

Healing is for Today

Welcome to Harvest Community Church

Series: Divine Healing

Text: Isaiah 53:5, James 5:16

Throughout the Bible in both the Old and New Covenant, divine healing is a part of God's plan for people. We must get this settled from the very start, God is concerned about the complete person. (Spirit, Soul, Mind, Body) Salvation is a work of wholeness. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

All too often prayer for healing becomes a last ditch effort instead of a first response to our needs. What happens is our prayers come from a place of desperation and not of relationship. Many times we pray to pacify God and to not become a recipient of His wrath. Many times our prayers are not any better than the heathen or unbeliever. We are not praying in faith instead we are hoping for luck. **Matthew 6:6-8** As Christians and children of God, we do not need luck because we walk in favor.

When it comes to Divine Healing we need to get three things straight:

1. God is good. We need to completely crush the image of a frowning, angry God ready to kill anyone who does not get things right. The love and goodness that Jesus shows to people is because He mirrors exactly who Father God is. **John 14:9**
God does good, is good and He cannot be tempted to do otherwise. **James 1:13**
2. Satan and sin- flesh and Hell- have all fouled up God's intended process for mankind. All sickness is a result of the fall of man. Because of sin, sickness entered the world.
3. The redeemed, those who have received God's gift of life in Jesus, are His main channel of dealing grace and goodness here on earth. **Mark 16:15-18** Divine healing is for today because it is part of the Great Commission. Not only does God desire to heal, He has commanded us to go out and do it.

God has developed and appointed multiple avenues and remedies for sickness and pain:

- A. Through natural recuperative processes. God designed our bodies to heal themselves. Sleep is designed to renew our energy. The Blood is made up of three types of cells: -Red that carry nutrients and oxygen, -White that fight off infection and disease and -Platelets that rush to wounds and promote healing and repair.
 - B. Through our diet, climate and exercise.
 - C. Through the knowledgeable care and kindness of people by hospitals, doctors and medicine.
 - D. Through the divine means of healing gifts distributed by the Holy Spirit and ministered in the Name of Jesus.
- Sin and Satan work disease and destruction; God does not. We can help decide which of the two things will prevail – blessing or cursing. We can determine whether God's goodness is released toward a specific situation.
 - Prayer is the determining factor. There is power in the Name of Jesus to heal the sick and afflicted and to break any bondage. **John 14:14** The Name of Jesus is not some mystical key. The Name is the reason and motivation of the One who we represent. We are ambassadors for Christ, the healing we do is in His Name for Him through us, not for our glory, but His. **Acts 19:11-20**
 - The ministry of healing is a key part of the Great Commission which requires that we share the good news of Salvation. This leads to the confession of sin so that people can be delivered spiritually and be healed physically. **James 5:14-15** All of this is ministered in love.

- When dealing with the area of both salvation and divine healing, we must **reject** any system that produces lovelessness or induces guilt when a believer in Jesus does not seem able to receive personal deliverance from sickness or any other torment.
- There is a difference between divine healing and **faith** healing. At first glance this seems like an odd statement. “Faith Healing” is a catch-all phrase generally used by the media and others without discernment. They are not able to tell the difference between the works of the Holy Spirit, the human spirit or a hellish demonic spirit.

Divine healing has its focus on the person of Jesus Christ while so called 'faith healing' looks **inward** to human potential or some human agent. True faith and true divine healing looks to the Author and Finisher of our faith; Jesus is the center and source of healing gifts. 'Faith healing' finds its energy and strength in self-generated, personal efforts which claim to tap hidden resources within the individual who is the “healer”.

- Divine healing is ministered by the power of the Holy Spirit through divinely given and ordained **promises**, provision and providence (guidance and care). God’s healing grace spans the realm of the medical field and the miraculous. God’s Word brings to us the resources of health, healing and deliverance. By faith we believe that God desires both salvation and divine health.
- Divine healing comes about in **balanced** living without fanaticism. Our victories come through faith in Jesus Christ without pride over our “Faith Power”. We are able to receive God’s provisions without legalistic insistence on human formulas. Divine healing comes about as we give praise and **worship** to God who is the Giver of health and power. 'Faith healing' glorifies some human personality operating at the center of the healing. When we pray for people we are simply the vessel that God is working through.
- As we pray for divine healing, we need to remember that we are never to posture ourselves in such a way that we deny or criticize a person who chooses to seek **medical** help, assistance or treatment. Seeing a doctor or taking medicine is not a lack of faith. God has touched people with both miracle and medical grace at different times through their lives and even with the same illness. We should always be a people that know that the receiving of medical help is not a rejection divine healing. There is a **fear** that can blind some saints that, if they receive medical treatment, they are somehow missing God’s best. Remember, God has called some men and women to the medical profession to bring healing. God is known as the **Great Physician**, this would mean that He has employed others as agents of His healing.
- Assuring and affirming those for whom we pray is the truest manifestation of the Spirit we can offer when we stand with someone who is sick or in pain. When we challenge the quality of someone’s faith as they are in the process of receiving healing, we are actually acting in the spirit of **Job's comforters** more than the Spirit of Christ. Sick people need our compassion and acceptance more than they need our analysis. If God gives us **discernment** as to a person’s lack or need it becomes an opportunity to pray for them rather than add to their burden with words.
- We must not reject divine healing because someone is not healed. The fact is that God does heal. Sickness is a normal thing to a fallen race and so is sin. We will not find **perfect** health in this lifetime anymore than you will attain sinless perfection. The truth is everyone is appointed to die once. We will die of something even if it is a lack of breath. Yet we continue to withstand both sin and sickness. Later in this series we will look at God’s will to heal and why some are and some are not.
- Faith says that even when someone is not healed and sickness prevails, God’s redeeming grace is still at work in a person and their situation. Lessons are learned, understanding is gained and people are touched.