

Divine Healing: The Will of God

God gave each one of us, as believers, the God-kind of faith. Whether a person realizes it or not, it is their responsibility to grow and develop their faith. This is accomplished by one knowing what God's Word has promised. For example, to have faith to believe God to receive divine healing, one would need to know what God's will is in order for them to be able to be fully persuaded. We read about an individual in the gospel of Matthew who had leprosy. He believed the Lord *could* heal him. He just didn't know if it was the Lord's will to heal him.

But thank God, for all those dear ones who've ever been faced with the dilemma of wondering if it was God's will to heal them, Jesus answered the question 2000 years ago when He was confronted with this very question in Matthew 8:1-3: When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed.

Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, **Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: Acts 10:34**

If God did not want you healed, there would be no scripture in the Bible whereby you could obtain it, especially in the new covenant. But thank God, we can emphatically know that it is God's perfect will that everyone receive their healing. My heart goes out to people who do not know their new covenant rights and privileges. The devil takes advantage of believers when they don't know how to rule and reign in Christ Jesus. Every believer needs to be taught how to be led by the Holy Spirit, walk in the God-kind of love, how to exercise their authority over the devil and how to receive their inheritance and blessings from the Lord.

I grew up in a home that suffered severely from financial trials, as well as from sickness and disease. If my parents had been taught scriptures such as 1 Peter 2:24, that says, **"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by his stripes ye were healed."**

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich." 2 Corinthians 8:9

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" Galatians 3:13

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

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

But, since we did not know these verses, we didn't know that good things come from God, and that poverty, sickness and disease came from the devil. We just ended up *trying to cope* with whatever came our way. As born again children of God, God never intended for us to cope with anything the devil tries to bring us. God's Word does not teach us how to cope with cancer, griefs, sickness, sorrow, poverty, nor anything else the devil tries to bring our way. On the contrary, the Bible teaches us that because of Jesus, we're more than conquerors; no weapon formed against us shall prosper; no plague

shall come nigh our dwelling; that we've been redeemed from sickness, disease and poverty, and greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world.

There are some scriptures that have helped me see that GOD IS ONLY GOOD AND ONLY GOOD COMES FROM HIM. I want to share them with you, so you can highlight them in your Bible and quote them every day:

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? Matthew 7:11

"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James 1:17

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." Acts 10:38

I remember years ago, when an elder minister told me, *"Read scriptures every day out loud on faith and divine healing to keep your faith strong and to be able to resist attacks of the devil."* I thank God that I grasped that early in my Christian walk. Every day, I read faith and healing scriptures to strengthen my faith. Just as physical food, when we eat it, helps to give us physical strength, hearing and speaking God's Word strengthens our faith and keeps us spiritually strong.

"Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. Be strong...and very courageous...This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." Joshua 1:3,6,7,8

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:" Ephesians 6:10 &17

God wants each one of us to be strong in the Lord, and he gave us instructions concerning how to accomplish this. This strength is derived from quoting scriptures out loud to ourselves, which strengthens our faith. It also causes faith to come if we seemingly don't have any, for the Lord said in Romans 10:17, **"So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."** Many times the Holy Spirit will prompt us, in our hearts, to double up on reading our healing scriptures. He's trying to protect us and warn us ahead of time about the attacks of the enemy.

There was a time when I was in Bible school and I was so busy going to school, studying and working a full-time job, that I wasn't keeping myself built up spiritually. My prayer time was suffering, and for a few days in a row, just as I was walking out the door to go to school, the Lord would say to me in my heart, *"Double up, triple up on your healing confessions."* I was making my confessions of faith every day, but it wasn't enough to keep me full of faith. The key to receiving from God is: it is always according to your faith. For Jesus said in Matthew 9:29, **"According to your faith be it unto you."**

It's difficult to resist the attacks of the devil when your faith is weak. And, the next thing I knew, I was attacked physically by the devil. I knew that in order to receive my healing, I had to repent and ask the Lord to forgive me. I hadn't obeyed what He had asked me to do. He was trying to protect me, but I wasn't obeying. I learned a great lesson: it pays to obey God and keep my faith built up. Sure, it takes time to build ourselves up spiritually. It takes time every day, but it pays rich dividends.

I've never been able to understand how a person could say that *"God put this sickness" on them* - that it was God's will for them to be sick, and yet, at the same time, they are doing everything that they can in the natural and medically to get better. They would be going to the doctor, taking medication, and at the same time, telling everybody else that *"God put this sickness on them."* Passive faith can never run

off sickness and disease, nor can it keep sickness from returning, as we see in the following scripture: **"And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Matthew 11:12** As long as a person wants to be sick and blames the Lord for their sickness, there isn't a whole lot that can be done, other than praying that their heart be opened to God's truth.

There are some, who for whatever the reason may be, do not want to be healed. Jesus asked a man who had been crippled 38 years, **"Wilt thou be made whole?" (John 5:6)**. And when the man explained to Jesus that he had been trying to get into the pool to be healed, but someone always beat him in, it was proof enough to the Lord that this man did not want to stay in that crippled condition. Sadly, but in some instances, it is very true, there are people today who do everything they can to get a handicapped parking permit, not realizing that they could be signing up for the curse.

I can vividly remember a time that I was in an Oral Roberts meeting, and he was laying hands on the sick, and there were six wheelchair invalids. The power of God and the anointing were so strong, that when he laid hands on each one of them, they instantly received their healing and got up and walked. The ushers moved the wheelchairs over to the side of the auditorium to get them out of the way. Five of the six were walking, rejoicing and praising God. The sixth one, a lady, walked the whole way across the platform, found her wheelchair, sat down in it and proceeded to roll herself back to there she had previously been in the auditorium.

