A man was thinking and he realized that ...

a very important message from God to man ...

was revealed quite early in the New Testament.

It is an encouraging message, applying to all.

Go To The Healer

By

Job S. Friend

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To The Healers

Introduction

The problems we face as individuals are sometimes overwhelming. Life has inflicted many wounds and various hurts on each of us, even if we are fortunate enough to be physically healthy. However, even if we are physically healthy, we will all get older. What then? And even if physically healthy, are we spiritually healthy? What if we are not? If broken, can a human being be fixed? These are the questions this book attempts to answer. In the pages that follow I offer a different camera angle as to what is really happening and why.

The bottom line is we all need healing and we need that healing on many levels. Fortunately, there is a Healer, who will ultimately heal. And he wants us to go to him so that we can start the healing process. Going to the Healer is one of the main messages of the New Testament. That we can go to the Healer and get healed is an encouraging message, as no one gets through the minefield of this life unscathed. In the pages that follow I share with you my reasons for so believing. Some of the reasons are Biblical and some are based on logical reasoning and life experiences. As a housekeeping point, the scriptural references, herein, are from the King James Version, KJV, or Modern King James Version, MKJV, unless denoted otherwise. Any emphasis, in the scriptural quotations, is mine throughout this book.

As an additional important note, I have chosen to write the pages that follow mainly in a conversational style. Having said that, let's get started. I offer for your serious consideration and hopeful edification what I have learned below.

Hearing An Important Message

A number of years ago I was going through a very difficult trial. Fortunately, my trial came at a time when the house was quiet. To help cope with my trial, and to better understand what my options were, I read the entire Bible through in about three weeks. And what I was really doing was listening to God. Really listening.

The message I heard from the Old Testament was about what I expected.

The message I heard from the New Testament, however, surprised me. This is

because the message was so loud and so clear and also so very early in the New Testament. And, like all great truths, the message was elegantly simple. What I heard is the title of this book, *Go To The Healer*.

Of course the subject of healing forms a part of the message of this book. But, the message is mainly about going to the Healer and not necessarily about healing itself.

Examples Of Healing From The Bible

Let's get started in Matthew and I am going to excerpt a number of examples where Jesus Christ healed people.

"And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and <u>healing all manner of sickness</u> and all manner of disease among the people." Matthew 4:23, KJV

"And his [Christ's] fame went throughout all Syria: and they brought unto him all sick people that were taken with divers diseases and torments, and those which were possessed with devils, and those which were lunatick, and those that had the palsy; and <u>he healed them</u>." Matthew 4:24, KJV

"When he [Christ] was come down from the mountain, great multitudes followed him. And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus put forth his hand, and touched him, saying, I will; be thou clean. And immediately his leprosy was cleansed." Matthew 8:1-3, KJV

Below is an interesting example of healing, authority, and faith. This is where the Roman Centurion's servant was healed even though the Centurion would not allow Christ to waste his time traveling to heal the servant. So Christ just gave the command and the Centurion's servant was healed the very same hour.

"And when Jesus was entered into Capernaum, there came unto him a centurion, beseeching him, And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed. For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this man, Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it. When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel. And I say unto you, That many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And Jesus said unto the centurion, Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee. And his servant was healed in the selfsame hour." Matthew 8:5-13, KJV

"And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. <u>And he touched her hand, and the</u> <u>fever left her</u>: and she arose, and ministered unto them." Matthew 8:14-15, KJV

"When the even was come, they brought unto him [Christ] many that were possessed with devils: and <u>he cast out the spirits with his</u> word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet [from Isaiah 53:4], saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." Matthew 8:16-17, KJV

Matthew 8:28-34 details where Christ cast out a legion of devils and they went into a herd of swine and the swine ran into the sea and died.

