

JESUS THE HEALER

God heals because it is His will



Colleen McLean

2 Peter 3:18

“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. All glory to him, both now and forever! Amen.”

God Heals Because It Is His Will

God's willingness to heal is affirmed throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Healing is not only God's will but part of the redemption accomplished by Jesus Christ through His atoning death. Numerous biblical accounts—from the Passover Lamb in Exodus to the healing ministry of Jesus—demonstrate God's desire to restore and make whole.

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God Is Just As Willing To Heal Us As He Is To Save Us

We become Christians because we know that it is God's will to save us. Somebody told us, or we read it somewhere. God is just as willing to heal us as He is to save us. The scriptures that assure us that it is God's will that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth (1 Timothy 2:4), assure us that it is God's will to heal. To pray for healing and then say, "If it be your will, God," is faith-destroying. Matthew 8:16-17 tells us clearly.

"That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases" (Matthew 8:16-17).

It is confirmed for us in 1 Peter 2:24, "He (Jesus) personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for

what is right. By his wounds you are healed." Jesus bore our sins, our sicknesses and diseases. We must believe the authority of His Word.

To believe all the promises of God, we have to know what they are. The writer of Hebrews encourages us.

"So do not throw away this confident trust in the Lord. Remember the great reward it brings you! Patient endurance is what you need now, so that you will continue to do God's will. Then you will receive all that he has promised." (Hebrews 10:35–36).

Build On The Basics

“So let us stop going over the basic teachings about Christ again and again. Let us go on instead and become mature in our understanding. Surely we don’t need to start again with the fundamental importance of repenting from evil deeds and placing our faith in God” (Hebrews 6:1).

We have to build on the basics. The passage encourages us to "go on, and become mature in our understanding." We have His word for forgiveness of sin and healing for our bodies (1 John 2:2; Colossians 1:14, 3:13; Ephesians 1:7; Matthew 8:17; 1 Peter 2:24; 2 Peter 1:3–4; 1 John 3:8; Psalm 103:2–3; Isaiah 53:4–6).

Events That Prefigured Calvary

In Exodus chapter 12, the Israelites were required to eat the flesh of the passover Lamb for physical strength for the flight. All who left Egypt were healed. The apostle Paul tells us: "Christ, our Passover Lamb, has been sacrificed for us" (1 Corinthians 5:7).

The Brazen Serpent

In Numbers 21:1–9, we read about a plague of fiery serpents. Subsequently, Moses made a bronze serpent for the nation to look upon and be spared death from the snake bites. When the afflicted people of Israel looked upon the brazen serpent, they were saved. It was a picture of Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself said in John 3:14–15. And as Moses lifted up the bronze snake on a pole in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.” As the Israelite’s curse of death was removed by the lifting up of the brazen serpent, so the apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 3:13, “But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When he was hung on the cross, he took upon himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

Scholars tell us that a bronze serpent is a picture of sin judged and dealt with. Jesus, who knew no sin, became sin for us, and our sin was judged in Him. Many traditions show a serpent wrapped around the pole, and this is the source for the ancient figure of healing and medicine.

It is interesting that during Hezekiah’s reign as king of Judah, people took something

used by God for good and worshipped it as an idol. We read in 2 Kings 18:4 that Hezekiah “removed the pagan shrines, smashed the sacred pillars, and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke up the bronze serpent that Moses had made, because the people of Israel had been offering sacrifices to it. The bronze serpent was called Nehushtan.” This shows how people can make idols of religious items and traditions, thus forgetting the truth behind them. However, Hezekiah continued to trust in the LORD, and he remained faithful.

Leviticus Chapters 14 and 15 give instructions for healing, cleansing of a house from mildew, and cleansing from a bodily discharge and a woman on her period. The cleansing required washing, plus the death of a lamb, a turtle dove or a pigeon. (Leviticus 14:5, 10, 30; 15:15). All these requirements prefigure Calvary. In the book of Leviticus, we read,

"The priest will apply the oil remaining in his hand to the head of the person being purified. Through this process, the priest will purify the person before the LORD.
"Then the priest must present the sin offering to purify the person who was cured of the skin disease. After that, the priest will slaughter the burnt offering and

offer it on the altar along with the grain offering. Through this process, the priest will purify the person who was healed, and the person will be ceremonially clean" (Leviticus 14:18–20).

