

Lord is our healer

What is divine healing? God's direct intervention to heal sick and afflicted bodies without the necessity of physicians or medical remedies. It is the power of God manifested in a miracle of healing. It is the Spirit of God quickening our mortal bodies. It involves a supernatural act which resolves a physical, emotional or spiritual problem. *"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed."* (1PE2:24) Jesus was pierced and crushed for our sin; by his wounds we are healed; God laid our iniquity upon him. The one who went to the cross for us, bearing our sins, paying the penalty for them in our place. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, *He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses.* (MAT8:17) Jesus paid for our healing. The Word "divine" refer to the one true God and His nature, as revealed in Bible. "Healing" means to cure or make whole. Healing can include relief from spiritual, physical, emotional, mental, and demonic conditions. Divine healing is when mighty God reveals His nature, fulfils His promises. And acts upon His provision in the atonement of Christ by curing a person and making him whole in body, soul, and spirit. Divine healing can be both instantaneous (miraculous) or gradual (a process). Although instantaneous healings demonstrate the divine presence and power of God, healing which occurs as a process is also a miraculous healing. When Jesus healed the man born blind, he spat on ground and made a kind of clay that he put on the blind man's eyes. The purpose of the blindness was the works of God should be revealed in him, Bartimaeus had the faith that Jesus could make him receive his sight back and it worked! (MAR8:22-25)

Medical and natural healings are in a sense divine also, because in reality it is God that causes the healing. Healing through prayer to the one true God and/or genuine medical practice is from God. Healing by Satanic, sorcery, New Age philosophy, or other unscriptural means is not from God. Many medicines come from natural, healthful, God-created elements. Jesus did not condemn using doctors and 'earthly' remedies. (MAT9:12) God aids in medical healing because every good gift (including genuine medicine) is from God. The problem arises when people give credit to medicines and doctors instead of realizing God is the source of all healing. Bible says: *But they did not know that I healed them.* (HOS11:3) It is true King Asa died because he did not seek healing from God. "even in his illness he did not seek help from the Lord, but only from the physicians" (2CH16:12,7) It is an act of unbelief and disobedience. The issue for which Asa is judged is not that he sought help from physicians but that he refused to seek the Lord. The medical doctor is only an extension of God's goodness. It is better trust in God when you need Healing. Our attitude should be *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.* (PRO3:5-6) However, medicine is not a substitute for covenant promise of healing. Healing is a blessing provided in the atonement by His great mercy. God is the Great Physician and all healing, physical, emotional, spiritual, belongs to Him. Biblical healing deals with the whole man, body, soul and spirit. Doctors and medicine cannot deal with related spiritual and demonic conditions.

The redemptive name "Yahweh-Rapha" in Hebrew or, the Lord God is a healer. reveals God's redemptive provision for your body. The Hebrew word 'rapha' is a verb meaning 'to heal, to make fresh. It describes the process of healing, being restored to health, made healthy, fertile. And there is physical healing that is part of it! Human beings are spirit, soul (mind, will, emotions) and body and there are different types of healing on these different needs and areas. Yahweh-Rapha has the power to heal physically (2KI5:10), emotionally (PSA34:18), mentally (DAN4:34) spiritually (PSA103:2-3) Neither impurity of body nor impurity of soul can withstand purifying, healing power of God. *For I am the LORD who heals you"* (EXO15:26) *"And as many as touched Him were made well"* (MAR6:56) Sickness is part of the penalty of sin, so salvation is part of the atonement for sin. Atonement refers to the forgiving or pardoning of sin and reconciliation of God and humankind through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Redemption, the state of being deliverance from sin; salvation accomplished through the atonement of Christ. While atonement of Christ has guaranteed believer's final perfection, both physical and spiritual. (1PE1:5) When Jesus died on the cross did He take away your sins? Do you, as a believer, still battle against sin? Jesus died for your sickness, but as long as you are in an imperfect world and Satan is not yet bound, you must also war against sickness. You are saved from the penalty of sickness for your sin. You can overcome the power of disease in the present time. Since healing is a benefit of the atonement, humble, you should accept Lord Jesus as Savior, also as Healer.

