

Can Christians Heal Disease?

Isaiah 53:5: (NASB) *But he was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon him, and by his scourging we are healed.*

Sickness and disease are a scourge of humanity. Far too often we witness good and decent people contract some serious disease or malady and we watch as their quality of life goes from bad to worse. Science and medicine have worked wonders in the fight against such things, but the battle still rages on. The Bible reveals many examples of healings - miraculous healings that overcome sickness. Are we as Christians privy to that miraculous healing power today? Can we and should we stand in the path of illness, claiming the name of Jesus as our rightful miracle cure?

Where does the idea of healing come from?

))) Crowd noise, *The Tactics of Fake Faith Healers Exposed*

- *(Frantic speaker in a foreign tongue with crowd in a frenzy)*

There was a massive amount of emotional activity and excitement with a musical beat, a commanding preacher, repetition, and a large crowd.

(Source: Funk & Wagnall's New Encyclopedia, 2006 World Almanac Education Group)
History of Faith Healing: Faith healing was known among the ancient Greeks and Romans, who believed that Asclepius, the god of medicine, might appear in the dreams of sick people who slept in the temples devoted to his worship, and that the god then cured them or prescribed a regimen of treatment for them to follow. In contrast, the Old Testament has few references to faith healing...

In the New Testament Gospels; however, are perhaps the most famous faith healing stories of all time. In the stories of Jesus' miracles of healing, illness is regarded as the sign of the presence of evil spirits, and Jesus' power to heal is proclaimed as evidence that God's kingdom has come in his person.

The Role of Faith: Although the faith of a believer is generally regarded as the channel of cure, Christian theology insists that the actual agent in healing is God's Spirit. Thus, faith, in the sense of trust and expectancy—rather than in the sense of subscription to orthodox doctrine—is the prerequisite to healing. The association between sin and disease is traditional in Christian theology (see James 5:14-16), and in Christian practice the confession of sin has usually preceded the anointing of the sick, the laying on of hands, and the prayers that constitute the Christian liturgy of healing.

))) Something was happening here, *The Psychology of Faith Healing, HBO*

- *Religions offer us the possibilities of short term victories over disease and death. And in spite of the many advances in modern medical science, millions of people are still turning to religious healers for miracles.*
- *Although we could find no evidence of cures at these events, something was happening in the heat of the moment. On and off stage, people were breaking through pain barriers and performing feats they had hitherto thought impossible. Many remained convinced they had been cured, whatever doctors and specialists said to the contrary.*

The Old Testament *does* give us indication of healing, but is it different than what we have discussed so far?

Psalms 103:1-3: (NASB) ¹*Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. ²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; ³Who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases;*

But how come this didn't really happen?

Exodus 23:25: (NASB) *But you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water; and I will remove sickness from your midst.*

In context, God was saying to the physical nation of Israel that if they did certain things, He would keep them healthy.

There are only 12 examples of individual healings in the Old Testament. They were primarily regarding the Jewish nation and most involved the intercession of a prophet.

Please refer to the CQ Rewind Full Edition Bonus Material for more details.

Who and how did Jesus heal? Was it based on people's faith?
The severity of their disease?

If we say that healing is our Christian responsibility, we should then be modeling it after what Jesus did. We will review some of his healings and it may be startling to note what was *not* present in those models.



Submerging the individual into the group, *The Psychology of Faith Healing*

- *Something physical, something chemical happens to us when we are in a large crowd. I don't want to draw the comparison too far, but Hitler understood this. Hitler understood that you can say things to a crowd of 100,000 that are more effective than saying them to a crowd of 100.*
- *The steps of soldiers marching in the street -they are marching in unison, doing the same thing at the same time. The entrainment of the drums, of the marching steps, of the chant, of the song, of the gesture - the salute, all these elements have the effect of submerging the individual into the group.*

Hitler was a master of mob mentality, guiding people to a very evil end. We are not suggesting that every faith healer has an evil motive (although some do). A mob mentality creates followers, and it even shows up in the Scriptures.

Please refer to the CQ Rewind Full Edition Bonus Material for more details.

Luke 6:17-19: (NASB) ¹⁷*Jesus came down with them and stood on a level place; and there was a large crowd of His disciples, and a great throng of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the coastal region of Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were being cured. ¹⁹And all the people were trying to touch him, for power was coming from him and healing them all.*

Notice: Jesus healed the *masses*, not his disciples. The disciples followed him and watched. So, the healing in this instance was meant for people who were not already following Jesus. Also, it doesn't say anything about a requirement of faith.