In the Gospel of Luke, we read that Jesus openly preached at the onset of His earthly ministry, "That the time of the LORD's favor has come," (Luke 4:18–19), referring to the Old Covenant year of Jubilee, which was typical of the blessings under the New Covenant. Leviticus 25:9,10 shows us that the year of Jubilee was announced by the blowing of a trumpet on the Day of Atonement. On this day, Aaron was to bring a young bull as a sin offering and a ram for a burnt offering, and two male goats for a sin offering (Leviticus 16:3, 5). The young bull and the goat were slaughtered, and the blood was sprinkled on the mercy seat (Leviticus 16:14). This made atonement for the uncleanness of the children of Israel (v 16). By the sprinkling of the goat's blood, atonement was made for the temporary remission of sins.

Leviticus 16:21–22 shows us that Aaron laid both his hands on the head of the live goat and confessed over it all the sins of Israel and chose a man to lead it into the wilderness. This is a picture of when Jesus took all our sins away

forever. Then Aaron burned the fat of the two sin offerings on the altar while the flesh and the offal were burned outside the camp (25–27). Leviticus 16:30 says, "For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD."

Notice that only the High Priest made the atonement. Jesus suffered and died alone and unassisted as the perfect atonement for us. In Mark 15:34 we read, 'At three o'clock Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?" which means "My God, my God, why have you abandoned me?"

After a sacrificial meal at Shiloh, Hannah prayed for a son whom she promised to give back to God. In due time, she gave birth to a son and named him Samuel (1 Samuel 1:9–29).

Other Instances Of Miraculous Healing In The Old Testament

Exodus 15 recounts the Israelites' miraculous journey through the Red Sea. They were fleeing captivity in Egypt, and God parted the Sea for them to pass through. When they reached the other side, God introduced Himself as their healer, saying, "I am the LORD who heals you" (Exodus 15:26). And God has not changed. He is Jehovah Rapha. This fact is settled in heaven; it has not changed. God did not leave the people in doubt concerning His willingness to save and heal. It is still God's will to heal everyone who comes to Him.

In Numbers 12:1–16, Miriam led her brother Aaron in a rebellion against Moses, resulting in God allowing her to contract leprosy. Though Moses prayed for her to be healed, God let her be a leper for seven days before healing her, and she was kept outside the camp for seven days, and after that she may be accepted back (Numbers 12:14).

Genesis 20:17 Abraham prayed for Abimelech, his wife, and his female servants so that they could have children.

In Genesis 21:1–7, Isaac was conceived by Abraham and Sarah, even though Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

Naaman dipped himself in the Jordan River seven times as a point of contact to be healed of leprosy (2 Kings 5:10-14).

In the Psalms, King David recognised the healing nature of God (Psalm 103:2-3).

King Hezekiah, who during a grave sickness was told his days had come to an end, and to place his house in order (2 Kings 20:1-7, 2 Chr 32:24-26). But that night, he desperately prayed to the Lord God, and God sent the prophet Isaiah to tell the king that God had heard his prayers and had added 15 years to his life.

The prophet Elisha prayed to God to heal a woman so she could give birth to a son (2 Kings 4:8-17). When the son was older, he died and Elijah raised the boy from the dead. (2 Kings 4:18-37). Then Elisha returned to Gilgal, and there was a famine in the land, and his servant said, "Put a large pot on the fire, and make some stew for the rest of the group. One of the young men went out into the field to gather herbs and came back with a pocketful of wild gourds. He shredded them and put them into the pot without realising they were poisonous. After they ate a mouthful, they cried out, "There's poison in the stew." So they could not eat it. Elisha said, "Bring me some flour." Then he threw it into the pot and said, "Now it's all

right; go ahead and eat.” And then it did not harm them. And when they gave it to the people, there was plenty for all and some left over, just as the LORD had promised (2 Kings 4:38–42).

