

DIVINE HEALING (and) ETERNAL LIFE

(Are Connected by Faith on the Word)

#239R

Wed/12/29/21

(REF.#174/RC/orig)

Satan has always opposed divine healing, so anyone under his influence and control will still oppose it. If you were to search through the Bible you will find two classes of people (believers and unbelievers). One class accepted God as the healer of their bodies (just as He said that He is, Exod. 15:26) "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you."

But the other class not only rejected divine healing, they also bitterly opposed it. The Pharisees actively opposed Jesus for healing a man on a Sabbath Day (Matt. 12:10-14), and they wanted to kill Him because He had healed the man... Also (Acts 3:6-8) Peter invoked "the Name" of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and he told a lame man to 'rise up and walk'. "And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. So, he, leaping up, stood, and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping and praising God." The priests and Sadducees, bitterly opposed the disciples, because the man had received healing in the Name of Jesus. (Acts 4:1-4) "Now, as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in (the Name of) Jesus, the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening."

That class of people were professors of religion, and they professed to belong to God (but they did not believe His Word about His Son, Jesus Christ), nor did they know how to trust Him for healing or any other things in their life (let alone resurrection in Jesus from the dead and Eternal Life.) It is easy to recognize the fruits of that class of people, and that they were under the full control of Satan and the 'self life'. It is (and was) the power of Satan and the power of 'self', that caused their bitter opposition to divine healing in Jesus' Name, and their rejection of God as our Healer.

The other class (genuine believers, however), are under the control of the Holy Spirit, and they have been delivered from Satan's influence and power, ...so they accept God as their Healer, ... and they trust 'Him' for healing. These two different classes of people can be found (in many instances) throughout the Bible.

Some people have asked themselves the question; could anyone get to Heaven who did not accept (nor trust for) divine healing (In other words, if they have more faith in fallen man than they have faith in God?) Some have either rejected (or did not know about God as their Healer), and they were in that position when they passed from this life. Some people try to hide behind that error (the Pastor said). They say that "they never heard about divine healing in their Churches" (and they use that as an excuse for not accepting it). They

try to justify that they are not responsible for not accepting God's healing plan, also that it will not hinder them from getting to Heaven.

That is a delusion from Satan, who is using that while attempting to rob those (who are still living) from receiving healing by faith, .. and to rob them of Eternal Life at the end of their life. Ignorance never saves anybody, and would never take a person to Heaven. .. (Real Faith in God does take a person to Heaven!)

God has made ample provision for everyone to receive knowledge of the Truth (if we will choose to do so). He does not ask us to understand anything with our own mind (nor ask us to do anything in our own strength). He does all of that for us by inspiring us through His Holy Spirit to understand, and then He empowers us to follow His Word, .. (which leaves us without any excuse whatever.) There is simply no excuse for ignorance, and no excuse for disobeying God's Word, or joining a spiritually dead church and listening to their doctrines (when they are not teaching people to trust God for healing nor for eternal Life (and in most instances) for anything else in their life.

God's Word has many admonitions, and He warns us to take heed. Jesus said (Matt.7:15-16) "Beware of the false teachers— men who come to you in sheep's fleeces, but beneath that disguise they are ravenous wolves. By their fruits you will easily recognize them. Are grapes gathered from thorns or figs from brambles?"

One of the most apparent exposures of a false teacher, is the rejection of God's Truth concerning Healing. Psalm 107 connects divine healing with one's eternal Life. (Vs.20) "He sent his word and made them well, and kept them safe from the underworld." (the grave). (NKJ version says), "He sent His word and healed them, And delivered them from their destructions." (This makes it quite clear that teaching other people to reject God's Word concerning healing, is proof of one being a false teacher, because it can rob a person of Eternal Life.

That is the same rebellious attitude that false prophets took in the Bible, and it is an exposure that they are under the control of Satan and self today. You could not afford to have any fellowship with them, could not afford to listen to anything they have to say, nor to follow their example of Unbelief (for it would jeopardize your Eternal Life (to keep company with them). (It is an Eternal Life issue!)

