

“Healing”

Most of the time when it comes to the issue of healing we have more questions than answers. It is my prayer that we will be able to examine this subject and allow the Lord to provide us with some answers and that we will learn to live by faith when we don't have the answers to every single question. Remember, He is Jehovah Rophe – “The Lord Our Healer.” I want to begin with three thoughts that will help us to maintain a balanced view of Divine Healing ...

- a. Personal experience in NO WAY determines the truth of divine healing.
- b. Human understanding/explanation in NO WAY determines the truth of divine healing.
- c. God's Word ALONE determines the truth of divine healing. Our faith and practice is built on that foundation.

1. One day I will be complete.

²Dear friends, now we are children of God, and we have not yet been shown what we will be in the future. But we know that when Christ comes again, we will be like him, because we will see him as he really is. 1 John 3:2 (NCV)

- a. We were created in a state of perfect health.

⁷And the LORD God formed a man's body from the dust of the ground and breathed into it the breath of life. And the man became a living person. ⁸Then the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he placed the man he had created. Genesis 2:7,8 (NLT)

- b. With sin came pain, sickness, and death.

¹⁵The LORD God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and care for it. ¹⁶But the LORD God gave him this warning: “You may freely eat any fruit in the garden ¹⁷except fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. If you eat of its fruit, you will surely die.” Genesis 2:15-17 (NLT)

- c. With the pronouncement of the results of sin came the promise of redemption.

¹⁵From now on, you and the woman will be enemies, and your offspring and her offspring will be enemies. He will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” Genesis 3:15 (NLT)

- d. Even when we are healed in this body, it is imperfect and we still face death.

³⁵Some skeptic is sure to ask, “Show me how resurrection works. Give me a diagram; draw me a picture. What does this ‘resurrection body’ look like?” ³⁶If you look at this question closely, you realize how absurd it is. There are no diagrams for this kind of thing. ³⁷We do have a parallel experience in gardening. You plant a “dead” seed; soon there is a flourishing plant. There is no visual likeness between seed and plant. ³⁸You could never guess what a tomato would look like by looking at a tomato seed.

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What we plant in the soil and what grows out of it don't look anything alike. The dead body that we bury in the ground and the resurrection body that comes from it will be dramatically different. ³⁹You will notice that the variety of bodies is stunning. Just as there are different kinds of seeds, there are different kinds of bodies—humans, animals, birds, fish—each unprecedented in its form. ⁴⁰You get a hint at the diversity of resurrection glory by looking at the diversity of bodies not only on earth but in the skies—⁴¹sun, moon, stars—all these varieties of beauty and brightness. And we're only looking at pre-resurrection “seeds”—who can imagine what the resurrection “plants” will be like!

⁴²This image of planting a dead seed and raising a live plant is a mere sketch at best, but perhaps it will help in approaching the mystery of the resurrection body—but only if you keep in mind that when we're raised, we're raised for *good*, alive forever! ⁴³The corpse that's planted is no beauty, but when it's raised, it's glorious. Put in the ground weak, it comes up powerful. ⁴⁴The seed sown is natural; the seed grown is supernatural—same seed, same body, but what a difference from when it goes down in physical mortality to when it is raised up in spiritual immortality!

⁴⁵We follow this sequence in Scripture: The First Adam received life, the Last Adam is a life-giving Spirit. ⁴⁶Physical life comes first, then spiritual—⁴⁷a firm base shaped from the earth, a final completion coming out of heaven. ⁴⁸The First Man was made out of earth, and people since then are earthy; the Second Man was made out of heaven, and people now can be heavenly. ⁴⁹In the same way that we've worked from our earthy origins, let's embrace our heavenly ends. 1 Cor. 15:35-49 (MsgB)

Song: Home Free (Wayne Watson)

2. My wholeness comes at a great expense.

¹Praise the LORD, I tell myself; with my whole heart, I will praise his holy name. ²Praise the LORD, I tell myself, and never forget the good things he does for me. ³He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases. Psalm 103:1-3 (NLT)

¹⁶When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: “He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases.” Matthew 8:16-17 (NIV)

¹Who has believed our message? To whom will the LORD reveal his saving power? ²My servant grew up in the LORD'S presence like a tender green shoot, sprouting from a root in dry and sterile ground. There was nothing beautiful or majestic about his appearance, nothing to attract us to him. ³He was despised and rejected—a man of sorrows, acquainted with bitterest grief. We turned our backs on him and looked the other way when he went by. He was despised, and we did not care. ⁴Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down.