There are many stunning miracles throughout the Old Testament. I have listed just a few for the purpose of demonstrating God’s willingness to restore and heal those who are His.

Romans 15:4 Paul writes, “Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises to be fulfilled.” God wants you to know His Word. We are inspired and encouraged so we can live in expectation of a healing miracle every day.

We Are Under A Better Covenant of Grace

Hebrews 10:4 says, "For it is not possible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins." Jesus is our sinless Great High Priest (Hebrews 4:14–15), appointed by God to enter the Holy of Holies with His blood, who reconciled us to the Father, the one and only mediator to make intercession for us. Paul wrote, "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him" (Romans 5:9).

We learn here that every promise under the New Covenant is available to us through Christ's atonement. 1 Peter 2:24 tells us that Jesus personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right, and by "his wounds you are healed." Just as Jesus' death made Atonement for our sins, so His stripes, wounds and bruises atoned for every sickness, mental disease and infirmity. He was the Lamb that was slain for us. He heals us from the effects of sin and death in our bodies. His stripes are the price of our healing, the evidence, if you like, that 'it is finished'. Jesus suffered the sickness, so we don't have to. Jesus paid for our sins and provided for our healing as part of our

redemption. He bore our sicknesses is a valid reason that it is God's will to heal every time.

We Are Redeemed From The Curse of Death

Through the finished work of the cross, we are redeemed from the curse of death, body, soul and spirit. Disease is a part of the curse of the law. But Jesus has redeemed us from the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13). Someone say Hallelujah! And Romans 6:14, Paul tells us that you and I are “no longer living under the requirements of the law. Instead, we live under the freedom of God’s grace.” Sin and sickness no longer have dominion over us.

In Acts 10:38, Peter preached to the Gentiles, “And you know that God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. Then Jesus went around doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.” Jesus healed all who were under the influence of lies and the tyranny of the devil. He came to destroy and undo the works of the devil (1John 3:8). He took our sicknesses and diseases (Matthew 8:17).

Paul tells us in 1Corinthians 6:20 that “God bought you with a high price. So you must honour God with your body.” Our health was expensive; it cost Jesus His life. The redemption of our bodies, souls and spirits was bought at a considerable price.

Furthermore, Jesus said that miracle signs would follow those who believe. Mark 16:18 says, “They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won’t hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed.” And Mark 6:56 tells us that all who touched him were healed.

The atoning death of the Lord Jesus secured for us not only the saving of our souls but also the healing of our bodies. Salvation and healing are a done deal. It is God’s will to save and to heal us.

It Is God's Will To Heal

A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. He desperately implored Jesus, saying, "If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean". Jesus corrected his statement by replying, "I am willing, be healed!" Instantly, the leprosy disappeared, and the man was healed (Mark 1:40–42). It is God's will to heal. The age of miracles is not past. God's Word is settled in Heaven.

In Psalm 103, David tells his soul to praise the LORD with his whole heart, to praise his holy name. David sang, "Let all that I am praise the LORD; may I never forget the good things he does for me. He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases." (Psalm 103:1–3). Isaiah declared the truth of our atonement.

"Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God, a punishment for his own sins! But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed. All of us, like sheep, have strayed away. We have

left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the sins of us all"(Isaiah 53:4–6).

Weaknesses is the Hebrew word *chōlîy*, which is translated as disease, grief and sicknesses (Strong's Concordance). Sorrows is the Hebrew word *mak'ôb*, which means anguish or (figuratively) affliction: grief, pain, sorrow. So we could say, "Yet it was our 'sickness' he carried; it was our pains that weighed him down."

Confirmed for us in Matthew 8:16–17 which says, "That evening many demon-possessed people were brought to Jesus. He cast out the evil spirits with a simple command, and he healed all the sick. This fulfilled the word of the Lord through the prophet Isaiah, who said, "He took our sicknesses and removed our diseases."

