

Real faith is based on God's promises and not on feelings. Lift up your heart in praise to God the moment you can accept his promise by faith and keep praising him and you will sooner or later receive the answer to your prayer.

"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye DESIRE, when ye PRAY, BELIEVE that ye receive them, and YE SHALL HAVE THEM"

(Mark 11: 24).



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27 STURT ST., ADELAIDE, S.A., 5000
Tel. enquiries (08) 212 2322**

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DIVINE HEALING

by LEO HARRIS

DIVINE HEALING

Throughout the world today there is a remarkable awakening to the truth that God's healing power is available to mankind. Multitudes are finding a miraculous healing for their bodies in great evangelistic campaigns throughout many nations, whilst others are appropriating the healing power of God in the quietness of their home or in hospital, or are "calling on the elders of the church" (James 5: 14-15) to pray for their healing.

The Christian Revival Crusade confidently presents a message of healing for all who will put their trust in God. Here is a brief outline of our message of healing and some simple steps which will enable you to prepare yourself to receive your healing from God . . .

. . . what is divine healing

Divine healing is not auto-suggestion, nor mind over matter, nor, as commonly called, "faith healing." It is true that we must have faith, that we must have a positive attitude of mind, but divine healing is healing by the power of God in answer to the prayer of faith in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is Biblical: it is Christian; it has its part in the wonderful Gospel of Christ.

. . . divine healing is promised in the Bible

Both Old and New Testaments contain numerous promises of God's healing power for men.

Here are just a few outstanding Scriptures:

In Exodus 15: 26, we have God's promise to Israel, **"If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the Lord thy God . . . I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: FOR I AM THE LORD THAT HEALETH THEE."**

The last phrase of this text is derived from one of the names of God — Jehova-rapha — meaning "the Lord your physician" or "your healing God."

David also rejoiced in the healing power of God: **"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; WHO HEALETH ALL THY DISEASES"** (Psalm 103: 2-3).

The Old Testament contains a record of many **miraculous healings** demonstrating the truth of these Scriptures. When we turn to the New Testament, however, particularly the four Gospels — Matthew, Mark, Luke and John — we find that there are miracles of healing in almost every chapter. The outstanding feature of the ministry of Jesus Christ was the healing of the sick. Then in Mark 16: 15-18, we have the last commission given by Christ to the Church before he returned to heaven. Part of it reads like this: **"These signs shall follow them that believe . . . they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover."**

Jesus intended that the ministry of divine healing should be an integral part of the evangelism conducted by the Church throughout this Gospel Age.

James also invites the sick members of the Church to send for the elders to pray the prayer of faith for their recovery: **"Is any sick among**

you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5: 15-16).

If there were no other similar Scriptures (and there are many), these four passages from the Word of God would give us ample ground for claiming the healing power of God.

. . . the real origin and power of sickness

There would be no sin, sickness, disease or death in the world were it not for the disobedience of our first parents. When Adam disobeyed God, he lost fellowship with God. He became mortal and ultimately died. Every gaol, every crowded hospital for body or mind, and every cemetery, stand as undeniable evidence of the destructive work of the devil and his evil forces.

In Acts 10: 38 we are told that Jesus went about doing good and **HEALING ALL WHO WERE OPPRESSED OF THE DEVIL**; for God was with him. This verse clearly teaches that Jesus healed the SICK, and that their sickness was **AN OPPRESSION OF THE DEVIL**. "He healed ALL who were oppressed of the devil." Jesus healed **"ALL MANNER OF SICKNESS AND ALL MANNER OF DISEASE among the people"** (Matt. 4: 23). And we have seen that those whom he healed had been **OPPRESSED OF THE DEVIL**.



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Obviously, then, "all manner of sickness and all manner of disease" is the devil's oppression. The word "oppressed" is from a Greek word meaning to be "TYRANNISED" or to be "LORD-ED OVER." Therefore sickness is the devil's OPPRESSION or TYRANNY in your mind or body.

In the face of Scriptures such as these, who has the right to tell the sick that their sickness has been sent by a loving God to make them better people? Who gave anyone the authority to say that a person's sickness must be the will of God, and that one must patiently endure it? **Those who adopt the Scriptural attitude toward sickness call it what the Bible calls it — THE OPPRESSION OF THE DEVIL.** Once this is realised, we are immediately challenged to help people to be delivered from the devil's oppression in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

... Christ — the deliverer and life-giver

Jesus said, "**The thief (that is, the devil and all his angels) is not come but for to steal and to kill and to destroy; but I am come that they MIGHT HAVE LIFE and THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE IT MORE ABUNDANTLY**" (John 10: 10).