Matthew 8:5-8: (NASB) ⁵And when Jesus entered Capernaum, a centurion came to him, imploring him, ⁶and saying, Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, fearfully tormented. ⁷Jesus said to him, I will come and heal him. ⁸But the centurion said, Lord, I am not worthy...

Matthew 8:13: (NASB) And Jesus said to the centurion, Go; it shall be done for you as you have believed. And the servant was healed that very moment.

Jesus heals a Centurion's servant based on the faith of the Centurion (a Gentile). Neither were followers, there was no great faith on the part of the one who was sick and there was no physical contact.



When Jesus healed, circumstances were not all the same. There was not a "cookie cutter" operation.

Luke 17:12-19: (NASB) ¹²As he entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met him; ¹³and they raised their voices, saying, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us! ¹⁴When he saw them, he said to them, Go and show yourselves to the priests. And as they were going, they were cleansed. ¹⁵Now one of them, when he saw that he had been healed, turned back, glorifying God with a loud voice ¹⁶and he fell on his face at his feet, giving thanks to him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus answered and said, Were there not ten cleansed? But the nine—where are they? ¹⁸Was no one found who returned to give glory to God, except this foreigner? ¹⁹And he said to him, stand up and go; your faith has made you well.

Jesus healed 10 lepers. They were acting out of desperation and not great faith. He healed nine based on mercy and one based on faith. We have no record that any followed him after they were healed. They got what they were looking for, driven by a great need. Jesus does a lot of healing based on mercy. (Should Christians today call it, "Mercy Healing" instead of "Faith Healing?")

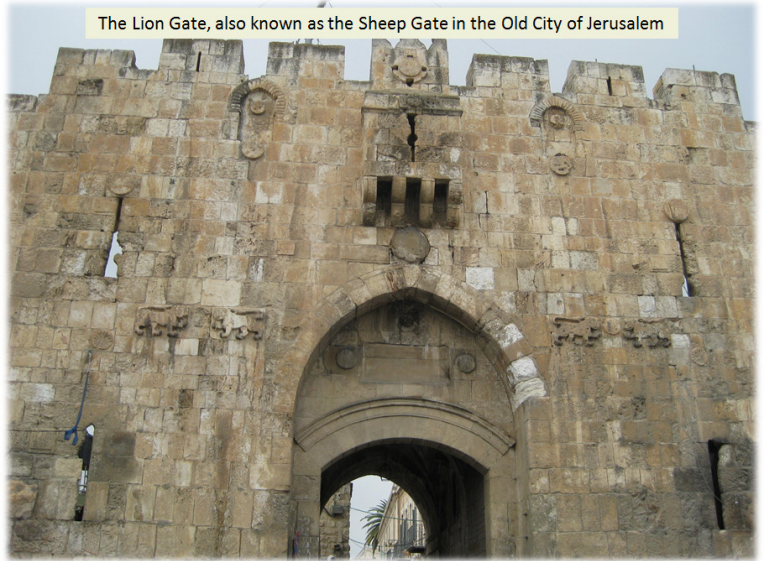
Luke 22:48-51: (NASB) ⁴⁸But Jesus said to him, Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss? ⁴⁹When those who were around him saw what was going to happen, they said, Lord, shall we strike with the sword? ⁵⁰And one of them struck the slave of the high priest and cut off his right ear ⁵¹But Jesus answered and said, Stop! No more of this. And he touched his ear and healed him.

Jesus heals Malchus, who had no faith in Jesus. He was coming to take Jesus to prison! He did not even ask for the healing and was a non-believer. There was no faith involved in this healing.

If we are to be doing what Jesus did, should we be doing it the way Jesus did?

We do not believe faith healing today is part of the Christian calling. Jesus did not heal his own followers. He gave mercy to unbelievers to show them something different. Why do people today say that you need the right kind of faith to be healed?

John 5:2-9: (NASB) ²Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes.³In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered,...⁵A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years.⁶When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, Do you wish to get well? ⁷The sick man answered Him, Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me. ⁸Jesus said to him, Get up, pick up your pallet and walk. ⁹Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day.



