

WordBytes

Does Jesus Still Heal Today?

Many Christians do not believe Jesus still heals today. Others believe that He can heal, but are unsure about His will to heal them. Still others believe that they have to satisfy a requirement, or even a list of requirements, before they can expect to receive healing. The aim of this WordByte is to shed the light of the Scriptures on this vital topic.

Has Jesus changed?

Hebrews 13:8 gives us the key:

Jesus is the same, yesterday today and forever.

He is the same today! This means that because he healed 2000 years ago He must still heal today. Also, there is no scripture in the Bible saying that He has stopped healing or that healing was limited to the apostles or to the countries close to Israel. In fact, the Bible tells us that He commissioned believers to heal the sick in His name in all the world, and the book of Acts provides a record of their exploits:

*“Go into **all the world** and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow **those who believe**: In My name they will cast out demons they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” (Mark 16:15-18)*

*“Then **Philip** went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.” Acts 8: 5-8*

Who did Jesus heal?

The answer is recorded in Matthew 12:15 and numerous other Scriptures:

But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all.

He healed ALL who came to Him. Therefore, because He hasn't changed, He must be willing to heal ALL today.

Did he turn anyone away?

There is no record in the Scriptures of Him turning anyone away. In Matthew 15:21-26, He at first said no to a woman who pleaded with Him to cast a demon out of her daughter because she wasn't an Israelite. However, after she persisted He granted her request, complimenting her on her great faith. The only people who didn't get healed were those who were unbelieving and those who didn't come to Him.

What kind of conditions did He heal?

The answer is given in Matthew 4:24 and many other Scriptures:

Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them. (Matthew 4:24)

He healed all types of sicknesses, diseases, infirmities, birth defects, injuries and demonic oppressions. As He hasn't changed, He must be willing to do the same today.

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Did He impose any special requirements?

Jesus gave the answer in Luke 8:50:

*But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; **only believe**, and she will be made well".*

The only requirement for those seeking healing was to believe:

- He didn't require them to confess and forsake sin before - though He sometimes warned some to sin no more **after** healing them. (John 5:1-12).
- They didn't have to be a Jew - or even one of His followers - the Scriptures tell us that gentiles also came and received healing (Mark 3:7-10, Matthew 4:24).
- He didn't ask them whether they attended synagogue.
- He didn't require them to give tithes and offerings.
- He never told them they weren't ready because they hadn't learned the lesson their affliction was supposed to be teaching them.
- The sick person didn't even have to be present! (Matthew 8:1-13, and 15:21-28).

Those who came for healing simply believed that Jesus could and would heal them without any preconditions. The same attitude was displayed later when Jesus healed through his disciples in the book of Acts. Because He is the same today, to believe is still the only requirement.

Why did Jesus heal?

God sent Him to heal:

"He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed." (Luke 4:18)

He had compassion on the sick:

And when Jesus went out He saw a great multitude; and He was moved with compassion for them, and healed their sick. (Matthew 14:14)

To fulfill the prophesy of Isaiah:

When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.'" (Matthew 8:16-17)

To prove He is the Christ, the Son of God:

And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. (John 20:30)

To confirm the Word:

And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word through the accompanying signs. (Mark 16:20)

If Jesus used signs to confirm the word proclaimed by the early believers, we should expect the same today as He hasn't changed and the mission of the church hasn't changed.

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How does He Heal Today?

The Scriptures present a number of ways Jesus heals:

- Through asking in His name and receiving from Him. (John 14:13-14, Mark 11:24)
- Through believers praying for one another in His name. The person needing healing does not need to be present. (James 5:16, Matthew 8:5-13)
- Through a believer laying on of hands in His name. (Mark 16:18, Acts 28:8-9).
- Through a believer casting out a demon in His name. (Mark 16:17, Mark 9:25)
- Through the church elders anointing with oil and praying the prayer of faith in His name. (James 5:14-15).
- Through healings and miracles accompanying anointed preaching. (Acts 8:6-8)
- Through a believer with gifts of healings (1 Corinthians 12:9).

Whatever pathway we follow, our healing comes through Jesus, and we need to look to Him as our Healer:

*And Peter said to him, "Aeneas, **Jesus the Christ heals you**. Arise and make your bed." Then he arose immediately. (Acts 9:34)*

*"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." (Acts 4:10)*

*"If you ask anything in My name, **I will do it**." (John 14:14)*

What can hinder our healing?

Unbelief: Perhaps the major hindrance is unbelief:

Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief. (Matthew 15:38)

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief." (Matthew 17:19-20)

Uncertainty about the will of God: Jesus was always willing to heal, and therefore so is the Father:

"He who has seen Me has seen the Father." (John 14:9)

Having a wrong view of Jesus: In His home town, they could only see Him as the carpenter. If we don't see Him as our healer, we will not receive healing.

"Is this not the carpenter, the Son of Mary, and brother of James, Joses, Judas, and Simon? And are not His sisters here with us?" So they were offended at Him. (Mark 6:3)

Traditions of men: Jesus said manmade traditions can make the word of God of **NO EFFECT**. For example, some church groups teach that Jesus doesn't heal today, or impose a list of requirements.

"making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do." (Mark 7:13)

Legalism: The apostle Paul warned us that legalism can actually **SEPARATE** us from Christ, who will then be of **NO BENEFIT** to us. This warning is just as relevant to us today, as we still have a tendency to fall

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into the snare of trying to keep the Law in our desire to put the Word of God into practice and live holy lives. Common examples include keeping the Sabbath day, avoiding certain foods and drinks, and tithing.

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by the Law.....Christ will profit you nothing. (Galatians 5:2-4)

We Need to Persevere

The Scriptures clearly tell us that Jesus hasn't changed, and therefore we can indeed expect Him to unconditionally heal all who come to Him today on the basis of simple faith.

James, **when teaching about prayer for healing**, used the example of Elijah praying for rain, which had nothing to do with healing (James 5:17-18). The outstanding features of Elijah's prayer are that it was persistent and fervent. In other words, he was determined to receive God's promised rain, and kept at it till he saw that it was on the way (1 Kings 18:41-45).

Likewise, we must be determined and persevere till the healing comes to pass.

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WordBytes are Bible teachings to inspire faith and spiritual growth.

JO-AL Bible Teaching & Publications is based in Melbourne, Australia, and was founded by Alan and Joan Taylor in 2009. Alan and Joan have experience in pastoring and pioneering churches, and in travelling teaching, worship and music ministry. At the same time they have established a successful secular technical consulting company.