

What The Bible Teaches on  
**HEALTH and HEALING**  
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## Chapter 7: What do we know about Jesus Christ's ministry of healing?

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#### (a) What types of diseases did Jesus heal?

Jesus healed all types of diseases and even raised the dead.

##### (1) **Matthew 4:23-24; 8:15-16; 9:35-38; 15:29-31; 19:1-2; 21:14**

Jesus Christ healed those suffering severe pain, the demon-possessed, those having seizures, and the paralysed, and every manner of disease among the people in fulfilment of the prophecy in Isaiah 53:4. He also went through the villages, preaching and teaching in the synagogues, healing every disease out of his deep compassion for the people. When great crowds came bringing the lame, the blind, the crippled, the mute, and many others to Him, He healed them all.

##### (2) **Matthew 14:14**

When he heard news of the beheading of John the Baptist, Jesus Christ withdrew by boat to a private place, but the crowd followed on foot. Jesus had compassion on the crowd and healed their sick.

##### (3) **Mark 1:34**

Jesus healed many people who had various diseases and drove out demons.

##### (4) **Luke 4:40-41; 6:17-19; 9:10-11**

All who had various diseases were healed when they were brought

to Jesus. When the crowd searched out Jesus Christ in Bethsaida to where He had withdrawn together with His disciples, He healed those who needed healing.

#### (b) What link did Jesus Christ make between sin and illness?

Sickness began as a result of sin the Garden of Eden. Jesus made it clear that there is a link between sin and sickness but that it is not always the case that ill health resulted directly as a result of anybody's particular sin.

##### (1) **Matthew 9: 1-8, [Mark 2: 1-12; Luke 5:17-26]**

A paralytic man was brought before Jesus Christ and instead of healing him immediately He began by forgiving his sins. The teachers of the law objected to this, because only God can forgive sins. Jesus then demonstrated His authority for all to see by healing the man.

##### (2) **John 5:1-14**

To the man whom He healed at the Pool of Bethesda Jesus Christ gave the command to sin no more so that something worse would not befall him.

##### (3) **John 9:1-7**

Seeing a man who was born blind, the disciples wanted to know whether it was his own sins or his parents that resulted in the blindness. Jesus Christ answered that it was neither, but rather to enable God's work to be displayed in his life.

### **(c) What link did Jesus Christ make between healing and faith?**

Jesus constantly referred to the connection between faith and healing. Sometimes it was the faith of the sick person, sometimes it was the faith of those caring for the victim, and sometimes it was the faith of the person doing the healing. Sometimes, however, faith was not mentioned at all.

#### **(1) Matthew 8:5-13, [Luke 7:1-10]**

Jesus praised the faith of the Roman military officer before pronouncing the word of healing for his servant.

#### **(2) Matthew 9:20-22, [Mark 5:25-34; Luke 8:43-48]**

Jesus healed the woman who touched the hem of his garment putting an end to 12 years of bleeding and misery. He commended her faith as being responsible for the healing she received.

#### **(3) Matthew 9: 27-31**

Before Jesus healed the two blind men who followed him crying loudly for his help, He first asked if they believed He could heal them. He then told them it would be done according to their faith.

#### **(4) Matthew 15:21-28, [Mark 7:24-30]**

Jesus appreciated the faith of the Canaanite woman and so healed her demon-possessed child.

#### **(5) Matthew 20:29-34; Mark 10:46-52; Luke 18:35-43**

The blind beggars were persistent in their plea for mercy until Jesus Christ acknowledged the faith which they had to be healed.

#### **(6) John 4:46-54**

This royal official wanted his son healed, but Jesus rebuked him because he needed to see a miracle before believing. He healed the son, and then he and all the members of his household believed.

### **(d) How did Jesus Christ heal the sick?**

Jesus Christ used a whole variety of methods

#### **(1) Matthew 8:3 [Mark 1:41; Luke 5:13]; Matthew 8:14-15 [Mark 1:30-31]; Matthew 9:27-30.**

He used the touch of His hand to heal lepers, Peter's mother-in-law, and two blind men.

#### **(2) Matthew 12: 9-14, [Mark 3:1-6; Luke 6:11]**

He asked the man with the withered arm to stretch out his hand.

#### **(3) Matthew 9:20-22, [Mark 5:27; Luke 8:44-48]; Matthew 14:34-36, [Mark 6:56]**

The woman with an issue of blood and other sick people touched the edge of his garment.

#### **(4) Mark 8:22-26; John 9:1-7**

He used the saliva of His mouth

#### **(5) Matthew 17:14-18, [Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43]; Mark 1:21-28, [Luke 4:33-37]**

He rebuked or commanded the demon which caused the illness.

#### **(6) Mark 5:41; Luke 7:14-15; John 11:43-44**

He commanded the dead to rise up.

### **(e) How did Jesus Christ publicise His healing miracles?**

Jesus Christ did not publicise His miracles. On the contrary, He often told people He healed not to tell anyone.

#### **(1) Matthew 8:2-4, [Mark 1: 40-45; Luke 5:12-16]**

When Jesus Christ healed a man suffering from leprosy, he instructed him not to tell anyone except the priests as the Law

demanded. The man disobeyed, and the free publicity he offered did not help but rather hindered the work of Jesus!

**(2) Matthew 12:15-21**

He told people He healed not to tell who He was. We are told that this was in fulfilment of a prophecy from Isaiah.

**(3) Mark 7:31-37**

Jesus commanded those who told people who brought a deaf and dumb man to him not to tell anyone after he was healed. But the more He did so the more they kept talking about it.

**(4) Luke 8:40-42, 49-56**

Jesus ordered Jairus and his family not to tell anyone about their twelve-year old daughter whom He had raised from the dead.

**(f) What were the effects of the healing miracles of Jesus Christ on the people?**

There were those for whom healing had a positive effect, but it had a negative effect on some others.

**(1) Matthew 8: 28-34, [Mark 5:1-15; Luke 8:27-35]**

Jesus sent a host of demons into pigs, having been forbidden by the Law of Moses. The man they previously tormented was liberated, dressed and in his right mind, but the people of Gadara did not rejoice with him. Instead, they pleaded with Jesus to depart from their territory.

**(2) Matthew 9: 32-34; 12:22-37**

Jesus healed a demon-possessed man who was also blind and mute. The crowd was amazed, but the Pharisees attribute the miracle to Beelzebub, the prince of demons. This provided opportunity for Jesus Christ to teach the lesson about how a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand and how blasphemy against the Holy

Spirit is the one sin without forgiveness.

**(3) Matthew 12:9-21**

Jesus Christ healed a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath, causing the Pharisees to plot his death. He withdrew from that place but continued with his ministry of healing among the crowds that followed him, as prophesied in Isaiah 42:1-4.

**(4) Luke 13:10-17; 14:1-6**

Religious leaders objected to Jesus Christ performing miracles of healing on the Sabbath.

**(5) Luke 17: 11-19**

Of ten men healed of leprosy, only one bothered to come back to Jesus Christ to give thanks.