

Kenneth E Hagin on

*Healing*



Kenneth E. Hagin

# Possessing the Promise of Healing

Divine healing is an accomplished fact. It is a gift, like salvation, already paid for at Calvary. Have you accepted God's gift of healing? Are you experiencing it in your life in full? If not, it's time for you to possess the promise of healing and enjoy complete health in every area!

"I have prayed and prayed. I have been in healing meetings all over the country and have been prayed for many times, but still I am not healed. Can you help me?"

This plaintive appeal has been heard many times by ministers. They pray for sick persons, but often the sick leave as they came—not healed.

Why is it that some are healed instantly while others trudge from place to place seeking healing, only to be disappointed time after time?

Why is it that some who are pillars in the church often suffer for years while others who are less devout receive a sudden miracle from God?

Is God a respecter of persons (Acts 4:34)? Or have we failed in our approach to healing, lacking a complete understanding of what God's Word teaches on the subject?

Much emphasis has been placed on the practice of anointing with oil, laying on of hands, and praying for the sick. But there is more to healing than anointing with oil, just as there is more to salvation than prayer.

The anointing oil, the minister's prayer, and the laying on of hands are simply methods, or points of contact. In themselves, they do not heal. They are avenues through which we can release our faith in God's Word.

Much emphasis also has been placed on the gifts of healings (1 Cor. 12:28), which are among the gifts of the Spirit mentioned in First Corinthians 12:8–10: "For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To

another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.”

There will be manifestations of these supernatural gifts when people preach them, teach them, believe in them, and yield to the Spirit of God; but these gifts are not always in operation.

Often new Christians are healed by such special manifestations. Then the next time they are sick, instead of believing God’s Word, they expect to be healed in this same way, and they are disappointed when they are not.

I have found in my ministry that supernatural manifestations of healing usually are seen either among sinners or among denominational people who have not heard divine healing taught. I have seldom, if ever, seen them work for Full Gospel people.

Why? Because gifts of healings and supernatural manifestations are given primarily to advertise the Gospel and to gain the attention of those outside the Church. The believer should be healed by releasing his faith in the Word of God.

We must distinguish between healings obtained through supernatural gifts or manifestations and those obtained by exercising faith in God’s Word alone.

It also must be understood that an individual does not operate these supernatural gifts; they are manifested through him. I can’t make them operate any time I want to; I can only stay open for the manifestation of the Spirit of God as He wills (1 Cor. 12:11).

We should stay open for the manifestations of the Spirit of God, but we do not have to wait for one in order to be healed. That’s good news, friend. God wants us to be healed, and He has made provision for us to receive and possess healing.

The gifts of healings have been manifested many times in my ministry, but I cannot make them work at will. I can’t push a button or pull a lever, so to speak, and make the gifts start working. They operate as the Spirit wills. Yet we are instructed not to wait for Him, since He has already done something about our healing at the cross.

Healing belongs to us. It isn't simply a matter of prayer. It isn't simply a matter of some spiritual gift in operation. Healing belongs to us because it has been provided for us by the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I tell people they don't have to pray to be healed, they look at me in amazement. Many have failed to receive healing because they have based their faith on prayer instead of on God's Word. They expected prayer to do for them what God's Word will do for them. Prayer is successful only when it is based on the promises in God's Word.

When people come to the altar for prayer, find out what their need is. If a man comes to be saved, you could pray for him for six weeks, but until he acts on what God said in His Word, he will get up and go home unsaved.

Turn to God's Word. Show him what the Bible says. Get him to believe it and to act upon it. As far as God is concerned, the man is already saved. From God's standpoint, salvation is already bought and paid for. So it is not a matter of God's saving him; it is a matter of his accepting the salvation God offers!

Similarly, it is not a matter of God's baptizing someone with the Holy Spirit; it is a matter of the person accepting the gift of the Holy Spirit that God offers. Likewise, it is not a matter of God's healing an individual; it is a matter of the person accepting the gift of healing God has already provided.

Some say, "Well, I believe God is going to heal me sometime. I believe that in God's own good time and in His own way, He will do it." That kind of thinking is out of line with the Word of God. First Peter 2:24 says, ". . . by whose stripes ye were healed."

Notice it says, "were," not "going to be." If I believe what the Bible says, then I believe that we were healed. Peter is looking back to Calvary. I was healed then. I accept that healing now.

God laid on Jesus our sickness and diseases; Jesus bore them. He was "stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted" with our diseases (Isa. 53:4). Therefore, Satan has no right to put on us what God put on Jesus.

Someone may say, “It may be the will of God for me to be sick. God may get more glory out of my being sick than if I were well.”

What right, then, would God have to put your sickness on Jesus if He wanted you to keep bearing it? There is no need for both of you to bear it. Because Jesus bore it, you are free!

All of God’s blessings and provisions are conditional. He gave us His Word to let us know what conditions must be met in order for us to receive these blessings. They won’t just fall on us automatically like ripe cherries fall off a tree. There is a God-ward side and a man-ward side to every battle and to every blessing. God has His part to play, but man also has his part to play. Man’s part is to obey God and to receive what He has provided.

