

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

January 15, 2002

BY HIS STRIPES

Part I

Published by:
HANDS FOR JESUS

For additional copies of this book contact your local book store or write to:

HANDS FOR JESUS
P.O. BOX 18655
MILWAUKEE, WI 53218-0655

Copyright 2002 by Merle E. Koepke
All Rights Reserved

Many Christians are trying to believe God for the forgiveness of their sins. But, can YOU believe God for the healing of YOUR body?

John 3:16 says, **“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** In John 6:38 Jesus said, **“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”** Therefore, we could say *“God sent His Son, and when He came, they called Him Jesus . . .”* (Meaning SAVIOR).

Speaking of Jesus, Isaiah 53:3 says, **“He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.”** Another translation says, **“Men made sport of him, turning away from him; he was a man of sorrows, marked by disease . . .”** (BBE). This is speaking of Jesus, the Son of God. He came into this world to destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8). He came that WE might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

Isaiah 53:4 says, **“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.”** Another translation says, **“But it was our pain he took, and our diseases were put on him: while to us he seemed as one diseased, on whom God's punishment had come”** (BBE). Another translation says, **“Surely he has borne our sickness, and carried our suffering . . .”** (WEB). Yet, another translation says, **“Surely our sicknesses he hath borne, And our pains--he hath carried them . . .”** (YLT).

By using these other translations we can plainly see that Jesus took upon Himself OUR sicknesses and diseases, OUR pains and OUR sorrows. Yes, God sent Jesus to take away the sin of the world, and in doing so He also took OUR sicknesses, diseases, pains, and sorrows upon Himself, that WE could be free!

Isaiah 53:5 says, **“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.”** Another translation says, **“But it was for our sins he was wounded, and for our evil doings he was crushed: he took the punishment by which we have peace, and by his wounds we are made well”** (BBE).

Yes, Jesus took OUR sins and iniquities upon Himself. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 it says, **“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”** It's not just OUR sins and iniquities that Jesus took upon Himself, it's also OUR sicknesses and diseases, OUR pains and sorrows.

In Exodus, the LORD said to the children of Israel, **“I am the LORD that healeth thee”** (Ex. 15:26). In Matthew 8:16,17 it says,

**When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick:
That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.**

Matthew said, Jesus healed all that were sick, that the prophecy of Isaiah might be fulfilled. It was fulfilled by what Jesus did that evening. Isaiah did not limit his prophecy to only a few people. For that prophecy to be completely fulfilled it had to include YOU and ME also. Isaiah 53:5 included, **“our transgressions, our iniquities.”** Jesus did it for **“our transgressions and our iniquities.”** Ours means, YOURS and MINE, everyone's transgressions and iniquities. Then it also says, **“with his**

stripes we are healed.” “WE are healed,” includes YOU and ME. WE ARE ALL HEALED.

Actually, what Isaiah prophesied, when he said **“we are healed,”** meant “it’s already done.” It’s not something in the future, it’s already done. God already declared it done before the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8).

When Jesus took upon Himself all OUR sins and iniquities, He also took upon Himself all OUR sicknesses and diseases. He did it all on the Cross. Yet, the Word of God declares that the works were finished from the foundation of the world. Isaiah 46:9,10 says,

Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me,

Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:

When Isaiah prophesied, he was declaring the end from the beginning. The works were already done. YOU were already healed before YOU were born into this world. It was already done on the Cross for YOU! That was almost two-thousand years ago. It was done for YOU and ME that we might have life and have it abundantly (John 10:10).

We can see that it was already done from the foundation of the world when we look at Isaiah 43:25. It says, **“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”** If the LORD blotted out their transgressions and would not remember their sins already then, then He did it for YOU and ME also. God is not a respecter of persons. What He did for them He also did for YOU and ME.

