



December 27, 2009

Will You Be Healed?

Moment of Manna

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In Acts 10:38 Peter told the people that Jesus “went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil.” Peter did not know of one case where Jesus refused to heal someone who asked. He clearly states that Jesus healed “ALL”. The Bible tells us numerous times that it is God’s will that all would be healed. Are all healed? It depends on your definition of “healed”.

I’ve spent the last three weeks searching the Bible trying to find instances where God refused to heal someone who asked. I failed. All I could find was Scripture after Scripture like Mark 1:40-42 where a leper comes to Jesus and says, “If you will you can make me clean.” The Scripture tells us that Jesus was moved with compassion and said, “I will; be thou clean.” Jesus stated it was His will to heal.

Many Christians struggle with this concept of healing. Oh, they believe Jesus healed when He walked the earth, and that He’ll heal again when He returns; but for us, for our lifetime, He’s put healing on hold. Some believe that we are supposed to suffer and that God puts sickness and disease on us so that we can suffer for Him. John 10:10 tells us that Jesus came to give His people the abundant life. Anyone who has suffered with sickness and disease certainly knows that such a life cannot be described as an abundant one. Under such conditions life becomes very limited. The sickness and disease takes away time, energy, and focus day after day; not only of the one who is sick, but also of the caregiver and the loved ones. When you study the many instances of God’s healing, you can only conclude that it is Jesus’ will and desire to heal those who request healing from Him. He’s willing. Why don’t we see more of it today?

In my search I came across an interesting theory about the definition of healing. This group believes that there’s a difference between being healed and being cured. They believe that we can be healed and not be cured, or that we can be cured and not be healed, and sometimes we can have both. If this is true and we could have a choice to be healed or be cured, which would you choose?

Joni Earickson was an active teenager who loved life. She was a beautiful girl, talented, athletic. She enjoyed riding horses, loved to swim. One summer in 1967, at the age of fifteen, all that changed for Joni. While swimming with some friends, Joni dove into a lake not

knowing how shallow it really was. She broke her neck, paralyzing her body from the neck down. There was no medical procedure that could reverse this condition for Joni. Her family and friends began storming heaven with prayers for her healing. Nothing changed. People from all across the country began praying for her, but nothing changed. This went on for two years with no results and Joni got angry with God. She became bitter and blamed God for causing her to suffer like this. She realized she had no future and just wanted to die.

She had always gone to church. She believed in God. She read her Bible. But for two years she set that all aside and cursed God.

Then she met Steve in the hospital. He wasn't a pastor; just a young man who loved God. He became someone she could talk to, and he got her back into the Bible. She began to forget about her limitations and began looking at those things that she could do. She stopped avoiding God and began listening to Him. She decided to glorify, to honor, to serve God with the abilities she had left. She knew that one day she would go to a better place and get a better body; but for now, she would serve God.

That was forty-two years ago. Today she is a world renowned mouth artist; she paints pictures with the brush in her teeth. She is a world renowned singer, with more than fifteen Christian albums to her credit. She has written fourteen books, and speaks to groups all over the world, telling them of God's love. She learned to live with it. With all that prayer that went up for Joni, she was not cured, but can you say she was not healed? It depends on your definition of healing.

House is one of my favorite shows on TV. I love it when they come up with these really obscure diseases to explain away the symptoms of their patients. I've often wondered if these diseases are real, or if they just make them up. I remember one show where they explored the possibility of someone having Sciticosis. I had my answer. It's real. My mother had Sciticosis. I remember going to the hospital to visit her. That was very difficult. They had put tubes in her throat so she could breathe, but it took away her ability to speak. The first thing you noticed when you walked in to her room was the fear on her face and the intense panic in her eyes. You could see that she was struggling; not just to breathe, but to survive. We all prayed constantly for her, non-stop, with every fiber of our being. Nothing happened. Then one day I went to visit her, and everything had changed. The minute I entered the room, I felt a peace. I looked at her and there was no fear on her face, no panic in her eyes. I didn't know what happened and she couldn't tell me, because she couldn't speak. All I know is that her eyes were smiling, and that's how I remember her. She was at peace. She knew where she was going, and she was ready. With all that prayer that went up for my mother, she was not cured, but can you say she wasn't healed? It depends on your definition of healing.

Ruth Carter Stapleton was an evangelist. She was born in 1929 and had one sister and two brothers, one being former president Jimmy Carter. She spent much of her life holding camp meetings and writing books on inner healing. Her mother died of pancreatic cancer. Her father died of pancreatic cancer. Her sister, Gloria, died of pancreatic cancer. Her brother, Billy, died of pancreatic cancer. In 1982, Ruth Carter Stapleton was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Having seen what her family had gone through in their battle with pancreatic cancer, Ruth announced that she would try a different approach. She was going to try a new diet, and reject conventional medical treatment. And when asked why she would choose to reject the only hope she had, she replied, "My whole life I have trusted God to take care of me. He has always been there for me. I will not change that now. Whether He chooses to heal me, or take me home, either way I win." She ended up winning.

I've heard many stories about people who seemed to be wonderful Christians, but were not healed of some disease. Instances like these are held up as evidence that it is not always God's will to heal His children. Let me ask you this: Is it God's will that we overcome all temptation and sin? Of course it is! If we don't overcome a particular temptation or sin, does that mean that it is no longer God's will that we overcome? Of course not. The same is true about physical healing. Just because someone is not healed doesn't mean that it's not God's will to heal them. It just means that there are other dimensions to their healing that we don't understand; such as lifestyle issues like diet, exercise and rest, or emotional needs that must be addressed before physical healing can take place.

What can we learn from nature regarding God's desire for the healing of His children. We can find the answer. The creation of man clearly teaches us that it is God's will to heal. God created our bodies to be healed. He gave us an immune system to fight disease. If we cut ourselves it heals.

In Christianity the Godhead is a trinity, made up of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, and these three are one, in agreement, able to care for an entire world, the entire universe. As humans we are also a trinity, made up of the body, the soul, and the spirit. When these three become one, we are completely whole, completely healed. I think that's the dimension we miss. All three must be in harmony. To have physical healing, we also need spiritual healing and emotional healing. If one of those parts is out of sync, the physical healing may not be able to manifest itself. We need all three, and sometimes we settle for only one of these dimensions and our healing is not complete.

Getting back to the question; if there is a difference between being healed or being cured, and you had a choice, which would you choose? Being cured usually manifests itself only in the physical. Being healed is usually complete, encompassing all three: body, mind, and spirit, and we need all three to be healthy. I would choose to be healed, because no matter what happens, I win.

James 5:14-15 says, "Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven."

In agreement with and obedience to this Scripture, we invite you, we encourage you to come forward to be anointed with oil and be prayed over; to become complete. God wants to heal you. Take advantage of this opportunity. Seize the day. Let God do His work on you.