

Divine Healing

Part 2: Understanding the Relationship between Sin and Sickness

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Full Text (for reading on your own)

Overall Framework

The engrafted Word of God is able to save our souls, heal our bodies, and renew our minds. It is God's will to heal everyone without exception and immediately. Many people after receiving prayer do get healed progressively. But, it is God's will that every single person would be healed now, immediately and without hesitation. This is the will of God.

If you or I pray for someone and healing does not take place, the issue is always on the part of man – without exception. Those two statements are the framework.

Erin's Testimony: Neck and Back Healed

Erin had tweaked her neck and nothing was making it better. All the things her physical therapist was telling her to do were not making it better. It was going on for two weeks and she had run out of medicine for the pain prior to Sunday church service. She was in so much pain that she was having trouble doing what she needed to do. Some of the ladies in the church prayed for her neck and she had a measure of healing but it was still hurting.

She asked Brad to pray for her and as he prayed for her he could feel a vertebrae in her neck moving that was out of joint. Erin's back was hurting so much that it was making her nauseous and unable to eat. So Brad said, "Back be straightened" and she could literally feel the vertebrae clicking back into place down her back! The nausea completely went away and she had no more pain -- immediately. The pain was at about an 8 (on a scale of 1-10) prior to being prayed for and immediately after prayer it was at a 0.5! She is completely pain-free now.

Two Other Testimonies

Later that same day (Sunday) Brad's mom asked if he could pray for a friend of her's that had been bedridden for two months. She has Guillain-Barre syndrome, which attacks the sheath around the nerves and eats those sheaths away so the nerves are not able to operate correctly, causing the muscles to fail and often resulting in complete paralysis. She had been basically paralyzed in a bed and couldn't even feel her legs. For example, if she couldn't see her legs, she didn't know where they

were. She had just had a major physical therapy breakthrough in that she could now just barely raise a glass of water to her mouth with two hands.

From Brad: I was on my way to meet with my mom's friend. It is worth noting that I felt utterly exhausted due to only having about four and half hours of sleep the night before. I was feeling about as anointed as a dead fish but I knew healing has nothing to do with my physical strength. So, I thought, "OK, so I'm tired? So what! So I feel nothing. So what! How I feel has nothing to do with it. Healing has everything to do with Jesus and what He did on the cross! It has nothing to do with me."

My mom's friend (Erin) basically believes in a universal power or force - a good force but not a personal God. Since she is not a believer, I wanted to begin at the beginning with her but right as I was ready to start sharing about Jesus and the healing He has afforded us, we hear a knock at the door. It's her friend. I was bummed because the timing was not the best. Nevertheless, her friend came in and sat down and the lady I came to minister to tells her, "Hey this is Brad he is going to talk to us about healing. What do you think about that?" Her friend didn't even look at me, instead she just looked at Erin with a look that seemed to say, "That is not what I came for!"

There was definite resistance in Erin's friend. There was definitely an opportunity for me to get down and let negativity come into my thinking, but I resisted because I knew I would have an opportunity to minister to Erin. I did, however, think about doing this at another time so that I didn't have unbelief in the room while I was going to be ministering to her. So I turned to my mom and said, "Hey what do you think? Maybe I should just come back another time?" I also didn't want to interrupt Erin and her friend's time together as I could always come back later.

After my mom thought about it for a second, she said, "I think we should just go for it." Since she has known Erin and her friend for years, I agreed. I began talking about how God heals. I showed her scriptures on healing and had her read the scriptures out loud. I thought I did a pretty good job explaining that healing is real and it is for today. I also gave her some testimonies of people I have prayed for and the healing they had experienced. This lasted about thirty minutes.

I then asked her, "Are you ready? Can I pray for you?" To which Erin replied, "I can't say that I really believe like you believe." I assured her saying, "Well that is okay that you don't believe like I believe, but first I just want to tell you God is a real person. He created you, He's your maker, He's real. Here's what I need from you to move forward. I just need you to have a 'yes' in your heart that you will receive healing if it is real. If your heart is like 'no I don't want anything to do with that,' I can't minister to you. God is a gentleman; He will not force Himself on you, you just have to be open." Then I asked her "are you open to the idea of receiving it?" Erin said "well yeah, I mean yeah." And I said "duh right!?" And Erin said "well yeah duh, yeah I'll receive it." So I said "OK cool that's all I

need, I'll do the believing, I just need you to be open to receiving." Erin said "okay I can do that part." I said "alright."

