



HIGH-LEVEL SUMMARY of

HEALING PLUNGE

An In-Depth Analysis of Healing in the Bible

ED MELICK



TRUTH & HOPE

Coronavirus, cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and depression. These are just a handful of the many afflictions we face in our lives, exacting a heavy physical, emotional and financial toll. Where do these illnesses come from, do they serve a purpose, and can we derive hope and meaning from the answers to these questions?

I began to research these topics three-and-a-half years ago when my ex-wife was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Since I believe in the ultimate authority of the Bible and the importance of its application to all areas of our lives, I decided to take a deep dive into the scriptures in search of answers.

The result of my efforts was a book entitled *Healing Plunge: An In-Depth Analysis of Healing in the Bible* that I published in November 2019. In it, I describe the results of a data analysis I performed on all of the healing stories in the Bible. I also address questions such as does God want Christians to be healthy, why are so many of them sick, what's the Biblical definition of a human being, and what's the ultimate form of healing.

Given the emerging coronavirus threat, I decided to create this brief summary of the book and give it away. If the information herein alleviates some of the fears of readers while giving them a sense of true hope, I will be thrilled.

Ed Melick

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”
John 8:32 (NLT)

THERE ARE 85 DESCRIPTIONS OF 51 HEALINGS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

33
1 PERSON HEALED

18
≥ 2 HEALED

JESUS AND THE OTHER HEALERS NEVER ASKED GOD TO HEAL SOMEONE. THEY SIMPLY HEALED PEOPLE

0%

REPENTANCE OR THE CONFESSION OF SINS WAS NEVER REQUIRED BEFORE HEALING

THE HEALERS NEVER ASKED FOR MONEY BEFORE OR AFTER HEALING SOMEONE

HEALER
ACTIONS
(SELECT)

27
COMMAND

22
TOUCH

3
SPIT

2
PRAYER

100%

WHenever the speed of healing was mentioned (in 87% of 1-person healings), it was always fast and complete

HEALING
FACTORS
(SELECT)

100%
FAITH OF
HEALER

60%
FAITH OF SICK PERSON,
FRIEND(S) OR FAMILY +
ACTS OF FAITH

20%
FAITH OF SICK PERSON,
FRIEND(S) OR FAMILY

MORE DATA INSIGHTS

135 TIMES A CONSEQUENCE OF A HEALING IS NOTED, REVEALING THE PURPOSE OF HEALINGS

Healings were miraculous, undeniable, awe-inspiring, and widely known.

Healings validated Jesus and His disciples' message.

Healings aroused praise and worship of God.

Healings revealed who God is (i.e., a compassionate, merciful, and loving God).

Healings demonstrated that love and compassion are more important than the law.

Healings provided a foretaste of God's coming Kingdom – a Kingdom without sickness, pain or death.

56 TIMES A SPECIFIC ILLNESS IS NOTED

Jesus healed "every kind of sickness and illness." When a specific illness was noted, Jesus and the other healers were usually focused on the most challenging ailments including paralysis/lameness (12), blindness (9), and leprosy (3). Five times someone was raised from the dead (not including Jesus' resurrection).

Ever since the world began, no one has been able to open the eyes of someone born blind.

If this man were not from God, he couldn't have done it.

John 9:32-33 (NLT)



FOUR VIEWS WHY GOD WANTS CHRISTIANS TO BE HEALTHY

SIMPLE VIEW

God doesn't change, He doesn't play favorites, and He empowered His followers to heal people during early church times. Therefore, we should be able to do so today.

COMMAND VIEW

Jesus sent out his disciples to heal the sick. This was a command. He later told them to teach new disciples to obey all the commands He had given them. He also said that healing would be a sign of His followers.

CONSISTENCY VIEW

God wants to heal us because that is simply who He is – a healer. There are nineteen names for God in the Old Testament and one of them is *Yahweh Rapha*, which means “The Lord that heals.”

KINGDOM VIEW

Jesus partially established God's Kingdom on Earth two thousand years ago, and since there will be no sickness in His Kingdom there should be no sickness among Jesus' followers who have Christ living inside them.

