

GOD'S PROMISE OF HEALING

Healing is part of our salvation, which depends on a continual spiritual healing process, setting us free from the captivity of corruption and cancelled sin that satan held us in. This is a simple look at what God has promised regarding healing in Isaiah 53:4-5. Isaiah was given a unique insight into the ministry of Jesus, some 600 years before Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

How do we know healing is from God? Jesus told us what satan's ministry is and what Jesus' ministry is: *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly* (John 10:10).

God has established a record for healing: in Exodus 15:26 the Lord God declared: *I am the LORD that healeth thee*. The condition was that the Israelites should live in holiness, according to the covenant, the Law of Moses. The Israelites were not obedient and sickness came, but God gave them a way out (Numbers 21:8). We cannot be lukewarm and expect the fire of the Holy Spirit to protect us. If we are living in the secret place we abide under the shadow of the Almighty, He is our refuge and protection, daily fellowship with God is so dependent on where we live, demonstrated in Psalm 91; John 15; Romans 8; Revelation 3:14-22 and Psalm 23.

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). When the Hebrew words are translated more closely and explained it helps us to understand the wonderful gifts God has given us through Jesus. He is the resurrection and the life, there is no death or sickness in Him. Sickness is part of the curse that satan loosed on the earth through Adam's fall. So let's look at Isaiah 53:4-5 again with explanatory words inserted through the text [square brackets].

Surely He hath borne [swept away and forgiven] our griefs [illnesses, sicknesses, afflictions, wounds, injuries], and carried [been strong in bearing the load of] our sorrows [physical and mental pains, anguish and anxiety]: yet we did esteem Him stricken [we made a judgement that He was defeated, overwhelmed and stricken with disease], smitten [beaten, scourged, chastised, punished and killed of God], and afflicted [humbled, oppressed, weakened and humiliated]. But He was wounded [made profaned, unholy (He who is holy, sanctified, set apart to God, our Emmanuel, God with us), He was polluted, defiled, and pierced through and killed] for our transgressions [our rebellion or revolt against divine authority], He was bruised [crushed, physically and spiritually broken, made contrite, dejected and humbled] for our iniquities [our wilful disobedience, depravity, mischief, fault and guilt]: the chastisement [punishment, discipline and correction] of our peace [our wellbeing, completeness, soundness, peace from conflict bringing friendship, especially with God in a covenant relationship] was upon Him; and with His stripes [wounds caused through whipping or beating] we ARE healed [the process of restoring or making whole the spiritual, physical and mental health of an individual, often used in the sense of healing or restoring through covenant blessing].

Jesus took upon Himself all that separated us from God, all that made us unholy and profane so that we could not stand in God's presence, nor even look on His face. He took our sin upon Himself so that He could overcome it, cancel it and make it of no effect through His atoning blood and then He cancelled death, utterly defeating it through His resurrection. Because of this

we have been made the righteousness of God in Christ, we can stand in God's presence, we are His beloved, sons of the Living God. The power of sin is broken.

When Isaiah saw Jesus surrender Himself to the Roman whipping post and the soldiers' lashes God must have told him why, it was specifically to provide our healing in Jesus. Faith says healing is God's will for us, Isaiah makes the statement in the present tense, but Peter quotes Isaiah in the past tense after he saw Jesus suffer the lashes for our healing: *'Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: with whose stripes ye WERE healed'* (1 Peter 2:24). We do not need to beg for healing, as though God would withhold it, Jesus has already given healing to us as part of our salvation. So we can come before the Throne of Grace and receive our healing with thanksgiving because Jesus has already provided it for us. Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. So God's healing is ours if we pray believing we receive it because the scripture confirms that God has already done it for us (Mark 11:24).

God has also made provision for those whose faith may not be enough. James 5:14-15, the prayer of faith shall save the sick. James also tells us that God has made provision for sickness that comes through sin. We only have to give Satan a foothold and we can open ourselves up to sickness. The promises of God are available to those living in the covenant of the Law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus. In Matthew 12 Jesus tells of the redeemed man who had not continued in the faith of his salvation. His life had been changed, he was swept clean, but he was empty of the presence of God, not following Jesus, so Satan reclaimed the ground and the man was worse than he was before. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

We protect ourselves from sickness through exercising our faith in God as our healer. Satan is a liar and a deceiver, sickness is imposed upon us we do not have to accept it. We live in the resurrection life of Christ and if that same Spirit that raised Christ Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He shall also quicken your mortal body with the Spirit that lives in you. Our mortal body is where Satan attacks us with sickness, resist him and he will flee from you.

Our friends can also help us: we read in Matthew 8 of the centurion who came to Jesus on behalf of his servant who lay dying; we also read in Mark 2 of the man and his four friends who, full of faith, broke through the roof of the house where Jesus was ministering to get their friend healed. So do not despair get your friends before God for healing through your unfailing faith. The prayers of a righteous man avail much.

THE MIRACLES OF JESUS (excluding duplicates in other gospels)

Matthew: 8:14-15; 8:16-17; 8:1-4; 8:5-13; 9:1-8; 12:9-14; 8:23-27; 8:28-33; 9:20-22; 9:18,23-26; 9:27-31; 9:32-34; 14:13-21; 14:22-33; 14:34-36; 15:21-28; 15:32-29; 17:14-20; 17:24-27; 12:22-23; 20:29-34; 21:18-22. **Mark:** 1:21-27; 7:31-37; 8:22-26. **Luke:** 5:1-11; 7:11-17; 13:10-17; 14:1-6; 17:11-19; 22:50-51. **John:** 2:1-11; 4:43-54; 5:1-15; 9:1-2; 11:1-45; 21:4-11. John 21:25.



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