So, I was getting ready to pray when she said "wait, wait one minute my shoulder is just really hurting could you just put the pillow under my shoulder?" After we got that pillow situated for her she said I could go ahead and pray for her. So I lay hands on her and I speak to her body. I command the nervous system to be corrected and to be healed completely. I just commanded healing into her body. I won't go into all what I was praying, I just prayed for two minutes or so.

Now, when Erin's friend had originally come in the room and Erin said "He is going to talk to us about healing what do you think about that?" Erin's friend said in an almost condescending way "well I've got a knee sore if you want to pray for that." I don't mean to put her down. She doesn't buy this. So, after I prayed for Erin, I turned to her friend and said "what do you think if I prayed for your knee?" She looked at me like "are you serious?" And then she said "sure why not?" Her tone said "whatever."

I said "can I touch your knee?" and she said "sure." So I said "how long has your knee been hurting?" She said "fifty years." I said "are you serious?" She said "yeah, I injured it when I was pole vaulting in high school." It had ripped her tendons in her knee and she has been in pain for fifty years! I said "OK well that is going to end today." So I laid hands on her I commanded her knee to be healed. That was it. I turned back I start talking to Erin.

Erin and I were talking for about three minutes and her friend completely interrupts our conversation and says "Brad you fixed my knee!" She says "oh my gosh!" and she stands up and again exclaims "you fixed my knee, oh my gosh, Erin, I don't have any pain in my knee!" My mom told me she that now Erin's friend has been asking me all kinds of theological questions! She has never done that before. Her knee still does not hurt. Woohoo!

Now, when I had originally finished praying for Erin, she said "well I can't say that I feel any different." And I said "that's OK." (If you pray for someone and they say they don't feel any different, do not get into unbelief.) So I said to Erin "I promise you, you will, the anointing went into you and it was doing its work now and you will feel different. My guess is tomorrow morning you are going to be shocked at your level of recovery. Like you are going to start doing things you can't even imagine. It will defy logic what you will be able to do tomorrow and it will get better and better and you will heal rapidly, alright."

Having prayed in faith for Erin and seen her friend's knee healed, I was getting ready to leave, but I kept getting a reminder from the Lord about Erin's shoulder. So I asked Erin "how is your shoulder by the way?" And she looked at me as if to ask "should I test it?" and then she started to move it. She was like "oh my gosh!" My mom said take the pillow out from under her arm. So, I went around and

pulled the pillow out and she starts moving her shoulder and saying “oh my gosh it doesn't hurt anymore! I don't have any pain in my shoulder!” I said “see it has already started! You are going to be fine!

Her physical therapist came the next day and apparently said no less than five times “this is amazing!” about everything she could do, she could lift her hands 180° above her head the next day! Remember she could barely lift a water glass with 2 hands the day before! As for the foot that she couldn't even tell where it was if she could visually see it, she was now resisting the physical therapist with her leg, resisting with her leg! Then, three days later, she was starting to stand up! Glory!!!

Healing is Real and For You!

Healing is real and there are many many more testimonies that Brad could share - and ones even more powerful than the ones that we just heard. Powerful in the sense that they are really radical to our minds. But they are not any more or less because they are all the same level of power. They are all supernatural events.

What really matters is that we will all step into this yourself - that your life is a life that is going around praying for people and seeing people healed. Do we want to just hear about healing and a year from now hear about healing again or do we want to be healing people? I want you to be people that are healing people.

You may feel more confident if I prayed for you than if you prayed for you. I want you to know there is no logic to that. You are as capable as healing anyone as I am, as Peter is, as John G. Lake is, or anybody else. Generally speaking, there is no difference between any of God's children in their ability the provision has been made the same to all of God's people. The only exception is there is a gift of healing that God puts on some people, that is different, that is a radical thing. That is the thing you'll see on people like Kathryn Kuhlman, but that is temporary, it comes on when they're on the platform, they pray for people and then they leave and they don't have it, it is God's temporary anointing. The gift of healing is different, but, God has commissioned all believers to pray for the sick including ourselves. Sickness is not of God, He doesn't want it and He's already made provision for healing.

