

God Heals – One Healer, Many Ways

Dr. John Carmichael

[Jas 5:14-16 NASB95] 14 Is anyone among you sick? [Then] he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; **15** and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. **16** Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.

[2Ki 18:4 NASB95] 4 He removed the high places and broke down the [sacred] pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan.

[1Sa 6:4 NASB95] 4 Then they said, "What shall be the guilt offering which we shall return to Him?" And they said, "Five golden tumors and five golden mice [according to] the number of the lords of the Philistines, for one plague was on all of you and on your lords.

[Mar 5:25-34 NASB95] 25 A woman who had had a hemorrhage for twelve years, **26** and had endured much at the hands of many physicians, and had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but rather had grown worse **27** after hearing about Jesus, she came up in the crowd behind [Him] and touched His cloak. **28** For she thought, "If I just touch His garments, I will get well." **29** Immediately the flow of her blood was dried up; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction. **30** Immediately Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the power [proceeding] from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?" **31** And His disciples said to Him, "You see the crowd pressing in on You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?'" **32** And He looked around to see the woman who had done this. **33** But the woman fearing and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. **34** And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction."

- Healing is a river with many streams
- From Genesis to Revelation, healing flows like a river. Sometimes through a word, a touch, a prayer, or even a doctor's hands.
- Yet through history, people have been tempted either to idolize the instrument or ignore the variety of God's ways.
- Healing has always been central to God's redemptive plan, but He alone remains the Source.
- "Hezekiah broke in pieces the bronze serpent ... for the people burned incense to it and called it Nehushtan" (2 Kgs 18:4).
- We must never worship a method of healing; we worship the Maker of healing.
- The same God who sent healing to the Philistines when they repented and gave an offering of gold (1 Sam 6:4) is the God who heals today.

What should the NT believer know about the many ways God heals?

Here are five considerations that we need know about the many ways God heals.

I. God Heals in Many Ways Because He Is a Multifaceted Healer

- a. **[Exo 15:26 NASB95] 26** And He said, "If you will give earnest heed to the voice of the LORD your God, and do what is right in His sight, and give ear to His commandments,

God Heals – One Healer, Many Ways

Dr. John Carmichael

and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the LORD, am your healer."

- b. [2Ki 20:7 NASB95] 7 Then Isaiah said, "Take a cake of figs." And they took and laid [it] on the boil, and he recovered.
- c. [Mar 1:41 NASB95] 41 Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed."
- d. Sometimes He speaks a word: "Be healed."
- e. Sometimes He manifests through the gifts of healing(s). 1 Cor. 14:9,28
- f. Sometimes He uses a touch: laying on of hands.
- g. Sometimes a substance: oil or medicine.
- h. Sometimes obedience: "Wash in the Jordan."
- i. Sometimes an offering: the Philistines' gold tumors and mice (1 Sam 6:4).
- j. The Healer may use any instrument, but He always points us back to Himself.

II. Faith Activates the Power, Not the Method

- a. [Mar 5:34 NASB95] 34 And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace and be healed of your affliction."
- b. [Luk 17:14 NASB95] 14 When He saw them, He said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they were going, they were cleansed.
- c. [Jas 5:15 NASB95] 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.
- d. The woman touched His garment - faith made the connection.
- e. The centurion believed the word - faith made the distance disappear.
- f. Naaman obeyed instruction - faith made the water work.
- g. Faith speaks, acts, and expects.
- h. Speak your faith, take action, and expect results.
- i. The miracle is not in the mud or the method. It's in the faith that meets the Master.

III. Healing Flows Through the Body of Christ

- a. [Jas 5:14-16 NASB95] 14 Is anyone among you sick? [Then] he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; 15 and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him. 16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another so that you may be healed. The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.
- b. [Act 5:15-16 NASB95] 15 to such an extent that they even carried the sick out into the streets and laid them on cots and pallets, so that when Peter came by at least his shadow might fall on any one of them. 16 Also the people from the cities in the vicinity of Jerusalem were coming together, bringing people who were sick or afflicted with unclean spirits, and they were all being healed.
- c. Healing is a body ministry, not a solo gift.
- d. The Church prays, anoints with oil, and creates an atmosphere of faith.
- e. Through history, healing has flowed in diverse models (Healing through the Centuries: Models for Understanding, Dr. Ronald Kydd):

Historical Model	Core Idea	Strength	Caution
Confrontational	Victory over demons & disease	Theologically bold	Avoid obsession with demons
Intercessory	Saints or holy persons pray for healing	Honors prayer	Risks misplaced veneration

God Heals – One Healer, Many Ways
Dr. John Carmichael

Historical Model	Core Idea	Strength	Caution
Reliquarial	Healing through relics & objects	Reminds of holiness	Can slide into idolatry → <i>Nehushtan</i> (2 Kgs 18 : 4)
Incubational	Healing through persevering prayer	Encourages faithfulness	Must avoid works-based view
Revelational	Healing through word of knowledge or discernment	Validates gifts of Spirit	Guard against personality cult
Soteriological	Healing in the atonement of Christ	Strong biblical foundation	Must accept mystery of “now and not yet”

- f. The Church can honor all valid expressions while guarding the focus — Christ alone is the Healer.

IV. God Bridges the Natural and the Supernatural

- a. [2Ki 20:7 NASB95] 7 Then Isaiah said, "Take a cake of figs." And they took and laid [it] on the boil, and he recovered.
- b. [1Ti 5:23 NASB95] 23 No longer drink water [exclusively,] but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.
- c. [Act 19:11-12 NASB95] 11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.
- d. Hezekiah’s fig poultice: medicine blessed by miracle.
- e. Paul’s handkerchiefs: prophetic points of contact.
- f. Both serve the same God.
- g. God is Lord of both doctors and deliverance.
- h. Healing is not anti-science; it’s pro-Jesus.

V. Guard Against Worshipping the Method

- a. [2Ki 18:4 NASB95] 4 He removed the high places and broke down the [sacred] pillars and cut down the Asherah. He also broke in pieces the bronze serpent that Moses had made, for until those days the sons of Israel burned incense to it; and it was called Nehushtan.
- b. [Act 19:11 NASB95] 11 God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul,
- c. The bronze serpent once brought healing (Numbers 21:9) but later became an idol.
- d. Hezekiah called it Nehushtan - “a piece of bronze.”
- e. Likewise, objects of faith must never replace the Object of our faith. God performed the miracles, not Paul.
- f. Anointing oil, communion cups, prayer cloths - they are means, not masters.
- g. If we honor the symbol more than the Savior, we lose the source of healing.

- **God heals in many ways to reveal His heart, awaken our faith, and keep our eyes on the Healer and not the method.**
- **Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb 13:8).**
- **He still heals through prayer, faith, touch, obedience, medicine, and miracle.**
- **Whether instantly or progressively, He is working for your wholeness — spirit, soul, and body (1 Thess 5:23; 3 John 2).**
- **Don’t chase methods. Seek the Master.**

God Heals – One Healer, Many Ways

Dr. John Carmichael

- **If you need healing tonight, lift your eyes to Jesus: the River of Life and the Source of every stream.”**