

Introduction:

- To walk in divine healing and in divine health, we need only to understand redemption and what has been provided for us through the cross of Christ. And we need only to act in faith to appropriate that healing for our lives and for others.
 - Divine Healing means that sickness has in some way touched or entered our bodies and we now need deliverance or healing through Christ to make our bodies whole again.
 - Divine health refers to living healthy every day through faith in the finished work of Christ on the cross.
- So living in divine health and walking in divine healing requires us to know what is available and ours in Christ and then having the faith to see that revelation manifested in our lives. This may initially sound complicated but if you will follow me you will see it is as simple as trusting Jesus for salvation.
- Last week we looked at the cause of sickness and disease.
 - We learned that knowing the causes will not get us healed, but it will reveal our need for redemption's work in our bodies.
 - We also learned that knowing the causes shows us how to also avoid/prevent sickness and disease.
 - Finally we learned that by eliminating the causes we can begin to live in divine health.
- Tonight I want to look at some basic misconceptions that people have about healing. These misconceptions which keep people bound up in sickness and disease comes from:
 - Wrong teaching about God regarding sickness.
 - Traditions of men based upon experience and not the Word of God.
 - And misunderstanding of the Word combined with our own unbelief or wavering faith.

I. The Problem of Misconceptions

- A. Misconception defined - "A wrong or inaccurate idea or concept." Websters Dictionary.
- B. Synonyms - error, illusion, misbelief, myth, old wives tale. The antonym for misconception is "truth."
- C. Misconceptions, therefore, cause us to have wrong beliefs about God and about His Word.
 1. If we have a wrong belief about God and His word then we will be believing for the wrong thing.
 2. These misconceptions cause us to believe 'lies' / errors about God. This is exactly what the 'Father of Lies' wants us to do. Jesus says of the devil: "... *He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies.*" (John 8:44, ESV) Satans goal is to keep us from the truth by lies and deception. Truth will set us free! Free from sickness, disease and every mental oppression.
 3. If we believe a lie then we will reap the fruit thereof...bondage!
 4. Misconceptions regarding God and His Word as it pertains to healing will result in God's people continuing to remain bound by sickness and disease.
 5. Misconceptions lead to wavering or double mindedness. "*But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the*

wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;" (James 1:6-7, ESV)

6. Errors/misconceptions make the Word of God of no effect. *"thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."* (Mark 7:13, ESV)
7. These wrong beliefs become 'doctrine' in people's minds and the power of the Word gets cancelled out.
8. When the Word gets replaced by man's opinion, every time it gets handed down it's delusion becomes that much more powerful. I.E. I once was cutting a bunch of spindles for hand rail. I used a spindle to mark off the other spindles instead of my tape measure. The result was all the spindles were the wrong length.
9. Let's look at some common errors in the body pertaining to healing. As we do, my hope is that you will find truth, embrace it, and see healing manifest in your body

II. First Misconception: Many are taught that their sickness is for the glory of God. This comes from two passages of scripture:

A. The death of Lazarus.

1. *"But when Jesus heard about it he said, "Lazarus's sickness will not end in death. No, it happened for the glory of God so that the Son of God will receive glory from this.""* (John 11:4 NLT)
2. This passage does not, under any circumstance, teach that sickness brings glory to God.
3. The glory is not in being sick! The glory is in being healed! Being healed brings glory to God!
4. Jesus was not met with praise when He showed up three days late for the funeral. He was praised and God was glorified when Lazarus came out of the tomb! Lazarus was raised for the glory of God...he was not sick for the glory of God.

B. The second passage that is commonly misunderstood is the man born blind. Jn 9

1. *"Rabbi," his disciples asked him, "why was this man born blind? Was it because of his own sins or his parents' sins?" "It was not because of his sins or his parents' sins," Jesus answered. "This happened so the power of God could be seen in him."* (John 9:2-3, NLT)
2. Jesus corrects their thinking quickly. This has nothing to do with his sin or his parents. This is so that God's power may be seen released in him. The glory is not in him being blind the glory is in seeing the man healed by God!
3. If the man was blind for the glory of God then Jesus healing him was in direct opposition to the Father.
4. So if you think you are sick, for the glory of God, then the greatest thing that can happen for you is for you to be healed by God!