Healing Foundations

It is imperative to know that God's will is to heal everybody all the time or you will never ever reach any successful level in the area of healing. You may get lucky every once in a while, but I want you walking in it consistently. But consistency will never happen unless you become convinced that healing is God's will. Why? Because your faith cannot rise above your knowledge of God's will. It is

an impossibility. And how do you know His will? Your knowledge of His Word on a subject, that's His will; the Word reveals His will.

We have to know God's will regarding healing if we going to walk in any kind of faith, because if you don't know that it is His will you will doubt. If you don't know you'll doubt. And doubt is a faith destroyer. Doubt brings fear. Fear contaminates faith. So, I want to explain to you the relationship between sin and sickness. This is one of the foundations to understanding God's will about healing so that you don't fall into doubt. It is really important that you get this because if you get it, it will go so far in you never doubting God's will.

Let me ask you a question. Do you believe that it is God's will to forgive mankind of sin? Always or sometimes? All people or some people? We believe it is God's will to forgive everyone all the time without exception. How do we know that? Because we know about what Jesus did on the cross. The Word tells us what Jesus did on the cross. He shed His blood for the remission of sin. John the Baptist said in John 1:29 "Behold the Lamb of God Who takes away the sin of the world." John didn't say that Jesus takes away the sin of the "good God-fearing Christians." He didn't say Jesus takes away the sin of those "who do this and this and that." No, behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! At the Last Supper, Jesus said "this is the cup of the new covenant, this is my blood for the remission of sin." That means the wiping out of sin and we know that.

So, here's my next question: Do you think Adam and Eve before the fall ever had the flu, a cold, cancer, diabetes, or any form of sickness whatever? Now we don't have scripture really that tells us but if you can just use a little bit of logic it is not even a question. Prior to the fall, they were filled with the life of God which was in them was so powerfully it literally would not permit sickness in their bodies. It permeated their bodies so greatly that they glowed, they glowed such that they didn't even know that each other were naked. They had the life of God emanating through their body giving life to the mortal body. Sickness had no chance in their lives.

But besides that the reason we know Adam and Eve would have never gotten sick is because sickness is a symptom of sin and sin had not yet entered the human race, it had not entered them. You need to know that about sickness, it is literally a symptom of sin. Sin is the disease. Sickness is the symptom of the disease. It is the offspring of sin. It is the byproduct of sin.

That connection between sin and sickness is not just my opinion. The result of sin, according to the scripture, is death. Romans tells us that "the wages of sin, is death." What does that mean? The result of, the payment, the fruit of sin is death. Sickness is the beginning stages of death. That is all it is. It is just the beginning stages of that thing called death taking place in your body.

We may think "well if that's true then everyone would die if they had a cold." Actually you would die from a cold if it wasn't for the immune system God designed and put in your body to attack that

which would otherwise kill you. This is why people with a suppressed immune system can die from something as simple as a cold or a flu. The immune system is the only reason sickness does not always take people out. Sometimes the sickness gets so great it overwhelms the immune system and then it will kill you. Sickness is death in the beginning stages.

Sin and Sickness

Psalm 103: 1-3 says “Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, *ble*ss His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,” Is it a coincidence that He put iniquities and sin together? It is not. Look at another verse. Isaiah 53:4-5 says “Surely He hath borne our griefs.” The definition of that Hebrew word rendered “griefs” is malady, sickness, disease. It also includes grief. That Hebrew word is translated twenty-four times in the Old Testament. Four of those has translated grief, twenty of them its translated sickness or disease. It primarily is talking about disease. That is totally proven beyond any shadow of a doubt when Mathew 8:17 quotes this scripture in Greek ““He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.”

Isaiah prophesied about the crucifixion 700 years before crucifixion was ever even invented. He prophesied about the Lord Jesus going to the cross and what would happen on the cross. “Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses) and carried our sorrows. Now that word ‘sorrows’ also carries the word sickness in it, but, it is translated virtually every time, sorrows or grief. So, it certainly is predominantly sorrow, but it includes sickness.