Bible speaks of miraculous healing through the work of Jesus Christ and faith in God. Jesus showed that He was the Great Physician who heals the sick. In Galilee, Jesus went from town to town, "healing every disease and sickness among the people" (MAT4:23) In Judea "large crowds followed him, and he healed them there" (MAT19:2). In fact, "wherever he went—into villages, towns and all who touched it were healed" (MAR6:56) Jesus heal people physically, also healed them spiritually by forgiving their sins. (LUK5:20) Jesus sent ten lepers whom He healed to show themselves to the priests. (LUK17:14) Jesus proved Himself to be Yahweh-Rapha in the flesh. Those who believe upon Jesus are entitled to promises of new covenant. He has all power in heaven and on earth, we can use this mighty power to wage battle in heavenlies against principalities that harm us. *And the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.* (LUK6:19) Abstain from medicine/vaccines should be personal decision/faith by the guidance of God until Jesus returns or mark of the beast effective. Do not stop from partake of Lord's table for this reason. If so, please inform new souls accordingly. Lord cannot be mocked. Do not test God. Those who stand for divine healing should be faithful to the vow until death.

Genesis chapters 1 and 2 in the Bible record the story of the creation of man. God created man in His own image, breathed into him the breath of life, and man became a living soul. Man was created with a triune nature of body, soul, and spirit. The body is the physical part of man. The soul and spirit are the spiritual parts which enable him to act, think, feel, react emotionally, spiritually respond to God. Originally, each part of this triune nature was in harmony with the other two, and the entire triune nature of man was in harmony with God. Man was sinless and healthy in body, soul, and spirit. Genesis chapter 3 records how the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, sinned against God by disobeying His command. Sickness didn't come until the fall of man. Their sin brought the curse of sin and death upon all men: "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.*(ROM5:12) God never intended for man to be sick or to die, but He gave man a will of his own to choose evil or good. When Adam exercised that will in the Garden of Eden and chose to be disobedient to God, sin entered the world and as a result, disease, sickness, bondage and death. Therefore, sickness and disease is a result of sin. Sickness is a result of a curse (DEU 28:59-61)

This curse of death was a spiritual separation between man and God as well as physical death which would end a man's life. We can see the effects of the curse immediately. Adam and Eve hid from God because of the spiritual sickness of sin. Adam blamed Eve, which is the start of emotional sickness resulting from crumbling relationships. Cain killed Abel, which is an example of social sickness. Physical sickness enters through the barrenness of Sarah and the plague upon Abimelech. When the curse of death came upon man, Satan entered the genetic system of the body to begin his destructive work. The Bible confirms that Satan is the source of evil in the world. Jesus said he is a thief. "*The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.*(JOH10:10) Sickness destroys the body like sin destroys the spirit. Disease steals health, happiness, money, time, effort, and strength. It truly kills and destroys. Because the source of sickness is Satan, you must resist it just as you do temptation and sin. When you resist temptation and sin, you are doing spiritual warfare against Satan's attacks on your soul and spirit. When you resist sickness, you are waging spiritual warfare against his attacks on your physical body. Just as your spirit gives life to the body, Satan provides the destructive elements of sickness. In the natural world, God takes a living cell and multiplies it to bring forth life and a new child is born. Satan counterfeits this positive process with a negative cycle of his own. He takes a living cell (virus, cancer, etc.) and multiplies it to bring forth death. This is "spirit of infirmity" which works in your body when you are sick. When the spirit of infirmity is cast out, disease in your body dies. As long as that germ exists in the body, the disease lives and continues its destructive work.

In Gal. 3:13 declares, "*Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us* (for it is written, "*Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree/cross*") When Jesus died upon the cross, He took the curse of sin and death upon Himself and as by the offense of one (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men; so also by one man (Jesus Christ) righteousness entered into the world, and life through righteousness, so that all, being justified by faith, might be saved.(ROM5:18-19) Salvation and healing are benefits of the atonement made by Jesus on the cross of Calvary. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus took the curse of sin, disease, and death in your place. Because He bore the penalty for your sin and sickness, you need not bear it. Because He rose in resurrection life, you too shall rise! When you receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, the curse of sin is broken. The gift of righteousness is to receive by faith.(JOH3:16) You are no longer condemned by the curse. Jesus has redeemed you from curse of the law!

