

MAN'S CREATOR, SAVIOR AND HEALER

MAN'S great Creator has declared: "I am the Lord that healeth thee" (Exodus 15:26).

The divine provision that God made for mankind includes healing for the body as well as salvation for the soul; and down through the ages, men have reaped the benefits of this provision.

Jeremiah of old prayed:

"Heal me, O LORD, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved" (Jeremiah 17:14).

And the Psalmist well expressed the sentiment of all true believers when he said:

"Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases" (Psalm 103:2,3).

Incomparable Wisdom and Power

He who created man in the beginning, and breathed into him the breath of life, knows all about the human body. When you are sick, He knows the cause of your illness, the seriousness of your condition. He understands all the complications. No matter how critical your case may be, He is able to heal you.

In Isaiah's day, God asked the question:

"To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like?" (Isaiah 46:5).

How can God be compared with man? Man may diagnose your case and do all he can for you, but his knowledge, skill and ability fall far short of God's. It is true that man has done amazing things as a result of his extensive research and study of the human body. And there are times when a doctor's services are required. But we are pointing you to the Great Physician who is able to do what man cannot do, that your faith may not stand merely in "the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (I Corinthians 2:5). It is God who keeps you alive. Your breath is in His hands.

Origin of Sickness

In the beginning, when God placed His creation here on earth, man was pure and innocent, healthy and strong. But when man disobeyed God's command, the curse of sin, sickness and death came upon the whole human race. And that curse remains to this day. The young and the old, the righteous and the unrighteous, are subject to disease as a result of the "fall of man" in the Garden.

No sooner had man sinned than God provided a remedy. Animals were slain and their skins used to clothe Adam and Eve. The blood thus shed prefigured the Blood of Jesus that would in due time be shed for the salvation and healing of mankind.

The prophet Isaiah tells us:

"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" (Isaiah 53:5).

And in the New Testament, we read that Jesus healed all who came unto Him, "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses" (Matthew 8:17).

The Apostle Peter, also, tells us that He "bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" (I Peter 2:24).

Bible Instructions to the Sick

In James 5:13, we read:

"Is any among you afflicted? let him pray."

That means to pray yourself. Pray earnestly and consecrate your life to the will of God.

"Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God.

"And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (I John 3:21,22).

Then James tells us:

"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" (James 5:14, 15).

When the elders pray for you, believe the promise which says: ". . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:18). Remember, God is the One who heals. Your faith must be in Him, not just in those who pray for you.

Another instruction is found in James 5:16;

"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."

If you have faults that should be confessed, confess them. If there are any grievances one with the other, forgive one another. Pray for your brother if he has a fault or lack of faith. Try to encourage him, using wisdom and compassion in your efforts. Don't be harsh and critical and judge him according to your measuring line, but with the love of Jesus.

Remove All Hindrances

It is important to keep a clear conscience before God and before man, that you may draw near to God with a true heart, "in full assurance of faith" (Hebrews 10:22). It is the prayer of the righteous man that avails much. If your prayers are not being answered, search your heart. See if there could be something clogging the faith channel.

An unforgiving spirit can hinder your prayers from going through. Any bitterness, ill will, deceit, pride, evil speaking, or unpaid vows and unpaid restitutions can also hinder. Straighten everything up. Clear all hindrances out of the way. Then believe God.

Faith Is Essential

The God who ordained that we be saved by faith also ordained that we live by faith and that we be healed by faith.

"Without faith it is impossible to please him; for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

What is faith? "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Faith is obtained by hearing the Word of God and believing it. The more you hear the Word preached and the more you read it and absorb it, the more faith you have.

Jude, in the first century, gave an exhortation to the Christians of his day that is timely for us in this twentieth century:

"Earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).

Faith has always been rewarded. When Jesus asked the blind men if they believed that He was able to heal them, they immediately answered: "Yea, Lord." He then touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith be it unto you" (Matthew 9:29). And their eyes were opened!

Believe God despite all seeming impossibilities in the natural. He is the God of "impossibilities." Count the things that are not "as though they were," and the Lord will honor your faith (Romans 4:17).

"This is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:

"And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" (1 John 5:14,15).

A positive prayer with positive results! No room for doubts when we pray according to the will of God! Pray, believe and receive. If we do not believe, why pray at all?

Trial of Faith

If you do not receive your healing immediately, do not be discouraged. Remember Job, that perfect and upright man of old, who endured his great trial with patience and faith, and was richly rewarded in the end.

It may be that the Lord is testing you through affliction, that the trial of your faith which is more "precious than of gold . . . might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7).

Hold Fast Your Faith

Until the appointed day comes for you to meet your Creator, hold fast your faith whether you are healed or not. Far more important than the healing of your body is the welfare of your soul. The urgency of the hour is to be ready for the soon coming of the Lord when He appears to claim His own.

If you are not a child of God, pray to be saved. If you are saved, retain that faith which brings everlasting life and eternal joy to your soul.

"Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward" (Hebrews 10:35).