

Two decorative blue wavy lines, one above and one below the word 'Healing', framing the title.

# Healing

A South Pacific Christian Ministries Bible Study

Written By: Pastor David Myrick

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# Healing

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## Instructions

This study is designed to use questions and scriptures to enable believers to gain understanding of the topic. While it may be used for individual study, it is designed for a group setting. The Leader's Guide provides a group leader with additional information, scripture passages, and directional comments to enable and direct the discussion. The questions provided are designed to direct the discussion and enable participants to gain insight into the topic.

Group Leaders should read the summary and Leader's Guide prior to the meeting. It is also helpful if you read the scriptures and answer the questions in the Study Question section. The Study Question should be provided to participants in advance of the group meeting so that they have time to read the scriptures and answer the questions. During the group meeting follow the Leader's Guide, reading the scripture passages as they are presented, read or discuss the information presented. It is helpful to have members of the group read the scriptures out loud. Ask the questions in the order that they appear in the Leader's Guide. Keep in mind the recommended answer participants present their answers. Depending on the answers provided by the group, you may want to ask additional questions to help them see the recommend answer.

It should be noted that this and our other studies often reference scriptural symbolism. As with the parables that Jesus told, a scriptural symbolism represents a deeper truth found within a passage. In order for scriptural symbolism to be valid it must line up with scripture and be supported by scripture and conform to the character of God.

All scripture references found in this study are the King James version, unless otherwise noted. Do not use or allow the use of none scripture references during the discussion. In particular, so called lost books, the Apocrypha books or any other book or material not included in the Bible. While Apocrypha books are part of the Catholic bible, they are not included in the Protestant bible due to contradictions with other scriptures. If a scripture used by a group participant seems questionable, compare it to the King James and Amplified versions.

Also, in a group setting, do not allow anyone to dominate the discussion. If one member talks too much, it will hinder others. Don't allow group members to challenge directly the answers of other group members. Keep in mind that the answers presented in the Leader's Guide, are not the final or only acceptable answers. These answers serve as a guide to direct the discussion and impart insight.

If you are using this study for your personal study time, then read the summary, scripture referenced in the Study Question section and then answer the questions. Make sure that you read and study the scriptures used in the Study. After you have completed the Study Question section, then read the Leader's Guide and compare your answers to those in the Leader's Guide.

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## About Us

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South Pacific Christian Ministries is a Non-Denomination Missions Oriented Ministry that sprang out of a small tourist focused church in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. After 16 years serving as the Senior Pastor the LORD redirected our steps from the little chapel by the sea to the small island communities of the South Pacific.

Our Vision is to bring the living water to the small islands of the South Pacific; a vision summed up in the Hawaiian phrase Ke Ola Wai, which means the living water. Ke Ola Wai encompassing our greatest spiritual and physical need, pure spiritual and physical water.

Our Mission is to meet the spiritual and physical needs of the people who live on the small islands of the South Pacific that can only be reached by boat. To bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their shores, assisting local Pastors, providing Bible Training for believers and conducting outreaches to draw in non-believers. To provide gravity fed, family sized, reverse osmosis water filters; emergency medical supplies; medical services; and disaster response training.

## Summary

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The question of divine healing, the gift of healing, divides much of the western church today. There are many opinions and church doctrines on the subject. As with any question regarding God and believers today, His Word has the answers. In this study we will explore this issue.



# Healing

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## Leaders Guide

The question of healing divides many believers today in the western church. There are those who do not believe that God heals today; believing that healing is limited to special miracles on rare occasions. Some denominations teach the gift of healing died with the last of the Apostles and is not typically available to believers today. Some teach that if you are sick or afflicted then God is teaching you something through it or that it is a result of your sin. Other leaders in the western church fully embrace healing miracles as part of the work of the cross.

### Question

- 1) Honestly describe your own belief regarding healing?  
*(Answer this questions before reviewing this study.)*

Since the turn of the last century many church leaders openly opposed those who peached healing and operated in that gift. Well known Healing Evangelists of the past, such as Smith Wigglesworth, John D. Lake, E. W. Kenyan, Oral Roberts and others were often vehemently opposed by local Pastors. In some cases they worked with local government leaders to force them out of the area. Many spoke against them from the pulpit. Despite their opposition there were millions of people who were healed through their ministries.

So what are we to believe? What does God's Word have to say about the subject? Does the fact that some teach against it mean that it is not for today? Does the fact that some people have died believing for their healing mean that God only heals sometimes? In order to answer these and other questions we must turn to His Word. Regardless of what others think or believe, God's Word determines the truth. As with any absolute truth, it remains true, even when you reject it.

### Does God Heal?

The question of God healing people is foundational. If the Word does not support God healing people then that ends the discussion. Thankfully, it is a question that can be easily answered through His Word. In fact, there are many passages demonstrating God's power and willingness to heal.

