

## The Truth About Healing

By

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*(This study guide is to be used with the DVD by the same title)*

In this teaching we will explore some of the scriptures about sickness, infirmities and healing. God has shown us in His Word that there is indeed hope for us when we become sick or suffer from some infirmity. We can be healed! There is a reason for every infirmity and disease. God is the source for everything. He created us and He can heal us. First, we must understand a principle that is not taught properly in the Church today. I have heard it taught by powerful people of God that all sickness comes from Satan, and NOT from God. It would be nice to think this, but unfortunately it does not line up with the Word of God, (*i.e.*, the Bible). We must understand that ALL sicknesses and infirmities come either directly, or indirectly, from God Himself. This may seem offensive to some, but please finish the teaching and pray that God will open your mind to understand this principle.

Even if the devil wants to put a sickness or infirmity on us, God must allow it, because we are His children. In some cases of demonic attack, it is our own ignorance of God's Word that opens the door for the enemy. In cases such as these, we are outside the wings of God's protection due to our own ignorance, fleshly words and lifestyles. This destruction comes from pride and a lack of knowledge of God's Word, (see **Proverbs 16:18** and **Hosea 4:6**). This principle is also clear from studying the book of **Job**, especially **chapter 2**.

God says in **Exodus 4:11** that He is responsible for making man's mouth, the mute, the deaf...the seeing and the blind. In **Isaiah 45:7**, God says that, "...I make peace and create calamity..." In **Isaiah 48:10** God tells us that He refines us not as silver, but He tests us in the 'furnace of affliction'. **Jeremiah 30:12-17** shows us that God brings on sickness and He will bring healing as well.

God says in **Deuteronomy 32:39-42** that He is the only God and that He wounds and He heals. He tells us there that He will exact judgement and vengeance on His enemies. In **James 4:4-12**, we find out that the only thing we have to do to become an enemy of God is to love and follow after the things of the world. God then considers this spiritual adultery against Him and we may well be stricken! A very important point in these scriptures in **James** as well, is the tendency for us to judge our brethren. This puts us in the judgement seat and will come back on us as the Bible tells us in **Matthew 7:1-2** and other scriptures.

King David made it clear in **Psalms chapters 38-39** that he was suffering sickness in his body as a result of his sin and it was God that was punishing him with the sickness.

God says in **Micah 6:13** that He will make the wicked sick by striking them. In **verse 14** of the same chapter in **Micah** and also in **Hosea 4:10**, we will find the key to understanding the source of obesity. God tells the wicked that they shall eat, but not be satisfied, and that hunger shall be in their midst. This is the reward for the people who are deceitful and lie, as we see in **verses 9-12** of that same chapter of **Micah**. In

**Amos 4:6** God tells us that He brings hunger to us, but we still refuse to return to Him. The key to reversing this curse is given in **verse 8** of **Micah 6**, that we *'do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God'*. **These scriptures apply to modern day believers!**

### **Examples of afflictions that God placed on people -**

To further delineate the point that God is the ultimate source of affliction, Paul tells us in **I Corinthians 11:12** and **II Corinthians 5:18** that *ALL things are from, or of, God*. This principle will help us to understand that if God created and allows sicknesses and infirmities, then He is well able to take them away. Paul himself had what he described as a thorn in his flesh. He described it as an infirmity. Paul said that it was a messenger of Satan and that it was 'given' to him, in order that it, as he said, 'buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure'. We do not know exactly what it was, but it troubled him enough for him to plead with God three times that it might depart from him. But God told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." See **II Corinthians 12:7-10**. Then Paul actually states in **verse 10** that he took pleasure in infirmities and other problems for Christ, so that Paul could, through fleshly weaknesses, be strong in Christ!

The first example of an infirmity placed upon someone from God is the curse that God gave to Eve, for believing Satan instead of God as recorded in **Genesis 3:16**. The pain of birthing children and the associated infirmity of menstruation, (see **Leviticus 12:2, KJV**) is a curse directly from God as recorded in His Word. It is a curse that was placed on ALL women who came after Eve as well, and it is still in effect today. In fact ALL curses that have come from God are still in effect, unless God has retracted them as He did the curse of the ground, (**Gen. 3:18**) after the flood, (see **Gen. 8:21**). Notice also that this curse on women is NOT a curse from the Law of Moses and is NOT subject to Christ's removal of the curse of the Law that **Galatians 3:13** speaks of. However, I believe that women can still be redeemed from that curse as well, by *living in Christ*. The more obedient women are to the Word of God, the less they will suffer with menstruation.