So far we have “Surely He has borne our griefs (sicknesses) and carried our sorrows. Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.” What is that talking about? It means He is saying that when the people see Him on the cross they will think God did this to Him, that God smote him. “Look, this is happening to Him because He is a blasphemer.” Isn’t that what they yelled out when He was on the cross? So it says yet we will esteem him stricken and smitten of God. Isaiah says, “no, He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities.”

What is that talking about? Sin. Jesus took our sin on Him on the cross. The chastisement for our peace was upon Him. We can walk in peace and not anxiety and worry and fear. He took the punishment of all anxiety, the sin would bring the anxiety, He took that on him so that we could have peace. And “by his stripes you were healed.” Physical healing. So, in looking at Isaiah 53, we see our physical healing, spiritual healing, emotional healing and back to physical healing. It is physical healing sandwich. And, again, you see physical healing and sin juxtaposed next to each other in scripture.

The Bible says that anyone who hangs on the tree is accursed. When God had Jesus go to the cross, He went to the cross to take the curse that was on man. Galatians 3:13 says that Jesus himself

became accursed for us for it is written “cursed is everyone who hangs on the tree.” Why did Jesus become accursed for us? So that the blessing of Abraham might come upon us! So, anything that got put on Jesus on the cross was a curse - meaning it is not of God, God hates it. Jesus took on the curse and then God punished it and put an end to it. So, if it is on Jesus on the cross, it is not of God; God doesn't want it; it is a bad thing and that is why it is a curse.

So, anything that you can see that is on Jesus on the cross God doesn't want on you! Otherwise what was the point what in Jesus taking it on Himself if it wasn't to get it off of us! So, what are the things that we see that were put on Jesus according to Isaiah 53? Sin and sickness. Surely He hath borne our sicknesses and carried our diseases.

In Matthew 8, we see that Jesus healed all who were sick. Notice He did not stop pray ask the Father “which one today, who do you want to heal today, who do you not want to heal today?” You will never find Him pray such a prayer, because it doesn't exist. Jesus always healed every single person without exception who came to him for healing in faith. Jesus took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses. Not His. He didn't have any. He took our infirmities; He bore our sicknesses. Some people argue that Isaiah 53 is talking about Spiritual healing when it says ‘by His stripes you were healed.’ But, you cannot interpret it that way if you happen to know that Mathew 8:16-17 is in your bible. It is interpreted for us there very plainly. Jesus demonstrated it and said what Isaiah 53 was about.

So, we see sin and sickness together on the cross. Jesus paid the price for both of them. I'm wanting you to see the relationship of sickness and sin together and then I'm going to explain why that is so important. 1 Peter 2:24 says “who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed.” What does it say right after the part about bearing our sins? It talks about our physical healing! This is not a coincidence; instead, God is showing us the relationship between sin and sickness. If you take care of the source, which is sin, then you take care of its symptom, which is sickness. When Jesus took care of the sin, He took care of the sickness.

That I May Show that I have Authority to Forgive Sins

With that background, now Matthew 9:1-8 will make a lot of sense to you. If you are perhaps not seeing the relationship I am highlighting with all of these scriptures, or if you think somehow I'm extrapolating something from the scriptures that is not there, then I would ask you to clarify how Jesus is not making the exact same connection in Matthew 9.

Here's the backstory: Jesus is in a house, and there are a bunch of Pharisees and Sadducees there - very religiously-minded folk who are not real happy with Jesus. We read in the account of the same story in Luke that the power of God was there was present to heal “them.” Note that it says the

power of God was present to heal not one person, but “them.” The power of God was there to heal them all. Then there were some folks who brought a friend of theirs who was paralyzed. He was on a bed and totally paralyzed. The house was so packed there were even people outside by the front door, so these kind friends had no way of getting their bed-ridden friend into the house. Nevertheless, they were so desperate to get before Jesus because they knew something. To them, there was no doubt that if they could get in before Jesus they would get healed.

So, what did they do? They went around the back, they crawled up on top of the roof (which back then was not made of asphalt shingles, but instead of wood and straw), and then they broke through the roof! Think about this. They tore up this poor homeowner’s roof! That was faith! They thought “we’ll deal with this later, but for now we are ripping this guy’s roof off to get to Jesus!

