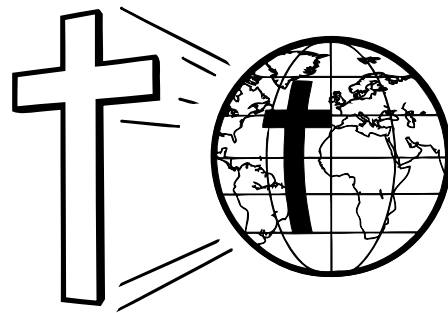


Foundation of Faith



Divine HEALING

THE DOCTRINE OF
DIVINE HEALING

THE SEVEN PILLARS
OF DIVINE HEALING

EXPERIENCES
OF DIVINE HEALING

DIVINE HEALING
FROM A DOCTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

WHEN GOD SAYS "NO"

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Editorial

Dear Reader!

Many people acknowledge that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, taught, preached, and healed the sick. But does He still heal today? God's Word clearly shows us: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

God has not changed! Yes, the heavenly Father transferred all authority in heaven and on earth to His Son (Matthew 28:18). Therefore, in this current issue, we agree with the songwriter J. E. Roberts:

Loud proclaim the jubilee, Jesus heals, Jesus heals;

Bear the news across the sea, Jesus heals, Jesus heals.

"Lo, I'm with you to the end" —Blessed Jesus, what a Friend!

One on whom we can depend, Jesus heals, Jesus heals.

Who does the Lord heal?

1. *"And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all" (Matthew 12:15).*

2. *"[They] brought to Him all who were sick . . . And as many as touched [Him] were made perfectly well" (Matthew 14:35-36).*

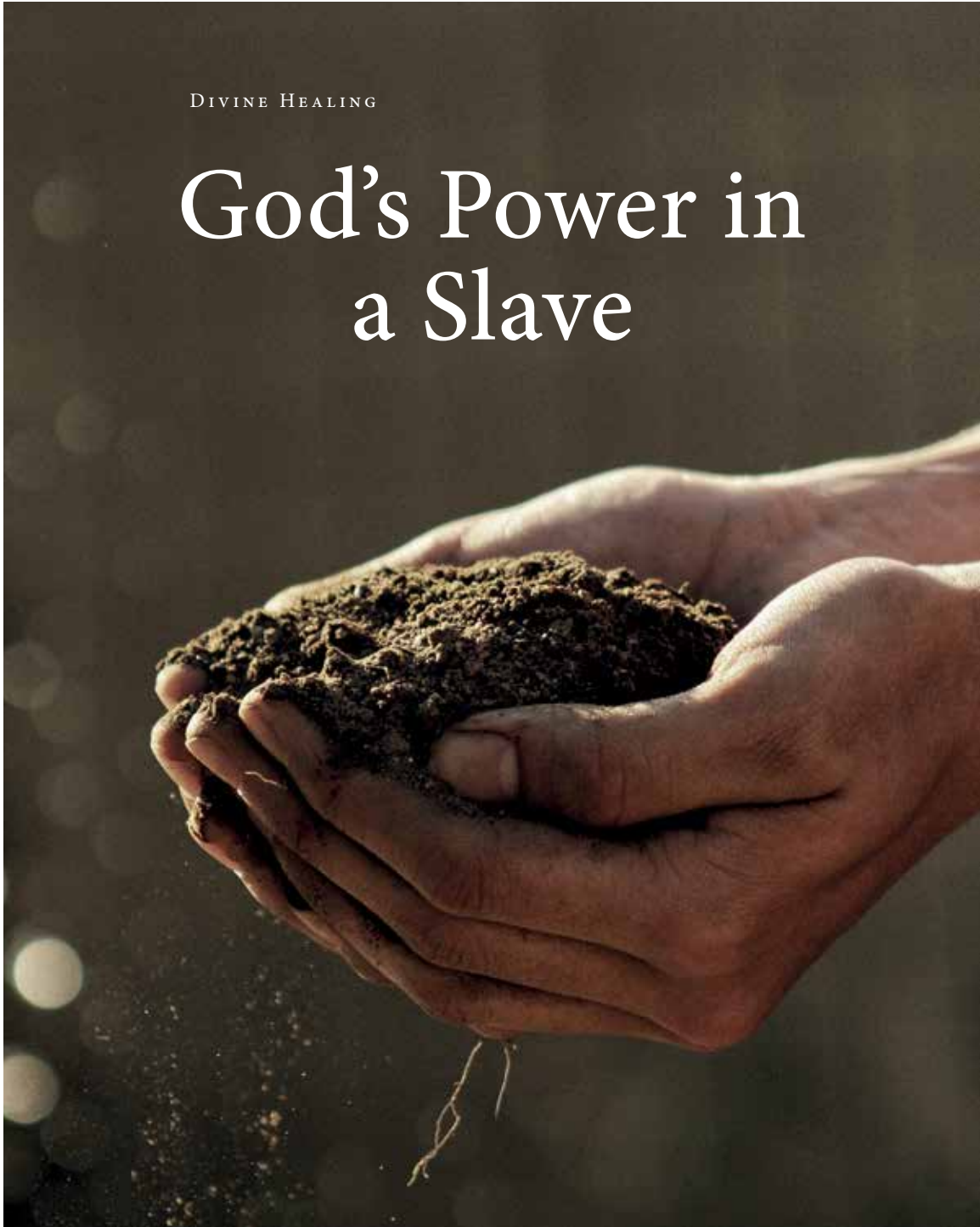
But did the Lord always heal all?—When Jesus arrived for the feast in Jerusalem, He came through the Sheep Gate to a pool that was called Bethesda, which had five porches. Here lay many sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed people who had the desire to be made well. But the Lord healed only one person, this one man who had lain sick for 38 years (see John 5:1-9).

It is certain that Jesus is doctor of body and soul, and He will remain so. However, it is not stated that He must heal all sick. We can pray, believe, and ask. But God remains Lord! His thoughts are higher than our thoughts, and His ways are better than ours (see Isaiah 55:8-9). His decisions and plans are often incomprehensible, but we know: "O God, your ways are holy" (Psalm 77:13 NLT). Blessed be His holy name!

H. D. Nimz

DIVINE HEALING

God's Power in a Slave



About 300 years after the birth of our Lord, the mountain people in the Iberian peninsula of Georgia in the Caucasus were led from paganism to the good shepherd Jesus. The Iberians were at war with another people, in which Christianity had already made some in-roads. After having won the war, they brought back plunder from their enemies, including a young girl whom they would sell as a slave in their country.

A distinguished Iberian family bought the foreign child. Alone in the midst of these idol-worshipping people, the poor

captive lived as an orphan. She was a genuine Christian. With a quiet willingness, she did whatever she was told to do and even more. It was this willingness and her great faithfulness, an uncommon pearl amongst the Iberians, that soon earned her the trust and love of her new people.

One day, according to established tradition, a sick child was carried from door to door throughout the village to see if anyone knew a remedy for this sickness. However, no one had any advice. Then someone had the idea to show this sick

child to the dear stranger, in case she knew some cure from her homeland. Immediately, the bed was carried to the house where Nunia, the Christian, served. She was called.

Nunia came and heard the request of the people. “But no,” she responded, “I, a poor girl, cannot advise you. However, I could tell you of One who could not only cure this child from this illness but also bring her back from death,” she said with a cheerful expression. When the worried people asked where this person lives, she replied: He is a great and mighty Master. He sits on a throne high up in the heavens. However, He will come down to all who desire Him. He Himself is also love and compassion. “So go and bring Him here,” they implored. The girl went and knelt before her Lord Jesus Christ and prayed: “For the sake of Your honor, Lord Jesus, appear and make Yourself known and help!”

And as the praying girl spoke her “Amen” to her God with a joyous heart and came back, the sick child had already opened its eyes, smiled, and was well. With joy, the parents took their child home, and whoever they met along the way had to hear the story of what they had experienced.

Knowledge of this occurrence soon spread throughout the land. Even the Queen heard about this. When shortly after that she also fell ill, her first thought was of the female slave from the foreign land. She sent messengers to ask her to come to her. Nunia, however, declined the invitation. Then the Queen herself came to visit Nunia, carried there by her servants. When Nunia saw this, her heart filled with deep emotion. She prayed, and the Queen also went home healed.

