

The LORD that Healeth thee

By Paul M Hanssen



Many people in our spiritual family are facing various issues, including spiritual, mental, physical, financial, and family problems. I will group all these issues into one word - "sickness." Other types of sickness some are dealing with include addictions, whether it be drugs, sex, alcohol, pornography, or any other form of addiction (including electronics). All of these are considered sickness.

The word 'sickness' comes from the Greek word *as-then-eh'-o*, which means feebleness (of body or mind), malady (an ailment), moral frailty: disease, infirmity, and weakness. The causes of sickness are many (of course, understanding that the origin of all sickness is sin).

- Sickness can be a demonic attack (such as what Satan did to Job – Job 2:4-8). Also, the woman who had been bent over for eighteen years – Jesus healed her by releasing her from the “spirit of infirmity” (Luke 13:11). A man brought his deaf and dumb son to Jesus – When Jesus saw him, He charged the deaf and dumb spirit to come out of him (Mark 9:25).
- Sickness can be an act of God for judgment or punishment, or to bring about an awakening, as in the cases of Miriam and Hezekiah (leprosy), and the Thyatira Church (Cast in a bed of sickness) - (Numbers 12:10, 2 Chronicles 26:16-21, Revelation 2:22-23).
- Sickness can be for no other reason than God manifesting His glory and power, as in the case of the blind man (John 9:1-3).
- Sickness can be God's path to death, as in the case of Elisha, who died of a sickness. This was not a punishment or judgment since God used Elisha until the day of his death. Rather, it was the path God chose for him to depart this world (2 Kings 13:14,20).
- Other illnesses have nothing to do with any of the above and are self-inflicted diseases caused by poor lifestyle choices. Yes, ultimately, God uses these things for His glory and for your good.

Sickness is more than a physical matter. So much in our lives can be diseased, corrupt, weak, and frail.

SICK HEART: *Proverbs 13:12*

Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

SICK HEAD: *Isaiah 1:5*

Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint.

SICK SPIRIT: *Daniel 8:27*

And I Daniel fainted, and was sick certain days; afterward I rose up, and did the king's business; and I was astonished at the vision, but none understood it.

The first time in scripture that God revealed Himself as the healer was in the wilderness at a place called Marah (meaning bitter, heavy, grieved, and vexed). This was, in fact, a place representing sickness – the inner sickness, weakness, and diseased soul of the people of God. Since God revealed Himself as “The Healer,” He was clearly indicating that the bitterness, grief, feebleness, and spiritual and mental weakness were diseases that needed to be healed.

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee. (Exodus 15:26)

We emphasize the importance of physical healing. That’s valid because God cares about our physical health and well-being. However, the physical body is not the primary focus of His healing power. Often, when Jesus healed physical ailments, he proclaimed: “*Be made whole.*”

If a man on the sabbath day receive circumcision, that the law of Moses should not be broken; are ye angry at me, because I have made a man every whit whole on the sabbath day? (John 7:23)

Jesus’ mission was not just to ease physical pain but to bring full restoration: wholeness to body, soul, and spirit. Paul told the church in Thessalonica, “And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Jesus healed a man at the pool of Bethesda who had been infirm for 38 years.

Jesus saith unto him, Rise, take up thy bed, and walk. (John 5:8)

This was a complete healing because the next verse reveals that the man was immediately made “whole.” Nonetheless, he was not *declared* “whole” until He was found in the temple. Jesus went looking for him, and He found him where he needed to be, where he should be after his healing experience, in the Temple! It was then, in the Temple, that Jesus said:

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee. (John 5:14)

How often does God change our circumstances, heal our bodies, or improve the situations in our lives? Instead of using these blessings and healings to draw closer to Him and find our way to the temple (the bosom of the Father), we often go in the opposite direction, away from Him and His eternal purpose. We may be healed, but we are not whole! The impotent man was not “declared” whole until Jesus found him in the temple.

HEALING AND WHOLENESS - Luke 17:12-19 (John 5:6-11, Mark 10:52)

And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off: And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us. And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed. And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God, And fell down on his face at his feet, giving him thanks: and he was a Samaritan. And Jesus answering said, Were there not ten cleansed? but where are the nine? There are not found that returned to give glory to God, save this stranger. And he said unto him, Arise, go thy way: thy faith hath made thee whole. (Luke 17:12-19)

There were ten lepers; nine were healed, but one was *made whole!* Only one returned to the “living Temple” and gave worship and honor. He was made whole.

The ultimate goal of the body's healing is wholeness of ‘being’. Healing alone is only part of the work, whereas wholeness is completion.

