

When Healing Takes Time

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Complete healing is God's will for our lives, but if it takes time to see full deliverance, we can endure in our believing until we see it, thanking and praising God for every small victory along the way. God has made a way of deliverance for us, and His way is legally sound and clearly set, allowing us to be confident in His healing power.

God made a way of deliverance for us through His Son Jesus Christ. He sent His Son to free us from both sin and sickness.

Colossians 1:13 and 14:

Who hath delivered [past tense] us from the power of darkness, and hath translated [past tense] us into the kingdom of [by] his dear Son:

In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins.

Matthew 8:17:

... Himself [Jesus] took our infirmities [unwholeness], and bare our sicknesses.

Jesus Christ gave his life for us, and we have the ultimate privilege of receiving the benefits of his shed blood and his broken body. The blood of Jesus Christ was shed for our sins, and his body was offered for the consequences of sin. Consequences of sin include sickness, disease, and want.

1 Peter 2:24:

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Jesus Christ bore our sins, and he bore our sicknesses. By his stripes we "were [past tense] healed." This verse applies to each of us as if you or I were the only person in the whole world in need of deliverance. That's a personal savior!

In the chapter "The Broken Body and the Shed Blood," in *The Bible Tells Me So*, we read:

At the end of his earthly life when they were beating him and scourging him, Jesus in his physical body was paying the price for the physical wholeness of mankind. When he allowed his

body to be beaten and scourged, Jesus was redeeming us from sickness and disease....

Jesus Christ paid the full legal price for us to be redeemed from sin and the consequences of sin. He bought us back out of the clutches of the adversary.

Ephesians 4:8:

Wherefore he saith, When he [Jesus Christ] ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

Here's a good headline for the news: CAPTIVITY NOW CAPTURED!

God made a way of deliverance for us through His Son Jesus Christ, and this way is legally sound. Christ's complete victory gives us rights from our God and Father on total legal ground! We have a legal right to eternal life. We have a legal right to victory over all sin and the consequences of sin. Plus, we have a legal right to use the authority in the name of Jesus Christ in prayer to get results, including healing. Philippians 2:10 reads, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth." Jesus Christ's purchase of our lives was full and complete, totally legal in all aspects!

It all started with a decision...the greatest one we ever made in our lives...to believe Romans 10:9 and 10.

Romans 10:9 and 10:

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

That commitment of making Jesus lord and savior in our lives and believing that God raised Jesus from the dead gave us new life, complete wholeness in all categories. It's that decision that opened up, initiated, launched us into God's family and all that He has provided for His children. We are sons and daughters of God, made alive spiritually with the new birth, and our physical bodies are made alive as well. We have complete wholeness!

In our pursuit of understanding healing deliverance from the Word, we have seen how God has made a way of deliverance for us through His Son Jesus Christ, and this way is legally

sound. This builds our confidence in His healing power and helps us endure in our believing toward full deliverance. The promises of God's Word also help build our confidence toward complete healing wholeness. So let's consider some of the clear and plain truths that God has given us in His Word about healing.

Look at God's heart in reference to Himself, in the Old Testament. In Exodus 15:26 we see, "...I *am* the Lord that healeth thee." It is God Who heals us, and it is He Who makes a way for our deliverance.

From the storehouse of knowledge our research ministry has gleaned regarding this subject, here is a summary of four healing realities: the spoken Word, holy communion, ministering, and prayer. From one or more of these ways, we receive our healing.

Regarding *the spoken Word*, Psalms 107:20 reads, "He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered *them* from their destructions." God's Word is what we base our lives on, and it is the greatest healing reality in life. From Psalms 103:3 we learn that God forgives and heals. "Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases." Forgiveness and healing are represented by the two parts of *holy communion* (the cup and the bread) noted in I Corinthians 10:16, and our recognition of these truths is key to receiving spiritual and physical wholeness.

