



Body & Health – Part 2
Sermon Discussion Notes
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Opening Thought

In this day and age, when we are surrounded with sickness, it is easy to lose sight of God's word and what it has to say to us about disease. Stricken from the fear of illness, we can easily forget the power we are given from the Holy Spirit in regards to our body. The short article below is a study where the researchers studied patients who received prayer during their treatment and others that did not.

In the most widely publicized studies of the effect of prayer on healing, cardiologist Randolph Byrd studied 393 patients admitted to the coronary-care unit at San Francisco General Hospital. Some were prayed for by home-prayer groups, others were not. All the men and women received the same medical care. In this randomized, double-blind study, neither the doctors and nurses nor the patients knew who would be the object of prayer. The results were dramatic and surprised many scientists. The men and women whose medical care was supplemented with prayer needed fewer drugs and spent less time on ventilators. They also fared better overall than their counterparts who received medical care but nothing more. The prayed-for patients were: Significantly less likely to require antibiotics (3 patients versus 16), significantly less likely to develop pulmonary edema-a condition in which the lungs fill with fluid because the heart cannot pump properly (6 versus 18). Significantly less likely to require insertion of a tube into the throat to assist breathing (0 versus 12). Less likely to die (but this difference was not statistically significant). Studies in Support of Faith Healing, Wikipedia,

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faith_healing#Studies_In_Support_Of_Faith_Healing

Scriptures

Matthew 20:29-34 29 As Jesus and his disciples were leaving Jericho, a large crowd followed him. 30 Two blind men were sitting by the roadside, and when they heard that Jesus was going by, they shouted, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" 31 The crowd

rebuked them and told them to be quiet, but they shouted all the louder, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on us!" 32 Jesus stopped and called them. "What do you want me to do for you?" he asked. 33 "Lord," they answered, "we want our sight." 34 Jesus had compassion on them and touched their eyes. Immediately they received their sight and followed him.

Matthew 9:29 29 Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you";

Matthew 11:28-30 28 "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Matthew 21:21-22 21 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. 22 If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

Luke 1:37 37 For nothing is impossible with God."

Philippians 4:6-7 6 Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:28 28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Psalms 91 1 He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. 2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." 3 Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. 4 He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge; his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. 5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, 6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. 8 You will only observe with your eyes and see the punishment of the wicked. 9 If you make the Most High your dwelling-- even the LORD, who is my refuge-- 10 then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent. 11 For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways; 12 they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone. 13 You will tread upon the lion and the cobra; you will trample the great lion and the serpent. 14 "Because he loves me," says the LORD, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. 15 He will call upon me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. 16 With long life will I satisfy him and show him my salvation."

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss the article in the opening thought. Is it credible? How do you think Christians and non-Christians would react to this reading?

2. What does God require of us when we ask Him for things we believe to be in His will?
3. Why is it difficult to commit to believing the Lord will answer prayer?
4. Discuss the excerpt below from "Healed of Cancer" by Dodie Osteen.

Did God send this sickness on me?

No, of course not. Both my heart and my mind knew it was not God's will for me or any of His children to be sick.

If I had any doubt in my mind about it being God's will for me to be well, I would never have gotten well. That is why we need to fight the lies of the devil. That is why we need to teach people God's Word. Get it clearly established in your mind and heart that it IS God's will for you to be well.

God did not put cancer on me. Jesus said it was "the thief," Satan, who came to steal my health, kill me, and destroy me. Jesus said, I am come that [you] might have life, and that [you] might have it more abundantly (John 10:10, KJV). Notice, that verse says that you "might" have life. You have a choice. You do not have to have abundant life, but you CAN if you want to. I wanted to, so I pled my case with God. p. 23

Discuss this excerpt with your group. What does this mean to you? Do you believe it?

5. Share with others ways God has given you (or someone else you know) hope.

Closing Thought

God's Word offers us hope today. His Word is for what we are going through now, what we may go through tomorrow, or what we may encounter years from now. God has pages and pages of letters and promises just for you in the Bible. Jesus was the same then as He is now.