

HEALING AND HEALTH
Laying Hold Of God's Provision

Part Two

"The Fundamental Decision"

I. Review

**Our goal tonight is to lay hold of the healing and divine health
God has already provided for our physical bodies.
We can begin to do this by answering one great fundamental question.**

A. The Fundamental Question

1. In the first session, we answered the most basic, fundamental question about God's will in the matter of healing and health.

IS IT GOD'S WILL TO HEAL?
(With 3 Possible Answers)
Never? Sometimes? Always?

2. Knowing the correct answer to this compelling question is the critical key for having faith to believe God for our physical needs.

3. We proved from the scriptures that it is always God's will to heal His people, based on...

B. 3 Fundamental Facts

1. It is God's nature to heal; healing is not just something God does; healing is who He is!

Exodus 15:26: I AM the Lord who healeth thee

Literally, I AM the Lord your Doctor.

2. The 2nd proof is the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ;

Acts 10:38

God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the Devil, for God was with Him.

3. The 3rd proof that it is always God's will to heal His people is in the atoning work of Christ on the Cross; the fact that the same sacrifice that brings us forgiveness of sins also provides healing for our bodies; as verified in the prophecy of Isaiah 53:

The 5th verse deals with forgiveness of our sins:

**He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities...**

The 4th verse deals healing of our sicknesses:

**"Surely He has born our sicknesses and carried our pains...and by His stripes we are healed."
Isaiah 53:4-5**

4. From this we see that the blood of Jesus was for the forgiveness of our sins; but the stripes of Jesus were for the healing of our bodies; God has provided BOTH through faith in Christ's work on the Cross.

**He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness, and by His wounds you have been healed.
1 Peter 2:24**

5. The same God who forgives all our sins also heals all our diseases.

C. The Healing of the Paralytic Man

Matthew 9:1-8 NASB

9 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city. 2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Take courage my Son, your sins are forgiven you." 3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, "This Man blasphemes!"

1. Jesus' healing ministry was well-known at the time; He had said "Arise and walk" to the sick before; *but this time* He said, "Your sins are forgiven you"- and it deeply offended them! They accused Him of blasphemy.

2. They could somewhat tolerate a man who could heal the sick; but they could not accept a man who could forgive sins; so notice His response is in v.4-5...

4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts?"

5 For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise and walk'?

3. Notice that this is a rhetorical question: a figure of speech in the form of a question that is asked to make a point rather than to elicit an answer.

- a. The point is that it is just as EASY to say one as the other!
- b. The message is that it is just as easy for Jesus to heal your sicknesses as it is to forgive your sins! Then He says...

But that you may know that the Son of Man has power (authority) on earth to forgive sins" — then He said to the paralytic, "Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."
Matthew 9:6

4. Contrast this account with much of the church today:

- a. They knew Jesus could HEAL their sickness but doubted that He could FORGIVE their sins; today, we know Jesus can FORGIVE our sins-but doubt that He will HEAL our sicknesses!

- b. They could accept Jesus as their Healer but not as their Savior; Today, we accept Jesus as our Savior but not as our Healer.

5. But this account proves it is just as much God's will to heal our bodies as it is to forgive us our sins!

6. Be logical: If Christ dealt with the *root* of our sin at the Cross, it is only logical that He also dealt with the *fruits* of sin, (our sickness and disease), at the same time!

- a. If we truly believe the Cross dealt with our sins, how can we not believe that He dealt with our sickness at the same time?

7. The answer is, He did! God dealt with human sin and sickness on the Cross-which begs another question: SO WHY ARE SO MANY STILL SICK?

8. The answer is that too many of God's people do not know how to "lay hold" of the healing and health that God has provided through Christ's work on the Cross.

9. One of the greatest problems is a passive kind of Christianity where many of God's people have not made the *fundamental decision* to lay hold of it.

II. The Fundamental Decision

A. Salvation, Healing and Health is a Decision!

Many of God's greatest blessings require a decision that lays hold of them by faith.