When Brother Roberts caught sight of it, he stopped ministering to others and said to the dear lady, *"My sister, what are you doing? The Lord has healed you. Why did you get back into your wheelchair?"* I never will forget her response; I was so shocked. She replied, saying, *"I paid good money for this chair, and I'm going to use it!"* I remember the look on Brother Roberts' face. You could see the hurt in his eyes. He had dedicated his whole life, as well as his ministry in obeying God and praying for the sick and needy, as well as reaching the lost with the salvation message. With a look of wonderment and disbelief, he said to the audience, *"What else could I have done?"* He was sad to see Jesus bless an individual with His healing power, raising her up out of a wheelchair, healing her crippled body, only for that individual to revert back to a crippled condition.

Not all people are receptive to divine healing, as we read in Mark 6:1-6 concerning Jesus' ministry: And he went out from thence, and came into his own country; and his disciples follow him. And when the sabbath day was come, he began to teach in the synagogue: and many hearing him were astonished, saying, From whence hath this man these things? and what wisdom is this which is given unto him, that even such mighty works are wrought by his hands? Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary, the brother of James, and Joses, and of Juda, and Simon? and are not his sisters here with us? And they were offended at him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marvelled because of their unbelief. And he went round about the villages, teaching.

And, not all keep what the Lord graciously bestows upon them, because of not knowing how to resist a counterattack from the enemy. A believer desperately needs to be taught how to resist the devil. For Jesus said in Matthew 12:43-45, **When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished.**

Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

And some others, through laziness, do not keep themselves spiritually built up, and consequently, what they have received ends up being taken away from them.

Matthew 7:24-27 tells us: **Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.**

Ephesians 4:26, 27: **"Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: NEITHER GIVE PLACE TO THE DEVIL."**

James 4:7: **"Submit yourselves therefore to God. RESIST THE DEVIL, and he will flee from you."**

1 Peter 5:8,9: **"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: WHOM RESIST STEADFAST IN THE FAITH, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world."**

One day, I was asked to go visit an elderly lady in the hospital, who had been given up to die by the doctors. She had been saved for forty-some years and had a strong witness for the Lord. She had a gift of just being a grandmother in the Lord to everyone she knew. It seemed that everyone who knew her, called her "Grandma". The doctors were concerned that her vital organs were shutting down. She was becoming physically weaker every day. When I arrived in her hospital room, her daughter, who was a believer, was there visiting her. I sat by her bed for two hours, waiting for the daughter to leave, so that I could read some scriptures to her and minister to her. All that the daughter seemed to be able to do was cry, complain and blame God for what her mother was going through and ask why God had let this happen to her. It was no wonder that she was becoming weaker! Her visitors were "digging her grave" with doubt and unbelief.

Finally, the daughter left. As soon as she did, I got up and shut the door to the room, got my Bible out, and read her every scripture that I knew about divine healing and faith from Genesis to Revelation. I knew in my heart by the leading of the Lord, that her faith had grown weak. It had, at one time, been strong. Like any of us, if we let a day or two go by of not feeding our faith on God's Word, our faith begins to weaken, and we're more susceptible to the attacks of the enemy.

I said, *"Grandma, if I can show you from your Bible that healing is good, will you receive your healing?"* I knew she wasn't going to believe my Bible that I was reading, even though it was the same as hers. I knew that she couldn't show me from her Bible that sickness is good, so I went over and picked up her Bible (that she hadn't been reading in a while--and no one else had been reading to her) and showed her from her Bible Acts 10:38. I had already read it to her, but she wasn't listening. All the time that I had been reading healing scriptures to her, she had the attitude, *"You can read all the scriptures you want to read; I just believe it's God's will for me to be sick".*

When people get that way, it is difficult for the Word of God to penetrate and get into their heart. Their heart becomes hardened with doubt and unbelief, and their mind becomes brainwashed with false teaching, as we see in Mark 7:13: **"Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye."**

Mark 12:24:"And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the Scriptures, neither the power of God?"

Hebrews 3:7-10; 12 & 19:

"Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, Today if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and

said, They do always err in their heart; and they have not known my ways. Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief."

Hebrews 4:2:

"For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it." If God wanted us or anyone to be sick, He never would have put sickness and disease upon Jesus when He went to the cross:

"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." Matthew 8:17:

1 Peter 2:24:

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

So, I read Acts 10:38 to her, and she followed along in her Bible: "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing GOOD, and HEALING all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."

I said, *"Grandma, do you see God said that healing is good and He didn't say that sickness was?"* If you never got rewards for serving God and teaching people His Word, just the look on her face was reward enough! Her whole countenance lit up and she had realized that she'd been robbed of her health by the deception of the devil. She said, *"Go ahead and pray; I'll be healed."* I laid hands upon her, prayed the prayer of faith, and two to three days later, they released her from the hospital. She went on to minister to others until that day came that she went on to be with the Lord.

For a believer to receive divine healing, they first have to know that it's God's will for them to be healed. Secondly, they have to know how to receive it. Thirdly, they have to know how to keep what they receive. We can never afford for our faith to become weakened, or for our Christian life to become sidetracked.

Reading scriptures helps to strengthen your faith and drives out doubts, fears and unbelief. If you will read healing scriptures out loud daily to yourself, it will help you to renew your mind to God's Word, so that you'll get to the place that you know and believe that it is God's will for you to be healed, live and enjoy divine health.

The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years... Psalm 90:10

With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation. Psalm 91:16

Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:4,5

That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses. Matthew 8:17

Christ hath redeemed us form the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree: That the blessing of Abraham might come on the

Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
Galatians 3;13,14

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 1 Peter 2:24

Brother Rich