When King Miraus saw his beloved wife come back healed, he became ecstatic with joy and wanted to send the “wonder-doer” the most expensive and precious presents. However, the Queen suggested that he not do that because this would only grieve the girl. This mysterious child shunned all earthly goods and only felt she had been rewarded for her efforts when one knelt with her before her God. That disturbed the King.

Some time later, the King went on a hunt. While he was tracking a wild animal, he lost his way in the deep forest. He was soon surrounded by a dark fog and lost

the track of the wild animal he was following. He did not know where he was. He looked for a way out but found none. He became more lost in the wilderness. Evening came, and his need became greater. He blew his horn, but the echo from the hills was his only answer.

Suddenly, the foreign girl came into his thoughts and what she had said about the power of her unseen King. He lived high up in a heavenly castle but was always available when one needed Him. “If that is so,” thought Miraus, “then He can also help me.” Then he knelt down and prayed: “You, who the foreigner calls her God, Jesus, if You live and can do all things, help me out of this situation. If You help me, then my heart, all my life, and everything that I am and own will be Yours!”

He had barely spoken these words when the dark fog bank rolled itself up like a garment, and the sky again became clear and blue. The surprised King walked only a few steps forward in the forest, found his path, and reached home. With deep emotion, he told his wife what had happened to him. She no longer doubted that the God of the female slave was the true living God. The next day, their first walk took them to Nunia. With a soul deeply moved, the King told her the miracle he had experienced. After that, both the King and Queen took the hands of the girl and begged her: “Please tell us more about your Jesus.”

From then on, the royal couple sat at the feet of the poor female slave as avid students. And in all simplicity, Nunia told them what she knew about her Lord and His deeds. They both devoured all of her words. Not long after this, the royal couple decided that there was no greater need for their people than for them to become familiar with this message of God, the One who had also become man. So the King stood before his men and told them this message, while the Queen also brought the same message to the women and girls. The Lord rejoiced in His new witnesses, for the people had joyfully accepted His message. Jesus came into the homes and hearts of these people, and new life came into this once dark human desert.

So the faith of a female slave brought about recovery from physical illness and spiritual freedom from paganism for a large group of people.

The Doctrine of Divine Healing

There are many among today's religious groups who are skeptics when it comes to the divine healing of the body demonstrated by God's Word. Even though many books have already been written about divine healing, many testimonies have been published and distributed, and many people have even been eyewitnesses to divine healing, there are still those who do not believe in it.

However, we do not want to base the doctrine of divine healing upon the testimonies of those who have been healed recently. We want to stand on a firmer foundation. God's Word is the firm foundation and it certainly proves it from Genesis to Revelation. What if some people still do not believe? "For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not! Indeed, let God be true but every man a liar" (Romans 3:3-4).

God's ways are higher than the wisdom of mankind. The height and depth of His glory cannot be grasped by the human mind. Our understanding and logic cannot question God's omnipotence and majesty, that He is "everything and in everything." He is the same, yesterday, today and in all eternity. God, who performed miracles many years ago, has the same ability today. He wants to work through His children and no one can prevent Him from doing so.

People who devise their own way to heaven or who attempt to explain divine healing through scientific methods will fall short unless they extend their science to accept the miracle of the power of divine healing and the doctrine of God's Word. They may attribute the parting of the Red Sea to the easterly winds. However, when they then reached the Jordan River with its overflowing banks and the priests carrying the ark stepped into the water, the water stopped on the one side and the other side became dry. Here the scientists must admit that this did not occur due to scientific principles, but that He who had created the world could part the waters whether or not it was consistent with science or the laws of nature.

Abraham knew what he could rely on when he prayed for Abimelech and the Lord healed him. It was the same for Moses, who prayed for the healing of Miriam when she was infected with leprosy. The patriarchs of the old days, the prophets, and the faithful men of God were instruments in God's hands and experienced healing.

The Lord's promise to Moses and the children of Israel if they obeyed the Lord was, "I will take sickness away from the midst of you" (Exodus 23:25). "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you" (Exodus 15:26). The promise "Observe and obey all these words which I command you, that it may go well with you and your children after you forever" (Deuteronomy 12:28) applies today as well. When His children obeyed God's voice, His promises were fulfilled.

Centuries later, the psalmist David cried out, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases" (Psalm 103:2-3).

When Hezekiah was near death (2 Kings 20:1-6), he prayed earnestly to God. God answered his prayer, healed him, and extended his life another fifteen years. In those days, the children of God could rely on Him to heal their bodies. In Jesus' days, He healed all sorts of diseases "that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses'" (Matthew 8:17). The apostles also went and healed the sick, and with divine power performed miracles in the name of Jesus.

We can see that the doctrine of divine healing is not new, it is a part of God's Word. It is a privilege of faithful Christians of all times to claim this promise to be healed of their illnesses.



Jesus Bore Our Sickness

Are you familiar with the marvelous chapter of Isaiah 53, known as the Gospel of the Old Testament? Illuminated by the Spirit of God, it first describes the suffering of the Lamb of God and then the divine blessings which flow from the same. “Yet He Himself bore our sicknesses, and He carried our pains; but we in turn regarded Him stricken, struck down by God, and afflicted” (Isaiah 53:4 HCSB).

This prophecy had to use the word “bear.” It is just the right word to use in connection with sin, whether committed by the sinner himself or placed upon a substitute. The transgressor, the one bringing the offering, and the sin offering itself all had to bear the sin. The Lamb of God, the Lord Jesus, carried our sins in our stead. Sin did not lie within Him, but was laid upon Him. He took the burden upon Himself of His own free will. By bearing our sins, He removed them, thereby earning the right and the power to save us from them.

The word “bear” appears in chapter 53 in connection with two different terms. In verse 11, it says of the servant of the Lord: “He will bear their iniquities,” but in the 4th verse: “He has borne our sickness.” Bearing our sickness is therefore equally integral to the work of salvation as is carrying our sins. He bore our sins although he Himself was without sin, and the same is true for our sickness. Because He was without sin, sickness had no claim to Him, and He could only die in voluntary surrender to a violent death. We therefore see sickness, just like sin, not in Him but only upon Him. He willingly accepted and bore the burden of sickness. It was by taking on and bearing our sickness that he defeated it and earned the right to free us from it.

Sin had harmed the human body and soul alike. Jesus came to heal both. Because He took our sickness and our

sins upon Himself, He can now also free us from both. He only asks one thing in return—faith.

If a sinner truly understands the words: “Jesus bore my sins” and believes the promise, he can also confidently say: “I no longer have to bear my sins because their burden is no longer upon me.” And as soon as a sick person accepts in faith that “Jesus bore our sickness as the Lamb of God,” he can say with equal certainty: “I no longer have to bear my sickness because Jesus bore sickness as well.”

I was witness to the blessed influence of this truth on a sick woman. She had been bedridden for almost seven years, and the doctors had given her no hope of recovery. She was brought to a gathering and was laid down on a bed, almost unconscious. She could later not remember what was said around her, but she felt a voice calling to her: “If He bore your pain, why should you bear it too? Get up!” Then the thought came to her: “What will people say if I get up and fall?” But an inner voice encouraged her again. To the great astonishment of everyone present, she got up and, despite her weakened state, managed to reach the table. There, she accepted healing. After a few weeks, she looked healthy again, and three months later, her strength had returned to such an extent that she was able to make several daily visits to the poor. How great was the love and joy with which she spoke of Him who was “the strength of [her] life” (Psalm 27:1)! She simply believed that Jesus had borne her sickness as well as her sin, and her faith was not in vain. Jesus reveals Himself in this way to everyone willing to fully commit to Him.

A. M.



The Seven Pillars of Divine Healing

In Proverbs 9:1 we read: “Wisdom has built her house, she has hewn out her seven pillars.” The heavenly, godly wisdom of the Holy Spirit calls all people. God wishes for all people to be saved. Therefore, the wonderful plan of salvation for body and soul has been revealed in His house, in the Church of God. The eternal, godly truth is unshakable because it stands firm on seven pillars.

In this article, we want to examine these seven pillars of godly healing.

1. The First Pillar: Godly Healing Established Through the Plan of Salvation

The Lord Jesus helped so many who were sick and suffering. We read: “When evening had come they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses’” (Matthew 8:16-17). Please also read Isaiah 53:4-5.

2. The Second Pillar: God’s Word

The centurion of Capernaum heard and believed that Jesus, the Son of God, had the power and authority to heal the

sick. He said: “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed” (Matthew 8:8). Jesus marveled at this faith and said: “Assuredly, I say to you, I have not found such great faith, not even in Israel!” (Matthew 8:10).

