

## **Christians & Health: Healed by Faith 07-16-17AM**

There are some issues in regards to our health and our faith. Specifically, to what degree does healing and faith coincide? There are three questions we want to address: The problem with "Faith Healers"; should Christians pray for healing; should Christians seek medical help?

### **Faith Healing**

"Faith Healers" are those who claim that they possess a first century powers to heal. They usually expect a financial compensation in some fashion. They are also known for having dramatic showmanship. But when we examine true miraculous healing in the first century we see that Jesus and His disciples did things very differently. "Faith Healers" are not like Jesus who healed regardless of faith (Mark 9:24) and restored health completely (John 9:7) As well, when Jesus or His disciples healed someone, often they sought no recognition (Luke 5:14) and expected no recompense (Matthew 10:8-9)

We are told by the Scriptures that miraculous healing is gone. We are told this because miraculous healing demonstrated authority (Matthew 10:1,5-7; Mark 16:15-18; Hebrews 2:3-4) Since the Bible has been established (2 Peter 1:19, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, Jude 3), the need for miraculous healing is no longer with us. Many may say that as long as there is sickness, there is need, but this is not so. Miraculous healing demonstrated authority; it was NOT to make everyone well (2 Corinthians 12:7-9, Philippians 2:25-30, 2 Timothy 4:20). Once all authority established, these miracles became unnecessary, and therefore Scriptures clearly state that these miracles ceased (1 Corinthians 13:8 w/ 12:28).

### **Christians Using Faith For Healing**

While we are not looking for miracles, Christians are still to pray for health. We see such a statement in James 5:14-15. In this case, we are not praying for a miracle, but for God's providential intervention. This means we are asking God to act within the boundaries of His natural laws. He can accomplish anything He desires in that manner.

What should we expect prayer to accomplish? It is not to be healed every time. As we saw, Paul was not healed or restored despite his prayers in 2 Corinthians 12:7-9. Instead, we need to see prayer as the means with which we solidify our mind with God (Philippians 4:6).

### **Seeking Medical Remedy**

While we do seek spiritual help by faith for sickness, we are also permitted to seek medical help. This is not a "lack of faith", as we see in Scriptures many who are told to seek medical treatments (such as Paul directing Timothy), and there are a number of Biblical mentions of medicines used to treat illnesses. We do need to be careful not to exclude faith, as seen in the example of King Asa in 2 Chronicles 16:12.

There are some exceptions to this we ought to consider There are times when medical treatment may not be spiritually advisable. For example, when there are immoral consequences (such as abortion), or where they are using immoral methodology (certain stem cell treatments). Too, we even know of immoral ideology (such as many STD treatments).

Finally, we need to exercise caution in our judgment on others. Some may choose not to pursue some treatments (vaccination, etc), and that is their choice. They are not more or less esteemed in Christ for it. They may choose alternative medicinal paths. Again, there is no stigma. We need to be careful when we express our opinions on these issues (Galatians 5:13).