1. Jesus has died on the Cross. His blood has been shed. The forgiveness of sins and the healing of our sicknesses have been made available. But these blessings are not effectual until you make a decision.

2. All true Christians have made a decision to receive Jesus Christ as their Savior; but many have never made the decision to receive Jesus Christ as their Healer and as their Doctor!

3. Once you have answered the *fundamental question* about whether it is God's will to heal you, you must make the *fundamental decision* to lay hold of it.

4. Jesus said "the Kingdom of God (and all its blessings) is at hand"; which means it is near; it is within reach! But you must "Repent" and make the decision to lay hold of it!

5. A clear definition of the decision is found in the Old Testament as God spoke to His people through Moses in the 30th chapter of Deuteronomy.

B. A Message from Moses

Deuteronomy 30:11-14

11 For this commandment which I command you today is not too difficult for you, nor is it out of reach. It is not in heaven that you should say “Who will go up to heaven for us to get it for us and make us hear it, that we may observe it?” Nor is it beyond the sea, that you should say, “Who will cross the sea for us to get it for us, and make us hear it that we may observe it?” But the word is very near to you, in your mouth, and in your heart that you may observe to do it.

1. The Word of God that brings salvation and healing is not too difficult for you; it is not out of your reach; you don't have to reach up to heaven or cross the ocean to get it! Notice again v.14....

**But the Word is very near you; it is in your heart and in your mouth that you may observe to do it.
Deuteronomy 30:14**

2. Verse 15 gives us the choices we have:

**See, I have set before thee this day life and prosperity, death and adversity.
Deuteronomy 30:15**

16 In that I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments and his statutes and his judgments, that thou mayest live and multiply: and the LORD thy God shall bless thee in the land whither thou goest to possess it.

17 But if thine heart turn away, so that thou wilt not hear, but shalt be drawn away, and worship other gods, and serve them; 18 I denounce unto you this day, that ye shall surely perish, and that ye shall not prolong your days upon the land, whither thou passest over Jordan to go to possess it.

3. And then in v.19, God demands that we make a decision!

**19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:
Deuteronomy 30:19**

a. One translation has God saying, “Oh, that you may choose life, so that you and your descendants may live”! Live to do what?

20 That you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days: and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.
Deuteronomy 30:20

4. Salvation and healing are decisions; and don't make the mistake of relegating this to the Old Testament! This passage is quoted by the Apostle Paul in the 10th chapter of the Book of Romans where he speaks of how we are saved!

C. The New Testament Version of Deuteronomy 30

1. Paul is teaching on the subject of salvation by faith in Christ:

Romans 10:6-8

6 But the righteousness which is of faith speaketh on this wise, Say not in thine heart, Who shall ascend into heaven? (That is, to bring Christ down from above :) 7 Or, Who shall descend into the deep? (that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead.)

a. Just as in Deuteronomy, we see that salvation is nearby; at hand; within our reach.

2. The Word of God that saves us and heals us is as close as our mouth and our heart!!!

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:8-10

3. Remember that the word for "saved" or "salvation" is "sozo"; a word that means redeemed, delivered, made whole; but the word "saved" is translated "healed" 12 times in the New Testament.

a. This verse could be translated; "thou shalt be healed/justified/delivered".

4. Then v.10

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (heart first)

Romans 10:9-1

5. We lay hold of all the blessings of salvation, healing included, in 2 ways:

- Confessing with the mouth
- Believing in the heart

6. Now let's put verses 8-10 together and notice the connection:

8 But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; (mouth first)

9 That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

(mouth first)

10 For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (heart first)

Romans 10:9-10

a. Notice in vv. 8-9 Paul puts the mouth before the heart; but in v.10 he puts the heart before the mouth: 4. Notice the order in these 3 verses:

- Confess with your mouth
- Believe in your heart
- Confess with your mouth
- Believe in your heart
- Believe in your heart
- Confess with the mouth

7. Every benefit of salvation comes through believing in the heart and confessing with the mouth.

“You don't have to feel it to say it! If the Bible says that by His stripes you are healed, then speak it! The secret of how to get the Word of God into your heart is to say it with the mouth.”