III. Second Misconception: God is punishing/disciplining you. People get this misconception from *"For the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child."* (Hebrews 12:6, NLT)

- A. This misconception/error is backed up by the OT teachings (Dt 28) where sickness is a result of disobedience. God may temporarily discipline with a sickness. So repent!
- B. Healing comes by turning around and following God. The sickness does not stay forever. A good parent would never think of punishing a child for their whole life and neither will God.
- C. When you repent, you turn to God. When you turn to God he forgives and heals. Peter said it this way: In Acts 3:19 repentance brings times of refreshing. David in Ps 103:2-4 God forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases and fills my life with good things! 1 Jn 1:9 if we confess our sin He is faithful and just to forgive our sin. 3 Jn vs2 may you be in health even as you are in your soul.
- D. You may be disciplined by God but remember He will tell you what for and He will cease punishing when the need for it is over.
- E. We cannot forget: *"He said, "If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in his sight, obeying his commands and keeping all his decrees, then I will not make you suffer any of the diseases I sent on the Egyptians; for I am the Lord who heals you.""* (Exodus 15:26, NLT) A scripture for walking in divine health. Covenant name: Jehovah-Rophe

IV. Third Misconception: **This sickness is the will of God.**

- A. No! It is not the character of God to make us sick. It is the opposite. Jn 10:10 The thief comes to steal kill and destroy Jesus comes that we have life and have it abundantly! Sickness is not abundance.
- B. If sickness is the will of God then why do Christians go to doctors? Take medications? Seek relief? Why not have prayer meeting where we all believe to become sick? That thinking makes no sense at all.
- C. Jesus took stripes upon His back that we could be made well not that we could be sick. The price of divine health was Jesus' life.

V. Fourth Misconception: **This sickness is just my 'thorn in the flesh.'** 2 Cor 12:7-9

- A. *"So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me."* (2 Corinthians 12:7-9, ESV)
 - 1. 'A thorn in the flesh' is like splinter. It causes constant pain and irritation. It does not stop you but it causes you pain as you move or go about your business.
- B. Many people speculate that Paul's thorn in the flesh was a sickness, or poor eye sight, etc. They do so to justify why they are not being healed. The truth is 'sickness' is not mentioned in this passage. Nor do other passages relate back to this as sickness.
 - 1. Did it come from God or from Satan? Satan. Was it sent from God because God wanted to keep Paul humble? Or, was it sent by Satan to slow Paul down and hinder his work? Satan.

2. *“huperairo”* Gr. Conceited, “it speaks of a person who has been supremely exalted. This is a person who has been magnified, increased, and lifted up to a place of great prestige and influence. This is a person who has been greatly honored and recognized due to something he has written, done, or achieved.” Rick Renner Gems. Paul has these exceedingly great revelations. The word that is used is of an archer who aims at his target and way overshoots it. The number of revelations given to Paul by God is incredible. With all of these revelations and Paul’s boldness to preach them, Paul was unquestionably becoming one of the most influential men of his day—especially in the spirit realm. Paul was recognized before kings, governors and religious leaders.
 3. Satan is so afraid of this man that he declares full on attack on Paul. A demon, a messenger of Satan, is sent to buffet Paul. Resist him personally. Resist his work. Resist his team. He was there to give him no rest.
- C. “The word “buffet” is the Greek word *kolaphidzo*, a Greek word that comes from the word *kolaphos*, a word that describes *the fist or knuckles*. When it becomes the word *kolaphidzo*, as Paul uses it in Second Corinthians 12:7, it refers to *beatings with the fist*. The tense that is used describes *unending, unrelenting, continuous, repetitious beatings*. This means Paul is not telling us of a single event, but of a series of many events. This word *kolaphidzo* (“buffet”) gives us our greatest insight into the “thorn in the flesh” Paul is writing about in this verse.”
1. He is talking about religious leaders, governmental leaders, and false brethren who opposed his message.
 2. Their actions constantly opposed Paul and was a painful irritant to him.
 3. It was not a sickness.
- D. The word “thorn” is the Greek word ‘*skolops*’, a word used to describe a dangerously sharp, spiked instrument or tool. This word was also used to describe the stake on which an enemy’s head was stuck after being decapitated.
1. The word *skolops* (*thorn*) gives the impression that this thorn was excruciatingly painful. “Some have suggested that the words “in the flesh” refer to a physical sickness, but this is not affirmed by any scripture in the New Testament and should be taken as unsubstantiated conjecture. People have gone so far in their imaginations as to assert that Paul suffered from malaria, epilepsy, eye disease, club feet, or a hunched back. There is nothing in any New Testament scripture to back up such speculations!” Rick Renner Gems.
 2. One thing is clear, however—Satan wanted Paul’s head on a stake!”

Conclusion:

- We look at these misconceptions because they have been causing our faith to waver. I do not want faith to waver. I want faith active and every hinderance removed.
- We should believe the Word of God and not the traditions or excuses of men.
- When these misconceptions are cleared away, faith will have an easier time of arising in ones heart for healing. With the misconceptions/errors removed, wavering will cease.
- Healing comes when our eyes are set on Jesus and who we are in Christ more than they are on the things in the natural. Peter started to sink when his eyes got on the natural, but Jesus caught him, got him refocused and they walked back to the boat together.