#### Exodus 15:26

26 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 23:25

25 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.

#### Psalms 103:3

3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;

### Question

- 2) Are there events in the Old Testament where someone was sick and God healed them?  
If so, list some of them.

Clearly, His Word establishes the fact that God can and has healed people. In the many passages we find those who served God and those who did not. God is the creator of all things. He is not subject to the laws of nature or of man. God's Word has the power and authority to change reality. Reality and circumstances do not limit God.

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## Does God Cause Sickness in Believers?

It is a common accusation made against God by believers and unbelievers alike. Current and past church leaders have promoted this belief as a weapon against people and to excuse sickness in their mist. Some reference Paul's thorn as evidence of God allowing sickness to teach a believer something. Some also claim that all sickness is the result of sin. But what does the Word say?

When examining God's Word on this subject we must understand the difference between the Old and New Testament covenants. Because of the work of the cross we enjoy a far different covenant than those of the Old Testament. The difference is important.

There are several passages where God afflicted someone with a sickness. These passages not only answer the question will God afflict someone, but why He will afflict them. One such passage involves Miriam, Aaron and Moses.

Numbers 12:1-4

- 1 And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman.
- 2 And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it.
- 3 (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)
- 4 And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out.

Miriam and Aaron, both servants of God, spoke against Moses because of his wife. They elevated themselves to be even greater than Moses before God, because they had not married outside of the children of Israel. Contrary to what they thought, Moses had a special relationship with God. A relationship far greater and more personal than theirs.

Numbers 12:5-8

- 5 And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.
- 6 And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.
- 7 My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house.
- 8 With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

Note how the LORD defended Moses. He also made it clear to Miriam and Aaron the difference in how HE communicated with Moses and them. God spoke face to face with Moses, plainly and personally. God also made it clear that they crossed a line by speaking against Moses.

Question

- 3) How did God speak to Miriam and Aaron normally?
  - *Through visions, dreams, indirectly.*
- 4) How did He speak to Miriam and Aaron in Numbers:5-8?
  - *In clear and plain language.*



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Numbers 12:9-10

- 9 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed.
- 10 And the cloud departed from off the tabernacle; and, behold, Miriam became leprous, white as snow: and Aaron looked upon Miriam, and, behold, she was leprous.

Aaron and Miriam sinned against God by speaking against Moses. They had sought to belittle Moses and to lift themselves above him because he married someone who was not an Israelite. The LORD called them out to speak separately from the people. After the LORD rebuked them He struck Miriam with leprosy for her sin.

Question

- 5) Why did God only strike Miriam with leprosy and not Aaron when both had sinned?
  - *God knows the heart and judges accordingly. Miriam's motivation and heart attitude was more vile than Aaron's.*

Aaron sought forgiveness from Moses and healing for Miriam. God agreed to heal her after seven days, during which she would be forced to stay outside the camp. She had to suffer the public shame of her sin for that period of time before she would be healed. God only healed her because of Moses' request. Had Moses not asked God to heal her she would have remained a leper.

Question

- 6) Are there any passages in the Old Testament where someone was afflicted with a sickness by God who had not sinned against God?
  - *No. In every passage where God afflicted someone with sickness they had sinned against Him.*

Sickness did come on people during that period of time. Some of it was the result of sin. Some of it was the result of a fallen world. Some of it was the result of poor cleanliness and bad practices. A lot of the law of Moses focused on teaching the people common sense cleanliness, such as washing dirty pots and dealing with mold.

Some Pastors and teachers have pointed to Job as evidence of God afflicting someone to teach them something. They failed to notice who attacked Job and why. To be clear, God allowed Job to be afflicted, but He was not the one who afflicted him. God allowed it knowing what He would do in the end; and knowing that Job would not come against Him as Satan thought he would. God knew Job's heart. What is more, God knew the future.

Job 1:8-12

- 8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?
- 9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?
- 10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.
- 11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.
- 12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:4-7

- 4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.
- 5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.
- 6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.
- 7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.





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While God gave permission and lifted His protection temporarily, He was not the one who smote Job. God was not the one who killed Job's children, cattle or servants.

Through all of the attacks of the enemy against him Job did not speak against God. While he did not understand what was going on, he did not speak against God. After a time, God spoke to Job and healed him of his afflictions. He also restored all that Job had lost, many times over.

Each attack was by satan. With the first attack he was not allowed to touch Job's body. In the second attack God limited satan from taking Job's life, but allowed Job's body to be afflicted. The scriptures in Job are clear about who afflicted him. Again, God allowed it, but He also limited the level of temptation and attack against Job. The other fact that is clear, is that God restored unto Job what the enemy had taken, many times over.

