

**“Why Does God Heal Some People and Not  
Others?”**

**James 5:14-16**

***Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.***

If there is one question that befuddles people, it is this one! It may be asked as a matter of curiosity, or it may be asked passionately by someone who prayed fervently for a loved one only to watch them get worse while another will be restored.

This person loved God and served Him faithfully while the other cared nothing about eternal things! Of course, this is just one of many things that happen in our world for which there is no earthly explanation, but we will stick with this topic today! I will be satisfied if we can make a dent in this one issue! (Keep your Bible handy, and your note sheet.)

**1. The Sovereign God CAN heal anyone!**

In *Deuteronomy 32:39*, God says ***“See now that I myself am He! There is no god besides me. I put to death and I bring to life, I have wounded and I will heal...”***

And in *Psalms 103:1-3*, ***Praise the LORD, O my soul, all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits--Who forgives all your sin, and heals all your diseases...***

If God is *God*, then He could heal anyone, do you agree? If we didn't believe that God could heal a person, why would we bother to pray for them at all? But—and this is important—it is because we *do believe* that God can heal that we are so taken back when He does not!

People of faith believe that God can heal! So, our question is not: “Why can't God heal some people,” but why doesn't God heal some people?”

## **2. Let's look at a few scriptures re: healing**

***Matthew 9:20-22 Just then a woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak. She said to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be healed." Jesus turned and saw her. "Take heart, daughter," he said, "your faith has healed you." And the woman was healed from that moment.***

***Luke 18:42 Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has healed you." Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they also praised God.***

And then there is the instruction in the Book of James:

***James 5:14-15 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.***

Who doesn't love stories and instructions like this!!! “I go to Jesus with my need, and He answers my prayer—immediately and on the spot!” That's the stuff great sermons are made of, and these stories are 100% true, but they are not the entire story!

By selecting these scriptures and carefully avoiding others, many Christians—especially those who follow some of the more extreme teachers—there has come a teaching that “all physical healing is in the atonement of Jesus, that no Christian should ever be sick, and if they are sick and are not healed, it is because they do not have enough faith!”

The problem is—when you are dealing with a subject this broad, and this important, we must examine the whole Bible, not just selected verses. You can reach into the Bible, pick a verse here and a verse there, and come up with a whole lot of bad theology!

### **3. Some healings took place in the Bible just because God chose to do so!**

***Acts 3:1-8 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer--at three in the afternoon. Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God.***

Nothing in this text suggests remotely that 1) this man was a believer in Christ 2) that he had "faith in Christ" 3) that he was even expecting to be healed! The whole context shows that the only thing he expected was a monetary handout from Peter and John.

But Peter, being led by the Holy Spirit, spoke healing to this man, and instantaneously this man, by the Sovereign hand of God, was healed! He became a believer that day!

Here's another interesting event in the ministry of Jesus—no two were ever alike!

***John 5:1-9a Some time later, Jesus went up to Jerusalem for a feast of the Jews. Now there is in Jerusalem near***

*the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. One who was there had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and learned that he had been in this condition for a long time, he asked him, "Do you want to get well?" "Sir," the invalid replied, "I have no one to help me into the pool when the water is stirred. While I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me." Then Jesus said to him, "Get up! Pick up your mat and walk." At once the man was cured; he picked up his mat and walked.*

Several things to note here:

1) Many people with physical needs were gathered at this place.

2) We are not told how or why Jesus happened to pick this man to speak to. The man obviously does not know who Jesus is. Nor does John say why Jesus did not heal any/all of the rest of the people gathered there that day; Just this one man!

In both of these cases, faith in Christ was not present, yet God in His Sovereignty, healed these two and did not heal others.

4. And here is a couple of examples of where we would have expected a healing to take place and it did not!

*2 Corinthians 12:7-9 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*

Paul—one of the early and great men of faith—prayed for healing and God said, No!

And then, in 2 Timothy 4:20, Paul writes: ***Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.***

Paul, why didn't you heal this man? Didn't you have enough faith? Didn't he have enough faith? Why does God heal some people and not others?

### **5. Is the lack of healing a sign of poor faith?**

***Hebrews 11:32-39 And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.***

***Others were tortured and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. Some faced jeers and flogging, while still others were chained and put in prison. They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated-- the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. These were all commended for their faith!***

They all had faith! But in the Sovereign will of God, each had to live out the circumstances in which they found themselves.

## Conclusions:

1. God has chosen to be glorified through undeniable healings of some, and to be glorified by taking others through their sickness and hurt. All of this is rooted in the Sovereignty of God—He is Lord over all!

2. When faced with difficult circumstances or illness, our part is to

- Pray to be delivered, healed, whatever.
- Do all that we can to solve the situation.
- Trust God in the midst of whatever we face.

-Praise Him in the midst of all of life's  
challenges

-Never cease to trust Romans 8:28

3. Realize that God has an overall plan that we as His created beings may not understand in this lifetime!