

WILL CHRIST HEAL TODAY?

(Complete sermon as delivered by Head Pastor James A Clark)

Most denominations, in this century, claim that our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ only healed during His Ministry on earth to prove His Divinity, His Powers and His Sonship, and for this reason they do not believe that it is possible to go to Him and expect to receive healing and deliverance.

Most Christian teachers and believers believe that when Jesus Christ suffered and died on the Cross, He took away our sins, but not our sicknesses and diseases. They say that the Lord took away the diseases of men by healing them, for they say that physical disease in itself is not sin, but it is merely one of the results of sin.

To believe this is a terrible blindness of Satan, that the LORD Jesus Christ came to earth and performed many miracles of healing, and that is as far as He will go; He healed the sick during His Ministry here on earth, and we are not to expect anything further from Him.

These religious believers insist that our LORD Jesus Christ only suffered and died on the Cross to deliver man from sin, but not its effects. But the Scriptures give us an entirely different story. Suppose our LORD Jesus Christ were to come down here to earth and be with us here in the flesh today; do you think for one moment that we would find it difficult to receive full deliverance from the oppressing hand of Satan, if we were afflicted in the body?

The LORD Jesus Christ, when He was here on earth, as even the Christians of the world believe, spoke the Word of deliverance and the work was done immediately. The Bible tells us that He has never changed, and He is with us now, in the person of the Holy Spirit, and we can have the same miraculous results accomplished as quickly for us in this day and age, as people received in Bible times, *Hebrews 13:5,6,8*:

"For He (God Himself) hath said, "I will never leave you, nor forsake thee." So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever." (KJV).

Remember that our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ is "The same yesterday, and today, and forever." He healed and delivered those who believed and came to Him in faith, and because He never changes, He will do the same for us today as He did in Bible times. God's written Word not only tells us that our prayer for deliverance from Satan and his works is heard and answered with all promptness, but we receive the answer even before we have finished laying our case before Him, *John 16:23,24*:

"And in that day ye shall ask Me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it to you."

Notice that wonderful promise, that one word, "Whatever." "Whatever ye shall ask the Father in My name, He will give it to you." He will not just give us the forgiveness of our sins, but the answer to our every request as confirmed in 1st John 5: 14, 15,

"And this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He heareth us; And if we know that He hear us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him."

We cannot be blinded to our Blood-bought rights, and believe the lies of Satan that we are still subject to sickness and disease, for a great and wonderful provision has been made for our deliverance from Satan's oppressing hand, and this was through the Substitutionary Work of our LORD Jesus on the Cross. When our LORD Jesus Christ hanged on that Cross, we hanged there with Him, so that in His Person, we paid the penalty of our sins, and what is even more wonderful, and we filled our quota of sin and all of its effects, which are sickness, trouble, disturbance and sorrow.

In the body of the LORD Jesus Christ, we had all the works of Satan nailed to that Cross with Him, so that there would be none for us to suffer. The Apostle Paul says in Galatians 2: 20:

"I have been crucified with Christ: the life I now live is not my life, but the life which Christ lives in me; and my present bodily life is lived by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and sacrificed Himself for me."

In 2nd Corinthians, the 5th chapter, verses 14-21, let us read how we have been reconciled to Christ:

"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again. Wherefore henceforth know we no man after the flesh: yea, though we have known Christ after the flesh, yet now henceforth know we him no more. Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God. For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him."

When our LORD Jesus Christ arose from the dead we arose with Him, by faith, with a body as new and as perfect as His resurrected body. This new body,

which came into being at His resurrection, is not subject to sickness and disease, nor to any other work of Satan's. Let us read Romans 6: 1-11,

"What are we to say, then? Shall we persist in sin, so that there may be all the more grace? No, No! We died to sin: how can we live in it any longer? Have you forgotten that when we were baptized we were buried with Him, and lay dead, in order that, as Christ was raised from the dead in the splendor of the Father, so also we might set our feet upon the new path of life! For if we have become incorporate with Him in a death like His, we shall also be one with Him in a resurrection like His! We know that the man we once were has been crucified with Christ, for the destruction of the sinful self, so that we may no longer be the slaves of sin, since a dead man is no longer answerable for his sin. But if we thus died with Christ, we believe that we shall also come to life with Him. We know that Christ, once raised from the dead, is never to die again: He is no longer under the dominion of death. For in dying as He died, He died to sin, once for all, and in living as He lives, He lives to God. In the same way you must regard yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God, in union to Christ Jesus."

All of this being true, then we are to see ourselves, not according to our own natural eyes, which still picture us as possessing the old natural life; for on the other hand, we are to see ourselves only spiritually (by faith) as we are through our union to the sufferings, death and resurrection life of our Savior.

Then, the same power that put life into His lifeless body, and made every part and organ work perfectly, will produce the same results in ours. We are to see ourselves as the promises in the Word of GOD picture us. When we ask God, in the Name of our LORD and Savior Jesus Christ to heal us, then His Word tells us that Satan's oppressing hand is lifted at once, and every symptom of our trouble is removed, and with such promptness that it is accomplished even before we have finished our prayer.

When I take the position to put God's promises, and the statements concerning my union to Christ ahead of all that I see or feel or actually experience, then God will be able to perfect my faith in His promises, so they will take hold, and I will receive the deliverance that He has put in our own hands to enjoy.

After we have settled it to depend on God alone (without a plan B, as an option), receiving the deliverance depends altogether on taking a right attitude towards God's Word.

Consider this illustration when the LORD Jesus and three of the disciples were on the Mount of Transfiguration, when a man brought his boy to the nine disciples who remained, and he asked them to heal his son. The man had put the case up to the LORD's disciples, and they had tried to drive out the devil, but they did it without the man being asked to meet the conditions of receiving. That was the important omission. So this man went up to the

LORD Jesus, and reported to Him, "I told your disciples to drive the demon out of my son, but they could not do it." This illustration is found in Mark 9:14-28:

*"And when He came to His disciples, He saw a great multitude about them, and the scribes questioning with them. And straightway all the people, when they beheld Him, were greatly amazed, and running to Him saluted Him. And He asked the scribes, What question ye with them? And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to Thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I suffer you? Bring him unto Me. And they brought him unto Him: and when he saw Him, straightway the spirit tare him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. And He asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. And ofttimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if Thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. **Jesus said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.** And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. When Jesus saw that the people came running together, He rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him. And the spirit cried, and rent him sore, and came out of him: and he was as one dead; insomuch that many said, he is dead. But Jesus took him by the hand, and lifted him up; and he arose. And when He was come into the house, His disciples asked Him privately, Why could not we cast him out?" (KJV Bible)*

Then the father put it to the LORD Jesus in these words, "*But if there is anything that you can do, take pity on us and help us!*"

Let us take notice of one thing; the LORD Jesus refused to accept the responsibility, for it was not His after all, but solely the responsibility of the father of this boy. The LORD Jesus proved this unmistakably that the right to receive deliverance from Satan and his works, has been placed entirely in our own hands. The LORD Jesus replied,

"Jesus replied, "Why do you say `if you can'? Anything is possible for someone who has faith!" (Contemporary English Bible)

"And Jesus said, [You say to Me], If You can do anything? [Why,] all things can be (are possible) to him who believes!" (Amplified Bible)

Is that not a most wonderful promise, that "Everything or anything is possible if we only have faith? If we will only believe - believe and accept God's Word, His promises.

This man admitted his unbelief, and he asked the LORD Jesus to inspire him with confidence. But the Devil tried to put up a big bluff, right in the very presence of our LORD Jesus Christ. However, you will notice that the LORD Jesus kept advising the father not to pay any attention whatever to the symptoms, for he must hold fast in his stand to see his son's condition, only as the Word of the LORD Jesus had pictured him. This enabled the father to receive perfect healing for the boy.