Look at what Jesus said to a man, sick of the palsy in Matthew 9:2, **“Son, be of good cheer; thy sins be forgiven thee.”** In Luke 5:20 it says, **“And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee.”** His sins were already forgiven. It’s not a matter of Jesus going to the Cross over and over again for every persons sins. He did it once, for the whole world (1 John 2:2). It was declared done already, before Jesus went to the Cross, and it was already effective for the man with the palsy, before Jesus was crucified.

It was finished already then, and it is still FINISHED for YOU and ME. OUR sins are already forgiven, OUR sicknesses and diseases were already taken by Jesus in His body on the Cross. That was almost two-thousand years ago, and it was a one-time deal that will last for all eternity. WE are already HEALED, by the STRIPES Jesus bore for US!

It’s not a matter of what Jesus is going to do, someday in the future, IT’S ALREADY DONE! He bore them for US, back when He went to the Cross for US. Now, it’s up to US to receive what He has already done for US. Receive forgiveness of sins and healing for OUR bodies. Receive what belongs to US, for it is a gift from God to those who believe. Healing is a gift, it’s not something we have to work for, or earn. It’s a free gift, given to everyone who will believe.

We receive it by faith! FAITH, not in what we did or didn’t do. But faith in what God did for US in Christ Jesus. When Jesus died on the Cross He did it for US. For YOU and ME, that WE could receive forgiveness of sins and healing for OUR bodies. It’s A FREE GIFT from God to YOU and ME!

God loves YOU and ME, and wants US to be free of sin and sickness and disease. Therefore, He laid all OUR sins, sicknesses, and diseases upon Jesus. He bore them for US that WE could be FREE.

Remember, it is A GIFT from God. Receive it by faith in His Word. Put YOUR faith in what God said in His Word. Be free of sin, sickness, and disease. God is Love (1 John 4:8). God wants

His children healthy, no sickness or disease in their bodies, no sin in their lives.

In 1 John 1:7 says, **“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”** It’s so important to God that WE are without sin that He made it possible for us to be cleansed daily of all OUR sins, by walking in the Light of His Word. God knows that we cannot, of our own ability, be cleansed from all sin, therefore He sent Jesus to take away the sin of the world.

How did Jesus take away the sin of the world? By His blood that He shed for US on Calvary. If we walk in the LIGHT of God’s Word, the blood of Jesus Christ will cleanse US of ALL sin.

This is the same with HEALING for OUR bodies. If WE walk in the LIGHT of God’s Word, WE will be FREE of all SICKNESS and DISEASE! WHY? Because in His Word is healing for OUR bodies. In Psalm 107:20 it says, **“He sent his word, and healed them, and delivered them from their destructions.”** When they received His Word, they were healed of ALL their destructions. Destructions mean, anything that would destroy their bodies. Anyone that had any sickness and disease was healed BY HIS WORD!

Healing comes BY HIS WORD! When WE believe HIS WORD, WE receive healing for OUR bodies. But notice Mark 11:24, which says, **“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”** We must believe, BEFORE WE CAN RECEIVE. No matter what it is, healing, forgiveness of sins, whatsoever WE NEED, WE MUST BELIEVE before WE CAN RECEIVE! If we wait until we see the evidence WE WILL NOT RECEIVE whatsoever we desire. WE MUST BELIEVE BEFORE WE CAN RECEIVE!

There are multitudes of Christians living today with sickness and disease in their bodies, not because God doesn’t love them, not because what Jesus did on the Cross was not for them! NO! The reason they have sickness and disease in their bodies is because they do not believe BEFORE THEY CAN RECEIVE! FIRST WE BELIEVE THE WORD OF GOD, THEN WE RECEIVE!

FAITH, is believing WITHOUT any evidence. FAITH itself, is the EVIDENCE of things HOPED for (Heb. 11:1). Without FAITH, it is impossible to please GOD (Heb. 11:6). WE must believe without any physical evidence, then WE WILL RECEIVE whatsoever WE are believing for.