So, after they tear the guy’s house apart, they lower their down on his cot down into the middle of the teaching that Jesus was giving. This was sure to have interrupted the teaching! Imagine I’m sitting here teaching and the roof starts getting ripped open, and when you look up to see the noise and here comes this guy down on a cot!

The Bible tells us that they lower him down and Jesus sees their what? Their faith! Jesus was not disturbed, but was instead excited. He sees their faith and He says “man be of good cheer your sins are forgiven you.” Now this almost doesn’t make sense! Clearly the lame man has come before Jesus (through the roof no less!) for physical healing. Yet, Jesus says, “be of good cheer your sins have been forgiven you.”

At this point, the Sadducees and the Pharisees are furious at such a statement because only God can forgive sins. And so his hosts said within themselves “who does this man think He is that He could forgive sins!?” The Bible then tells us that Jesus perceived their thoughts and therefore said to them, (wait for it!) “Which is easier, to say, ‘Your sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Rise up and walk’? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins” - He said to the man who was paralyzed, “I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.” (Luke 5:23-24)

Jesus said I’m going to prove it to you that I’ve got the power to forgive sins. How did He prove that He could forgive sins? “But so that you know that the Son of Man has power to forgive sins. Arise take up your bed and go to your home.” The man immediately arose took up his bed and walked. THIS MAN’S HEALING is how Jesus proved He could forgive sin! How does the man’s healing prove that Jesus can forgive sins? Because sickness is the result of sin, that is the point Jesus is making! Do you see the connection?

In John chapter 5 Jesus heals a man at the pool of Bethesda, where he had been for 38 years. So incredible! Jesus heals the man and then the man takes up his bed and walks away. Well it happened to be Saturday, the Sabbath, so that got a bunch of people mad. The chastised the man saying “what

are you doing carrying your bed on the Sabbath?” He said “well the guy that healed me told me to carry my bed.” The religious leaders replied “well who is that that healed you?” The man naively replied “I don't know, He just said take up your bed and walk, so I did!”

Well, Jesus sees the healed man later and listen to what Jesus says to him: “Go and sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you.” What did Jesus just do? He connected sin and sickness. Sin is the source of all sickness - all of it!

Now listen I know what you are thinking right now “wait a minute that means if I sin I'll get sick - like sickness will come on me because of sinning this week.” No, I'm talking about the sin that happened in the garden of Eden, the sin that entered mankind and caused decay. That original sin immediately had results: fear, anxiety, shame, and blaming (which is self-preservation) all came into Eden. “That man you gave me” and “that woman you gave me” and “the devil made me do it.” Adam and Eve ran and hid. They didn't have any fear, anxiety, shame, or blaming going on until sin entered in. Sin is darkness in the soul. It starts in the spirit. It is darkness in the spirit and it enters your soul and affects your body. It is death.

This is why God warned them that “in the day that you shall eat of it, you shall surely die.” They died spiritually, not physically, that day, but then the process began because sin enters the system of your soul and your body and causes it to begin to decay and eventually they died. Sickness is the beginning stage of death. It is death in the beginning stage, a form of death.

The Body and the Blood

Jesus told the man that had been sick for thirty-eight years to no longer sin lest a worse sickness come upon him. When Jesus was on the cross and He says “I bore your sin and your sickness.” He heals a man's body to expressly prove that He has authority to forgive sin. One more proof of the connection between sin and sickness is found in the Lord's supper.

Consider this: How many components are there to the Lord's supper? Two of course. And what are they? Jesus told us “this is the cup of my blood of the new covenant.” And what was it for? The remission of sin! The Jesus said “and here's the bread, broken for you.” What was the bread? His body. It heals the body. Again our sin and sickness are connected! You take care of the sin it takes care of the body. Jesus was saying “because I took on the punishment for your sin, it cures the body.” Do you see the connection? So, here is the question now, going back to the first question, do you believe it is God's will to forgive everyone of sin? Not only will He, but He already has!

You will get set free of all kinds of bondage when you learn in that is that God already forgave all your sins, past, present and future before you and I were ever even born! There is no more sin issue.

It is gone. Jesus took it on the cross, there is now only a Son issue, that is all there is left. Will you accept His Son?