Paul explained to the Corinthians that unbelief of God's Word is idolatry, and he warned them not to keep company with unbelievers. (2 Cor.6:14-17) "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common?" (the apostle refers to unbelief in God, as wickedness.) "Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial. What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols?" (the apostle classifies unbelief of God's Word as being idolatry.) "For we (meaning true believers) are the temple of the living God." As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they

will be my people. Therefore, come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you."

That is God's promise of Eternal Life for one's believing His Word (which includes His Word on divine healing). We will find it very profitable (spiritually) to put God (and His Word) ahead of everything and everybody else.

I have had people tell me (the late Pastor said), "If a certain relative of mine did not go to Heaven, I do not want to go there." Well there's proof that if they don't make a great change in their life (and attitude), they will never get there. Anyone who would put a relative ahead of God (and His Truth), is not a candidate for Eternal Life. Anyone who is filled with the Holy Spirit and has Jesus Christ in their heart, will take the same attitude that Jesus took.

When speaking to His followers (and His relatives came to see Him), He said (Matt.12:48-50): "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" Pointing to his disciples he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever (obeys the Word, or) does the will of my Father in Heaven, is my brother and sister and mother."

That was the attitude that Jesus took. He put His Heavenly Father ahead of all of His relatives. And, God has a peace that is greater than anything (or any trouble) that the devil could bring upon us (and that includes any sorrow concerning relatives). God loves our relatives more than we do, so if He has a peace that can overcome anything (and we are an heir to His great peace), surely His peace can cover any kind of problem.

The Pastor recalled that many years ago some members had traveled to California, and the wife's mother went with them. She was an unbeliever who did not believe the Bible (nor anything about it), and fully under the control of the devil. The daughter (being young in the Truth and not knowing better than to use human efforts), would try to talk to her mother about the danger she was in, and she would try to influence her to accept the Truth... The mother would always resent it and become angry.

One night in California she mentioned the Truth to her again, but her mother became angry and went to bed without even saying good night. The daughter thought that everything would be alright in the morning, but she found that her mother had passed away during the night (most likely with a wrong attitude in her heart). One can imagine what was going through the daughter's mind because of that circumstance. She felt that she could not bear to think about it.

In a few minutes, however, a passage of Scripture came to her mind, "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden. I will give you rest." (Matt.11:28). She thought to herself, "that verse does not look very promising, but it has to be better than all this turmoil I am going through." She knelt before God in prayer and explained the whole matter to Him, then she claimed that promise of peace that Jesus gave for us. She got off her knees just as burdened as when she had

knelt down, but in a few minutes that whole burden passed away. She felt no more grief, burden, nor sorrow, for God's peace came upon her.

That same promise of peace is meant for everybody (and that case it was an extreme one), so God can surely deliver anyone else, because that is the provision that He has made for everyone. He has a peace that is greater than any sorrow that Satan could try to torment with.

The way we are to receive deliverance and healing is the valuable part of our spiritual development, and our preparation for Eternal Life. A Gentile Centurion came to Jesus for healing of his servant. (His servant was very sick). Jesus said, "I will come and heal him." The Centurion answered, "I am not worthy for you to come under my roof, but speak the Word only and my servant shall be healed."

(Matt.8:10), "When Jesus heard it, He marveled, and said to those who followed, 'Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!'" (He said this because the man was a Gentile). (vs.11-12) "And, I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. "But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

That man's attitude toward divine healing was to receive it in the true Scriptural way (by believing on God's Word and power alone) ... and Jesus said that he was ready for Eternal Life. That is the greatest blessing, spiritually, of our trusting God as our Healer. It is an outstanding and important Bible example, because it directly connects faith for divine healing with one's receiving Eternal Life.

It also tells us that people who do not accept God's divine healing plan (in the true Scriptural way), are on the wrong pathway (that will lead to the Lake of Fire if not repented of). Jesus' reply to that man (and the explanation He gave to His followers), was a plain statement and the answer to the question we are considering; ... that accepting divine healing is connected to one's receiving Eternal Life (by faith). Salvation by Grace (through enduring faith in) Jesus Christ.

The condition of receiving divine healing by faith, is directly connected to the 'death of the self-life', and, having the devil's power broken over our life. When one accepts God as their Healer, they are risking their life on His Word and His faithfulness to His Word. That's what makes a true believer (assuming everything else being equal).