Jesus heals the lame man. There is no faith in Jesus mentioned, just hope. He didn't even address Jesus as, "Lord," but rather he called him, "Sir."

So, can we really call what Jesus did "faith" healing?

Did the Apostles follow the same protocol as Jesus?

Three observations of New Testament healing done by Jesus, the Apostles and Disciples:



- Healing done by Jesus, the Apostles and Disciples was meant for the general public, not for believers.
- Healing done by Jesus, the Apostles and Disciples was in public for all to see.
- All healing was for the purpose of drawing attention to the Kingdom and the Gospel of Christ.

Let's compare this with typical Christian healing that goes on today:

- Involves prayer and music of praise and worship
- "Laying on of hands" by a powerful preacher
- Repetition
- During a Christian worship service - a large service usually with thousands
- Done only for the benefit of believers

We see a disconnect between the context, the methods and who is healed between Jesus and his apostles and today.

Anointing the power of suggestion, *The Psychology of Faith Healing* - HBO

- *To personal charisma and the well-trying techniques of crowd manipulation, (Benny) Hinn adds another dramatic ingredient: Fire on the choir! (People fall over) Fire! This was a favorite device by an earlier faith healer, Kathryn Kuhlman, whom Benny Hinn first saw in action when he was 20 and has always acknowledged as his inspiration. Throwing people over by the power of suggestion is in fact an old hypnotist's trick, and it predates Kuhlman and Hinn by more than 200 years.*



There is no record in the New Testament where people touched by healing fell over onto the ground.

Acts 9:32-35: (NASB) ³²Now as Peter was traveling through all those regions, he came down also to the saints who lived at Lydda. ³³There he found a man (note - not a believer) named Aeneas, who had been bedridden eight years, for he was paralyzed. ³⁴Peter said to him, Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; get up and make your bed. Immediately he got up. ³⁵And all who lived at Lydda and Sharon saw him, and they turned to the Lord. (Note - they didn't turn to Peter because Peter put the focus on Jesus.)

This was a *public* display for non-believers. Note that the man's *faith* was not a factor, and the result of this act of healing was to turn the public to Jesus. Peter did *not* use the power of suggestion. There was no hype, mighty preaching, music, or drum beats.

Why aren't the healers today standing on street corners, healing the general public who walk by?

 **Controlling the whole audience, *The Psychology of Faith Healing* - HBO**

- *In the charged atmosphere of a faith healing service, this response can set up a chain reaction. First, the preacher selects those in the crowd who are most responsive to the faith healer's initial suggestion. Once on stage, these people are... confirming and reconfirming everyone's expectation of a particular response to the faith healer's suggestion until the whole audience has fallen under his spell.*

People who are in need of healing suffer greatly as a result and want relief. This is not wrong! But how do we seek whatever relief is available to us? What does God's word tell us about how to find relief? Should we as Christians be healed from all our diseases?

When we follow after the patterns of faith healing today, are we seeking to make ourselves whole, rather than follow the pattern in the New Testament to take our whole self - even in our beleaguered situation - and follow Christ?

Peter at Solomon's Portico: Stunning miracles in the face of dire opposition!

Acts 5:14-20: (NASB) ¹⁴And all the more believers in the Lord, multitudes of men and women, were constantly added to their number, ¹⁵to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. ¹⁶Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed. ¹⁷But the high priest rose up, along with all his associates (that is the sect of the Sadducees), and they were filled with jealousy. ¹⁸They laid hands on the apostles and put them in a public jail. ¹⁹But during the night an angel of the Lord opened the gates of the prison, and taking them out he said, ²⁰Go, stand and speak to the people in the temple the whole message of this life.

Just the shadow of Peter healed the people. This was done without the drama of laying on of hands. He was literally just walking by! Again, faith is not a factor.

But the people healed here ended up dying anyway. The whole purpose of these healings was to be a metaphor to show something greater than the moment. Jesus dying and paying the ransom price would eventually cause the healing of the entire world. These healings were a precursor to something even greater!

The most extraordinary miracles didn't require Paul and Peter to even touch the afflicted:

Acts 19:11-17: (NASB) ¹¹God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, ¹²so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. ¹³But also some of the Jewish exorcists, who went from place to place, attempted to name over those who had the evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, I adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preaches. ¹⁴Seven sons of one Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. ¹⁵And the evil spirit answered and said to them, I recognize Jesus, and I know about Paul, but who are you? ¹⁶And the man, in whom was the evil spirit, leaped on them and subdued all of them and overpowered them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded. ¹⁷This became known to all, both Jews and Greeks, who

lived in Ephesus; and fear fell upon them all and the name of the Lord Jesus was being magnified.