In **Genesis 20:1-18** and **chapter 26:6-11**, we see that God cursed the people who wanted to lay with Abraham's wife Sarah, and then in **chapter 26**, Isaac's wife Rebekah. This occurred when Abraham, then later his son Isaac, lied to the people of the land of Gerar out of fear and said that their wives were their sisters! The people of the land were not properly informed, and in Abraham's case God cursed the people of the land with the same curse that later was written in the Law of Moses, (see **Leviticus 20:21-22**). Fortunately, God lifted the curse and healed the people when Abraham was found out and prayed for the people. It was the same people that Isaac deceived as recorded in **chapter 26** of **Genesis**, only this time fortunately the people found out before God cursed them again! Read also what God did to the Israelites in **I Samuel chapter 5** and **II Samuel chapter 24**.

God records in His Word in **Exodus 15:26** that if we are obedient and follow His ways, that He will NOT put the same diseases on us that He put on Egypt, (see also **Deuteronomy 7:15, 28:14-68**, esp. vv. 59-61, **chapter 29:22** and again **chapter 32:15-52**, esp. vv. 39-42).

In **Exodus 23:25-26**, God says that He will take away our sicknesses, and there will be no miscarriages if we diligently serve Him. This also implies that He is the one who gives them to us, so therefore He can take them away.

In **Numbers chapter 12**, we see that God made Miriam a leper when she and Aaron spoke against Moses. God also healed her after seven days, (she had to be sick and outcast, in order to teach her a lesson not to judge and speak against God's anointed servant Moses). This is a lesson for us that if we speak against anointed people of God, we may become sick as a result of God's judgement. God healed Miriam only after Moses interceded on her behalf. Otherwise, she likely would have died from this dread disease that God Himself placed on her!

The lesson here is that we must control our tongue by the grace of God. We must ask God to help us in this regard, since we see from **James chapter 3** that we cannot control our tongue without God's help. I personally believe that saying things we should not say is the main reason Christians, or other people for that matter, get sick. Christians often speak evil very freely and stand in judgement of others. This brings them out from under the Law of Grace and back under the curse of the Law of Sin and Death, since this manner of speaking is a curse. This is a HEART issue, since Jesus says that 'out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks', see **Matthew 12:34** and **Luke 6:45**. We reap what we sow, (see **Genesis 8:22**, **Proverbs 18:21** and **Galatians 6:7**). We also see that this is an *abomination* to God when we speak ill of other Christians, as outlined in **Proverbs 6:12-19**, and such a person's calamity will come suddenly, and they will be 'broken without remedy', **verse 15!** **This is a very frightening set of scriptures!**

We see various other examples of God striking people with afflictions throughout the Old Testament as well, such as the ones in **I Samuel 2:27-36**, **II Kings 15:5** and **II Chronicles 21:12-20**.

***You really should study all of the blessings and curses in Deuteronomy chapters 28 through 33 inclusive to help you understand how this works.*** New Testament believers who live through Christ and by the Spirit of God, are NOT subject to the curses of the Law of Moses. However, they can take themselves out from under grace by walking in the flesh. This is what many baby Christians do. It does not matter how long a person has been in the Church, if they walk in the flesh, they will be subject to God's judgement under the Old Law! Study this concept in the books of **Galatians**, **Hebrews**, (esp., **chapters 5-6**), and **James**, (esp., **chapters 3-5**).

### **God is also our source of healing -**

Now that we know that all afflictions, including sicknesses and infirmities, are from God, we can look also to Him as the source of removal of these problems. As we saw above, God did heal Miriam after she repented. However, she had to wait 7 days to receive her healing. Therefore, she would remember the suffering and be less likely to repeat the same mistake. Her disobedience also affected a whole lot of other people, because the whole of Israel had to wait for her before they could go anywhere! Our sicknesses and infirmities are therefore a burden on others as well. Thus we cannot be selfish and stay sick, since it hurts other people, and even the whole of society! Jesus asked the man by the pool of Bethesda in **John 5:2-16**, "Do you want to be made

well?” This is because, since God gave us a free will, we must CHOOSE to be healed. Nobody has the right to heal someone who wants to be sick! The man by the pool of Bethesda answered Jesus with a bunch of whining. Now this guy had been lying by the pool for 38 years waiting for his healing! Jesus told him to get up and walk. Jesus also told the guy in essence to take his mess with him, (*i.e.*, ‘...take up your bed...’). Later Jesus found the man and told him to, “Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.” This gives us an indication that at least some infirmities are directly a punishment for sin. I often tell people that if someone has a sexually transmitted disease, it does not take a rocket scientist or PhD. of theology to tell us where that disease came from. Why then think that other diseases just mysteriously happen? The link between sin and sickness is shown also in **Psalm 103:3** and **chapters 38-39** and in **Matthew 9:1-7**.

