

Jesus the Healer Mark 1:29-31

God showed His willingness to heal His people throughout the Old Testament.

"And He said, 'If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the Lord, am your healer.'" Exodus 15:26

- **Scripture tells us God is compassionate and desires to heal.** Genesis 20:1-18; 1 Samuel 1:9-20; 1 Kings 13:4-6; 1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 4:8-17; 2 Kings 4:18-37; 2 Kings 5:1-14; Job 42:10-17; Daniel 4:34, 36

*"Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits - who forgives all your sins and **heals all your diseases**, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's." Psalm 103:2-5*

- **Scripture tells us when the Messiah comes He will bring healing.**

"Then the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be unstopped. Then the lame will leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute will shout for joy." Isaiah 35:4-6

We see a portrait of the willingness of Jesus to heal throughout the New Testament.

*"And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, 'If You are willing, You can make me clean.' **Moved with compassion**, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I am willing; be cleansed.'" Mark 1:40-41*

- **Jesus is fulfilling prophecy through His healing ministry.** Matthew 11:4-5; 15:29-31
 - *"But for you who fear My name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its **wings**; and you will go forth and skip about like calves from the stall." Malachi 4:2*
 - קַנָּף (ka.naph) 'wing' or 'corner of garment' Numbers 15:38; Deuteronomy 22:12
 - *"When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret. And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent word into all that surrounding district and brought to Him all who were sick; and they implored Him that they might just touch the **fringe** of His cloak; and as many as touched it were cured." Matthew 14:34-36 "For she thought, 'If I just touch His **garments**, I will get well.'" Mark 5:28*
- **Jesus comes in the same healing power of God.**
 - Jesus is fulfilling prophecy through His healing ministry. Matthew 11:4-5; 15:29-31
 - Jesus shows His compassion through His healing. Matthew 14:14-15
 - Jesus demonstrates His power to heal is comprehensive. Matthew 9:35; Luke 6:19
 - Jesus would heal in secret and for the masses. Mark 5

Living in the tension of a "willing" and apparent "unwilling" God in our own stories of healing

- **We have seen people in our family, friends and community healed.**
- **We have seen people in our family, friends and community NOT healed.**
2 Corinthians 12:7-10; James 5:13-15; Matthew 26:52-53; Psalm 77:11-14

Digging Deeper

Pray for Healings (Adapted from John Bloom, Desiring God)

Should we pray for healing? Yes! The New Testament instructs us to ask God to distribute this gift for the glory of Jesus. Pray for the sick. God will only answer these prayers with good! Don't settle for little faith and low expectations. Stir up faith! Earnestly desire this gift. With Paul, earnestly desire healing for the common good of your church. With the saints of Acts, ask for this gift as witness to the world of the gospel of the kingdom.

A word of warning: Since healing is a harbinger of Satan's demise, he will oppose and thwart it wherever he can. Similar to sharing the gospel, expect to be assaulted with self-doubts, accusations, fears, and various discouragements when you plan to step out in faith. Often we need to press through a season of adversity before we see a breakthrough.

How should we pray for healing? The Bible provides a few models but no formulas. Basically, ask God. It's the prayer of faith that heals the sick (James 5:15). One of the clearest biblical instructions is to have Elders pray for the sick (James 5:14). Praying for healing is not the sole province of Elders (1 Corinthians 12:8-9), but if you're an Elder, praying for healing is definitely part of your ministry calling.

When God does answer prayers for healing, joyfully share the stories with the saints and with unbelievers as God gives you opportunities. Because in healing, God is after the common good of the saints and the declaration to the world of His already-not-yet kingdom.

LifeGroup Discussion:

- Where is healing needed in your own life and the circles around you?
- Have you had seasons of prayer for healing and seen fruit from those prayers?
- Have you had seasons of prayer for healing and nothing happened? How did that impact your life of faith?

Next Steps:

CALVARY LIFE COUNSELING: The Calvary Life Counseling Center seeks to serve you by joining you in your journey of embracing God's hope and healing for your life. Our prayer is that God would free you to be the person He wants you to be so you can live the life He intends for you. Learn more about receiving counseling at calvarylife.org/counseling

MIDWEEK WORSHIP: Come grow in your faith on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm with amazing ministries for Nursery to High School, plus these great options for adults:

- **Alpha Course** - Wednesdays, 7:00pm, Lobby. An 8-week course where you can come explore some of life's big questions about life, faith, the Bible and Jesus, over a relaxed time of learning and group discussion. calvarylife.org/alpha
- **Financial Peace University** - Wednesdays, 7:00pm, W-209. FPU is a 9-week video class, taught by Dave Ramsey where you will learn the practical aspects of how to beat debt, build wealth, find bargains, invest for the future, give like never before, and more. calvarylife.org/fpu
- **Cal Fit Workout** - Wednesdays, 7:00pm, Gym. Join a FREE fitness community built around a dynamic strength-training workout. Adults at any level of fitness are welcome. calvarylife.org/calfit
- **Celebrate Recovery** - Wednesdays, 7:00pm, S-6. Come find God's healing power through fellowship in this Christ-centered 12-step ministry. calvarylife.org/cr
- **Thursday Night Worship** - Thursdays, 7:30pm, Underground. Come experience a time of Spirit-filled, passionate worship through music and a word of encouragement to encounter, engage and embrace the love of Jesus. calvarylife.org/midweek

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