

Healed by God

A majority of homes in this country possess a Bible, but few recognise that it is actually the Maker's handbook which He gave along with his product, mankind. It contains all we need to know about our health and healing, but very few people have read those verses, and most Bibles remain unopened, even by those who claim to be Christians. So, just as would be the case if we never referred to the handbook that came along with our car, and never followed its instructions regarding servicing, fuel etc., we suffer the consequences of sickness and disease.

The Bible tells us that, in life we are faced with choices. Open your bible at Deuteronomy 28, to read the blessings that will result if we make the right choice, verses 1-2, *'And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth: And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.'*

Now read about the consequences which come about if we reject God's commandments, verse 15, *'But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:'* They include the consequences of sickness and disease, verses 27-28, 35, 66, *'27The LORD will smite thee with the botch of Egypt, and with the emerods, and with the scab, and with the itch, whereof thou canst not be healed. The LORD shall smite thee with madness, and blindness, and astonishment of heart 35The LORD shall smite thee in the knees, and in the legs, with a sore botch that cannot be healed, from the sole of thy foot unto the top of thy head.66 'And thy life shall hang in doubt before thee; and thou shalt fear day and night, and shalt have none assurance of thy life.'*

OK, so the language of the King James might sound strange, but we get the message. We have made wrong choices in our lives, mainly because we were not even aware of the instructions God gave, along with His product.

Even those of us who claim to be Christians have failed to read the Book, or, if we read it, we did not read closely enough to recognise that we are not even keeping the 10 commandments, which are not 10 suggestions, but actually God's demands upon us.

Many might question that statement if they claim to be Christians, but what is a Christian? My dictionary says, "One who follows the teachings of Christ." Luke 6:5, *'And he [Christ] said unto them, That the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.'*

What is the Sabbath? *Deuteronomy 20:8-10, 'Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates.'*

Should Christians keep the 7th day? 1 Peter 2:21, *'For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps.'*

Even a casual reading of the New Testament reveals that Jesus kept the Sabbath with all the Jews of His day, but most Christians have been deceived into keeping another day by the great deceiver. Revelation 12:9, *'And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.'*

So, many of us have made wrong choices, and deprive ourselves of what God wishes for us. Exodus 15:26, *'And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee.'* And 3 John 1:2, *'Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.'* God has created our bodies with marvellous natural healing powers, and wants us to be 100% healthy! He made you to be healthy and feel well, to be whole spiritually, mentally, emotionally and physically.

Jesus was healthy in every way. He never sinned or became sick. Sickness comes upon us because we live in a sinful world. We have mistreated and polluted this planet, and we have polluted ourselves physically as a result, as well as spiritually, with sin.

Spiritually and morally we are none of us whole, and so we suffer from sickness often derived from our polluted environment. No doubt then, that our wrong choices often deprive us of the good health that God desires for us.

Knowing that God wants us to be healthy, and that Jesus gave His life to bring us salvation, not just for our spiritual future, but for our physical bodies as well, let us find those scriptures in God's word which we can claim as God's promises to us, regarding health!

Exodus 23:25-26, *'And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. There shall nothing cast their young, nor be barren, in thy land: the number of thy days I will fulfil.'* The implication here is that our healing is dependent upon obedience. God never changes. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and He wants you 100% well, because He is our healer, Psalm 103:3, *'Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases.'*

In Isaiah 53 we are told that Jesus died not only for our sins, but He carried away our sicknesses, infirmities, griefs and sorrows, as well! Verses 4-5, *'Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 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.'* The word 'griefs' here in verse 4 means sicknesses or diseases and 'sorrows' means 'pains' in the Hebrew.

Does anyone doubt that Christ's sacrifice allows our sins to be forgiven? Then equally we must not doubt God's will to heal us also.

Christ suffered a terrible extra beating before His crucifixion, just so that our bodies can be healed! No sickness, no disease, is too hard for God's healing, Matthew 19:26, *'But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.'* Doctors can help you to understand the way your body works. They can give useful advice and treatment, but in the final analysis they can only work with God's natural healing processes. Only God can heal, and we can claim that healing in Jesus Christ's name!

Why then do people who claim to be Christians not seem to have access to God's healing? You need to read through Hebrews chapter 11 to understand that it is through faith, **actively stepping out** in obedience to His word, that our prayers are answered. Facts fade into insignificance before God's promises and the Power of Jesus Christ, Matthew 28:18, *'And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.'* We don't deny the facts, but ANY symptoms we might display are insignificant, before this mighty power given to our Saviour!

