



## **Topic 3**

# **“WHAT SORT OF HEALING CAN WE EXPECT FROM GOD TODAY?”**

by Canon Jim Holbeck

## **(Some Related Questions And Answers)**

### **Introduction**

- 1). What Healings Did God Perform In The Old Testament?**
- 2). What Did God Himself Say About Healing In The Old Testament?**
- 3). What Did Others Say About God Healing In The Old Testament?**
- 4). Will The Lord Change His Mind About Healing?**
- 5). What Sort Of Needs Can We Pray For In Today's World?**
- 6). What Are The Benefits That Arise From Christ's Redeeming Or Saving Love?**
- 7). What Is Our Christian Message Of Healing?**
- 8). How Will These Truths Affect Our Praying For Healing?**
- 9). Do We Really Take Seriously What God Says In His Word About His Blessings?**

**Introduction:-**

**One of the questions that is often raised in today's world is whether God still heals today. There are those who think that the days of miracles and healings ceased with the death of the last apostle, or with the formation of the canon of Scripture.**

**In the article that follows, we will be looking at the healings God accomplished before the coming of His Son Jesus Christ into the world.**

**We will see that Yahweh had been a healing God during the 2000 years from Abraham up to the coming of Christ into the world.**

**We will also look at how the death and resurrection of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit brought many healings of various types into the life of the church.**

**We look at how healing can be seen to be part of the atonement that Christ wrought upon the cross.**

**In the study will be looking at the various kinds of human needs that can be faced by those engaged in healing ministries.**

**We look especially at some of the promises of God in the New Testament and how we can draw upon those promises in seeking to bring blessing and healing into the lives of those for whom we pray.**

## **Question 1). What Healings Did God Perform In The Old Testament?**

The following are some of the healings that took place in the Old Testament period. They include many individual healings and also a number of corporate healings when God brought healing to His people.

### **i). He Healed Women Of Barrenness**

- Sarah - Genesis 18:10, 14, 21:1-3. The birth of Isaac. When Sarah was told that she would have a child in her advanced years she laughed. The Lord rebuked her saying, *“Is anything too hard for the Lord? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.”*
- Abimelech’s wife and his slave girls. Gen 20:1-18. Abraham prayed for them so they could have children once again.
- Manoah’s wife – Judges 13:5-25. The birth of Samson
- Hannah – 1 Samuel 1:19-20. The birth of Samuel
- Shunnamite woman. 2 Kings 4:8-17. Elisha promised a child to this barren woman.

### **ii). He Healed People With Physical Needs**

- Miriam was apparently healed of leprosy. Num 12:1-15
- King Jeroboam’s shrivelled hand was healed. 1 Kings 13:4-6
- Naaman was healed of leprosy. 2 Kings 5:1-14. (as he followed Elisha’s advice)
- Hezekiah was healed of terminal illness. 2 Kings 20:1-7

### **iii). He healed Nebuchadnezzar of insanity**

Nebuchadnezzar declared what happened to him. *“At the end of that time I Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my sanity was restored. And I praised the most high; and I honoured and glorified him who lives for ever.”* Dan 4:34-36.

### **iv). He Healed The Nation Of Israel From Physical Illnesses**

Numbers 16:46-50. Aaron made atonement for the people and the plague stopped. Numbers 21:4-9. Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness and those who had been bitten by poisonous snakes and who looked to it were healed. 2 Samuel 24:10-25. David took an unwarranted census and a plague followed. He repented over what he had done, prayed to the Lord and the plague stopped.

### **v). He Raised People From The Dead**

1 Kings 17:17-24. Elijah raised a widow’s son from death at Zarephath .  
 2 Kings 4:18-37. Elisha raised the Shunamite’s son from the dead.  
 2 Kings 13:21. A dead man was thrown into Elisha’s tomb and contact with Elisha’s bones raised him back to life.

## 2). What Did God Himself Say About Healing In The Old Testament?

**Exod 15:26.** At Marah people grumbled against Moses because the water was bitter. The Lord showed him some wood which he threw into the water and water became sweet. The Lord then tested them, *"If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer."* Here was preventive medicine in practice.