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And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God for his own sins! ⁵But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed! Isaiah 53:1-5 (NLT)

⁵But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:5 (NIV)

¹Then Pilate had Jesus flogged with a lead-tipped whip. ²The soldiers made a crown of long, sharp thorns and put it on his head, and they put a royal purple robe on him. ³“Hail! King of the Jews!” they mocked, and they hit him with their fists . . . So they took Jesus and led him away. ¹⁷Carrying the cross by himself, Jesus went to the place called Skull Hill (in Hebrew, *Golgotha*). ¹⁸There they crucified him. There were two others crucified with him, one on either side, with Jesus between them. John 19:1-3,17-18 (NLT)

³⁰After he took the wine, Jesus said, “It’s done . . . complete.” Bowing his head, he offered up his spirit. John 19:30 (MsgB)

3. I can’t earn a physical healing and there are no formulas to rope God into healing me.

a. Looking on a bronze serpent on a pole.

⁴They traveled from Mount Hor along the route to the Red Sea, to go around Edom. But the people grew impatient on the way; ⁵they spoke against God and against Moses, and said, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the desert? There is no bread! There is no water! And we detest this miserable food!” ⁶Then the LORD sent venomous snakes among them; they bit the people and many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We sinned when we spoke against the LORD and against you. Pray that the LORD will take the snakes away from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸The LORD said to Moses, “Make a snake and put it up on a pole; anyone who is bitten can look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived. Numbers 21:4-9 (NIV)

b. Rubbing a lump of figs on the king’s boil.

¹About that time Hezekiah became deathly ill, and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to visit him. He gave the king this message: “This is what the LORD says: Set your affairs in order, for you are going to die. You will not recover from this illness.” ²When Hezekiah heard this, he turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, ³“Remember, O LORD, how I have always tried to be faithful to you and do what is pleasing in your sight.” Then he broke down and wept bitterly. ⁴But before Isaiah had left the middle courtyard, this message came to him from the LORD: ⁵“Go back to Hezekiah, the leader of my people. Tell him, ‘This is what the LORD, the God of your ancestor David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears. I will heal you, and three days from now you will get out of bed and go to the Temple of the LORD. ⁶I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will rescue you and this city from the king of Assyria. I will do this to defend my honor and for the sake of my servant David.’” ⁷Then Isaiah said to Hezekiah’s servants, “Make an ointment from figs and spread it over the boil.” They did this, and Hezekiah recovered! 2 Kings 20:1-7 (NLT)

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c. Touching a leper.

¹Jesus came down the mountain with the cheers of the crowd still ringing in his ears.

²Then a leper appeared and went to his knees before Jesus, praying, “Master, if you want to, you can heal my body.” ³Jesus reached out and touched him, saying, “I want to. Be clean.” Then and there, all signs of the leprosy were gone. Matthew 8:1-3 (MsgB)

d. Speaking a word concerning the centurion’s servant.

⁵As Jesus entered the village of Capernaum, a Roman captain came up in a panic and said, ⁶“Master, my servant is sick. He can’t walk. He’s in terrible pain.” ⁷Jesus said, “I’ll come and heal him.” ⁸“Oh, no,” said the captain. “I don’t want to put you to all that trouble. Just give the order and my servant will be fine. ⁹I’m a man who takes orders and gives orders. I tell one soldier, ‘Go,’ and he goes; to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes; to my slave, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” ¹⁰Taken aback, Jesus said, “I’ve yet to come across this kind of simple trust in Israel, the very people who are supposed to know all about God and how he works. ¹¹This man is the vanguard of many outsiders who will soon be coming from all directions—streaming in from the east, pouring in from the west, sitting down at God’s kingdom banquet alongside Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. ¹²Then those who grew up ‘in the faith’ but had no faith will find themselves out in the cold, outsiders to grace and wondering what happened.” ¹³Then Jesus turned to the captain and said, “Go. What you believed could happen has happened.” At that moment his servant became well. Matthew 8:5-13 (MsgB)

e. Making mud to place on a man’s eyes.

¹As he was walking along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²“Master,” his disciples asked him, “why was this man born blind? Was it a result of his own sins or those of his parents?” ³“Neither,” Jesus answered. “But to demonstrate the power of God. ⁴All of us must quickly carry out the tasks assigned us by the one who sent me, for there is little time left before the night falls and all work comes to an end. ⁵But while I am still here in the world, I give it my light.” ⁶Then he spat on the ground and made mud from the spittle and smoothed the mud over the blind man’s eyes, ⁷and told him, “Go and wash in the Pool of Siloam” (the word *Siloam* means “Sent”). So the man went where he was sent and washed and came back seeing! John 9:1-7 (Living)

f. Spitting in a man’s ear and touching his tongue.

³²Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and who also had a speech defect. They begged Jesus to lay his hand on him. ³³Jesus took him away from the crowd to be alone with him. He put his fingers into the man’s ears, and after spitting, he touched the man’s tongue. ³⁴Then he looked up to heaven, sighed, and said to the man, “Ephphatha!” which means, “Be opened!” ³⁵At once the man could hear and talk normally. Mark 7:32-35 (GW)

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g. Reaching out to touch the garment of Jesus.

