

CHAPTER 12 – DIVINE HEALING

Purpose

The purpose of this lesson is to give us an appreciation for what God has provided for us in atonement, to inspire faith in the heart of God's people to respond to Him as their healer, to remove doubts as to whether or not this provision is for the church today and to motivate the people of God to begin to look to the Lord with expectancy in the area of the healing of the Body.

Key Verse:

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Psalms 103:2-4 (KJV)

I. What is the Origin of Sickness and Disease?

- a. Sickness was unknown on the earth until man fell into sin. Sin and sickness came upon the human race because of Adam's disobedience.

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: Romans 5:12 (KJV)

- b. Sickness and disease are part of the curse of disobedience (Deuteronomy 28: 1 – 61).
- c. Christ, who redeemed us from the curse of the law, bore our sins and our sicknesses on the cross (Galatians 3: 13).

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. Matt 8:17 (KJV)

II. Are there different causes for Sickness and Disease?

Yes!! "..... the curse causeless shall not come." Proverbs 26: 2.

- a. There are causes in the natural realm such as carelessness in observing natural laws, eating poorly, getting an improper amount of rest and exercise and contracting a virus (1 Corinthians 3: 16 – 17; Philippians 2: 25 – 30).
- b. There are causes in the mental and emotional realm, such as worry, anxiety, fear, stress and lack of forgiveness (bitterness).
- c. There are causes in the spiritual realm where sickness can be associated with judgment for sin (2 Corinthians 26: 18 – 21) or a period of spiritual testing (Job 2: 5 – 8).

III. Why is it important to discern the Cause for our Sickness?

It is important to discern the cause because permanent healing can only be obtained if the true cause is dealt with and removed.

- a. A person may need to begin to take better care of his physical body.
- b. The thing that is causing the stress, fear or anxiety must be dealt with.
- c. The sin that is leading to judgment must be repented of and forsaken.
- d. True patience and faith must be cultivated during special dealings of God.

IV. How do we know that it is God's will to heal?

We know it is God's will to heal because:

- a. God refers to Himself as our doctor (Exodus 15: 26).
- b. God's restoration and sanctification involves the whole man (1 Thessalonians 5: 23).
- c. Jesus healed all who came to Him (Luke 4: 40).
- d. Healing is part of the message of the Kingdom (Luke 9: 1 – 2).
- e. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3: 8).
- f. Healing is one of the signs that follow true believers (Mark 16: 17 – 18).

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.
3 John 1:2 (KJV)

V. What are some Spiritual Hindrances to receiving Healing?

There are many reasons why healing may not come to us. At times it is totally beyond man's ability to know (Deuteronomy 29: 29). Nevertheless, it is always good to examine our hearts to see if there is any trace of things that the Bible indicates may hinder divine healing.

- a. An unforgiving spirit (Matthew 18: 23 – 25).
- b. Unconfessed sin (James 5: 14 – 26).
- c. Persistent unbelief (Mark 6: 5 – 6; Matthew 9: 29).

- d. Not discerning the Lord's Body (1 Corinthians 11: 29 – 33).
- e. Purposeful disobedience and rebellion (Exodus 15: 26; Proverbs 4: 20 – 22).
- f. A sharp tongue (Proverbs 12: 18).
- g. Improper marital relationship (1 Peter 3: 1 – 7).
- h. Satanic resistance (Daniel 10: 12 – 13).

VI. What are some means by which Healing can be Received?

- a. There are natural means, including diet, exercise and disciplined life (Proverbs 17: 22; 1 Timothy 4: 8).
- b. There is medical profession, which is certainly used of God (Matthew 9: 12).
- c. In addition, there are spiritual avenues of healing that God put in the church. These include the following:
 - 1. Simple prayer to God by the sick people (James 5: 13; Hebrews 11; 6).
 - 2. Laying on of believers' hands (Mark 6: 17).
 - 3. Anointing with oil by elders of the church (James 5: 14).
 - 4. Through the spoken word (Matthew 8: 5 – 13; Psalms 107: 20).
 - 5. Through the table of the Lord (1 Corinthians 11: 23 – 32).
 - 6. Being ministered to by someone operating the gifts of healing (1 Corinthians 12: 9).
 - 7. Being ministered by someone with the ministry of healing (1 Corinthians 12: 28).
 - 8. Through special and miraculous means (Mark 7: 31 – 37; 8: 22 – 26; John 9: 1 – 7); Acts 19: 11 – 12; 5: 15 – 16).

Conclusion

Divine healing is one of Christ's ornaments for the church, which is His bride. It is the children's bread (Matthew 15: 21 – 28). Many times we fail to experience what is rightfully ours because we do not give God the chance to prove Himself in these areas. As Christians, we ought to determine to go to the Lord, our Maker, first when we need healing and strength. As we do, we will experience the Lord in a new way: "..... the Lord that healeth thee."