

Divine Healing **(Article III)**

Through the redemption purchased by Jesus Christ on Calvary, God has made provision for every believer to walk divine health. It has never been God's will for His people be bound and oppressed with sickness and disease. He told the children of Israel that they could have supernatural freedom from illness if they would walk uprightly before Him. God has extended the same promise and provision toward us in the New Covenant, basing it securely in our blood-bought redemption.

God is as eager to see the sick healed as the sick are to be released from their ailments. And so He has give us numerous methods whereby we can receive the healing which He has purchased for us. Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God has shown us various ways through which His healing power can be appropriated.

Since faith is the means by which anything is received from God, it is not surprising to find that each of these methods requires some degree of faith in order to be effective. *"He who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him"* **Hebrews 11:6** Because not every believer's faith is on the same level, God has made these various ways of receiving healing available to us. God will meet us wherever we are in faith, so that we may always receive healing from Him.

Prayer is perhaps the most obvious method of receiving healing. It is the natural response of someone in need to seek God in prayer and ask for deliverance. God responds to the prayer of faith offered up by His children and will move in their behalf when asked by them. Jesus specified two basic forms of petition with which we could approach the Father to receive from His hand. They are: 1) the prayer of agreement, and 2) the prayer of faith offered in Jesus' Name.

Jesus said *"Again I say to you, that if two of you agree on earth about anything that they may ask, it shall be done for them by My Father who is in heaven"* **Matthew 18:19**. Jesus' promise was that any need will be met, including that of healing, if two or more believers will stand together in faith as to the outcome of their prayer. God the Father will do whatever they had agreed upon. The central issue in this method is that of "agreement." **All parties involved must be one mind as to God's will in the matter and as to their faith in the final outcome.** If the person seeking healing is prayed for and yet he himself still believes his illness to be the will of God, then the prayer of agreement will be ineffective. Before praying the prayer of agreement, it is wise to first determine if everyone involved is indeed in agreement.

Jesus also told His disciples, *"I tell you the truth, My Father will give you whatever you ask in My name. Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete"* **John 16:23,24** Again, Jesus says that anything that we ask for will be granted, and this includes physical healing. The prayer of faith made in Jesus' Name will bring results to those who are in need.

The Gospels do not specifically record prayer for the sick in the healing ministry of Jesus and His disciples. (The more common methods were laying on of hands and speaking the Word.) However, elsewhere in the New Testament, we do find instances of prayer for the sick. Paul prayed for the father of Publius on the island of Melita.

Acts 28:8 *"His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him."*

The apostle James specifically instructs that those who are sick are to be prayed for in the Name of the Lord.

James 5:15,16. *“Therefore confess your sin to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed”* It is obvious that prayer for the sick was a common practice in the first century church.

The promise of Jesus still holds today. Those that ask the Father in Jesus' Name, and believe, will receive from the Father's hand the things that they need from Him. If that need is healing, then the prayer of faith in Jesus' Name will bring about a cure for the one who is sick.

The laying on of hands is by far the most commonly recorded method by which Jesus ministered healing to those who were sick, although He sometimes simply spoke words over those who were ill.

Matthew 9:6,7 *“But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins. . . .” Then he said to the paralytic, “Get up, take your mat and go home.” 7 And the man got up and went home.”* most of the time He laid His hands on the sick to heal them.

Matthew 8:14,15 *“When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever. 15 He touched her hand and the fever left her, and she got up and began to wait on him.”*

The laying on of hands is a practice that goes back to the Old Covenant. Under the Old Covenant, it was done in order to transfer inheritance and authority to children or successors. Jacob laid his hands on his grandchildren, Ephraim and Manasseh to pronounce a blessing over each of them.

Genesis 48:14-16 *“But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim's head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his left hand on Manasseh's head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn. 15 Then he blessed Joseph and said, “May the God before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac walked, the God who has been my shepherd all my life to this day, 16 the Angel who has delivered me from all harm --may he bless these boys. May they be called by my name and the names of my fathers Abraham and Isaac, and may they increase greatly upon the earth.””*

Moses laid his hands on Joshua to transfer his authority and rulership over to him.

