

How Can You Separate Salvation and Divine Healing as God's Will for All His Children?

I do not question God's power to heal, with or without medicine, nor do I question His power to sustain His children in any trial He permits to come to them. But I do not believe it is necessarily God's will that His children should always be in good health. We find in the Bible that some were sick without their illness being attributed to their being out of the will of God. Paul wrote to Timothy about his "often infirmity," but does not suggest it was due to anything wrong in Timothy's state of soul. In fact, Timothy is the only person in the New Testament who is called "a man of God." This does not mean he was the only one who had that character, but he is the only one so described.

Other chances of sickness are alluded to in the New Testament, as when Paul wrote, in 2 Timothy 4:20, "Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick." John, in his third epistle, said, "The elder unto the well-beloved Gaius, whom I love in the truth. Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." It seems that while Gaius was in a good state of soul, his health and prosperity were not commensurate with his piety. Often in the history of the church persons who have been sick or invalid most of their lives have given us the choicest writings and Christian poetry, showing they have experienced largely the mercies of God, and His comforts.

But we are not left to example. Romans 8:19-25 plainly tells us, "The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope; for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for it? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it." When Christ's redemption is applied to our bodies, it will not be a matter of patching up these old ones, but their being glorified "like unto his glorious body" (Phil 3:21). Meantime we experience the providential goodness of God as our Father in all matters relating to this life, whether of health or prosperity. (See Matthew 6.)

(Taken from *HERE'S YOUR ANSWER* by Robert J. Little.)