In Psalm 107:19-20 we read: “Then they cried out to the Lord in their trouble, and He saved them out of their distresses. He sent His word and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.” The Son of God emphasized this eternal truth when He exclaimed: “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Matthew 24:35).

3. The Third Pillar: The Might and Power of God

Before the Lord Jesus returned to heaven He said: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth” (Matthew 28:18). Dear Readers, think about it—can anything be too hard for the God who made heaven and earth? (Genesis 18:14).

King David knew that God was Lord over life and death and praised Him saying: “I will praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are Your works, and that my soul knows very well” (Psalm 139:14). Now tell me, does

the Lord hear our pleas and see our needs, and does He have the power to make the blind to see? Yes, God's Word confirms, "the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the gospel preached to them" (Luke 7:22b).

4. The Fourth Pillar: God's Love and Compassion

Matthew 9:35-36: "Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd."

Matthew 14:14: "And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick."

Yes, our Lord gave God's love to us and Jesus Christ heals body and soul. He is there for all of us. But who can measure this love of God? This is how a songwriter describes it:

*There's no limit to God's great love;
It is deeper than the deepest sea,
It reaches higher than the stars above,
Wider still than fog billows roll!*

5. The Fifth Pillar: The Will of God

Matthew 8:2-3: "And behold, a leper came and worshiped Him, saying, 'Lord, if you are willing, You can make me clean.' Then Jesus put out His hand and touched him, saying, 'I am willing; be cleansed.' Immediately his leprosy was cleansed."

When the Roman centurion came to Jesus saying: "Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented," Jesus replied, "I will come and heal him" (see Matthew 8:6-7).

For this reason, the Lord instructed us about a special privilege that is given to those who are sick. They are to call the elders of the church and ask for prayer and to be anointed with oil so that their health might be restored. Please read James 5:13-16.

6. The Sixth Pillar: God's Unchanging Nature

God's Word confirms this: "For I am the Lord, I do not change" (Malachi 3:6a). And then we have the precious word: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8). I would also like to share a verse from a song:

*Have you ever heard of Jesus,
How He came from heav'n to earth
With a name of mighty virtue,
Tho' by very humble birth?*

*When the world was held in bondage
Under Satan's dismal sway,
Jesus healed their dread diseases:
He is just the same today!*

7. The Seventh Pillar: Divine Healing is the Children's Bread

This might give us pause. We know from the Lord's Prayer that the Lord Jesus expressed the fourth request in this prayer as: "Give us this day our daily bread." Yes, we need our daily bread, the food for our physical body. Even more importantly, our soul, our inner person, needs spiritual food. But when we are sick, in need, in pain, or in critical condition, then we also need the Lord's help.

A Gentile woman from the region of Tyre and Sidon was in this kind of great need. She must have heard of Jesus. The message of His wonders and signs must have reached her as well. We read: "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed" (Matthew 15:22). We don't know how many people, doctors, etc. she had sought out and begged for help, and likely paid. But here she sees her chance: Jesus will help. She did not know, that the Son of God himself is the Bread from Heaven (see John 6:48-51). And as in the Old Testament the daily bread, the manna, was only for the children of Israel, so Jesus was first of all for his people. And the prayer: "Give us this day our daily bread" (Matthew 6:11) does not mean only food for the body, but whatever a child of God needs, Jesus will take care of. We can go to Him for help for body and soul, and He even has the power to cast out demons.

So here this gentile mother, through her faith, received what actually was only bread for the children (of Israel). And her daughter was healed that very hour (Matthew 15:28) What a wonderful Savior and Helper!

J. E. Roberts writes:

*Blow the trumpet loud and long,
Jesus heals, Jesus heals;
Chant the sweet melodious song,
Jesus heals, Jesus heals.*

*"I'm the Lord that healeth thee,"
Just believe and you'll be free,
Praise His name, He healeth me,
Jesus heals, Jesus heals.*

H. D. Nimz

I Thought

“Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha’s house. And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, ‘Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored to you, and you shall be clean.’ But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, ‘Indeed, I said to myself, “He will surely come out to me, and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.”’” 2 Kings 5:9-11

Today, many Christians believe that God still heals, but only a few have personally experienced His healing. Many go to God for healing, but they do not receive an answer. In many cases, it is not hard to tell what these people are thinking. Naaman presents us with a clear example. He had heard much from the Israelite girl about a prophet in Israel through whom God healed. Having made the journey to Israel and having arrived at Elisha’s house, everything seemed to go awry. All was different from what he had imagined. Before he left on his journey, he had everything planned. He knew exactly how everything should unfold. Armed with his preconceived ideas, he came to Elisha’s house. But when he stood before Elisha’s door, Elisha did not come out. The prophet only sent his servant, and as a result, Naaman became angry and upset. “I thought . . .”

When faced with illness, the same thing can happen to us today. We seek clarity and answers from God. We read many testimonies, search books and other works for examples of divine healing. We might speak with those whom God has healed, and think that these preparations will strengthen our faith. Yes, all these explanations and accounts can strengthen our faith. Even when one considers examples of healing in the Gospels, in which Jesus healed in widely varying ways, we can develop an impression of how God will heal us.

But we pray, and yet, are not healed.

Is it possible that we might only accept healing if it meets with our preconceived ideas? What if the path to healing does not meet with our expectations?

The Right Way

When we study how Jesus healed people, we realize that He did not heal two people in the same way. Jesus did not have a standard procedure for healing people, He simply healed them. His approach was always personal, always different. Through study, it becomes clear that Jesus’ method of healing depended on the individual and his or her situation. And that is why Jesus healed people in so many different ways. If we want to buy something, we do not have any particular ideas about how the process will proceed. When we have decided to buy something, we simply go to the store and buy it. The chain of events is not important.

Our own preconceived ideas are often the reason why God does not answer us. Our faith is only enough to receive healing in the way that we think it should happen. But God’s thoughts are higher than our thoughts. His ways are much more wonderful than we can imagine.

The only true way to receive healing is through the Gospel and a personal relationship with Jesus. Communion with Christ and the Word produces the necessary faith. Today, Jesus heals everyone who comes to Him in faith. But He does not heal those who think, “I thought, I supposed, I believed . . .”

May God help everyone who seeks healing. Jesus does not heal in accordance with our plans. On the contrary, He heals through faith. Matthew 9:29, “Then He touched their eyes and said, ‘According to your faith let it be done to you.’”

Waldemar Adler
Astana (Kazakstan)

When God Says No

“Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.” Matthew 9:2

For four years, she had been bound to a wheelchair—a lively, sparkling young woman and mother of three children. Can we imagine what this actually means? When a mother hears screaming from the yard below because one of the children has hurt himself, she can only sit. She is unable to run towards the child to help and comfort him.

Or when the smell of milk boiling over from the kitchen keeps getting stronger, she cannot remove the pot from the stove. A wide beam of sunshine comes into the room, but instead of being joyful about this, she sees only the thick layer of dust illuminating the desk. Oh, to quickly take a cloth and wipe away the dust—but she is sitting as if chained.

A car pulls up to the house. She knows that guests are coming, but she is unable to greet them joyfully at the door because she must wait, wait . . .

What she was yearning for most was healing. With all of her heart, she wished she could become well again for the sake of her family, who desperately needed her. She had already consulted with many doctors and tried many health treatments. However, none of these were successful. Her situation was constantly worsening. Her pains were becoming stronger and more regular, and her strength to withstand them was declining. Now and then, the question arose in her: Did God really want this to be my lot in life? Will I never become well again? That would be the worst thing that could happen to me!

She opened her Bible. She had been reading the Bible since her childhood. She knew that her story, the story of the paralytic that was brought to Jesus, was in there too, and she had read it often. However, now she stopped at the phrase: “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house” (Matthew 9:6). God had power even over this

man’s apparently incurable illness. Why should He not also use His power for her?

“Jesus saw their faith” (Matthew 9:2), is stated in the story. That alone was the only prerequisite for this healing. However, what actually happened to this man who was paralyzed? Jesus saw his heart and said: “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you” (Matthew 9:2). That, however, was not yet healing from his illness!

Suddenly, her eyes were opened. Jesus looks deeper; He sees through us, and in the blink of an eye, He sees what the state of our soul is in relation to God. Whether a person is burdened by unforgiven sins, the lack of repentance, and a lack of love, Jesus sees all that. He would like to heal these frailties, to radically heal them! For that purpose, He came to earth. To the suffering soul He says, in the power of the healing Word: “Your sins are forgiven you.” This completely erases the root of illness, which has caused man’s separation from God, and heals it for all eternity.

