

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 44b, No. 7, February 19, 2019 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

THOUGHTS ON HEALING!

EVERY DAY OF OUR LIVES, in our fallen world, we are confronted with sickness. We request prayer. We pray. We seek remedies... or healing. Here are some Bible based thoughts and Scriptures... edited from an article, from 10 or more years back... and unfortunately, I do not have the author's name.

Jesus healed many as a part of His earthly ministry. He still works miracles at times, some of which include miraculous physical healing. **But Jesus DID NOT heal all sick people.** Why? He came to save the souls of sinners, not to merely make their present life more comfortable (Mark 2:17). JESUS ministered to various needs, hurts, ailments, and discomforts; but He did not heal every physical ailment. **FOR THE REDEEMED**, the reality is that one day JESUS will wipe away ALL our tears and remove all pain and grief (Revelation 21:4). **But that day has not yet come.** PRESENT PURPOSE: suffering shapes us, challenges us, and draws our hope toward eternity (James 1:2-4, 2 Corinthians 4:16-

18). But there is nothing in Scripture that guarantees that in the cross all sickness has been conquered **for this present life.**

****** EVEN FOR THE Apostles, there were times when they ministered but God DID NOT heal.** HOWEVER, it did not weaken their faith. In 2 Timothy 4:20, Paul says, “Erastus remained at Corinth, **but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.**” Paul, the apostle who himself was healed from a deadly bite by a poisonous viper, (Acts 28:3-6) — Paul left him sick. Why would he do this if he had the power THROUGH Jesus to heal him? Certainly, both of them would have believed for healing and then gone on to serve the Lord. **But God chose not to heal;** thus, Paul left Trophimus sick.

What about Epaphroditus, a helper to Paul and servant to the Philippians? He was sick to the point of death, but the Lord spared his life (Philippians 2:25-30). Why did things have to get so far that he almost died? Couldn't Paul or a person gifted in healing have spared him this near death experience? **No, because man cannot manipulate God! God heals when God wants to heal.**

What about Timothy? Paul tells him in 1 Timothy 5:23, “No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your **frequent ailments.**” The water, (which wasn't nearly as clean and pure as ours today), may have been causing Timothy frequent stomach problems and perhaps other resultant ailments from the bacteria. Couldn't he just have drunk the water and been healed rather than risk offending a weaker brother by drinking some wine, even though it was for the sake of his health? Not according to Paul.

Paul didn't presume upon God's healing power— rather, he called upon Timothy to use sound judgment; and do what he

could to prevent sickness and disease. There is room in the Bible for doctors, medicine, and various ‘means’.

Luke, after all, the author of the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts, was the “beloved physician” (Col 4:14).

Yes, we can all desire that we could always be healed because of Christ’s victory over sin and death on the cross! **HOWEVER**, the reality is that even in Jesus’ time and in Paul’s time and personal life— healing wasn’t always a reality. And those who were not healed were not condemned for lack of faith; nor assumed to be under judgment.

**** **When God wanted** to do something special and significant, He healed. At other times, sickness was a trial or a way of life. In these cases, as in all instances, God’s grace was sufficient (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). **We must not presume upon God’s healing! But it is our privilege to cry out to the LORD for it; and PRAISE HIM, regardless!_**

GOD DOES HEAL, (James 5:13-16); but it is **BECAUSE** God chooses to do so, in accordance with His sovereign will. **GOD honors prayers of faith from the righteous hearts of His children; but He doesn’t always work how we want Him to work.** GOD does what He pleases, and His way is best. God causes all things to work for our good, even sickness, and, yes, even death. As Paul said, “To live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21). **One day sickness won’t be an issue anymore but until we are with Jesus—** let us pray for healing and let us also pray for grace to endure all things; **PRAISING HIM ALL THE WAY!**

Throughout His ministry, Jesus often told individuals who wanted to be healed: **"According to your FAITH let it be to you" (Matthew 9:29)**. When several men were so faithful and zealous that they "uncovered the roof" of a room so the paralytic man could reach Jesus. **God's Word tells us:** "When Jesus saw their FAITH, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven you'" (Mark 2:5) — and the man was HEALED right in front of their eyes! **We must all focus** our minds on the REALITY of the great GOD who gives us life and breath. **We need to BELIEVE** His inspired Word, the Holy Bible. **We need to believe HIM! God tells us: "But without faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6) **HOWEVER, again, this does not equate to, "The reason you are not healed is because you do not have enough faith!"**

New Testament Guidance

The apostle James wrote, "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. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (James 5:14-16)

The type of oil used is not specified, but olive oil was the basis for the anointing oil used by the Old Testament priesthood. It was also widely used for medicinal purposes and as fuel in lamps. In both regards — as an aid to healing and in bringing light — **it is an appropriate symbol, representing the power of God's Holy Spirit through which He heals.**

It is God who heals. It is important to understand that neither the elder nor the oil he uses heals. Christians must look to God in faith as the Healer (Matthew 9:20-22; Acts 14:8-10) and therefore strive to live in obedience to His will (1 John 3:22-23). God honors faith.

A PART OF FAITH IS RESTING IN and ACCEPTING THE GOOD PLEASURE OF GOD'S SOVERIGN WILL... with a thankful heart! So let us PRAISE HIM!

GOD'S WILL and TIMING: Understanding these wonderful promises and fully believing in God's power to heal, some may wonder why everyone is not healed immediately when he or she is anointed. The Bible, as well as human experience, shows that God, at times, allows health trials to linger, perhaps for years. The apostle Paul himself **suffered with what he called a "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7).**

When considering ourselves, we should give thought to whether there is something more we should do or learn. We can pray for help to grow in faith and obedience.

But when considering other people, keep in mind that it is never helpful to question their faith or obedience. These are matters for God to judge, since we cannot see another's heart. There may be any number of other reasons why God does not always provide divine healing.

God looks to the future! God is sovereign and knows about each individual's needs. He has a perfect and eternal perspective and has our ultimate best interests in mind. **Like all trials, sickness can help us** grow in faith, obedience, character, and our relationship with God. God wants us to learn patience, so we must not assume that the hope of healing must be fulfilled immediately or not at all. He may have lessons for us or those around us to learn.

AGAIN: It is God's prerogative whether He heals or not. Lack of healing is not necessarily a reflection on an individual's level of faith.

AND... REGARDLESS OF THE PRESENT: God promises a wonderful future when there will be no more pain, sorrow, or death (Revelation 21:4).

In this present world we will have troubles, including health problems. God does not promise to keep us alive forever in this physical body! **THUS**, all of His faithful servants, (of times gone by), have reached the end of their physical lives! They are **PRESENT WITH THE LORD!** **THEIR BODIES** are in their graves; **AND** they are awaiting the resurrection from the dead when they will be raised as immortal spirit beings! (1 Corinthians 15:50-54)

SO, does God still heal today?

Can you and I have confidence that God will hear our prayers for divine healing and intervene as He knows is best for us? **The reassuring answer from the Word of God is a resounding "Yes!"**

We can go to Him for healing, always trusting in His love and wisdom to give us the perfect answer at the perfect time, what is most needed for our ultimate good. (Romans 8:28)

Are you in a time of needing ENCOURAGEMENT AS YOU BATTLE WITH physical, emotional/mental, and/or spiritual issues in your life?

PLEASE MEDITATE UPON THE FOLLOWING!

Hebrews 7:25 "Therefore He is also able to *save to the uttermost* those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them." **Amplified Version:** "Therefore He is able also to save to the uttermost (completely, perfectly, finally, and for all time and eternity) those who come to God through Him, since He is always living to make petition to God and intercede with Him and intervene for them."

Acts 13:38-39 "Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through this Man [Jesus] is preached to you **the forgiveness of sins**; and by Him everyone who believes is *justified* [declared righteous] from **all things** from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses."

Matthew 6:9-10 *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done on Earth as it is in heaven."*

Isaiah 40:31 "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint."

Psalms 34:19 "Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all."

Isaiah 53:4-5 "Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and by His stripes we are healed."

1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless [sound, complete and intact] unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

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."

Psalm 103:2-3 "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who heals all thy diseases"

JOY HARD WON

By Joni Eareckson Tada

Honesty is always the best policy, but especially when you're surrounded by a crowd of women in a restroom during a break at a Christian women's conference. One woman, putting on lipstick, said, **"Oh, Joni, you always look so together, so happy in your wheelchair. I wish that I had your joy!"** Several women around her nodded. **"How do you do it?"** She asked as she capped her lipstick.

I glanced at the nicely dressed women around me. I knew that the break would soon be over. How could I answer her question in about 60 seconds? *How could I sum up in a sound bite what has taken me three decades of quadriplegia to learn?*

"I don't do it," I said. That raised their eyebrows. "In fact, may I tell you honestly how I woke up this morning?" Several women leaned against the counter to listen.

"This is an average day," I breathed deeply. "After my husband, Ken, leaves for work at 6:00 a.m., I'm alone until I hear the front door open at 7:00 a.m. That's when a friend arrives to get me up."

"While I listen to her make coffee, I pray, *'Oh, Lord, my friend will soon give me a bath, get me dressed, sit me up in my chair, brush my hair and teeth, and send me out the door. I don't have the strength to face this routine one more time. I have no resources.* I don't have a smile to take into the day. But You do. May I have Yours? God, I need You desperately.' "

Looking at their expressions, I could tell that underneath the makeup and the jewelry, they too were carrying burdens. They were weary. Their hearts were bruised and numb.

And they were curious to know more: "So, what happens when your friend comes through the bedroom door?" one of them asked.

"I turn my head toward her and give her a smile sent straight from heaven. It's not mine. It's God's.

And so," I said, gesturing to my paralyzed legs, "whatever joy you see today was hard won this morning!"

The women in the restroom were silent. ***"And it's the only way to live. It's the Christian way to live."***

The break was over, it was time to move on. That evening many of them went home with weary bodies, swollen ankles and sore feet to face broken garbage disposals, indifferent husbands and rebellious children.

I hope that the women also went home knowing that they can go desperately and urgently to God for grace.

I have learned that the weaker we are, the more we need to lean on God; and the more we lean on God, the stronger we discover Him to be.

God has used my quadriplegia to teach me, and others through me, that **in our weakness, He is strong.**

- Joni Eareckson Tada is founder and president of JAF Ministries. She is also the author of 25 books, including her newest devotional, "More Precious Than Silver." She and her husband, Ken, live in Calabasas, California. Copyright (c) 2000 Joni Eareckson Tada

GRACE TO ALL! James Bell www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— (This ministry is ON HOLD... PRAY FOR opening of doors!)

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM.**

WEDNESDAYS: → 6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities; → 6:30pm— **Youth** Activities and Bible Study—

→ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE** → Enter via IRON STEPS, side door...



***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 5, 2019 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, *[Doors open at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am]*

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY @ 8:00am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! **(STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!)** ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. **[DOORS OPEN FOR FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits & Donuts at 7:30am!]**

****** SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!**

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****** SUNDAY SERVICES, February 24**

9:30am— Sunday School Classes for All Ages

10:45am— Sunday Morning Worship Service

6:00pm— Church-wide MONTHLY EQUIPING DISCIPLES... Present topic: SHEPHERDING THE HEART OF A CHILD