

DIVINE HEALING

2 Corinthians 11:2-3

Introduction: All of us have prayed for loved ones and for friends to be healed at one time or other. Some were healed, some were not. There are some who hold "healing" services, laying on of hands and such for those who are sick and afflicted. If it happened long ago with Jesus and the disciples, why doesn't it still happen today?

I. "MIRACULOUS" HEALINGS OR PHENOMENAL EVENTS?

1. There are such things as self-induced psychological, emotional body conditions.
2. There are real acts of Satan, who is an imitator of God.
3. Mass hysteria occurs during some "mind-bending" emotional meetings.
4. Then there is God, Himself but not a few special "anointed" individuals.

II. IT WAS SIN THAT STARTED SICKNESS IN THE FIRST PLACE

1. Sin is divided into two areas: original and personal.
 - The pollution of the human race (*Romans 5:12*)
 - Disobedience, sin by choice (*Romans 3:23*)
2. Original sin introduced sickness, suffering an death with no one immune.
3. Often personal sins relate to physical illness.
 - King David - *Psalms 32:3-5*
 - Early Churches and the Lord's Supper - *1 Corinthians 11:30*
4. There is no apparent reason for human afflictions.
 - Job's difficulties or the man born blind in Jesus' day.
5. Is it God's will that a person remains sick?
 - Paul had his own personal ailments, his friends often became sick, and Dr. Luke traveled with Paul on many trips.
 - *Philippians 2:26-27; 2 Corinthians 12:7*
6. Sometimes God does heal us immediately, thoroughly and permanently (*Acts 3:6*)

III. SCRIPTURAL STEPS FOR HEALING (*James 5:13*)

1. Those who are suffering hardships (not so much physically)
 - Those who are cheerful, then sing.
 - Those who are sick - disabled, incapacitated, serious illnesses.
2. The sick person takes the initiative by going to someone. (*v13*)
 - When spiritual help arrives two things are then done: (*v14*)
 - Anoint with oil (not like anointing a king), but to rub in, to medicate.
 - Pray, intercede strongly
3. The results are left up to God and God's will.
 - To restore, to save
 - To raise that person up, IF sins are confessed (*v16*)

IV. SOMETIMES "TIME" IS OFTEN NEEDED TO BRING ABOUT HEALING (*Eccl. 3:1-3*)

1. Paul's shipwreck experience. It took a while. Some need a similar experience to bring them back to the right priorities and then healing can come.
2. "Change" is a great instrument of healing. Paul had a dramatic change.
3. Some ailments, illnesses take time to heal: mental, emotional, surgical, injuries.
4. Doctors diagnose, prescribe, but God, only brings the healing.
5. God heals when He wants to, how He wants to. Sometimes it is instantly, sometimes slowly.
6. *Psalm 119:67, 71, 75*

CONCLUSION:

1. God is the only source for healing.
2. God can heal miraculously, and it is always instantly, thoroughly and permanently.
3. God usually heals slowly through His gifts to doctors, technicians, chemists, etc.
4. Beware of "special anointed" healers.
5. Salvation is completely from God. We believe Him and receive His gift.
6. Healing is completely from God. We cannot buy, beg, earn, etc., to cause God to heal against His will.
7. Follow the steps in *James 5:13ff*. Remember: God knows when we need healing.