²⁴Jesus went with him, the whole crowd tagging along, pushing and jostling him. ²⁵A woman who had suffered a condition of hemorrhaging for twelve years— ²⁶a long succession of physicians had treated her, and treated her badly, taking all her money and leaving her worse off than before— ²⁷had heard about Jesus. She slipped in from behind and touched his robe. ²⁸She was thinking to herself, “If I can put a finger on his robe, I can get well.” ²⁹The moment she did it, the flow of blood dried up. She could feel the change and knew her plague was over and done with. Mark 5:24-29 (MsgB)

h. Casting of Peter’s shadow.

¹⁵As a result of what the apostles were doing, sick people were carried out into the streets and placed on beds and mats so that at least Peter’s shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. ¹⁶And crowds of people came in from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing those who were sick or who had evil spirits in them; and they were all healed. Acts 5:15-16 (TEV)

i. Sending of Paul’s handkerchiefs and aprons.

¹¹And God gave Paul the power to do unusual miracles, ¹²so that even when his handkerchiefs or parts of his clothing were placed upon sick people, they were healed, and any demons within them came out. Acts 19:11-12 (Living)

j. Anointing with oil and praying for the sick.

¹⁴Are you sick? Call the church leaders together to pray and anoint you with oil in the name of the Master. ¹⁵Believing-prayer will heal you, and Jesus will put you on your feet. And if you’ve sinned, you’ll be forgiven—healed inside and out. ¹⁶Make this your common practice: Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you can live together whole and healed. The prayer of a person living right with God is something powerful to be reckoned with. James 5:14-16 (MsgB)

We do not earn God’s healing. It is the direct result of God’s grace and favor on our lives. Methods are God’s choice because He is all-powerful and all knowing. He knows what we need even more than we know what we need. There is no magic formula for healing. That is the purpose of the many methods so that we would learn that no one way is right. The methods change but the source doesn’t. It is a sovereign choice by God Almighty!

4. Every healing serves a purpose in my life.

a. To remind me that His is compassionate.

¹³When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns. ¹⁴When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them and healed their sick. Matthew 14:13-14 (NIV)

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b. *To teach me to give Him all the credit.*

¹Lazarus, who lived in Bethany, the village where Mary and her sister Martha lived, was sick. ²(Mary was the woman who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was the one who was sick.) ³So the sisters sent a messenger to tell Jesus, “Lord, your close friend is sick.” ⁴When Jesus heard the message, he said, “His sickness won’t result in death. Instead, this sickness will bring glory to God so that the Son of God will receive glory through it.” John 11:1-4 (GW)

c. *To build and stretch my faith.*

²Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached Jesus. He knelt before him, worshipping. “Lord,” the man said, “if you want to, you can make me well again.” Matthew 8:2 (NLT)

d. *To demonstrate that He’s listening to my prayers.*

³²A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him. ³³Jesus led him to a private place away from the crowd. He put his fingers into the man’s ears. Then, spitting onto his own fingers, he touched the man’s tongue with the spittle. ³⁴And looking up to heaven, he sighed and commanded, “Be opened!” ³⁵Instantly the man could hear perfectly and speak plainly! Mark 7:32-35 (NLT)

e. *To bring others around me to salvation.*

³²While Peter was traveling from place to place, he visited the Lord’s followers who lived in the town of Lydda. ³³There he met a man named Aeneas, who for eight years had been sick in bed and could not move. ³⁴Peter said to Aeneas, “Jesus Christ has healed you! Get up and make up your bed.” Right away he stood up. ³⁵Many people in the towns of Lydda and Sharon saw Aeneas and became followers of the Lord. Acts 9:32-35 (CEV)

f. *To create a dependency upon Him.*

⁷I (Paul) will say this: because these experiences I had were so tremendous, God was afraid I might be puffed up by them; so I was given a physical condition which has been a thorn in my flesh, a messenger from Satan to hurt and bother me and prick my pride. ⁸Three different times I begged God to make me well again. ⁹Each time he said, “No. But I am with you; that is all you need. My power shows up best in weak people.” Now I am glad to boast about how weak I am; I am glad to be a living demonstration of Christ’s power, instead of showing off my own power and abilities. ¹⁰Since I know it is all for Christ’s good, I am quite happy about “the thorn,” and about insults and hardships, persecutions and difficulties; for when I am weak, then I am strong--the less I have, the more I depend on him. 2 Cor. 12:7-10 (Living)

²³Don’t drink only water. You (Timothy) ought to drink a little wine for the sake of your stomach because you are sick so often. 1 Tim. 5:23 (NLT)