Nobody should think that just because they accept divine healing, (while rejecting any other vital Truth of God's Word), that their accepting healing by faith will alone take them to Heaven. A person has to accept God's financial plan (just as much as healing). Also, we must follow God's command to forgive people their offences (just as we accept His healing plan).

If one has not forgiven people their trespasses, (no matter how much they believe in God's healing and financial plans, they will not get to Heaven. (Matt.6:14-15) "For if you forgive men their trespasses,

your heavenly Father will also forgive you. "But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." That means we will not get Eternal Life if we refuse to forgive people; (even if we do accept God's divine healing and His financial plans of trust on Him). However, everything else being equal, we will get the full spiritual blessing and the preparation for Eternal life that goes with divine healing.

It is important to remember that we cannot reject any vital Truth of God's Word and still get Eternal Life. That is why it is so important for us to understand the 'principle of Truth' involved (in every circumstance in our life). We cannot allow ourselves to be deceived by the devil to place our trust in something else (aside from God). (Matt. 7:21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in Heaven." ("only those who are obedient to my Father who is in Heaven.")

The moment we accept God as our Healer, we have qualified ourselves to become a true disciple of Jesus Christ, because we have agreed to risk our life, in order to keep God first in our life. That is what Jesus told us (Luke 14:26) "If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, ... he cannot be My disciple."

The first condition for divine healing is for one to settle it to depend on the living God alone, and not use the slightest human means of help for such a vital thing as health and protection of our body. That stand and surrender to God is the route back to the position from which Adam fell. Adam's sin was depending on himself (the self-life), so for us to reverse that sin, takes us back to conditions of the Garden of Eden (includes God's blessings in every way that we place our trust on Him). There is no more emphatic way to reverse Adam's sin, than to trust God to heal our body (settle it final to trust Him alone).

We are to accept the written Word of God as proof that He has heard and answered our request. To receive through believing the written Word of God, is another step toward surrendering the life of 'self', and toward enjoying the conditions of the Garden of Eden (with God supplying things for us through our trust on His faithfulness). That is the place that Adam fell from, when he accepted the devil's lie (and he rejected God's Word).

We must reverse Adam's mistake in order to receive divine healing. We must settle it in our heart to reject the devil's lies, and accept God's written Word as full evidence that we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5).

A valuable thing to learn about receiving divine healing, is not to pay any attention to feelings or symptoms. We are to see ourselves as being under the shed Blood of Christ, .. as already delivered (through the power of His Blood to heal us). The Israelites (when in Egypt on that Passover night), had to place the blood of a slain lamb over their doors, and have faith on the protective covering of that

blood. As a result, every sick or lame person was healed through believing God's Word that they were healed (because of having faith in that blood over their door). They were to ignore the symptoms and not go by sight and feeling, no matter how sick they felt or what physical condition they could see. They were to act like 'well people', and that is why they were all healed, (because of the blood over their door and believing and acting on God's Word). (Apostle Paul was inspired to tell us) "the preaching of the cross is foolishness to them that are perishing. But to us that are saved, it is the power of God."

Wherever the Blood of Jesus Christ is depended upon (that all-sufficient merit and offering that He made for us) there will be a manifestation of God's power to give us deliverance and our victory.

We are to depend on the foundation work of Jesus Christ on the Cross for our deliverance. God will always back up that Blood and will always manifest His full power for us. It makes no difference what kind of trouble we are in; God will make a way of escape, when we place our whole dependance on the Blood of His Son, as the only reason why His power should work for us. Divine Healing and Eternal Life are connected by Faith on Christ!!

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S239R SOME MAIN POINTS ARE:

- 1... Scripture proves that trusting God for divine healing (through the healing power of the atonement Blood of Christ), is directly connected to one's eternal Life.
- 2... Just like many people today, the Pharisees and Sadducees professed religion and that they belonged to God, but they did not believe His Word about His Son, Jesus Christ, ...nor did they know how to trust God for healing or any other thing, ... (let alone trusting for resurrection in Jesus from the dead (Acts 4:2), and their Eternal Life) because they were under the control of Satan.
- 3... The other class of people (genuine believers), are under the control of the Holy Spirit (delivered from the devil's power), so they accept God as their Healer, and trust Him for healing.
- 4... Ignorance does not save anybody, and would never take a person to Heaven, ... but, real faith in God does!!

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The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia