

Di223 We Believe

Lesson Di223-23 Healing and the Atonement

In our last lesson we studied how sickness and death came into the world. We learned that the first act of not obeying God in the Garden of Eden brought sickness and death on Adam and Eve. All people since then have known sickness and death in this fallen world. We also learned that divine healing is found in both the Old and New Testaments. We studied many instances of healing and deliverance.

Today we are going to discuss the relationship between Jesus and the atonement for sin. Jesus paid for our sins on the Cross. Christ came to earth to “break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death” (Heb 2:14-15). Christ’s death on the Cross for our sins and for our restored relationship with God is the atonement. The word ‘atonement’ means the covering of sin by the blood of Jesus Christ, bringing us back into fellowship with God.

Jesus came to do a greater work than just teach, preach, and heal. His final mission was to give his life as the one perfect sacrifice for sin. This great sacrifice would accomplish two important things. *What are these two things?*

When Jesus was beaten with the Roman whip, he took the pain and suffering for our *healing* and our *salvation*. After Jesus died and rose again, he remained on earth for 40 days, teaching his disciples many important things. Just before Jesus returned to heaven, he gave his disciples the Great Commission: “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation” (Mark 16:15). Jesus promised there would be signs that would follow those who believed.

What signs did Jesus say would follow those who believed? Jesus said that, in his name, believers will 1) drive out demons. 2) They will speak in new tongues. 3) Snakes and poison drinks will not hurt them. 4) They will place their hands on the sick and pray, and the sick will get well (Mark 16:16-18). Jesus’ followers would be able to carry on the work he had done on earth, and would do “even greater things than these” (John 14:12).

Believers are redeemed and delivered from the curse of sin and the works of Satan through Christ’s death on the Cross. Sickness is part of the curse of sin. That means that healing is provided in Christ’s redeeming work. Both body and soul were affected by the Fall. Christ’s death provided the restoration of both spirit and body. Isaiah says, “By his wounds we are healed” (53:5). By his death, Jesus provided for both salvation and healing.

Miracles of healing did not end with the ministry of Jesus. Acts 3 records the story of Peter and John and the lame man at the gate of the temple. The lame man was begging for silver or gold. Peter and John saw him. “Peter said, ‘Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk.’ Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man’s feet and ankles became strong. He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God” (Acts 3:6-8). Believers in the Early Church did just what Jesus said they could do

if they believed on him. Through Christ's death, healing was provided. It is the Holy Spirit who ministers the healing to us and through us. God is the source of the healing and he uses believers to pray and have faith for healing.

Divine healing is just as much a reality today as it was in Jesus' and Peter's time. Many people are healed in our churches today all around the world. God's Word is filled with promises of divine healing. James 5:14-16 gives us some important directions in asking for healing. "Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven."

Does that mean Christians are always healed and unbelievers cannot be healed?

Promises in scripture assure us that God can and does heal. Yet we see Christians still suffering from illness. At times we may see a sinner healed through the prayer of a saint. Though this is difficult to understand, it is important to keep our faith in Christ, our Healer. God may allow sickness to come to strengthen our faith. Sometimes healing comes instantly; other times healing takes place over time. We should continue to pray in faith and believe that we will be healed. It is important also to obey God's Word and live a righteous, godly life. God alone knows the number of a person's days on earth. The Psalmist wrote, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... all the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be" (Ps 139:14, 16). As believers we must trust that "He hath done all things well" (Mark 7:37, KJV).

This lesson is **important** because we learn that Christ is our healer. Healing was provided for in Christ's atonement on the cross. This does not mean that every prayer for healing will be answered right away. God uses doctors. God has a timing for answering. Or God may know that a person who is sick should come to him in heaven. He alone knows the number of our days.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that Christ suffered and died on the cross for our healing and our salvation. Healing was provided not only in Bible times, but today as well, through prayer and faith.

Let's **review this lesson**—

1. What are two things that Christ accomplished on the Cross? [Pause.]
A. If you answered, "Healing and salvation," you are correct.
2. Name 4 signs Jesus promised would follow those who believe. [Pause.]
A. If you said, "They will drive out demons, speak in new tongues, not be hurt by snakes and poison, they will lay hands on the sick and pray, and the sick will get well," you are correct.
3. What does the phrase 'healing in the atonement' mean? [Pause.]
A. If you answered that Jesus' suffering and death provided for both forgiveness of sin and healing for sickness, thus healing is part of the atonement Jesus paid for on the Cross, you are right.

Your **assignment** is to memorize our eleventh *Statement of Faith*: “We believe healing is provided for in the atonement of Christ and is the privilege of all who ask and believe.” Also learn the **Memory Verse**: “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). Share with at least two other persons testimonies of divine healing you or your family have experienced.

Review all eleven *Statements of Faith* until you can say them from memory:

Statement #1: We believe the Scriptures, both the Old and New Testaments, are verbally inspired of God. They are the revelation of God to man, the unchanging rule of faith and conduct.

Statement #2: We believe the one true God has revealed himself as the eternal Creator of heaven and earth and the Savior of mankind. He has further revealed himself as one being in three persons—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Statement #3: We believe the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, as revealed in the Scriptures by his virgin birth, his sinless life, his miracles, his death on the Cross, his bodily resurrection from the dead, and his position at the right hand of God.

Statement #4: We believe that human beings were created in the image of God for a loving relationship with him. They chose to disobey God, however, and thus experienced physical death and separation from God.

Statement #5: We believe mankind’s only hope of salvation is through the shed blood of Jesus, the Son of God. The gift of eternal life is received when we repent of our sins and confess our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Statement #6: We believe water baptism by immersion is commanded of all who repent and believe on Christ as Savior. Water baptism is a witness to the world that we have died to sin and been raised to new life in Christ.

Statement #7: We believe the Lord’s Supper is a remembrance of Christ’s suffering and death, and a prophecy of his Second Coming. Christ commanded all believers to take Communion until he comes.

Statement #8: We believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to empower a believer to witness and to live an overcoming Christian life.

Statement #9: We believe sanctification is working with the Holy Spirit to separate ourselves from sin and to dedicate ourselves to God.

Statement #10: We believe the Church is the body of Christ with a divinely called ministry. Its purpose is to evangelize the world, worship God, encourage believers to grow in the likeness of Christ, and show God’s love and compassion to the world.

Statement #11: “We believe healing is provided for in the atonement of Christ and is the privilege of all who ask and believe.”