A man with leprosy came and knelt in front of Jesus, begging to be healed. “If you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean,” he said. Moved with compassion, Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!”
Mark 1:40-41 (NLT)



SO WHY ARE SO MANY CHRISTIANS SICK?

SIN & CONSEQUENCES

O LORD, don't rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your rage... [My] health is broken because of my sins... My wounds fester and stink because of my foolish sins. (Psalm 38:1-5, NLT)

LACK OF FAITH

"You don't have enough faith... I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible." (Matthew 17:20, NLT)

FALLEN WORLD

Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay. (Romans 8:20-21, NLT)

PARTIAL KINGDOM

The Kingdom of God is both present and to come. Jesus said, "[The] Kingdom of God is already among you" and "My Kingdom is not of this world." (Luke 17:21 and John 18:36, NLT) The Bible's promise of no more sickness and suffering will be fully realized only when Jesus returns.

For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever!
2 Corinthians 4:17 (NLT)



THE COMPLETE PERSON

Every person consists of three fundamental parts: body, soul and spirit. Each of these must be properly cared for to achieve truly good health. The table below lists some characteristics of each.

Aspect	BODY	SOUL	SPIRIT
What	Physical dwelling for the soul and spirit	Personality	Identity
Form	Physiological	Psychological	Spiritual
Primary parts	Physical organs and systems	Mind, will, emotions	Conscience, fellowship, intuition
Consciousness	World-conscious	Self-conscious	God-conscious
Relates to	Physical realm (environment)	Interpersonal realm (other people)	Spiritual realm (God, the devil, and their servants)
What dwells there	Physical senses	Self	God's Spirit, man's spirit, evil spirits
Hurts in...	Sickness, disease, pain, and weakness	Mental anguish, emotional instability, and paralysis of will	Emptiness, hopelessness, futility, loneliness, and feeling lost
Feed with...	Food	Bible study, thoughts, focus...	Bible study, prayer, fasting, Jesus Himself
Exercise	Physical exercise	Mental challenges...	Trials that build faith...
Rest	Sleep, rest, hobbies, observe the Sabbath	Relationship with God, observe the Sabbath, relaxation techniques...	Relationship with God, observe the Sabbath...



CONCLUSIONS & GOOD NEWS

CONCLUSIONS

The ultimate form of healing occurs when we accept Jesus Christ's sacrifice for our sins and are reborn to a new way of living. This heals our relationship with God and secures our place in His perfect Kingdom for eternity. Second in importance is the healing of our relationships with others.

Jesus and His disciples went out and engaged people, taught them, preached the Gospel to them, and healed the sick. Going out, preaching, and healing were tied together—and they were commanded. We need to be outwardly focused on others, not selfishly focused on ourselves.

Miraculous healing does not occur as a reward for our obedience or our efforts, or to let us eek out a few more years of living. It confirms the Good News. Healing and good health are not guaranteed in this lifetime, whether you're a follower of Christ or not. Miraculous healing is for God's glory and purposes and happens when He chooses.

Disease, plagues and illnesses are the consequence of living in a decaying world with imperfect bodies. The world has been subjected to these things as part of God's judgement of man's first sin. Some occurrences of illness are also brought about by God in order to punish, awaken, and/or teach and purify people. Examples of these abound in the Old Testament. While fewer in number, there are also New Testament examples, including the sickness and death of early Christians for not observing the Lord's Supper properly; Saul of Tarsus being blinded by Jesus on the road to Damascus; and God inflicting Herod with worms.

THE GOSPEL (GOOD NEWS)

We are all sinners and under a death penalty. God sent Christ to die in our place. If we recognize our sinfulness, repent of it, and accept Jesus' sacrifice and resurrection, we are given eternal life that is free from sin, pain, suffering, war, and tears. We then begin a new way of living on earth where we honor our higher calling, contribute to the transformation and flourishing of our culture, and provide a foretaste of God's coming Kingdom.



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