

Doctrine of Healing

1. Divine healing refers to God's direct and immediate restoration to health of individuals who are sick.
2. It is not wrong to pray for divine healing. Moses pleaded with God to heal his sister Miriam who had been stricken with leprosy.
 - *Numbers 12:13 And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee.*
3. Asserting His sovereignty, God declares that He has the power to wound, and to heal.
 - *Deuteronomy 32:39 See now that I, even I, am he, and there is no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither is there any that can deliver out of my hand.*
4. In infinite mercy God will on occasion respond to the prayers and tears of a person pleading for divine healing.
 - *2 Kings 20:5 Turn again, and tell Hezekiah the captain of my people, Thus saith the Lord, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the Lord.*
5. While appealing to God to heal, faith can still be weak and seek for a sign of hope.
 - *2 Kings 20:8 And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the Lord will heal me, and that I shall go up into the house of the Lord the third day?*
6. As the body needs healing so does the land. Based upon gospel repentance God has promised to heal the land of a nation.
 - *2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.*
 - *Psalms 60:2 Thou hast made the earth to tremble; thou hast broken it: heal the breaches thereof; for it shaketh.*
7. It is not wrong to humble oneself before God and plead for personal healing.
 - *Psalms 6:2 Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak: O Lord, heal me; for my bones are vexed.*

8. As the body needs Divine healing, so does the soul. Divine healing of the soul involves confession of sin.

- *Psalms 41:4 I said, Lord, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.*

Special Note.

While much emphasis is placed upon divine healing of the body, more attention needs to be paid to divine healing of the soul.

9. There is a time to heal.

- *Ecclesiastes 3:3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

10. When dealing with the nations on earth, God will smite a nation in order to heal it thereby displaying His justice in judgment and His mercy in withdrawing His judgment. The divine objective is to bring a nation to gospel repentance and prayer in order to manifest mercy.

- *Isaiah 19:22 And the Lord shall smite Egypt: he shall smite and heal it: and they shall return even to the Lord, and he shall be entreated of them, and shall heal them.*

11. Individuals are in need of healing in as far as they have a covetous heart and walk in a “froward” or defiant manner contrary to the known will of the Lord. On some, God will first wound and then have mercy and heal their souls.

- *Isaiah 57:17 For the iniquity of his covetousness was I wroth, and smote him: I hid me, and was wroth, and he went on frowardly in the way of his heart. 18 I have seen his ways, and will heal him: I will lead him also, and restore comforts unto him and to his mourners.*

12. God has determined to show mercy to some by creating “the fruit of the lips” which is praise and thanksgiving (Hebrews 13:15).

- *Isaiah 57:19 I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the Lord; and I will heal him.*

Special Note.

“Creation is out of nothing, and this is surely out of worse than nothing, when God creates matter of praise for those that went on frowardly in the way of their heart” (Matthew Henry).

13. There is equal emphasis in Scripture on the healing of the soul as well as the body.

- *Jeremiah 3:22 Return, ye backsliding children, and I will heal your backslidings. Behold, we come unto thee; for thou art the Lord our God.*

Special Note.

Today, the emphasis is on the healing of the body, which is understandable but unbiblical.

14. Wise is the person who pleads with God for spiritual healing.

- *Jeremiah 17:14 Heal me, O Lord, and I shall be healed; save me, and I shall be saved: for thou art my praise.*

15. Sometimes God will move to heal His elect people because of the insults of the unbelieving community.

- *Jeremiah 30:17 For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the Lord; because they called thee an Outcast, saying, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.*

16. Sometimes the circumstances of life are so negative, and the laminations of sorrow so severe that it seems there is no hope for healing of either body or soul.

- *Lamentations 2:13 What thing shall I take to witness for thee? What thing shall I liken to thee, O daughter of Jerusalem? What shall I equal to thee, that I may comfort thee, O virgin daughter of Zion? For thy breach is great like the sea: who can heal thee?*

17. The temptation comes to seek for spiritual, physical, and national healing from secular sources, to no avail.

- *Hosea 5:13 When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.*

18. Gospel wisdom calls for individuals to unite to return unto the Lord and with good reason. He who has “torn” is sovereign and powerful enough to “heal us”. The One who smites knows how to bind up the wounds He has inflicted.