Did anyone besides the Apostles heal?

Yes, though it was not a common occurrence:

Acts 8:3-8: (NASB) ³But Saul began ravaging the church, entering house after house, and dragging off men and women, he would put them in prison. ⁴Therefore, those who had been scattered went about preaching the word. ⁵Philip went down to the city of Samaria and began proclaiming Christ to them. ⁶The crowds with one accord were giving attention to what was said by Philip, as they heard and saw the signs which he was performing. ⁷For in the case of many who had unclean spirits, they were coming out of them shouting with a loud voice; and many who had been paralyzed and lame were healed. ⁸So there was much rejoicing in that city.

Same pattern! Healing done in public and for the public. Faith again is not a mentioned prerequisite.

If we are supposed to be healing now, why don't we follow the pattern set up by Jesus and those authorized by him?

Acts 8:12-13: (NASB) ¹²But when they believed Philip preaching the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were being baptized, men and women alike. ¹³Even Simon himself believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip, and as he observed signs and great miracles taking place, he was constantly amazed.

Simon the sorcerer followed and wanted the gifts of the spirit so that he could get a lot of attention for entertainment's sake.



A listener suggests: The miracles in Jesus' day were extraordinary in order to establish the early church. They needed those tangible proofs of miracles as a witness. (John 5:28, 29) Also see: John 9:3 - God's glory is to be made manifest. Our mission is to learn and focus on God's plan. John 17:3

 **Spina Bifida, The Tactics of Fake Faith Healers Exposed, HBO**

- (Reporter) Alex Arnett has Spina Bifida. He has been in leg braces his entire life. He has come to Todd Bentley's revival in Maitland, Florida, to be healed.
- (Bentley) Something is happening here! Tell me what you are feeling, first of all, young man.
- (Child) I'm feeling strength in my legs that I've never felt before.
- (Bentley) You've never had this strength in your legs!
- (Child) No, I haven't been able to walk like this all my life...
- (Bentley) All your life!
- (Child) ...and now I'm able to stand straighter than I was.
- (Bentley) Take a few more steps! (Crowd roars!) **THIS BOY HAS BEEN HEALED OF CRIPPLING SPINA BIFIDA!**



- (Reporter) *Do you think you will be able to walk forever without them or do you have to go back to your braces?*
- (Child) *That's up to God. I'm leaving that up to Him.*
- (Bentley, praying over him) *In the name of Jesus, loose, loose, loose, loose!!! Straighten, straighten, straighten, straighten, straighten, straighten!!! What do you feel?*
- (Child) *I feel like the most strength I've ever had in my body! (Crying)*

The boy was *not* cured, of course, but there was adrenalin and emotions that ran high.

The gifts - including healing - were being misused early on and were being unduly elevated:

1 Corinthians 12:27-31: (NASB) ²⁷Now you are Christ's body, and individually members of it. ²⁸And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? ³⁰All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? ³¹But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

The warning was not to focus on the things of glitter but instead of those of substance. Paul was going to show them an even more excellent way - the way of Christian love.

If any Christian should have been healed, wouldn't the Apostle Paul have been a good choice!?

2 Corinthians 12:7-9: (NASB) ⁷Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me—to keep me from exalting myself! ⁸Concerning this I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me. ⁹And He has said to me, My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

Here we have one of the greatest examples of faith we have ever seen and he is told NO. He was to be strong in God instead, and not in himself.

On the other side of the issue, if Jesus' grace is supposed to be sufficient and his power is supposed to be made stronger in weakness, then DON'T HEAL ANY FOLLOWERS! You will do them damage by taking away the opportunity for Jesus' power! This is what is shown to us in the life, example and experience of the Apostle Paul. Let Jesus' strength carry you in your trials.

But aren't we told in James 5:15 to pray for healing?

