



“Don’t Blame God”

Lesson Text Ex. 15:26; Matt. 9:27-35; 10:1; Mark 5:25-34

This morning, here at Providence Church, we will recognize the importance of health and healing in our lives. It is a sad testimony that as an African people living in America, we suffer disproportionately from diseases that cripple and cause us death. It is critically important that we once again take the individual and collective responsibility for our health and well-being. As a people, we are dying too young, suffering too long, and not doing what our fore fathers and mothers did to survive in a strange new land. They understood and believed that the body, the mind, and the spirit all worked together for a healthy life. There was never any doubt in their minds that God was in control of our minds, and bodies-as well as our spiritual well-being. The church and health care were historically always intertwined.

Historically the roots of these disciplines were inseparable but the current atmosphere in the United States emphasizes the separation of religion and the medical care system. A review of the history of the relationship between these two disciplines should be informative for affirming the central role, which health and healing have in the life of the Church. Since the beginning of time, God has always stressed a healthy lifestyle, not one merely of mental, physical or spiritual sickness. In the Old Testament, God is emphatic that if we live by His commandments and obey Him, He will heal all of our diseases. (Ex. 15:26; 23:25) In Deuteronomy, He says He will keep us from all illness. (Deut. 7:15) God constantly reminds us that He will heal all of our diseases. (Ps. 103:3; 107:20) He tells us by His stripes we are healed. (Isa. 57: 18) Jesus took up our illnesses. (Matt. 8:17) James tell us “if any one is sick among you call for the elders to pray for them. (James 5:14-16) God wants us all to experience good health (111John 2) The entire Bible is filled with passages, parables and example of God’s Healing power.

With so much power for healing at our fingertips, the question has to be “Why are we such a sickly nation?” We have been instructed to ask and believe and God will provide our every need. Jesus said, “I could not perform miracles among my own people because they did not believe in me.” Their faith was limited, weak, and at times, just not there. In our text Matthew 9:27-34, we understand the secret for healing as Jesus tells the blind man and a demon possessed mute that if they want to be healed that they need faith. The woman with the blood disease was healed when her faith forced her to believe and trust in Jesus. (Mark 5:25-34)

This morning Providence church declares itself as a place for physical, mental, and spiritual healing. Your body is the physical temple of God, which houses the precious spirit that God places inside of you. There is healing in the hem of His garment, but we must believe and act on our beliefs. For those who doubt that God is still in the healing business, please read and study the scriptures below:

<u>Matthew</u>	<u>Mark</u>	<u>Luke</u>	<u>John</u>
4:23	1:31	7:21	4:50
8:3, 16	10:52	13:13	5:9
9:35		17:14	9:6,7
12:13,22		22:51	
14:34-36			
15:30			
17:18			
19:2			
21:14			

Please get involved today in the Health and Wellness Program in the Health Committee’s program. Diet, exercise and studying God’s Word are the foundation for your new life with Christ. Don’t blame God if your health has failed!!!

Pastor Gerald L. Durley