## Question

- 7) If someone becomes ill after sinning is that an indication of God afflicting them?
- *No. **Sickness may be the result of sin, but at most it is His Word, the Law given to Moses, in action.***

## Question

- 8) When someone is sick or has some physical affliction does that mean they have sinned?
- *No. **Matthew 5:45, I Peter 2:24, James 5:14.***

Consider a common occurrence under man's laws. If the speed limit is 60 miles per hour and you drive 100 miles per hour, is it the maker of the law that caused you to suffer the penalty of the law if you are caught speeding? You made the decision to violate the law. It is not persecution by the officer who stopped you, nor the judge who fined you. It is simply the result of your purposed action, your rebellion. Your action violated the law, therefore brought about the specified consequence. In other words, the word of the law brought about a consequence for violating the law.

God's Word does not stop being in effect because of the Cross. The difference for believers is that the Blood of Christ speaks for us, declaring our righteousness. Sin can provide an opportunity for sickness, but that does not mean God is causing the sickness. When sickness comes as a result of sin it is our action that caused the sickness, not God.

The presence of sickness or some affliction is not an indication of sin. It does show a lack of understanding of the promises of God, or a lack of faith in His Word. If you don't understand what Jesus paid for through the cross, then you can not take advantage of it. If you don't believe His Word, then you can not take advantage of it.

## John 10:10

- 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Jesus specified who causes theft, sickness and death. Jesus said that He came that we might have life and life more abundantly. That means, the enemy is the one who steals, kills and destroys. Sickness is destructive and can lead to death. God is not the one causing the sickness.

## Paul's Thorn

The Apostle Paul's statement about a thorn has often been used to declare that God causes sickness to teach His people. Some have taught that if you are not healed then God gave you the sickness or affliction to teach you something. But what does the Word actually say?



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2 Corinthians 12:7-9

- 7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.
- 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.
- 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

The Greek word translated into thorn is skólops. This word means withered at the front, a point or prickle, a bodily annoyance or disability, thorn. When you consider that Paul was constantly harassed by the Jewish leaders and eventually imprisoned by Rome, he might say that he had many thorns. He had been beaten multiple times and jailed. The verse does not say what he was referencing. It does say, that it was messenger of satan sent to buffet him. That thorn may have been a demonic spirit or a man. Regardless of what it was the source of the thorn was not God. A messenger of satan is not something sent by God to a believer made righteous through the Blood of Jesus.

Again, Paul prayed for it to depart from him. He did not pray that God would heal him. That in itself indicates that it was more likely not a sickness. God said in response to his prayers, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." He did not say, I am afflicting you until you learn what I need you to learn. He did not say, "I am allowing this to keep you humble."

Paul interpretation was that it was to keep him from becoming prideful. That said, he does not say that it was from God. He clearly defines the source of the thorn in the flesh as being a messenger of satan. His situation can not be used as a foundation for claiming that sickness and other afflictions are sent by God against those who believe. God's Word does not support the claim that God sends sickness to believers to teach them.

## A Complete Work

Jesus' sacrifice through the cross and all that led up to His death and resurrection was a complete work. It paved the way for any and all who believe to be saved.

Isaiah 53:5

- 5 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.**

1 Peter 2:24

- 24 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.**

The same work that paid for the forgiveness of our sins paid for our healing. Just as God does not withhold salvation to teach someone, He does not withhold healing. The same work paid for both.

Philippians 3:9

- 9 And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:

Our righteousness comes through His faith, then our healing also comes through His faith. Both works, paid for by Jesus, trusting God, the Father, as He suffered for us.





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Salvation comes through faith. We must believe that Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God, that He lived a sinless life, died upon a cross for our sins and rose again. It is by faith alone that salvation comes. Faith in God's Word.

If the forgiveness of sin comes through faith in God's Word, faith in God, then is it a surprise that healing comes through faith in His Word as well? If we accept His Word as truth then we will see the fullness of what He has promised.

By definition, faith is the assent of the mind to the truth of what is declared by another, resting on his authority and veracity, without other evidence; the judgement that what another states or testifies is the truth.

When we place faith in God's Word we are accepting as a fact that His Word is true. We are resting on His authority and veracity (consistently truthful) without other evidence. We accept as a fact that because God said it, then it is true. The opinion of man to the contrary is meaningless. Circumstances to the contrary must bend to what He said, not the other way around.

John 14:12

12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father.

Jesus said if we believeth on Him, then we will do the works that He did and greater works. What did Jesus do? He healed the sick, set captives free, calmed storms, proclaimed God's Word and raised the dead. Jesus said it, therefor it is a fact, not just a possibility. That is, if you believe.

All who came to Jesus for healing or deliverance had their needs met. No one left still sick or afflicted. If Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do..." then that is truth, because His Word is truth. No one who ask for healing left unhealed. Therefor all we pray for should be healed.

## **Why Are Some Not Healed?**

Our salvation comes through faith in God's Word. We accept as an unshakeable truth that Jesus Christ is the Only Begotten Son of God. We accept by faith that He was born of a virgin and lived a sinless life. We accept by faith that He died upon a cross for our sins and rose again by the power of God's Word. Without faith we can not be saved. Salvation also requires making Jesus our LORD, not just our savior.

Salvation was paid for, made possible, through His sacrifice on the cross. Salvation requires faith, a complete trust in God's Word. Healing, according to God's Word, was paid for through the stripes that Jesus took prior to His death upon the cross. Is it unreasonable that healing require faith in God's Word to receive it?

Consider, if speak the words of a salvation prayer but do not believe that Jesus paid the full price for you sin, or that He was and is the Son of God, are you saved? Clearly, the answer is no because you do not have faith in God's Word, God's promises. Why should healing be any different?



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A common factor with every Healing Evangelists of the past is their acceptance of God's Word as absolute truth. They saw great millions healed because they accepted as fact that Jesus paid for healing. They accepted as fact that God's Word promises that what soever we ask in the name of Jesus He will do. They accepted as fact that they could do the works that Jesus did and greater works, because God's Word said so. Their faith in God's Word enabled them to function in the promise of His Word. Their faith in God's Word enabled God to move freely in their ministry and heal millions.

Does their faith in God mean that they were never attacked with sickness? The answer is no. When they were attacked, they stood on His Word and saw God perform miracles. While some came near death, they saw God heal them because they stood on His Word.

Healing in ourselves or others is hindered or stopped through unbelief. When we accept the doctrine of men over the Word of God, then we will not see healing. When we place circumstances above God's Word then we will not see God's healing power in action. Our unbelief stands in the way of the miracle that we seek.

Psalm 78:41

41 Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel.

The children of Israel limited God because of their unbelief and constant complaining. They did not stand on His promises. They did not put their trust in Him. Instead they complained and made accusations against God and Moses. Are we any better? If we declare that God won't heal someone, despite His promise, do we not hinder Him? When we do not fully accept God's Word as truth then we can not do the works that Jesus did because will do not believe. When we do not fully accept God's Word as truth, then we limit Him.

The bottom line is that the degree in which we hold God's Word as truth is the degree in which we will do the works that Jesus did. If you believe then you will see it. If you believe not then you won't.

The lack of healing in the church today is a direct result of unbelief by the church. The fault lies with leaders who began excusing their own unbelief by teaching lies about healing. They declared that it was for yesterday only contrary to God's Word. They declared that God causes sickness to teach people so people who blame God and not look at their lack of faith.

If you have had a friend or love one die for whom you or others prayed for their healing, do not blame God. Also do not allow the enemy to tell you it is your fault. The enemy caused the sickness. The early church lost sight of God's Word and entered into unbelief and deception. God has been restoring our understanding and faith.

If you have lost someone to sickness, then seek revenge on the enemy by pursuing God for a greater understanding of healing. Pray for the sick at every chance. Declare the truth against those who would blame God. Thereby, you will strike against the enemy. Thereby, you will have revenge on them.

Question

9) Has your view on healing changed as a result of this study? Explain why your view has changed or not changed.

You can build your faith and understanding by spending time in God's Word and talking with God. You build faith by praying for people who need healing, expecting to see God heal them.



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## Study Questions

Answer the following questions, using scripture to support your answers where appropriate. The goal is to gain understanding, not to adhere to short, pat answers. Don't limit yourself to the space on the page between questions. Write your answers on a separate sheet if necessary. Do not include answers based on the books that are not part of the Bible. The opinions of man and blending the works of man, in particular false books, will hinder your walk and understanding.

### Read

Exodus 15:26

Job 1:8-12

2 Corinthians 12:7-9

Philippians 3:9

Exodus 23:25

Job 2:4-7

Isaiah 53:5

John 14:12

Psalms 103:3

John 10:10

1 Peter 2:24

Psalms 78:41

Numbers 12:1-10

### Questions

- 1) Honestly describe your own belief regarding healing?
- 2) Are there events in the Old Testament where someone was sick and God healed them? If so, list some of them.
- 3) How did God speak to Miriam and Aaron normally?
- 4) How did He speak to Miriam and Aaron in Numbers:5-8?
- 5) Why did God only strike Miriam with leprosy and not Aaron when both had sinned?
- 6) Are there any passages in the Old Testament where someone was afflicted with a sickness by God who had not sinned against God?
- 7) If someone becomes ill after sinning is that an indication of God afflicting them?
- 8) When someone is sick or has some physical affliction does that mean they have sinned?
- 9) Has your view on healing changed as a result of this study? Explain why your view has changed or not changed.