- *Hosea 6:1 Come, and let us return unto the Lord: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up.*

19. When God undertakes to save His people from spiritual transgressions, He will move to heal their backsliding, love them freely, and withdraw His justified anger.

- *Hosea 14:4 I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely: for mine anger is turned away from him.*

20. In contrast to the True Shepherd are false shepherds who are placed in the land as a form of divine discipline. The False Shepherd will pretend to heal, but cannot.

- *Zechariah 11:16 For, lo, I will raise up a shepherd in the land, which shall not visit those that be cut off, neither shall seek the young one, nor heal that that is broken, nor feed that that standeth still: but he shall eat the flesh of the fat, and tear their claws in pieces.*

Special Note.

Today, there are many False Shepherds in Christendom. They promise health and wealth to the sheep, but cannot heal that which is broken nor can they feed the spiritually hungry. What they can do is to “eat the flesh of the fat and tear their claws in pieces” by exploiting God’s people and making merchandise of them with false promises.

21. When personally appealed to, Jesus responded and healed individuals.

- *Matthew 8:5 And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, 6 And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. 7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him.*
- *Luke 7:1 Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum. 2 And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die. 3 And when he heard of Jesus, he sent unto him the elders of the Jews, beseeching him that he would come and heal his servant.*

22. The Twelve Disciples of Christ were given special spiritual power to cast out demons and to heal all manner of disease.

- *Matthew 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.*
- *Matthew 10:8 Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give.*
- *Mark 3:14 And he ordained twelve, that they should be with him, and that he might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils:*
- *Luke 9:1 Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. 2 And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.*

23. A cold and formal religion will dry up tender compassion and replace relieving physical pain with religious ritual.

- *Matthew 12:10 And, behold, there was a man which had his hand withered. And they asked him, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath days? That they might accuse him.*

24. The absence of acts of divine spiritual healing and souls being converted is one sign of God's judgment.

- *Isaiah taught this truth. Isaiah 6:10 Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.*
- *Jesus taught this truth. Matthew 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

John 12:40 He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them.

- *Paul taught this truth. Acts 28:27 For the heart of this people is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes have they closed; lest they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.*

25. Religious people are quick to condemn acts of divine mercy.

- *Mark 3:2 And they watched him, whether he would heal him on the Sabbath day; that they might accuse him.*
- *Luke 6:7 And the scribes and Pharisees watched him, whether he would heal on the Sabbath day; that they might find an accusation against him.*

26. As the Messiah, Jesus came to heal the brokenhearted, which means He came to comfort hearts as well as to heal bodies and restore minds.

- *Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*

27. It is an ancient proverb or wise saying that a good physician is able to heal himself.

- *Luke 4:23 And he said unto them, Ye will surely say unto me this proverb, Physician, heal thyself: whatsoever we have heard done in Capernaum, do also here in thy country.*

28. The power of the Lord must be present in order for divine healing to take place.

- *Luke 5:17 And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them.*

29. The Lord has empowered others besides the apostles with the gift of healing.

- *Luke 10:1 After these things the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, whither he himself would come. 2 Therefore said he unto them, The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. 3 Go your ways: behold, I send you forth as lambs among wolves. 4 Carry neither purse, nor scrip, nor shoes: and salute no man by the way. 5 And into whatsoever house ye enter, first say, Peace be to this house. 6 And if the son of peace be there, your peace shall rest upon it: if not, it shall turn to you again. 7 And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. 8 And into whatsoever city ye enter, and they receive you, eat such things as are set before you: 9 And heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The kingdom of God is come nigh unto you.*

30. Jesus was always prepared to defend His healing ministry.

- *Luke 14:3 And Jesus answering spake unto the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, Is it lawful to heal on the sabbath day?*

31. The heart of the Lord to heal is tender towards children.

- *John 4:46 So Jesus came again into Cana of Galilee, where he made the water wine. And there was a certain nobleman, whose son was sick at Capernaum. 47 When he heard that Jesus was come out of Judaea into Galilee, he went unto him, and besought him that he would come down, and heal his son: for he was at the point of death.*

32. Acts of divine healing are to take place in the name of Jesus.

- *Acts 4:30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.*