

"WEEKLY WISDOM"
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For The Week of 04.12.10

"HEALING – HOW TO GET IT • PART #1"

Acts 10:38 how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

There has been over the years much confusion about healing and whether it is God's will to heal all. Has healing passed away, and if God is able to heal will He heal me? One thing about confusion that I think almost anyone can relate to during tax time is if you have done your own taxes before and try to keep up with all the changes in the tax laws it is quite confusing. I believe this year alone there were around 1800 changes made. Before I had someone do my taxes years ago when I did them myself, dealing with many different things was confusing. Once confusion set in frustration followed, not to mention fear of the unknown.

This is much the same when it comes to different areas in which people don't have a full understanding of the facts. Many are confused about healing for different reasons. Some are confused because they lack proper understanding of God's Word. Others are confused because of their own challenges or others they have seen who haven't been healed. One thing the Bible tells us about confusion is the fact that evil is at work where confusion exists. So it is no wonder why the devil has worked very hard through religious tradition of man, and through circumstances in people's lives to keep them confused about healing. This week I want to begin a series from God's Word to try and take away the confusion about healing. No matter what you have heard or seen or dealt with in your own personal life, please be open to listen to the scriptures and the Holy Spirit who is our teacher as we uncover the truth about how to get healing.

Our foundation text that I start this study with is from Acts 10:38 where we see that God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and power, who then went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil. The first thing I want to deal with is where does sickness, disease, and the mal-functioning of bodies come from? Even though you may know the answer, stick with me because it is not only important to continue in the things you have learned, you may learn something new.

Many attribute in one of two ways sickness and disease to God. We will discuss these two ways in a moment but I want to start with directing your attention to our foundation verse that tells us Jesus went about

doing good and healing ALL who were "oppressed of the devil". This is the first of many scriptures that reveal to us that this is a work of the devil, it is not of God. If sickness or disease comes from God then why would God anoint Jesus to go about getting rid of something He had given people? Those who claim God put the sickness or disease on them to teach them something should not be going to the doctor to try and get rid of what they have. If God gave it to them why would you be trying to get rid of something God wanted you to have? If you want a proper picture of God the Father though just look at Jesus. Jesus said if you have seen me you have seen the Father. Jesus did not put sickness on anyone.

Ex. 15:25 So he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast *it* into the waters, the waters were made sweet. There He made a statute and an ordinance for them, and there He tested them,

Ex. 15:26 and said, "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."

Here is one of the area's in scripture where when read it certainly sounds like God is the one who brought diseases upon the Egyptians, and would also bring them upon His people if they didn't obey His commands. First realize that the Old Testament was originally written in Hebrew. Hebrew scholars tell us that the verb form of the word for "put" in the Hebrew text is in the permissive sense and not the causative. They say there is not a proper English word to describe this and therefore it was translated as "put". The permissive sense of the word means that God has no choice but to permit it, but God did not cause it.

When Adam sinned in the garden he gave place to the devil to gain access into this world. Jesus called him the ruler of this world, and Paul called him the god of this world. Because of what Adam did, God who had given authority over to man in relationship to this world we live in had to allow this because of man's choice. If you allow someone who is of age to borrow your car and they go out and get in a wreck you did not cause the wreck, but you could not stop it either because you gave authority to that person to drive your car when you gave them the keys. God gave man the keys so to speak over the earth and man gave them to the devil.

In the Old Testament if man obeyed God he gave God authority over his life and in doing so God could fulfill His ability in man to heal his body, but if man disobeyed God he was then yielding to the ruler of this world and thus giving him a place of authority in which the devil could bring sickness and disease upon him. God had no choice, because of man's choice man did not come to his physician God, therefore He could not help him. Take note of verse 26 above for God clearly states that He is

the Lord who heals them. The Hebrew word here is Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord our healer or physician.

Physicians who care about their patients are not putting sickness and disease on their patients. They are trying to help them get well. If this is true of a human who does not have the same love and compassion that God has for us, how could we ever think that God who is our healer, our physician, wants to put sickness on us? The second line of thought here is that God may not have given me this sickness or disease, but He allowed it to come upon me. This is not clearly the case in the text here from Exodus 15 for God tells them that what would determine if they became sick or not was not something He allowed, but a choice they made. This would be the same as us choosing not to go to a physician who could help us. The physician is not allowing you to be sick, you simply are not going to them for help.

Realize that today not all sickness and disease comes as a result of a wrong choice we may have made, although it can be. As medical science has shown us through many different forms of research there are things that are obviously going to increase your risk for different types of sickness and disease. For example if one smokes, and it is proven that smoking causes cancer, we increase the risk of getting cancer. The important thing to remember here is that we have a physician who can and will heal us if we will do what is needed on our part. The most important part we play today is our faith in what He has done for us which we will get to later on in this study. But you must settle once and for all in your heart that it is not God who is bringing sickness and disease upon you, nor is He just allowing it to happen for some higher purpose. He is the one who has healing for us not sickness.

John 11:3 So the sisters sent a messenger to tell Jesus, "Lord, your close friend is sick."

John 11:4 When Jesus heard the message, he said, "His sickness won't result in death. Instead, this sickness will bring glory to God so that the Son of God will receive glory through it."

Many have taken this story of Lazarus and have declared that sickness can be for the purpose of bringing glory to God. This implies again that God brings or allows us to get sick which goes against what the Bible teaches. Jesus knew before word was ever brought to Him that God was going to raise Lazarus from the dead. Lazarus getting sick did not bring glory to God. God showing forth His power through His Son to raise him from the dead proved His superiority over all sickness and disease, even that which brought about death. When Lazarus was raised from the dead the people glorified God. They were not glorifying God when he was sick.

Matt. 7:11 So if you, even though you are bad, know how to give your children gifts that are good, how much more will your Father in heaven keep giving good things to those who keep asking him!

If earthly physicians who care about their patients do not bring sickness or disease upon them, "HOW MUCH MORE" will our loving heavenly Father not bring sickness upon us, but bring healing to those who ask Him in faith! Jesus went about healing all who were oppressed of the devil, not oppressed of God. Jesus was made manifest to destroy the works of the devil. So settle in your heart forever that God is not the one who is making us sick. He is our physician who wants us well. He is Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord our Healer!