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²⁰Erastus stayed at Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick at Miletus. 2 Tim. 4:20 (NLT)

5. I can be used to help restore others.

¹He called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out evil spirits and to heal every disease and sickness ... ⁵These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. ⁶Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. ⁷As you go, preach this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven is near.’ ⁸Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give. Matthew 10:1-8 (NIV)

¹⁵And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere. ¹⁶Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. ¹⁷These signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak new languages. ¹⁸They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick and heal them.” Mark 16:15-18 (NLT)

6. I should be mindful of the things that can hinder my wholeness.

a. Un-confessed sin

Confession is essential to be in a position to receive a healing from the Lord.

b. Demonic oppression/bondage

¹¹A woman who was possessed by a spirit was there. The spirit had disabled her for 18 years. She was hunched over and couldn’t stand up straight. ¹²When Jesus saw her, he called her to come to him and said, “Woman, you are free from your disability.” ¹³He placed his hands on her, and she immediately stood up straight and praised God. Luke 13:11-13 (GW)

c. Fear

⁵Trust GOD from the bottom of your heart; don’t try to figure out everything on your own. ⁶Listen for GOD’s voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he’s the one who will keep you on track. ⁷Don’t assume that you know it all. Run to GOD! Run from evil! ⁸Your body will glow with health, your very bones will vibrate with life! Proverbs 3:5-8 (MsgB)

d. Past disappointments that undermine faith (Neither gave up when Jesus came by.)

²⁶She had suffered very much from many doctors and had spent all the money she had, but instead of improving, she was getting worse. Mark 5:26 (NCV)

A woman with hemorrhages for 12 years and had become broke from spending all her money on doctors that hadn’t been able to help.

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⁵A man was lying there who had been sick for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw the man and knew that he had been sick for such a long time, Jesus asked him, “Do you want to be well?” ⁷The sick man answered, “Sir, there is no one to help me get into the pool when the water starts moving. While I am coming to the water, someone else always gets in before me.” John 5:5-7 (NCV)

e. *Other people*

⁴⁸Many of the people scolded him and told him to be quiet. But he shouted even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!” Mark 10:48 (TEV)

f. *Inaccurate/Unbiblical Teaching*

¹Another time he went into the synagogue, and a man with a shriveled hand was there. ²Some of them were looking for a reason to accuse Jesus, so they watched him closely to see if he would heal him on the Sabbath. ³Jesus said to the man with the shriveled hand, “Stand up in front of everyone.” ⁴Then Jesus asked them, “Which is lawful on the Sabbath: to do good or to do evil, to save life or to kill?” But they remained silent. ⁵He looked around at them in anger and, deeply distressed at their stubborn hearts, said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” He stretched it out, and his hand was completely restored. Mark 3:1-5 (NIV)

¹³Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.” Mark 7:13 (NIV)

God works through medicine as well as direct intervention, and our faith is not so much in medicine per se as in the Creator of medicine.

For those who teach we shouldn't go to physicians ...

²Then Joseph directed the *physicians* in his service to embalm his father Israel. So the *physicians* embalmed him ... Genesis 50:2 (NIV)

¹²In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the LORD, but only from the *physicians*. 2 Chron. 16:12 (NIV)

²²Are there no healing ointments in Gilead? Isn't there a *doctor* in the house? So why can't something be done to heal and save my dear, dear people? Jeremiah 8:22 (MsgB)

Jesus considered it normal to consult physicians ...

¹²Jesus, overhearing, shot back, “Who needs a *doctor*: the healthy or the sick? Matthew 9:12 (MsgB)

¹³And they cast out many demons and healed many sick people, anointing them with *olive oil*. Mark 6:13 (NLT)

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³⁴Kneeling beside him the Samaritan soothed his wounds with *medicine* and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his donkey and walked along beside him till they came to an inn, where he nursed him through the night. Luke 10:34 (Living)

g. Unbelief

³“He’s just a carpenter, Mary’s boy, and a brother of James and Joseph, Judas and Simon. And his sisters live right here among us.” And they were offended! ⁴Then Jesus told them, “A prophet is honored everywhere except in his hometown and among his relatives and by his own family.” ⁵And because of their unbelief he couldn’t do any mighty miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. ⁶And he could hardly accept the fact that they wouldn’t believe in him. Then he went out among the villages, teaching. Mark 6:3-6 (Living)

¹⁹Jesus said [to his disciples], “Oh, what tiny faith you have; how much longer must I be with you until you believe? How much longer must I be patient with you? Bring the boy to me.” Mark 9:19 (Living)

²³“If I can?” Jesus asked. “*Anything* is possible if you have faith.” ²⁴The father instantly replied, “I *do* have faith; oh, help me to have *more!*” Mark 9:23-24 (Living)