Whenever we are attacked with sickness and disease, we are not battling against symptoms of human origin, but we are battling against Satan himself. We are no match for Satan, for his power is supernatural, and the only logical position for us to take, is to place ourselves in the hands of the One Who is stronger than Satan, i.e. our Almighty God! Mark 3:27,

"On the other hand, no one can break into a strong man's house and make off with his goods unless he has first tied the strong man up; then he can ransack the house."

Romans 8:31, *"What then shall we say to [all] this? If God is for us, who [can be] against us? [Who can be our foe, if God is on our side?]"* (Amplified)

Depending on God alone for deliverance is the only right thing to do, for God commands us to depend upon Him alone for all of our help, and He warns us that a curse would come upon us, if we failed to do this, Psalm 50:15,

"And call upon me in the day of trouble; I will deliver thee, and thou shalt glorify me."

Jeremiah 17:5,6:

"Thus saith the Lord, Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited."

If these teachers and believers of today believe that the LORD Jesus only healed when He was here on earth, and that He did not die and suffer on the Cross to bear these sicknesses and diseases, then why does the Apostle James tell us in his Epistle to go to God for deliverance and relief?

James commands us, *"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the Name of the Lord."* (James 5:14)

Did Christ only heal in the time that He walked this earth, but He will not deliver us from sickness and disease today? Not according to the Apostle James, for he continues in (James 5:15):

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him."

When people of the world say that our LORD Jesus Christ only performed miracles to show His Divinity and not because He had the loving heart of His Father; and not because He wanted to relieve pain and suffering, but just to exhibit His skill, we need to look into this matter more closely and examine the Holy Scripture.

We need to see that when anyone takes the position that the LORD Jesus only performed miracles when He was here on earth to prove His Divine status, and that we can no longer expect Him to heal and deliver us in this age, then we are on dangerous ground, for it is a false charge against our Blessed Almighty Father, the God of Heaven.

Suppose today, there was a great doctor or physician, who with his instruments and medicines could heal a person in a matter of minutes, no matter what their trouble or affliction. Now, suppose that this physician had a young son who took ill, severely oppressed in body and was suffering. Now, suppose this father, the doctor should say, "I don't care about that child, whether he is sick or well, but to show my skill as a physician, and to show how smart and brilliant I am, I am going to heal this child this one time, and this time only, and I will not concern myself with him again, never!"

What would we think of such a man? Would we not think that he was cruel and hard-hearted, or that he was even demon-possessed and demon-controlled? We would insist that such a man should not even have a child, when he would take such an unconcerned attitude, and would not show compassion and concern of a sick child, even his very own son, especially when he had it in his own hands to heal and deliver him. We would think him to be a murderer.

But an earthly father does not act in such a manner, for he has such a love for his children that he will do anything to comfort them and have them healed.

Then what about our Father in Heaven; what about God and His love for His children, you and me? The love of God for His children is far above that of the love of an earthly father for his children, much greater and deeper.

God calls us His sons, and He is our Father, (1st Chronicles 17:13, Matthew 5:45), and in Hebrews 1:5, He says of Christ that even angels have never been so honored! How much does God, our Heavenly Father love us? In Matthew 7:9, the LORD Jesus tells us,

"Which of you men when his son asks him for some bread will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a snake? So if you, bad as you are, know enough to give your children what is good, how much more surely will your Father in Heaven give what is good to those who ask Him for it?"

The Gospel of John tells us how much God loves His children:

"God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

No father could have a greater love than that he would have his own son to suffer and die, and on a cruel Cross, in sacrifice for another, for you and me that we may be finally and fully saved from sin.

The object of the Gospel is to bring us to the place where we will be righteous, happy, well and glorify GOD; where we will trust God just as sensibly as we trust our fellow human beings.