Many want to be healed, but do not want to be made whole. Wholeness brings about changes that many do not wish to accept: changes in soul and spirit! Wholeness demands response. Wholeness brings about internal as well as external changes. Wholeness brings about a new and deeper sense of responsibility toward God and His commands

- Healing changes the physical state – wholeness changes the spiritual and mental state
- Healing changes the outward appearance – wholeness changes the inward conditions
- Healing cleanses the body – wholeness cleanses the heart and mind

Jesus healed many people, but He also made many fully whole. Not every healing was paired with completeness. Those made whole had faith that went beyond just touching their bodies, reaching a deeper healing within their inner eternal being. There are examples of Jesus telling the sick, “Thy faith hath made thee whole.” (Matthew 9:22, Matthew 15:28, Mark 10:52, Luke 17:19)

Few people seek physical healing with the goal of becoming whole. The main focus should always be on the wholeness of mind and spirit. When the mind and spirit are complete, everything changes, even if there are no physical changes or shifts in your environment or circumstances.

When Jesus healed, He connected His healing touch with the teaching of the Kingdom of God and repentance. He taught His disciples to do the same.

And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people. (Matthew 9:35)

And they went out, and preached that men should repent. And they cast out many devils, and anointed with oil many that were sick, and healed them. (Mark 6:12-13)

And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. (Luke 9:2)

The teaching of the Word, repentance, and cleansing go hand in hand with healing and wholeness. Many people are not healed because they refuse to repent or to be cleansed of their inner conditions that have opened the portals for spirits of infirmity to take root in them. We see this example throughout the Gospels and the book of Acts of the Apostles. After Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, He went on to cleanse the temple. Immediately after doing so, He healed the sick, especially the blind and the lame.

And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves. And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them. (Matthew 21:12-14)

We focus on the body, but we neglect the complete wholeness that God desires to accomplish in us. What if your body is healed? – it is nonetheless on its way to the grave. However, your soul and spirit are on their way to an eternal dwelling. Should we not be more concerned about the sickness and disease that holds us down, keeps us back, cripples our walk with God, blinds our vision, and taints our sense of taste as to who God is? God wants to heal “all thy diseases,” after He has dealt with our iniquities.

Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; (Psalm 103:3)

Forgiveness and healing go hand in hand – this is what creates wholeness! I am fully convinced that one of the main reasons so many physical illnesses exist within the church today is that iniquities are not confronted and addressed in the hidden corners of our souls and spirits. We seek healing, but not wholeness; we want to feel physically strong and comfortable without facing and dealing with what opposes God within us.

The word iniquity means perversity, moral evil, faults, to make crooked, and to do wrong. Iniquity is when we take God's straight, direct, and upright will and purpose and twist them to fit our own narrative and way of thinking; this is iniquity, and it is something we need to face, deal with, and repent of as we seek healing.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. (Isaiah 53:5-6)

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls. (1 Peter 2:24-25)

These verses say it all. He was wounded, bruised, and bore the weight of our chastisement. He also received stripes for our healing. We have all gone astray and taken our own iniquitous way – but He forgives, and He heals.

Please don't misunderstand me: I am not saying that all physical sickness is caused by our inner iniquity. A blind man was brought to Jesus one day, and the question was asked, "Who sinned, he or his parents?" Jesus replied, "Neither, but this sickness is for the works of God to be made manifest in Him" (John 9:2-3). Some sicknesses are for the glory of God, as was the sickness and death of Lazarus – John 11:4.

Back to where we started:

And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee. (Exodus 15:26)

At the waters of Marah, God revealed Himself as "*The LORD that healeth thee*". But to experience what he revealed, God required something:

1. Diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God – Hear, pay attention, obey, carefully consider, give ear, and discern.
2. Do what is right in His sight – upright, righteous, and well-pleasing.
3. Give ear to His commandments – a charge, to set in order, and law.
4. Keep His Statutes – appointed times, tasks, and labor.

Sometimes there are no conditions for receiving a healing; other times, there are. Sometimes the simple prayer of faith heals; other times God demands obedience. But regardless, He is the LORD that healeth thee!

And ye shall serve the LORD your God, and he shall bless thy bread, and thy water; and I will take sickness away from the midst of thee. (Exodus 23:25)

Once again, let's examine Isaiah's prophetic words concerning Jesus and the cross.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5)

- WOUNDED = khaw-lal / to bore, to break, to open (these were the nails and the spear)
Transgressions / revolt, break away from authority, rebel, apostatize
- BRUISED = daw-kaw / beat, crush, smite (this was the beating he took)
Iniquities / pervert, make crooked, moral evil, fault, do wrong
- CHASTISED = moo-sawr / to correct with blows, discipline, correction (The corrective chastisement that brought us peace fell on Him)
Peace / welfare, prosperity, health, wholeness, perfection, completion
- STRIPES = khab-oo-raw / bruises, hurt, wounds (His back received the stripes – on His back was placed every sickness, disease, ailment, known to man)
Healing / cure, repair, mend, make whole.

By His stripes, He is the Lord that healeth thee, within and without! Be made whole!

