

Questions about Healing (Part 5)

by Bayless Conley

Copyright © Answers with Bayless Conley

Hi there! My name is Bayless Conley, and I got some things that I want to share with you. We're actually looking at some very, very interesting questions that the Bible asks. Not that we ask about the Bible, but questions that are found in the Bible itself. And in particular, questions that have to do with the subject of healing. It's pretty important. If you look at the life of Jesus, He spent a good part of His time ministering to and healing the sick. In fact, if you read through the Gospels, it seems as if He's either coming from just having healed someone, in the process of healing someone, or going to heal someone.

The Scripture declares that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He does not change. So, for the last few programs, if you've been with us, we have been looking at different stories, if you would, or sections of Scripture that deal with the subject of healing. We've actually pulled questions out. Some of them are questions that God Himself asked. They're questions the Lord asks. Some of them are questions that people asked in connection with healing. Some of them are just questions that are formed by the body of the subject that we're reading. But they all have to do with healing. We're going to begin today in John's Gospel, the ninth chapter. We come to a question that I've actually heard quoted in one fashion or another many times. It says this in John 9:1–7 NKJV.

¹ Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. ² And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (Now, there's the question. "Lord, who sinned? Did this man sin? Or was it the sin of his family, of his parents, that he was born blind?") ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. ⁴ I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When He had said these things, He spat on the ground and made clay with the saliva; and He anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay. ⁷ And He said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he went and washed, and came back seeing.

Jesus healed the man. He just didn't restore his sight. The man had never had sight. There was nothing to restore. It was maybe a creative miracle. This man had never seen the sunshine. He heard birds sing, but he had never seen one. He'd never seen the face of his mother. He'd never seen the faces of his siblings, if he had any brothers or sisters. He'd never seen the magnificent temple. He'd never seen anything, and Jesus restored his sight. It's quite interesting because when the disciples saw him, they realized he'd been born blind. They asked this question. "Who sinned? Did this guy sin, or did his parents sin, and that's why he was born blind?" Now, I don't know how they're thinking he could have possibly sinned if he was born blind. A lot of people think, okay, if something bad has happened to you, it's because you've done something bad. If you're sick, it's because you're sinful. Friend, sickness is not always the result of sin. Now, sometimes, we find that it is. Sin can open the door to sickness.

Questions about Healing (Part 5)

There was one man whom Jesus healed. He said to him, "Go and sin no more unless something worse should come upon you," indicating that sin may have opened the door in the first place. It certainly could open the door for something worse than the previous malady he had. So, we understand that. We understand from reading the Bible that until sin came into the world, there was no sickness. The Bible says in the book of Romans that death entered through sin. Well, sickness is just incipient death. Once God makes a new heaven and a new earth, the devil won't be there, and sin won't be there; there will be no more sickness.

Sin and sickness sort of come together in the sense that they came into this world through the transgression of Adam. But it is wrong to assume or even to accuse someone of having sinned because they're sick. Now, certainly, as I just said, it may be the result of a sin, but not necessarily. When they asked that question, a couple of things just stood out to me. It says Jesus saw a man. The disciples just saw a reason to have a theological debate. He was sort of the experiment. They didn't really look at him as a man, but when Jesus saw him, He saw a man. He saw someone created in God's image.

He saw someone who had intrinsic value, that was worth more than the created earth. The Scripture says, "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses his soul?" My friend, one human soul is worth more than the whole world. Jesus saw a man, and their question is, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus' answer, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned." Think about it. Jesus said, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned. So, let's put an end to your theological debate, your guesswork, and your wanting to affix the blame somewhere. Neither has this man sinned nor his parents." Jesus went on and said, "But that the works of God should be revealed in him."

Now, as you read that, at least in the English Bible, I'm not sure what language you might be listening to this in, but the punctuation makes it seem that Jesus is saying, "Well, he didn't sin nor did his parents sin. God made him blind so that now God could be glorified by healing him. The works of God should be revealed in him." I actually hear that quite a bit from people. "Well, I'm sick for the glory of God." Well, if that's true, then you'll need to get healed because you can't stop reading there. The man was healed by the Lord. The works of God were only manifested when he was healed.

