

“JESUS’ WORK OF ATONEMENT” (“PAID FOR OUR HEALING”)

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The great value of trusting God for healing is the spiritual results we gain from receiving that victory from God. Divine healing carries with it every spiritual blessing that we need; repentance, pardon and cleansing of sin, also an in-filling of God’s righteousness and God’s peace within, and most importantly, it is a ‘step forward’ on our pathway to Eternal Life. Jesus made that very clear in the case of the army Captain who came to Him (Matt.8) and said (vs.6-8), “Sir, my servant at home is lying ill with paralysis and is suffering great pain.” “I will come and cure him,” said Jesus. “Sir,” replied the Captain, “I am not a fit person to receive you under my roof: merely say the word and my servant will be cured.” (Vs.10-12) “Jesus listened to this reply, and was astonished, and said to the people following Him, “I solemnly tell you that in no Israelite have I found faith as great as this. And I tell you that many will come from the east and from the west and will recline at table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the “Kingdom of the Heavens”, while the natural heirs of the Kingdom will be driven out into the darkness outside: there will be the weeping aloud and the gnashing of teeth.”

Those words of Jesus clearly emphasize that trusting God for healing of our body can determine WHERE we will spend our eternity (Heaven or the Lake of Fire). There are other points also connected to divine healing that emphasize these spiritual aspects. Jesus said, (John 12:24), “In most solemn truth I tell you that unless the grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains what it was--a single grain; but that if it dies, it yields a rich harvest.” (When ‘self’ is eliminated and dies within our heart, and is replaced with a ‘divine nature’, it yields rich harvest.)

Jesus was talking about us dying to self (eliminating)’trust in the ‘self-life’ (or trusting in ourselves or other human beings and human plans) instead of trusting on God. When self is eliminated and replaced by a divine nature in our heart, a rich harvest of spiritual growth is yielded. When we depend on anything human for something we need or desire in this life, to that extent the ‘devil’ and ‘self’ within have that much control and influence over us. However, when we are not using self-efforts, and all known sin is confessed and every human thing to depend upon is out of the way, the full power of God will go to work immediately (almost before we had time to ask for it). These conditions we meet to receive healing from God, will however, strike a fatal blow to those two deceitful enemies of all mankind, which are ‘self’ and the devil.

The basis of the devil’s control is to have us to depend on something human instead of depending on God, (Who sent His Son to give His life-blood for us, that we might take our healing by faith on His Word). (As the message title states)“healing is in the Atonement” work of Christ. (Isaiah 53:4-5) “And, ours was the pain He bore, the sorrow He endured! We thought Him suffering from a stroke at God’s hand; yet He was wounded because we had sinned, twas our misdeeds that crushed Him; twas for our welfare that He was chastised, the blows that fell to Him have brought us HEALING. But He was wounded for our transgressions He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.”

Jesus again emphasized (John 12:25), that the spiritual side of receiving healing through a trusting faith on God, does indeed determine where we will spend our eternity. "He who holds his life dear, is destroying it; and he who makes his life of no account in this world, shall keep it to the Life of the Ages."

When we begin to trust on God for health of our body, that is the attitude we are taking. We risk our life on God's Word and faithful-ness to His Promises. Where there is no risk involved (in other words if we can see the thing that we are trusting on), then there is no faith involved. Real faith can only be exercised on something that we cannot see. That, in itself is of the greatest value to our spiritual life, because it is the definition of an acting faith, and it makes us a true disciple of Jesus Christ. That is what it did for believers in the Bible, such as the Roman army Captain who said to Jesus, "merely say the word and my servant will be cured." No wonder the Bible says that Jesus marveled at the man's faith on His Word (instead of needing to see Jesus come and heal the servant). The man was 'Seeing in Faith' and his prayer was answered. We can all have that same answer to our prayers of faith, today.

