

## Healing is from God and Sickness is from the Devil

There are some scriptures that have helped me see that ***God is only good and only good comes from Him.*** I want to share the following scriptures 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, what 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 what he said early in my Christian walk. Every day, I read faith and healing scriptures to strengthen my faith. Just as physical food helps to give us physical strength when we eat it, hearing and speaking God's Word strengthens our faith and keeps us spiritually strong, as the Word of God says in these scriptures.

**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.

The Holy Spirit, through the apostle Paul, 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 in Bible school when 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. 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.* 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 in my case, 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 your faith built up.* Sure, it takes time to build ourselves up spiritually. It takes time every day, but it pays rich dividends.

Passive faith can *never* run off sickness and disease, nor can it keep sickness from returning. As it says in Matthew 11:12, **And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.**

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. I've never been able to understand how a person could say that God put some sickness on them or that it was God's will for them to be sick. And yet, at the same time, they'd be doing everything they could 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, *"God put this sickness on me."*

There are some who, for whatever reason, do not want to be healed. Jesus asked the man at the pool of Bethesda, who had been crippled for 38 years, **...Wilt thou be made whole?** (John 5:6) 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.

It's sad, but nonetheless true, that not all people are receptive to divine healing. This is as true today as it was in the time of Jesus' ministry. We read of one example of this in Mark 6:1-6: **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.**

I can vividly remember a time that I was in an Oral Roberts meeting when he was laying hands on the sick. There were six individuals in wheelchairs that came up to be prayed for. The power of God and the anointing were so strong that when Brother Roberts laid hands on 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, an elderly lady, walked all the way across the platform, found her wheelchair, sat down in it and proceeded to roll herself back to where she had previously been in the auditorium.

When Brother Roberts caught sight of her, he stopped ministering 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 will never forget her response; I was so shocked. She replied, "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, to 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, raise her up out of a wheelchair, heal her crippled body, only for that individual to revert back to a crippled condition. It is sad, but very true today, that there are people who do everything they can to get a handicapped parking permit, not realizing that by so doing, they could be signing up for the curse.

I look forward to sharing more with you tomorrow.

Your Word of faith pastor,

## **Pastor Jesse Rich**

**Remember, *God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers*** (3 John 2).

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