



### Healing # 3

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes from the Presence.” Today is the third in a series on healing. The health of our bodies is a priority with God but sadly, not too many Jesus followers even believe that God heals today.

I would like to post another healing testimony to get started. A few years ago I was doing a late night worship set for a cancer run. I went into the music room at our church to get some equipment but the room was pitch dark. The light switches were way on the other side of the room in front of a set of concrete stairs. I had turned them on many times and I knew my way around in the dark so I headed over towards the switches. What I didn't know is that someone had put a bunch of stuff in front of the stairs. I tripped over what turned out to be an electric piano and went down hard, my forehead slamming right onto one of the steps. My bell got rung so badly that for a minute or two I didn't even know where I was and in hind sight, I am sure I had a concussion. Anyhow, in the months to come I started to get terrible headaches, something unfamiliar to me up until that time. It got so bad that at one point I had a headache for 3 solid months. I was in terrible pain all the time and could find no solution.

In the middle of all of this pain, Adeline and I decided to go to a conference just down the coast from where we were living. On the first night, after the worship, the conference speaker got up and started calling out a variety of prophetic words. Then she stopped and said, "someone is being healed of migraines right now." Immediately I felt a warm sensation flood the back of my head and go all the way down my neck. The pain in my head left and the good news is - I have not had another migraine since. It left that evening and has never come back - thank you Jesus!!

There are many names of God. Each name describes part of His character, but did you know that there is one name that reveals Him as our healer. I would like to take a look at this remarkable scripture today. The children of Israel had just come out of Egypt. They

were in the wilderness for less than a week when they ran across some bitter water. Eventually Moses threw a tree into the water and they were able to drink. It is here that God revealed Himself as Jehovah Rapha - The Lord Who Heals:

*Exodus 15: 22-27 Then Moses led Israel from the Red Sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and they went three days in the wilderness and found no water. When they came to Marah, they could not drink the waters of Marah, for they were bitter; therefore it was named Marah. So the people grumbled at Moses, saying, "What shall we drink?" Then he cried out to the Lord, and the Lord showed him a tree; and he threw it into the waters, and the waters became sweet.*

*There He made for them a statute and regulation, and there He tested them. And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the Lord, am your healer."*

The healing promises continue through the Old Testament law. Here are a few of my favourites:

*Exodus 23:25 But you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water; and I will remove sickness from your midst.*

*Deuteronomy 7:14-15 You shall be blessed above all peoples; there will be no male or female barren among you or among your cattle. The Lord will remove from you all sickness.*

In many of these passages, we see a contrast between God's people living in obedience and the evil nations that were worshipping idols. For those under God's covenant, healing was part of the package. For the evil nations, there is often reference to God "putting" or in some cases "allowing" sickness on them. In the Hebrew text, there is a permissive tense in these verses that doesn't translate too well into English. A more accurate rendition of these passages should read - I will not permit any of the diseases on you which I have permitted on the Egyptians.

Even in the wilderness, sand and difficult terrain on every side, God chose to be the healer of His people. It was His idea. The Israelites didn't ask for a healer - God volunteered. What an amazing God we serve.

There are really two things that cause sickness in our world. The first is the curse which was released when we sinned. The second is the devil. In many cases, there are spirits of

infirmity who specialize in afflicting sickness on humankind. They are very good at making us sick in thousands of different ways - virally, genetically, generationally, in our organs, by causing our bodies to turn on themselves, and by causing malfunctions of many different kinds. There are literally hundreds of sicknesses and diseases and bodily conditions that can afflict us and in many cases, these spirits will use the curse like a tool to oppress people. As we stated last week, on this side of the cross sickness is not caused by God, it is an oppression of the devil as quoted in Acts 10:38

In my experience, although healing is essential, it doesn't always come in the same way. In articles to come, we will explore these different avenues. Sometimes it is instantaneous, sometimes it comes gradually. Sometimes it is just between you and God, sometimes we need others to pray for us. Sometimes it is in a corporate setting, sometimes it might be with one other person. It can also be a combination of supernatural healing and natural healing process. God has designed our bodies to heal themselves of many sickness. However, there are times our bodies are overwhelmed by circumstances too great for the natural healing process and we need extra help. It is the glory of God that does the healing work in our bodies.

God's glory is portable and can exist both in heaven and also on the earth. When it is released into a body and against a sickness there is little the sickness can do to survive. It must leave. Sometimes it goes right away, sometimes it is driven out bit by bit, but it always has to go. Sickness and God's glory cannot coincide. God's glory always wins. This fun fact is the reason why there is no sickness in heaven - because God's glory is the actual atmosphere of heaven. However, Jesus taught us to pray "let it be on earth as it is in heaven." We are called to release His glory here as well. I for one, am passionate about learning the release of glory and presence here on our earth. My prayer - let the glory of God cover the earth as the waters cover the sea.

Thanks for reading. Doctor Jesus is for real!