 **Not even 3 examples from Todd Bentley, The Tactics of Fake Faith healers Exposed, HBO**

- (Reporter) *Can you supply us with three people who have been cured through a miracle with medical diagnosis, their names and doctors so that we can actually talk to them?*

- (Bentley) *What I'll do is give you what we call the package, which we have made available to other networks. I have one, my secretary has one. If we have 1,000 people consent to it, I'll give you 1,000 names.*
- (Reporter to camera) *But we never got three. What we got instead was a binder filled with what Bentley says are stories of inspiring miracles. It offered incomplete contact information, a few pages of incomplete medical records, doctors' names were crossed out. And so, not a single miracle claim of Bentley's could be verified.*



James 5:13-15: (NASB) ¹³Is anyone among you **suffering <2553>**? Then he must pray. Is anyone cheerful? He is to sing praises. ¹⁴Is anyone among you **sick <770>**? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; ¹⁵and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is **sick <2577>**, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.

Suffering: Strong's #2553 kakopatheo (kak-op-ath-eh'-o); to undergo hardship

2 Timothy 2:3: Thou therefore endure **hardness <2553>**, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.

2 Timothy 4:5: But watch thou in all things, endure **afflictions <2553>**, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

So, it doesn't necessarily have to mean physical illness, but rather suffering in trials of faith.

Sick: Strong's #770 astheneo (as-then-eh'-o); to be feeble (in any sense)

2 Corinthians 12:10: Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am **weak <770>**, then am I strong.

Romans 14:1-4: (NKJV) ¹Receive one who is **weak <770>** in the faith, but not to disputes over doubtful things. ²For one believes he may eat all things, but he who is **weak <770>** eats only vegetables. ³Let not him who eats despise him who does not eat, and let not him who does not eat judge him who eats; for God has received him. ⁴Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand.

The word **weak** is used in the sense of being spiritually overrun, weak in faith. The James' Scriptures (James 5:13-15) refer to spiritual weakness.

Sick: Strong's #2577 kamno; properly, to toil, i.e. (by implication) to tire (figuratively, faint, sicken):

Only other uses of this word:

Hebrews 12:3: For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be **wearied <2577>** and faint in your minds.

Revelation 2:3: And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not **fainted <2577>**.

So, this James text really has nothing to do with physical illness at all, rather it has everything to do with spiritual exhaustion. We are to bear the burdens of one another.

1 Corinthians 11:28-31: (NASB) ²⁸But a man must examine himself, and in so doing he is to eat of the bread and drink of the cup. ²⁹For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks

judgment to himself if he does not judge the body rightly. ³⁰For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep. ³¹But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.

This isn't talking about physically sick, nor is it talking about actual sleeping. There is a spirituality that needs to be healed and guided. This reminds us of the Apostle Paul teaching us, 2 Corinthians 12:10: *When I am weak, then I am strong.*

What was the purpose of healing?

What about Paul's own spiritual son Timothy?

1 Timothy 5:21-23: (NASB) ²¹*I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of his chosen angels, to maintain these principles without bias, doing nothing in a spirit of partiality. ²²Do not lay hands upon anyone too hastily and thereby share responsibility for the sins of others; keep yourself free from sin. ²³No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.*

The Apostle Paul was not healed and did not heal Timothy. He could have if it was appropriate! The Gospel is not there so that we can physically be made better. It is there so that we can spiritually be sacrificial. We believe faith healing is a misrepresentation of the Gospel, Jesus and his work.



Disappointment all that's left, William Lobdell

- That would be all well and good except for when Benny walks offstage to count his money, what's left are people out of the camera's eye with terminal diseases, hideous maladies and they believed with every bone in their body that they were going to be healed. When they're not healed, they don't blame Benny Hinn, they don't blame God, they blame themselves for not having enough faith.*
- I met this kid named Jordy. He was a 20-year old kid who came down from Canada to Southern California with a shunt in his arm. I said, "What's wrong with you?" He said, "Well, my kidneys don't work. Pastor Benny says if we step out in faith and have enough faith, I'll be cured. You know what I've done to show I have faith? I stopped my dialysis for a week."*

P.S. "Jordy" did go back on dialysis...

People go to these events with terrible pain and suffering, but when they are not healed, they blame themselves. This creates additional difficulties. This is not about faith. This was ONLY done in the New Testament for a period of time by Jesus, the Apostles and selected people they chose. The gifts were to introduce people to the magnitude of the Gospel.

If you have gone to such an event and are discouraged because "you don't have enough faith," you are going to somebody who is telling you incorrect information. Most of the time when Jesus and the Apostles healed, it was not about faith. It was generally in public without dramatic ceremonies. It is about what God wants for us as Christians. We are to rely entirely on Him.

