

## 2. Why Does God Heal?

### The Old Testament Experience and Promise

Best & David, *Kingdom II* . 70-72; Bosworth, *Christ the Healer*;  
Wimber, *Power Healing*, 53-54, App. A ff.

F.F. Bosworth writes in his book, *Christ the Healer*, and says; ***‘It is not what God can do, but what we know He yearns to do, that inspires faith . . . .***

Modern theology magnifies the power of God more than it magnifies His compassion, His power more than the great fact that “the exceeding greatness of His power is to us-ward” [Eph 1:19].

‘But the Bible reverses this, and magnifies His willingness to use His power more than it does the power itself. In no place does the Bible say that “God is power”, but it does say that “God is love”. ***It is not faith in God’s power that secures His blessings, but faith in His love and in His will.***’

#### 1. The Fall

**What is the connection between sin and sickness?** Are people sick because of their sin? The answer is ‘YES’ and ‘NO’. All human suffering is ultimately because of ‘The Fall’ of man in the Garden of Eden. With sin, came sickness, and in the end, death. (Gen 3:14-19)

##### 1. The Abrahamic Covenant

- Genesis 20:1-3, 17-18.
- God closed Abimelech’s wife and slave girl’s womb because he took Sarah as a wife. (She was married to Abraham.)
- The Old Testament worked on this principle. You sinned, you got sick, or in this case, Abimelech and his wives could’ve died.

##### 2. The Mosaic Covenant

- Numbers 21:4-7
- God sent venomous snakes after Israel spoke against God and Moses.
- The Old Testament worked on this principle. You sinned, you got sick, or in this case, they died.

##### 3. The Davidic Covenant

- Psalm 32:1-4 (Story in 2 Samuel)
- David sinned (Bathsheba) and didn’t say/acknowledge it.
- The Old Testament worked on this principle. You sinned, you got sick, or in this case, his bones wasted away.

2. **The Healer**

**'For I am the Lord, who heals you': Exodus 15:26.** The Hebrew word 'Rapha' (Jehovah Rapha) appears 65 times in the Old Testament. It always refers to healing, whether physical or spiritual healing. He is the Lord that heals. Below are a few scriptures that refer to the "Lord, who heals you. "

- Exodus 15:26
- Deuteronomy 32:39
- Psalms 103:3
- Psalms 147:3
- Malachi 4:2

1. **The Abrahamic Covenant**

- Genesis 20:17-18
- God gave Animelech a way out. Give Sarah back and you won't die.
- God healed because they listened to Him. (Abimelech gave Sarah back to Abraham.)

2. **The Mosaic Covenant**

- Numbers 21:8-9
- Israel was given a way out by God. He provided a healing for them if they looked at the bronze snake.
- God healed because they listened to Him. (Look at the snake to be healed.)

3. **The Davidic Covenant**

- Psalm 32:5
- And God forgave the guilt of David's sin.
- There is a no direct mention of him being healed here, but there is a wonderful glimpse of what is still to come. HOPE.

3. **The Hope**

In the Old Testament, 'hope' translates to a variety of Hebrew words in the KJV, which mean 'confidence, trust, safety, and sometimes even faith'.

1. **The Messiah**

- Isaiah 53:4-5: Surely he took up our infirmities and carried our sorrows, yet we considered him stricken by God, smitten by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
- The suffering servant described here is understood to be Jesus.

- When Jesus died on the cross, his suffering and death 'healed' us of our sins, enabling us to live for righteousness. (1 Peter 2:24)
- Malachi 4:2 – 'But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.'

## 2. The Power to Heal

- Joel 2:28-29: And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.
- Joel predicted a time when the Holy Spirit would be poured out in power on 'all' believers in the same way that God had demonstrated his power in certain individuals throughout the Old Testament.
- Numbers 11:17, 25, 29
- 1 Samuel 16:13
- 1 Kings 18:46

## 3. Righteousness and Justice

- Jeremiah 23: 5-6: 'The days are coming,' declares the LORD, 'when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. This is the name by which he will be called: The LORD Our Righteousness.'
- Righteousness and salvation are the same because the Messiah's righteousness is declared in His saving acts.
- By His righteousness the Messiah will establish Justice and Righteousness in the land.
- Malachi 4:2: 'But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings. And you will go out and leap like calves released from the stall.'

- It is often NOT the individual's sin which has caused the illness, but simply the fact that one is in this present age where humanity's fallen state means that physical breakdown is inevitable. Job was a blameless, upright man who feared God, but he still got sick. (Job 1:1; Job 2: 7)
- 2 Chronicles 7:14 - "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land."
- Those who listen and look and obey, could expect God to make a way for them to receive healing, redemption, and the forgiveness of sin, because this is how God worked in the Old Testament. There was no doubt in their minds that He could do it. He did it. And he still does it today. Time and time again, he made a way for them to expect healing.