Compared to that healing, the healing of a physical illness is secondary. In the story from Matthew 9:1-8, the paralytic man was also healed physically. God does not always do this. However, He always lays healing hands on the sins of those who ask Him.

While listening in the stillness to the words of God, this woman learned to say “yes” to the physical illness that God had allowed. She never became well. However, instead of continuing to pray for healing, she placed her life fully in God’s will and was now able to thank Jesus for forgiving her sins and completely healing her soul. Healing was guaranteed for her in eternity. She no longer clung to “arise and walk” but believed with all her heart the words that were now meant for her: “Be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”

Experiences of Divine Healing

“Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. 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.” Isaiah 53:4-5

To the glory of God, I'd like to report how the all-powerful God miraculously healed me. It all began with a rash on my hand that over time spread up to my elbow. In my plight, I went to a dermatologist, who couldn't help me at all. After researching on my own, I discovered that it would be helpful to leave out milk and milk products. After two months came success. Finally I had found something that helped the rash on my hands and arms. For three years, I did not consume any milk or milk products.

However, I suddenly developed a terrible skin condition on my face. In my despair, I visited the dermatologist again, who prescribed more dietary restrictions. Now I had reached my lowest point and thought: “This can't be God's will!” For in the meantime, I had become a Christian. Shortly thereafter the Youth Bible Days were taking place in Tuningen, and I had the opportunity to participate there for the first time. I was surprised to find out that anointing for the sick was offered, and I asked to be anointed as well. What wonderful leading of God!

After the anointing, I had the impression that it had not made a difference. But I took it to God in faith, and thought: “Lord, as You want.” I left the room, and in the same instant, I had the absolute assurance that I had been completely healed. I was full of thankfulness and asked God, like a child, if I could eat my favorite foods that contained milk again. For every question, He answered me with a confident peace: “Yes, My child, it will not harm you!” This gave me absolute assurance.

This experience was so overwhelming for me that I knew it was really God. No one can take this assurance away from me. At the very next meal I ate everything that I had an appetite for without doubting. Subsequently, my skin began to heal without the occurrence of infections or regressions. The healing process started without dietary restrictions.

I am very thankful for this experience. God is great, and He is there! He works in our lives and in our hearts. Jesus did not only die for our transgressions but also for our illnesses, which became apparent to me for the first time during this experience (Isaiah 53). The Lord be praised and glorified! The almighty God loves us so much and helps us!

Stephanie Wiefel,
Eppingen (DE)

“With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible.” Mark 10:27

I would like to testify that the Lord is still the same today and that He did great things for me. At the age of 24, I had a serious accident on a construction site in Winnipeg. I slipped on a concrete chute and fell about 4 meters into a basement, where I knocked my head against the foundation and broke my neck. Because my windpipe was kinked, I could hardly breathe and was suffocating. I cried to the Lord from my heart and asked Him not to let me die now.

At the construction site, I worked together with several brothers from the congregation, and one of them had observed how I had fallen. So the brothers came running and carried me out of the basement. When they tried to stand me

up on my feet, I collapsed. I was terrified when I realized that I was paralyzed! The construction supervisor ordered that the men should drive me by car to the hospital, which could have caused death in my circumstance. But the Lord protected me from further harm in this as well, although I suffered from terrible pain at every bend in the road.

After being X-rayed and examined, the doctors told me that it didn't look good. They bolted my head to a frame and stretched my neck to try to reduce compression of the spine. I had to lie for weeks like that, without much change. I gradually began to get a bit of feeling back in my left arm and on my left side, but then all progress stopped.

In May when the convention was held in the congregation of Winnipeg, Brother Solomon Weissburger was invited as the guest speaker. Brother Lutzer brought him, along

with Brother Gustav Sonnenberg, who was also attending the Fest, to visit me in the hospital. Brother Weissburger asked me: “Do you believe that Jesus can heal you?” I replied: “Yes, I believe with all my heart!” The brother answered: “Then we will do according to James 5.” He read the Word, anointed me, and then the brothers prayed and left the hospital.

After they had prayed, I felt clearly that something had happened in my body. I told myself: “You have been healed! The Lord has healed you!”

Two hours later, two doctors came to examine me, and one of them stuck a needle into my leg. When he did that, I flinched. He was astonished and stuck the needle into my leg again. Again I flinched and told him it hurt! He asked me what had happened. I testified: “Three messengers of God were here. They prayed for me, and I believed. Now I am healed!”

The doctor said: “It’s a good thing that you believed, because we have tried everything. We could not have done anything more.” The doctors looked at each other and shook their

heads. One of them said to the other: “This is a miracle!” Then they left. I said to one of the nurses: “Lift me up, I’d like to walk.” After I urged them, they complied. After having lain in bed for so long, I was dizzy for a few minutes at first, and I hadn’t realized how much the muscles in my legs had atrophied. At first, I had to do many exercises, but after three days I could already walk by myself. Oh, how I thanked my loving God that He did such a miracle for me!

A few weeks later, I was discharged from the hospital, and after three months I was able to go to work again. With God’s help, I was able to work hard for many years until I retired at the age of 65.

How good the Lord was to me! He is indeed “the Lord who heals.” He is my loving Lord and Savior, with whom I have been able to walk into old age. And with certainty I can testify: He is without a doubt the same today! Praise be to His wonderful Name.

Willi Taron,
Edmonton (CA)

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.”

Jeremiah 1:5a

I am grateful that even before I was born, God held his hand over me and protected me. At the end of the 1950s and the beginning of the 1960s there was a medication that was a miracle cure for all forms of nausea, headaches and insomnia: thalidomide. Many people used it and it seemed to be without any side-effects. It was also used to mitigate pregnancy complications. My mother was pregnant with me and asked her doctor if he could prescribe this medication for her. “No, we have to wait. I do not know what the ramifications of this medication are.” And so I was protected. As a result of this medication many children were born with malformations of the arms, hands and feet.

I was to be born at home. The midwife was very confident that everything would go well. But she was to be very wrong. It was the first child of my mother who was a small and slim person, and I was a relatively large baby with a large head. The midwife realized much too late that she would not be able to cope with this birth by herself. It took time for the doctor to get there, but at the last minute for mother and child, the birth took place.

The joy at the birth of their son was short lived, as the doctor informed my parents that their son was born with hydrocephalus (fluid in the brain). This disease very often results in severe malformations in the brain, so I was born with severe mental disabilities. My head was totally soft. The doctor advised my parents to admit me to an institution for the disabled because my life expectancy would not exceed 21 years of age.

My mother sat many hours at my bedside crying and was calling out to God. And God heard the prayers of my parents and the brothers and sisters from our congregation, who were also praying for me. In the following months I grew and developed into a fully normal child. God has healed me. I have never had any medical complications that can be traced back to this condition at birth. Yes, I can even remember many events from my early childhood. I am continually grateful to God for how He has made me and what I am able to do. To God alone be the glory!

Hermann Vogt
Gifhorn, DE

Jesus is Ready to Heal Today

According to the prophet Isaiah's prophecy, Jesus took our weaknesses upon Himself and bore our illness. The prophecy relates to the diseases and sufferings of the body, as is clearly stated in the New Testament. "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses'" (Matthew 8:17).

Think about it: Jesus took upon Himself our weaknesses, diseases, and suffering. Do we still have the right to believe that we alone need to struggle with our diseases when Jesus has carried them for us? Why should we be so timid or so weak in faith? Divine healing is our rightful heritage. Jesus carried not only our sins, but also our illnesses, "in His own body on the tree" (1 Peter 2:24).

Divine healing is also offered to us along with salvation. Jesus was always moved by compassion when He saw the sick and suffering, and He healed them. "Preach" and "heal," He said to the disciples as He sent them out (Luke 9:2). Jesus is still the same compassionate Savior He was when He walked on earth. He still heals those who obey Him and come to Him with child-like faith and trust when they need help. We have no reason to believe that our compassionate Savior does not heal today as well as He did then. If we, as children of God, would only recognize this truth more deeply in our hearts and act accordingly, our faith would be greatly strengthened, and the church of God would again experience mighty healing by the power of God.

