

“I am the Lord, who heals you.”

Exodus 15:26

“Our dear friend Luke, the
doctor,...sends greetings.”

Colossians 4:14

“Isaiah said..., ‘Make an ointment
from figs and spread it over the
boil, and Hezekiah will recover.’ ”

Isaiah 38:21
New Living Translation

Since 1967, James and Delores Fields have served in Christian ministry both in the USA and several other countries. In 1997, they established *Comfort and Encouragement Ministries* for preparing “...God’s people for works of service so that the Body of Christ may be built up”.

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Miracles and Medicine

— by James Fields —

Miracles and Medicine

I. Miracles or medicine.

- A. Many genuine Christians believe that God only heals physical illness with divine miracles.
 1. Boldly testify of personal healing.
 2. Are quite impatient with Christians who dare suggest that God might sometimes heal through doctors.
 3. Condemn Christians whose beliefs don't match their own.
- B. Another group of Christians feels confused. These aren't sure what to believe.
 1. Feel guilty when not healed miraculously.
 2. Reluctantly administer medication after disease or injury becomes unbearable.
 3. Feel like second- or third-rate Christians whose faith must be very weak.

II. Another alternative.

- A. Our question, "Does God heal with miracles or medicine?" overlooks a third alternative.
- B. God uses both miracles and medicine!
 1. Our Sovereign God sometimes chooses to heal with miracles.
 2. This same God sometimes chooses to heal with medicine.
 3. There is no contradiction between miracles and medicine.
- C. All healing comes from God!

III. Does all physical illness result from demonic activity?

- A. If all physical illness results from demonic activity, then all healing can be accomplished by ejecting a devil.
- B. However, notice that neither Jesus nor early Christians always healed by exorcism, Matthew 9:27-30; Mark 1:40-42; John 9:1-7; Acts 3:1-8; Acts 5:15; Acts 14:8-10.
- C. On other occasions, ejection of devils brought physical healing, Matthew 9:33; Mark 9:17, 18, 25-27; Luke 13:10-13; Acts 5:16.

- D. The scriptural approach to demons and physical illness.
 1. Some illness is related to demons, but not all.
 2. Exorcism is not a cure-all for physical illness.
 3. Neither should we say that demons never create physical illness.
 4. Any illness caused by disease or infection may sometimes be cured by miracles and other times by medicine, but never by exorcism.

IV. The other side of the coin.

- A. The Bible records many stories of miraculous healings. Therefore, many Christians assume that God only heals through miracles.
- B. However, each coin has two sides. Also, the Bible teaching on healing has two sides.
- C. Scriptures which help us see that God uses medicine as well as miracles.
 1. Isaiah's prescription, Isaiah 38:1,5,21. The dictionary defines "poltice" as "a soft, usually heated and sometimes medicated, mass spread on cloth and applied to sores or other lesions".
 2. God uses a medical doctor to write the books of Luke and Acts, Colossians 4:14.
 3. Paul's prescription, 1 Timothy 5:23.
- D. God sometimes chooses not to heal at all, 2 Kings 13:14; Galatians 4:13,14; 2 Timothy 4:20.
- E. God attaches a physical handicap to Jacob, Genesis 23:25,31-32.

V. Is Scripture against the use of medicine or physicians?

- A. There is no statement in Scripture which forbids the use of medicine or physicians!
 1. Some believe that Mark 5:26 discourages the use of physicians.
 2. However, this verse simply states that physicians were unable to help this lady.
- B. All healing comes from God.
 1. All understanding of how our physical-material world operates comes from God.
 - a. In Isaiah, chapter 28, God declared that our knowledge of proper farming techniques originates in Him, Isaiah 28:23-29.

- b. Especially note God's statements in verses 26 and 29.
- 2. Mankind's understanding of disease and its treatment came from God whether or not mankind acknowledges God as source. For example, Jesus proclaimed that God indiscriminately pours out material blessings upon sinner and saint, Matthew 5:45.
- 3. The idea that healing only comes from God through miracles is incorrect. God uses two methods for ministering His healing: sometimes miracles, sometimes medicine.
- 4. We need not feel there is a contradiction between miracles and medicine. A famous physician's motto was, "I treat -- God heals."

VI. When using medicine or physicians is wrong.

- A. King Asa's rebellion, 2 Chronicles 16:12.
 1. Although King Asa served the Lord during his early life, he later rebelled against the Lord.
 2. Using physicians instead of depending upon a miracle from God was an act of rebellion against the Lord.
- B. Use of medical science is only wrong when we knowingly rebel against belief in and dependence upon miracles.

VII. When expecting a miracle from God is wrong.

- A. Anger against God because He chose not to heal you through divine miracle is wrong.
 1. Demanding a miracle from God when medical science can easily correct injury or remove disease is rebellion.
 2. In fact, anger against God because He chooses to not miraculously heal creates disease in our spirit.
- B. God is sovereign, that is, free to act the way He wishes.

VIII. Conclusions about "miracles and medicine".

- A. God definitely heals through miracles.
- B. God definitely heals through medicine.
- C. Faith in God permits Him to heal through either miracles or medicine.
- D. All healing comes from God whether that healing reaches us through miracles or medicine.