There is one source of sickness and that is Satan, but the reasons why a person gets sick are varied. Bible says "*For this reason many are weak and sick among you,*"(1CO11:30) for participating in Holy communion in an unworthy manner, without confessing of sins. Here are some reasons for sickness: Violation of Spiritual laws. When man sinned, death began to work its corruption in the body:(ROM5:12; 6:23) Sickness is a result of sin and some people are afflicted as a result of sin (DEU28:22,27,28,35), but a person's sickness is not necessarily caused by their own individual sin. Jesus made this clear in the example of the man blind since birth.(JOH9:1-3) Jesus healed a blind man about whom His disciples asked, "Who did sin...this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus aid, "Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents; but that the works of God should be made manifest in Him." It is true that sin and sickness have a connection, but you must be careful in the way you apply this individually. It is true that if you break God's law, you will suffer. This is suffering for your own sinful acts. But the righteous, as well as the unrighteous, suffer because of the presence of sin in the world. Several Bible references confirm that sickness can be related to individual sin. Romans 6:19 confirms that infirmities come through uncleanness (sin). Healing can be lost by returning to sin: Jesus meets the man in the temple and warns him about the dangers of sin. "*See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.*"(JOH5:14)

Sometimes illness comes through attack of Satan. Job is one of the examples of this.(Job 1,2) Satan goes to God with a desire and he must get permission to carry it out. Then Satan comes and strikes Job with a disease. Job experienced physical, mental, emotional illness because of a Satanic attack. He did not suffer because of his own personal sin. Satan attacks your body just as he does your soul and spirit. Your mind, body, "flesh" (the lusts of the eye, flesh, pride of life, the world, your senses) are channels of attack. In this world there will be sickness, but in spiritual warfare you can fight sickness just as you fight sin. Job is able to endure overwhelming loss without compromising his integrity or blamelessness.

God's purpose in permitting bodily sickness

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Bible says many were weak and sick because they did not properly discern the Body of Christ and took Communion unworthily. Communion is partaking of the bread and wine symbolizing the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep.(1CO11:27-30) You fail to discern the Body of Christ when you do not understand the meaning of the fruit of the vine and the bread. These natural elements are spiritual symbols of the blood and flesh of Jesus. The Body of Christ was broken for your healing (JOH6:48-58;LUK6:48-51). Sometimes we fail to discern the Body of Christ by not recognizing the true union we have with our brothers and sisters in the Lord. When divisions occur in the Church, we are not properly discerning the Body of Christ. We eat and drink unworthily if we do not understand our spiritual union with brothers and sisters in the Lord.(1CO3:1-13) We eat unworthily when we take communion with an unexamined life. Weakness and sickness result from doing this. This is why Bible says to examine yourself spiritually and repent before taking Communion. We have to peace with God and all men with good conscience.

In general, God does not punish sin with sickness. Some sickness results when you violate the natural laws of God. Here are some examples: Improper diet(overweight, underweight). Too much labour, busy activity. Improper rest. Lack of self-control which results in harmful emotions such as anger, bitterness. Lack of positive relationships with others (bitterness, unforgiveness). Exercise (too much or little). Abuse of drugs, alcohol: Toxic chemical substances taken into the body.

God does not put sickness on person, but He does permit some to be turned to Satan for destruction of the flesh for disciplinary reasons.(1CO5:1-7) In this passage reveals: It is to be done because of Fornication. Boasting causing to ignore a sin that could end up infecting all of members. Lack of repentance. Evil in the midst of the people of God. Destruction of the flesh in order that the spirit may be saved. The destruction of the flesh indicates that the sexual immorality man would eventually die unless he repented of his sin. And if he repents, he is to be forgiven and restored in love.(GAL6:1-2)

Types of sickness: When we speak of "sickness or disease" we mean any spiritual, mental, emotional, or physical condition which is not in proper order as it was created by God. Spiritual sickness is sin. If it is not dealt with, sin is terminal spiritually speaking. Medical science or natural healing can do nothing for this condition. Everyone is affected by spiritual sickness because all have sinned. Healing for spiritual sickness comes from repenting, receiving forgiveness of sin, and accepting Jesus Christ as personal Savior. Physical sickness may result from organic disorders which are problems that can be observed or detected by physicians. Physical sickness can also result from functional disorders which result from a malfunction of an organ or part of the body. Because of the integrated nature of man, illness in one part affects the whole body. Emotional illness results from harmful emotions such as anger, hatred, bitterness, etc. Healing comes through forgiveness and healing. Forgiveness results when you ask God to forgive you for sinful emotions. When you repent, God heals these inner conditions. And forgiveness and healing results when you forgive those who offended you. Mental sickness is poor mental health resulting from retardation, illness, accidents, breakdowns, birth defects, and psychological conditions. Demonicly caused conditions include possession, oppression, obsession, and demonicly caused mental and physical conditions. Demonic conditions require a special type of healing called deliverance. Deliverance and healing are related. *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)

