

Does God still heal today?



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The Bible contains many instances of God healing miraculously!

From the very earliest stories the Old Testament presents us with a God who is able to act in ways other than the normal course of events. Abraham, for example, when he and his wife were humanly far too old to have children, was introduced to the God of the impossible when Sarah gave birth to Isaac. They were both around 100 years old! Elisha and Elijah both raised children from the dead and there is the famous story of Naaman who had leprosy and, when asked to wash seven times in the river Jordan, and was healed completely!

Once we reach the New Testament we meet Jesus.

A vital part of his life and ministry was given over to amazing healings. And he got plenty of criticism for doing this.

And it didn't stop there. The disciples continued this work and saw people healed and then, in **James chapter 5** the church is clearly instructed to pray for the sick and to expect miraculous answers.

So, healing is in the Bible! What about today?



God still heals today!

There are plenty of Christians in today's world who would claim that they have experienced God's healing. Also, we believe wholeheartedly in prayer that changes things and so, when a member of our church is sick or we hear of any person experiencing pain, sickness, difficulty or challenge of any kind our first action is to bring it before God in prayer.

But we also encourage that person to consult doctors or relevant health professionals!

If God is the creator of our world and if God holds all things together then he is behind the skill and knowledge given to doctors, nurses and others who have this calling in life!

Colossians 1 v 7 in the Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the one who holds all things together as well as being the one through whom God made the world. So it is to Jesus we pray and we ask him to give direction, wisdom and skill to doctors. We also ask him to intervene miraculously especially (but not only!) when doctors cannot find a ready answer to the problem.

Also, in **Isaiah 53** we read a prophecy about the coming into the world and the work of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus death on the cross dealt once and for all with the sin and disobedience that separated men and women from God.

But...

the passage in **Isaiah** also refers to Jesus work healing our diseases. Christians believe that sickness, pain and suffering is all the result of sin—that is, disobedience to God's way—in the world. Not that sickness in an individual is the result of that person's sin but the result of the presence of sin and disobedience in the world as a whole.

The logical follow through of this belief is that the work of the cross not only brought spiritual healing (forgiveness, salvation) to men and women, it also brought physical healing.

FIRST it is important to say that Jesus death on the cross is only effective to forgive our sins when we believe in Jesus Christ. The Bible says that God asks us to :

Repent

That is to recognise that all people, including me, have failed him and turn away from my old life.

See [Romans 3 v 23 & 24](#). and [Acts 2 38](#)

Believe

In Jesus Christ so that we might be forgiven and “born again”

This is the most important change you can make in your life and a decision that will make an eternal difference to your life!

So, will Jesus only heal me if I repent & believe?

No! God answers prayers for believers and non-believers! In the Gospels we don't read that every person healed became a follower of Jesus!

BUT it is true that placing your faith in Jesus is the greatest and best thing you can ever do .



So, can I be sure that my prayer (or yours for me) will always result in healing?

We can promise you that God loves you and wants the very best for your life. However there are reasons that healing prayers are not always answered in the way we would want them to be.

God and evil are still at war

Although the kingdom of God has come, in the person of Jesus, into our world the battle isn't yet over. Another of our leaflets ('Is God to blame?') will give the background to this . Here we can only say that we will pray and continue to pray and ask God to act effectively in your life. We will be very direct and ask God to heal!

In other words we will pray with FAITH.

So what do I do if I'm not healed?

Keep on asking

God tells us to persevere in prayer. We are in a spiritual battle so we ask and keep on asking and remind the devil that he is not on the winning side!

Ask God for the strength to live day by day

This is a prayer we can be sure will be answered! God doesn't promise that we will avoid suffering but that he will be with us in it.

So, is healing dependent on how much faith I have?

No! Jesus taught that faith is like a mustard seed, the very smallest seed there is! One father in the Bible said to Jesus, "Lord, I believe, help my unbelief". So, be honest with God. Then, ask someone else to pray with you so that together you might support and help each other as you wait for the answer.

What happens if someone I am praying for dies?

This is why we talked earlier about faith in Jesus Christ. For the person who trusts Jesus Christ and is "born-again" by his Spirit, death is the greatest healing of all! The promise of Jesus is that all pain will be gone and we will be with him forever.

So, if you have never put your trust in Jesus do it right now!

Ask him to accept you as his child and to forgive all your sin and failure. Express your belief in his death on the cross for you. Finally, tell someone in the church what you have done and start learning more about him from the Bible!

Finally—don't give up!

With the help & support of other Christians keep on praying and taking each day as it comes with God's help.

Want to know more?

Got questions?

Come and see us at

Thursday Coffee morning

9.30 — 1.30

