

YES, IT IS
GOD'S WILL
TO HEAL!

...and by His stripes you are healed.

Isaiah 53:5

SESSION PURPOSE

How often have we heard the phrase, “If it be God’s will” in conjunction with healing? The purpose of this study session is to settle once and for all, that there is no IF in God’s will to heal. Eternal salvation and healing of the physical body go hand in hand and should never be separated. Let’s look to the Word of God to explain ...

Foundation One

In this section, you will study 3 foundational pieces of scriptural evidence that **it is God’s will to heal!**

Scriptural Evidence #1: Isaiah 53:4-5

Isaiah prophesied the coming of our Redeemer 700 years before His birth!

*Surely He has borne our griefs
And carried our sorrows;
Yet we esteemed Him stricken,
Smitten by God, and afflicted.
But He was wounded for our transgressions,
He was bruised for our iniquities;
The chastisement for our peace was upon Him,
And by His stripes we are healed.*

Word study: The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language. The words that are underlined in the Isaiah scripture above have very rich, deep meaning, that isn’t adequately translated into English. If you look these words up in a Strong’s Concordance (Hebrew numbers and words are included below), you’ll uncover layers of meaning that reveal God’s will to heal! You may want to do this word study on your own! You can access an easy-to-use concordance at <http://www.elijah.com/lexicon.html>.

Write the meanings of the following words:

1. Griefs (H2483 – *choliy*)
2. Sorrows (H4341 – *mak’ob*)

3. Transgressions (H6588 – *pasha*)
4. Iniquities (H5771 – *'avon*)
5. Chastisement (H4148 – *muwcar*)
6. Peace (H7965 – *shalowm*)
7. Healed (H7495 – *rapha*)

The Hebrew word *rapha* is actually one of the names of God – Jehovah Rapha – God Who Heals! Often times this word is misinterpreted to mean spiritual healing only. But that is simply not the full meaning of the Hebrew word. *Rapha* is used 67 times in the Old Testament, and it is translated “heal” 57 times! Here are a few examples of Scriptures using the Hebrew word *rapha*:

2 Kings 20:5-6

*“Return and tell Hezekiah the leader of My people, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: “I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will **heal** you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the Lord. And I will add to your days fifteen years. I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake, and for the sake of My servant David.”*”

Psalm 103:1-5

*Bless the Lord, O my soul;
And all that is within me, bless His holy name!
Bless the Lord, O my soul,
And forget not all His benefits:
Who forgives all your iniquities,
Who **heals** all your diseases,
Who redeems your life from destruction,
Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,
Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
So that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.*

Psalm 147:3

*He **heals** the brokenhearted and binds up all their wounds.*

Now, read and soak in the following paraphrase of Isaiah 53:4-5 that unveils God's great promise for His children!

Surely He has borne our sickness and disease, and carried our mental and physical pain; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our unknown sins. He was bruised for our willful disobedience. The penalty, the cost, for our complete wholeness was upon Him; and by His stripes we are healed – spirit, soul, and body!



Scriptural Evidence #2: Matthew 8:16-17

Isaiah's prophetic word was fulfilled by Jesus, through His ministry on this earth. A fulfilled prophecy means that the prophecy was verified, that the prediction was completed!

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And he cast out the spirits with His words, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet saying: "He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses."

8. How many were brought to Jesus?

9. How many did He heal?

10. What was the ultimate purpose for His healing?

Write the meanings of the following words:

11. Took (G2983 – *lambanō*)

12. Infirmities (G769 – *astheneia*)

13. Bore (G941 – *bastazō*)

Jesus took our weaknesses of body and soul in order to carry them away! He bore our sicknesses upon Himself, in order to bear our burdens for us! Therefore we do NOT need to carry them ourselves! He paid the price in full for our complete wholeness!



Scriptural Evidence #3: 1 Peter 2:24

After Jesus had died as our Sacrificial Lamb, and had been raised as our Great Redeemer, the apostles went on to preach this amazing news about Jesus, our Healer!

who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness – by whose stripes you were healed.