We are to trust God, our Maker, for the healing of our bodies when we are attacked by Satan with sickness and disease. And God is our Maker, for in Psalm 5:6, we are commanded, *"Come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!"*

Where do we go if we have a watch or computer that is broken and will not work, it is faulty and out of order? Who would be the logical person to take it to, so that we could have the trouble diagnosed? The place to take the watch or computer is back to the maker or computer store. No one is more competent than the one who put together its intricate parts and mechanisms, for they are experts, and know their business. We would be considered smart to take the broken watch or computer back to the factory where it was assembled; let those who put it together, who understand it thoroughly see what the issue is.

Then would it not be commonsense for us to do the same with our bodies when they break down, and we are broken in health, or racked with disease and sickness? Would it not be the wisest and most natural move in the world to take our body and put it in the Hands of God, Who created it? Should we be considered foolish and crazy for placing our body in the hands of the One who breathed the breath of life into us - is there anyone who knows more about these bodies than God?

No one has a right to touch these bodies, in reference to healing, no one but God. When we are sick or ill and oppressed by Satan, our primary object should not, only be to get well, and to have our health restored, but our main object is to do God's Will! We are to obey God and do His Will, regardless of the cost, just as the three Hebrew children did, when they refused to bow down to the golden idol, and they were threatened with being thrown into a fiery furnace.

Why should we expect God to heal us when we are sick, and what provision did He make for our deliverance and protection? He made the greatest sacrifice that a Father could make; He sent His Son, our LORD Jesus Christ to suffer and die on the Cross.

God was so anxious and willing, so overwhelmed with the desire for our healing that He gave His only Son to hang six hours alive on the Cross, so

that you and I might have perfect health. This was the greatest single act in the history of this world - greater even than Creation. He made this great sacrifice for only one reason, to redeem us from sin and all the works of Satan; to have His Son bear in His own body, all the sin, sickness and trouble we could ever have. Listen,

"Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 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."

This expresses two reasons for God's willingness to heal our bodies. First, our LORD Jesus Christ bore our diseases, all of our bodily oppressions. Secondly, He was bruised, in other words, His body was broken that ours might be made perfectly whole.

God permitted those nails to be driven through His Son's hands and feet; He permitted a crown of thorns with its deep-cutting barbs, upon the LORD Jesus' brow. God permitted the soldier to pierce our Savior in His side so that water and blood gushed out. It was God who permitted the LORD Jesus Christ to hang there 6 hours alive, bearing excruciating pain and distress.

Why did God allow this? For just one reason: so that we would never have to bear a single illness, not one sickness, not one trouble.

In Matthew 8:16,17, the Bible tells us that *"in the evening they brought to the LORD Jesus many who were possessed by demons,"* and that the LORD Jesus *"cured all who were sick,"* and God's Word gives the reasons for His healing power, for we are told that it was *"in fulfillment of the words of the prophet Isaiah, "He took our sickness and carried away our diseases."*

Suppose, speaking from the worldly standpoint, that we were heavily in debt, we just owed everybody, the school, the grocer, the department stores, and we were far behind in our rent. Now, suppose a good friend of ours should come along, a wealthy friend or relative, and tell us that they wish to have us free of all these debts that were such a burden to us, that we despaired of even living. So our friend went and paid off all our creditors; paid them every penny that we owed, how joyful and happy we would be.

Did you know that through Adam's sin we became heir to sin, and the result brought sickness and trouble of every kind? But our Savior Jesus Christ came and bore it all and paid the whole debt. The LORD Jesus Christ laid down His life as the ransom price, and thus He cancelled the entire debt. In the face of this fact, do you think it would be right; would it be justice for God to make us to bear it again? Could God refuse to deliver us from sin and disease when we ask Him and we present the purchase price?

In this 8th chapter of Matthew, GOD's Word expressly says that our LORD Jesus Christ bore our diseases; that He healed all who were sick and cast out

every power of Satan with His Word. These truthful statements in the Scripture mean that the LORD Jesus Christ carried all of our troubles, all of our sins, sicknesses and troubles to that Cross, and we have none to bear.

