who paid the highest price.

All the more reason to **take** and **receive it**.

It may be **in transit**,
but it's **signed, sealed**,
and...**out for delivery**.

Expect it,
look for it,
believe it.

It's a **free gift**,
and it's yours.

Bonus: Don't miss my new 18-minute video teaching below!

There was such a response to the writing last year, *Left to Cleft to Cleave*, that I decided to put together an 18-minute video on its highlights (along with some new things). The truths and insights God has revealed are SO amazing! If you'd like to revisit the writing, it can be found [here](#). The video tab is below. Enjoy and freely forward both as you are led. May the Lord richly bless you.

Video Teaching: Cleft to Cleave



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