

Does God Still Heal?

December 12th, 2010

God of Mercy

And the apostles, when they were returned, told him all that they had done. And **he took them, and went aside privately** into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida. **And the people**, when they knew it, **followed him: and he received them**, and spoke unto them of the kingdom of God, **and healed them that had need of healing**. And when the day began to wear away, then came the twelve, and said unto him, Send the multitude away, that they may go into the towns and country round about, and lodge, and get victuals: for we are here in a desert place. **But he said unto them, Give ye them to eat**. And they said, We have no more but five loaves and two fishes; except we should go and buy meat for all this people.

Luke 9:10-13

I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

John 10:10

How Will We Recognize the Messiah?

Strengthen ye the weak hands, and confirm the feeble knees. Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompense; **he will come and**

save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert.

Isaiah 35:3-6

And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord. And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears.

Luke 4:17-21

The Agenda of the Christ

1. He will Bring the Kingdom of Light and rescue those bound in Darkness
2. He will wholly dismantle the Kingdom of Darkness, the Effects of Sin

Go, tell John

And John calling unto him two of his disciples sent them to Jesus, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? When the men were come unto him, they said, John Baptist hath sent us unto thee, saying, Art thou he that should come? or look we for another? And in that same hour he cured many of their infirmities and plagues, and of evil spirits; and unto many that were blind he gave sight. Then Jesus answering said unto them, Go your way, and tell John what things you have seen and heard; how that

the blind see, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, to the poor the gospel is preached. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me.

Luke 7:19-23

What are the Effects of Sin?

1. **The Spirit** Lies Dead, wrapped in grave cloths
2. **The Soul** Lies Impotent, Defeated, Abused, Confused, Depressed, Fearful, and Brokenhearted
3. **The Body** Lies Sick, Lame, Deaf, Blind, Diseased, Palsied, and Maim

The Power of the Promised One

1. He will Bring the Kingdom of Light and rescue those bound in Darkness
2. He will wholly dismantle the Kingdom of Darkness, the Effects of Sin
 1. **the Spirit of Man** will once again live, and house the Spirit of God
 2. **The Soul of Man** will be set free from the power and control of Sin to live unto the Glory of King Jesus
 3. **The Body of Man** will be made whole in order to carry on the mission of Jesus in this Earth - made strong in order that it may be gloriously spent in battle

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people. And his fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatic, and those that had the palsy; and he healed them.

Matthew 4:23-24

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

Matthew 6:10

The Seemingly Ambiguous Will of God

And it came to pass, when he was in a certain city, behold a man full of leprosy: who seeing Jesus fell on his face, and besought him, saying, **Lord, if thou wilt, thou can make me clean.** And he put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, **I will:** be thou clean. And immediately the leprosy departed from him.

Luke 5:12-13

It's His Name - Yĕhovah Rapha'

God the Physician, the One who mends, repairs, sews up, and makes whole

And he (Moses) cried unto the LORD; and the LORD showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for **I am the LORD that healeth thee.**

Exodus 15:26

The Unchanging God - Yĕhovah Rapha'

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: **Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;** Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee

with lovingkindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Psalm 103:2-5

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Hebrews 13:8

I am the Lord, I change not.

Malachi 3:6

. . . (God), with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

James 1:17b

He Ever-Remains . . .

My Portion, My Maker, My Husband (Isaiah 54:5), My Well-beloved (Song of Solomon 1:13), My Savior (2 Peter 3:18), My Hope (1 Timothy 1:1), My Brother (Mark 3:35), My Helper (Hebrews 13:6), My Refiner (Malachi 3:3), My Purifier (Malachi 3:3), My Lord, Master (John 13:13), My Servant (Luke 12:37), My Example (John 13:15), My Teacher (John 3:2), My Shepherd (Psalm 23:1), My Keeper (John 17:12), My Feeder (Ezekiel 34:23), My Leader (Isaiah 40:11), My Restorer (Psalm 23:3), My Resting-place (Jeremiah 50:6), My Meat (John 6:55), My Drink (John 6:55), My Passover (1 Corinthians 5:7), My Peace (Ephesians 2:14), My Wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:30), My Righteousness (1 Corinthians 1:30), My Sanctification (1 Corinthians 1:30), My Redemption (1 Corinthians 1:30), **My Physician** (Jeremiah 8:22), **My Healer** (Luke 9:11), My All in All (Colossians 3:11)