Results of a sickness: There are only two possible end results of a sickness. It will either be for the glory of God or a sickness unto death. In either case, God promises: to give you an expected end.(JER29:11) A sickness for the glory of God is one where a person glorifies God through their testimony, life, and ministry. You can read the story of a man blind since birth. Jesus said of this blind man: Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in Him.(JOH9:3) When the blind man was healed, God received glory through his testimony. Jesus said, *"This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."*(John 11:4)

God sometimes allows sickness to accomplish His sovereign purposes. Hebrews 12:5-11 describes God disciplining us to "produce peaceable fruit of righteousness" (verse 11). Sickness can be a means of God's loving discipline. It is difficult for us to comprehend why God would work in this manner. But, believing in the sovereignty of God, there is no other option than suffering being something God allows. Psalm 119: 67,71,75, that suffering from God's perspective. It was good for him to be afflicted. It was faithfulness that caused God to afflict him. The result of the affliction was that he learned God's decrees and obeyed His Word. *It is good for me that I have been afflicted, That I may learn Your statutes.*

Bible mentioned there is an appointed death.(HEB9:2,27;ECC3:2;2KI13:14) Every man has an appointed time to die. Death is just an event within the realm of eternity in the life of a believer. God will raise you up and you will glorify Him by your testimony, life, and ministry. Even a "sickness unto death" is swallowed up in victory because death to a believer is the ultimate healing. God has a way of using things Satan intends for evil and turning them to good. In death, God performs the ultimate healing. As you enter the presence of the Lord you are made whole and no longer suffer from sin or sickness. Death is swallowed up in victory because those dead in Christ will rise again. In speaking of death, Paul says you are prepared for: *"To be absent from the body and present with the Lord"* (2CO5:6-9) Everyone who is in Christ Jesus will share in this resurrected glory. This is our hope. It is a victory. *The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*(1CO15:24-28)

"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 we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5) The first promise of spiritual and physical healing was given in Genesis 3:15, God said that the "seed" of the woman would bruise the head of Satan. This passage points to the promise of Jesus' birth, His redemption, His victory over Satan. The woman's offspring is Jesus. Being virgin-born, He is literally the seed of a woman. (MAT1:25; GAL4:4; ISA7:14) This "seed" was a prophetic promise about Jesus, being the Son of Man, He is perfect representative of humankind. The devil's seed were the evil men lay in wait for the Savior and struck at Him. Jesus who through His earthly ministry, death, resurrection battle with Satan and crush his head, defeat him, even as the serpent bruise His heel and liberate people from their captivity to Satan, sin, death, hell through Christ's death. The striking of Messiah's heel was a picture of the wounding and death of Jesus on the cross. Jesus rose the third day, breaking the power of death and winning ultimate victory. With the cross, Jesus crushed the devil's head, defeating him forever. (COL2:15)

The Genesis record contains two accounts of divine healing. In Genesis 17:18-19 God promised to heal Sara's barrenness. In Gen.21:1-7 this was fulfilled. In Exodus, after the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, the people marched for several days without finding water. The Lord was testing them and their faith. When they finally came to Marah, they could not drink of the water because it was bitter. God showed Moses a tree which, when cast into the waters, made the waters sweet. The tree that was cast into the bitter waters is a type of sin. With the sweetening of the waters was given a promise of health and healing. Following this God revealed Himself as Healer of His people. He said: *"If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."* (EXO15:26). A more accurate of this is "I am the Lord your physician." He doesn't just heal water; He heals people. The healing of the waters was a demonstration of God's power to overcome any impurity and contamination. If He was by nature a physician and healer then, He is the same today. (HEB13:8) God's promise to take away sickness from among his people. (EXO23:25)

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up." (JOH3:14) "Lifted up" was referring to crucifixion. It also means to exalt or lift up in majesty. "Son of Man" points to Jesus that the cross was necessary to atone for our sins. In Numbers 21:4-9 records how salvation would be brought to mankind, thru Christ. This event was meant to foreshadow the sacrifice of Christ. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness and those who looked upon it in faith lived, so also sinners today can look to Christ Jesus. Have you looked to the crucified, risen, exalted Lord Jesus to save you from the curse of sin?" Let us exult His name together and let us lift-up the precious name of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world that has been bitten by sin.. so that they too may look and live - by grace, through faith in Him.

