

INSTRUMENTS OF HEALING

Part 16 of Foundations 260 - OT. Various Passages.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. June 7, 2026.

More teaching resources are available here: www.famousgod.com/groups

A HEARTBREAKING REALITY

I received a text message that shook me up.

- “... our hearts break watching the sickness we have in church; I could barely see the Lord's supper on Sunday through tears, with my eyes on _____.”
- The reality is that we're all sick or in pain, or we know someone who is.

We need some insights into sickness, suffering, and divine healing...

- So that we can all be instruments of healing.

WHAT TO BELIEVE ABOUT HEALING

1. We all need healing

- When Adam and Eve rebelled against God, the world fell under a “curse” (Genesis 3:16-19) that brought suffering, sickness, and death to everyone.
- The apostle Paul describes the impact of the curse:

*Romans 8:20-22 (CSB) For the creation was subjected to **futility** — not willingly, but because of him who subjected it — in the hope 21 that the creation itself will also be set free from the bondage to **decay** into the glorious freedom of God's children. 22 For we know that the whole creation has been **groaning** together with labor **pains** until now.*

- Futility means that things are not working as God originally designed them.

2. God is the healer

- God steps in to heal. He is “the Lord who heals you” (Exodus 15:26).
- Jesus Christ came to reverse the curse. He healed the sick and cast out demons as a sign.

*Matthew 4:23-24 (CSB) 23 Now Jesus began to go all over Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and **healing every disease and sickness** among the people. 24 Then the news about him spread throughout Syria. So they brought to him all those who were afflicted, those suffering from various diseases and intense pains, the demon-possessed, the epileptics, and the paralytics. **And he healed them.***

On the cross, Jesus canceled sin, sickness, and death. We live in a new situation where healing is a reality:

Galatians 3:13 (CSB) Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, because it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.’

Isaiah 53:4-5 (CSB) ... he himself bore our sicknesses, and he carried our pains; ... 5 and we are healed by his wounds.

3. Most healing is in the future

- The age between the first and second coming of Christ is called “the already, not yet.”
- So, healing is already available, but it is not yet universally applied.
- We still get sick and die, but sometimes Jesus intervenes to heal us now.
- 1 Corinthians 12 includes “gifts of healings” (verse 9), which means the whole church (not a special “healer”) is where healings break out. God’s people are the instruments of healing today.
- Full healing will happen in the new creation after Jesus returns:

*Revelation 21:4 (CSB) He (God) will wipe away every tear from their eyes. **Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more**, because the previous things have passed away.*

*Revelation 22:1-3 (CSB) Then he showed me the river of the water of life... 2 The tree of life was on each side of the river, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit every month. **The leaves of the tree are for healing** the nations, 3 and there will **no longer be any curse**.*

WHAT TO DO ABOUT HEALING

How can we be instruments of healing? Quick guidelines:

- Under-promise and over-deliver. Tell your friend that sometimes God heals us right now as we pray, but it's not guaranteed. Tell them that God is good and loving, and he is with us in our pain, helping us.
- Point them to the many ways God heals today, such as diet, exercise, medicine, and medical professionals. And also through prayer.
- Offer to pray for healing. Pray gently - no need to shout: "Lord, you are our healer; please touch XYZ with your healing power in the Name of Jesus."
- Thank God for hearing your prayer and for his constant love and care.
- In some situations, you might want to bring your friend to an Elder for anointing with oil and healing prayer. That's what the apostle James commends in James 5:13-15.

All of us can be instruments of healing.

- All it takes is compassion and prayer.

If you're sick or suffering today, please come for prayer after the blessing.

PERSPECTIVES ON HEALING

This week's small group questions are at: www.famousgod.com/groups

God's healing work is not just about getting better from an illness; it's part of his big story to fix everything that sin has broken. From the Garden of Eden to the new creation, the Bible shows that our real loss is shalom—deep peace, wholeness, and friendship with God—and that loss is why we live in a world of pain, disease, and death.

At the center of this story stands Jesus. His death on the cross is the solid ground of every good gift we receive, whether spiritual or physical. We don't have "healing in the atonement" as a guaranteed right now, but "healing through the atonement." In other words, Christ's sacrifice has already secured our future resurrection and complete healing, and any physical healings we see in this life are precious previews of what's coming—not promises that we'll never be sick now.

When Jesus healed people in the Gospels, he wasn't putting on a show. His miracles were signs pointing to who he is and to the deeper salvation he offers. In John 5, for example, after Jesus heals a lame man, he goes back to him and says, "Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you," reminding us that eternal separation from God is far more serious than any disease.

So where does that leave us today? The New Testament invites us to call the elders, be anointed with oil, and pray boldly for healing—while resting in God's wise and loving will. Not every sickness is tied to a specific sin, but Scripture calls us to honest confession and mutual prayer because hidden sin can damage our fellowship and our joy. And when God chooses not to heal right now, it doesn't mean he has turned his face away; he is using our weakness to deepen our faith, grow our compassion for others, and keep our hope fixed on the day when our bodies will be raised and shalom will be fully restored.

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