**Exod 23:25-26.** God prepared his people for entry into the Promised Land. *"Worship the Lord your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span."* The promise of healing was conditional upon their obedience, *Exod 23:20 "Behold, I send an angel before you to guard you on the way and to bring you to the place that I have prepared. 21 Pay careful attention to him and obey his voice; do not rebel against him, for he will not pardon your transgression, for my name is in him. 22 "But if you carefully obey his voice and do all that I say, then I will be an enemy to your enemies and an adversary to your adversaries.*

**Deut 7:15.** *"The Lord will keep you free from every disease. He will not inflict on you the horrible diseases you knew in Egypt, but he will inflict them on all who hate you."* Again these words have to be seen in context. They follow the commandments God gave them up in verses 12 to 15, *"If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep his covenant of love with you as he swore to your forefathers."*

In all these references there was a need for people to obey whatever instructions the Lord had given them, if they were to draw on God's protection and healing power.

### 3). What Did Others Say About God Healing In The Old Testament?

#### The Experience Of God's Healing In The Psalms

**Ps 32:1-2.** Forgiveness. In this Psalm David declares his own experience of the freedom of being forgiven. He had tried to hide his sin from God and went through physical and emotional hell because of it. As he repented and turned back to God he was then able to write these words, *Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. 2 Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.*

**Ps 51:10-12.** Forgiveness and cleansing. King David had sinned against Bathsheba and her husband Uriah whom he had put to death. As he repented of his sin and asked for forgiveness, he also expressed his desire to be changed. *“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. 11 Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. 12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit.”*

He wanted forgiveness for the past and for God's grace to be given to him to enable him not to sin in the future.

**Ps 103:2-5.** Forgiveness. Healing. Redemption. Renewal. This Psalm has one of the best summaries of the different types of healing in the Bible. David lists here at least six benefits coming from God's hand. *Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, 3 who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, 4 who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, 5 who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's. .... 12 as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us.*

In these verses we see a combination of the following. Forgiveness of sins; physical healing of all diseases; release from captivity; the experience of God's love and mercy; spiritual satisfaction and spiritual renewal.

#### 4). Will The Lord Change His Mind About Healing?

One of the doctrines in Christian theology is called the “immutability” of God. That is, God is unchanging in His character and in His promises. The following are some of the verses that show the truth of this doctrine.

Malachi 3:6, *“For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. His people could rely upon His unchanging nature.*

Numbers 23:19, *God is not man, that he should lie, or a son of man, that he should change his mind. Has he said, and will he not do it? Or has he spoken, and will he not fulfill it?*

God is faithful to His promises and to His word.

James 1:17, *Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.*

The God of grace is unchanging in His character and in His purposes.

Isaiah 40:8, *The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.*

Everything in this world may change but God’s Word and His purposes abide forever.

Psalms 102:25-27 *Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; ... You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end.*

The eternal God has created a world that will eventually perish because of human sin. However He alone is eternal and unchanging.

For over 2000 years before Jesus came to earth Yahweh (Jehovah) had shown Himself to be a healing God. He healed:-

- Directly or
- Through human instruments
- Often in answer to prayer by those who repented and who believed in Him

He has had a long “track-record” of healing!

He has not changed. He has lost none of His love. He has lost none of His power.

He has lost none of His desire to bring blessing and healing to His people.

We see that not only in the ministry of Jesus and the apostles but also in the

provision He made for healing in James 5. Jas 5:13 *Is anyone among you suffering? He should pray. Is anyone cheerful? He should sing praises. 14 Is anyone among you sick? He*

*should call for the elders of the church, and they should pray over him after anointing him with olive oil in the name of the Lord. 15 The prayer of faith will save the sick person, and the Lord*

*will restore him to health; if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The urgent request of a righteous person is very powerful in its effect.*

**5). What Sort Of Needs Can We Pray For In Today's World?**

Can we pray for healing for the following human needs?

