

What The Bible Teaches on **HEALTH and HEALING**

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Summary



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(a) The source and the cure of ill health

- (1) Satan is the author of disease, sickness and pain, all of which became a part of the human condition since the fall of our first parents in the Garden of Eden.
- (2) God brings healing, and He did so in many different ways in both the Old and the New Testaments.

(b) Health and Healing under the Law

- (1) Sickness and health had a direct cause and effect link under the Law. God promised not to afflict the children of Israel with plagues similar to what the people of Egypt experienced, on condition that they kept the Law. He promised to punish them when they sinned, however, and their afflictions sometimes included different types of plagues to the nation or diseases to individuals as in the case of Miriam or King Hezekiah.
- (2) Whenever the people cried to the Lord in their distress, God normally healed them. There were exceptions, however, when the Lord withheld healing. This was either because they did not repent of sin or even when they did, as in the case of King David concerning his son, God allowed the punishment to run its course.
- (3) One significant exception was Job whose illness was not as a result of sin, contrary to what everyone else believed.
- (4) God's healing miracles were not confined to the children of

Israel, because He is the God of all the earth. He healed the Syrian commander of his leprosy and raised the dead son of the woman of Shunem, and He cured the Philistines of their haemorrhoids when they turned to Him.

(5) The Old Testament looked forward to the coming of Jesus Christ by whose stripes all earthly ailments would be healed.

(c) The Ministry of Jesus

In the New Testament, God continued to intervene miraculously in order to heal the sick. Jesus Christ modelled this in his teaching and practice.

- (1) Jesus Christ taught that although ill health is linked to sin, it is not always a direct link to the sin of the individual concerned or their parents.
- (2) He taught that there is always a link between faith and healing. This can be the faith of the people who need healing, as was the case for people in his home town. Or it could be the faith of the person doing the healing, as was the case when his disciples could not perform the healing when he was on the Mount of Transfiguration.
- (3) Even though he had unlimited power, He did not heal all the sick people He encountered in His ministry.
- (4) He was careful not to publicise healing or any other miracle, sometimes giving specific instructions to the people healed not to tell anybody.

(5) He gave adequate training and the necessary power to His followers to carry on the work that He did, to the glory of the Father.

(d) The Ministry of the Disciples

(1) The Apostles followed their Master in carrying out numerous healings, including bringing back the dead to life.

(2) Again like Jesus Christ, they used many different methods to perform the healing.

(3) Paul recommended a typical, contemporary medical remedy when he admonished Timothy to use a little wine to improve his medical condition.

(4) Sometimes, the desired healing did not happen, and this included Paul, when he prayed to be cured of his “thorn in the flesh.”

(5) Miracles of healing sometimes resulted in people turning to Christ, but not always.