STICKING CLOSE TO GOD UNTIL HE HEALS YOU... EVEN CLOSER IF HE DOESN'T?

God goes where his word goes. Start each day with a verse in your pocket and he will go with you. This week's verses are about "healing".

he that believeth in me though he were dead, yet shall he live. John 11:25

pray one for another that you may be healed. James 5:16

> to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick Luke 9:2

He sent His word and healed them.

Psalm 107:20

VEDNESDAY

Heal my soul for I have sinned against you. Psalm 41:4

As many as touched him were made well. Mark 6:56

For more healing scriptures visit www.bibleparent.com

Roughly 70% of all shared prayers are for healing. It is with good reason the Old Testament refers to God as Yahweh Raffa, the God who heals. When he came to earth as a man HEALING was one of the ways Christ showed one and all that he was indeed come from God. God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all... Acts 10:38 And yet not all received then or will receive now this miracle of healing. One frequent reason given in scripture is lack of faith...not faith in healing or in ourselves but faith in Jesus, giving our lives to him...following him. When we seek Jesus healing is a bonus. When we seek only healing we most often do without, without Jesus and without healing.

Second on the list of possible blocks to receiving our healing is sin. Certainly not all illness is caused by sin. The old testament is filled with God's instructions for physical health. Luke himself was a physician. In SOME cases however we would be wise to ask God to search our hearts amd reveal hidden sin. My favorite scripture about sin and healing is Proverbs 3:7–8 "fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body."

Through all of scripture sin and healing are often mentioned in the same breath. *John 5:14* "See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you." AND James 5:15 "the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven." Thus repentance is in some cases a key preparation for healing.

Next on the list is likely lack of perseverance. Both bodily and emotional healing take time. We have to stick with it. One great idea is a prayer list written or typed and kept beside our beds...a list of prayers for our own healing and that of others. One scripture that reminds us to pray for others in order to receive our own healing is Psalm 41:1 "Blessed are those who have regard for the weak;... The LORD nurses them when they are sick and restores them to health..." For help in persevering the author offers hundreds of free printable healing scriptures at https://bibleparent.com/healing.html.

If the hurt or pain is caused by another person (car accident, slippery floor etc) God commands us to forgive them. Just as we can't blame others we cannot blame God. He does not cause our hurts. He is by nature a healer. Psalm 30:2 "Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me."

Then comes scripture...DAILY scriptures like "It wasn't any herb or ointment that healed them but your word alone, Lord, which heals everything." Solomon 16:12 AND "He sent out his word and healed them; he rescued them from the grave. Psalm 30:2 "My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart; for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh." Proverbs 4:20-22 It is a good idea to use these and other healing verses daily even TWICE
DAILY. Bible verses are especially important when ill or injured.

Next is prayer as in <u>James 5:16</u>: "Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed" AND Psalm 30:2 "Lord my God, I called to you for help, and you healed me." The verse in James directs us to pray with others. The verse in Psalms to pray sincerely and directly to God. Twice daily is a good plan for both.

Getting our hearts RIGHT toward God (preparing ourselves for his healing). includes more than scripture and prayer. It includes Many things, among them worship, service, and witnessing to others. The verse that comes to mind is: "Because he loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges My name." Psalm 41:3. ANOTHER verse is Exodus 15:26 "If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that -which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer." May God encourage each of us to CONTINUE seeking HIS HEALING thru medicine, prayer, scripture or other of God limitless resources....BUT...if like Paul we do not find healing on this earth may we find that one gift that is greater than healing... God's presence in our hearts.

In the end those of us who have not received healing must ask ourselves a single important question "Would I rather be godless and healthy or have Jesus and be ill." I think first of Fanny Crosby who was born blind but wrote over 9,000 hymns to God. Other prominent Christians with lifelong health issues were Martin Luther, Charles Spurgeon, Florence Nightengale and a host of others...ALL of whom refused to let illness come between them and Christ.

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