

## Lesson 10: Healing and Resurrection

### **Introduction**

Recent Sermon – Psalm 103:3

“Pardons all your iniquities” is parallel to “heals all your diseases.”

How can I expect one to be an absolute (cf. Ps. 130) and not the other?

And yet, as the sermon pointed out, Christians do get sick and remain sick:

e.g. Paul (2 Cor. 12), Timothy (1 Tim. 5), Trophimus (2 Tim. 4), and Epaphroditus (Ph. 2).

*What should I think about the promises of healing in the Bible?*

Illus. As a young pastor, I wrestled with James 5 and “the prayer of faith” will raise him up (vv. 14-16).

This passage seems just as instructive as singing a psalm or praying (v. 13).

Also, the efficacy of prayer (v. 16) is not for the elite charismatic, but the ordinary Joe (v. 17).

Examples: Three churches – sister with leukemia, son with asthma, woman with cellulitis (Ps. 91:6)

*Should I regard the “prayer of faith” as an extraordinary event over the normal reliance on promise (Mueller)?*

Again, what should I think about the promises of healing in the Bible?

### **Promise and Fulfillment**

Proposal: *The forgiveness of sin and the healing of disease is just as absolute, but not in the way we may think.*

Recent Sermon – “Standing on Promises” (God is true, able, and faithful)

“We serve an incredibly faithful and notoriously unpredictable God” (Paul Cox).

Result: We cannot rely on our imagination, but on God.

Abrahamic Covenant – seed and land, as a promise sealed with an oath and blood

Facts: Abraham did not receive Isaac as he had planned (even tested!) and he did not receive the land at all.

In both cases, the resurrection is the key to fulfillment—and this is the first book of the Bible!

Davidic Covenant – seed and throne, as a promise sealed with an oath and blood

Facts: God let the Davidic dynasty die (even cursed!) and the kingdom is “not of this world” (Jn. 18:36).

Again, resurrection is the key to fulfillment—and this is the gospel!

Lesson: Life and death is seamless to God—the mere transition from one realm to another, and back again.

Objection: Cheating! If God promises healing, than I shall be healed *now*.

Answer: This is the way God fulfilled the promises to His own Son, the Righteous One (cf. Isa. 53:5, “healed”).

This is the habitual way Christians are taught to think and be motivated (e.g. Lk. 14:14; Heb. 10:34).

This is far better than mere healing, as a restoration to what was prior (cf. Ph. 1:23):

Illus. Plant metamorphosis and the spiritual body as the image of the heavenly (1 Cor. 15:35-49).

Lazarus was brought back to life, but not *glorified*—better than weak to strong (Ph. 3:21).

Gospel: The New Covenant promises are “already/not-yet” (e.g. Rom. 8 – Spirit of adoption vs. the adoption).

We are guaranteed forgiveness in this life (justification) and complete healing in the next (glorification).

Mark 2 demonstrates which is more important—forgiveness is the cause of ultimate healing.

### **Present Application**

Resurrection signifies God’s commitment to your body (as part of *you*) and to its ultimate health.

Therefore, you do not have the *promise* of present healing, but you do have the *presence* of the Healer.

God’s heart: He *wants* to heal you – proof: the gospel interruptions and Jesus’ compassion (Mark)

Therefore, pray with confidence in His heart, based on the reasoning of Romans 8:32 and the resurrection.

Illus. “Ask and you shall receive” (Mt. 7:7) – *Absolute promise?*

James makes explicit two implicit conditions: faith (Jas. 1:5-7) and love (Jas. 4:3).

The first condition is based not on *suing God’s words*, but *trusting God’s heart* (Jas. 1:5, grace and mercy).

This is the same book as “the prayer of faith” (ch. 5), so it is in the same context!

Jonathan Edwards: Unless God is hindered by a greater goal, He will answer your request.

It may not be *how* you expect, or *when* you expect, but you can expect an answer (Heb. 11:6).

“You do not have because you do not ask” (Jas. 4:2; cf. Mt. 6:9-13 – under His will).

Illus. John 11 – the delay because of love, to show the glory of God (cf. Jn. 9:1ff – the reason!)

Ultimately, is that not your heart—to glorify God in all you experience, even death (Jn. 20)?

If it is not your heart, then why should God grant you healing? You have made healing an idol!

If it is your heart, then expect it to happen! You have prayed according to His will (1 Jn. 5:14-15).

Therefore, pray with expectancy—you will always receive when you ask.

Who knows, you may even experience the rapture—and never taste death (1 Cor. 15:50ff; 1 Th. 4:16-17).