In Isaiah verses 4 and 5, we see Jesus dying for our—

- Sickness and pain (He was whipped so we could be healed)
- Rebellion (He was pierced for our rebellion)
- Sin (He was crushed for our sins)
- Health, mental and spiritual (He was beaten so we could be whole).

Jesus carried our sicknesses away from us. In Leviticus, we read where the sins of Israel were laid on a goat and it carried them away into the wilderness (Leviticus 16:22). Jesus bore, suffered all our sins and sicknesses and carried them away, removing them from us. John 1:29 says, “John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” It was a substitutional sacrifice. He bore every sickness, disease, infirmity and every sin, plus the guilt of sin. He took them on Himself; He suffered them and took them away.

CONCLUSION

Bearing and removal of sin, sickness and disease is central to the finished work of the cross, and cannot be denied. We cannot truthfully say that God heals “If it is His will.”

Knowing God’s Word Brings The Evidence Of Things Hoped For

Proverbs 4:20-22

“My child, pay attention to what I say.
Listen carefully to my words. Don’t lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.”

We are to “pay attention, listen carefully to the Word of God. By keeping our eyes on the Truth, we let the Word penetrate deep into our hearts and watch it bring healing and life. His words are life. We pay attention to the whole truth of God’s Word. Instead of looking at our symptoms, we look at Jesus the Healer.

Faith is based on the knowledge we have let penetrate deep into our hearts, and everything we need to know about God’s will is

revealed in God's Word. The apostle Peter said in 2 Peter 1:3–4

“By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence. And because of his glory and excellence, he has given us great and precious promises. These are the promises that enable you to share his divine nature and escape the world's corruption caused by human desires” (2 Peter 1:3–4).

We renew our minds to the truths of God's Word to the point where we see the miraculous happen. Knowledge of a few fundamental truths, when understood and applied, will, like a seed planted in good soil, produce a hundredfold. Understand this—God has already placed His healing power within us, and we have His authority. It's our failure to understand and use the authority we have that is keeping God's healing power from flowing as it should.

It's never God's will for us to be sick; He wants every person healed every time. James

4:7 says, “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” Sickness does not come from God, so we resist it, and it must flee from us. If God gives us sickness, why do we pray for healing?

3 John 2 says, “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.” John was writing a letter to believers under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. God wants us healthy just as much as He wants us to prosper emotionally and mentally.

We read in Exodus 15:26 where God promised protection from the diseases that afflicted the Egyptians if the Israelites would follow His laws. Healing was conditional on the Israelites’ obedience. But, under the New Covenant, healing is freely available because of what Jesus gained for us at Calvary.

Exodus 15:25–26

“So Moses cried out to the LORD for help, and the LORD showed him a piece of wood. Moses threw it into the water, and this made the water good to drink. It was there at Marah that the LORD set before them the following decree as a standard to test their faithfulness to him. “He said, “If you will listen carefully to the voice of

the LORD your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and keeping all his decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; for I am the LORD who heals you.”

The Hebrew word for heals is *râphâ'*, *râphâh* pronounced raw-faw', raw-faw'. Strong's Concordance tell us that it is a primitive root; properly to mend (by stitching), that is, (figuratively) to cure: cure, (cause to) heal, physician, repair, X thoroughly, make whole. The word occurs 67 times. He is the God who heals!

Malachi prophesied in Chapter 4:2 about the coming of the Messiah: “But for you who fear my name, the Sun of Righteousness will rise with healing in his wings. And you will go free, leaping with joy like calves let out to pasture.”

God alone was able to heal the wounds of His broken people (Hosea 5:13, 6:1; 7:1). A true leader in Israel was to heal and care for the people of Israel (Zechariah 11:16).

Zechariah 11:15

Then the LORD said to me, “Go again and play the part of a worthless shepherd.