Isaiah 53:4-5: (NASB) ⁴*Surely our griefs he himself bore, and our sorrows he carried; Yet we ourselves esteemed him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. ⁵But he was pierced through for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; The chastening for our well-being fell upon him, and by his scourging we are healed.*

The healing prophesied was of Jesus and a comprehensive healing that all will yet experience as a result of Jesus' sacrifice! This is the overall magnitude of the healing experience.

Jesus healed lepers to show the mercy of his paying the ransom price. Leprosy is a representation of sin, and we are all in need of healing.

Luke 5:12-14: (NASB) ¹²While he was in one of the cities, behold, there was a man covered with leprosy; and when he saw Jesus, he fell on his face and implored him, saying, Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean. ¹³And he stretched out his hand and touched him, saying, I am willing; be cleansed. And immediately the leprosy left him. ¹⁴And he ordered him to tell no one, But go and show yourself to the priest and make an offering for your cleansing, just as Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.

Isaiah 61:1-4: (NASB) ¹The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to bring good news to the afflicted; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and freedom to prisoners; ²To proclaim the favorable year of the LORD and the day of vengeance of our God; To comfort all who mourn, ³to grant those who mourn in Zion, giving them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a spirit of fainting. So they will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified. ⁴Then they will rebuild the ancient ruins, they will raise up the former devastations; And they will repair the ruined cities, the desolations of many generations.

This prophetically speaks of Jesus and the world-changing work of his life, death and resurrection. This is a future healing of the world that has yet to be fulfilled. The healing of the world is coming to all and coming on a permanent basis!

Healing in the New Testament was used to "jump start" the Gospel. The Apostles were given the ability to speak in other languages so that they could communicate the Gospel in languages they did not know. The Apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians said *once that which is complete is come*, all of these healings would cease. What is *that which is complete*? Perhaps having the Gospel written so that anyone could read it. Once the Gospel is written, you don't need all the miraculous displays because we now have a historical record.

Physical healing in our world today is not what the Gospel of Jesus Christ is all about. Instead, it is about self-sacrifice. It is not about making yourself whole, but taking your whole self to follow Christ.

*So can Christians heal diseases...?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions...
Think about it...!*

*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



Here are three scriptural observations about mob mentality:

First - Paul in Ephesus:

Acts 19:23-34: (KJV) ²³And the same time there arose no small stir about that way. ²⁴For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, which made silver shrines for Diana, brought no small gain unto the craftsmen; ²⁵Whom he called together with the workmen of like occupation, and said, Sirs, ye know that by this craft we have our wealth. ²⁶Moreover ye see and hear, that not alone at Ephesus, but almost throughout all Asia, this Paul hath persuaded and turned away much people, saying that they be no gods, which are made with hands: ²⁷So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worshippeth. ²⁸And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians. ²⁹And the whole city was filled with confusion: and having caught Gaius and Aristarchus, men of Macedonia, Paul's companions in travel, they rushed with one accord into the theatre. ³⁰And when Paul would have entered in unto the people, the disciples suffered him not. ³¹And certain of the chief of Asia, which were his friends, sent unto him, desiring him that he would not adventure himself into the theatre. ³²Some therefore cried one thing, and some another: for the assembly was confused; and the more part knew not wherefore they were come together. ³³And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defence unto the people. ³⁴But when they knew that he was a Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the Ephesians.

This was an angry crowd driven by an angry voice.

Second - Jerusalem:

Mark 15:6-15: (NASB) ⁶Now at the feast he used to release for them any one prisoner whom they requested. ⁷The man named Barabbas had been imprisoned with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the insurrection. ⁸The crowd went up and began asking him to do as he had been accustomed to do for them. ⁹Pilate answered them, saying, Do you want me to release for you the King of the Jews? ¹⁰For he was aware that the chief priests had handed Him over because of envy. ¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to ask him to release Barabbas for them instead. ¹²Answering again, Pilate said to them, Then what shall I do with Him whom you call the King of the Jews? ¹³They shouted back, Crucify him! ¹⁴But Pilate said to them, Why, what evil has He done? But they shouted all the more, Crucify him! ¹⁵Wishing to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas for them, and after having Jesus scourged, he handed Him over to be crucified.

