

Heal Us With Your Power

✖ *There are times God works through medical means. But sometimes He works alone.*

Have

you recently received a bad report from a medical test? Has a loved one

just suffered a serious injury? The stunning blow from such news can

instantly turn your world upside down.

The good news is God still heals today—in a variety of ways.

Sometimes

God heals through anointing with oil, accompanied by the prayer of

faith. Sometimes He heals through the laying on of hands.

Sometimes He

heals through the declaration of His Word.

Sometimes

God heals through medical treatment or through the body's natural

recuperative powers. And yes, sometimes God heals through miracles—whether instantaneous or progressive.

If

you or someone you love is hurting, now is not the time to give up. Now

is the time to renew your faith and draw strength from God's Word.

Remember, the doctors' prognosis is not always the final answer!

CALLING OUT TO GOD

Beverly Hilliard had suffered from severe back pain for three

years

after a speeding SUV ran a red light and hit her car head-on. Her car was demolished, and her 2-year-old son was injured so badly that he had to undergo plastic surgery (although he did fully recover).

Beverly

was on medication to help relieve pain, but nothing could take away her constant backache. Unable to work, she had difficulty walking up a flight of stairs, let alone bending down to pick up something from the floor.

Fourteen weeks of

physical therapy didn't alleviate the pain. Neither did the injections and numerous treatments her doctors administered to her spine.

One

day a friend invited her to a prayer gathering to listen to a taped message by Colorado Springs, Colo., pastor Dutch Sheets. The sermon had been recorded at a women's conference a few weeks earlier.

"I'm

going, and I believe God is going to heal me tonight," Beverly told her

husband. That evening Beverly joined 30 women gathered in a home in her

small Tennessee town to listen to the taped sermon on crying out to

God. The text was Jeremiah 33:3 "Call to Me and I will answer you and

show you great and mighty things, fenced in and hidden, which

you do not
know" (AMP).

As

Pastor Sheets got into the heart of his message, he declared:
"This is
the year of great deliverance. God is going to show up. We are
about to
receive what we have been asking for for a long time.

"This

is the season of breakthrough. Now is the time to speak to the
mountain
to be removed. Now is the time to war in a different way.

"Begin to use your voice like a weapon and speak forth," he
continued. "This is the time to apply Jeremiah 33:3."

At

these words, a lightning bolt of faith surged like an electric
charge
through everyone in the room. Immediately the women began
praying for
one another.

All of a sudden Beverly was touched by the power of God. Her
pain was gone! She was instantly healed.

When she got home, her husband immediately noticed the
difference in her condition and began rejoicing and praising
God.

Beverly

stopped taking her medication. Soon she returned to work,
pain-free.

What happened that night? The Word of God, proclaimed by an
anointed
preacher, released faith in its listeners to believe for
signs, wonders

and miracles. The women responded by laying hands on one another and calling out to God—and He answered.

For her part, Beverly had gone to the meeting with a high faith level, expecting to receive her healing. The message she heard released that faith—and again, God answered.

INCREASING OUR FAITH

Jesus devoted much of His ministry to healing, and He encouraged and empowered His early followers to do the same. But nowhere does Scripture teach that divine healing ended when the last apostle died, as some people believe.

After the resurrection, when Jesus gave the Great Commission, He said, “‘And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name...they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover’” (Mark 16:17-18, NKJV).

According to Jesus, the gift of healing wasn’t for the apostles only. It was—and is—for all believers. He declared, “‘I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father’” (John 14:12).

God still heals today, and He uses those who believe in Him as

agents of healing!

We

can establish our faith in God's healing power on the validity of His

Word, even when we don't understand His ways. Unexpected illness or

injury or pain can be discouraging and confusing, even to the strongest

believers. At those times, the best we can do is to cry out, "Lord,

increase my faith!"

Of

course, the primary source of our faith is the Word of God, as Smith

Wigglesworth declared so powerfully: "The Word of God is spirit and life

to those who receive it in simple faith....Know your Book, live it,

believe it and obey it.

"Hide

God's Word in your heart. It will save your soul, quicken your body and

illumine your mind....Increase [in faith] comes by action, by using what

we have and what we know."

Whether

our pain is physical or emotional, we can choose to rely on God's Word

to sustain us through the dark days. When we believe, obey and act on

His Word, God brings us into a deeper level of intimacy with Him. He

uses our time of testing to conform us more and more to the image of His

Son (see Rom. 8:29).

ASKING THE WHY QUESTION

Do you ever ask God, "Why?" in the midst of your trial? One woman we know did, and God answered her.