Physical needs? Yes! We see that physical healing took place through Jesus and through the apostles and others.

Emotional needs? Yes! We see emotional healing taking place especially in some of the Psalms.

Spiritual? Conversion? Deliverance? Yes! We read of God's desire to bring people into knowledge of Himself. We read how Jesus and the apostles set people free from the powers of darkness through deliverance.

Relationships? Yes! We see a lot of teaching in the New Testament regarding relationships and especially in Ephesians 4 and 5. These relationships include those in the family, in work situations, among neighbours and one's relationship towards the state.

Meaning and Purpose in life? Yes! Jesus said of Himself that He came that His people "*might have life, and life in abundance.*" John 10:10.

In brief, there is no part of human existence which is beyond His concern and love. Nor is there any part of human living that is beyond His power to make a positive difference when people are open to receive His love and power into their lives.

## 6). What Are The Benefits That Arise From Christ's Redeeming Or Saving Love?

The word “salvation” in the Greek NT is “soteria”. It has the meaning of being set free or becoming more whole. The verb form of the word is “sozo” which means “heal” or “save”. We see both these meanings in the different translations for Mk 5:34 “*Your faith has saved you (healed you, made you well, made you whole).*” The word speaks of the “wholeness” that God brings into every area of life

- Wholeness in body = physical healing. The healing of various types of illnesses and diseases.
- Wholeness in mind = emotional healing. Healing from anxiety and the receiving of peace.
- Wholeness in spirit = spiritual healing. Spiritual enlightenment in conversion and the setting free from demonic influences.

This is the wholeness Jesus came to bring

It is interesting to look at the various words that are used for “healing” in the New Testament. The Greek words are listed below together with the Strong’s concordance number (in case some folk want to do some more study on these words using a concordance).

In the following an attempt is made to give the Greek word and its Strong’s concordance number (S = Strong’s Concordance number), as well as the meaning. Greek words for “healing” in the Greek New Testament

- Diasozo S1295. *healing in Mat 14:36, Lk7:3*
- Therapeia S2322. *healing. (Eng. “therapy”) Lk 9:11, Rev 22:2*
- Therapeuo S2323. *to heal. (Verb of Eng. “therapeutic”) (40+ verses)*
- Iama S2386. *healing. 1 Cor 12:9,28,30 only.*
- Iaomai S2390. *to heal. 28 references to healing*
- Iasis S2392. *healing. Lk 13:32, Acts 4:22,30 only.*
- Holokleeria S3647. *wholeness. Acts 3:18 only*
- Sozo S4982. *Normally “save” but “heal” 14 times.*
- Hygiaino S5198. *to be sound or healthy. (Eng. Hygiene). 3 references*
- Hygiees S5199. *sound. 13 references to whole or healed.*

It can be seen that there are a large number of verses referring to healing in the New Testament.

### Is It True To Say That Healing Is Based On The “Finished Work Of Christ On The Cross?”

A Respected Bible Scholar R.K.Harrison once wrote about the nature of healing using these words, “*It would appear that the incarnate Lord dealt also with disease*”

*and sickness upon the cross as well as human sin. ie., His atonement avails for the whole personality, body as well as soul. On this basis therefore, it is theoretically justifiable to appeal to the finished work of Christ for physical healing as well as for spiritual restoration." p.547. (Sorry, I am not sure which book it is.)*

He is stating then that the atonement through Jesus' death on the cross has made the following available:-

- Healing for the whole personality
- Healing for the Body
- Healing for the Soul
- Physical healing
- Spiritual restoration

### **A Personal story**

In 1988, just a few days before I began my ministry as the Leader of the Healing Ministry in St Andrews Cathedral Sydney, one of the bishops interviewed me and challenged me with these words, "*Do you believe that healing is part of the Atonement?*" It was obvious he wanted me to say "No!" I knew I needed wisdom to arrive at an answer. So I shot up an arrow prayer to God.

I will share with you later what my answer was, and the surprising turn of events that were to follow.

