

God Still Loves to Heal

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

There are many Christians who trust God for their salvation, but they may not trust Him for their health. The Bible is filled with clear descriptions of miraculous healing and deliverance, of common people raised from the dead. Yet the omnipotent God who is the same yesterday, today, and forever is somehow limited by our unbelief. Recently someone remarked, "It is time for believers to confess that Jesus Christ *is* their healer rather than confess they need a healing."

Of course, God allows afflictions to promote His purposes. Great men like the apostle Paul were afflicted without a healing, yet they grew to love God even more. We all know of people who have not been healed, and in their sickness, the Body of Christ is edified and God is glorified. We also know that some people simply need to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the Healer who has a plan to make them whole.

The Bible reveals testimonies of arrogant men humbled and wicked men consumed by strange diseases. But for anyone who has a desire to know God, He has a greater desire to reveal His nature, His purpose, and His provision. This booklet explores the healing nature of our God who does not change—who *still* loves to heal.

Chapter One

BORN INTO A BODY OF DEATH

“Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten my word to perform it” (Jeremiah 1:12).

“But Jesus said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible” (Matthew 19:26).

Sickness is a strange thing. One aspect of Satan’s kingdom is seen in 2 Chronicles 21:14-19, which reveals an army of demons called *Malakia ponera*. Their entire job is to cause sicknesses of every kind, using the atmosphere, food, negative vibrations, and many other means. God allowed this army to attack and destroy Jehoram, the wicked king of Judah: “And it came to pass, that in process of time, after the end of two years, his bowels fell out by reason of his sickness: so he died of sore diseases” (2 Chronicles 21:19a).

Obviously, there are many natural causes for

sickness, as well as supernatural and multiple causes. Regardless of the source, when sickness comes on, the average person will give it a place. It may begin with the oppression of the mind or with an affliction of the body. But in every case, Satan's goal is to isolate, weaken, and destroy the object of the attack. In Jehoram's case, God used it for His purposes.

In Luke 13:11-13, however, we see an example of someone many of us can identify with. A woman had a back condition. She was bent over with "a spirit of infirmity" (*Pneuma astheneia* in verse 11) for eighteen years, and it was done through Satan. Though she remained faithful going to church, her depressed mental attitude was normal. She had been humped over for eighteen years, but it was *not* a natural cause. And for eighteen years, she walked in a mental attitude of the flesh, not knowing what caused her sickness.

When we were saved, we were placed inside of Christ, positionally. But if we do not actively choose to walk in the Spirit in every situation regarding our health, we may give a place for the government of Satan to cause sicknesses, both mental and physical. *Pneuma astheneia* is a spirit from the demon army that specializes in causing

physical afflictions. They do not touch the mind. That is the job of *Katadunasteuo diabolos*, specialized to oppress the mind and to cause depression (Acts 10:38).

Demons known as *Daimoniou akathartou* (Luke 4:33; 9:42; Revelation 18:2) come in to cause fornication and adultery and to lead people into lust, pornography, and X-rated movies. That is their area of specialization.

So you see, most demons don't have many jobs. They are assigned one task, but they are sent as armies into cities, according to Isaiah 14:17. Often we think of Satan's government as highly reactionary and disorderly. But in fact, though they lack omniscience, omnipotence, and omnipresence, the armies of demons are very skillful and well-organized, with a definite purpose: to destroy the work of God and preserve their right to rule.

What Satan Was Lacking

Before Satan fell, he was part of a perfect government. He wore a covering of sardius, topaz, diamond, beryl, onyx, jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle (Ezekiel 28:13). These nine precious stones, worked into a garment of gold, characterized the fruit of knowing God.*

That was why he could be promoted to be a guardian of God's throne and the only angel to have access to some of the meetings with the determinate counsel of the Trinity (Acts 2:23).

Later, through His people Israel, God established a government to represent His heavenly Kingdom on earth. The high priest had access to the holy of holies in the tabernacle where the presence of God was, and he wore a breastplate of gold covered with twelve precious stones (Exodus 28:17-20). Besides the nine stones worn by Satan, the high priest was given three more: lig-ure, agate, and amethyst. These stood for justice, righteousness, and integrity, representing God's nature, manifested in us as obedience, faith, and steadfastness. Those stones were not given to Satan even when he was perfect, because God knew through foreknowledge he would fall.

Behind the Scene at the Eternal Convention

When the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit met to discuss the eternal plan of God (Isaiah 46:10 and Acts 2:23), the Father presented the plan, the Son volunteered to execute it, and the Holy Spirit agreed to reveal it and to glorify everything about the Son.