The Unceasing Nature

Attributes of God's Nature never cease, The Purposes of His will never cease - they are enduring, unchanging aspects of God's person

However, things of shadow, symbol, tool, and device, that have been utilized by God throughout history in order to reveal His attributes and His purposes, may cease (ie. Circumcision of the human body; Sacrifice of bulls, goats, and lambs; A Temple built by human hands; Prophecy, tongues, words of knowledge; The use of the sun and moon for light)

The fact that God is a Healer is revealed in Scripture as a part of His Nature and a definite purpose of His will, therefore, it does not cease as do other elements of shadow and symbol.

Introducing . . . The Healer

And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. - Matthew 8:7

. . . and he healed them. - Matthew 4:24

. . . And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. - Matthew 8:13

. . . and (He) healed all that were sick. - Matthew 8:16

. . . great multitudes followed him, and he healed them all. - Matthew 12:15

. . . and he healed him, insomuch that the blind and dumb both spoke and saw. - Matthew 12:22

. . . and he healed their sick. - Matthew 14:14

. . . lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others . . . and he healed them: - Matthew 15:30

. . . And great multitudes followed him; and he healed them there. - Matthew 19:2

. . . the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. - Matthew 21:14

. . . And he healed many . . . - Mark 1:34

. . . For he had healed many; insomuch that they pressed upon him for to touch him, as many as had plagues. - Mark 3:10

. . . And . . . she was healed of that plague. - Mark 5:29

. . . and (He) healed them. - Mark 6:5

. . . and (He) healed them. - Mark 6:13

. . . he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. - Luke 4:40

. . . and they were healed. - Luke 6:18

. . . virtue (flowed) out of him, and healed them all. - Luke 6:19

. . . he that was possessed of the devils was healed. - Luke 8:36

. . . she was healed immediately. - Luke 8:47

. . . and (He) healed them that had need of healing. - Luke 9:11

. . . Jesus . . . healed the child, and delivered him again to his father. - Luke 9:42

. . . he took him, and healed him, and let him go; - Luke 14:4

. . . he touched his ear, and healed him. - Luke 22:51

The Twelve Carry the Power

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Luke 9:1-2

Seventy More Commanded to Heal

After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come . . . And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.

Luke 10:1,8-9

The Apostles Continue the Work

. . . the lame man . . . was healed. - Acts 3:11

. . . Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. - Acts 5:15

. . . and they were healed every one. - Acts 5:16

. . . and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. - Acts 8:7

. . . (Paul) said with a loud voice, Stand upright on thy feet. And he (the lame man) leaped and walked. - Acts 14:10

. . . And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them. - Acts 19:11-12

. . . Paul entered in, and prayed, and laid his hands on him, and healed him. - Acts 28:8

. . . others also, which had diseases in the island, came, and were healed: - Acts 28:9

The Case for Perpetuity

Evidences of the Continuation

- Origen (around 200-230 AD) declares the “Men had marvelous power of curing by invoking the Divine Name. They expel evil spirits and perform many cures . . . according to the will of the Logos.”
- St. Ambrose, Bishop of Milan (340-397 AD) gives testimony of the healing power
- St. Macarius of Alexandria (375-390 AD) gives testimony of both lameness and paralysis healed in the Name of Jesus
- St. Augustine (426 AD) testifies to signs and wonders done by those martyred
- Bethwegan (698 AD) testified to being cured of paralysis
- St. John of Beverly (721 AD) testified to the healing power
- St. Bernard (1091-1153 AD)
- St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226 AD)
- St. Thomas of Hereford (1282-1303 AD)
- St. Catherine of Siena (1347-1380 AD)
- Martin Luther (1483-1546 AD)
- St. Francis of Xavier (1506-1552 AD)
- St. Phillip of Neri (1515-1595 AD)
- Pascal’s niece (1646 AD)
- George Fox (1624-1691 AD)
- John Wesley (1703-1791 AD)

But whatever miracles be, history shows a great amount of evidence. . . that such events have happened in all ages . . . Enthusiasm and fraud cannot be asked to account for as much evidence on this subject as exists.

