

DIVINE HEALING  
Text: James 5:14-16

INTRO: Our text indicates that God is concerned with our problems & has made certain provision to assist us in dealing with them. Some scholars suggest that the sickness or weakness mentioned in our text is spiritual only--that the passage has no reference to physical healing. I believe it is obvious that the translators understood the passage to deal with literal, physical sickness--& I am inclined to agree with them.

I. THE TEXT PRE-SUPPOSES THAT THERE WILL BE SICKNESS.

A. Sickness is nothing to be ashamed of, & does not necessarily suggest a faulty standing with God--tho this is sometimes a contributing factor. 1 Cor. 11:29-30

B. Numerous illnesses are mentioned throughout the N.T. that had no direct connection with personal sin.

Timothy, 1 Tim. 5:23  
Paul, 2 Cor. 12:7  
Trophimus, 2 Tim. 4:20  
Man born blind, John 9:2-3

II. GOD, IN HIS WORD, HAS MADE PROVISION TO HELP US STAY HEALTHY.

A. When God spoke to ancient Israel, He promised temporal blessings as well as spiritual for those who would keep His commandments.

If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God & do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments & keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you. Ex. 15:26).

And the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, for our good always, that He might preserve us alive, as it is this day. (Deut. 6:24).

circumcision, "ceremonial" washings, unclean foods, quarantine, disposal of human waste, etc.

B. Just as those who were obedient to God were blessed both spiritually & temporally by obeying those spiritual, moral & physical laws known by us.

1. Millions of illnesses are brought on by worry, uncontrolled anger, hatred, mental anguish & turmoil which N.T. principles would help us to overcome. Ulcers, headaches, stomach disorders, etc.

2. Sexually transmitted disease has reached epidemic proportions in modern society. All these diseases could be virtually stamped out in one generation by obeying 1 Cor. 6:18.

3. There are well over 10 million alcoholics in the U.S. plus numerous others who sometimes bring themselves under the influence of mind bending drugs. Disease & injury that result is almost unimaginable.

### III. GOD HAS MADE PROVISION FOR US WHEN WE BECOME ILL.

A. Doctors & medicines.

Prov 17:22; LK 10:34; 1 Tim 5:23; MT 9:12;  
Col 4:14

B. Prayer.

1. John prayed for Gaius to be in good health, 2 JN 2.

2. James instructs us to pray for the sick, Js 5:13-16.

NOTE: Our text should not be viewed as an iron-clad guarantee of healing in every case. Paul's thorn was not taken away, 2 Cor 12:8-9. Death eventually will come, Heb 9:27. But in the meantime, we pray in hope that the blessing we seek may be in harmony with God's will & purpose, realizing that much of the time, "we do not know what we should pray for..." (Rom 8:26).

C. Receiving the forgiveness of sin can lift a load of guilt from our shoulders, give us peace of mind & often benefit us physically as well as spiritually.

IV. THE MIRACULOUS HEALINGS WE READ ABOUT IN THE  
N.T. WERE CENTERED AROUND THE INITIATION OF  
THE GOSPEL SYSTEM & WERE NEVER MEANT TO BE A  
PERMANENT FIXTURE.

A. The basic purpose of all the miraculous mani-  
festations was to confirm the new revela-  
tions that were being made. John 3:2; MT 9:6  
(power on earth to forgive...)

B. The N.T. was completely revealed & confirmed  
during the 1<sup>ST</sup> century. READ I COR. 13:8-10.

And they went out & preached everywhere, the  
Lord working with them & confirming the word  
thru the accompanying signs. Amen. (Mark  
16:20).

READ HEBREWS 2:3-4 Compare scaffolding,  
cast.

CONCLUSION: It is in our best interest, spiritually &  
physically, to

1. Obey the will of God to the best of our  
ability.
2. Seek the attention of doctors & medicines when  
we ail.
3. Pray for health & healing & continue to bring  
our lives into harmony with God's will.
4. Continue to serve Him even when He does not see  
fit to grant some petition we may have made.

READ 2 CORINTHIANS 12:9-10

La Porte, TX, March 19, 1978

Exton, PA, April 23, 1989

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, July 2, 1995