This illustrates how I will give this nation a

shepherd who will not care for those who are dying, nor look after the young, nor heal the injured, nor feed the healthy. Instead, this shepherd will eat the meat of the fattest sheep and tear off their hooves. "What sorrow awaits this worthless shepherd who abandons the flock! The sword will cut his arm and pierce his right eye. His arm will become useless, and his right eye completely blind."

Zechariah prophesies to the remnant of Israel who had returned to Palestine after the Babylonian captivity. He warns them that foolish shepherds will come to His people, and will not care for the flock, nor heal those who are broken, sick and dying. He reveals the Good Shepherd, the Lord Jesus, who was sold for thirty pieces of silver, nailed to a cross. (Zechariah 11:12–13). The cross became a brazen serpent where the Lamb of God was sacrificed to take away the sins of the world, every sickness and every disease. Jesus was the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep.

Ezekiel prophesied to his fellow exiles immediately before and during the first twenty-some years of the captivity. They falsely

expected to return to Jerusalem, so he taught them that they must first return to the Lord.

“Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds, the leaders of Israel. Give them this message from the Sovereign LORD: What sorrow awaits you shepherds who feed yourselves instead of your flocks. Shouldn’t shepherds feed their sheep? You drink the milk, wear the wool, and butcher the best animals, but you let your flocks starve. You have not taken care of the weak. You have not tended the sick or bound up the injured. You have not gone looking for those who have wandered away and are lost. Instead, you have ruled them with harshness and cruelty” (Ezekiel 34:2–4).

Many of Ezekiel’s prophecies speak of the coming of the Messiah and the Millennial Temple in Jerusalem and worship (Chaps. 40–48). Here, he gives a warning about false shepherds. The only thing that can minister to our deepest needs is the Word of God—the meat of the Word, because it is life-giving, it must be given out in truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

Paul wrote that he only fed the Corinthians with milk because they were not ready for solid food: meat (1 Corinthians 3:2). And Hebrews 5:12 says, “You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food” (Hebrews 5:12).

The Hebrews needed someone to teach them the ABCs of the Word of God. They were like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. They were hearers of the Word but not doers. Verse 14 says, “Solid food is for those who are mature, who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong.” Is this the fault of the preacher or the fault of the hearer? We are all ultimately responsible for what we teach, what we hear and who we believe. Solid spiritual food is for the full-grown, who apply it to their lives.

Paul encourages us to “let God transform us into a new person by changing the way we think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Romans 12:2). And in verses 6–8, he encourages us to grow in our gifts. “So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. If your

gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher, teach well. If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.” It is up to us to see that we know the truth of God’s Word.

The Atoning Death of Jesus Secured Our Freedom From Sin And Sickness

Jesus provided for our healing on the cross. It was and always will be His atoning death that secured our freedom from sin and sickness. If God were unwilling to heal, He would have to break His promise in John 14:12–14 “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, so that the Son can bring glory to the Father. Yes, ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it!” The apostle Paul tells us, “For God made Christ, who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ (2 Corinthians 5:21). In the same way, we could say, “ For God made Christ sick (for us), who knew no sickness. Peter writes, “He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By his wounds you are healed” (1 Peter 2:24). It is God's will to heal!

Ministering healing is available to every follower of Jesus. Jesus gave His disciples the authority and power to do the same works that He did. John 14:12 says, “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.”

Physical healing is a part of the atonement or the finished work of the cross of the Lord Christ.

We are the redeemed of the Lord.
Redeemed from sin and sickness.

Healing is the children’s bread (Mark 7:24–30).

Healing is part of God’s plan for us; it is a fundamental right of every child of God. It is part of our heritage.

The finished work of the cross left nothing to be done. It is complete. The passover, a Lamb was slain, and atonement made. Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God, was sacrificed for our total redemption from sin, sickness, disease and infirmity.

2 Timothy 1:10

“And now he has made all of this plain to us by the appearing of Christ Jesus, our Savior. He broke the power of death and

illuminated the way to life and immortality
through the Good News.”

Much love

Colleen