"So now," the Father said, "We are going to

create a human race. They will be made in Our image. We will give them free volition, though the first man, Adam, will use it to choose disobedience (Romans 5:12-15). After sin enters the world because of the fall of Adam and Eve, We will impute sin to every human being *before* they sin (Romans 5:12). We know that with the ability to choose, they will all personally choose to sin. As soon as they are born, they will go astray telling lies (Psalm 51:5; Isaiah 53:6). Therefore, We will impute sin first so We are free to impute righteousness later.**

“Then, My Son, I am going to send You to the world. You will be the God-Man, living in a hypostatic union: both perfect God and perfect Man. You will not use Your deity, though You are God. Instead, You will empty Yourself and live as a man. You will die on the Cross of Calvary to pay for every sin the entire human race will ever commit” (2 Corinthians 5:18-19; 1 Timothy 2:6; and 1 John 2:2).

“You will pay for everybody’s sins. Anyone who rejects Your payment will live in hell forever—not because of their sins, but because of judgment for rejecting Christ.

“As a result of Adam’s sin, they will live in bodies of death. Sickness will work its way in

through natural and supernatural causes. Once a person knows You as the Savior, if he becomes occupied with anything else—with himself, with being good, with details of life, or even with growing old—then we may allow trials and sickness that will bring his focus back to Us.”

That woman who had the back condition for eighteen years never knew there was a supernatural cause. Specialized demons may bring fear to a person who goes a long time with an unrelenting sickness. If left unchecked, fear leads to psychosomatic illnesses that begin in the mind and have actual physical manifestations in the body.

Medical experts are quick to verify that stress more than any other factor leads to physical diseases, including cancer. Because of the times we are living in, we need to know God’s provision for our health.

**For more about this subject, read Coverings, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1997.*

***For more about the doctrine of imputations, read Choose Whom You Will Serve, by Pastor Carl H. Stevens, Grace Publications, 1999.*

Chapter Two

THE KEY TO HEALING: WALK IN THE SPIRIT

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).

Satan constantly wants permission from God to test Christians (Job 1:6-12). Therefore, it is vital that we know the key to spiritual and physical health that is found in Galatians 5:16. One of the greatest ways of keeping well is to walk in the Spirit and to live in the Word of God’s grace and love.

Satan constantly tries to make people confess how they feel. He knows that our confession reinforces how we feel, so he wants us to confess something apart from faith.

Stop being occupied with yourself! Walk in a living faith through the Holy Spirit. Healing comes by walking in the Spirit.

Healing isn’t something God does. Healing

is the nature of who God is, an expression of His essence. God's nature is forgiveness. God's nature is restoration through a gift of grace. God's nature is healing. Everything about God heals.

Tormented with Sickness?

For instance, we can look at the issue of forgiveness in Matthew 18:21-35. Peter said, "Lord, how often should we forgive a brother who sins? Seven times?" And Jesus answered, "Not seven times but *seventy times seven*"—an idiom of speech that means indefinite forgiveness.

Then the Lord told the story of a certain king who was owed money by one of his servants—ten thousand talents, which in today's economy equals several million dollars. When the servant said, "Have patience with me," the king forgave him the entire amount.

Later, the same servant was owed one hundred pence, which equals fifteen dollars. When the man couldn't pay it, the servant took him by the neck and threw him in jail. The king became so angry when he heard what happened, he delivered the wicked servant to the "tormentors" until the last penny of the original debt was paid.

In Matthew 4:23-24 and Matthew 8:6-7, "tor-

ments” describes the terrible spiritual and mental afflictions people suffer when they continue in sin. In the Bible, when people trusted Jesus for healing, often when He healed them He also declared that they were forgiven. We have been forgiven a debt greater than what most of us can ever imagine. When people forget that and refuse to forgive their debtors, they may be turned over to the “tormentors,” which may even include sickness.

Receive God's Nature

“For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith.

“Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.

“And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses” (Mark 11:23-25).

Faith should encourage us to always believe God for healing, victory, and power. He has a

perfect plan and a perfect provision for what happens. Early on in his trials, Job confessed his trust in God's sovereignty: "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15). Job faced many more tests, and sometimes he failed. In the end, God gave him back double of all he ever lost, but the turnabout came when Job prayed for his friends (Job 42:10-12).

God has attached my willingness to forgive as a condition for moving the mountain. When I have an attitude of forgiveness toward another or even myself, I have God's nature, which forgives. It not only forgives others, but it totally forgives me of the hidden things for which I couldn't otherwise forgive myself.