I am often amazed. What amazes me is not the immensity of God's love and power. We'll never be able to fully understand or appropriate the dimensions of the "unsearchable riches" which are ours in Christ. *Eph 3:8 "To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."*

Rather what amazes me is a refusal on the part of some people to recognise the immensity of God's love and power in being able to meet human needs.

**This is a diagram I drew up to show the implications of Jesus' death on the cross.**

**It shows how the Old Testament prophecies have been fulfilled in Jesus' death and resurrection. (It is a picture from one of the PowerPoint slides presentation.)**

## Atonement. JESUS DIED ON THE CROSS. THE RESULTS

(Isa 53:4) "Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows"



Mat 8:17 "This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and carried our diseases"

Physical and emotional healing

(Isa 53:5) "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."



(1 Pet 2:24) "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed."

Col 2:15 Disarmed power of darkness. Freedom

Spiritual healing. Forgiveness-Release

30 April, 2015

Topic 3 ASWP Types of Healing

11

I have put below a table with more detail showing how those prophecies were fulfilled. It also shows what sort of healing has become available in Jesus. (LXX GK stands for the Greek word in the Septuagint Greek Old Testament version (abbreviated as LXX) which was in use when Jesus came to earth. In some instances the same word is used in both the Greek Old Testament and the Greek New Testament.)

### **THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY OF IS 53:4,**

**(Isa 53:4)** "Surely he took up our infirmities (Hb. Choliy = anxiety, calamity, disease, grief, sickness. (LXX Gk. Hamartia = sin, failure) and carried our sorrows, (Hb. mak'ob) anguish or (fig.) affliction:--grief, pain, sorrow; (Gk. odunaō = distress in body or mind.)  
yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted."

**THE FULFILMENT IN JESUS' MINISTRY . Mat 8:16-17**

**Mat 8:16** *That evening they brought to him many who were oppressed by demons, and he cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. (Gk. kakōs = ill, miserable)*

**(Mat 8:17)** *"This was to fulfil what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities (Gk. Astheneia = weakness) and carried our diseases" (Gk. Nosos = sickness, disease)*

### **JESUS MADE PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL HEALING AVAILABLE**

#### **THE MESSIANIC PROPHECY OF IS 53:5**

**(Isa 53:5)** *"But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." (Hb. Rapha. Compare Ex 15:26 "For I am Yahweh who heals you." (Gk. iaomai = heal, save.)*

#### **THE FULFILMENT BY JESUS IN HIS DEATH**

**(1 Pet 2:24)** *"He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." (Gk. iaomai)*

#### **SPIRITUAL HEALING**

Peace with God is available

Forgiveness is available.

Freedom from guilt is available

#### **Spiritual Victory Through The Cross**

In the diagram the words from Colossians 2:15 are placed below the cross showing that on the cross Jesus disarmed the principalities and powers through His death.

*Col 2:13 And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, 14 by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. 15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.*

In the diagram I have put the words under Jesus' feet on the cross as it reminds me (personally) of this passage in Genesis 3, *Gen 3:14 The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. 15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; **he shall bruise your head,** and you shall bruise his heel."*

Jesus was the offspring to whom these words pointed. He alone had the power to overcome the evil one. He did this on the cross, Colossians 2:15. It is in Jesus and through Jesus that we have the victory over the powers of darkness.

## 7). What Is Our Christian Message Of Healing?

We preach JESUS, the living Saviour, as the Victor and as the One who heals. Our message is centred on Who Jesus IS as the Son of God, the Messiah and the Christ. Our message is also centred on what He HAS DONE. Jesus by His life, death, resurrection, ascension and by sending the Holy Spirit has established His kingdom in this world.

Kingdom blessings are available in Him.

They are given by grace to those who come before Him in repentance and faith to enter His kingdom and to be open to the blessings stemming from His victory on the cross and from His Kingdom rule.

### **KINGDOM BLESSINGS AVAILABLE TO US IN CHRIST**

We need to look at the vast magnitude of these blessings.