"And when he was come to the other side into the country of the Gergesenes, there met him two possessed with devils, coming out of the tombs, exceeding fierce, so that no man might pass by that way. And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time? And there was a good way off from them an herd of many swine feeding. So the devils besought him, saying, If thou cast us out, suffer us to go away into the herd of swine. And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters. And they that kept them fled, and went their ways into the city, and told every thing, and what was befallen to the possessed of the devils. And, behold, the

whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts." Matthew 8:28-34, KJV

Verses 33-34 of the above story are interesting in that "the whole city came out to meet Jesus: and when they saw him, they besought him that he would depart out of their coasts." So this entire city wanted the Healer to leave. This is the exact opposite of going to the Healer.

There are two references to healing in Matthew 9:18-26. The first is that a ruler's servant was raised from the dead. While Jesus was traveling to perform that healing, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood for twelve years, came up behind him and touched the hem of his garment and got healed just from touching Christ's garment.

"While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live. And Jesus arose, and followed him, and so did his disciples. And, behold, a woman, which was diseased with an issue of blood twelve years, came behind him, and touched the hem of his garment: For she said within herself, If I may but touch his garment, I shall be whole. But Jesus turned him about, and when he saw her, he said, Daughter, be of good comfort; thy faith hath made thee whole. And the woman was made whole from that hour. And when Jesus came into the ruler's house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose. And the fame hereof went abroad into all that land." Matthew 9:18-26, KJV

There are nine references, pertaining to Jesus Christ healing, quoted above. Some of those references, e.g., Matthew 4:23 and Matthew 4:24, reveal multiple healings of probably dozens, or hundreds, or even thousands of people. The Bible does not reveal the total, but it was obviously a lot. This got me thinking. I was only in Matthew 9 and there were already at least nine references to Jesus Christ healing and those healings affected numerous people. Why was the New Testament starting out emphasizing healing? The Gospel of Mark starts out likewise. In the very first chapter of the Gospel of Mark, there are numerous examples of healing.

"And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God. And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him. And when the unclean spirit had torn him, and cried with a loud voice, he came out of him. And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him. And immediately his fame spread abroad throughout all the region round about Galilee." Mark 1:21-28, KJV

In Mark 1:29-31 it gives Mark's version of Christ healing Peter's mother-in-law. And then in verses 32-34 it says:

"And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. And all the city was gathered together at the door. <u>And</u> <u>he healed many that were sick of divers</u> <u>diseases, and cast out many devils</u>; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him." Mark 1:32-34, KJV

"<u>And he preached in their synagogues</u> <u>throughout all Galilee, and cast out devils.</u>" Mark 1:39, KJV

"And there came a leper to him, beseeching him, and kneeling down to him, and saying unto him, If thou wilt, thou canst make me clean. And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean. And as soon as he had spoken, immediately the leprosy departed from him, and he was cleansed. And he straitly charged him, and forthwith sent him away; And saith unto him, See thou say nothing to any man: but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer for thy cleansing those things which Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them. But he went out, and began to publish it much, and to blaze abroad the matter, insomuch that Jesus could no more openly enter into the city, but was without in desert places: <u>and they came</u> to him from every quarter." Mark 1:40-45, KJV

Mark continues to detail numerous examples of Jesus Christ healing people. As mentioned above, people needing healing were coming to Jesus "from every quarter."

In the Gospel of Luke, the same thing happens. By Luke 4, there are multiple examples of Jesus Christ healing and then other examples of Christ healing continue throughout the rest of the Gospel of Luke.

John also has numerous examples of Jesus Christ healing. Perhaps the most famous example is found in John 9.

"And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was **blind from his birth**. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him. I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world. When he had thus spoken, he spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and he anointed the eyes of the blind man with the clay, And said unto him, Go, wash in the pool of Siloam, (which is by interpretation, Sent.) He went his way therefore, and washed, and came seeing.