Healing Comes by the Word

God says, "Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth" (3 John 2).

Verse after verse is saying, "Be healed and be saved *God's way*—through the Word!"

"He sent his *word*, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions" (Psalm 107:20).

"Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the

abundance of peace and truth” (Jeremiah 33:6).

In Jeremiah 30:17, God says He will restore health to the nation. How will He do these things? By His Word! The principle here is that hearing God’s Word is vital to our health. Everything about the Word of God is pure (Proverbs 30:5).

Chapter Three

EXPECT A MIRACLE

As we walk in what we have heard, the nature of abundant life comes in. Abundant life heals the soul as it begins to work its way through the cells of the body, transmitting godly impulses to the brain, through the spinal column, and to every part of the body. This is the beginning of a process called “a miracle.”

Physical birth is a miracle. The New Birth is a miracle. And when God heals a body or a marriage, it is a miracle.

I know of a couple who are both amazing servants of God. For four years, this man was unfaithful to his wife. She believed God as she walked in the spirit of patience and in the spirit of forgiveness. She continued to walk in faith and in the spirit of fellowship, never withdrawing from fellowship in the Body of Christ but always drawing near to God as the provision for her life. After four years, he came back. The chil-

dren have been redeemed, and this couple have a phenomenal marriage and family life.

Do you know why that took place? She walked in the spirit of reconciliation when there was no reconciliation. That is the nature of God!

Can you see it? If a man is saved, he is *in* the Spirit already. But Galatians 5:25 says that if we live in the Spirit—and we do through salvation—let’s also walk in the Spirit. Then, our experience will reflect our position. He will perform a miracle of healing—physically, mentally, and spiritually—and it will glorify himself and edify us.

Watch What You Say

God’s nature has no problem with our sickness. But too often, the problem is with our confession. Some people go around confessing that they are depressed. But only a small percentage of depression is bona fide, and that is usually due to a physical problem, which may be easily treated, or simply from missing someone we love. It isn’t a depression marked by self-absorption, and it is overcome in time.

We can be so thankful that the Scriptures clearly prove God’s faithfulness to us. In Deuteronomy 7:9, God is called faithful. In Revelation

1:5, He is a faithful witness. In Revelation 3:14, He is a true and faithful witness. When He comes back on a white horse, in Revelation 19:11, His name shall be called “Faithful and True,” and we will follow Him in the Second Advent.

The Word of God says in Psalm 36:5, “Thy mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; and thy faithfulness reacheth unto the clouds.”

His faithfulness is established in the heavens (Psalm 89:2). Then in Psalm 89:5, we read that His faithfulness reaches the congregation of the saints. When we pray, Psalm 143:1 says He answers us in faithfulness because of His nature. And no matter what we are facing, we can always confess His faithfulness.

It Is God's Desire to Heal Us

When the Lord Jesus was in Jerusalem looking over the city (Luke 19:41), He wept, and He said, “Oh, if you only knew the things you could have had! But you are not going to have them.”

Oh, if we only knew the things that we could have. Our faith is not in healing; our faith is in a *Person*! Not only is our faith in a Person, but the Word of God says in 1 Samuel 26:23 that He gives His righteousness and His faithfulness

to His people.

It is a wonderful thing that Satan has to witness our salvation. Satan also has to witness reconciliation in marriages, and he has to witness complete emotional healing and total forgiveness that holds nothing back from grace. The body of a believer is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:19), and Satan hates to see God's temple healthy. He despises the sight of a physical body that is being healed.

Years ago a woman in our church broke her hand. She said, "I think if you'd pray, God would heal me."

I said, "Okay, let's pray."

And we said, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, those bones are all broken, Lord; and we pray in Your name that the mountain of these broken bones would be removed. In our hearts, we are not doubting. And You said, 'You will have whatsoever you saith. And if you desire it in your heart, and you pray, you shall have them.' Okay, Lord. We don't have any grudges against anyone, so we have the nature of God going for us. Therefore, in the nature of Jesus Christ, heal her."

And this is God's honest, documented truth. She took the cast off. (Her faith was much better

than mine. I didn't want her to do that!) But she said, "No. I know it's all right. It's all right."

Again, I encouraged her to go to the doctor and have him take it off—and then he could put it back on!

And she said, "No! I believe *Him*. He made the stars, and the moon, and the sun. He made the world, and He holds everything together by the power of His Word." Then she started wiggling her hand. She was healed. Totally, absolutely, instantly healed.