Hilda

was just 40 when she had a boating accident that almost took her life.

She survived, and then underwent 22 major surgeries to put her crushed face back together.

Five

years later, a cancer surgeon discovered a malignant melanoma and

removed most of the upper arm muscle and all the glands under her left

arm. He then grafted skin from her leg onto the affected area.

"Possibly only three months to live," the doctor told her.

"I

returned home in excruciating pain because the skin graft didn't heal,"

Hilda remembers. "After God had seen me through all my surgeries

following the boating accident, I had taught on faith and healing in

many churches. But now I was facing the loneliest time of my life."

One

day Hilda simply prayed: "Father, until now I have not asked You why

the boat propeller sliced my face. But now I am going to ask You why

about this cancer."

Immediately

she sensed God's presence fill the room. She felt as if Jesus sat on

her bed and said: "Until now you have learned what I can do for you. Now

I want you to know Me."

As she lay there weeping, she thought of a verse: "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him" (Job 13:15, KJV).

"I

repeated those words, and the minute they came out of my mouth, the

pain left," she says. "From then on I began to heal. I was on a new path

of not only trusting God, but seeking Him with all my heart."

Hilda

pored over Bible passages for hours, learning a new dimension of prayer

as she spent more time with the Lord. Although the doctors did all they

could, she knows it was Jesus who did the real healing in her body and

heart. Now in her 70s, Hilda is still teaching God's Word.

WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Answers to prayers for healing don't always come instantly. We must be

careful not to judge those who are still trusting God for healing—as

well as those who suffer from illnesses we don't fully understand.

One

businesswoman who struggled with clinical depression felt that people

in her church looked at her as though she had leprosy. Later, when she was diagnosed with cancer, they showed more compassion. But God strengthened her to persevere until she saw victory over both conditions.

In some cases, making lifestyle changes and obeying the Holy Spirit's leading can make all the difference, as Lynda Brooks discovered in her quest for healing.

When Lynda started taking a step aerobics class at her church, she began to have intense pain in her feet. She quit the class, but her pain persisted. Medication gave no relief.

She repeatedly asked for prayer. Still, her suffering increased, and she was forced to greatly curtail her activities.

"One day my Sunday school teacher, who had prayed for me for months, called me with hopeful news," Lynda says. "She had had a vision of me being healed. She'd seen Jesus and me hugging each other and crying tears of joy."

"I presumed this meant instant healing—although she didn't say that. But another year went by before healing came. And it only happened after I chose to make some

changes in my attitude and daily habits.”

Lynda

admits she had become addicted to television. At night when she

couldn't sleep because of the pain, she would watch romance and fantasy

shows as a distraction. Although she knew this was allowing “garbage”

into her thought-life, she continued the practice.

Also,

because of her intense pain, she would sometimes take more medication

than prescribed. When she confessed this to her husband and her doctor,

they determined that Lynda's husband would dole out her medications from

then on.

“I made some drastic decisions,” Lynda says. “I stopped watching television completely and studied God's Word instead.

“I

changed my eating habits by abstaining from sugar and choosing a more

healthy diet, which meant I lost weight and lightened the load on my

feet. Then I enrolled in an exercise program at a local gym. I also

allowed the podiatrist to fit me with specially made plastic molds for

my shoes [orthotics] to help balance my weight more evenly and lessen

pressure on the ball of my foot.”

Within

two weeks of getting the orthotics, Lynda was able to walk

without
pain. She attributes her healing to God's intervention and her
lifestyle
changes, along with help from her doctor.

"I
learned the difference between faith and presumption. I had to
obey
what God was showing me and change my bad habits," she
reports.

"Today
I can walk anywhere, and I am back into the full swing of
living—minus
medications and television. I thank God every day for the
miracle of
being able to walk without pain after eight years of
suffering."

TRUSTING GOD, NOT MIRACLES

Every health crisis gives us an opportunity to come to a
deeper
understanding of how the same God who created our bodies also
has the
power to heal them. Of course, the means God uses to heal one
person may
not be the means He uses to heal another. Just ask Beverly,
Hilda and
Lynda.

God sovereignly deals with each of us in unique ways. He knows
what will draw us closer to Him and make us more like Christ.

That's
why, when pain, tragedy, or illness strike, we must place our
faith in
God—not just in our expected miracle. Our part is to pray.

God's part is
to heal, in His way and His time.

Read a companion devotional.

Quin Sherrer and Ruthanne Garlock

teach and minister to women around the world. They have co-authored

several books including Lord, I Need Your Healing Power (Charisma

House).