That is why the Lord said in his great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature; he that believeth and is baptised shall be saved; and he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name they shall cast out devils . . . they shall LAY HANDS ON THE SICK and they shall recover" (Mark 16: 15-18).

Today the Gospel is being sent into all the world and to every creature, that men and women might be saved from sin, delivered of the torments of demon spirits and healed of their sicknesses.

"FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SON OF GOD WAS MANIFESTED THAT HE MIGHT DESTROY THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL" (1 John 3: 8). That is why we believe in divine healing, that is why we preach and teach it, that is why we pray for people to be healed of their sicknesses and delivered from all the torments of the devil.

... healing through the cross of Christ

The central truth of the Gospel is that the Lord Jesus Christ took upon himself the sins of the world and died an atoning death that we might receive complete forgiveness and full salvation. However, associated with this great teaching is the truth that Jesus Christ also suffered for the sicknesses and diseases of mankind that healing might be secured for us once and for all.

In Isaiah 53: 4-6, we read the words: "**Surely he (Jesus) hath borne our GRIEF and carried our SORROWS . . . and with his stripes we are healed.**" Portion of this prophecy is quoted in Matthew 8: 16-17, where we read as follows: "**When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils; and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias (Isaiah) the prophet, saying, Himself took our INFIRMITIES, and bare our SICKNESSES.**"

Here we see that Matthew interprets "griefs" and "sorrows" as "infirmities" and "sicknesses," and this is rightly so. Here is Dr. Young's translation of that passage in Isaiah: "Surely our SICKNESSES he hath borne, and our PAINS he hath carried them." This means simply that sickness and disease, the direct or indirect outcome of sin in the human race, have been borne by Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary that we might have healing.

That other portion of Isaiah's prophecy, "With his stripes we are healed," indicates that the scourging of Jesus at the whipping post, grievously afflicting his body, has guaranteed health and wholeness for us all. The apostle Peter quotes these words in 1 Peter 2: 24 with one significant difference — Peter applies it in the past tense: ". . . **by whose stripes ye WERE healed.**"

Isaiah spoke prophetically of the future sufferings of Christ. Peter, however, wrote after Christ had suffered, risen from the grave and returned to the Father's right hand. He presented the healing work of Christ as something that was accomplished.

Your healing has already been secured for you by the stripes of Jesus — "**With his stripes ye WERE healed.**"

... how to prepare yourself to receive your healing

(a) Sickness is from Satan.

Be settled in your own heart and mind that sickness is not from God — it originates from Satan.

(b) It is God's will to heal you.

Be settled in your own heart and mind that it is the will of God to heal you. Jesus came to do the will of God (John 6: 38) and never once did he refuse healing to those who came in faith. Do not pray ". . . if it be thy will." To doubt God's will is to doubt God's promises. What God has promised, he is willing and able to do. Moreover, as sickness is the "oppression of the devil," it is obviously God's will to set you free.

(c) Cast aside all fear.

Jesus said, "**Fear not; believe only, and (you) shall be made whole**" (Luke 8: 50). The Bible frequently exhorts us to fear not. Fear undermines our faith. We must deal with our fears first then exercise our faith in the promises of God.

(d) Forgive everybody.

Mark 11: 25-26 shows that unforgiveness is very definitely a hindrance to receiving answers to our prayers: "**And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.**" Take the initiative and sincerely forgive all who have trespassed against you.

(e) Have a positive attitude of mind.

Where there is true faith in a person's heart, it is shown in a positive, cheerful and confident attitude. Learn to think, speak and act positively. There is tremendous

power in positive believing. Jesus said, "**If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth**" (Mark 9: 23).

(f) Base your faith on God's promises.

Read many times the Scriptures given in this pamphlet and any others that are a special blessing to you and learn to base your faith, not on your feelings nor your circumstances, but on the infallible promises of God.

(g) Release your faith.

We all have a measure of faith (Romans 12: 3). The only difference is that some use their faith and others don't. Faith must be released to be effective. Sooner or later, there comes a time when your faith is turned loose — perhaps as you read this pamphlet, or when hands are laid upon you in the Name of Jesus, or some other time when you definitely release your faith and put it into action.

(h) Resist the symptoms.

Recognising that sickness originates from the devil and God is the author of your healing, learn to resist the devil and, the Bible says, he will flee from you (James 4: 7). We do not deny the symptoms for they are real enough, but we deny their right and power to remain in our bodies in the face of God's mighty promises in which we believe.

Sometimes healing is instantaneous and other times it is gradual or else delayed. Remember that true faith accepts the healing as promised by God and rejoices in it until it is manifested and you are set free from the bondage of your sickness or disease.