Going back to the man sick with the palsy, Jesus said, **“Man, thy sins are forgiven thee”** (Luke 5:20). Then look at the next thing Jesus said to the man! Jesus said, **“Arise, take up thy bed, and go unto thine house”** (Matt. 9:24). The man believed, and did what Jesus told him to do. It says, **“And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God”** (Luke 5:25). Immediately, the man did what Jesus told him to do! He didn’t wait to let his mind tell him anything differently than what Jesus said he should do. He didn’t let his mind control what he did. He obeyed the Word of God and took up his bed and departed!

But what else did the man do? As he departed, he **“glorified God”** for what the LORD did for him! When WE receive the FREE GIFT of healing for our bodies, WE should **“glorify God!”** TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

If the world would glorify God for all He has done, Satan would be defeated! The more WE GLORIFY GOD the more God does for US! Give all the glory to God, and to His Son, **Jesus Christ**, for all the works He has done!

Let’s look at another great work of the LORD! In John 5, there was a man **“which had an infirmity thirty and eight years.”** For thirty-eight years this man was sickly. That’s a long time to

live with sickness, when all the time he could have been made whole. Here he was, right outside of the temple, right by the sheep-market, one of the entrances to the temple. For thirty-eight years not one Levite ever went to set that man free!

In John 10, Jesus talked about the thief that came to steal, kill, and destroy. He said, **“All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers”** (John 10:8). The Levites did not tell the people that their sins and iniquities were already blotted out. They should have known the Scriptures, where in Isaiah 43:25 it says, **“I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.”** They were like many religious leaders today, more interested in MONEY and their own worldly possessions than healing for those with sickness and disease.

When Jesus came to the man, knowing he was in that condition a long time, He said, **“Wilt thou be made whole?”** (John 5:6). Jesus was asking this man, *“Do you want to know the love of God and be healed?”*

Jesus is the express image of the Father (Heb. 1:3). God the Father is LOVE, and desires that EVERYONE would be free from all the works of the devil.

Jesus didn't say a word to this man about the sin in his life. He simply said, **“Wilt thou be made whole?”** When the man came up with an excuse, Jesus overlooked his ignorance and said to him, **“Rise, take up thy bed, and walk”** (John 5:8). What did the man do? He obeyed the LORD. It says, **“And immediately the man was made whole, and took up his bed, and walked”** (John 5:9).

If Christians would listen to the WORD of God, and receive their healing by FAITH, they too could take up their bed and walk. They are already healed! They were healed by the stripes Jesus bore for them on the Cross of Calvary. If they would believe, and not doubt, they also can take up their bed and walk.

What about sin? Was there sin in that man's life? Yes? For it says, **“Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee”** (John 5:14). The man was not trusting in the WORD of God! The man was looking for an angel to come down and stir the water (John 5:7).

The greatest sin of all is, NOT BELIEVING THE WORD OF GOD! By His Word, WE are already healed! By His Word, WE already have forgiveness of sins!

God is LOVE! It is His desire to GIVE US the Kingdom! The kingdom of God is **“righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost”** (Rom. 14:17).

It's not easy to have **“peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost”** with sin, sickness, and disease in OUR bodies. Righteousness itself, is right-standing with God! Sin, sickness, and disease are of the devil. To have right-standing with God we cannot have fellowship with the devil.

God has already taken ALL OUR sins, sicknesses, and diseases and laid them upon Jesus. He bore them FOR US THAT WE could be free! Romans 8:32 says, **“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”** How much more would God want to TAKE AWAY ALL YOUR SICKNESSES AND DISEASES? He did it for YOU!

Jesus said, **“If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth”** (Mark 9:23). Can YOU BELIEVE THE LOVE OF GOD in Christ Jesus and RECEIVE YOUR HEALING?

Jesus is saying to all who have sin, sickness, or disease, **“Wilt thou be made whole?”** YOU can be whole, if YOU will receive by faith, that which God has already done FOR YOU on the Cross of Calvary. Believe and receive, THAT YOUR JOY MAY BE FULL!