

Doctrine of Divine Healing in the Church

1. An important passage in the study of divine healing is James 5:13-16.
 - *James 5:13 Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms. 14 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: 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. 16 Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.*

2. In James 5:13 we learn that sickness is a proper subject of prayer.
 - When sick, we are encouraged to pray for ourselves to be healed.
 - When sick the elders of the church are to be called officially to pray for the sick.
 - When sick, and prayer is offered, sins are to be confessed.

3. James 5:13-16 does not stand alone in teaching that it is proper to pray for healing when sick. In Mark 11:24 Jesus said *“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*

4. Some of the sickness we encounter has its origin in Satan.
 - *Job 2:4-7 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. 5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. 6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life. 7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.*
 - *Luke 13:16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?*
 - *2 Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.*

5. Because of Satan’s attacks we need to call upon the Father who cares for us.
 - *Psalms 103:13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.*

6. Failure to seek the Father’s face in time of illness reflects a great insult to grace.

- *2 Chronicles 16:12 And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the LORD, but to the physicians. 13 And Asa slept with his fathers, and died in the one and fortieth year of his reign.*

7. Though God does not choose to heal everyone, everyone should pray for healing.
8. While prayer is offered “oil” is to be applied to the body.
 - Some believe that oil referred to here is literal.
 - Other suggests that the reference be to the Holy Spirit.
 - Probably a combination of both ideas would merit consideration. When prayer is called for, and oil is administered, the purpose is to symbolically set the soul aside for divine favor and consideration.

In Biblical times the tabernacle, the altar, and the vessels and the laver and its base were all anointed, “*to sanctify them.*” In addition Aaron was anointed to “*to sanctify him*” (Leviticus 8:10-12). To anoint the sick is one way to say that they are set apart to God whose favor and grace they now need.

9. If the Scripture is followed and still there is no healing then other causes need to be understood for sickness. There are many reasons why believers suffer.
 - Suffering is a natural consequence of The Fall. In a moral universe God does not wait until eternity to extract Divine justice.

Psalms 52:1 Why boastest thou thyself in mischief, O mighty man? The goodness of God endureth continually. 2 Thy tongue deviseth mischiefs; like a sharp razor, working deceitfully. 3 Thou lovest evil more than good; and lying rather than to speak righteousness. Selah. 4 Thou lovest all devouring words, O thou deceitful tongue. 5 God shall likewise destroy thee forever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living. Selah.

- Suffering is designed to demonstrate the power and provision of grace.

2 Corinthians 12:1 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. 3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) 4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. 5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities. 6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. 8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. 9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

- Suffering (physical and/or mental) is designed to bring some back to the path of righteousness.

Psalms 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy word. 68 Thou art good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.