At the start of His ministry, Jesus "went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people" (MAT4:23) The purpose of Jesus was to destroy the works of the enemy, devil including sin, sickness, bondage: (IJO3:8) In John 5:8, Jesus told the man to, "...Rise, take up thy bed, and walk." He healed many different types of diseases and used various methods of ministry. Jesus ministered healing wherever He went and His ministry was marked by compassion. Later, when Jesus sent His twelve disciples out to preach the gospel, He gave them authority to heal the sick. (LUK9:1-2) Jesus said to, "Heal the sick"! "Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give." (MAT10:8) Mark 16:17-18, given authority to lay hands on people and heal them to demonstrate their authenticity as believers! *And these signs shall follow them that believe... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.*" The early church healed people in this same manner. In Acts 3:6, "Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." In Luke 9:1 that He gave His disciples authority to cure diseases: "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases." Authority is exercised when there is a right to exercise it. They had the authority to heal, and they were exercising it with a spoken word, just as Jesus did! Jesus commissioned His disciples to preach and teach the Gospel of the Kingdom of God and demonstrate its power by healing and deliverance. Jesus will be with those who fulfil this commission. Every born-again believer, should be involved in fulfilling this commission to reach all nations with the Gospel of salvation, healing, and deliverance.

The most obvious purpose of healing is making the sick well. Healing demonstrates that God is gracious, good, merciful, and compassionate. Healing results in praise and glory to God: And great multitudes came unto Him, having with them those that were lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and He healed them: Insomuch that the multitude wondered, when they saw the dumb to speak, maimed to be whole, the lame to walk, and the blind to see; and they glorified the God of Israel. (MAT15:30-31) Healing and deliverance confirm Jesus is Savior as well as Healer. (LUK5:18-26) Healings/deliverances done by Jesus and His disciples were first phase of establishing the Kingdom of God: (LUK10:9) that the prince of this world has been judged and the power of sickness and disease has been destroyed. (JOH16:11) Acts 8:5-25 tells how great joy came to individuals and communities where healing and deliverance. Healing is the children's bread. It's your portion. It's what God has given to you. If you're a Christian, healing belongs to you! *Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you."*

Divine healing - integral part of the gospel

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Divine healing continued to be an integral part of the gospel through the ministry of the apostles and the Early Church. Deliverance from sickness is provided for in the Atonement, and is the privilege of all believers. The Bible shows a close connection between the healing ministry of Jesus and His saving, forgiving ministry. His power to heal was actually a witness to His authority to forgive sins.(MAR2:5-12) People came from all directions both to hear Him and to be healed. (LUK5:15) He healed all varieties of sicknesses, diseases, deformities, defects, and injuries.(MAT15:30,31) He also delivered people from demons and the problems they caused.(MAT4:24) Miracles of healing were an important part of the works God sent Jesus to do.(JOH9:3,4) This is in line with revelation of God as the Great Physician, the Lord who heals. Jesus' ministry showed that divine healing is still a vital part of God's nature and plan. Healings also helped to identify Jesus as the promised Messiah and Savior. Jesus fulfilled prophecy of Isaiah 53:4. in the account of Jesus' healing of Peter's mother-in-law: "This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: 'He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases'"(MAT8:17) Isaiah also ties the sufferings of the Servant to the provision of salvation, a ministry fulfilled by Jesus. (ISA53:5,6) His sufferings were for our sins and lead to our peace with God: "And by his wounds we are healed" The reference to it in 1Pet 2:24,25 emphasize the healing or restoration from sin. The gospel to be introduced by the Suffering Servant, Jesus, includes healing from both the spiritual and physical effects of the fall of the human race into sin.(Gen. 3) Divine healing is an ongoing manifestation of the gospel in the current day, and will continue until the return of Jesus.