Suppose you went to the store and bought a bag of groceries, and you paid for them and took them home. Do you think that that man who sold you the goods, and accepted your money, could change his mind, and come to you and demand them back? Certainly not!

Neither can God change His mind concerning His willingness to be the Healer of these bodies. He has accepted the Blood of His own Son as the purchase price hence it must be His Will. If God should try to withhold it, He would be dishonest, for the Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ has paid completely for our healing and deliverance. 1st Peter 1:18,19:

"Well you know that it was no perishable stuff, like gold or silver, that bought your freedom from the empty folly of your traditional ways. The price was paid in precious blood, as it were of a lamb without mark or blemish - the Blood of Christ."

Our inheritance was bought back with the Blood of Jesus Christ. All the sin, sorrow, and disease we inherited from Adam, we are delivered from through the Blood of our LORD Jesus Christ.

If you went to the train station and purchased a ticket to Washington, D.C., and you got on the train at North Philadelphia Station, suppose the conductor came along and when you handed him your ticket, he replied, "Sorry, we are not going to carry you to your destination, we have changed our mind." We would be quick to reply, and quite indignantly (in a worldly way), "You must be crazy. You were certainly willing to carry passengers when I purchased my ticket."

This is just what happens with these so-called Christians who believe that God cannot with it, and does not desire to do so. Paul says, "He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?" Let us read 1st John 5:6,10-12:

"It was He, Jesus Christ Himself, who came in water and in blood; not in water only, but in water and in blood. Whoever believes in the Son of God possesses that testimony in his heart. Anyone who will not believe God has made Him a liar, for he has refused to believe the testimony that God has borne to His Son. And that testimony is that God has given us Eternal Life, and that this Life is found in His Son. Whoever has the Son has Life; whoever has not the Son has not Life. We know that no child of God commits sin, but that he who was born of God protects himself, and the evil one cannot touch him."

The Archbishop of Canterbury in 1958 established a Special Commission on the Church's Ministry of Healing, as he called it.

The Commission's report stated, "Jesus commanded His disciples to preach, to teach, to heal and to bring to men wholeness and salvation. They were commissioned to the healing of man in his physical, mental and spiritual life."

This Commission set up by the Church of England also found two important reasons why post-apostolic healing declined in the Christian Church. The first reason they said, was because of a general decline of spirituality of the Church, and the second was an increased reliance on Greek medicine.

Through the centuries, man has been going to man for help and deliverance in the time of sickness and trouble; depending on the arm of flesh instead of on God alone. How much does God love us? Enough to send His Son down to earth to suffer and die for you and me, so that we would never have a single sickness or trouble to plague us! The LORD Jesus Christ suffered for three and a half years the taunts and persecutions of the professed people of God. He was unjustly tried, spit upon, mocked, scourged, buffeted, stripped, humiliated, and finally nailed to a Cross--between two thieves.

Why did our Savior Jesus Christ have to suffer and die in such a manner? So that you and I might have perfect health, that we might be FREE from every sin, every sorrow and every disease.

"If God be for us, then who can be against us? Will not He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us also freely give us all things?" Amen! (Romans 8: 31,32)

We are always glad to give Scriptural advice and counsel to those who desire to write us about their problems, and to remember their requests for prayer in our services.

In addition we publish sermons on other subjects, which take up in detail teaching on how to deal with GOD successfully and be delivered out of all our troubles. We will gladly send them to those who desire them for their own use or for others.

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11960 Glen Alden Road, Fairfax, VA 22030 U.S.A.

Headquarters: First Century Gospel Church
Box 99 - Pottersville, NJ 07979 U.S.A.
www.fcgchurches.org or www.fcgchurches.com
e-mail: FCGCUSA@yahoo.com or pastor@fcgchurches.org

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