

Does God Still Heal the Sick?

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That's a good question!

Because of certain faith leaders' lifestyles and practices, the whole issue of faith healing has come under serious questions. I've had my share of questions and misgivings from time to time as well. I've seen a lot of people healed and I've prayed for a lot of people who have died. But after 75 years of living I have come to some conclusions.

First, I believe that God cares about us. He cares about our broken hearts and broken bodies. I do not believe that He **sends** sickness. Sickness comes as a part of our pilgrimage in an earthly body. Very early in the Bible God is described as being "full of lovingkindness and tender mercies."

God also describes Himself with these words, "I am the LORD who heals you" (**Exodus 15:26**). God, by His very nature and character is a healer. Satan on the other hand is the one who comes "to steal, and to kill, and to destroy."

When the Psalmist counted his blessings that he had received, he listed forgiveness of sin and healing for his body as number one and two. **Psalm 103:3** - "who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases ."

When Jesus came to earth a major part of His ministry was devoted to healing the sick and the broken. He did this because He cared. And He cares about you.

Here is what the Bible records:

Matthew 4:23 - "and Jesus went about all Galilee, **teaching** in their synagogues, **preaching** the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing** all kinds of sickness and disease among the people."

Matthew 8:16 - “they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed, And He cast out the spirits with a word, and **healed** all who were sick.”

Matthew 9:36 - “but when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with **compassion**.” He cared enough to respond to their need.

When the leper approached Jesus He said, “Lord, if you are **willing**, You can make me clean” (**Matthew 8:2**). He did not doubt the ability of Jesus. Nor do we! If He could speak the worlds into existence He could do anything. No disease is too hard for Him. He is able and we believe that.

But we are not sure if He is willing. We know He does it for others but we are not sure if He will do it for us. We know that He healed when He was on earth but we are not sure if He will do it **now**.

His answer to the leper is His answer for us. He said, “I am willing” (**Matthew 8:3**). And the leper was the least of the least and the poorest of the poor.

The apostle Peter summed up our Lord’s earthly ministry by stating, “God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, who went about doing good and **healing** all who were oppressed by the devil” (**Acts 10:38**).

So the question is - does God still heal the sick? I believe the answer is yes. God has not changed. He still cares. Jesus has not changed - “He is the same yesterday, today and forever” (**Hebrews 13:8**).

Just before He returned to heaven He instructed the disciples “to lay hands on the sick and they shall recover” (**Mark 16:18**). The Book of Acts and 2000 years of church history clearly demonstrate the power of God to heal.