Just as salvation is by grace through faith.(EPH2:8), so all God's blessings and gifts are ours by His grace. They cannot be earned or deserved. It should be noted that instead of demanding healing from Jesus, the people came asking for His compassionate ministry. They did look on healing as a gracious privilege extended to them. We cannot earn God's blessings, including divine healing, should make us realize the importance of cultivating our life in the Spirit. It is this inner renewal that makes us best able to have the faith to receive the gift of divine healing. To the woman healed of her twelve-year-long bleeding, Jesus said, "Your faith has healed you"(MAR5:34) Faith is seen in the Roman centurion who recognized the authority of Christ's word for the healing of his servant.(MAT8:5-13) and the Canaanite woman who believed in Jesus for the healing of her daughter.(MAR7:24-30) Faith, however, had to be in the Lord. Faith is trusting the all-wise, all-loving, and all-powerful God to respond to the cries of His creation in His own way. The promise "anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. When the woman who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years was healed, "she had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse"(MAR5:26) If it was wrong for her to go to physicians, this would have been the perfect place for Jesus to have said so, but He did not. Instead, He accepted the faith she expressed and commended her for it.

The ministry of the priests under the Law foreshadowed the ministry of the great High Priest, Jesus Christ, who is able "to sympathize with our weaknesses (sickness, disease, timidity, infirmity)"(HEB4:14,15) The Old Testament priests, through the sprinkling of the blood of the sacrifices, made atonement for the sins of the people. An examination of the concept of atonement refers to a ransom price paid for redemption and restoration, which points to the redemption through Christ accomplished by the shedding of His blood in our behalf. "God presented him as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in his blood"(ROM3:25) When the blood of a spotless lamb was sprinkled, prophetically anticipating the sinless life of Christ could give mercy and blessing. The primary purpose of the atonement was cleansing from sin.(LEV16:30) It is clear that atonement brought release from the penalty and consequences of sin in order to bring restoration to God's blessing and favor. Atonement thus provided cleansing from sin and its consequences, including sickness and disease. The Bible makes it clear that people could not pay the price for their redemption, so God out of His love and for the glory of His own name provided the ultimate atonement. All this was accomplished through Christ at Calvary.(JOH3:14-16)

Neither is divine healing a means of avoiding the effects of old age. Moses did retain a clear eye and his natural strength until the day of his death.(DEU 34:7) Healing is still available to the aged, but the part that is healed usually continues to age like the rest of the body. We must be open to God's will and activities, always designed by His love and for our good, understanding that they are beyond our immediate ability to understand. He is, by healing us now and by not healing us, moved by His great compassion, desiring that we be drawn closer to Him. The will of God for believers is Christ-likeness in character. Everything else, including sickness and health, derives its significance in relation to this divine goal.(EPH5:17)

We are living at present between the first and second appearances of Jesus Christ. At His first coming He provided, through His life, death, and resurrection, atonement for sin and its consequences. In this era divine healing, a gift of God's grace, "already and not yet" some are healed instantly, some gradually. At His second coming what was begun will be brought to completion—complete redemption of the human body. The Bible indicates that until Jesus comes we groan because we have not yet received the full redemption of our bodies.(ROM8:23) Only when the dead in Christ rise and we are changed do we receive the new bodies which are like His glorious body.(1CO15:42-44,51-54) We shall receive the redemption of our bodies when we are caught up to meet the Lord and are changed into His likeness. Even followers of Christ groan and travail in pain like the rest of creation, waiting patiently for the fulfilment of our hope.(ROM8:21-25) Finally, at the Lord's return, we "clothed with the imperishable" the full realization of divine healing will have come.

The spiritual gift of Healing

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The Gifts of healing are among the spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12. As an extraordinary charism, gifts of healing are supernatural abilities given to a believer to minister various kinds of healing and restoration to individuals through the power of the Holy Spirit. The spiritual gift of healing is the supernatural manifestation of the Spirit of God that miraculously brings healing and deliverance from disease and infirmity. It is the power of God that destroys the work of sin and the devil in the human body, such as the healings that Jesus and disciples performed. (MAT4:24;15:30;ACT5:15-16;28:8-9) *For to one is given... the gifts of healing by the same Spirit.* (ICO12:7-9) There are special gifts of healing given to some believers by the Holy Spirit to minister as part of the Body of Christ. Spiritual gifts are powers, skills, abilities, knowledge given by God through the Holy Spirit. One of the most common ways that people receive divine healing is when a believer with gifts of healing lays hands on them and prays for them. The power of God that resides in us flows out of the hand that are being laid on the sick person and they get well. The purpose of the spiritual gifts is to edify other believers and, ultimately, to glorify God. All believers are commissioned to pray for the sick, but a believer with gifts of healing is used specifically and consistently by God in this area of ministry. The gift of healing assigned to His servants, to accomplish His objectives are still operative today. (ROM11:29) God still performs miracles and heals people. *Is there no balm in Gilead, Is there no physician there? Why then is there no recovery For the health of the daughter of my people?* (JER8:22)