The neighbours therefore, and they which before had seen him that he was blind, said, Is not this he that sat and begged? Some said, This is he: others said, He is like him: but he said, I am he. Therefore said they unto him, How were thine eyes opened? He answered and said, <u>A man that is called Jesus made clay, and anointed mine eyes, and said unto me, Go to the pool of Siloam, and wash: and I went and washed, and I received sight." John 9:1-11, KJV</u>

I always wondered why the Bible made it a special point of saying, "blind from his birth." What difference does it make how long the guy was blind for? What if he was blind since three years ago when lightning hit him? Why is being blind from birth so important that the Bible calls it out? We are going to hold this as an open question, which I will answer later in this book.

John 5:17 says, "My Father worketh hitherto, and I work." I believe that a large part of Christ's work is to heal and to do so comprehensively at all levels.

The book of Acts is also full of examples of healings done in the name of and by the power of the resurrected Jesus Christ. Probably the most famous example is found in Acts 3.

"Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, being the ninth hour. And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones

received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and praising God: And they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the Beautiful gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and amazement at that which had happened unto him."

I always wondered why it said, "lame from his mother's womb," i.e., lame from birth. What difference does it make how long the guy was lame for? What if he was lame from an ox cart accident last year? Why would the Bible specifically say, in essence, lame from birth? I will also give my answer, to this question, later in this book.

The magnitude of what is disclosed in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts, where dozens upon dozens of examples of healing are detailed, is truly amazing.

For the reader's convenience I am enclosing, "Appendix A" entitled, "*Examples of Healing In Matthew To Acts*," at the back of this book. In this Appendix there are numerous examples of healing referenced, along with a brief description.

John 21:25 states the following:

"And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen." John 21:25, KJV

No doubt a lot of what would have been written would be all of the accounts of Jesus Christ healing people. All of these people in distress finally had someone to go to. And they did. And Christ healed them.

The Sin And The Trespass Offering And Our Human Predicament

In Leviticus, chapters 1-7, it talks about five different types of offerings:

Three of the five offerings are offerings that represent whole-hearted giving after you have been made clean. Those three offerings are commonly known as the burnt offering, the meal (grain) offering, and the peace offering. The other two offerings are to symbolize forgiveness of sin (making you clean again) because you are a sinner and have sinned. Those two offerings are the sin offering and the trespass offering. The sin offering is detailed in Leviticus 4 and the trespass offering is detailed in Leviticus 5.

And I always wondered, "Sin offering. Trespass offering. What's the difference?" And I never really have heard, or read, a good explanation. It was always some man's opinion, which may, or may not, be correct.

Now it is pretty clear to me that the trespass offering is for a specific sin you have committed. But it was never clear to me why the sin offering was necessary if you had a trespass offering, too.

Sin ... Trespass ... What's the difference? I realize the sin offering talks about sinning in ignorance, but sinning in ignorance is still a sin. Why would the trespass offering not also cover a sin, committed in ignorance?

The answer must be in something that the Sin Offering also applies to, but is not so easily ascertained. Other places in the Bible gave me some clues and additional things to think about. For example, in Psalm 51:5 the Bible records David saying something quite interesting:

"Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me." Psalms 51:5, KJV

"For I was born a sinner - yes, from the moment my mother conceived me." Psalms 51:5, NLT

David was not born out of wedlock. He was the youngest of eight sons. What does he mean, "in sin did my mother conceive me?" Something else besides being born out of wedlock is being described here. And Romans 7 provides some additional information.

"The law is good, then. The trouble is not with the law but with me, because I am sold into slavery, with sin as my master. I don't understand myself at all, for I really want to do what is right, but I don't do it. Instead, I do the very thing I hate. I know perfectly well that what I am doing is wrong, and my bad conscience shows that I agree that the law is good. But I can't help myself, <u>because it is sin</u> <u>inside me</u> that makes me do these evil things. I know I am rotten through and through so far as my old sinful nature is concerned. No matter which way I turn, I can't make myself do right. I want to, but I can't. When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway. But if I am doing what I don't want to do, I am not really the one doing it; <u>the sin</u> <u>within me</u> is doing it. It seems to be a fact of life that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. I love God's law with all my heart. But there is another law at work within me that is at war with my mind. This law wins the fight and makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me." Romans 7:14-23, NLT

I think a key to understanding why there is so much ado about healing in the Bible is to understand the difference between "Sin" and "Sins."