***I believe that virtually every disease has a spiritual root.*** If we look into the Word and evaluate each situation by the Spirit of God, we can get people healed by the power of God and teach them how to STAY HEALED! Further, if we follow certain spiritual principles as outlined in the Bible, WE DO NOT HAVE TO GET SICK! Not all infirmity is related to sin as we see in the story of the man blind since birth as told in **John 9:1-38**. This man was born blind not as a result of anyone’s sin, but so that the works of God could be revealed in him, (see **verses 3-4**). He was born blind so that the power of God could be revealed through Jesus and so the man could receive salvation, (see **verses 35-38**). However, Jesus’ disciples knew the link between sin and sickness. That is why they asked Jesus whose sin caused the man to be born blind. Today the church does not teach this principle, that is why so many in the church of God are needlessly sick and often die sooner than need be.

In **I Kings 8:37-40**, we see that the type and shadow of the Old Testament tells us what we need to be aware of as New Testament believers. Here Solomon prays to God that whenever any plague, sickness, etc. comes on the people, that they, (the people of Israel, or ‘ANYONE’) may spread out their hands toward the temple of God, (which for us represents Jesus and the body of Christ as well as each individual believer), and that God would hear from heaven and forgive and give to everyone according to their hearts. This tells us that our healing is directly linked to what is in our heart. Only God truly knows our heart. Even we may not know what is the spiritual root of the illness that lies in our heart, but God knows, and Jesus says in **Matthew 13:14-15**, when He quotes **Isaiah 6:9-10**, that if we would see with our eyes, hear with our ears, understand with our hearts His message, and turn toward God, He should heal us. This again confirms that our healing is tied to our following of God’s ways from our heart. **SICKNESS IS THEREFORE A HEART ISSUE!**

I have found in my experience with healings and miracles, (and I have been a witness and a partaker in many of both), that people who are already saved will have to draw closer to the Lord and become *more* obedient in order for the healing to manifest. It is often, though not always, a process. The scriptures must be obeyed, especially those in **James 5:14-15**. However, you must read the full context of these scriptures requiring people in the Church to come to the elders for anointing with oil in the name of the Lord, and praying the prayer of faith so that they will be saved and the Lord will raise up the sick person. James speaks of judgement and other sins in the surrounding scriptures. Therein lays the key to understanding how we get sick as believers and what needs to be done in order to get well. We need to confess our sins

to God, (and if necessary to the brethren, although the latter is not always necessary) and ask Him to take the root of the problem out of our heart. When God shows us what we are doing wrong, or our wrong attitudes, speech and actions, we must submit to the Holy Spirit and the elders of the Church and come into obedience by the GRACE, (*i.e.*, power), of God. I tell people that we may not even be aware of what we are doing wrong. However, whenever God, or other OBEDIENT Spirit filled brethren point out the spiritual root of the sickness, we must release it to God. **If we do not give the problem over to God and give Him permission to correct it in us, we will NOT get well!** Now there are times when people who are sold out to the Lord and strongly anointed get sick and even die, or nearly die, from the sickness, (see **II Kings 13:14-21**, **II Kings 20:1-11**, **Philippians 2:25-30**). This is nothing to be condemned over, but they should seek the face of God for the reason they became sick and wherever possible receive a healing from Him.

The scriptures have many examples of healing. Jesus and the disciples went about healing all the sick that came to Him/them, (see **Matthew 4:23-24**, **9:35**, **Luke 9:1-11**). The key is that sick people came, or were brought to Him, or in some way the healing was requested. He did NOT heal everyone. Many people in Jesus' hometown could not be healed since they did not believe in Him as the Christ, (see **Matthew 13:54-58**, **Mark 6:1-6**, **Luke 4:16-28**, **John 4:44**). Therefore, we can understand from this that healing is also linked to our belief system. If we do not believe in healing, we will probably not be healed. We cannot ask God for a healing and then doubt that we will be healed. This is **double-mindedness** and according to **James 1:6-8** and we should **NOT EXPECT RECEIVE ANYTHING** from God!

