

## Jesus Christ Heals All Wounds

### Psalm 147:3

#### *He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.*

Wounds are of three sorts. *Physical* wounds are those of the body, such as cuts and punctures. *Emotional* wounds are those of the feelings, such as those caused by personal insult, death of a loved one, or tragedy. *Spiritual* wounds are those of the spiritual heart of man, his soul.

Man is incapable of healing all these wounds. *Physicians* may heal *physical* wounds, but not all of them. *Counselors and psychologists and psychiatrists* may heal *emotional* wounds, but not all them. *No man is capable healing spiritual* wounds.

Nor is it true that “Time heals all wounds.” This expression is generally made by well-meaning people to those who have been wounded emotionally by such things as hurt feelings, death of a loved one, or personal tragedy. Many of the emotionally wounded object to being told “Time heals all wounds” on the ground that their wounds will never heal, and that they will go to their graves with them.

Time of course does not heal all *physical* wounds, for many physical wounds become worse in time.

And time heals *no* spiritual wounds.

The expression “Time heals all wounds” is said to be an alteration of “*God* heals all wounds.” I suppose this alteration suits those who do not believe in God or His healing powers. But if you will believe the testimony of Holy Scriptures, I can assure you that indeed “*God* heals all wounds.”

But I hasten to add that God heals all the wounds of only His people, those who believe His gospel and trust in His Son Jesus Christ. God heals their wounds through Jesus Christ, who fulfilled God’s promise that “to you who fear My name [i.e., worship Me] The Sun of Righteousness shall arise with healing in His wings” (Malachi 4:2). Jesus Christ assures His people that “I am *Jehovah-Rapha*, The Lord Who Heals You” (Exodus 15:26). It therefore is with good reason that His people call Him “The Great Physician”.

Jesus Christ heals all the wounds of God’s people whether their wounds be *physical, emotional, or spiritual*. We will consider first Jesus Christ healing the *spiritual* wounds of His people. Reasoning

from the greater to the lesser, if He can heal *spiritual* wounds, He can certainly heal *emotional* and *physical* wounds.

**I. Jesus Christ heals the spiritual wounds of His people.** This is the foremost meaning of “He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”

1. *The brokenhearted are people who are under conviction of their sins* – whether they be sinners or saints. They feel their sinfulness, spiritual bankruptcy, helplessness, need of divine mercy and grace, and long for help and salvation from God.

2. *Such a broken heart is a blessed thing.* “The sacrifices of God [those that He desires and approves] are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise” (Psalm 51:17). “Jehovah is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit” (Psalm 34:18). “For thus says the High and Lofty One Who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: ‘I dwell in the high and holy place, with him who has a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones’” (Isaiah 57:15). God says “on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word” (Isaiah 66:2).

3. *Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted* (Isaiah 61:1-3): “1 The Spirit of Adonai Jehovah is upon Me, because Jehovah has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, ... 2 ... to comfort all who mourn, 3 to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness ....” Every believer in Jesus Christ finds His promise to be true and fulfilled.

4. *Jesus did not come to heal the whole-hearted* – those who hearts are still whole and not broken. They of course do not need to be healed. Such were the scribes and Pharisees, who boasted of being righteous and denied being sinners. “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘Those who are well [*whole* in KJV] have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance’” (Luke 5:31f).

5. *Jesus breaks hearts before He heals them.* He Himself declares, “I wound and I heal” (Deuteronomy 32:39). Eliphaz the Temanite spoke truth when he said, “Behold, happy is the man whom God corrects; therefore do not despise the chastening of the

Almighty. For He bruises, but He binds up; He wounds, but His hands make whole” (Job 5:17f). The brokenhearted are encouraged to “Come, and let us return to Jehovah; for He has torn, but He will heal us; He has stricken, but He will bind us up” (Hosea 6:1). Blessed is the man whose heart God has broken!

6. *No heart is too hard for Jesus to wound and heal.* Ask Saul of Tarsus! (See Acts 9:1-18.) No heart was hardened against Jesus more than Saul’s: Saul despised Jesus, and “Saul [was] breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord” and endeavored to exterminate them (vv.1f). But on the road to Damascus, Jesus broke Saul’s heart: “Saul fell to the ground” and “trembling and astonished, said [to Jesus], ‘Lord, what do You want me to do’” and then obeyed his Lord (vv.3-9). Then in Damascus Jesus healed Saul’s broken heart: his sight was restored, and he was baptized in water and filled with the Holy Spirit (vv.10-18) – and became Paul the apostle! If you are hardhearted against Jesus, may He bless you by breaking your hard heart!

7. *No heart is too sinful for Jesus to wound and heal.* Ask David the adulterer and murderer! (See Psalms 51 & 32). Jesus broke David’s guilty heart: the psalmist confessed that “day and night Your hand was heavy upon me” (32:4), and he spoke of “the bones you have broken” (51:8 – these “bones” meaning by extension David’s very *essence and substance*, not *physical* bones), until he learned that “The sacrifices of God [those that He desires and approves] are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart – these, O God, You will not despise” (Psalm 51:17). Jesus then healed David’s broken heart, for the psalmist testified, “I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, ‘I will confess my transgressions to Jehovah,’ and You forgave the iniquity of my sin” (32:5). If you have a broken heart, surely Jesus has broken it, and surely He can heal it, regardless of how sinful you are.

8. *Jesus heals a believer’s wounds through His own wounds suffered in their place and stead* (Isaiah 53:5): “He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes [or *wounds*] we are healed” (the Hebrew word translated “stripes” means also “wounds”, as it is translated in Psalm 38:5).

**II. Jesus Christ heals the emotional wounds of His people** – such as those caused by tragedy or death of a loved one.

Some may object, “But you do not know how many and how deep are my emotional wounds.” I would reply, “You evidently have not trusted the healing efficacy of Him who says “Jehovah has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted ...” (Isaiah 61:1-3).

Consider the case of Job (Job chs.1f). In God’s will and by Satan’s hand, Job suffered catastrophe after catastrophe. These resulted in the loss of all his seven sons and three daughters. These resulted also the loss of all his earthly possessions including his seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys. Also included was the loss of Job’s health, for Satan struck Job with painful boils from the crown of his head to the sole of his feet.

However, Job’s faith in Christ his Redeemer did not fail (Job 19:5). And Job’s emotional wounds were healed by Christ. This we know because Job declared, “Jehovah gave, and Jehovah has taken away; blessed be the name of Jehovah” (1:21). And “In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong” (1:23). And “In all this Job did not sin with his lips” (2:10).

**III. Jesus Christ heals the physical wounds of His people.** Jesus of course has this power, for He healed the severed ear of Malchus (Luke 22:50f). Jesus may not heal the physical wounds of His people in this life, perhaps in order to demonstrate to them His super-abounding grace, and to teach them to boast in Him when they are afflicted and infirm (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). But all believers in Jesus will find at the final resurrection, when they inhabit glorified bodies, that He also has healed all their physical wounds (1 Corinthians 15:35ff). The only wounds visible in heaven are those of Jesus Christ, “by whose wounds we are healed”.

We therefore are not surprised that unbelievers lament their wounds that will never heal, and that time will never heal their broken hearts. O that they would trust in Jesus Christ “The Great Physician”!

For believers find great consolation in knowing that **“Jesus Christ heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”**

– Daniel E. Parks (August 14, 2016; #951)