So, if that's your case, you should fully expect to be healed, but I just want to submit something to you. You may not know this, but the New Testament is written in all capital case Greek letters. There were no verse designations in the original manuscripts, nor was there punctuation. The verse designations and the punctuation are added by the translators for clarity, and thank goodness they did it. Now, the words are inspired by God. The words are God-breathed. The words are accurate. The verse designations and the chapter separations are not always accurate. Sometimes, the translators get it wrong.

They made a chapter break when the story flowed from one chapter into the next. You can see that what happened in this next chapter directly relates back to what happened in the last one. Sometimes, they get the verse designations wrong and sometimes the punctuation, but that was just up to the translators. So, listen to this read without the particular punctuation that we find in most English Bibles. They said, "Who sinned, this man or his parents, that this guy was born blind?" Jesus said, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day. The night is coming when no man can work."

Questions about Healing (Part 5)

So, Jesus is saying, “This guy didn’t sin. His parents didn’t sin, but that the works of God should be revealed in him. I must work the works of Him who sent Me. If he’s going to be healed, I’m going to have to do it. I am God’s instrument on the earth.” He said, “I need to work while it’s day. The night’s coming when no man can work.” Truly, if you know the chronological order, this is towards the end of Christ’s ministry. This was only six months before He was crucified. So again, “It’s neither this man’s sin nor his parents, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it’s day, while there is still time. The night’s coming when no man can work. As long as I’m in the world, I am the light of the world.” That would have been a good thing for the blind man to hear. “I am the light of the world.” Jesus opened those blind eyes. What a story! Some people debate while folks suffer. Jesus healed the man. Don’t be like those who get into these big theological debates; there are people who do that. They just want to debate this, and they want to debate that. Jesus ministered healing; that’s the important thing. That is God’s heart. God wants to lift, deliver, and help the suffering. He doesn’t want us to just have our religious debates about them.

There are some people who seem to be filled with arguments. I don’t mean to be critical of my brethren. I truly don’t, and I’m not naming names, but it seems to me that as I listen to some people, that’s all they want to do. I’ll turn on some preacher on the TV or listen to somebody on the radio, and all they’re doing is wanting to argue with somebody about doctrine. They want to argue about something like this. They just want to have this debate and maybe show off what they consider high intellectual ability while people still suffer. Now, we need to go out and do the works of Him who sent us. Jesus said in Mark 16, “Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. These signs will follow those who believe. In My name they will lay hands on the sick and they shall recover.” We are now God’s vessels in the earth. Christ wants to use us to bring healing, blessing, and restoration to people.

So, we move on from that question to another one. This is an interesting one. It’s found in 2 Kings 5. It’s the story of Naaman the Syrian. He was a famous general in Syria. He’d won many campaigns. He was a friend of the king, but he had leprosy. One day, a little maid who was in his house—she was actually a captured Israelite—said to Naaman’s wife, “Oh, if my master was in Israel, there’s a prophet there who could heal him.” The news was brought to Naaman. So, he went to the king and said, “Look, my little maid says that there’s a prophet in Israel who can heal me.” So the king loads him down with silver, gold, and garments. He sends him with a letter to the king of Israel.

We’ll pick the story up in just a minute right about there. Naaman has come searching for healing, and I just want to comment on that. He could have cut the thing short. He could have said, “Who is this little maid, this little teenage girl? What does she know about anything? This is stupid!” It would have shut the whole thing down. He could have said, “Well, I just don’t believe in that stuff.” That would have shut the thing down. He could have said, “Well, Israel is our enemy. I’ve run campaigns against them. I’ve fought against them. Even if there was a prophet that God used for healing, they’re certainly not going to give anything to me. I’m not going.”

He could have thought, “Well, it’s a big place. How am I going to even find this guy?” He could have shut the whole thing down. I think when it comes to healing, we need to really go after it. There’s so many reasons we can give to just shut things down. I want to challenge you and dare you. You might say, “Pastor, please don’t get my hopes up.” I want to get your hopes up. The Bible says in Hebrews 11:1 NKJV,

Questions about Healing (Part 5)

¹ Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

One translation says, “Now faith gives substance to our hopes. Without hope, faith is hopeless. Without hope, faith has nothing to give substance to.” Yes, I want to get your hopes up. Think about Naaman. He went on a long journey. He was searching. He was looking. The slightest thing he heard, he hung onto it. As the story goes, he obviously eventually got healed. We’ll pick up the story here in verse five of what is 2 Kings 5. Verse 5 says this,

