

it is even true of those professing Christians who claim to be able to heal sick people by laying hands on them and praying for them. Eventually they too die! And they die of the same causes as the population in general: diseases of the heart or vascular system, cancers, accidental death, respiratory diseases, diabetes, or some other disease or organic failure.

Physical healing is a wonderful thing to experience and to behold, if that is God's Plan for us. Healing may relieve suffering and pain, restore usefulness to weakened or useless organs, provide greater mobility, and extend earthly life, but it is only a temporary measure. Not even the atonement of Christ (as powerful as that is!) can hold off physical death permanently! It is appointed unto men once to die! (Hebrews 9:27)]

C. A Scriptural Perspective on Present Deliverance from Suffering

The following five principles represent a scriptural perspective on present deliverance from suffering.

1. All healing ultimately comes from God

Healing may be defined as a restoration of wholeness and soundness to an organ or a part of an organism that has become lost or disabled or diseased and deformed.

The Bible teaches that God may heal in a miraculous or a non-miraculous way, according to His choice. Of course, we know that, if God chooses not to heal in a miraculous way, then the body must heal itself naturally. Sometimes the body can do this by means of its own God-given powers to fight disease or trauma, or to regenerate its organs (for example, skin that has been burned but not destroyed). However, other times the body needs help in healing itself; and God may give this help directly, by strengthening the body's own processes and mechanisms, or indirectly, by working with and through doctors, machines, and medicines. It is curious yet true and wonderful that God often uses non-believing physicians who in turn use machines created by non-believing technicians and medicines discovered or created by non-believing researchers to help the bodies of believers to heal themselves. God rules and overrules all persons and things to bring glory to His name and good to His people!

But in all of this, we must remember that all healing ultimately comes from God. Healing in this life is a temporary reversal of the effects of sin; and it is God and God alone who is in the business of saving human beings from their sin and its terrible effects, including that of suffering! Satan is not in the business of healing! He certainly attempts to mimic and counterfeit God's work, but it is Satan's business to kill and destroy, to maim and deform and disable, to cause sickness and suffering and pain, and to destroy human beings! But all genuine healing must ultimately be credited to God.