#### **All Things Are Ours In Him. God Said So!**

**All things.** Rom 8:31, 31 *What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?*

**All things.** 1 Cor 3: 21 *So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, 22 whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future--all belong to you, 23 and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God*

**Every spiritual blessing.** Eph 1:3, *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places,*

**Belonging to God.** Eph 1:4, *just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. 5 He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved.*

**Release. Forgiveness.** Eph 1:7, *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace 8 that he lavished on us.*

### **KINGDOM GRACE TO EMPOWER US TO LIVE AS WE SHOULD**

(The Holy Spirit is able to impart God's grace to us to enable us to live as He desires us to live.

#### **Receiving Divine Power for Christian Living and Service**

*2Pet 1:3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence*

#### **Receiving His Divine Nature To Give Us Victory**

*2 Pet 1:4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.*

Faith humbly accepts His gracious provision for all our needs. They are ours in Christ, to be appropriated by faith.

## **8). How Will All These Truths Affect Our Praying For Healing?**

In the light of all the above truths do we need to keep on praying “*Please, please*” over and over again as we pray for the same thing? Not if we act on the promises of God! He says that they are now ours in Him.

### **His Promises**

#### **Believing Him And His Promises Without Doubting Brings Answers!**

(Mark 11:22-23) *“Have faith in God,” Jesus answered. 23 “I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him.”*

#### **Ask! Believe You Have It! You Will!**

(Mark 11:24) *“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Also Mat 21:21-22)*

### **A Twofold Confidence And A Two-Fold Promise Regarding Prayer**

#### **A). The Two-fold Confidence. 1 Jn 5:14-15**

A summary of 1Jn 5:14-15. “We pray. He hears. We have.”

- i). (Our first confidence). (1 John 5:14) *And this is the boldness we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. He Actually Does Hear Our Prayers. We can be confident that as we pray He is listening.*
- ii). (Our second confidence). (1 John 5:15) *And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have obtained the requests made of him. He not only knows what we are praying but He actually Does Promise To Answer Our Prayers.*

We move from “*Please, Please*” in prayer as we bring our situations to the Lord, to bringing our requests before him, and immediately saying “*Thank You , Thank You!*” as we pray believing in the promises of God.

#### **B). The Twofold Promise Of The Lord’s Presence And Provision. Mat 18: 19-20.**

- i). The promise of the Lord’s PRESENCE. (Mat 18:20) *“For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.”*

(He is present regardless of how we feel! His presence does not depend on our sensitivity to His presence. It depends solely on His promise to be among us, which He will always fulfil.)

- ii). The promise of the Lord’s PROVISION. (Mat 18:19) *“Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven”*  
(It involves the following. Agreeing in prayer before the Lord. Asking in faith. Receiving from the Father in His way and in His time.)

## 9). Do We Really Take Seriously What God Says In His Word About His Blessings?

God's reminder and promise through St Paul

**Eph 3:20** *Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think*

*according to the power at work within us,*

*21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*

Why do we set limits on what we think He can do? He tells us that we cannot begin to imagine what He can do. It is beyond our human capability. He told us through the prophet Isaiah, *Isa 55:8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

Notice in Eph 3:20 that it is HIS power at work within us, not ours! Kingdom power! Resurrection Power! Available to His people.

### What does that mean regarding praying for healing?

God's Infinite Resources in Christ. (They Are Ours In Him!)

- Are they adequate for all sorts of human needs? YES!
- Will they ever run out? NO! NEVER!
- Will He ever change? NO! He is Unchanging!

Jesus said to the blind men who were looking for healing, Mat 9:28 *"Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." 29 Then he touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith be it done to you."*

The challenge of those words to us today. *"According to your faith be it done to you."*

The faith that is needed. Mustard seed size faith to move mountains!

A Final Encouragement. What is required?

It is not  
the **QUANTITY of our faith** that is important.

Rather it is  
the **QUALITY of the Person** in whom we have our faith  
that makes all the difference

It Is Not GREAT FAITH In God But Faith In A GREAT GOD!