Forgiveness of sin and healing of the soul and body are directly connected, just as they are in this God-breathed scripture! Jesus bore our sins in His own body when He was crucified. Our debt was canceled out when He paid the penalty for us. But here's an amazing thought ... Jesus took the stripes on His holy back before He carried our sin to the cross. He paid for our healing before He paid for our sin!

14. When did we die to sin and gain access to a life of righteousness?

15. What is the meaning of the word "healed" (G2390 – *iaomai*)?

The Greek word *iaomai* clearly refers to physical healing. It is used 28 times in the New Testament. Here are 3 examples!

Matthew 8:8, 13

The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed. Then Jesus said to the centurion, "Go your way; and as you have believed, so let it be done for you." And his servant was healed that same hour.

Mark 5:29

Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction.

Luke 22:50-51

And one of them struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his right ear. But Jesus answered and said, "Permit even this." And He touched his ear and healed him.

Foundation Two

Healing is part of salvation!

There is an amazing Greek word used 110 times in the New Testament – *sozo*. The depth of this word is vast, encompassing all that salvation brings to an individual. *Sozo* refers to the entire provision of God for the whole man – his spirit, his soul, and his body.

Read the following scriptures, highlighting the words save, saved, healed, made well, or made whole in each scripture. Know that each of these words is the very same original Greek word – *sozo* – the entire provision of God for the whole man – spirit, soul and body!

Sozo includes salvation for man's spirit, including forgiveness and eternal life!

Matthew 1:21

Luke 19:9-10

John 3:16-17

Acts 16:30-31

Romans 10:9

1 Timothy 2:3-4

Sozo includes healing for man's body!

Mark 5:22-23

Luke 18:41-42

Acts 14:8-10

Sozo includes healing for man's soul (deliverance)!

Luke 8:33-36

Sozo includes being made whole!

Matthew 9:21-22

Luke 17:12-19

Acts 4:9-12



Final thought ...

Ephesians 2:8 says, *For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.*

The word “saved” in this scripture, once again, is *sozo*. *Sozo*, according to God’s Word, includes salvation, healing, deliverance, and being made whole. Therefore ...

... by grace you have been saved, healed, delivered, and made whole through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God!

KEEPING GOD'S WORD
Receiving It, Loving It, Living It

1. Meditate on this scriptural truth daily!

*Surely, Jesus has borne my sickness and carried my pain.
Therefore I don't need to carry it! By His stripes I have been healed!*

2. Envision yourself totally healed, head to toe.
3. Write a journal entry about something you envision yourself doing in your healthy body, mind, or relationship!

IN PURSUIT OF MORE

I Received Salvation ... I Received Healing

February 19, 2002 was the day that I received my salvation. I had been diagnosed with stage-four melanoma 6 days earlier. The cancer was considered incurable according to medical expertise. My life prognosis was 6 to 9 months. I was consumed with indescribable fear and dread of what was to come as the disease progressed. Symptoms – pain and abdominal masses – appeared within days of the diagnosis.

A young teacher in the school in which I taught offered me a glimmer of light during this dark time in my life. She shared with me the truth that Jesus paid the price for my healing at the same time that He paid the price for my forgiveness and salvation. This was new news to me, something I had never heard before.

Then she led me in a prayer of salvation. A prayer of surrender to my Savior. A prayer that opened heaven's gates wide to God's grace for me! A prayer that signed and sealed my adoption as Abba Father's child! A prayer that gave me the right to my inheritance of the Kingdom of God!

Six months later, I was completely healed of the melanoma. I had no chemotherapy. I had no radiation. I received the healing Jesus provided for me when He took the stripes on His holy back. I received salvation!

Forgiveness AND Healing are Part of Salvation

Let's take a close look at scriptural evidence that healing of your body is directly related to forgiveness of your sins through salvation!

1 Peter 2:24

who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness—by whose stripes you were healed.

In this scripture, there are 2 distinct sentence clauses. The first clause illuminates the truth that Jesus, our Savior, took our sins upon His own body for the purpose of purchasing our righteousness. When we receive salvation through faith in Jesus, it is as if we were crucified with Jesus, and resurrected to new life. The old is gone, and we become brand new! Cleansed from sin through the shed blood of Jesus!