Paul said that what happened to Israel happened as an example for us (1 Cor. 10:11). When God led the children of Israel out of Egypt (which is a type of the world), He didn’t abandon them in the wilderness; He had a further blessing for them. He had another land for them: Canaan’s land.

Canaan is a type of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and our rights and privileges in Christ, which include healing. God promised the children of Israel repeatedly that He was going to give them that land. When they finally crossed over the Jordan River into Canaan, God said, “Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses” (Joshua 1:3). God had said He would give them the land, but the people had to possess it.

That’s how it is with our rights and privileges in Christ. Healing belongs to us. God has provided it for us. But we have to possess it. Unless we possess the provision, we will not enjoy its benefits.

Many people are waiting for God to do something about their sickness. They say, “If God ever heals me, then I’m going to believe it.”

I have talked to sinners who had the same idea about salvation: They wanted to leave it all up to God. One man said, “If God wants to save me, He will. I’m just waiting on God.” I couldn’t talk him out of the notion, and, sadly, he died without God.

God's Word says that it is God's will to save people. He invites them to come: ". . . And whosoever will, let them take the water of life freely" (Rev. 22:17). The responsibility for receiving is on man's side.

The believer sometimes makes the same mistake when it comes to other things God's Word promises. He thinks erroneously, "If God wants me to have this, He will give it to me. If I don't get it, He doesn't want me to have it." We need to get into the Word of God and find out what belongs to us. If something is promised to us, or if it is provided for us in His Word, it is His will. All we have to do then is to possess it!

We need to settle this in our minds, because as long as we waver, we will not receive anything. James 1:6 and 7 says, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering, For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord." Often we don't receive because we waver.

Healing is a gift, like salvation, already paid for at Calvary. All we need to do is accept it. All we need to do is possess the promise that is ours. As children of God, we must realize that healing belongs to us!

# The Double Cure

Our redemption in Christ is twofold. Jesus not only died for our sins on the Cross of Calvary, His blood was also shed so you and I might live free from sickness and disease.

Isaiah chapter 53 holds the key to both our spiritual and physical redemption.

## **ISAIAH 53:4-5**

**4 Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.**

**5 But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.**

In the Hebrew language, the fourth verse reads, “Surely he hath borne our sicknesses, and carried our pains . . . .” In verse 10 of Isaiah 53, the King James Version reads, “Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; he hath put him to GRIEF . . . .” The word grief comes from the Hebrew word for “sick.” In the Hebrew, this verse literally says, “He has made Him sick.”

Christians don’t have a problem believing Isaiah 53:6, “. . . the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” But many can’t believe the rest of the redemptive plan, which we saw in verse 4: “. . . he hath borne our sicknesses, and carried our pains . . . .”

The purpose of Jesus bearing our sins was so we might be free from spiritual death and eternal separation from God. The purpose of His bearing sickness and disease was so we might be free from infirmities. If you believe that God laid your iniquities on Jesus for your salvation,

then you should also be able to believe that God laid sickness and disease on Him so you could be healed.

Satan is the author of sickness, not God, but he lies to people and makes them think that has God put sickness on them. Or he tries to make them think that God is using sickness to teach them something. I'd just as soon hear a donkey bray at midnight in a tin barn than to hear people talk this way! God does not need the devil to teach you anything!

This type of thinking makes me angry. You see, thinking like this almost cost me my life. When I was on the bed of sickness as a 15 and a 16-year-old Baptist boy, this is what people told me. I didn't learn anything. Instead, I became bitter and almost turned against God.

Later, after I was healed and went into the ministry, I learned that if I spent time teaching people about the "double cure"—that Jesus not only died for the remission of our sins but also for the healing of our bodies—I could change their wrong thinking. And when people saw that it was God's will for them to be healed, it was easy for them to receive what was rightfully theirs.

Let's discuss why people sometimes lose their healing after they've received it. I've had people say to me that they felt perfectly well for a period of time after I laid hands on them. Then, all the symptoms came back, and they were worse than they before.

This is a simple problem to address. The reason people lose their healing is because they were healed through another's faith. Sometimes folks receive healing through a special manifestation of the Holy Spirit, such as through a word of knowledge or the gifts of healing, for example. But when they get back home, they're on their own; they're operating on their own faith.

When I began to question certain people who lost their healing, I found out that as soon as the symptoms started coming back on them, they said, "Well, I thought I was healed, but I guess I'm not anymore."

Because they didn't know how to resist the devil, they took all of their symptoms back. At the first sign of a symptom, they wavered in faith and believed the symptom over the truth of God's Word. Then

they probably said something, such as, “Well, I thought I was healed, but I guess I wasn’t.”

You see, you have to stand your ground against the devil. At the first sign that a symptom is trying to come back on you, tell the devil, “No, you’re not putting that back on me. I’m healed.” Then quote First Peter 2:24, Matthew 8:17, and Isaiah 53:4–5. Remind the devil of what the Word says.

Unfortunately, instead of rising up and meeting the devil with the Word of God and commanding his power to be broken, many people yield to him. Why? Because they don’t have a foundation of God’s Word in their lives.