He's already taken care of your sin, sin is not an issue anymore, literally it is gone! Hebrews chapters 9 and 10 will tell you that the reality of your sin being completely dealt with is so true that you should have no more consciousness of sin! You should be so clear in your mind about what Jesus did that you are totally free of any consciousness of sin!

So, since God has already taken care of the entire sin issue, its byproduct, its offspring (sickness) is also done with! When sin was dealt with, sickness was dealt with! Not only is it God's will to forgive you, but He already has, and, as a result, not only is it His will to heal you, He already has! Your healing is already done, that's why 1 Peter 2:24 says, "By His stripes you," what? "*were* healed." Were – past tense. Why is He talking in the past tense? Because it is already done; your healing is already done!

This is why it is not even a question about God's will to heal - any more than it's a question about God's will to forgive! He's already done it. So, when I say sickness is connected to sin, don't be thinking "oh if I sin then I'm going to get sick!" NO! All your sins have already been forgiven, all of them, so there is no attachment of sickness to sin anymore, it has all been dealt with! It's under the blood, it was cursed on the cross!

The Spirit Gives Life to our Mortal Bodies!

You may say "well if I sin there should be some punishment for it." There already was. You say "sure, but that is Jesus, maybe I should have some punishment on me." Well, first of all, let me say this, God is the one who is the judge and He's the one who decides. But, second of all, if you really understand the cross when you would think differently. When you look on the cross who do you see on the cross? Jesus. But, you actually should see somebody else. You should see yourself. Paul says in Galatians 2:20 "I was crucified with Christ." You and I were crucified with Christ. "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives in me. In the life that I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God." Amen. It is a done issue; it is not up for debate.

Every time you get sick you think "I'm not sure if God would want to heal me." That should be as ridiculous in your thinking as I'm not sure God wants to forgive me. They are one and the same. There wasn't a second cross. Jesus didn't get up there and die for your sins and then get off the cross and then come over here to another cross and get nailed to another cross for your sickness. It is one cross and when He dealt the death blow to sin, He simultaneously dealt the death blow to sickness because sickness is the offspring of sin. Both sickness and sin are done, they are over with.

The Spirit of God dwells in every single born-again believer. Prior to the fall, the Spirit of God inside Adam and Eve's body overwhelmed the possibility of any sickness if there was even sickness on the earth which there wasn't, it could not even enter their bodies. The life of God is so powerful it created the universe. Do you think a cold can withstand that power that created the universe? No way! Romans 8:11 says this, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." It is His Spirit that gives life to your mortal body. Healing is real, it is for us now.

There is a guy named John G. Lake who believed this reality so much that he was operating in Africa dealing with the Bubonic plague and all these people were dying by the thousands and people were leaving them dead all over. They were dying in the streets and people left them because if you touched them it was sure death. So, nobody wanted to touch them so they left them.

So, out of the goodness of his heart, John G. Lake went around burying all these people. Later the government of the United States sent a bunch of doctors over there on a ship, a medical ship, and the doctors got there and they were intently asking Lake what kind of protected gear he was using this whole time he had been burying all these people? Lake famously said "I don't need any protective gear I've got the life of God in me."

The doctors were thinking "what!?" They thought he was crazy. He said "do you want me to prove it to you?" They said "yeah how are you going to do that?" He said "go take some foam off that guy who died and put it underneath the microscope." They put it under the microscope and found it teeming with Bubonic plague. Lake this said "now put it on my hand." They were like "what!?" They thought that this was guaranteed death. He reiterated his command, saying "put it on my hand because the life of God and me will kill it instantly." They put it on his hand, look in the microscope, and it was now dead. The power of God had killed it instantly. He said "I told you it is the life of God is in me!"

John G. Lake understood what I am teaching you about the life of God, he believed it so much that he saw many miracles like this because healing operates by faith. You say "well God has already healed me, so why am I not healed already?" One reason: faith. Faith is what activates what God has already done. You say "well Jesus already paid the price for everyone, so why is not everyone saved?" I'm not saying everyone is saved when I say everyone is forgiven, they are forgiven but they are not saved, there is a difference. And what does it take to get saved? You have to read Romans chapters 3,4, and 5 and you'll understand. Faith is what appropriates what Jesus did. Faith in His forgiveness causes the new birth. Faith in the fact that He's already healed you causes the healing to take place. Praise God!