Satan has succeeded in intimidating many of us. We are hindered in our faith because Satan tries to make us feel that God is far away. How many victories over illness could be had if we were courageous enough to claim the promises of God! And how much bolder would we be if we knew and felt that God was ready to fulfill our request! It is precisely here where Satan tries to impose doubts and fears. We have a merciful, loving God who offers healing in an abundant and generous way. We may be earnestly

asking for relief from suffering. But often, in our suffering, we cannot see how God extends His healing grace because our faith has been clouded by fear and doubt.

If we are sick, what should we do in this case? Should we wait until the enemy has retreated and all the clouds have disappeared? If we do, we may have to wait a long time. Satan does not want to allow us to get the necessary help from the Lord.

So what can be done now? We should have faith that God is willing to heal, even if we cannot see or feel God's presence. We should remember that Jesus healed all who came to Him and never turned anyone away. Furthermore, we should know that Jesus is and remains the same yesterday, today, and forever, without respect of person. Reflecting on God's truths will strengthen our faith, and we will begin to feel God's presence. We will regard God's Word as true, stand on the promises of God with childlike faith, and receive the promised help. We will receive the assurance from God that our prayer has been answered.

In some cases, healing will occur suddenly; in others, gradually. But whatever the case, the truth remains the same. Faith has overcome all obstacles, and God has sent help. If we act on this certainty, it will have results: God stands firm to His Word and confirms His promises if we make them our own by faith.

If we could only realize that God is always near and willing to hear our prayer! How easy it would be for us to ask and believe that we could receive what we have asked for. Jesus said, "Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them" (Mark 11:24). God will not disappoint us. He has wisely established that we must have faith to obtain the promised blessings from Him. He is full of love and compassion and wants to give us what we ask for.

G. T.

The Rejected Cure

“Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.” (2 Kings 5:12)

Naaman, who was deathly ill, presumes to know far better remedies for his leprosy than Elisha, the man of God, who spoke with godly instruction: “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times . . . and you shall be clean” (2 Kings 5:10). The roaring waters of the Damascus seemed better to the proud Syrian than the quiet, flowing waters of the Jordan. But these had no man of God, nor a promise from God Himself. Why does sick Naaman boast about the rivers of Damascus, and why does he resist so much against washing in the Jordan? Oh, it is the old pride of Adam’s fallen race that rebels against the counsel of the eternal Wisdom and Love. It is the defiance and arrogance of the natural heart that makes it seem infinitely difficult to bow to the simple, humbling instructions of God.

Was not the preaching of the cross a stumbling block to the Jews and foolishness to the worldly-wise Greeks? Even today, is not the gospel of the reconciling death of the Son of God rejected as irrational and archaic? Yes, how often do we hear it preached that people must return to moral standards, do good works, believe in themselves, improve themselves, thereby turning themselves and humanity into their own gods.

We hear how they recommend the “Damascus rivers” of modern theology, socialism, and atheism. Angrily they demand: Away with the outdated teaching of the depravity of man, of his sins and guilt, of the wrath of God! Away with the threats of godly judgment, of hell and eternal damnation! Away also with preaching on repentance and salvation through grace, the forgiveness and redemption through Christ’s blood and wounds! They are all archaic teachings! The “waters of

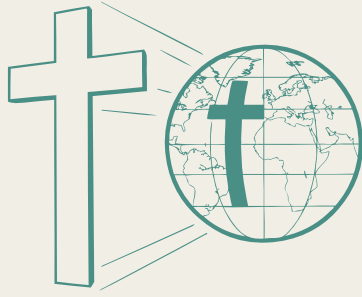
the Abanah and the Pharpar,” the rational teachings of modern people, are far better! Do right and fear no one! Foster education, practice good habits, strive for perfection, as long as it agrees with your feelings and tastes! Also participate in religion, love your neighbor, and try to be good!

But will you be made clean, have peace, find rest for your conscience, not fear death, or tremble in fear of eternity? Will you find joy in eternal life, and be able to call God, the Holy One, your loving Father? Will your heart leap for joy, will you feel like a new person who has acquired a secure right to heaven and its glory? Far from it!

The “Damascus rivers” of human teaching do not contain such powers of salvation. They have never unburdened a conscience loaded with guilt; they have never opened paradise to a remorseful thief; they have never allowed peace, deep as a river, to enter the heart of a trembling sinner. But they have led hundreds of thousands to despair!

Yes, it remains so to this day that it pleases God to justify and save the godless through “foolish sermons,” through the preaching of God’s grace for guilty, remorseful sinners. No one is saved by works but only by grace through faith so that no flesh can boast. This is brought about by the power of salvation of the gospel of the Son of God, by redemption through His suffering and death on the cross, by the cleansing of our sins through His precious blood. Yes, “nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved” (Acts 4:12) than in the name of Jesus Christ!

E. M.



Radio Program Message of Salvation

Friedrich Krebs, Kitchener (ON)

“Jesus the Christ Heals You”

Can we also confidently share this message with those who are sick and suffering?

We find this powerful message in Acts 9:32-35! Aeneas from Lydda must have been very startled to hear this. For eight years, he had been lying on his bed when Peter suddenly stood before him with this amazing message. Had Aeneas ever heard of divine healing? Had the saints who dwelt in Lydda ever told him? Or had he never really believed it? Peter spoke these words with firm conviction and deep faith. Now Aeneas could grasp this message and believe it. God worked the miracle of healing on his sick body, and after eight years of being ill, he stood up immediately. “So all who dwelt at Lydda and Sharon saw him and turned to the Lord” (Acts 9:35). Jesus Christ did the healing. Peter was just His messenger.

Divine healing of the body is an irrefutable fact in the Bible.

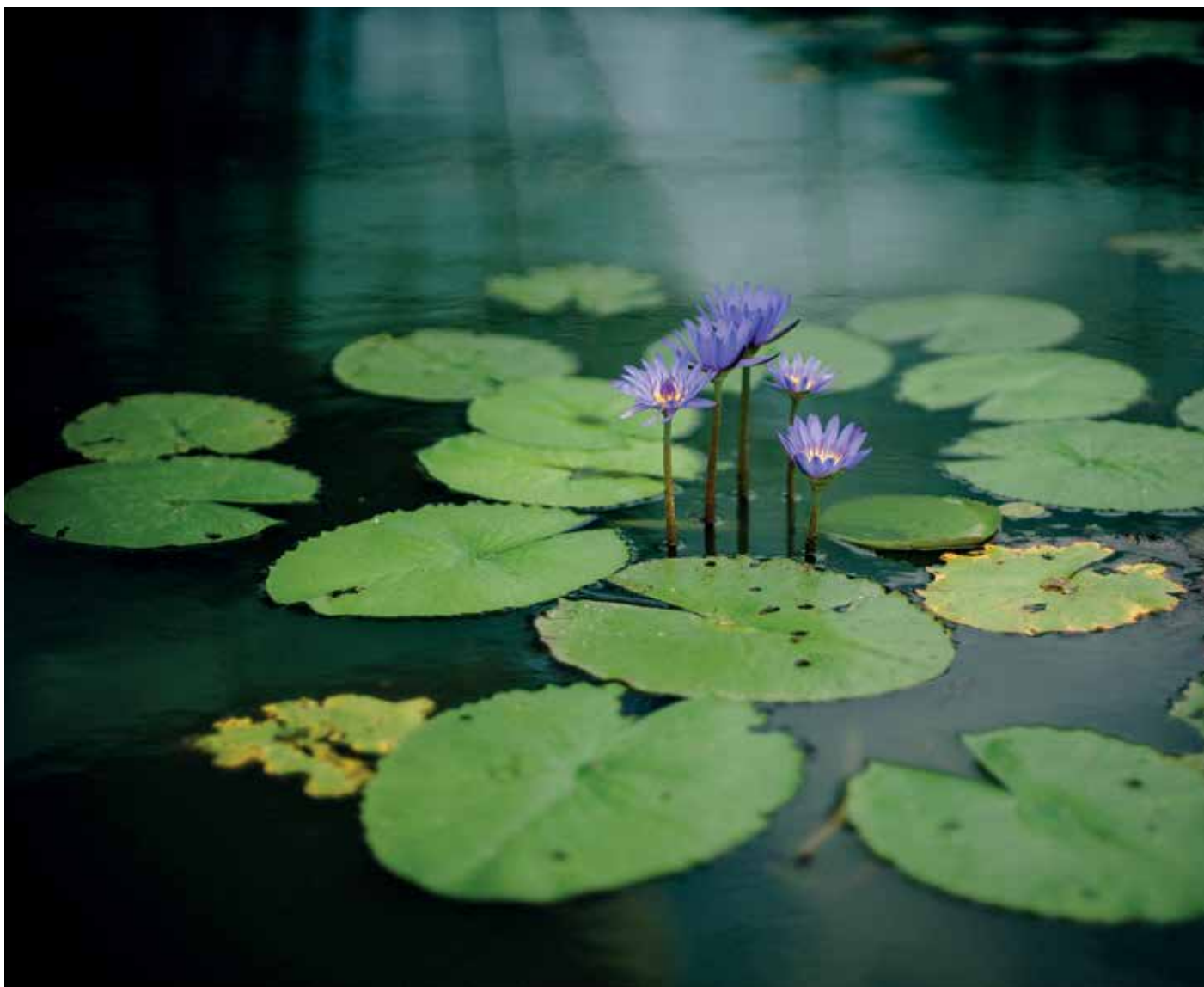
It is included in God’s plan of salvation. The prophet Isaiah spoke of this: “Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows” (Isaiah 53:4). God is interested in the well-being of our soul as well as our body. John emphasized this when he wrote: “Beloved, I pray that you