When it comes to the difference between Sin and Sins, one possible explanation is that Sin is singular and that Sins are plural. And, of course, that much is true.

But there is also another difference between Sin and Sins besides just singular and plural. And I believe the other difference is the key to understanding why it is so imperative that every human being goes to the Healer.

Sin is a spiritual disease that has infected all of mankind. Sins are the results of that disease playing out in our lives, i.e., the manifestation of the spiritual disease in repeat trespasses.

All of us sin because we are sinners. We sin because we have been infected with the spiritual disease of sin (Satan's evil nature) and unless we get healed of the disease of sin, we will ultimately die.

Please understand I am not making excuses for anyone, including myself, when I say we have all been infected with sin as a disease. And, ergo, now we somehow have a reason to sin without working to overcome it. You should not have read "sin as a disease" as a convenient excuse. I am just being honest and telling you the truth, as I believe the Bible outlines it.

The Sin Offering is performed to cover sin as a disease (sins committed in ignorance) and the Trespass Offering is performed to cover the results of specific sins, trespasses, which have resulted from that disease. You can take the above explanation, or leave it, but I am almost certain it is correct.

Now let's go back to the unanswered question as to why God deemed it so important, in John 9, that it was recorded that Jesus Christ healed a man who was blind from birth. <u>It was</u> <u>so recorded because sin as a disease has made</u> <u>every one of us spiritually blind from birth</u>. And God wanted us to know that Jesus Christ can heal the condition of being blind from birth. All of us have stumbled and bumbled, since birth, because we have been spiritually blind.

Further, let's go back to our other unanswered question as to why God deemed it so important, in Acts 3, to show that, through the power of the resurrected Jesus Christ, a man who was lame from birth was healed. Why? It is because sin, as a disease, has crippled each and every one of us since birth. <u>And God</u> <u>wanted us to know that Jesus Christ can heal</u> <u>the condition of being lame, or crippled, since</u> <u>birth</u>.

Sin, as a disease, has made a wreck out of our lives and a wreck out of the earth. Fortunately, Romans 7, quoted above, does not end on a negative note. "Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord [The Healer]. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin." Romans 7:24-25, NLT

In the last portion of this section I want to write about another healing example that used to puzzle me. And that healing example is found in Mark 2:1-12:

"And again he entered into Capernaum after some days; and it was noised that he was in the house. And straightway many were gathered together, insomuch that there was no room to receive them, no, not so much as about the door: and he preached the word unto them. And they come unto him, bringing one sick of the palsy, which was borne of four. And when they could not come nigh unto him for the press, they uncovered the roof where he was: and when they had broken it up, they let down the bed wherein the sick of the palsy lay. When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee. But there were certain of the scribes sitting there, and reasoning in their hearts, Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? who can forgive sins but God only? And immediately when Jesus perceived in his spirit that they so reasoned within themselves, he said unto them, Why reason ye these things in your hearts? Whether is it easier to say to the sick of the palsy, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Arise, and take up thy bed, and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose, took up the bed, and went forth before them all; insomuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, We never saw it on this fashion." Mark 2:1-12, KJV

In verse 5, above, it says: "When Jesus saw their faith, he said unto the sick of the palsy, Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." This, of course, made the Pharisees angry.

In answer to Christ's question above, I have always thought it would have been easier to just say, "Get up and walk." By telling the man his sins were forgiven Christ was basically picking a fight with the Pharisees. And so I was long puzzled by what was really happening. This is what I now think was really happening. If you need physical healing Christ can do that as represented by "get up and walk." If you need spiritual healing (and all of us do) Christ can do that, as well, represented by "your sins are forgiven you." And the really interesting thing is that, evidently, Jesus Christ can do both at the same time, which is what I think Mark's account depicted.

