**The Healing Ministry of Jesus**

**by Pastor Fee Soliven**

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

**Sunday Morning**

**July 3, 2022**

**Isaiah 53:4-6**

4 Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. 5 But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

**Of all the promises in the Bible, those concerning healing are the most difficult for us to understand**

Saints, our confusion is often caused by the sadness we feel if someone doesn’t recover. However, our unbelief in God’s ability, an ignorance of biblical teaching on the subject, and others’ false claims of healing also add to our misunderstanding.

Perhaps that’s why many people immediately respond to sickness by seeking medical help instead of turning to God first. This doesn’t mean going to the doctor isn’t essential, but the Lord should never be our last resort when all else fails.

Since He’s the Great Physician, why don’t we seek Him to begin with? God is still in the healing business, but He does it according to His will and timing. When the Lord delays, it’s because He’s focused on something more important than a healthy body.

His goal is to help us learn to listen to Him, and sickness has a way of grabbing our attention. Through it, we learn what He wants to teach us.

**The Lord never changes, and His purposes and ways remain consistent throughout the Bible**

**Hebrews 13:8**

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

**Malachi 3:6**

“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed”

**Isaiah 40:8**

“The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever”

**James 1:17**

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change”

**Numbers 23:19**

“God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?”

**Psalm 119:89**

“Forever, O Lord, your word is firmly fixed in the heavens”

**Healing in the Old Testament**

Saints, the first mention of the Lord’s healing power is found in Genesis 20:17-18 when He answered Abraham’s prayer and healed Abimelech’s household.

**Genesis 20:17-18**

17 So Abraham prayed to God; and God healed Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants. Then they bore children; 18 for the LORD had closed up all the wombs of the house of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife.

Saints, many years later when Abraham’s descendants became a nation, God promised to remove sickness from their midst if they served Him.

**Exodus 23:25**

“So, you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you”

Saints, from that point, their wellness as a people depended on their obedience to the Lord. When they rebelled, God disciplined them with illness (Ps. 106:13-15),

**Psalm 106:13-15**

13 They soon forgot His works; They did not wait for His counsel, 14 But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, And tested God in the desert. 15 And He gave them their request, But sent leanness into their soul.

but whenever they cried out to Him, He

**Psalm 107”20**

“sent His word and healed them”

Saints, they were restored when they believed and heeded His Word. In Isaiah 53:5,

**Isaiah 53:5**

“But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed”

God told His people about the healing that would come through the Messiah’s atonement for sin: “By His stripes we are healed.” Even though this promise is ours as a result of Christ’s sacrifice, it doesn’t guarantee that the Lord will restore our health every time we ask.

All the benefits of redemption don’t come to us in this life—some are reserved for us in heaven. The biggest accomplishment of the cross was the healing of our separation from the Lord, which was caused by our sin.

**Christ’s Ministry of Healing**

Saints, even though Jesus came to earth primarily to die for our sins, a major part of His ministry involved healing the sick. When teaching or traveling, He stopped to meet individual needs.

Wherever He went, crowds of sick people formed around Him, and He took the time to heal many of them.

**Matthew 14:34-36**

34 When they had crossed over, they came to the land of Gennesaret. 35 And when the men of that place recognized Him, they sent out into all that surrounding region, brought to Him all who were sick, 36 and begged Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well.

Saints, in order to understand this promise, we must recognize:

**1. His Purpose**

**2. His Priority**

**3. His Present Activity**

**4. Our Role**

**His purpose**

Although Christ’s love for mankind was a powerful motivation, the primary reason for His healing miracles was to demonstrate that He was the Son of God.

**His Priority**

Jesus’ main focus was always on the heart. When a paralytic was lowered through the roof, instead of immediately healing him, Christ said,

**Mark 2:5**

“Your sins are forgiven”

Saints, the Lord dealt with his soul before restoring his body. His present activity. Although Christ has ascended to the Father, He’s still healing people from heaven.

Today, there are astonishing recoveries doctors can’t explain. The Lord is still answering our prayers about health issues and has never stopped performing miracles.

**Our Role**

Despite His power, Jesus didn’t heal every sick person in Israel. For example, when He visited His hometown, He couldn’t perform many miracles because of the people’s unbelief (Matt. 13:58).

**Matthew 13:53-58**

53 Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished these parables, that He departed from there. 54 And when He had come to His own country, He taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished and said, "Where did this Man get this wisdom and these mighty works?

55 Is this not the carpenter's son? Is not His mother called Mary? And His brothers James, Joses, Simon, and Judas? 56 And His sisters, are they not all with us? Where then did this Man get all these things?"

57 So they were offended at Him. But Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house." 58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Saints, like them, we also live in a society that doubts Jesus’ ability to heal. Instead of following this line of negative thinking, Christians should expect God to do the unusual and wait for Him to act on our behalf.

**The Apostles’ Role in Healing**

Saints, after the ascension, the apostles carried on Christ’s work, and curing people was part of their witness. For example, when Peter and John met a lame beggar at the temple, they both encouraged him to believe that Christ could do the impossible, and He did.

**Acts 3:1-10**

1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. 2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple; 3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, "Look at us." 5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them. 6 Then Peter said, "Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk." 7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God. 9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God. 10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Saints, the apostle Paul’s life also teaches us a great deal about how and why God restores us:

**Paul’s Experience with Healing**

Since Paul was such a prominent apostle, we’d expect him to play a major role in restoring the sick, but there is only one account of him doing so (Acts 28:8). Perhaps this is because Paul was called by God primarily to proclaim the gospel, not to heal people.

**Paul’s Teaching about Healing**

Because he was appointed to teach and explain divine truth, Paul’s writings are our guide to understanding what God has to say about spiritual gifts and healing. The Lord has gifted some believers with faith to pray for the restoration of others (1 Cor. 12:9).

**1 Corinthians 12:9**

“to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit”

The intercessors cannot heal anyone—only God can do that—but because of their great faith, the Lord answers their prayers and gives a gift of health to those who are sick.

**Paul’s Experience with Illness**

Being an apostle didn’t guarantee Paul’s prayers for wellness were always answered. At one point in his travels, he left a sick friend in another city (2 Tim. 4:20).

**2 Timothy 4:20**

Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.

He also struggled with his own health issues, so Luke, who was a physician, accompanied him. In 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Paul described a trial that he called “a thorn in the flesh.”

**2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Saints, despite his entreaties and prayers, God didn’t heal him, but He did explain the reason for his illness. Its purpose was to keep Paul from exalting himself. Also, God promised His grace was sufficient, and He gave the apostle both the strength to endure hardships and be content with his situation…

Saints, Soon and Very soon, Jesus is about to appear, we are almost out of here!

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

**1 Corinthians 15:50-54**

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. 51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

**Acts 2:38-39**

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

**Let's Pray!**

**Benediction**

**"May The LORD bless you and keep you, May The LORD make His face shine upon you, May The LORD be gracious to you, May The LORD lift up His countenance upon you, and give you His (Shalom) peace." '**