In *ministering*, by the manifestation of gifts of healings, the healing process speeds up. When it's workings of miracles also, it's instantaneous. The natural laws of healing have been sped up quite quickly—to full immediate deliverance. But when it's not a miracle, full healing could take a process of time. Even though we may not see the results immediately, God's promise of good health is guaranteed (III John 2). A partnership of believing between the one being ministered to *and* the one ministering continues until the healing process is complete.

The healing reality of *prayer* is a great way to express our hearts of thankfulness to God for all

He has done and for all He will continue to do (Philippians 4:6). It's a joy to pray for ourselves and for others. Understanding these four healing realities that God has set for us to know and act upon increases our believing to receive complete deliverance.

God's heart and will is clearly stated in His Word for His dear children to learn and live. We can consider deeply God's promises until they become our own. They are ours to claim. We have the ability to renew our minds to all that He's given us. Practicing and proving His Word is adventurous, and while on that believing adventure, we can endure to the point of complete deliverance. If it takes time to get the desired results, that doesn't necessarily mean there is a lack of believing. It's a simple, continuous renewing of the mind to believe God's Word.

Hebrews 11:1, in the literal translation according to Biblical usage, reads, "Now believing is the title deed of things prayed for, the evidence they are yours before they are seen." Believing is our title deed for the things we pray for. It is the evidence that what we are praying for is ours before we see it. We have a title deed and clear evidence of what we are praying for, what we need for our physical bodies, before we even see it come to pass. So as healing occurs, take notice of the small victories all along the way; rejoice and be glad that the healing process is happening until full healing is reached.

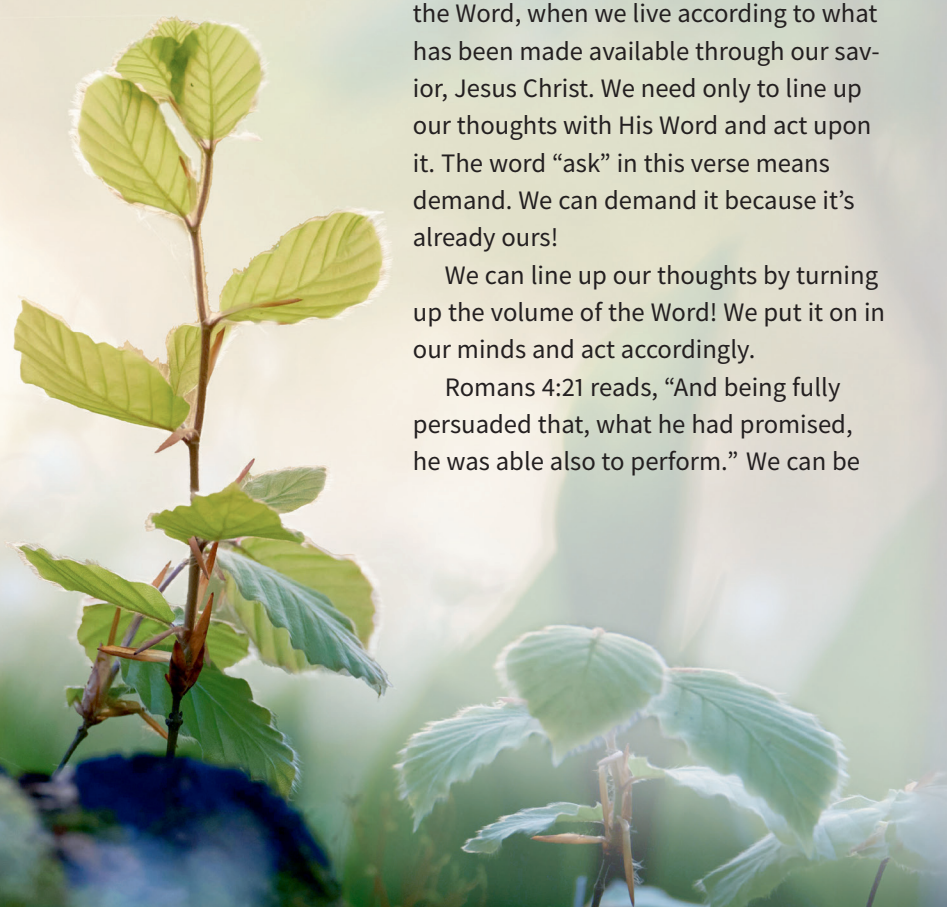
John 14:13:

And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

God is glorified when we live according to the promises of the Word, when we live according to what has been made available through our savior, Jesus Christ. We need only to line up our thoughts with His Word and act upon it. The word "ask" in this verse means demand. We can demand it because it's already ours!

We can line up our thoughts by turning up the volume of the Word! We put it on in our minds and act accordingly.

Romans 4:21 reads, "And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform." We can be



fully persuaded about God's promises. There is absolutely no question about God's ability or His performance!

I Corinthians 13:7 tells us that the love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation "Beareth all things..." When life throws an unexpected situation our way, we can bear up underneath it while manifesting that perfect love. The love of God in the renewed mind in manifestation also "...endureth all things." Living and walking in this love, we can endure, bravely bear up, hold out, keep our ground, and stand firmly on the promises in His Word.

I Corinthians 6:19 and 20:

... know ye not that...ye are not your own?

For ye are bought with a price....

We now belong to God; we are not our own. The full price has been paid for us to freely walk in the liberty we have in Christ (Romans 8:2). So let go of anything holding you back and put on God's Word. Let the Word go to work in your life, and let God take care of His own! Let go, and let God.

Proverbs 3:1,2,7,8:

My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments [Let go!]:

For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee [Let God!!].

Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear [respect] the Lord, and depart from evil [Let go!].

It shall be health [healing] to thy navel [whole body], and marrow to thy bones [Let God!!].

Psalms 37:4 and 5:

Delight thyself also in the Lord [Let go!]; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart [Let God!!].

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him [Let go!]; and he shall bring it to pass [Let God!!].

We can learn to let go of the desire to control circumstances, which we sometimes have, replacing it with a more Biblically accurate desire to control our minds and let God bring His Word to pass. We can let go and let God!

God knows us; He knows our

believing at times may need bolstering. That's why He gave us examples in His Word of those who endured to deliverance. There are numerous records that demonstrate how healing may take time until full deliverance comes. We will look at three records.

In II Kings 4 there is an account of a generous woman in Shunem who had a room added to her home to care for Elisha when he traveled through. He desired to bless her for her care. Finding out that she had no children, he prophetically told her "according to the time of life, thou shalt embrace a son" (verse 16). The Shunammite woman and her husband did have a son, and the child grew to the age he could help his father in the fields.

II Kings 4:18-20:

And when the child was grown, it fell on a day, that he went out to his father to the reapers.

And he said unto his father, My head, my head. And he said to a lad, Carry him to his mother.

And when he had taken him, and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.

Her son had sunstroke and died. She laid him on Elisha's bed. Then she quickly arranged travel to see Elisha and get his help. The record recounts her focused believing.

II Kings 4:25-27:

So she went and came unto the man of God to mount Carmel. And it came to pass, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to Gehazi his servant, Behold, yonder is that Shunammite:

Run now, I pray thee, to meet her, and say unto her, Is it well with thee? is it well with thy husband? is it well with the child? And she answered, It is well.

And when she came to the man of God to the hill, she caught him by the feet: but Gehazi came near to thrust her away.

And the man of God said, Let her alone; for her soul is vexed within her: and the Lord hath hid it from me, and hath not told me.

She would not leave Elisha until he returned with her, so they traveled back to the Shunammite woman's home—to the



room built for Elisha on whose bed she had laid her son.

II Kings 4:33 and 34:

He [Elisha] went in therefore, and shut the door upon them twain, and prayed unto the Lord.