I believe that the deeper meaning of **Isaiah chapter 58** holds the real key to understanding the truth about healing and receiving our healing quickly. If you study this chapter at a deep spiritual level, God is discussing being sold out to Him and walking what I call a 'fasted lifestyle'. I have had several discussions with powerful people of God as to whether or not these scriptures are talking about doing without food. I believe that in **Isaiah 58**, God is talking about fasting from the *heart* and NOT the *stomach*. The key to understanding this is that when the disciples could not cast out a demon, that Jesus had no problem casting it out, (see **Mark 9:17-29**). I believe that it was because Jesus lived a prayerful, 'fasted' lifestyle, and walked in **LOVE**. Do not misunderstand me, I believe that fasting from food has its place in the Christian walk, but I believe that the TRUE FASTING that is discussed in **Isaiah 58**, is an issue of the heart, just as our circumcision is to be of the heart, (see **Romans 2:28-29** and **Colossians 2:11**). Also, we see the promise from God in **Psalms chapter 91**, the Bible tells us that if we dwell with God in His secret place, that 'NO EVIL WILL BEFALL US'!

Therefore, we can live our lives free of sickness and infirmity if we walk in love and walk with God in OBEDIENCE to the Holy Spirit and the Word of God by His GRACE, (*i.e.*, the power of God to do whatever He calls us to do). This walk must be in accordance to the scriptures which describe the '*agape*' love in **I Corinthians 13** and others, as well as by the pattern established by Jesus and the Apostles as stated in **Colossians 2:6**. We must walk in LOVE for both God and our fellow man, for this IS the message of the Cross. Also, we must do EVERYTHING by the GRACE, (*i.e.*, the power of God through the Holy Spirit and the anointing), through FAITH, (*i.e.*, believing the truth that God speaks and DOING what He says, for this is LIVING

FAITH as described by **James** in **chapter 2**). *If we fulfil the scriptures by the power of God, I often tell people that God has no choice...He has to heal us!*

#### **A word about food and alcohol -**

I do not believe that we need to put ourselves under the old law of restricted eating that is outlined in the book of Deuteronomy, (see Chapter 14) in order to stay healthy. By the GRACE of God, we have to learn to raise ourselves above the natural and walk in the Spirit. *WE CAN EAT ANYTHING WE WANT, AS LONG AS WE SANCTIFY IT WITH PRAYER AND THANKSGIVING TO GOD!* This is well delineated in the scriptures that follow...God tells us in **Genesis 9:3** that *“EVERY MOVING THING THAT LIVES SHALL BE FOOD FOR YOU. I HAVE GIVEN YOU ALL THINGS, EVEN THE GREEN HERBS.”* This sounds pretty inclusive to me! We must just follow the pattern established by Jesus and give thanks for the food, asking God’s blessing on the food. This will make any food clean. Paul further delineates these principles in **Romans chapter 14**, **I Corinthians 10:16-33** and in **I Timothy 4:3-5**.

However, we must also use wisdom and be led by the Holy Spirit. Paul warns us in these scriptures that if anyone is too weak in their understanding of the Word, NOT to make that person stumble because of our greater faith. Because anyone who does not accept that we can eat, (or drink for that matter...including alcoholic beverages) anything we want after giving thanks to God, would potentially become offended by our actions. We must NOT use our greater faith to lord it over others of weaker faith. In this way we can maintain peace and not cause an OBEDIENT brother or sister in the Lord to fall, because of their doubts about these things. It is not of faith for them, and is therefore sin for them if they do not believe it is okay to eat or drink these things, (see **Romans 14:23**). For example, I try not to drink alcohol in the presence of Christians who believe that it is a sin. I try to honor them even though the Word of God says that it is okay to drink alcohol in moderation, and that it is even good for us, (see **I Timothy 5:23**). This scripture refers to wine, and anyone who tells you that the wine of that day was not fermented does not know the Word of God. If you study out the meaning of wine throughout the Bible it refers to fermented drink, and sometimes STRONGLY fermented drink. That is why Paul warned Timothy in **I Timothy 3:2-3** not to choose leaders of the church who were addicted to wine. I do not know of anyone who has ever been addicted to grape juice!

#### **Walking in divine health -**

If a Christian is ill, I believe that something is out of order in their walk with God. They must obey the scriptures in order to get well as outlined above. They must ask God from the heart to forgive them and to change them to help them get well, and stay well. They should call for the elders of the Church, be anointed with oil and pray the prayer of faith to be made well, according to **James 5:14-16**. If sin is related to the illness, these scriptures tell us that the sin will be forgiven. However, we must carefully consider that we need God’s grace to help us to *stop* the thing that opened the door for the illness. We must ask God to help us stop the sin. As I stated earlier, it is often the things we say and think that lead to the illness. The most frequent problem is judging and criticizing others, as is mentioned in **James 5:12**. It is no accident that James discussed this just before he mentioned how to get healed. Also, we find that in