In Acts 3:2-7, illustrates one of the "wonders and signs" the apostles performed after receiving the Holy Spirit. Peter and John are heading to the temple and are interrupted by a lame man. They explained to the man that they didn't have money then told him to rise up and walk in the name of Jesus. The man was healed in the name of Jesus because of the power that is in His name. May we remain committed to the reality of the power of God to effect divine healing. In the book of Job, we find an example that healing came to Job when He started to focus on needs of others. Job and three of his friends needed to repent before God to work out their differences due to what was done in midst of Job's travail. *And the LORD restored Job's losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.*" (JOB42:10)

Bible confirms that there is a direct relationship between individual sin and sickness in some cases: The elders are to be called to pray respond to illness by express their dependence on God: *"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.* (JAM5:16) We are both to confess our sins to each other, and to pray for each other. An unforgiving spirit or holding a grudge hinders healing. If God cannot forgive you when you do not forgive others, He cannot completely heal you, for healing involves wholeness of soul, spirit, body. The sick are to call the elders as an act of faith and prayer is to be offered. It is to be a prayer of faith, fervent, offered by a righteous man. It is done by participating in prayer, and respond to cheer by singing songs of praise.

Sick person had to make a decision. Jesus asked the lame man at the Pool of Bethesda "Would you like to get well?" Some people do not want to be healed. They enjoy sympathy, pity, attention they receive from being sick. Some receive medical benefits. Some people use their sickness as an excuse to avoid work. Deal with such issues with compassion. Repent of unconfessed sins: Unconfessed sins can be sins lingering in our lives, and need to be addressed. In John 1:9, we are to confess our sins so that God will forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Our need for confession is important for our relationship to God. And God graciously forgives us, and those sins can no longer hinder healing.

Some do not receive healing because their sickness is the work of an evil spirit which must be cast out. They need more than a prayer for healing, that the enemy, devil required cast out in order for healing to occur. Some people do not receive healing because they violate natural laws. For example, a person may continue to drink alcohol and wonder why they are not healed of their liver condition. Are any of the following hindering your prayer for healing? Check those which apply: Sin of any kind, Idols in the heart, An unforgiving spirit, Wrong motives, Power hungry, Wrong treatment of marriage partner, Self-righteousness, Not abiding in Christ, Lack of compassion, Unbelief, Hypocrisy, pride, meaningless repetition prayer, Not asking according to will of God, Not asking in Jesus' name, Satanic hindrances, Not seeking first the Kingdom.

Some people do not receive healing because they do not understand God's Word and His power. *"You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.* (MAT22:29) Unbelief hindered the work of God. In the city of Nazareth, Jesus would not do many miracles because of the unbelief of the people. (MAT13:58) Jesus was the Son of God and filled with all of God's power. He could do whatever miracles He wanted to. Yet as Jesus emphasized to those He healed, He responds to requests inspired by faith. *"Your faith has made you well."* Why are sometimes shallow, worldly Christians healed while more sincere, dedicated people have not yet received healing? *The secret things belong to the Lord our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.* (DEU29:29)

The river of life and the tree of life, described in Revelation 22 2, are both symbols of the eternal life that the residents of Paradise will enjoy. This have been what the tree of life and the river that was flowing out of the garden of Eden. (GEN2:9) The river in New Jerusalem flows down the city's main street. It divides and flow around the tree of life whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. The leaves of this tree possess medicinal properties that benefit the nations. Its source is the water of life which: Is pure, Is clear as crystal, Flows from the throne of God and the Lamb. In eternity, *"there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."* (REV21:4)

Healing prayer

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Are you sick in your body? Do you need a divine touch from the Lord? Start working your way through the God's promises over your body. When you confess the Word of God out loud, you are literally releasing the blessings of the Lord to infiltrate every part of your existence. You are putting God in charge of the situation and putting the devil on notice that you are a child of the Living God! Keep reading the Word! Don't get stuck in a ditch filled with self-pity. Don't give in to defeat, depression but shine! Keep your eyes on the leading of Spirit and let the healing balm begin to wash over you as the Holy Spirit supernaturally drives out all sickness and disease. The Balm of Gilead has a deeper spiritual symbolic purpose that needed ultimate healing. God's people needed the true physician, Lord Jesus the Healer.

