

What The Bible Teaches on
HEALTH and HEALING
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Chapter 8: What role did healing play in the ministry of the Apostles of Jesus?

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Jesus Christ gave the power and authority to His followers to heal the sick and even to raise the dead. They did both.

(a) What power did Jesus Christ give His disciples for healing?

(1) Matthew 10:1-10, [Mark 6:7-13]; Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-20

Jesus Christ sent out his disciples and gave them power to heal every disease and even to raise the dead.

(2) Mark 16:15-20

As part of the Great Commission when Jesus told His followers to take the Good News to the whole world, He said that they would lay hands on the sick in order to heal them.

(b) How did they use this power when the Master was still with them?

(1) Luke 10:16-17

The disciples returned with joy from their practical assignment, with the testimony that even demons obeyed when commanded in the name of Jesus.

(2) Matthew 17:14-21, [Mark 9:14-29; Luke 9:37-43]

When Jesus was away with Peter, James and John on the Mount of

Transfiguration, a man brought his demon-possessed son to the other apostles, but in spite of their previous experience they could not heal him. Jesus Christ explained to them that it was because they had so little faith, even though faith as small as a mustard seed would be enough to shift mountains.

A footnote adds that this kind required prayer and fasting.

(c) How did they use the power of healing after His death and resurrection?

(1) Acts 3:1-10

Peter healed a blind beggar at the Beautiful Gate entrance to the temple. He used the ensuing commotion as an opportunity to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ.

(2) Acts 5:15-16

People brought the sick to the streets so that Peter's shadow might fall on them. They also brought their sick from towns and villages and all of them were healed.

(3) Acts 8:4-8

Philip brought great joy to a city in Samaria when he proclaimed the gospel and they saw the miracles and healings that took place.

(4) Acts 9:32-35

The healing of Aeneas who was paralysed and bedridden for eight

years led to the conversion of all the people who lived in Lydda and Sharon.

(5) Acts 9:36-42

In Joppa, when one of the disciples called Dorcas died, the believers sent to invite Peter to do something about it. Like his Master, he was able to command her back to life. Many turned to the Lord as a result.

(6) Acts 14:8-10

Peter healed a lame man in the crowd when he was preaching in Derbe. The people mistook him and his companion, Barnabas, for gods and were going to sacrifice to them. When they objected to this and were instigated by Jewish enemies of the gospel, the people turned around and tried to sacrifice them!

(7) Acts 20: 7-12

It was a crowded house meeting and some were perched in the upstairs window to hear the famous evangelist speak. It turned out to be a very long sermon. Paul went on and on until poor Eutychus could no longer keep his eyes or ears open. He dozed off and tumbled through the open window, falling three floors to his death. Paul brought him back to life and continued with his sermon!

(8) Acts 28:7-10

As a prisoner on his way to Rome, Paul was shipwrecked at Malta. There he healed the father of a nobleman from fever and dysentery. Seeing this, other sick people on the Island came to Paul and were all cured.

(d) What did the Apostles teach about healing?

(1) 1 Corinthians 12: 4-11; 29-30

God gives to His people many different gifts for use in building up

the Church. St Paul lists healing as one of them but he also makes clear that it is not all believers who have this gift.

(2) 1 Timothy 5:23

Paul instructed Timothy to use a little wine as a remedy for his frequent stomach complaints.

(3) James 5:13-16

James teaches Christian leaders to anoint the sick with oil in the name of the Lord and pray for them, with the assurance that the Lord would raise them up. He also teaches all believers to confess their sins to one another and to pray for healing for one another and that the prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

(4) 1 Peter 2:20-25

St Peter explains that Christians should be ready to suffer injustice with patience, following the example of our Lord. It is in Him we have died to sins so as to live unto righteousness. Beatings can wound us in our bodies, but His wounds have healed us from sin.