⁵ Then the king of Syria said, “Go now, (he’s talking to Naaman) and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.” So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

That’s like 150 pounds of silver and a whole bunch of gold. He takes all his clothing. This is to pay for his healing. As the story goes on, you find out that you can’t pay for healing. After the prophet tells him, “Go dip in the Jordan River seven times,” he comes out, and his flesh is whole like that of a child. It’s new, and it’s amazing! He tries to pay for the healing. The Prophet won’t take it. You cannot pay for healing. It is a gift from God. Listen to this. Verses 6–7 NKJV,

⁶ Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, “Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.” ⁷ And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider, and see how he seeks a quarrel with me.”

Now, of course, the prophet hears about it and says, “Look, send him to me.” And as I said, as the story progresses, Naaman the Syrian gets healed of his leprosy. But this question that the king of Israel blurts out, he said, “Am I God to kill and to make alive that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Am I God? Can I heal?” I think that’s a fair question. Now, when Naaman came to Elisha, the prophet, Elisha didn’t even come out to greet him. But what Elisha did is he put Naaman in touch with the living God. Let me read the next to you verse here. Listen to this. Verse 15 says,

¹⁵ And he returned to the man of God (this is after he has been healed), he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, “Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant.”

The prophet wouldn’t take it. Elisha put Naaman in touch with the one who could heal him. He introduced him to the living God. The king of Israel said, “Look, am I God?” Well, no. The truth is, I cannot heal you. Your pastor cannot heal you. Now, I may be a vessel through which God’s healing flows through. Your pastor may be a vessel. You can be a vessel that God will use. But you need to look past the vessel and to the one from which the healing comes. It comes from God. We need to keep our eyes on the Lord. I think sometimes people just get it wrong there. They’re looking to the evangelist or to this person or that person who’s going to bring healing. No, friend, healing comes from the Lord. The king of Israel asked a pretty good question. He said, “Am I God? I’m not the one who kills and makes a life. I can’t heal this guy.” No, but there is a God in heaven who could. Elisha put Naaman in touch with Him. Listen to this from the book of Acts. There was a man at the beautiful gate of the temple who was healed. Everyone came together. They’re freaking out. This is how the story goes. Acts 3:11–13a NKJV,

Questions about Healing (Part 5)

¹¹ Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. ¹² So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? (Good questions and he said.) ¹³ The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the God of our fathers, glorified His Servant Jesus..."

Peter is saying, "No, listen. It wasn't us. It wasn't our power. God did it. God has glorified His servant, Jesus, through this." We need to keep our eyes on God and keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. Yes, God uses human vessels. He gives to some the gifts of healing. He's commanded all believers to lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. But the power is not of ourselves. Peter said, "Look, it wasn't our power. It wasn't our godliness that made this man who was lame from his mother's womb walk." No, it was the power of God. It was God glorifying His Son, Jesus. He went on in the 4th chapter, and it says this in the very next chapter. They're called on the carpet for what has happened. Acts 4:8–12 NKJV says,

⁸ Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel: ⁹ If we this day are judged for a good deed done to a helpless man, by what means he has been made well, ¹⁰ let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. ¹¹ This is the 'stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone.' ¹² Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Or by which we must be healed. That's the same Greek word translated saved and healed, and the subject under discussion was healing. The name of Jesus has been given to men, and through that name, we can be healed. But we always need to keep in mind that God is the healer. We get it wrong when we look to men. I think the king's exasperation, when he said, "Man, the king of Syria is just seeking a quarrel. I can't heal this guy." And that's the truth. We can't. I remember this guy who used to attend our church. He was a very sweet guy. His, I don't know if it was actually a stepfather or the guy who was just living with his mother, but he wasn't that much older than the young man who was in our church. So, it was either a stepdad or somebody who was just shacking up with his mom. So, this, we'll call him a stepdad, started coming to services, and he was drunk all the time. He was an alcoholic and had physical issues and stuff going on.

I remember one day, I came to the church, and I'm walking up to go into my office. We had this little patio that was sort of on a raised part in between two parts of the building, part of the children's church and where my office and the secretary's offices were. He's waiting for me at the door, and he's drunk. I went up to him and said, "How's it going?" He fell to his knees, grabbed me around my legs, and began to sob. He began to beg me to heal him. He said, "Please heal me! Please heal me! Please heal me!" I grabbed him by the shoulders, lifted him up, and said, "Listen, I am not the healer." I said, "Jesus can restore you. He can deliver you from alcoholism. He can do anything, but you need to put your eyes on Him."