Psalm 103:3-4 recites something quite similar. It reads:

"<u>Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who</u> <u>healeth all thy diseases; Who redeemeth thy life</u> <u>from destruction</u>; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies;" Psalms 103:3, 4, KJV

AIDS is a horrifying disease that is one of the scourges of mankind. And because it is such a horrible disease, if we heard that someone we knew and loved had just found out they were HIV positive, we would be horrified. We would also probably thank God, under our breath, that we were not the ones hearing such horrible news. But guess what? **All human beings are SIN POSITIVE.** And all of us are as good as dead unless we get the help we need. And that is why it is so important to go to the Healer.

Physical Healing-A Certain Promise?

The salvation promised in the Bible is sure, but immediate physical healing is not an absolute promise. Perhaps you have been taught otherwise, but I cannot find such a promise in scripture and that has not been my observation. Ergo, if you "Go To The Healer," I cannot promise, for certain, you will be immediately healed physically. Eventually yes, but not necessarily at this time.

The Bible does make a promise you will be saved, but it only says that you may be healed. We definitely need the accuracy of the King James Version for this one.

"Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And <u>the prayer of faith shall save the</u> <u>sick</u>, and <u>the Lord shall raise him up</u>; and <u>if</u> <u>he have committed sins, they shall be</u> <u>forgiven him</u>. Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, **<u>that ye may</u> <u>be healed</u>**. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:14-16, KJV

Spiritual salvation is sure if you go to Jesus Christ and do what he says. Notice the above passage makes an absolute promise regarding "the prayer of faith SHALL SAVE the sick." It also makes an absolute promise that Christ, as in, "the Lord SHALL RAISE HIM UP", will resurrect the person. And it makes an absolute promise that "if he have committed sins, they SHALL BE FORGIVEN HIM." Sometimes when you are sick you are also scared of death should the sickness progress to a more serious phase. So the scripture provides comfort to a sick person such that, if they go to the Healer, that even if they die they shall have their sins forgiven and Christ, resurrecting them to eternal life, shall save them. We all have to die of something in this physical life. But we can live forever spiritually.

Notice the wording change, regarding the physical healing, in James 5:16 above. There the scripture says, "that ye MAY BE HEALED." It does not say "will be healed." It says may be healed, which also implies you might not be, as well. So physical healing is not an absolute promise.

Does Your Lack Of Faith Mean That Christ Cannot Heal?

Jesus Christ can heal you even if you are lacking in faith and your life is a mess. I realize the general scriptural rule probably is, "according to your faith be it unto you," but I am going to prove to you that God has an override button and he can and does use it.

First, though, let's take a look at the example from Matthew 9:27-31, where the above phrase "according to your faith be it unto you" comes from:

"And when Jesus departed thence, two blind men followed him, crying, and saying, Thou Son of David, have mercy on us. And when he was come into the house, the blind men came to him: and Jesus saith unto them, Believe ye that I am able to do this? They said unto him, Yea, Lord. Then touched he their eyes, saying, <u>According to your faith be it unto you</u>. And their eyes were opened; and Jesus straitly charged them, saying, See that no man know it. But they, when they were departed, spread abroad his fame in all that country." Matthew 9:27-31, KJV

The purpose of this portion of the book is not to get into a debate about the importance of faith being present in order for God to do miracles. The purpose of this section of the book is to provide hope to those readers who really need a miracle, but perhaps are lacking in faith at the same time they really need the miracle. I know that some of you will fall into this category. I know that some readers, reading this message, will know in their mind and heart they should go to the Healer, but they also somehow think that God will not hear them because:

- A. They are a sinner, or
- B. They lack faith so nothing would happen anyway

As pertains to "A", I already have shown that we are all infected with sin as a disease and we are all sinners and that Jesus Christ has made an absolute promise to save us if we turn to him. So, if you don't go to the Healer because you are a sinner, you have missed the whole point – we all need to go to him because all of us all sinners. All of us must be healed of our sin positive condition.