Numbers 27:18 *“So the LORD said to Moses, “Take Joshua son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay your hand on him.”*

Laying on of hands was also used to impute the sin of Israel to the scapegoat.

Leviticus 16:21 *“He is to lay both hands on the head of the live goat and confess over it all the wickedness and rebellion of the Israelites--all their sins--and put them on the goat's head. He shall send the goat away into the desert in the care of a man appointed for the task.”*

In each of these instances, laying on of hands involved a transfer of something from one party to another.

When Jesus came into physical contact with those who had need of healing, there flowed from His person power to bring about healing in their bodies. Often, Jesus would touch the part of their body that was ailing.

Matthew 9:29 *"Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith will it be done to you";"*

The principle that emerges from this is that the power which Jesus had was transferable to the bodies of the sick by physical contact. Hence, we find that the crowds asked Jesus if they could just touch the hem of His cloak to receive that healing power into their bodies; those who touched Him were made whole.

When Jesus laid hands on the sick, He didn't do it for ceremonial reasons. The laying on of hands is not a "symbolic" ritual. It is a means by which the power and anointing of God can be transferred to the sick. In the town of Capernaum, the entire city brought their sick, and Jesus laid His hands on every one of them to heal them.

The power of God was transferred from Jesus to those sick bodies when Jesus touched them, or when they touched even a part of His clothing. The Acts of the Apostles records that this healing anointing was even retained in cloth, so that pieces of Paul's clothing could be taken to the sick, and the power of God which remained in the cloth was enough to effect release for those afflicted.

Today, this is still a God-given way for receiving healing. Jesus said that **believers** would lay their hands on the sick, and they would recover. Because the life and power of God resides within **every** believer, **every** believer has the ability to transfer that life and power to a person who is in need of healing. Laying on of hands is still one of God's ways of transmitting His healing power into the bodies of the sick.

Anointing with oil also has its roots in the Old Covenant. In that dispensation, people and things were consecrated to God by anointing them with oil. The Tabernacle and its furniture, built by Moses, were dedicated for service in this way. The anointing of oil was symbolic of the Holy Spirit, which came upon men to empower them for service. The oil was a **visual reminder** that they were covered by the Holy Spirit.

In the New Testament, the sacred practice of anointing with oil is found in connection with the healing of the sick. When the disciples were sent out by Jesus to preach and heal the sick, the Bible records that they anointed the sick with oil and healed them.

This was not a medicinal anointing, such as was common in that day.

Luke 10:34 *"He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him."* it was a sacred, symbolic anointing which resulted in supernatural healing. Thus, James commands that the elders pray for the sick, ". . . anointing him with oil **in the name of the Lord**" **James 5:14**.

James makes it clear that it is **the prayer of faith** which saves the sick.

James 5:15 *"And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven."*

Oil cannot supernaturally heal anyone. But the oil does give the one who is ill a point of contact for his faith. His faith is not in the oil, but in God; the oil helps him to engage his faith toward the fact that the power of God is going into his body to effect a cure in him. The oil is symbolic of the presence of the Holy Spirit, coming upon that person to drive out disease.

In his first letter to the Corinthians, Paul lists nine spiritual gifts; among these nine gifts that are enumerated is "*the gifts of healing*" **I Corinthians 12:9**--the original Greek makes both words plural, yielding gifts of healings. Kenneth Hagin defines the gifts of healings in the following way: "It is a supernatural manifestation of healing power through one individual to another." Each of the nine gifts, including the gifts of healings, is given for "*the common good*" **I Corinthians 12:7**. The gifts of healings, then, is another distinct method by which people can obtain healing from the Lord.

"A God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues." **I Corinthians 12:28**.

God has appointed men who are supernaturally gifted in the areas listed. Thus, gifts of healings refers not to a person receiving healing from the Lord even though all healing comes from Him, whether directly or indirectly, but rather it refers to God supernaturally empowering **men** in the body of Christ to bring about cures in people's bodies. Sometimes God anoints men for healing of particular areas of the body e.g. ears, eyes, or backs; that is why this spiritual gift is plural, "gifts of healings." This is not merely generalized power to heal. It is a specific anointing for a specific need at a specific time.

