

39 Stripes, Three Nails, and One Cross: Understanding God's Complete Redemption

When we think about what Jesus accomplished on the cross, we often focus solely on salvation from sin. But God's plan was far more comprehensive. Through 39 stripes, three nails, and one cross, Jesus provided complete redemption - not just for our spirits, but for our souls and bodies as well.

What Is Divine Healing?

Divine healing is recovery from sickness or disease through God's intervention. As believers, we have access to two levels of God's provision for our physical well-being:

Divine Health vs. Divine Healing

Divine health is the ideal - walking in covenant with God while taking care of our bodies through wise choices. This means feeding our bodies properly, getting adequate rest, and trusting God's Word for protection.

Divine healing comes into play when we fall short of divine health. God can restore us through supernatural intervention, working alongside medical care when needed. Some healing is instantaneous, while other healing is progressive.

Where Do Sickness and Disease Come From?

To understand healing, we must first understand the source of sickness. When Adam and Eve sinned in the Garden of Eden, they introduced death and disease into the human experience. Originally created to live forever with perfect health, mankind became subject to spiritual death, emotional brokenness, and physical ailments.

As three-part beings - spirit, soul, and body - we were affected in every area. Sin brought spiritual separation from God, emotional and mental struggles, and physical vulnerability to sickness and death.

Is It God's Will to Heal?

This question often creates doubt in our hearts, especially when we've experienced unanswered prayers or seen godly people suffer. But Scripture is clear about God's intentions.

Jesus Healed All Who Came to Him

Acts 10:38 tells us that Jesus "went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil." The word "all" is significant - Jesus didn't pick and choose who deserved healing. The only time He had difficulty healing was in His hometown, where people couldn't see Him for who He truly was.

When a leper asked Jesus, "If you are willing, can you make me clean?" Jesus responded, "I am willing" (Mark 1:40-42). This personal interaction shows us that God's heart toward healing is always yes.

Does God Use Sickness to Teach Us?

Some believe God sends sickness to teach lessons or build character. This contradicts the nature of our heavenly Father. Would you deliberately make your child sick to teach them something? Of course not.

God teaches us through His Word and the Holy Spirit, not through disease and suffering. He is a good Father who wants the best for His children.

The Foundation of Healing: Isaiah 53

Written 700 years before Christ's birth, Isaiah 53:4-5 provides the prophetic foundation for understanding Jesus' work on the cross:

"Surely our griefs He Himself bore, and our sorrows He carried... But He was pierced through for our transgressions, He was crushed for our iniquities; the chastening for our well-being fell upon Him, and by His scourging we are healed."

Understanding the Hebrew Words

The word translated "griefs" is the Hebrew word "koli," which means sickness. The word "sorrows" is "makob," meaning pain. So this passage is specifically addressing physical ailments, not just emotional struggles.

Matthew 8:16-17 confirms this interpretation: "When evening came, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed; and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill. This was to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: 'He Himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases.'"

The Power of Substitution and Identification

Understanding how redemption works requires grasping two crucial concepts:

Substitution: He Died for Me

Jesus took our place on the cross. He bore our sins, carried our sicknesses, and endured our punishment. This is substitution - He did for us what we could never do for ourselves.

Identification: I Died with Him

Through faith, we enter into union with Christ. His death becomes our death to sin, sickness, and separation from God. His resurrection becomes our new life in every area - spirit, soul, and body.

When we truly grasp both concepts, many of our spiritual struggles begin to dissolve. Christianity becomes personal - not just a generic religion, but a living relationship with our Creator.

The Complete Work of Redemption

God refused to concede anything to the devil. Where sin affected us in three areas, Jesus provided redemption in three areas:

- Spirit: Born again, restored relationship with God
- Soul: Renewed mind, healed emotions, freedom from shame and guilt
- Body: Divine healing and ultimately, glorified bodies

The 39 stripes Jesus endured were so severe that His back became one massive wound. He took that beating for our physical healing. The three nails secured Him to the cross where He bore our sins. One cross provided complete redemption.

Appropriating Healing by Faith

Just because Jesus provided healing doesn't automatically mean we receive it. Like any gift, we must open it to enjoy it. We appropriate God's provision through faith - believing His Word over our symptoms, trusting His character over our circumstances.

Our bodies were created to heal themselves. When you cut yourself, your body immediately begins the healing process. This is how God designed us - to walk in health and wholeness.

Life Application

This week, challenge yourself to see Jesus' work on the cross as complete redemption, not just salvation from sin. Begin to appropriate by faith what Christ has already provided for your spirit, soul, and body.

Start declaring God's Word over any areas of sickness or disease in your life. Remember that He is Jehovah Rapha - the Lord who heals. His will toward you is always healing and wholeness.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Am I basing my faith on God's Word or on my past experiences with unanswered prayer?
- Do I truly believe that Jesus' sacrifice was sufficient for every area of my life?
- How can I better appropriate the complete redemption Christ provided through His 39 stripes, three nails, and one cross?
- What areas of my soul (mind, will, emotions) need to be renewed by God's Word?

Remember: He died for you, and you died with Him. This substitution and identification is the key to living in victory as a Christian. Make it personal, make it real, and watch as God's complete redemption transforms every area of your life.