

INTRODUCTION

Some believe that all God can do in the threat of sickness is to wring His hands and allow it to play out. Others believe that if God does not act and heal immediately, it must be a result of a lack of faith. What does the Scripture say about God our Healer?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Read Matthew 14:14 and Mathew 20:29-34. Why did Jesus heal those who came to Him?

2. Look up the following verses and list the types of healing God provides:

Psalm 41:3 _____

Psalm 147:3 _____

Hosea 14:4 _____

Matthew 4:24 _____

Matthew 12:22 _____

1 Peter 2:24 _____

3. Most of us easily understand that God heals us emotionally. Why do we struggle to believe that He heals us physically?

4. Read Psalm 103:1-5, focusing on verse 3. Since people die, many from diseases, how do you interpret this verse?

5. John Piper (theologian), answered the previous question in three ways: 1) There is coming a time in Heaven when this verse will be fulfilled; 2) in this world God DOES heal, and ALL healing comes from God; and 3) even in our disease and calamities, we are not defeated (see Romans 8:31-39 and 2 Corinthians 12:7b-10). Discuss with your group your response to Piper's answer.

6. Sometimes God does not heal in the physical sense this side of heaven. How can we respond to those who do not receive the physical healing for which they pray?

Study Questions for Community Groups

7. How does our fear of failing – praying for healing that doesn't happen – affect the way we move out in faith?

8. Read Isaiah 55:8-9, Psalm 115:3 and Job 42:2. What attribute of God is described in these verses? (We will be studying this attribute next Sunday.) How does this attribute influence how we pray for physical healing?

APPLICATION

Ask God to show you what areas in your life need to be healed. Are you struggling with an illness, addiction, selfish behavior, grief, bitterness, loneliness, or a sin that is coming between you and God? Invite the Holy Spirit to heal and restore you. Ask others to pray with you about it.

SCRIPTURE

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; Who pardons all your iniquities, Who heals all your diseases; Who redeems your life from the pit, Who crowns you with lovingkindness and compassion; Who satisfies your years with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle.

Psalm 103:1-5 (NASB)