The operations of the gifts of healings as with any of the other spiritual gifts are manifested **as the Spirit wills**, and not as man wills. In other words, men cannot dictate how and when the gifts of healings are going to operate; that is entirely up to God. Very often, the person who receives healing as a result of this gift has operated little faith or no faith at all; God has sovereignly moved in their behalf. This was evident with the widow of Nain's dead son.

Luke 7:11-17 *"Soon afterward, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a large crowd went along with him. 12 As he approached the town gate, a dead person was being carried out--the only son of his mother, and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the town was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, his heart went out to her and he said, "Don't cry." 14 Then he went up and touched the coffin, and those carrying it stood still. He said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" 15 The dead man sat up and began to talk, and Jesus gave him back to his mother. 16 They were all filled with awe and praised God. "A great prophet has appeared among us," they said. "God has come to help his people." 17 This news about Jesus spread throughout Judea and the surrounding country."*

When Jesus raised him from the dead, the mother wasn't exercising any faith, and the dead son certainly was not. Yet the gifts of healings operated through Jesus, and the dead man was raised. This was a special anointing from the Holy Spirit to bring about the resurrection of a dead man.

That the gifts of healings operate only **as the Spirit wills** means that we can't always explain why some do not receive healing in this way. It is important that we understand the

difference between these types of healings, which are initiated sovereignly by God, and those which are initiated by the faith of a believer. God sometimes sovereignly moves to heal, as He did at the pool of Bethesda.

John 5:2-4 *"Now there is in Jerusalem near the Sheep Gate a pool, which in Aramaic is called Bethesda and which is surrounded by five covered colonnades. 3 Here a great number of disabled people used to lie--the blind, the lame, the paralyzed. 4*

But when God is moving in this manner, not all receive their healing in this particular way. This is not to say that others could not be healed by exercising their faith. Often, those who witness the gifts of healings in operation are stirred to exercise their own faith and receive their healing from the Lord.

However, no sick person can dictate to God that the gifts of healings must operate in their behalf. Only the Spirit can dictate how and when this spiritual gift will operate. Thus, it is foolish to wait for God to move sovereignly in one's own behalf, when God has made many other ways of receiving healing available to us. Not everyone will be healed by the sovereign move of God, apart from their own faith. But, all those who exercise faith in God's Word and obey the instructions for receiving healing that He has given there can receive from God, without having to wait upon a sovereign action of God--which may never come.

As we have seen, the Word of God is explicit as to what belongs to us through the redemptive work of Jesus. When attacked by physical symptoms of sickness, we can simply stand on the Word of God and confess the truth of that Word which declares, *"By His wounds you were healed"* **1 Peter 2:24**. Jesus Christ bore all sickness and pain, so that we would not have to suffer with it. The Bible clearly states that healing is part of the redemptive plan of God for our lives. This means that we must have an understanding of our healing being a past-tense reality, rather than a future-tense expectation.

This does not mean that it is wrong or in any way displeasing to God if we receive healing by any of the other methods which we have listed. God Himself is the One who instituted the methods which we have enumerated. But, God desires that His children reach a level of faith and scriptural understanding from which they can resist the devil when he attacks with sickness, and defeat him. Thus, He has given us **His Word** and the **Name of Jesus** to combat the forces of Satan and defeat them.

When Peter met the lame man at the Beautiful gate, he commanded him to be healed in Jesus' Name. He later told the on looking crowd that it was Jesus' Name and faith in that Name which had healed the man.

Acts 3:16 *"By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong. It is Jesus' name and the faith that comes through him that has given this complete healing to him, as you can all see."*

We have been given the Word of God, which informs us of our covenant rights. And we have been given the Name of Jesus which is above every name.

With these two weapons every believer should be able to resist the devil when he attacks with illness. This is the best way to receive healing from the Lord, because once one has stood on the Word for healing and received, it is not as likely that he will have that healing stolen from

him, as so often happens to those who receive by a sovereign move of God. The one who has stood on the Word knows how to deal with the lying symptoms of the enemy.