Sadly, most people seem to be willingly ignorant of what God actually requires of us in the Bible, or if they do understand, they do not obey. We do not need to understand every last verse in the Bible to be healed though. God is more interested in what is in our hearts – our attitude to Him. 1 Samuel 16:7, *'But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart'.*

If we do believe that Jesus is our Saviour, that we **do** want to obey His words, that **we** do recognise our need to turn from our sinful ways **and ask for** our sins forgiven, then He will hear our prayers, and heal us, Matthew 9: 1-7, *'And he entered into a ship, and passed over, and came into his own city. And, behold, they brought to him a man sick of the palsy, lying on a bed: and Jesus seeing their faith said unto the sick of the palsy; Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee. And, behold, certain of the scribes said within themselves, This man blasphemeth. And Jesus knowing their thoughts said, Wherefore think ye evil in your hearts? For whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (then saith he to the sick of the palsy,) Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house. And he arose, and departed to his house..'* Faith brought this man to the Healer. Faith means trusting God in what he has done and said to us in His word. Jesus realised the man needed forgiveness. Is this not true of us all? Christ said, *'your sins are forgiven.'* And told him to take up his bed and walk. Again the man responded with faith. His faith was manifested in actions. He was healed.

Never confuse faith with hope. Never say, **'if it is your will God'**. We know that God wants us to be healed. Sometimes, God will heal instantly, as Christ did with ALL those who came to Him for healing, as a special witness of His divinity, but sometimes we need to continue to have faith until the healing is completed. My own experience leads me to believe that sometimes, in a long time Christian, God expects action on my part on something I have neglected, but, as I wait, I must continue to thank God for His unbreakable promises to those who believe - His children.

As the years go by then, God requires more of the mature Christian. The Bible tells us that our goal should be perfection, and that we should grow in grace and knowledge. It is logical that he often answers the prayers of the babe in Christ more speedily than those of the long term convert, but none of us should waver in our faith, Matthew 17:20, *'And Jesus said unto them, Because of your*

unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.' Remember the occasion when the disciples were unable to heal a child possessed by a demon? Jesus explains why our prayers sometimes go unanswered in verse 17. It is because of our unbelief in His power and will to heal. He is referring here not to a physical mountain, but what seem like huge mountains to us – cancer, multiple sclerosis, etc. Christ is telling us that if we truly BELIEVE God's word, if we have FAITH rather than just HOPE, we can expect spiritual intervention and healing.

Yes, our long time goal is perfection. Genesis 17:1, *'And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect.'* Matthew 5:48, *'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.'*

The reason for this is that God has a tremendous role planned for those who so please him, and He needs to be 100% confident that they are trustworthy of the great power and position they will be given at their resurrection. Romans 6:5, *'Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.'* Revelation 20:4, *'And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.'*

To enable us to overcome our human nature, and weakness of the flesh, which is so easily influenced by Satan, those who truly seek to please God once they have recognised their sins, are given instructions in Acts 2:38, *'Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.'*

On baptism, and the laying on of hands, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, which begets us into the very family of God. Not yet born again, we are nevertheless begotten, and will, if we remain faithful, be born into the very family of God at the resurrection, Romans 8:29, *'For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.'*

Meantime, we can gradually grow towards perfection, with the help and power which our Father in Heaven provides, through the Holy Spirit. We have a lifetime to learn that we can always trust our father to honour His promises, including healing, John, 15:16, *'Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.'*

So, let's learn always to keep our eyes on Jesus Christ – to get to know Him through the scriptures, to gradually make Him our friend (read our article 'How to be the Friend of God'). The Apostle Peter learned that only by looking to Christ can we look beyond the facts. Matthew 14:22-23, 25, 28-31 *'And straightway Jesus constrained his disciples to get into a ship, and to go before him unto the other side, while he sent the multitudes away. And when he had sent the multitudes away, he went up into a mountain apart to pray: and when the evening was come, he was there alone. And in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea' 28And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. 29And he said, Come. And when Peter*

was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus. 30But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. 31And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?'

In conclusion, God has provided us instructions for when we need His healing. We must step out in faith just like those who went to Jesus. James 5:14-16, *'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 shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.'*

God's true ministers have been commissioned to bring healing by God to His people, though others have also been given the gift of healing. God's ministers anoint with oil as a biblical symbol of the power of God expressed through their laying on of hands, to enable the Holy Spirit to heal.

If the patient believes God's promises, whether he feels anything or not, God will honour that faith and he or she will be healed. Mark 11:24, *'Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.'*

For too long we have been afraid to believe Jesus Christ's words. Let us strike out in faith and claim those promises so that the miraculous power of God can enter our lives, and we will be healed!

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