

# DIVINE HEALING AND REAL SPIRITUALITY

S94A 0326 23P

Divine healing has a very important bearing on our spiritual life. Throughout the Bible, divine healing was never separated from real spirituality. People in Bible times who were in the proper spiritual attitude toward God were healed of every physical infirmity they had. Real spirituality always carries with it perfect health and protection to our bodies.

Paul said in Romans 8:11, *"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you."*

That word "quicken" means to "give life" or "put life and health in your bodies." In the Old Testament, righteousness and health went hand in hand. In Exodus 23:25, there is coupled up three great Truths of the Bible--spiritual, physical, and financial. Those three were never separated in the entire Bible; they all rose and fell together. If one was rejected, it always carried the others with it. If all three were accepted, they always brought fulness of blessing; but to reject God's physical plan, or His financial plan, you will find that it will have a tremendous effect on our spiritual life and also our eternal interests.

Exodus 23:25, *"And ye shall serve the Lord your God,"* That is, the spiritual part, a full surrender to Him and His will. *"And he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee."* Then in Deuteronomy 7:15, God told them that if they really served and trusted Him right, He would keep all sickness away from them and give them perfect health. In Exodus 15:26 we have practically the same thought, only in more detail: *"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee."*

So divine healing and real spirituality went together, even under the law, which was only a shadow of the blessings that were to come under the Gospel. The Gospel Age was ushered in with wonderful healings, and they were to continue throughout the entire Gospel Age.

In the New Testament, Peter tells us in 1st Peter 3:10-12 *"For he that will love life, and see good days,"* Or, he who wants to live a long, happy, and prosperous life--a healthy and peaceful life, *"let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."*

It does not mean that under the Gospel we are to obey God in our own strength, but it means that when we surrender ourselves to God and accept His will for our entire life, He will deliver us from every sin, give us a clean and spirit-filled heart, and of course we will have a long, happy and healthful life. That is what God has promised in this Gospel Age. Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, said in Proverbs 3:1, *"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments."*

In this Gospel Age we do not obey God in our own strength, but in His strength, which is the great difference between Law obedience and obedience under the Gospel. Verse 2, *"For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."*

We will be delivered from every sickness and trouble of every kind and have perfect peace, which includes perfect health and protection for our bodies. Then in Proverbs 4:20-22, he brings it out in such plain language that it cannot be mistaken. *"My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart. For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."* That makes it very plain that real spirituality carries with it perfect health and perfect protection to our bodies.

In the 13th chapter of Luke, some people came to Jesus and told Him about a terrible accident that had killed eighteen persons at one time. They also told Him about some people who had been murdered by the Governor of the land, and their blood was mixed in their sacrifices with the blood of animals, which was considered a most terrible thing.

Jesus then asked His disciples: *"Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay:"* It was not because they had committed some terrible sin or were more sick than anyone else. *"but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."* Verses 2,3. It was the condition of their hearts, the lack of being spiritual, that had permitted that terrible thing to happen to them. Then He said: *"Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay:"* That did not happen to them because of some special sin or crime they had committed; it was because they failed to accept God's plan for their life and becoming spiritual. (Verse 5), *"But, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."*

To accept God's plan of healing, which is by His power alone, carries with it every spiritual blessing we need and desire. We should see this clearly because it has all to do with our eternal interests.

Our only hope of getting to Heaven is to accept every Truth God has given to us in this New Testament. It is just as necessary to accept the financial teaching as it is to accept God's healing plan or any other plan in the New Testament. Real righteousness means an obedience to the entire New Testament and following it out exactly as given even if it costs us our life.

We should not think for a moment that we have to do this in our own strength. The Law was given to show man's utter inability to obey God in his own strength, and the Gospel was sent to reveal the power of God coming in and putting the desire in our hearts to trust and serve Him, as well as the power to accomplish it. God is to write His laws on our hearts, placing His Spirit within us, and so enable us to see and understand as well as obey this Word. We should not think for a moment that God expects us to obey this Word in our own strength. Anything we do apart from the power of God, is a hindrance instead of a help. God's plan is to make us right and also to bless us for living right. That is the wonderful double plan in the Gospel, the New Covenant--God enabling us to live right in His strength and then blessing us for doing it.

If there is anything we need to know, it is God's standard of righteousness and all the qualifications of eternal life. We cannot afford to let anything jeopardize our eternal interests. Anyone who rejects God's financial teaching or God's healing plan, or any teaching of this New Testament, such as meeting mean treatment right, will fail to get eternal life.

Divine healing carries with it every spiritual blessing. Repentance is the first spiritual work that will be accomplished in our lives. A full pardon and cleansing from sin will be the second;

the fulness of the Holy Spirit or God's righteousness will be the third, and Heaven will be the final reward. Divine healing carries every one of those blessings with it. Not only does real spirituality carry healing with it, but divine healing carries with it, real spirituality. They are inseparable and always were throughout the entire Bible.

Naaman, the Syrian, came to Elisha just for healing. He did not come to give his life to God or anything like that. However, when he was finally persuaded to follow God's plan exactly as He had been given it, by dipping in the Jordan River seven times, with that healing came a truly repentant heart. Now repentance and giving up his old church were the last things Naaman thought of when he came to God, but when he was healed by God's power alone, he came back to Elisha and said, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kings 5:15, "*Behold now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel.*" Then he said further in verse 17, "*Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? for thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the Lord.*" With that healing came the spiritual light and strength to settle it that he was going to serve the true and ever living God forever; that he was going to give up his old church and never worship there again.

God says to us: (James 5:14,15) "*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.*" That is, they will be forgiven and cleansed of sin with that healing. And it is the same when we come to God individually and receive our healing thru His Word alone.

(Mark 11:24) "*Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*"

(John 16:23,24) "*And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.'*"

One thing taught in this New Testament, as well as in the Old, it is that faith righteousness is the Gospel plan of righteousness, that is, thru faith founded on healing for the body.

Abraham is held up as our example of faith-righteousness, and it was faith for the healing of his body and that of his wife's, that brought that righteousness. God promised him a son when he was nearly a hundred years old, which would mean a miracle of healing on his body, as well as Sarah's.

Romans 4:20-25 says that Abraham "*staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead; Who was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification.*"

We must realize how much bearing that divine healing has on our present welfare spiritually, and also on our eternal life. We do not want to be hindered in any way for our preparation for the coming of Jesus, as well as to enjoy the health and protection Jesus died to give us.

To be ready for the coming of Jesus, we must believe and follow all the directions in this entire New Testament. Believe and accept every plan of God so there cannot be a question about

our preparation for Heaven, because there will not be very many people ready for the coming of Jesus. Jesus made that prediction in Luke 17:26-30, "*And as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.*"

Luke 18:8 "*Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?*"

We need to take these predictions to heart and make sure of our own salvation. We also need to have the same quality of faith for meeting mean treatment right, for our finances, home-life, and all of God's plans. It is just as necessary to obey one command in this New Testament as the other, for our welfare in this life and also our eternal life.

The principal involved in divine healing brings about a real death to the self-life and an enthronement of the Christ-life, and a real knowledge of God. There are just two steps that are necessary to get the spiritual blessing in divine healing. The first is a final decision to place our bodies in God's hands forever, and look to Him alone for the deliverance and settle it that we will not use the slightest remedy or any human means whatever. The second is to accept God's Word at its face value, which declares that our prayers are heard and answered as soon as they are offered. We should step right over on the believing side by a direct act of the will, without the least sight or feeling and count ourselves delivered. Every victory won in that way will lay a solid foundation for a real preparation for the coming of Jesus.

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