Whenever one discusses divine healing, the questions often arise: “What about those who fail to receive divine healing? Did God fail them? Did He fail to perform what He said in His Word?” Of course, we know that God cannot fail. He is utterly faithful and true. Thus, when healing does not come, we cannot look to God, as if the fault for this failure lay with Him. Those who do not receive healing cannot say to God, “You have failed to do what Your Word says You will do!”

Since God cannot lie and He cannot fail His Word, then the responsibility for failure to receive healing must lie with us, and not with God. When a person is not healed, many times it's due to some hindrance in that person's life, which is blocking the power of God from flowing into his body. When these hindrances are dealt with and removed, then healing will come. God is always willing to heal, but sometimes actions or attitudes within those seeking healing hinder God from being able to perform His Word in their behalf.

Very often, people fail to receive healing simply because they are of the fact that healing has been provided in our redemption. They don't know that by His wounds we were healed, nor do they know that Jesus Himself bore our infirmities. They aren't even aware that it is God's will for them to be well. In the last lesson, we saw that knowledge of God's necessary before one can appropriate what God has freely given to us. “*Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*” **Romans 10:17**. This is as true of healing as it is of salvation. Faith for healing comes as one hears the Word of God which declares God's will and His provision in the matter.

Thus, as long as a person remains ignorant of the Word's declaration about freedom from sickness, he will be hindered from receiving healing. He will never be sure that it is really God's will to heal, because he hasn't yet heard the “good news” concerning healing. But when a person begins to meditate in God's Word and dispels his ignorance with spiritual understanding, then faith will arise within his heart, and he will be able to receive the healing that he is seeking.

Many Christians, in their ignorance of God's Word and will, have prayed for healing using the phrase, “If it be Thy will!” They believe that God's answer will be evident by how the circumstances work out. And if healing does not come, they place themselves in a category with Job, saying, “*The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away*” **Job 1:21**. The hindrance of ignorance has kept many from receiving healing from the Lord.

Jesus called the generation among which He walked an “*unbelieving and perverted generation*” **Matthew 17:17**. These words Jesus addressed not to His disciples, but to the crowd that had surrounded them after their failure to deliver a demon-possessed boy. **Luke 9:37-43** Jesus was aware of the unbelief prevalent among the whole mass of those people. This same kind of community unbelief hindered Jesus from doing any great miracles in His own home town of Nazareth.

Mark 6:5,6 *“He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them. 6 And he was amazed at their lack of faith. Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village.”*

These scriptures do not indicate that Jesus was unwilling to perform any miracles in Nazareth; His compassion for the people of Nazareth was no less than for the people of any other town. But the Bible says, “*He could do no miracle there*” i.e. He was not able, **Mark 6:5** “*He*

could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.” and affirms that the hindrance was their corporate unbelief. **Matthew 13:58** *"And he did not do many miracles there because of their lack of faith."*

Community unbelief often manifests itself in the form of religious traditions. This is evident in the various erroneous concepts about healing that are prevalent among Christians. The tradition which says that the age of miracles has passed is community unbelief, because it is so widely accepted in the Church. Religious tradition often is ingrained in a person's thinking without that person being consciously aware of it. It is simply a part of the society in which he lives and moves, and thus has become a part of his thinking. But this hindrance can be easily removed by rejecting the traditions of men, and cleaving wholeheartedly to the Word of God.

When the disciples asked Jesus why they were not able to cast the demon out of a boy, Jesus didn't pamper them with soft answers; He simply told them the truth: *"Because of the littleness of your faith"* **Matthew 17:20**. This often isn't the type of answer people like to hear when faced with a failure to receive healing from the Lord. But, very often it is the very reason for that failure. Jesus said that if we would speak to the mountain, it would obey us if we did not doubt in our hearts. The hindering factor that will keep the mountain from obeying us is doubt, or wavering on God's word.

The apostle James said that the one who wavers should not expect to receive anything from the Lord.

