

# Extraordinary Healing – part 3

**The enemy's intention is sin, sickness, disease death, pain & suffering. God's ultimate intention in Christ is salvation (wholeness of body, mind, emotions & spirit) for all. Jesus did everything necessary to obtain it.**

## 1/ Doesn't God arbitrarily pick people to heal?

*John 5:2* Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. 3 In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. 5 One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. 6 When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, **“Do you want to be healed?”** 7 The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” 8 Jesus said to him, **“Get up, take up your bed, and walk.”** 9 And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Now that day was the Sabbath. 10 So the Jews said to the man who had been healed, “It is the Sabbath, and it is not lawful for you to take up your bed.” 11 But he answered them, “The man who healed me, that man said to me, **‘Take up your bed, and walk.’**” 12 They asked him, “Who is the man who said to you, ‘Take up your bed and walk’?” 13 Now the man who had been healed did not know who it was, for Jesus had withdrawn, as there was a crowd in the place. 14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, **“See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”** 15 The man went away and told the Jews that it was Jesus who had healed him. 16 And this was why the Jews were persecuting Jesus, because he was doing these things on the Sabbath. 17 But Jesus answered them, **“My Father is working until now, and I am working.”** 18 This was why the Jews were seeking all the more to kill him, because not only was he breaking the Sabbath, but he was even calling God his own Father, making himself equal with God. So Jesus said to them, **“Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.**

**Healing is the divine business** (v17 “My Father is working until now and I am working.”) Jesus and the Father are one on this. Father is not sending sickness and Jesus healing it. Notice that this healing was directed by the Father (v19)

**Even the most impossible** situations are possible for God (v5 – 38 years!)

**It's important to find out** if the sick want to be healed or set free (v6)

**There is a link between sin and sickness** although it is not a universal link (v14)

Death (by implication sickness) came into the world through sin (Romans 5:12)

Some sickness is directly caused by the sin of the individual (eg the man in this story, paralytic in Matt 9:2)

Some sickness is not caused by sin in the individuals life. (John 9:1 As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “**It was not that this man sinned, or his parents**)

**Why did Jesus not heal** more people around the pool?

## **Outworking**

**BE WILLING** to work within the mystery of bringing the kingdom. Is it God's initiative? Is it ours? It's BOTH!

**LOOK** for what the Father is doing but move in faith!

**NEVER** tell a person that it's some secret sin or their lack of faith that's stopping them getting healed

**ALWAYS** leave a person feeling loved by God and loved and cared for by you.

1John 4:16 So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

## **2/ Doesn't God send sickness to teach us something?**

*2 Cor 12:7 So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

**It's most likely** that this was not a sickness at all – ‘messenger’ = angelos (angel). “Thorn in the flesh” was a term used in the Old Testament to represent attack from individuals not sickness (Num 33:55). However, the term ‘weaknesses’ is the same word as ‘illness’

For the sake of argument let's assume it was a sickness.

**Notice that it's source was Satan** – although God was still sovereign. God can use sickness to teach us but that doesn't mean he authors it!

**Notice that Paul assumes divine healing** and only stops praying when God directly speaks to him - our default mode is to seek healing and persevere unless God speaks directly to us about it.

**Even if it was a sickness**, we don't know that Paul wasn't ever healed – just not right then.

**We MUST be careful not to claim this verse** as ‘normal Christian life’. If it was a sickness this was exceptional (which is why Paul writes of it) because of Paul's extraordinary experiences and not the norm.

**Paul didn't have 100% success rate.** This should ENCOURAGE us

2Tim. 4:20 Erastus remained at Corinth, and I left Trophimus, who was ill, at Miletus.

1Tim. 5:23 No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.

**JESUS DID have a 100% success rate** – and we're disciples of Jesus not Paul! Seek to imitate him!

**Paul wasn't afraid to seek medical help.** (Two errors that Christians fall into. A/ think that to seek medical help is a symptom of unbelief. B/ put faith in doctors that should be in God. Our faith is in God but medical attention is good!)

**Paul did not let disappointment cripple him** (after leaving Trophimus sick, Paul saw every sick person on the entire island of Malta healed in Acts 28:9!) As in every war, often defeat is the springboard to victory!