This was a restless crowd driven by many envious voices.

Third - entering Jerusalem:

Matthew 21:8-16: (NASB) ⁸Most of the crowd spread their coats in the road, and others were cutting branches from the trees and spreading them in the road. ⁹The crowds going ahead of him, and those who followed, were shouting, Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest! ¹⁰When he had entered Jerusalem, all the city was stirred, saying, Who is this? ¹¹And the crowds were saying, This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth in Galilee. ¹²And Jesus entered the temple and drove out all those who were buying and selling in the temple, and overturned the tables of the moneychangers and the seats of those who were selling doves. ¹³And he said to them, It is written, My house shall be called a house of prayer; but you are making it a robbers' den. ¹⁴And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them. ¹⁵But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that he had done, and the children who were shouting in the temple, Hosanna to the Son of David, they became indignant ¹⁶and said to him, Do you hear what these children are saying? And Jesus said to them, Yes; have you never read, Out of the mouth of infants and nursing babies you have prepared praise for yourself?

This was a hopeful crowd driven by - wait a minute - no angry or commanding voice - no voice at all! The crowd is simply driven by the presence of the Messiah approaching in humility as was prophesied. Here, the crowd is not at all unruly, they are merely hopeful.

Finally - a list and some commentary on healing in the Old Testament:

(Source: <http://www.voiceofhealing.info/02history/oldtestament.html>)

Excerpts from the article: Healing in the Old Testament

1. Genesis 20:1-18

Then Abraham prayed to God, and God healed Abimelech, his wife and his slave girls so they could have children again, for the Lord had closed up every womb in Abimelech's household because of Abraham's wife Sarah. Also see Genesis 20:17-18.

2. Numbers 12:1-15

God inflicted Miriam with leprosy and Moses interceded for her saying, 'O God, please heal her!' Though there is no record of her healing it must be assumed that the Lord exchanged this act of judgment with the lesser penalty of seven days of disgrace outside the camp. There is no further mention of her having leprosy.

3. 1 Samuel 1:9-20

Hannah received healing from barrenness in response to her personal prayers and Eli the priest's declaration.

4. 1 Kings 13:4-6

King Jeroboam pointed his hand in judgment at an unnamed prophet and it 'shriveled up.' The prophet interceded for Jeroboam and his hand was restored to health.

5. 1 Kings 17:17-24

Elijah raised a widow's son from death.

6. 2 Kings 4:8-17

Elisha granted a child to the formerly barren Shunnamite woman.

7. 2 Kings 4:18-37

The Shunamite's son died and Elisha raised him from the dead.

8. 2 Kings 5:1-14

Naaman, commander of the King of Aram's army, was healed of leprosy after following Elisha's counsel.

9. 2 Kings 13:21

A dead man was thrown into Elisha's tomb and contact with Elisha's bones raised the man to life.

10. 2 Kings 20:1-7, 2 Chronicles 32:24-26, Isaiah 38:1-8

Hezekiah contracted a terminal illness and prayed for healing. Isaiah received a word from God that he would live for a further 15 years. Hezekiah was healed after applying a poultice of figs to the offending 'boil.'

11. Job 42:10-17

After what some scholars believe to be nine months of serious sickness and loss, the patient and trusting Job prayed for his critical friends and was personally healed.

12. Daniel 4:34,36

Nebuchadnezzar 'looked to heaven' and was healed of insanity.

In addition to these incidences of individual healing, there are three occurrences of corporate healing in response to prayer:

1. Numbers 16:46-50

Aaron stopped the plague which had killed 14,700 people by offering incense and making atonement for the people.

2. Numbers 21:4-9

The Lord sent venomous snakes among rebellious Israel. Moses prayed for them, made a bronze snake and anyone who looked at it lived.

3. 2 Samuel 24:10-25

David sinned by counting his troops, so the Lord sent a plague upon Israel which took 70,000 lives. David built an altar, sacrificed burnt and fellowship offerings and prayed to the Lord. He answered and stopped the plague.

Finally, there were other healings from barrenness by sovereign acts of God.

1. Sarah - Genesis 18:10,14, 21:1-3 Isaac was born.

2. Manoah's wife - Judges 13:5-25 She bore Sampson.

3. Hannah - 1 Samuel 1:19-20 The result was Samuel.

The above lists are all the references to specific healings in the Old Testament.