It was really a very awkward moment for me. In fact, nothing like that's ever happened before. This guy is clinging to my legs and begging me to heal him. But I had to tell him the truth. I'm not the healer. Jesus is the healer, and I did my best to put him in touch with the Lord. Now, he stopped coming to the church. I prayed for him, and he stopped coming shortly after that. I honestly don't know what happened to him. But I want to tell you, there is a God in heaven

Questions about Healing (Part 5)

who knows your name. There is a God in heaven who can heal you, who can restore you, who can bring you wholeness, and who can bring wholeness to your family. If you've been looking to a man— Now I'm encouraged if you've been blessed through our broadcast. We get letters and emails and things all the time.

We love to hear from people. We love to hear the stories of how people have found Christ through the broadcast, had their marriage restored, or some other thing has happened. We are so grateful for that, but you need to keep your eyes on Jesus. Our job is to get you in touch with Him. My job is to get you to put your eyes on Jesus Christ because He is the Savior. He is the Healer. He is the one who can restore you. Now, I've got so much more to share along these lines, but if I get started on the next point, I'm not going to even come close to finishing. So, let me just speak to your heart for a few minutes, if I might.

I'm sure there's someone watching me right now, and you're desperate. You have desperate needs in your life. You may be someone who has had failed relationship after failed relationship after failed relationship. You start a thing, and then there's something wrong with me. Maybe even suicidal thoughts have somehow crept into your mind. Listen to me. You are valuable. There's something wrong with all of us. We're all works in process. God has good things for you, my friend. You need to look to Him. Put your eyes on Him. He can help you. He can bring peace to your mind. He can give you direction. The thing that you need most right now is to be whole within yourself. Through your relationship with Christ to find wholeness. A marriage, a relationship between a man and a woman, in order to have a great relationship, it takes two whole people.

Some people are thinking, "Well, I'm so messed up. I just need to find somebody who's going to make me whole." No, you're going find somebody who's halfway there, and you're halfway there. Two halves don't make a whole. You bring two halves together, and they're still halved, and you'll have all sorts of problems. No, you become a person who is complete in Christ. You have your confidence in Him. It's not wrong to want to be married. It's not wrong to want companionship, but you need to endeavor to be whole. Find your confidence and your completeness in Christ. Then, when God brings you into a relationship, you have a whole lot more to give from your side, and you're not just looking for somebody else to fill up the gaps.

No, let God fill up the gaps. You may be watching me right now, and you've never embraced Jesus as the Lord and Savior of your life. I gave my life to Christ in a street mission that was filled with homeless people, derelicts, and drug addicts. At that time, I had some major league problems with substance abuse. It was 47 years ago. I heard the gospel preached. I was the only one who responded. That night, God got a hold of my life, and He changed me. Like I said, I'm obviously still a work in progress, but He made me complete on the inside. My spirit, the real me, was born again.

Jesus said you must be born again. Unless a man is born again, he can't see the kingdom of God. If you're sick in your body right now, listen. I want to encourage you. Get in touch with the God of the Bible. Read the stories. They will bring faith to your heart. Let God speak to you through His Word. There is nothing too difficult for our God. Jesus said all things are possible with God. He also said all things are possible to him that believes. Well, friend, your believing, your faith, comes alive as you spend time in the Word. Romans 10:17 NKJV,

¹⁷ So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Questions about Healing (Part 5)

One translation says, "So then faith comes alive by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." I could go on and on, but I just want you to be encouraged. You need to know that God sees you. In the midst of your dilemma, in the midst of your circumstance, even if it's been self-imposed and self-caused, God still loves you, and He wants to help you. Now, if you're watching this right now and you've never corresponded with us, we would love to hear from you. If we've been a blessing to you, we would love to hear from you.

I want to say thank you to those of you who support us in prayer and support us financially. If you've never done that, I want to encourage you to pray about it. Help us take these programs to other people around the world. We do it in multiple languages around the planet. From the correspondence and the feedback we receive, we see that people are being helped through God's Word. You can be a part of that. Well, until next time, I pray that God richly blesses you in Jesus' name, amen.

Copyright © Answers with Bayless Conley