may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (3 John 2). A healthy soul is unquestionably the most important, but having a healthy body is also a great blessing.

The foundation for divine healing is faith in the Word of God. When a scribe asked Jesus the question as to how one receives eternal life, Jesus answered: “What is written in the law? What is your reading of it?” (Luke 10:26) He pointed him to the Word. Likewise, we should believe and obey what God’s Word tells us about divine healing. When Jesus walked this earth, He healed people. And wherever the full gospel is preached today, the truth of divine healing is included.

Divine healing is not irrational.

It is also not a thing of the past. Jesus explicitly emphasized that the preaching of the gospel would continue until the end of the world. For this purpose, certain gifts were necessary. In 1 Corinthians 12, Paul testifies that God equipped people with various gifts: the gift to speak, to teach, to interpret, and to heal. The healing of the body



is in God's plan. However, this does not mean that God will heal every case and all the time. God has the power to heal, but we must remember that our bodies are mortal, since "it is appointed for men to die once" (Hebrews 9:27). There will come a time when the patient will not recover. The patient, and also the prayers that are prayed on his behalf, are under the will of God. God has reserved the right to heal someone immediately, to let another wait, and not to restore the third.

When looked at this way, divine healing is ultimately a mystery for us. In cases of illness, we often do not know how we should pray, as stated in Romans 8:26. The Spirit of God intercedes for us. He will make it plain to the sincere seeker how they ought to pray. Should God choose not to heal in one case does not mean that He will not heal in another.

Divine healing is by God's will. However, there are certain conditions:

- The patient must confess any sins before God (James 5:16).
- The ones praying must be one with God and one with each other (Matthew 18:19).
- Together, they must produce the necessary faith, because healing is promised through a prayer of faith. In Capernaum, Jesus could not perform many mighty works "because of their unbelief" (Matthew 13:58).

If the essential conditions are met, we can experience healing by faith today. "Jesus Christ heals," and it is in His power to do so for you as well, because "[He] forgives all your iniquities, [He] heals all your diseases" (Psalm 103:3). Praise be to God forever!

Friedrich Krebs

From Suffering to Glory

“My brethren, take the prophets, who spoke in the name of the Lord, as an example of suffering and patience” (James 5:10).

By taking a closer look at the lives of the saints, one can discover why God has led them down certain difficult paths. The Bible and everyday life demonstrate that God can only prepare His workers by leading them down these paths. It is in this school of suffering that we experience God’s refining fire, which purifies us and rids us of everything that hinders.

If we do not take time to be still and commune with God in the daily hustle and bustle, then God cannot reveal His Word to us. But because God loves us, He finds ways to meet us and advance our spiritual lives. He leads us into the school of suffering, and then He works on us in earnest. When we realize God’s purpose in this matter, we will join James in saying, “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials” (James 1:2).

It is wonderful when we, in deep stillness, feel God’s presence as He purifies us, and when we hear His voice as He comforts us. If we have experienced that God has something special to say to us, then let us be still and say with Samuel, “Speak, for Your servant hears” (1 Samuel 3:10). Without question, God has something special to say to us each time He removes us from the daily hustle and bustle and places us on the sickbed. What a privilege

for those whom God chooses to prepare for His service in this way!

Satan is another cause of suffering; an example of this kind of suffering is Job. Satan tries to convince us that we are not in a right relationship with God. He shows us our weaknesses and failures. However, if everything between God and us is good, then we can say, “Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?” (Job 2:10). Job considered his suffering as something evil, but God only wants to bring His children peace, not pain. God has revealed great secrets to His people through their suffering. God’s love and mercy are immeasurable.

When Jesus walked this earth, He was often with the sick and suffering. He not only brought them comfort, but He also brought them healing. He is still the same today, and His power to heal has not diminished. He is the great doctor; He strengthens our faith as He heals body and soul. The Christian’s faith is based on fact. The Lord has taken all sickness upon Himself; we need only go to Him. Through faith and trust, the school of suffering will not be a burden to us. If we acknowledge that God uses our suffering for good, then these words can be a comfort to us: “Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty. For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole” (Job 5:17-18). Indeed, His Word is truth. The road of suffering leads to glory!



God Can Still Heal Today

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ can still heal sicknesses of every kind today. He can do this just as easily as He did when He walked on earth. At that time, He healed all who came to Him in faith and asked for healing.

“However, the report went around concerning Him all the more; and great multitudes came together to hear, and to be healed by Him of their infirmities. . . . And the power of the Lord was present to heal them” (Luke 5:15-17). The Lord Jesus did not just heal a few individuals; He healed many who came to seek His help.

Perhaps someone may ask: “Why are so few people being healed today?” What is certain is that it is not that Jesus does not have power to heal anymore. He has not changed. In Hebrews 13:8, we read that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.” In Christ’s personal ministry, preaching and healing went together hand in hand. That is the way it should be today. Divine healing is part of the gospel. There should be no doubt about that.

It is just as easy for Christ to heal our body as our soul. Recall the incident when the paralytic was brought to Jesus in order to be healed, and the Lord asked the Pharisees whether it is easier to say: “‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk?’” (Matthew 9:5). Those Pharisees did not doubt that Jesus could heal because they saw that He healed all sorts of illnesses. Yet they doubted His authority and power to forgive sins. Jesus gave them positive proof that He had power to do both.

In the last assignment that Jesus gave His disciples, He also gave them power to heal the sick. We find that the disciples made use of this power. In Acts 5:15, we read “that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on them.”—And they were healed.

Some people say: “I know that Jesus healed while He was on earth, but since the days of the Apostles this has ceased.” But if part of the Word of God is valid for us today, then all of it is valid. Should God have suspended His promises? Peter says in reference to the Holy Spirit: “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” (Acts 2:39). In like manner, all the promises of God are valid for those who claim them in faith and obedience.

What God does for one, He is willing to do for all, for He is not a God who shows partiality. Peter realized this in Acts 10:34-35, where we read: “Then Peter opened his mouth and said: ‘In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality. But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.’”

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all people. And healing is also something for you, dear reader. Leave your doubts aside and claim that which the Lord says in His Word. Look to God with childlike faith and full trust and be certain that He will hear and answer your prayers that come from the heart.

Henry G. Johnson



DIVINE HEALING

Divine Healing Made Personal

God knows each of us and even in sickness leads us in unique ways. Trust Him with your life and He will bring it to a good end.

Surrounding us in our congregations are many people who are sick, and others who have already succumbed to their illnesses. We may be troubled by the question: Why are so few people being healed? Although we do not question the possibility of divine healing—we believe the divine promises and know that God does not regard the person—we do hear so little of divine intervention. What is the reason? One important reason is that we do not thank God enough for healing and therefore we know so few healed people. And that weakens faith. God wants His name to be glorified in order to awaken faith.

Not infrequently, we find that some are healed, and others in a similar situation remain ill. The one is in a condition where he is ripe to receive healing and the other has not reached that point. Before going to the elders to be treated according to James 5:13, one should ask oneself: “Does God want to heal me?” It is not enough to just generally believe in divine healing. It must become a personal matter.

The story in Mark 2:1-12 recounts the experience of a paralyzed man. Here Jesus ties the health of the soul to the healing of the body (verses 8-11). As long as a person is alive, his soul cannot be separate from the body. And Jesus is ready to heal both: soul and body. Just as I can be saved and find peace with God, I can also be healed when I am sick.