**I Corinthians 11:18-34**, Paul tells the Church why many believers among them are sick and some have even died, since they are taking the Lord's supper, (*i.e.*, communion) with a wrong attitude of heart. I believe that the opposite is also true, that there is healing in taking the Lord's supper with a *right* heart, (*i.e.*, a proper attitude). *I take communion DAILY and I pray healing over my body DAILY*, laying hands on my own head and calling forth order in my body. I loose healing into my body from the throne room of heaven, (see **Matthew 16:19 and 18:18**). I also eat a reasonable diet, drink plenty of clean water, take vitamins and try to get proper rest. *I do not worry about anything and pray about everything* according to **Philippians 4:6-7**. **Jesus is our DAILY BREAD**, (see **Matthew 6:11**). **Therefore, we must THANK GOD DAILY FOR OUR HEALING to be certain that we stay healed and healthy. MOST IMPORTANTLY, WE MUST BE OBEDIENT TO GOD!** I believe that these are the keys to walking in divine health according to the Word of God.

**To sum up -**

It is quite clear from the scriptures, both Old and New Testaments, that **GOD IS THE SOURCE OF BOTH OUR SICKNESSES AND HEALING!** Jesus said in **Revelation 3:19** that those whom He loves, He rebukes and chastens, (see also **Proverbs 3:11**). Often the chastening comes in the form of sickness, (see **Job 33:12-33** and **chapter 36**, especially **verses 5-21**, all in the *New Living Translation*). Again, King David was well aware of this principle as outlined in **Psalms chapters 38 and 39**. Sickness is like a 'spiritual spoon' that God uses to keep His children in line. If you take notice, many Christians suffer from illness more than non-believers. If God does not chasten us, then we are not His children. If He chastens us, especially with sickness, then He is showing His love for us (see **Hebrews 12:3-17** and **Revelation 3:19**). I tell people that if it takes cancer to keep someone out of the lake of fire, then it will be worth it in the long run. If we would judge ourselves, (*i.e.*, admit our shortcomings and repent before God), then we would not be judged and would likely not suffer sickness at God's hand. However again, this chastening is designed to keep us out of condemnation and eventually the lake of fire, (see **I Corinthians 11:31-32** and **Revelation 20:15**). Remember that we are God's children and He will not allow Satan to touch us without a reason, any more than anyone would let another person lay a hand on their child without their permission. Thus, any sickness coming at the hand of Satan has to be allowed by God, (see the entire story of **Job** in the book of the Bible by the same name).

Obedience to God is the ultimate way for us to stay healthy. The Bible tells us in **I Peter 4:1-2** that Jesus suffered in the flesh **FOR US!** It says that **WE** must therefore be prepared to suffer as well. It tells us there that a person who suffers in the flesh has ceased from sin. This means that when we get sick as a result of doing something wrong, and we understand this concept, then we are likely going to purpose in our hearts to ask God to help us not to continue in that sin, not living in the flesh, but walking in the spirit, (see verse 2). **Hebrews chapter 12** also covers this concept about God's chastening, (*i.e.*, punishment), that lasts only for a time, but **IF WE STRAIGHTEN THE PATH THAT WE WALK**, (*i.e.*, walk obediently to God), see verse 13), **WE WILL BE HEALED!** **Jesus suffered for our sins and 'by His stripes we are healed'**, (see **Isaiah 53:4-5** and **I Peter 2:24**). *We are NOT supposed to suffer continuously with sickness or disease*, as Jesus already paid the price for us to stay healthy and be healed if we get sick. However, we must step into our position in the

Body of Christ and begin to obey God and live by the Word of God in order to stay under GRACE, otherwise we WILL be sick. When we are disobedient to God, we are subject to greater punishment than those who were under the old Law of Moses. God tells us this in His Word, (see **Hebrews 10:26-30**)!

Jesus has given us, as His believers, the authority and power to both forgive sins and get people healed, (see **Matthew 9:2-8, 10:1, 16:13-19, 18:18-20, 28:18-20, Mark 2:1-12, 3:14-15, 13:34-37, 16:15-20, Luke 5:17-26, 9:1-2, 10:17-24, 24:45-50, John 1:12-13, 12:42-50, 13:20, 17:2, vv. 20-26, 20:14-23**). We are called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ and help to bring people into the Kingdom of God through SALVATION, but also to lead those who come into the Kingdom into VICTORY. Let us begin to be absolutely OBEDIENT to God, walk in LOVE and stay healthy! Amen.

ADDENDUM: One scripture was misquoted in the DVD when speaking about Jesus and is correctly represented as follows –

**John 1:4** - <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. <sup>1</sup>

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1 *The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, (Nashville, Tennessee: Thomas Nelson, Inc.) 1982.