Jesus told us in plain words, Mark 11:22, "Have faith in God." How many people really have true Bible-believing faith in God, for Him to actually be their God in everything and for everything? (Hebr. 11:6 says) "Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him." (The Apostle Paul said, "We live by faith, not by sight," (2 Cor. 5:7).

When we consider how simple and easy it is to 'walk by faith' (after we have right understanding of 'faith'), and, when we realize that all (and every) divine blessing, healing, and deliverance comes through faith,...it would be most unfortunate to not exercise real saving faith in God, (and so, for us to receive all that God has provided through the Atonement work of His Son.)

As we read a word (or hear a word), we picture things as that word says. That is all faith really is,... accepting the words and picturing victorious results. It is quite easy and uncomplicated.

If it is easy to accept the spoken or written words of a trust-worthy human being, how much easier then should it be to accept the written Words of a trustworthy (and divine) God? That is what the 'walk of faith' actually is...seeing (or accepting) things as God's written Words say that they are.

The written Scriptures tell of God's 'Promises' to His true people...(all those who are faithful followers of His Son Jesus). (Hebr. 10:23 tells us, "He who promised is faithful."

If we can accept what God's Word says as being absolute truth, then we should have no trouble to 'walk by faith,' and we should experience no difficulty to receive answer to our prayers, because God is all-powerful. We will be enabled by the Holy Spirit to understand that any and all opposition we may meet is from the devil, so it must be rejected and refused in the Name of Jesus.

The first condition for receiving healing, is repentance, which is extremely valuable for us to know, because there is always a spiritual cause for any attack in our body. It can be that we have accepted discouragement, or lies and fear from the devil, instead of believing God's Word which says that we are healed by the atonement Blood of Jesus Christ. We must repent of our accepting the devil's discouragements and fear, and repent of any known sin in our life. When the cause for the oppression is revealed and we have sincerely repented and made a final commitment to trust God, it not only brings pardon and cleansing of sin, but the spiritual grace is provided that we need to take our victory by faith on the Atonement Promises of God.

The spiritual grace received from placing real faith on God, is the reason Satan has always opposed our trusting God for health of body, (and why he fought against divine healing all through Jesus' ministry on earth), because it teaches people to have faith on God's faithfulness to His Word (instead of believing Satan's lies). When Jesus healed a man with a withered arm, Satan-controlled unbelievers began plotting how to kill Jesus, because the devil does not want anyone to have faith in God for health and healing of body.

The question then, is not how much faith we have, but how faithful is the God we have? The only questions we need to consider would be: 'Is God always true to His Word? Can any statement He makes be accepted without question?' We are to deal only with the facts, (and not even consider faith, which we will naturally have if we truly believe in the fulfillment of God's Word).

In human situations we always deal with facts. When we determine what is fact, we then believe it without actually being conscious that we have accepted it as a fact. We know it to be a fact, so it is natural for us to accept it.

In a similar way we exercise our faith in God without really thinking about the faith part of the matter. That is 'walking by faith.' When we consider the facts about what kind of a God we pray to, and is He reliable, honest, and trustworthy?... and we answer ourselves 'Yes',... the next thing is we must act on those facts. Every true Christian believes that God is fully reliable, honest, and trustworthy...and that His Promises are always the truth. That means we can have a perfect faith in a perfect God, because faith has all to do with the One we are dealing with, NOT anything within ourselves. Because we believe that God is fully reliable, we should be able to exercise perfect faith in Him without really being conscious of doing so.

If we follow the devil's suggestions, however, to ask ourselves how much faith we have, then he can deceive us and this will block our answers to prayer. (James 1:6) "Let him ask in faith and have no doubts; for he who has doubts is like the surge of the sea, driven by the wind and tossed into spray."

The truth is, it is simply a freewill choice on our part to believe on a faithful God, and to accept His Word and Promises, so anyone can 'walk by faith' at any time. "The chastisement of our peace was upon Him", means that anything that could disturb our peace in the least possible way, was nailed to the Cross with Jesus Christ (and we do not have to bear a disturbance which was already born for us). Pain and discomfort in our body can greatly disturb our peace, but in Jesus' Name we don't have to accept that.

