

Jesus Christ Our Healer

Exodus 15:26

Physical Healing is available to every Child of God because;

1. It's God's Nature to heal,
2. Jesus atoned for sickness and disease in His body that was beaten, and
3. Jesus demonstrated the Father's will to heal by performing healings and commanding Us His followers to heal in His name.

Matthew 10:7-8 (NKJV)

And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

I want you to notice Jesus' command to his disciples -- that includes us -- to heal the sick.

Divine Healing is part of our inheritance in Christ, and Jesus even called it "*the Children's Bread*" in **Matthew 15:26**.

Today, many large corporations and most governmental jobs offer "Fringe Benefits" to employees that are worth almost as much as the salary...i.e., Health Insurance, Company Car, Workers Comp, Retirement Pension, Paid Vacation, Profit Sharing, Sick Pay, Stock Options, House Cleaning, Dry Cleaning, Free Cafeteria food...

Listen as the Psalmist begins to recount some of the Lord's fringe benefits for His Children.

Psalm 103:2-5 (NKJV)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, And forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction, Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies, Who satisfies your mouth with good things, So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

As Christians, our Greatest reward is eternal life; but there are many "fringe benefits" such as physical healing, guidance, material provision, divine opportunity being opened for us, etc.

God's word for us today is that He wants us to have confidence and believe it to be normal, to pray for the sick and expect them to be healed.

The title of today's message is, "Jesus Christ Our Healer."

Why should we expect those we pray for to be Healed?

1. GOD'S HEALING CHARACTER

God Declares in His word that He is our healer. God, by His very nature is a healing God.

Look at the dichotomy Jesus shows between Himself and Satan,

John 10:10 (ESV)

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

Life in Christ is Abundant life and so a Healthy life.

Exodus 15:26 (ESV)

... "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the Lord your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, your healer."

Just days before this, the Israelites ate the Passover Lamb which was symbolic of SALVATION. They then crossed the Red Sea, in which Paul declared they were BAPTIZED (**1 Cor. 10:2**). So the first experience after salvation and baptism was to know that God is their HEALER (**v.26**).

In the Hebrew, God called himself here by a Compound Name – (I am the Lord) Jehovah, (your healer) Rapha.

The Compound names of God represent His character, the kind of God that He is to us.

Rapha - "healer" is used 57 times in the Old Testament. Rapha also is the technical word for "Physician."

God is our Healer! God is our Physician (Doctor / Specialist)!

THE COVENANT OF HEALING WITH GOD

It was part of God's Covenant with the people of Israel, that if they obeyed Him, He would take away sickness from them.

Exodus 23:25 (NKJV)

"So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you."

Physical Healing is a promise and so much more...

Deuteronomy 7:12-15 (NKJV)

“Then it shall come to pass, because you listen to these judgments, and keep and do them, that the Lord your God will keep with you the covenant and the mercy which He swore to your fathers. And He will love you and bless you and multiply you; He will also bless the fruit of your womb and the fruit of your land, your grain and your new wine and your oil, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flock, in the land of which He swore to your fathers to give you. You shall be blessed above all peoples; there shall not be a male or female barren among you or among your livestock. And the Lord will take away from you all sickness, and will afflict you with none of the terrible diseases of Egypt which you have known, but will lay them on all those who hate you.

GOD HAS ALWAYS BEEN A GOD WHO HEALED

Throughout scripture we see God healing people.

5 times in the Old Testament God healed barren women;
4 times God healed plagues brought on by sin;
3 times He raised people from the dead;

And at least 6 other instances, two of them large numbers of people were healed.

Matthew 14:14 (NKJV)

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick.

2. 2. JESUS CHRIST ATONED FOR SICKNESS

SIN & SICKNESS ARE INSEPARABLY UNITED

Before Adam and Eve sinned, they lived in a perfect world; there was no sickness. But the fall of man and woman brought about all the problems of society that we see today: Broken homes, Addictions, Crime, Hate, Prejudice, Lust, Pride, Abuse, War, Violence, Sickness.

The root of it all, what caused it all -- was SIN!

If sin were eradicated, so also would these other evils -- including sickness.

THE CURSE OF THE LAW

The violation of God's law automatically brings a curse, Just like in the Garden.

That includes your financial as well as your physical, by the way. When you violate Gods law of the tithe the rest of your finances are cursed.

However today God wants us to focus on the part of sin which involves sickness and disease.

Deuteronomy 28:15-20 (NKJV)

“But it shall come to pass, if you do not obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments and His statutes which I command you today, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you:

“Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the country.

“Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

“Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

“Cursed shall you be when you come in, and cursed shall you be when you go out.

“The Lord will send on you cursing, confusion, and rebuke in all that you set your hand to do, until you are destroyed and until you perish quickly, because of the wickedness of your doings in which you have forsaken Me.

God goes on to lay out through (v.68) in vivid detail the "Curse of the Law"

The point is, if the Curse of the Law could be lifted, so would be lifted all the effects of that Curse!

WHAT DID CHRIST DO WITH THE 'CURSE OF THE LAW'?

Galatians 3:13-14 (NKJV)

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

CHRIST'S ATONEMENT WAS FOR SIN & SICKNESS

Some try to say that Jesus' atonement only extends to the soul and doesn't include the body. That is not true to the Word of God.

Matthew 8:16-17 (ESV)

That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

When Jesus healed their bodies, He fulfilled the PROPHECY in ISAIAH 53, the chapter describing His work of atonement.

Physical healing IS part of the atonement.

Isaiah 53:5 (ESV)

But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

NOT JUST OUR SINS, BUT SICKNESSES TOO**1 Peter 2:24 (NKJV)**

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.

Jesus' blood was shed "for the remission of sins" and Jesus' body was beaten, "by whose stripes you were healed."

Jesus redeemed and saves the "whole" person.

"Who forgives all your iniquities; Who heals all your diseases."

3. 3. JESUS HEALED THE SICK AND CALLED US TO DO THE SAME

We believe God has given us doctors and medicine. God equips them both in knowledge and technology. However, Christians ought to pray first and allow God to direct us through our healing.

Healing was a significant part of our Lord Jesus' ministry. Of the over 3,000 verses in the Four Gospels, (1/5) of them are devoted to Jesus' healing ministry!

We know God's will today is to heal the sick, because Jesus healed the sick!

And He never changes.

Hebrews 13:8 (NKJV)

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

JESUS HEALED EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE

*"He healed all who were sick" **Matt. 12:15.***

*"...power was coming from Him and healing them all" **Luke 6:17-19.***

If it wasn't God's will to heal ALL, then in those large crowds of thousands, there certainly would have been some it wasn't God's will to heal; yet Jesus healed them ALL!

JESUS COMMISSIONED OTHERS TO DO THE SAME

12 apostles
70 others told to "heal the sick" **Luke 10:9**.
All Believers

Mark 16:15-18 (NKJV)

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 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."

So why doesn't God just remove all sickness at once forever?

"Signs" -- spiritual billboards, advertising Jesus Christ. Remember Lazarus?

John 11:4 (NKJV)

When Jesus heard that, He said, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

1 Corinthians 12:28 (NKJV)

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

God has set in the church, the gifts of healings. God is wanting to heal the sick.

Jesus has taken away the root of sickness.

Jesus himself healed & called us to do the same in His name. As we obey Jesus, He will heal the sick.

Don't look at symptoms, but to the promise of God.

Remember Peter walking on the water: while he looked to Jesus he stayed aloft; but when he looked to the senses (the wind, waves, lightning), he sank.

Hebrews 10:35-36 (NKJV)

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:

Today let's stand upon the promise that Jesus is our healer!