Another prerequisite for healing is the removal of all spiritual obstacles. The relationship with God and, as far as it is possible, also to man, should be healthy and pure. This also includes confessing and making good before God and man (James 5:16).

The process of divine healing can often vary. One person is suddenly healed, and in others the healing process can be gradual or delayed indefinitely (2 Timothy 4:20). Then there are the cases where we “seek” healing and pray to God for a longer time. At first, this may be incomprehensible to us. But God can gradually give us clarity.

A very notable story can be found in Matthew 15:21-28. The story of the Canaanite woman shows that help can be delayed for very different reasons. But she does not give up. She follows the Master and cries for help. Ultimately, she receives what she has asked for. We should also continue to pray and not immediately give up, if the answer does not come. Jesus apparently waited until the disciples brought the woman to His attention. Because she was a Greek, He wanted to prevent causing offense.

Often, God wants to teach us how to properly handle our bodies and our health, and show us our boundaries. If, for instance, a young man wants to prove his strength out of arrogance, he will have to recognize (through pain) that his body has certain limits. I had to suffer a lot of headaches myself, because as a young man I inadequately protected my head from the cold. As a result of this action, I have to bear many impairments. I've been thinking a lot about this fact.

God has healed me many times, and I have experienced His sustaining hand time and again. And yet I am often ill. Others do not have the need to protect themselves to this extent or watch their health. They are hardly ever sick. Why is this? The main reason is my weak constitution. God helps and heals, but he does not take away our inclinations. If someone has inherited a certain weakness, he must learn to deal with this weakness properly.

An example from the Bible: Timothy had a sensitive stomach. He was often on the road. The water quality varied greatly from place to place and often caused him difficulties. His naturally weak stomach could not handle it. That is why he had these complaints. The experienced Apostle Paul therefore advised the young Timothy: "No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake" (1 Timothy 5:23).

Some may be of the opinion that it is not necessary to care for our bodies, or more specifically to take precautions against illness, but everyday life teaches us differently. It is much wiser to practice prevention and to respect the limits of one's own body so as not to become ill. But if we do become sick, we may ask God for help. Our life as children of God is in His hand. When we pray, He will guide us and send His help at the right time.

I have learned not to be discouraged by my weakness, rather to recognize the blessing. For if we are weak, we will

feel all the more dependent on God and dwell more in His presence. In the course of life, we recognize ever more clearly that all things work together for good and there is really no reason to feel disadvantaged (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

In the Apostle Paul, we can see that in the service of the Lord, a "weakness" is by no means a disadvantage. I have also experienced the fact that other brothers and sisters in the Lord are helpful when you are weak. It is encouraging to see how many people God has that serve Him wholeheartedly. I have written these ideas in the form of a testimony to bring clarity to the question of why we sometimes suffer.

Let us deal with yet another difficult question: Why do people die before they grow old, even though God heals? There are very different reasons for this, and it is difficult for us to give a satisfactory answer, but let us always remember that doubt never brings us closer to God, and melancholy thoughts distance us from God, and keep us from the riches of God. But in earnest prayer, quiet contemplation, and searching in the Scriptures, clarity can arise. God's promises become real to us, and our faith again finds a firm foundation.

It has happened that God has healed by faith and that person then dies a short time later. In the Bible, we find accounts of devoted men of God who died because of their illness. For example, we read in Genesis 48:1 that Jacob was sick, and shortly thereafter (chapter 49:33), he died. The same was the case with Elisha (2 Kings 13:14). This man of God died like other men. John 11:1 and 14 reports of Lazarus. We should not consider diseases as something extraordinary. Even a child of God can become sick and die from various causes.

Hebrews 11:32-38 reports of those who served God and lost their lives in various ways. We have also heard of the era of the martyrs. Such ideas are not simple to understand, but surely God will prepare His children if their death is to serve to His glory. Similarly, we see in Jesus in Gethsemane (John 22:43).

The lives of the children of God are in their Father's hand. There is a path for us that God wants to reveal, but the highest good is, and remains, the hope of heaven, where there will be no more suffering.

Andre Albrecht,
Eppingen (DE)

Divine Healing – From a Doctor’s Perspective

Some people may think that it is paradoxical to speak of divine healing from the viewpoint of the medical community. But as a doctor, I can confirm that God is indeed the best Physician. We live in good times. Most people, especially in wealthier nations, have access to modern medical treatment. Some Christians take every ailment to the doctor right away, and others on the other extreme expect God to help in every case and refuse all human intervention.

Using Moses as a spokesperson, God gave Israel the promise that He would be their doctor and healer. God also gave humans the wisdom and expertise to treat certain illnesses. We can conclude that doctors are therefore only tools in the hand of God whom He uses when He wishes to heal the patient.

As a surgeon, I have the privilege of seeing God’s miracles every day. The body is a very complex system, a wonderful masterpiece, created by God alone. The bodily organs and its various systems work together in such harmony and perfection that no human intelligence could create it. The brain controls the entire body. When we look at the brain itself, we are awestruck—something resembling a soft butter mass is the center of our being that regulates all our abilities and life impulses. Our heart rate and muscular coordination are all regulated here so that we are able to move, or simply breathe. When we look at the perfect structure into which the individual organs of the body have been incorporated to work together, we are amazed. There are systems that God has put in place to fight disease, develop antibodies, keep us healthy, grow

new cells, and eliminate illness. Who can in all seriousness claim that we as humans can improve or add to this incredible creation of God?

Although medicine today is in a very advanced state, the human ability to influence the course of full recovery is still limited. We study many diseases and can explain their progression and treatment but are still unable to come up with a therapy that is one hundred percent foolproof and unconditionally guaranteed. Healing, in the end, is not dependent on medication and human intervention but on God alone.

I praise God for the many experiences I have had during my professional life to see His mighty hand at work. I remember a particularly difficult case. A patient with many complications had gone through a number of operations and was transferred to our hospital. We could not perform a successful operation because the inner organs had not healed properly from previous procedures, and, in addition, the bowels were damaged. Everywhere we touched tissue in the abdomen, more injury would result. Therefore, the patient had a long and very difficult postoperative period. Sometimes, his situation was so serious that I did not expect to see him live until the next day. He was kept alive, often under critical care, until he was ready for a further operation. Then, to our amazement, we found that his bowels had healed. There were no scars to be seen, and the other inner organs looked almost normal. Only the healing power of God is able to perform this. How often had we stood at the bed of this patient, totally perplexed and helpless because we were at a loss to



do anything. One could say that during this time, God placed us, totally helpless, beside the bed of this patient in order to let us observe His healing.

Doctors can prescribe many and diverse therapies, but healing in the end is a miracle that has divine origin. It is not seldom that doctors do all in their power and apply all their knowledge and expertise only to find that they were not able to help a patient—not even able to prevent death.

One patient came to the hospital due to stomach problems. After being examined, she was diagnosed with acute pancreatitis. Right away, comprehensive therapy using medications and fluids was begun. Yet, despite our greatest efforts and intervention, the patient died three hours later. Why? We had done everything in our power. What was missing? This shows us clearly that it is not medicine or human expertise that has the power to heal.

As a doctor, I have the great privilege of experiencing and seeing the wonders of God daily. I have insight into the health system from a different perspective. When a patient who is in a lot of pain comes to us and we implement a therapy that leaves him or her without pain in just a few hours, I am thankful and very pleased. Not because we found the right therapy, or because I believe in medicine, but because I have once more experienced the power of God's help. I am especially thankful for the situations in which my own knowledge has reached its limits. I can count on the help of the best

Doctor of all. One night, I was on duty. A patient had problems breathing, so the night nurse called me. When I entered the patient's room, the situation was very dire. Hardly able to breathe, it looked bad. I prescribed some medicine and expected improvement, but an hour later, the situation had hardly changed. I did not know what to do. I went back to my room and prayed earnestly to God. I asked Him to intervene. When I returned to the station about an hour later, the patient was fast asleep as if nothing had happened.

Doctors and medicine do not have the power to heal, but God can use them as tools to assist healing. God, who promised the Israelites to be their healer, is still the same today. And the promise is for us as well: "For I am the LORD who heals you" (Exodus 15:26b). But to experience the wonders of God in our lives, our relationship with God is important. A prerequisite is faith, to believe that God can heal our illnesses. James writes: "And the prayer of faith will save the sick" (James 5:15a).