They’re depending on others to carry them with their faith and prayers, and that will only work temporarily. To receive permanently, you must use your own faith.

When you know the power and authority of the Name of Jesus and that you have a biblical right to that Name, the devil won’t have any power over you. Then when symptoms try to come back on you, you won’t be filled with fear. You’ll just simply laugh at the devil and say, “Satan, Jesus whipped you more than two thousand years ago. Now leave my body!” And he’ll have to leave.

You can’t maintain your healing if it has come as a result of another person’s faith or through the gifts of the Spirit, unless your faith is developed in the Word of God. But beating the devil is as simple as standing your ground and resisting him. He doesn’t have any choice but to flee (James 4:7)!

## **Build Strong Faith Through the Word**

Faith begins where the will of God is known. Rest assured that God wants you well. Healing promises are found throughout the Old and New Testaments. Following are a few scriptures to build your faith where healing is concerned.

Exodus 15:26 (KJV) “. . . I am the Lord that healeth thee.”

**Psalm 91:10** (NIV) “. . . no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent . . . .”

Deuteronomy 33:25 (NIV) “. . . your strength will equal your days.”

**Psalm 73:26** (KJV) “. . . God is the strength of my heart . . . .”

**Psalm 146:8** (Amplified) “The Lord opens the eyes of the blind; the Lord lifts up those who are bowed down . . . .”

Galatians 3:13 (KJV) “Christ hath redeemed me from the curse of the law . . . .”

Malachi 4:2 (NIV) “But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its wings . . . .”

Romans 8:11 (KJV) “. . . the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead . . . shall also quicken your mortal bodies . . . .”

**Luke 10:19** (KJV) “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

# It's Our Move

The Book of Luke records the story of a paralytic man whose four friends tried to bring him before Jesus. However, when they reached the home where Jesus was, the place was so crowded that they couldn't get in. So they carried their friend to the top of the house, broke through the roof, and lowered him in front of Jesus (see Luke 5:17-26).

Now this paralytic man was not, as is commonly supposed, healed through the faith of the men who brought him to Jesus. No, he was healed through his own faith. His healing was the result of his own exercise of bold, obedient faith.

The paralytic man was not healed the moment Jesus said, "Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house" (Luke 5:24). It wasn't until the man made an effort to rise up off his mat that the power of God was released. The faith of the paralytic man's friends brought him to the feet of Jesus, but it was his own faith that took him off his bed of affliction.

At times I have been led by the Spirit of God to tell people to arise and walk. And as some of them attempted to rise, we had to hold them up. I had to encourage them to keep their eyes on Jesus. "Don't walk in your strength," I would tell them. "Walk in His strength." It takes faith to do that.

One time in 1943 my wife and I went to the home of a woman who was on her deathbed. Her husband had taken her by ambulance to three different clinics in three different cities. The doctors in all of the clinics said the same thing: "Nothing more can be done for her."

This woman was so weak that you had to put your ear just above her mouth to hear what she was saying. It took all of her strength to speak in a barely audible whisper.

When my wife, Oretha, and I went to pray for her, I knelt by the head of her bed and Oretha knelt beside me. As I laid my hands on her and began to pray, the Word of the Lord came unto me, saying, "Take your hands off of her. Stand up and say to her, 'The Lord told me to tell you you're healed. Arise and walk.'"

After I stood up and told the woman what the Lord had said, she had only enough strength to kick one foot out from under the covers. Two of her neighbors were also in the room. I stepped outside while one of the ladies went to the closet and got her robe and slippers, and my wife and the neighbor ladies helped her put them on. Then they lifted her out of bed and called me back into the room.

This dear woman had wasted away to almost nothing. As the neighbor ladies held her up, her knees sagged almost to the floor.

Well, what do you do at such times? It looked as though nothing had worked. I said, "Let's all lift our hands and praise God, because she is healed." The neighbor ladies lifted up her hands while holding up their own hands to praise God. A time or two the woman began slipping out of their grip and almost slid to the floor. My wife tried to help them as they pulled her back up.

We all praised God for a few moments, and then they quit and looked at me with pitiful expressions, as if to say, "What next?" I said, "The Lord said she is healed. Lift up her hands and praise God, because she is."

My wife tried holding her up by putting her hands around her tiny waist, and the two ladies pulled her up by her arms. And we all started praising God again. As we did, His power came upon this dying

woman. She jerked loose from my wife and the neighbor ladies, kicked off her slippers, and started dancing barefoot before the Lord! The next Sunday, she was in church testifying about being raised up from her deathbed.

But you see, we made the first move. This woman used what strength she had to act on God's Word. And we praised God by faith for her healing when it hadn't yet appeared.

We have to cooperate with God by believing in Him and doing what we can to act on His Word if we want to get His blessing.

It may seem as if it is impossible, but if we will make the effort, His power will meet us and take over from there. Just as the paralytic man in Luke chapter 5 and the bedfast woman given up by her doctors to die arose from their impossible situations, we, too, can "arise and walk" in the mighty Name of Jesus.

*(Note: This article was adapted from a message Brother Hagin taught in Rhema's Prayer & Healing School on July 1, 1980.)*