And he went up, and lay upon the child, and put his mouth upon his mouth, and his eyes upon his eyes, and his hands upon his hands: and he stretched himself upon the child; and the flesh of the child waxed warm.

Elisha did not immediately see full deliverance for the child.

So he kept believing to finish the job.

II Kings 4:35-37:

Then he returned, and walked in the house to and fro; and went up, and stretched himself upon him: and the child sneezed seven times, and the child opened his eyes.

And he called Gehazi, and said, Call this Shunammite. So he called her. And when she was come in unto him, he said, Take up thy son.

Then she went in, and fell at his feet, and bowed herself to the ground, and took up her son, and went out.

What a tremendous record illustrating the partnership of believing with ministering as the Shunammite woman and Elisha endured together to receive the victory.

There is another account, in Mark 8, that will encourage us and build our believing to endure. Here Jesus Christ healed a blind man.

Mark 8:22-24:

And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they bring a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him.

And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought.

And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking.

The man began to see, yet Jesus needed to continue ministering until the man's sight was fully restored.

Mark 8:25:

After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

This man's believing culminated in his being restored, or put back into his former state. In this incident, he went from being blind to partially seeing to seeing clearly, or distinctly. This man must have stayed thankful for Jesus' help. Thankfulness is a

"healthy" attitude to have to receive full deliverance.

Another man who endured in his believing is recorded in Acts 3. Peter and John had the privilege to believe with him to victory. A man, lame from birth, had been laid daily at the Temple gate, asking alms of those who entered. For this man to ask alms may not have meant he was poor at all. More than likely it meant that he had been told that his only hope for a cure was from God. So this believing man sought a holy man who could heal him. He found two—Peter and John.

Acts 3:4-8:

And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us.

And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them.

Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.

And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.

Peter took him by the right hand, the hand of blessing, to lift him up to receive healing. He had been lame, unable to walk for over forty years (Acts 4:22). He had been anticipating deliverance for a long time. No wonder he not only walked but leaped and praised God! Can you hear him with great excitement exclaiming, "Yes! Praise the Lord!" James 5:11 says, "...we count them happy [congratulate them] which endure...."

Like these people in Biblical times, we can believe to manifest God's power today. God recorded their victories for us. Let's put our names where these believers' names are and see our believing wield victory over our opponent, just like theirs did. We can believe for total healing, covering every angle the adversary hits with health challenges. We have a personal God Who has authored a personal Word for us to believe so that we achieve each desired result and see total deliverance. He is our loving, tender heavenly Father.

All these great sections of the Word show that what God has promised, He is able to perform. We can open His Word, walk right in with our renewed mind believing—no matter how long it takes—and have what He says we can have. Our God is able!

We endure, we stay with it, we keep our minds clear on Jesus Christ's legal achievements for us and on the promises of God's Word. We continue to believe until our healing is clearly evidenced, because we have every right to it.

Ephesians 6:18 [Expanded translation according to Biblical usage]:

In your personal devotions, believe and pray in tongues continually for specific objects of necessity. And by praying in the spirit, be on the watch, be alert, continually and unceasingly, for the specific objects of necessity for yourself until you get it. Do this on and in behalf of all the saints also.

What are we waiting for? Time, in this respect, is on our side, not against us, because we can fill every moment with clear and effectual believing, *knowing* that deliverance is on the way. Matthew 6:34 can be rendered, "Have, then, no anxiety for any future day."

When healing is needed and it is taking time to see the complete deliverance come to pass, we seek God's heart to see what He *can* and *will* do for us. We continue to build our understanding of God's Word to the point we can completely and consistently answer Yes! to His promises of deliverance. Complete healing is God's will for our lives. He made a way of deliverance for us through His Son Jesus Christ, and His way is legally sound and clearly set. We *can* endure in our believing, confident we *will* receive the deliverance we need! 📌

Rev. Marcia Greene is a graduate of the Fifth Way Corps. This article was originally published in the January/February 2011 issue of The Way Magazine.

