

LIFE NEWS

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CHRIST

THE HEALER

by Gordon Lanpher, Children's Pastor

The question hung in the air, the disbelief in Mike's eyes, "Gordon, what just happened?" It was a moment etched in my memory, a tangible encounter with the supernatural. As a Christian, I had always believed in the power of divine healing, but this was different. This was a tangible experience with healing.

I've often prayed for loved ones, asking God to intervene in their illnesses. It was a hopeful prayer but one that often felt distant and abstract. Yet, during my college years, I began to witness firsthand the miraculous work of God. Friends who were sick would be healed through the power of prayer. But I personally never witness a dramatic healing.

However, it wasn't until my experience with Mike that I truly grasped the depth of divine healing. I was leading a Cubbies program at a previous church, and I was in charge of their 3-5 year olds Wednesday night program. I had 50 of them and seven adults/teenagers. With that many small bodies and trying to teach them, I needed all the help I could get. One night, one of the volunteers, Mike, came in and said he could help with our classroom activities but couldn't go downstairs during our large group time. He had injured his knee playing basketball. I needed him to help downstairs during our teaching time, so I asked if I could pray for his knee. Honestly, I didn't expect a lot to happen. I prayed some simple prayer, and he looked up at me and said, "Gordon, what just happened? I feel better." He tested it out by bending it and going up and down some stairs. He was completely amazed! We thanked God together that he was still doing healing today as he has always done.

The Bible is replete with countless accounts of divine healing. One of the most profound passages is found in Isaiah 53:5, where the prophet declares, "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed." This verse reveals a profound truth: Christ's sacrifice on the cross not only atoned for our sins but also provided healing for our bodies. Isaiah wasn't just prophesying about the atonement being for the forgiveness of sins as it is referenced in 1 Peter, "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." Obviously, the forgiveness of sins is a big deal. We believe that Jesus came as the Savior of our souls. However, Isaiah was talking about physical healing as well because it is referenced in Matthew 8:16-17, "When evening came, many who were demon-possessed were brought to him, and he drove out the spirits with a word and healed all the sick. This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophet Isaiah: "He took up our infirmities and bore our diseases." Clearly, what he accomplished on the cross was atonement not just for sins (1 Peter 2:24) but also for physical sickness.

Jesus, the Great Physician, continues to heal today. As followers of Christ, we are called to believe in His healing power. We can pray for the sick, call the elders to anoint them with oil and trust in God's ability to restore health and wholeness.

Christ is the healer. That's why we pray for the sick and use the practice of anointing with oil. Jesus is still actively involved in healing today. If you are ever in need of physical healing, pray and invite elders to pray with you.