Richard Holt Hutton (1826-1897)

famous English writer on the issues where Science and Theology

What Should We Expect?

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen. And he said unto them, Go ye

into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **He that believeth** and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **And these signs shall follow them that believe**; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; **they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover**. So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

Mark 16:14-20

Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

James 5:14-16

It's Not Just in His Nature - It's Wrapped in the work of the Cross

When he was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, show thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but

speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour. And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose, and ministered unto them. When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: **That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bore our sicknesses.**

Matthew 8:1-17

He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely **he hath borne our griefs** (*choliy* - *khol·ē'* - sickness, disease, grief), and **carried our sorrows** (*mak'ob* - *mak·ōve'* - sorrow, physical and mental pain): yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and **with his stripes** (*chabbuwrah* - bruises, wounds, blows received) **we are healed** (*rapha'* - *rä·fä'* - to heal, to physically mend, repair, sew up, and make whole). All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD

hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth.

Isaiah 53:3-7

Reckoning The Full Atoning Work of Christ

He Himself took our inability to levitate and bore our futility at transforming flowers into flowerpots . . . by His stripes we sing an octave higher.

Confusion 3:16

Surely **he hath borne our griefs** (sickness, disease, grief), and **carried our sorrows** (sorrow, physical and mental pain) . . . **with his stripes** (bruises, wounds, blows received) **we are healed** (physically mended, repaired, sewn up, and made whole).

Isaiah 53 (composite)

The Banquet in the Back Room

Following His Example

For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps.

1 Peter 2:21

We should follow in His Steps . . .

1. In demonstrating **the love** of God
2. In demonstrating **the suffering** of God
3. In demonstrating **the power** of God

But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, **the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me.**

John 5:36

Verily, verily, I say unto you, **He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also;** and greater works than these shall he do; **because I go unto my Father.**

John 14:12

NOTE: Our works bear witness of the fact that Jesus sits at the Right Hand of the Father

Demonstrating the Suffering of God

For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judges righteously: Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes you were healed. For you were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls.

1 Peter 2:12-25

NOTE: Christianity is exchanging the Suffering of Sin for the Suffering of Obedience

- Jesus was without sin, and yet His obedience to the Father led Him to endure tremendous physical suffering
- Paul was set free from the power and control of Sin and yet his obedience to Jesus Christ led him to, likewise, endure tremendous physical suffering

- Peter was delivered from every bondage of Sin and yet his obedience to the Spirit of God led him to endure horrible physical abuse and even an upside-down crucifixion

They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented.

Hebrews 11:37

NOTE: We are delivered from the Effects of Sin in order that we may be physically spent in rescuing others from the Effects of Sin

Demonstrating the Power of God

So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, because of the people: for all men glorified God for that which was done. For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was showed. And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them. And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is . . . And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, **that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.** And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Acts 4:21-31

No mighty works in Nazareth

Is there no balm in Gilead; **is there no physician there?** why then is not the health of the daughter of my people recovered?

Jeremiah 8:22

And he went out from thence, and came into his own country . . . And they were offended at him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honor, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house. And **he could there do no mighty work**, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief.

Mar 6:1,3b-6b

What About the Abuses?

Let's take this arena of Truth back and not, by listless confusion, continue to allow the enemy to mock the Word of God and diminish the intent of the Cross. If Christ purchased something, then how dare we let it fall unused and unappreciated to the ground.