Derek Prince

8. This is the solution for those who feel they lack the faith for being healed. The question for many is how to have more faith; Paul answers this a few verses later here in the same chapter:

For faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.

Romans 10:17

a. First notice that faith is something you don't go out and get! Faith comes to you, "by hearing and hearing by the Word of God."

b. Why does Paul use the word "hearing" twice? Why didn't he just say "faith comes by hearing the Word of God" and leave it at that?

c. We showed you this in the 1st teaching where God introduced Himself as Israel's Doctor:

"If you will diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord your God I will put none of these diseases upon you..."

d. To "diligently hearken" means to "listen listening"; to listen with both ears! This is why Jesus said 8 times in the Gospels...

He that hath ears to hear let him hear...

Matthew 11:15;13:9;13:43; Mark 4:9,23; 7:16; Luke 8:8;14:35

9. The same idea is found in Proverbs:

My son, attend unto my words....

Proverbs 4:20 KJV

My son, pay attention to what I say; turn your ear to my words. Do not let them out of thy sight; keep them within your heart. For they are life to those who find them and health to one's whole body.

Proverbs 4:20-22

("health" in Hebrew is literally, "a medicine"!)

a. Attend; pay attention to God's Word. A decision to...

- Read the Word
- Meditate on the Word
- Listen to the Word
- Speak the Word

b. Because God's Word is life to you; it is your MEDICINE!

10. God is your Doctor; His Word is your medicine; will you follow the directions? That is the fundamental decision!

Review

1. Settle, once and for all, the fundamental question: "Is it always God's will to heal His people?" YES! 2. Once you have answered the fundamental question you must make the fundamental decision; to choose salvation, healing and health; to lay hold of it by the Word of God! Hear what it says; speak it with your mouth; believe it in your heart!

III. Prayer for the Sick

A. Final Instruction

1. The Agent of healing is the Holy Spirit; the One who created life in the human body is the One who knows how to heal it
2. The primary means of healing is the Word of God
3. Also, God has given the Church the gifts of the Holy Spirit, which include "miracles" and "gifts of healing"; miracles are instantaneous; healing is gradual.
4. And there is one more provision God has given:

14 Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church to come and pray over you, anointing you with oil in the name of the Lord.

- This assumes you are in a church
- That you know who the elders are
- That there is faith to pray for the sick

And the prayer of faith will *save* the sick (KJV)
(same Greek word for "healing")

15 Such a prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord will make you well. And if you have committed any sins, you will be forgiven.

James 5:14-15 NLT

Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed.

James 5:16

**Introduce Elders
Pray for the Sick**

CONFESSIONS OF FAITH

Psalm 103:1-3

**Bless the Lord O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits:
Who forgiveth all my iniquities; who healeth all my diseases;
Who redeems my life from destruction; who crowns me with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfies my life with good things, so that my youth is renewed like the eagle's!**

Isaiah 53:4-6

Lord Jesus, I believe that surely you have borne my sickness and carried my pains. You were wounded for my transgressions, you were bruised for my iniquities, the chastisement of my peace was upon you; and by your stripes I am healed.

1 Peter 2:24

I believe that You bore my sins in your own body on the Cross, that I might die unto sin and live unto righteousness; and by your wounds I have been healed.

1 Peter 2:24

Romans 10:9-10; Deuteronomy 28:13; 1 Peter 2:24

According to your Word, O Lord, I am the saved not the lost. I am the head not the tail. I am the healed not the sick.

Proverbs 4:20-22

I attend to your Words O Lord; I pay attention to your sayings; I do not let them out of my eyes; I keep them in my heart; for your Word is life to me and medicine to all my flesh.

3 John 2

Lord, I know that your will for me, above all things, is that I prosper, and be in health, even as my soul prospers.

PRAYER FOR THE SICK