HEALTH & HEALING

2. Reason for Healing

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Jehovah Rapha

Introduction

One of the names used for God in the Old Testament is Jehovah Rapha, which means, "I am the Lord who heals you." Jesus came to reveal to us what God the Father is like. He said to Thomas, "Anyone who has seen me, has seen the Father." No wonder Jesus went around doing good and healing the sick! Let's take a closer look at the life of Christ and see some of the reasons why He healed the sick.

▣ Why did Jesus heal the sick and raise the dead according to the following verses? Matthew 20:29-34, Mark 1:40-41, Luke 7:12-16

(He had compassion when he saw the needs of men and women, and His heart went out to them.)

▣ What does this show us about Jesus' attitude (and God's) towards the physical suffering of people?

(It shows that God cares deeply for our needs and does not take them lightly. In fact in Luke 7:16 we see that the people were amazed that God had come to help them.))

If Jesus was motivated and moved with compassion, then surely it is important that we too have compassion when we pray for people.

▣ How can we become more compassionate towards the needs of others? Discuss.

▣ What reason did Jesus give for raising Lazarus from the dead? John 11:4, 40

(It was for God's glory, so that God's Son would be glorified.)

▣ What happened as a result of the lame man being healed in Acts 3:12-13?

(Jesus was glorified.)

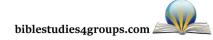▣ How did the people respond when they saw the paralytic man healed? Luke 5:25-26

(They praised God.)

▣ Have you ever prayed for someone and seen them healed? How did you feel and why?

Sometimes Christians are afraid to pray for the sick in case their prayers are not answered! They would rather not pray, just ask for peace in the time of sickness, so they will not be embarrassed if the person is not healed. However if we are just concerned for ourselves God cannot use us. Our concern should be that Jesus is glorified, and that we are willing to be obedient to His Word and trust Him with the results.

▣ Another reason why Jesus healed is seen in Matthew 9:2, 22 and 15:28. What is it?

(Jesus responded to the faith of those who came to Him, including those who brought the paralyzed man.)

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We can see that sometimes it is not just the faith of the person who is in need of healing that releases the power of God, but the faith of others. God can use us and our faith to pray for others. Let's never blame a sick person for their lack of faith if they are not healed!

▣ Who is to pray for the sick according to Mark 16:17-18 and James 5:14-16?

(Those who believe, and the elders of the church.)

▣ Let's put this into practise. Is there anyone here in need for prayer for healing? Or perhaps someone you know who is sick?

Conclusion

We have learnt that one of God's names means, "I am the Lord who heals you." When Jesus came He demonstrated this to us, by healing all who came to Him. He was moved with compassion for the needs of men and women, and He still is today. Healing brings glory to God, and often it opens people's heart to the Lord, as they realise how much He loves them. Jesus said, "The thief comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." This is why God heals – so we may experience the life that God intended us to have!