James 1:6-8 *"But when he asks, he must believe and not doubt, because he who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That man should not think he will receive anything from the Lord; 8 he is a double-minded man, unstable in all he does."*

Doubt or wavering by which we mean being caught between two opinions will block the power of God from operating in a person's behalf. Individual unbelief and doubt are overcome in the same way as community unbelief: through diligent meditation in God's Word concerning healing. Only as a person begins to take in the truth of God's Word will he dispel the unbelief.

Christians often waver in their conviction concerning the healing power of God because they fear that this time God will not be faithful to His Word. The enemy often uses fear to shake a believer off his conviction of God's faithfulness. When this happens, a person will begin to waver between two opinions: the one--God's Word is true, and God is true to His Word; the other--this time, God is not going to come through. It is a vacillation between faith and fear, hope and despondency.

This type of wavering is often the reason why many don't receive the healing that they are seeking. God is not unwilling to heal, but a person's unbelief hinders His mighty hand, just as the unbelief of Jesus' home town hindered Him from doing any miracles there. **The fear that leads to wavering can be countered by meditating upon God's faithfulness.** God is faithful to His Word and will not fail to perform it if we will retain our confidence in Him and in His Word. The Bible exhorts us not to cast away our fearless confidence.

Hebrews-10:35 *"So do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded."*

If we will remove the hindrance of wavering and hold on to our confidence in God and His Word, the promised results will come.

Sometimes sin and disobedience to God are reasons why people don't receive healing from the Lord. The Bible states explicitly that sin will hinder a person's prayer from being answered. *"If I regard wickedness in my heart, the Lord will not hear"* **Psalm 66:18**. *"The face of the Lord is against evildoers, to cut off the memory of them from the earth"* **Psalm 34:16**. If a person is openly practicing sin, he cannot expect to receive healing. The apostle Paul states that the sin of abusing the Lord's Supper caused the sickness and early death of a number of believers in the Corinthian church.

I Corinthians 11:28-30 *"A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep."*

Their wanton abuse of the communion table resulted in sickness.

The solution to the hindrance of sin is simple: repent! To repent means to turn around and stop doing the thing that you are doing. From time to time Christians need to examine themselves to see if there is anything that they are doing which is contrary to the Word and the Law of God. This doesn't mean that we assume that there is something wrong; but it does mean that we shouldn't assume that there is not anything wrong. The Bible says that we use to examine ourselves; if we do this honestly, God will show us if there is anything that needs correction, so that we can deal with it.

"If My people who are called by My name humble themselves and pray, and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" **II Chronicles 7:14**.

This God spoke to Israel as a people. But, the same principle holds true for every believer individually. If sin is a hindrance to healing, then repentance will turn the situation around, bringing the power of God on the scene with healing.

We live in an imperfect world, where people tread on our toes wrong us, knowingly and unknowingly. Thus, for the believer, forgiveness must become a way of life. However, when a Christian harbors bitterness in his heart against another, this often hinders God from moving in his behalf for healing. This scripture makes it plain that unforgiveness blocks God from moving in any way on our behalf; those who will not forgive are not walking uprightly before God. God has forgiven us such a massive debt, we have no right to withhold forgiveness from anyone, no matter what may have been done to us. One cannot expect God to heal him if he is knowingly bearing a grudge against another i.e. knowingly sinning!.

It should go without saying that anyone who engages in such practices as fornication i.e. sex outside of marriage, adultery, theft, lying, etc. cannot with good conscience stand in faith for healing. Yet many times, blatant sin like this is overlooked by some, while they simultaneously seek healing from the Lord. The Bible says that God's ears are open to the prayer of those who walk uprightly, whose hearts are right towards Him. But a person who blatantly sins, knowing that it is wrong, will not be heard by God.

I Peter 3:12 *"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their prayer, but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."*

Although that healing is not a "reward" for clean living, openly living in sin will be a hindrance to anyone who desires to be healed by the power of God.