Turn to the Word of God. Begin to absorb it into your heart, mind, soul and body. Safety of abiding in the presence of God. Read Psalm 91:1-2, "*He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High Shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust."* Promise is this, "*Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place, No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling; For He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you in all your ways.*" (v.9-12)

There is no better place to turn than the Great Physician. And there is no better way to prepare for the battle than to read the Word and prayer. Deuteronomy 30:19 says, "*therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live*" As with everything in life, we are presented with choices. Which will you choose? Life or death? Blessings or curses? God encourages us to choose life and to live it more abundantly under His sheltering wings. Let God know what concerns you most. Psalm 61:1-4 promises that He is listening when we cry out to Him for help! God promises to shelter us with His outstretched wings, covering us and protecting us from harm. Psalm 23:4 tells us, "*Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.*" No matter the extent of your disease...our God is able! *He is the same yesterday, today and forever.* (HEB13:8) What He has done in the past, He can and will do again. If He raised Lazarus from the dead, He can heal your cancer. If He made the lame to walk, He can heal your broken bone. If He heals blind man at Bethsaida, He can heal your eyes. If He made the dumb to talk, He can touch that part of you that no man has been able to find a medical cure for...because He is Almighty God.

Luke 18:27 says, "*But He said, 'The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.'*" Remember the woman with the issue of blood? She had been suffering for years, running around to doctors all over town, spending her life savings. And all she had to do was reach for the hem of His garment. In that instant, she was made whole. All things are possible with God! Is your earthly physician giving you the worst-case scenario, telling you that there is no hope? We serve an all-sufficient God, the God of all hope. He is the resurrection and the life. As you wait upon the Lord, He will restore your health and refresh your spirit. He will give you a new song in the darkest midnight and turn your mourning into dancing. There is no limit to what God can do in your life once you turn Him. He is the great I am (Exodus 3:14). Whatever you are in need of today, our God is able! All you have to do is ask in faith believing...and it shall be done.

A great prayer of repentance related to healing is recorded in 2 Chronicles 6:26-31. The book of Psalms contains many promises, revelations, prayers concerning healing. (6:2-3): "O Lord heal me." (27:1): "The Lord is the strength of my life." (30:2): "I cried and you healed me." (34:19-20): "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all." (103:1-5): "Forget not His benefits... Who heals all your diseases" In this passage God is revealed as the forgiver of sins and the physician for all diseases. (107:17-20): "He sent His Word and healed them." (147:3): "He heals the broken heart, And binds up their wounds. Proverbs 4:20-23 reveals that the issues of life are affected by the heart attitude and that God's promises bring life and health. Ecc. 3:3 confirms that there is a set time for healing. Malachi 4:2 promises Jesus will arise with "healing in His wings" *The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings.*

During His earthly ministry, Jesus said many prayers for healing, miraculously causing the sick to recover. Today, Jesus continues to pour out His healing balm. Is there someone who needs God's healing touch? Do you wish to say a prayer for a sick friend or family member? God tells us that through prayer, He can speak to us and use us to work miracles for His glory. When you use the prayer for divine healing you are coming to God completely surrendered and expectant to let His Holy Spirit work in and through you. Pray that you will find miraculous healing as you seek God's plan for your life – His plan to prosper you and to give you a hope and future! Healing prayers and healing declarations you can pray, declare over yourself or others to receive healing from the Lord. Pray daily in faith and believe that Jesus, our healer, will heal you. "Lord, I humble myself before you asking for your healing. Help us to keep clean hearts and minds. You that on the cross took our infirmities, carried our sorrows. Your Word says in Isaiah 53, that by His wounds we are healed. I am claiming that healing right now in the name of Lord Jesus and Jesus blood. I thank you that my body is healed. Amen

You keep your healing the same way that you first received it. You received by believing that by His wounds, you are healed. Remember, Jesus Christ went to the cross to take away our infirmities, sickness, disease and carried our pain. Continue believing in Jesus Christ! You'd just realize, I don't have to be sick. For God sent His Word and I am healed.

Thank You God for healing my sicknesses and that of those who are around me in my life. *Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits and kindness—He forgives all my sins. He heals all my diseases.* (PSA103:2-3) Hallelu-Yah!