

God Wishes Above All Things...

I have been sharing with you that the Lord has been bringing up the scripture, 3 John 2: " **Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.**" The Lord desires for His people to have good health. And of course, He wants us to prosper and grow and develop spiritually. Divine healing and good health belong to each child of God. But, as with every other covenant blessing, ***it has to be claimed by faith, in Jesus' Name.***

The first healing scripture that I ever heard was 1 Peter 2:24. One night, I was in a church service and the dear pastor made a statement in his preaching. He said, "*Like 1 Peter 2:24 says, "By whose stripes ye were healed."*" Up until that time, I'd always thought that sickness was just our cross to bear; if we don't get healed now, we'll get healed when we get to heaven, and sickness is a blessing and God gets glory out of our being sick. But really, these are all ***unscriptural myths***, for if God wanted us to be sick, He would never have placed our sicknesses and diseases upon Jesus. Matthew 8:17 and 1 Peter 2:24 say,

"That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying, HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES, AND BARE OUR SICKNESSES.Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: BY WHOSE STRIPES YE WERE HEALED."

I believe that one of the first steps that a believer needs to take to receive healing and live in divine health is *to have a desire to want to be healed*. For many dear souls, the only attention they get is by way of their being sick and afflicted. Jesus asked a man who had been crippled for 38 years, "**Wilt thou be made whole?**" (John 5:6) Today, we would say, '*Do you want to be healed?*' When I first heard this question that Jesus asked, I was amazed. I would have thought that *any* afflicted person, having the opportunity to get out of their affliction, would jump on it right away.

I can vividly remember when I was 15 years old and I was run over by a car while riding my bicycle. I was in a wheelchair, and then on crutches for months. I would have given *anything* to have known about divine healing! The church that I attended didn't teach divine healing, so consequently, I didn't know it was available. Yet, I did everything I could do in the natural to get to where I could walk again and function as a normal human being. I thank God for medical science, but it has its limits. All of us need to develop our faith and learn to stand on Matthew 8:17 and 1 Peter 2:24. If a person would just quote these two scriptures day and night, meditate on them and continually thank God that He is their Great Physician, it will help to expedite the manifestation of their healing.

God does not want you to suffer pain, sickness or disease. Nevertheless, many of us have suffered things that God never intended us to suffer, because we weren't taught the full truth of God's Word. Once a person has a desire to want to be healed and makes a firm decision that they are going to receive their healing from the Lord, *then* they're on the road to recovery. Some healings manifest immediately, and some manifest over the process of time. If we obey God and put our faith into action by keeping ourselves fully persuaded and giving glory to God, the Lord will never fail to come through. ***But you cannot afford to talk sickness and disease, and at the same time, be believing God for your healing miracle.*** Telling everybody how bad you feel, how sick the doctors say you are, or how much medication you are taking, will rob you of divine healing!

Once, when I was ministering in a church, (it was a Wednesday night service, which they called a "midweek" service), I taught on faith in healing. When I was done ministering, a lady who attended the church walked up to me after the service. To say that she was angry at me for what I taught, would be putting it mildly! She proceeded to give me a huge lecture about how sick she was, and about how much medication she was on. She started her dissertation by saying, *"You taught on divine healing as though it belongs to everybody; as though God wants everybody to be healed."* She pulled a pill organizer out of her purse which contained the prescriptions that she'd been taking. She held it up very defiantly in front of my face and shook it at me, saying that she'd been taking 15 prescriptions for 17 years, and that over the years, the doctors had to increase the dosage on them two or three times. And then she said, *"I want to know what I'm supposed to do with all of these prescriptions... **Throw them away?**"*

I wasn't too sure what to say to the lady, so I began to look to the Lord for help in answering her. Thank God for the Holy Ghost! He rose up inside of me and gave me these words: *"Sister, every time you get ready to take your prescriptions, just hold your pills in your hand, lift your hands up to heaven and begin to thank the Lord that according to 1 Peter 2:24, by His stripes I was healed."* She barked back at me saying, *"I don't know what good that would do!"*

About one month later, I was back preaching in that area, and she came up to me after the meeting and said that *that very day*, the doctor had called and said that her tests had come back and he was taking her off of 8 prescriptions that she had been on for 17 years. ***In 30 days, just by thanking God, this dear sister had made incredible progress!*** She ended up asking me, *"What am I supposed to do with the rest of the prescriptions that I'm still taking?"* I remember being so amazed that the dear sister hadn't realized *how much* God had done for her! I said, *"Sister, just keep on thanking the Lord every time you take your medication, that by His stripes you were healed."* And to my amazement, she actually said to me, *"Well, I don't know what good that would do!"* I sort of wept as she left, at the mercy of God: how, that with her unthankful and angry attitude, she hadn't seen how far the Lord had brought her in 30 days, after suffering for 17 years!

This is a time that we always must remember to be thankful to the Lord:

"HE SENT HIS WORD, AND HEALED THEM, AND DELIVERED THEM FROM THEIR DESTRUCTIONS. O THAT MEN WOULD PRAISE THE LORD FOR HIS GOODNESS, AND FOR HIS WONDERFUL WORKS TO THE CHILDREN OF MEN! AND LET THEM SACRIFICE THE SACRIFICES OF THANKSGIVING, AND DECLARE HIS WORKS WITH REJOICING." (Psalm 107:20-22)

For our Lord is so good to us, and many dear souls fail to see the goodness of the Lord. ***So, my dear friend, if your faith seems stuck, and victory seems impossible, take time every day and night to get on your knees, lifting your hands to the Lord, and thank Him that by His stripes you were healed.***

Your partner in faith,

Brother Rich

Remember, God wishes above all things that you prosper and be in health, even as your soul prospers (3John 2).