Text Summary (for reading as a group)

It is God's will to heal everyone without exception and immediately. It is God's will that every single person would be healed now, immediately, and without hesitation. If you or I pray for someone and healing does not take place, the issue is always on the part of man – without exception. These two statements are the framework for this teaching on divine healing.

Healing is real. It is for today and we are seeing it happen at Agathos right now. Just this past Sunday, Erin had tweaked her neck and nothing was making it better. It was going on for two weeks and she had run out of medicine for the pain prior to Sunday church service. She was in so much pain that she was having trouble functioning. She asked Brad to pray for her and as he prayed for her, he could feel a vertebrae in her neck moving that was out of joint.

Erin's back was hurting so much it was making her nauseous and unable to eat. So Brad said, "Back be straightened." She could literally feel the vertebrae clicking into place down her back. The nausea completely went away and she immediately had no more pain! The pain was at about an 8 (on a scale of 1-10) prior to being prayed for and immediately after prayer it was at a 0.5! She is completely pain-free.

Later that same day (Sunday), Brad had the opportunity to pray for a lady with Guillain-Barre syndrome, which attacks the sheath around the nerves and eats those sheaths away so the nerves are not able to operate correctly, causing the muscles to fail and often resulting in complete paralysis. She had been basically paralyzed, bed-ridden for two months and could not feel her legs. She had just had a "major physical therapy breakthrough" in that she could now just raise a glass of water to her mouth -- as long as she used two hands. Despite being personally exhausted, Brad ministered to her about healing for 30 minutes and then (after helping her ease the pain of her aching shoulder with a pillow) he prayed for her healing for about two minutes.

After he finished praying, he turned to another lady in the room (who was not receptive to the idea of God healing people) and asked if he could pray for her hurting knee. Although skeptical, she allowed him to. Within minutes, her knee felt completely better. She exclaimed with delight that it had been healed after 50 years of pain!

Shortly after, Brad thought to ask the bed-ridden lady about her shoulder, which was now completely better! The very next day the physical therapist was stunned to see her pushing with her legs and lifting both arms 180 degrees over her head! Praise God! It gets better -- within three days she was beginning to stand out of the bed she had been confined to for two months! Jesus is the Healer!

Healing is real! We must all step into this ourselves so that our life is one where we are going around praying for people and seeing people healed. Each of us is as capable of healing anyone as Brad, Peter or as John G. Lake. Generally speaking, there is no difference between any of God's children in their ability to pray for healing. The provision has been made the same to all of God's people.

One caveat to this, is that there is also a gift of healing that God puts on some people, which is a different, radical thing. People like Kathryn Kuhlman have this gift -- it is God's temporary anointing. While the gift of healing is different, God has commissioned *all believers* to pray for the sick.

It is imperative to know that God's will is to heal everyone all of the time or you will not reach any successful level in the area of healing. You may get lucky every once in a while, but I (Brad) want you walking in it consistently. This will not happen unless you become convinced that healing is God's will 100% of the time. Why? Because your faith cannot rise above your knowledge of God's will. If you don't know that healing is His will you will doubt. And doubt is a faith destroyer. Doubt brings fear. Fear contaminates faith.

To that end, let's look at the relationship between sin and sickness. If you get this, it will go so far in your never doubting God's will. Romans tells us that *"the wages of sin, is death."* Sickness is the beginning stage of death. That is all it is. It is just the beginning stage of that thing called death taking place in your body. The immune system is the only reason sickness does not always take people out. Sin leads to sickness which leads to death.

Psalm 103:1-3 says *"Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His holy name! Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases,"* It is not a coincidence that David put iniquities and sin together in Psalm 103. Look also at Isaiah 53. In verse 6 it makes it clear that Jesus was *"wounded for our transgressions"* and *"bruised for our iniquities."* In other words, Jesus paid for our sins. But just before verse 6, in verse 4, we see *"Surely He hath borne our griefs."* Now, that Hebrew word rendered "griefs" is almost always translated "sickness or disease" and that translation is reinforced by Mathew 8:17, which quotes this scripture in Greek, "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses." So, again in Isaiah 53, sin and sickness are linked.