But that's not all! Notice the second clause in this scripture, separated from the first clause by a dash. (In the Old King James translation, a colon is used here.) The correct grammatical use of a colon or a dash is to connect two clauses when the second clause strongly relates back to the first clause. Before Jesus was crucified, He was whipped. That whip tore stripes into His holy flesh in order to provide for your healing! His body was broken and bruised so yours could be whole and healed! His passion, crucifixion and resurrection made the way for your healing, your forgiveness, your salvation! Selah! Stop and think about that! May Jesus be exalted and lifted high!



James 5:14-15

Is anyone among you sick? 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. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

The word save in this scripture is once again the Greek word *sozo*. God tells us in His Word that the prayer of faith will *sozo* the sick. Remember that the word *sozo* means to save, to heal, to deliver, to make whole. While the NKJV translation of James 5:15 says: *the prayer of faith will save the sick*, the NIV translation of James 5:15 says: *the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well*.

Take another look at this scripture:

Is anyone among you sick? 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. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven.

The conjunction “and” is used 4 times in these 2 verses! As a writer, I would try to avoid using that word so frequently. But the conjunction “and” serves a purpose. It joins together related ideas. All of the following streams of grace are connected – perhaps that’s why the conjunction “and” was used 4 times in this scripture!

Call the elders (believing believers) to pray for you with fervency, anointing you with oil...

- And the prayer of faith will save the sick, (save, heal, deliver, make whole)
- And the Lord will raise him up. (to arouse from the sleep of death, to recall the dead to life)
- And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (remission of sin)



Luke 5:18-26

Then behold, men brought on a bed a man who was paralyzed, whom they sought to bring in and lay before Him. And when they could not find how they might bring him in, because of the crowd, they went up on the housetop and let him down with his bed through the tiling into the midst before Jesus.

When He saw their faith, He said to him, "Man, your sins are forgiven you."

And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, He answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"—He said to the man who was paralyzed, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

Immediately he rose up before them, took up what he had been lying on, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen strange things today!"

In this biblical account, when Jesus saw the paralyzed man, He recognized the man's faith and the faith of his friends. Jesus' response was a declaration of forgiveness for the paralyzed man's sin. This caused an uprising among the scribes and Pharisees who began to reason. They began to think about Jesus' statement and then form conclusions and make judgments about Him. "*Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?*"

Look closely at how Jesus responded. He said, "*Which is easier, to say 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Rise up and walk'?*" Then Jesus explained the reason for the choice of his declaration. He said, "Your sins are forgiven you" so that we may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins.

Healing of paralysis is clearly visible, isn't it? But forgiveness of sins is not. Jesus brought the invisible into visibility through the physical healing of the man. With the healing that manifested, and with the words Jesus spoke, He showed the heart and the will of God ... forgiveness of sins AND healing of the body. Once again, there is a direct connection ... because both healing and forgiveness flow in the streams of God's grace!



Psalm 103:1-5

*Bless the Lord, O my soul;
 And all that is within me, bless His holy name!
 Bless the Lord, O my soul,
 And forget not all His benefits:
 Who forgives all your iniquities,
 Who heals all your diseases,
 Who redeems your life from destruction,
 Who crowns you with lovingkindness and tender mercies,
 Who satisfies your mouth with good things,
 So that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

I love this Psalm. I meditate on it frequently to recount the amazing benefits God has provided for me. Once again, forgiveness of sin, physical healing, and salvation are all included and connected in this scripture. I choose to bless the Lord with all my heart, with all that is deep within me, and praise Him for His ultimate, perfect Gift!



February 19, 2002 was the day that I received my salvation into the newness of life, the abundance of life that Jesus came to provide. On that day my story changed from death to life! I am saved. I am forgiven. I am healed. I am well ... very well!!!

Have you surrendered all to the Lord Jesus? Have you received Him as your Savior? Have you given Him Lordship over all facets of your life? Please pray this prayer with me:

Jesus, I believe in you. I believe that you lived for me, you died for me, and you were resurrected from the dead to provide "sozo" for me! Come into my life, make all the old things new, all the dead things alive. I want your complete wholeness in my life: body, mind and spirit!