The next part of that verse (Isaiah 53:5), is (and should be) all-comprehensive to us, "by His stripes we are healed." Those statements were made by God in these verses, and they refer directly to our healing, so God knew the importance of 'spiritual blessing' received through our faith for divine healing.

There are New Testament examples of people meeting Jesus for the first time, and they exercised perfect faith in Him right away. We can surely assume that Satan the 'father of lies' (John 8:44), was there to try to deceive them at that moment, in the same way Satan tries to deceive us now, when we pray.

The next 'condition of faith' to be met (after repenting and believing that God is faithful to His Word), is to accept God's bare word alone as evidence that we are healed without yet seeing or feeling the healing (for there is no faith where no risk is involved). As we meet those conditions, the Holy Spirit will enable us to make a final decision to risk our life on the faithfulness of God's Promises. That

eliminates every foothold of 'self' and Satan in our life (and that is the place to which God must bring each one of us).

There is an example in John 4, of "a nobleman whose son was sick". (Vs. 47), "When this man heard that Jesus had arrived in Galilee from Judea, he went to him and begged him to come and heal his son, who was close to death."

Instead of Jesus saying that He would (or would not) go with him to heal the boy, Jesus says(vs.48) "Unless you and others see miracles and marvels, nothing will induce you to believe."

Jesus meant that the man was not convinced in his own mind, and that he did not believe that God's Word meant what it says. Jesus is telling us that many people only went by what they could feel (or what they actually saw with their eyes.) They would not accept God's Word as sufficient evidence, He meant, so they were not 'walking by faith.'

Surely, Satan had suggested many negative and doubtful things to that man, such as Jesus being only a man, or, that the boy would not be healed just because someone said he was healed.

The man did not give up, however, and said (vs.49)"Sir, come down before my child dies." He was persistent, which was good, but he wanted to 'see' Jesus touch and heal the boy (which would not be 'faith in a spoken Word,' nor would it be the pure 'walk of faith.' Jesus replied (Vs.50) "You may return home, your son has recovered."

At that moment the man could either accept those words or not accept them. He could exercise absolute faith in those words (only), and return home to see the boy delivered, or he could have said that he wouldn't accept just 'words' for his son's healing, ... but that he wanted to 'see' the healing accomplished.

The example that we have, however, is that the man did accept Jesus' Words as being a true fact, and he took an actual 'walk of faith' back home to see his son well and fully recovered. The man refused to see defeat (as Satan surely pictured it). Instead, he accepted victory as God promised it. The actual words are (vs 50): "He believed the words of Jesus and started back home."

The Word of God (spoken by Jesus Christ), presented a mental picture to the man's mind. He only had words to portray to his mind what took place, for he did not actually see any healing (at that moment). Sight, feeling, and Satan's suggestions are all opposite to faith. They were opposite then and they are opposite now. In the Name of Jesus we must reject Satan's lies and suggestions, and believe the Words of our faithful God, which say to us, "The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed."

The man had a responsibility to fulfill (just as you and I do) ... he had to choose whether he was going to accept the Words of Jesus or not accept them. That officer had to exercise his 'power of choice' to believe or not believe. He could 'walk by faith' or he could insist by sight. He made the choice, however, to believe the boy was exactly as God's Word said he was... fully healed.

As the man came near his house he heard more words, but this time from eye witnesses (Vs 51 says)"He was already on his way down when his servants met him and told him that his son was alive and well."

It was easier to accept those words from eye-witnesses because they saw what actually took place. And yet the 'Word of God' (from Jesus His Son) was more true, more real, and safer to believe than even the words of the servants (who had actually seen the deliverance with their own eyes).'

4... The words of Jesus (Matt. 8:10-12), explain that trusting on God to receive divine healing of our body, can determine where we will spend eternity ('Heaven' or the 'Lake of Fire').