God's best for His children is that they live totally free from illness. This is a state of **divine health**. Divine healing is the provision that God has made for those who are experiencing sickness. But His best is that we live completely free from the oppression of sickness, walking by faith and defeat the enemy every time he tries to afflict us with symptoms of disease. This does not mean that we should be condemned if we are attacked by the devil; it is simply a statement of God's perfect will for His people. The adversary may well attack, but a believer with a firm knowledge of the Word and the will of God will resist that onslaught and win.

In order to live in divine health, there are certain things which the believer must do. No one will ever receive anything from the Lord without exercising some degree of diligence. Laziness is not the way to receive from the Lord. There are also certain natural laws which cannot be ignored if one is to remain in health. God will not bless or condone stupidity. But if a believer will obey the Word of God and fulfill the criteria which the Word lays out, then he can expect to be able to live in divine health, successfully thwarting the attempts of the enemy to place sickness-on him.

Faith for healing and health, as faith for anything else, comes from diligent meditation in the Word of God. The Bible says that God is a rewarder of those who "earnestly" seek Him. No one will receive from the Lord with a half-hearted attitude toward God and His Word.

The Bible declares that the Word of God is health to a person's flesh, if he will be diligent with it. *"My son **give attention** to My words; **incline your ear** to My sayings. **Do not let them depart** from your sight; **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.* This is God's "prescription" for divine health. We must give the same kind of diligence to God's "prescription" for healing and health, as we would give to a doctor's prescription for better health. The expressions "give attention," and "incline your ear" indicate wholehearted attention to the Word of God. When this wholehearted attention is given to the Word, then the Word will become health or "medicine" KJV marginal reading to a person's flesh. If God's prescription is taken as directed, then the promised results will be manifested in a believer's life.

While we live in our mortal bodies, we are still subject to the laws of nature which govern it. Divine healing through the Word and the power of God is not a license for presumption. Thus, while one can believe God for healing from the attack of disease, one cannot believe God for health while simultaneously abusing his body. Divine healing goes only so far as the Bible promises. The Word says that we can be healed of all disease.

Psalms 103:3 *"who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases,"*

And live free of its oppression.

Exodus 23:25,26 *"Worship the LORD your God, and his blessing will be on your food and water. I will take away sickness from among you, 26 and none will miscarry or be barren in your land. I will give you a full life span."*

But, nowhere does the Bible promise we can be reckless and irresponsible with our bodies and expect to stay well. Unwisely driving our bodies beyond their point of endurance will result in sickness, because God will not bless or endorse foolishness. Believers have a responsibility to take proper care of their own temples; from this stance they can stand against Satan's attacks of illness. For example, it would be presumption for a Christian to go without sleep for days at a time, while all the time believing God to remain in perfect health. It would be foolish for a Christian to stop eating altogether, and then believe God that he could survive with no food. The Bible does not promise that we will never tire physically, nor does it promise that we can live without food. It simply promises that we can live out our lives in these mortal bodies free from sickness and disease. We are accountable to take proper care of our bodies, for they are the temples of the Holy Spirit.

I Corinthians 6:19 *"Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;"*

When we act sensibly, and not foolishly, then we can expect the blessing of divine health. But if we abuse our bodies, ignoring the laws of nature, then we must repent. Foolishness and presumption will hinder a believer from walking in the divine health that God has for every one of His children.

Divine health that state of being in which one is not always seeking healing, but rather is enjoying health and successfully countering the attacks of the enemy is God's provision for the entire body of Christ. That many in the Church don't experience this does not change the fact that it is God's will. Through His Word, God has revealed to us numerous ways by which we can be freed from sickness and begin to walk in divine health. The prayer of agreement, the prayer of faith in Jesus' Name, laying on of hands and anointing with oil to name a few, were all given by God so that the sick could receive deliverance from illness.

But by far the best way for a believer to be healed is simply to claim his covenant right by faith and confess the Word concerning his healing. This is the path of growth, a path which leads to a place where the attacks of the devil are more and more easily thwarted. A believer who has successfully stood on the Word for his healing is not ignorant of any of Satan's devices and knows how to deal with them better when they arise again. Until the Lord Jesus returns, no believer will ever get to a place where the enemy cannot attack him. But a Christian can grow to a place where Satan's attacks are easier and easier to deal with through Word.