We heard a testimony recently of a person who was healed of a mass on the liver—totally healed, with two doctors' reports to prove it.

A woman who had been in a wheelchair for nine months and was in the last stages of cancer attended a meeting we held in Boston. Looking pale, she came down to the front when we prayed for the sick, and she was gloriously healed. Do you know what did it? God's nature! God's nature heals the sick.

He Is Waiting to be Gracious

Jesus Christ came to seek and to save the lost. He came so we could be free from the dominion and habit of sin (Luke 19:10). But He also came to heal the brokenhearted, to heal the

wounds. By healing the wounds, He also often heals the body. Not only that, He also came to open prison doors, to set at liberty those that are captives, and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4:18-19).

This is the point: According to Malachi 3:6 and Hebrews 13:8, God does not change. He is just the same yesterday, today, and forever. But if I become occupied with how long I've had the disease, if I'm occupied with the thought that God probably doesn't love me because He hasn't healed me, then I am occupied with the disease. I may be a nice person, yet I am walking in the flesh regarding the disease and not in the spirit of healing.

It is so important to develop faith fields! James 2:5 says we may be poor in this world but rich in faith. In Acts 6:5, God looks for men who are full of faith. That is what God wants. He wants us to be rich in faith in a Person, full of faith in a Person. And He wants us to walk by faith and not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). Without faith, it is impossible to please God. And those that come to Him by faith, He will reward and honor. He is a rewarder of them that seek Him.

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

If you want to, you can exercise faith in Jesus Christ right now. Forget your doubts, forget your worries and your problems, forget your disease. Take your eyes off the fact that you have been depressed off and on for many years. Get your eyes off yourself! Turn your eyes onto Jesus, who is the Healer. In Matthew 8, Jesus Christ healed the leper. In Matthew 9, He healed the blind, the lame, and the diseased; He raised the dead and cast out demons. In Luke 13, He healed. He healed them of *all* their sicknesses (Matthew 9:35). And today, He continues to heal—because that is God’s nature!

Very seldom do Christians define the demons that cause sickness, but when we rightly divide the Scriptures, it is evident that they do cause sickness. Therefore, we must put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh. That doesn’t only refer to sin. We are to make no provision for the things that could plague the flesh, enter into the flesh, ruin the flesh, or destroy the flesh.

Why did God say that He is just the same yesterday, today, and forever? Why would you think He doesn’t love you as much as He loved

the people He has healed? God's compassion *has not changed*. That's right! His compassion has not changed. His power has not changed. God's willingness has not changed, God's love has not changed, and God's ability has not changed.

Chapter Four
**KNOW THE NATURE
OF THE HEALER**

In Luke 8:43-48, when that woman with the issue of blood came to Jesus Christ, she was afraid. Because of the nature of her disease, she was despised by the community, excommunicated, divorced, and ostracized.

But when she grabbed hold of the hem of Jesus' garment, He stopped and said, "Someone has touched Me."

Peter said, "Lord, everybody's around You and thronging about You."

The Lord said, "No, I perceive that virtue has gone out of Me. Somebody has touched Me by faith."

When she saw that she couldn't be hid, she came trembling, and verse 47 says that she was immediately healed.

Jesus said to her, "Daughter...." Daughter!—such a loving word to a woman who was con-

sidered untouchable, until He touched her.

“Daughter, be of good comfort: thy faith hath made thee whole; go in peace.”

How was that possible? He could both touch her and heal her because she was available to believe, and He was available to release His nature to heal this woman’s condition.

The Battle Is the Lord’s

Satan is mentally and emotionally sick. That is his nature. So he likes to make people sick physically, mentally, and emotionally.

God’s nature is to restore from sin, to restore people when they are backslidden. God’s nature is to take away grudges lodged in the unconscious mind and to remove the effects of what happened in the past. God’s nature is to heal your spirit, your soul, your body. God’s nature is to forgive and to restore fallen men.

In 2 Corinthians 1:20 we read, “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, *unto the glory of God [through] us.*” All of His promises are yea and Amen in Christ Jesus, to the glory of God—through us!

It doesn’t matter that Satan hates when good things happen to us; God is for us! Who can be against us?

In Genesis 18:14 we read, “Is any thing too hard for the LORD?” The answer is no. Jesus said that what is impossible for men is possible with God (Matthew 19:26). “For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:37).

The Healing Heart of Compassion

When the Lord saw all the people who were lost, He wept. When He saw the people who were sick, He wept with compassion. He cast out demons. He performed every kind of miracle. And except for the people of Nazareth who didn't have any faith (Matthew 13:54-58), when people went home, they went home healed.