The Bible says that anyone who hangs on the tree is accursed. When God had Jesus go to the cross, He went to the cross to take the curse that was on man. Why did Jesus become accursed for us? So that the blessing of Abraham might come upon us! So, anything that was put on Jesus on the cross was a curse - meaning it is not of God, God hates it. So, if it is on Jesus on the cross, it is not of God.

In other words, anything Jesus bore on the cross God doesn't want on you! What would be the point in Jesus taking it on Himself if it wasn't to get it off of us? Remember, sin and sickness were both

paid for on the cross! "*But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities ... and by His stripes we are healed.*"

In Matthew 8, we see that Jesus healed all who were sick. Notice He did not stop, pray and ask the Father which one or who should or should not be healed that day. You will never find Him praying such a prayer because it doesn't exist. Jesus always healed every single person without exception who came to him in faith for healing. 1 Peter 2:24 says "Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed."

What does it say right after the part about bearing our sins? It talks about our physical healing! This is not a coincidence. It is God showing us the relationship between sin and sickness. If you take care of the source (sin) then you take care of its symptom (sickness). When Jesus took care of the sin, He took care of the sickness.

With that background, now Matthew 9:1-8 will make a lot of sense to you. Here, Jesus tells the paralytic on the lowered-through-the-roof bed to, "be of good cheer your sins have been forgiven you." At this point, the Sadducees and the Pharisees are furious at such a statement because only God can forgive sins. Jesus perceived their thoughts and said to them -- wait for it -- "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins" (Luke 5:23-24)

This man's healing is how Jesus proved He could forgive sin because sickness is the result of sin. That is the point Jesus is making! Likewise, in John 5 Jesus heals a man at the pool of Bethesda, where he had been waiting to be healed for 38 years. Jesus sees the healed man later and listen to what Jesus says to him: "Go and sin no more lest a worse thing come upon you." What did Jesus just do? He connected sin and sickness. Sin is the source of all sickness - *all of it!*

One more proof of the connection between sin and sickness is found in the Lord's supper. Jesus told us, "This is the cup of my blood of the new covenant." And what was it for? The remission of sin! Jesus then said, "And here is the bread, broken for you." What was the bread? His body. His body heals your body. Again, our sin and sickness are connected! Since God has already taken care of the entire sin issue, its byproduct (sickness) is also done with! When sin was dealt with, sickness was dealt with! Not only is it God's will to forgive you -- He already has! And as a result, not only is it His will to heal you, He already has!

Your healing is already done, that's why 1 Peter 2:24 says, "by His stripes you," *what?* "**were** healed." Were – past tense. It is finished. Your healing is already done! This is why it is not even a question about God's will to heal any more than it's a question about God's will to forgive! He's already done it. Every time you get sick you think "I'm not sure if God would want to heal me." That should be as

ridiculous in your thinking as, "I'm not sure God wants to forgive me." They are one and the same. There wasn't a second cross. Jesus didn't get up there and die for your sins on one cross and then go to another for your sickness. It is one cross and when He dealt the death blow to sin, He simultaneously dealt the death blow to sickness because sickness is the offspring of sin. Both sickness and sin are done, they are over.

The Spirit of God dwells in every single born-again believer. The life of God is so powerful it created the universe. Do you think a cold can withstand the power that created the universe? No way! Romans 8:11 says, "But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you." It is His Spirit that gives life to your mortal body. Healing is real, it is for us now.

Faith is what activates what God has already done. You may be thinking, "If Jesus already paid the price for everyone, why isn't everyone saved?" I'm not saying everyone is saved when I say everyone is forgiven, they are forgiven but they are not saved, there is a difference. And what does it take to get saved? Faith is what appropriates what Jesus did. Faith in His forgiveness causes the new birth. Faith in the fact that He's already healed you causes the healing to take place. ***Amen!***

Points to Ponder . . .

- How are sin and sickness related scripturally?
- When was sickness dealt with scripturally?
- How does ***when*** sickness was dealt with affect praying for divine healing?
- In what ways do the testimonies you heard stir up your faith?
- Who is able to consistently minister divine healing?