Let us first bring our illnesses and what ails us to the throne of God. God can heal us without human intervention. He is our Creator, and no one knows us better than He. But God can also use humans to assist in healing. It is important that we do not put our faith in human intervention or therapies but in the almighty God alone, who is the best of all doctors.

Patricia J. Günter,
Gifhorn (DE)

Climb Higher!

Summer is for many of us the time to go on vacation. Some head to the ocean and others choose the mountains. We leave the everyday behind to rest and relax.

Those of us who like mountains and hiking often need to get up earlier, and the higher the mountain, the more promising the view from the top. Though it may be strenuous and exhausting, it is worth climbing higher. Worries and the cares of our jobs stay behind, and for children and youth, school and their studies are forgotten. We are headed toward the clouds. The lungs breathe mountain air and when the summit is reached, what a view, what a panorama! From such a height, the field of vision is expanded; the houses in the valley have become so small, the villages and towns in the distance so insignificant.

While in such a place, our thoughts often turn to the greatness of our God! We see the essence of God in creation. We see the eternal power and divinity and recognize how small man is in comparison with the majestic mountain ranges and giant cliffs.

Climb higher! Not only up the mountains and hills of this world. Our soul also longs to leave behind the everyday and trade the hustle and bustle for mountain air. Here we can be free from earthly trappings and soar to heavenly heights.

We know, however, that there is first a narrow gate before we reach the narrow way. The watchman stands at the gate and requires that we discard all unnecessary weight—the stones of guilt and sin must be laid down. That has repulsed many because they prefer the broad path, giving in to the lust of the eyes and flesh and looking for a comfortable life while here on earth.

No matter what time period, there have always been those pilgrims who gave up the glory and wealth of this world, who preferred the divine, heavenly treasures, who were prepared to count the costs and they pressed through to eternal life. Throughout the years, so many

have had a deep inner longing, a yearning in their heart for exactly what David prayed, “Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; let them bring me to Your holy hill and to Your tabernacle” (Psalm 43:3).

Climb higher! To God’s mountains where we can breathe in the mountain air and find divine blessings and heavenly peace. Be aware that God’s Word asks each one of us, “Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who may stand in His holy place?” (Psalm 24:3).

For me it was completely clear: I, as a child of unbelief, living as a slave to sin with unclean hands, was lost and on the broad path headed to hell and damnation. I needed Christ, the Lord and Savior, and thanks be to God, salvation through His blood. Not through my own works or through my parents, but purchased by the precious blood of Jesus, cleansed from my sins and adopted as His child. Now I have been made acceptable to God and I belong to Him in order to praise His glory.

The disciples Peter, James, and John were allowed to be alone with the Son of God on the mountain. There He was transfigured before their eyes and His face shone as the sun. They then heard about God’s plans, of the outcome in Jerusalem, of His suffering, death and wonderful resurrection. Even the representatives of the law, Moses and Elijah, paled in comparison to the Lord’s glory and majesty. They saw Jesus and Jesus alone.

My dear reader, take time for the Lord, seek inner fellowship with Him. He will renew the strength of all those who wait on the Lord so that they mount up with wings like eagles, that they run and not grow weary, that they walk and not grow faint (see Isaiah 40:31).

Our desire should be the same as this song:

Bring me higher up the mountain,
in communion with only you!
In the light I see the fountain,
and Your cleansing blood.

**“I WAS GLAD WHEN THEY SAID TO ME,
‘LET US GO INTO THE HOUSE OF THE LORD.’”**

Psalm 122:1

**HOLY
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CHILDREN'S CORNER

How God Sometimes Answers Our Prayers

Inge and Renata were looking forward to the trip that their parents were planning to take them on. It was holiday season and their dad had vacation time. The day could not come quickly enough for them. Hopefully the weather would be nice; hopefully it would not rain!

The girls went to Sunday School regularly. How often they had been told that we can come to the dear Lord with all of our requests. Inge, the younger of the two sisters, knew this very well and had a firm faith, for the Lord had often answered her prayers. Yes, He hears everything that we tell Him and that we ask of Him.

“Mommy, I am praying for nice weather,” Inge said, “I know that our dear Lord will hear this prayer.”—“But Inge,” Renata interrupted, “the Lord cannot be bothered with us wanting nice weather. I am not praying for that. He won’t hear it anyway.”—

But the younger one remained steadfast. Every day, in the morning and in the evening, she prayed for good weather for their trip.

Finally, the long-awaited day arrived. Joyfully the children woke up early in the morning. But what was that? Were those not raindrops tapping on the window? The children stood at the window. Oh, how sad both faces looked! “You see,” Renata interrupted the momentary silence, “our dear God did not hear your prayer!”—“Yes,” was the soft answer, “I know it with certainty. But He just said ‘no.’”

Just as it happened to little Inge, it often happens in life. Our dear God sometimes answers our prayers differently than we expected and wanted. Inge and Renata had to postpone their trip to another day. I believe it turned out to be a nice day.

We want to continue to go to the dear Lord with everything. We can pray for all things, even if He sometimes says “no” to us.

Is Sin Still a Relevant Topic?

“Why do you Christians keep using these awfully obsolete and outdated terms?” This is an allegation that believers in Jesus Christ will be faced with from time to time.

If the follow-up question is asked: “What kind of phrases and terms are you referring to?” the response can be: “For example, who speaks about sin nowadays? Why do you Christians keep talking about it? You should talk more about the joyful and pleasant side of life. What’s the big deal? It’s just a minor offense, a harmless slip-up that can happen to anyone. Why does this need to be dramatized so much?”

Christians who speak of sin certainly do not wish to spread gloom or be enemies of joy. They see themselves as accountable for their actions which influence their relationship with God. Their actions either enhance, or hinder and break the relationship with God. That is what sin is.

When speaking of sin we aren’t just thinking about the “big” sins that carry bitter consequences in this life. Sin is also the term that describes indifference toward God and the derision that I have toward faith in Jesus Christ.

Sin also speaks of the many small and large omissions in our life. Things we should do and neglect to do. The Bible tells us: “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin” (James 4:17).

Based on this definition of sin we see that the term “sin” is still very much relevant today. It is not outdated, but a sad reality in the lives of many people.

But thankfully that is not all that the Bible says about the subject of sin. God wants to remove our sin.

“How can this be done?” This can happen when we speak to Jesus Christ in prayer and ask Him to forgive us all our sins. When we pray like that, Jesus will hear and answer our prayer. Although we can’t see Him, He is near to listen, and forgive.

Man and His Conscience

Every person has a conscience. This demonstrates the dignity and uniqueness of each individual. We speak of someone having a good, pure, calm or a bad, evil conscience. In reality a person “with no conscience” does not exist. When speaking of a person without a conscience we are talking about someone who has acted against his conscience for so long that it doesn’t bother him anymore. Such a person can lie to a friend, swindle customers, have secret affairs behind their partner’s back, or kill their child in the womb, and think nothing of it. Such a conscience is ill and jaded. It no longer works properly. It is like a faulty barometer that always shows clear weather even if it’s raining or hailing outside.

The conscience is God’s public prosecutor. Before this state prosecutor no one can hide. He finds the culprit and accuses him. His voice can be quiet or sometimes so loud that it cannot be overheard. He is in constant communication with us, late in the dark of night and during the day. Anyone who ignores this voice or even forces it to be silent is making a foolish mistake. He can be compared to the man that shot his barking guard dog during the night. This faithful animal just wanted to warn his lord that burglars were breaking in and were cleaning out his house.

You can calm your conscience without making things right, yes you can even get it to be silent. The damage that results from a silenced conscience cannot be repaired throughout all eternity.

The Right Time

*What you seek and what you need,
And what troubles you indeed,
Bring it all to God in prayer,
For He knows your every care.
Be patient, trust His will divine;
He'll hear you at the perfect time.*

*Do you feel your faith is weak?
Have you failed and now you seek
Pardon from your loving Savior?
Show your remorse and pray for favor;
Believe, my friend, and you will find
Pardon now at God's good time.*

*In the darkness of the night,
Do you see no star in sight?
Though your heart be full of sorrow,
Trust the Lord for your tomorrow;
And once more, my friend, you'll find
Jesus helps at just the right time.*

*When your life on earth is done,
The last fight is to be won,
Here below we are but strangers.
Will the Lord send you His angels?
Do not fear; at the right time
You will reach that home divine.*