Some people will read this booklet and begin to condemn themselves and become introspective. Don't do it. Let the Lord Jesus Christ purge your conscience. Don't be introspective. Don't analyze yourself and then condemn yourself. Instead, let Him say, “Listen to Me; I love you. Your faith in Me has made you whole.”

If that woman with cancer could be healed, if the person with the bad liver was healed, and if broken bones can be healed, as well as many other cases, there is not a reason for you not to be healed also, except for the plan of God.

Believe and Receive the Power of God's Nature

This is the issue when it comes to healing: Faith cometh by hearing; hearing comes by the Word of God. With the Word of God, we receive the living nature of God. And with the Word of God, we get the power of the nature of God. When we receive the Word of God, the glory of God will be reflected on the inside (2 Corinthians 3:18). When we receive His power and His glory, and as we walk in resurrection life, then love, mercy, and compassion come in, and we walk in the nature of God. By the way, it doesn't have to be a long process. It can happen so quickly that we won't know what happened.

The nature of God says, "I made you, so I can fix what needs fixing. The Bible is like a manual that will show you what you need to know about Me, about yourself, and about how I made you."

Do you want to be happy? Do you want to be free from guilt? Do you want to be whole-some? Do you want to be more healthy than you have ever been in your life? Just believe God and receive your healing.

Believe God for every kind of healing, from your soul to your body—in your marriage, your

emotions, your finances, your business. Believe God for the times you want to withdraw for weeks at a time.

When your soul is healed, you will withdraw from sensuality to walk in the spirit of purity and light. Don't live always remembering what somebody did against you. Later on, you will find that entertaining old wounds will cause you to be sick through the law of sin and death.

What did David mean when he said, "For by thee I have run through a troop; and by my God have I leaped over a wall," in Psalm 18:29? He meant, "I am so free that it is a pitiful defeat for the devil." In other words, we can run through demonic troops that come against us and leap over the walls they put up, and we will come out on the other side of the attack and be whole.

The Word of God declares that God still loves to heal. There is not one verse of Scripture where God says otherwise. Yet so many of us do not consider that God's nature is to heal. We think in terms of theology, but we don't think in terms of healing. We think about getting old and accepting sickness as a fact of life. Why should we accept that?

I can't believe *for* you, but I can believe for myself, and then I will believe *with* you—if you

will only believe. God is faithful. His faithfulness reaches to His people (Psalm 89:5), and He answers us in His faithfulness (Psalm 143:1). His faithfulness is revealed in His love toward us.

CONCLUSION

As you walk in Christ, you will desire to know the nature of Christ and to let His nature fill you. If you have a problem that needs a healing touch from God, first be occupied with the healer. Then, put your foot down and claim that territory. Every place the sole of your foot shall touch shall be yours. Wherever you are, just put that foot down, as touching the place that needs to be conquered.

We could get rid of so many doctors' bills. Of course we thank God for doctors and nurses and hospitals. They are often a part of His healing process. But God desires that we would trust Him first. Did God have any problem healing in the Gospels? He certainly didn't. We need to declare what God has done, believe it, confess it, and praise Him for it.

Precious Father, we pray for all manner of afflictions and all manner of diseases. Do a mighty work of healing, just a supernatural provision of grace by love

through the Holy Spirit.

We pray for arthritis, for cancer, for ulcers, for poor eyesight, for any defects in the bones. Lord, whatever it is, heal in the name of Jesus Christ.

We pray You will heal every kind of marital problem. We pray for reconciliation of hearts where there is incompatibility. We pray for hearts of forgiveness that will last forever through the nature of the Holy Spirit.

The nature of God can heal satanic afflictions and oppression. We pray that fear, paranoia, and insecurity will be dispelled through the nature of love.

We pray for a total healing from bulimia and anorexia and problems with self-image. The nature of God can keep people slim while they eat balanced meals.

We pray for victory over promiscuity, drugs, and liquor, and the devastating effects of these sins when they are compounded. The nature of God can deliver people in a moment. The nature of God can heal AIDS and herpes.

We give thanks in the name of Jesus Christ. And what we ask, we will receive. If we believe, we will have what we say because of the nature and impartation of God's Holy Spirit.

Father, again we ask You to bless the Word of God to our hearts. We love You, and praise You, and

ask You to heal souls and bodies and marriages, and heal problems from things in the past. May the Word of God reveal victory, power, and the light of love, in Jesus' name. Amen.