

## **Divine Healing**

It is apparent that there is a national health crisis. The health crisis, though often physical, also brings about the reality of spiritual disease. With the plethora of sensational, emotional-tugging “healers” in the name of Christ or themselves, there is a great healing crisis in our churches. When surveying what passes for *Christian* ministry, one must always compare it with Scripture to discern its viability as being biblical. Note carefully the features that distinguish healing by the Lord and His apostles.

### **Biblical Record of Healings**

1. Instantaneous (Mk 1:42)
2. Complete (Matt 14:36)
3. Permanent (Matt 14:36)
4. Of constitutional diseases (e.g., leprosy, Mk 1:40), not psychological illnesses
5. Not based on the amount of faith (Jn 9:25), as there were unbelievers healed who exercised no faith and did not even know who Jesus was
6. Not for the purpose of relieving people of their suffering and sickness; if so, it would have been cruel and immoral for Christ to leave cities, where people sought healing, for the solitude of the country (Lk 5:15-16)
7. Secondary to the preaching of the Word of God (Lk 9:6)
8. Intended to confirm messengers and their message (Jn 3:2; Acts 2:22; Heb 2:3-4)
9. Always successful—except in one case where the disciples’ lack of faith was the cause (Matt 17:20)
10. Even of the dead (Mk 5:39-43; Lk 7:14; Jn 11:44)

If the previous references are qualifications for biblical healings, then many who claim to have the gift of healing are quickly discredited.

### **Contemporary Record of Healers**

Though there are many healers “in the name of Christ” and others on the horizon, most of them have the same characteristics tying their so-called ministries together.

A comparison of biblical healing to that of Benny Hinn, a prominent healer of our day, may be helpful to demonstrate the differences:

1. Hinn does not pray “Thy will be done.” To healers, this tag added to prayers is a negative confession of unbelief and lack of faith.  
Jesus prayed this way (Lk 22:42) and taught His disciples to do the same (Matt 6:10).
2. Hinn believes it is always God’s will to heal, claiming there is physical healing in the atonement (misquoting Isa 53:5).  
Some of the greatest servants of God have remained ill (Jacob, Paul, Trophimus).
3. Hinn teaches that Christians are to demand healing.  
The Bible teaches that believers are to ask, realizing that God will work according to His sovereign plan (1 Jn 5:14–15).
4. Hinn takes the gradual approach to healing.  
Jesus and His healing apostles healed instantaneously.
5. Hinn promotes the need for faith on the part of the sick person, without which he cannot be healed.  
Lazarus and Jairus’s daughter could not exercise faith since they were dead.
6. Hinn teaches that healing can be lost.<sup>1</sup>  
Nowhere does the Bible teach this.

### **Christian Response to Sickness**

A Christian who is sensitive to the Lord in wanting to bring Him glory wants to respond correctly to sickness. However, he also needs to be discerning concerning all the false teachings on sickness. The following are suggestions on how to approach sickness when it comes:

1. Acknowledge that God sovereignly rules life, and then personally rest in that unshakeable truth (Deut 32:39).
2. Remember that *all* good and bad events of life come from the heart of a good and loving God (Jas 1:17; Rom 8:28).

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<sup>1</sup> Benny Hinn, *Lord, I Need a Miracle*, 63–102.

3. Look for what God can teach you during times of sickness (Jas 1:3).
4. Confess and forsake any known sin with a heart of meekness and honesty, allowing God to reveal any hidden sin (1 Jn 1:9; Prov 28:13; Heb 12:4–11).
5. Commit the entire matter to God in faith, praying for His will to be done for His glory (Matt 6:10).
6. Seek the care of health-care professionals.
7. Realize that it may not be God’s will to heal you, and rest in the secret ways of the Almighty (Deut 29:29). You may join the long list of faithful servants who remained sick, like Paul, Timothy, and Trophimus.
8. Thank God for the circumstances in which He has placed you (Eph 5:20; 1 Thess 5:18; Jas 1:2).

In Philippians 2:25–27, Paul mentions his friend Epaphroditus who was sick. Paul, who earlier had shown the gift of healing, either was no longer able to exercise the gift as it passed off the scene, or chose not to. There are those who simply remain sick by the will of God. Such was the case with Lazarus, Jesus’s good friend. He was sick for the express purpose of Jesus Christ receiving the glory through it (Jn 11:3–4). The right question to ask is: “Am I resigned to the will of God in my sickness, to manifest His glory, whether He chooses to heal me or not?”

**Additional Reading:**

*Divine Healing Under the Searchlight*–Samuel Fisk  
*The Healing Promise*–Richard Mayhue  
*The Biblical Pattern for Divine Healing*–Richard Mayhue  
*The Healing Epidemic*–Peter Masters  
*Divine Healing*–R. A. Torrey  
*Counterfeit Miracles*–B. B. Warfield  
*The Agony of Deceit*–Michael Horton

Soli Deo Gloria,

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