

## Physical and Spiritual Healing

Is there a link between physical healing and spiritual healing? Let me share a few things with you. Charles Colson with Nancy Pearcey in the book, "A Dangerous Grace," have said, "On the day of Pentecost, those touched by the Holy Spirit were accused of being drunk, or maybe crazy. Today, believers are still considered to be weak, foolish, or emotionally unstable. But more and more studies are showing that religious believers are more emotionally and mentally stable than the average population. Religious faith is linked to lower blood pressure and lower rates of drug use, alcoholism, suicide, and mental disorders."

These next illustrations may not mention that the people involved are Christians, but the link between good living and personal health is definitely related. A Florida State University study found older adults who volunteer up to 100 hours a year live happier and healthier lives. According to a Columbia University study, teens who are under high stress, are often bored, or have \$25 or more a week in spending money, are twice as likely to smoke, get drunk, and use illegal drugs. Teens who attend religious services at least once a week are at significantly lower risk of substance abuse.

Jesus knows the cause of every ailment and He also knows the cure. It is said that in the entrance hall of Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore is a remarkable statue of Jesus. He is portrayed as The Great Physician. Jesus is the Great Physician, and His power is almighty. I know there are people who need the Great Physician in their lives. Someone has a need in their life. Someone has a problem they can't solve. Someone has a situation they are struggling with. Someone has a sickness they are battling. Someone is dealing with a broken heart and a broken life.

Jesus' healing is done within the will of God, and occasionally the Lord will choose not to physically heal someone so that a greater work of God can be done in him or her. God can use sickness as a way to bring us to a deeper level of spiritual intimacy with our Heavenly Father.

During that time of illness, when things seem so dark and drear, we must grow in discerning His presence. We need to be able to respond to His presence. And most importantly, we need to be able to submit to His presence. And our hope needs to be that someday God will heal us completely for all eternity.

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