As pertains to "B", I can assure you that your supposed, or real, lack of faith is not an absolute block to God working a miracle in your life and I will prove it below. So let's talk about not going to the Healer because you lack faith and see if your lack of faith would absolutely prevent God from healing you.

Case in point #1: The man born "blind from his birth," in John 9, did not believe prior to his healing.

"Since the world began was it not heard that any man opened the eyes of one that was born blind. If this man were not of God, he could do nothing. They answered and said unto him, Thou wast altogether born in sins, and dost thou teach us? And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he [Christ] had found him [the man healed], he [Christ] said unto him [the man healed], he [Christ] said unto him [the man healed], Dost thou believe on the Son of God? He answered and said, <u>Who is he, Lord, that I might believe</u> <u>on him?</u>" John 9:32-36, KJV The fact that the man who was healed did not even know who Jesus Christ was did not stop Jesus Christ from healing him. Christ just, as it were, "hit his override button" and healed the man anyway. Christ was not limited by the man's lack of faith in, or knowledge of, who Christ was, or what he could do.

Case in point #2: What if someone lived their entire life, but never even heard the name of Jesus Christ while they were alive? This author believes that such a person will, at some point, be resurrected back to physical life and be given a period of time with which to hear the truth about the plan of God and to apply that truth in their life. In essence, they will be given a chance to go to the Healer for the first time. Bear with me.

So let's say that someone was born in 1,200 B.C. and after a hard life they died young never having heard the name of Christ, or even being aware of the true God. Does such a person stay dead forever? Are they judged negatively for something they never were even aware of? I doubt it.

What is far more likely, from this author's perspective, is that such a person will be

resurrected back to physical life and be told about Jesus Christ and God's plan for the first time. And they will then understand it.

Let's go to Ezekiel 37:1-14, where it specifically mentions Israel, but you need to understand God usually talks about forcing Israel to obey him first and then all nations are going to do so. In the first part of the Chapter God takes Ezekiel out to a valley of dry bones and asks Ezekiel if the bones can live. And then the bones start joining themselves together and skin gets formed on them, but they still are not alive. The whole thing is kind of amazing if you think about it. When this happens, it would really be funny if God performed the miracle to music, right? The anklebone connected to shin bone. The shinbone connected to the knee bone. Etc.

"The LORD took hold of me, and I was carried away by the Spirit of the LORD to a valley filled with bones. He led me around among the old, dry bones that covered the valley floor. They were scattered everywhere across the ground. Then he asked me, "Son of man, can these bones become living people again?" "O Sovereign LORD," I replied, "you alone know the answer to that." Then he said to me, "Speak to these bones and say, 'Dry bones, listen to the word of the LORD! This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Look! I am going to breathe into you and make you live again! I will put flesh and muscles on you and cover you with skin. I will put breath into you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD." So I spoke these words, just as he told me. Suddenly as I spoke, there was a rattling noise all across the valley. The bones of each body came together and attached themselves as they had been before. Then as I watched, muscles and flesh formed over the bones. Then skin formed to cover their bodies, but they still had no breath in them. Then he said to me, "Speak to the winds and say: 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come, O breath, from the four winds! Breathe into these dead bodies so that they may live again." So I spoke as he commanded me, and the wind entered the bodies, and they began to breathe. They all came to life and stood up on their feet--a great army of them. Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones represent the people of Israel. They are saying, 'We have become old, dry bones-all hope is gone.' Now give them this message from the Sovereign LORD: 0 my people, I will open your graves of exile and cause you to rise again. Then I will bring you

back to the land of Israel. When this happens, O my people, you will know that I am the LORD. I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live and return home to your own land. <u>Then you will</u> <u>know that I am the LORD</u>. You will see that I have done everything just as I promised. I, the LORD, have spoken!"" Ezekiel 37:1-14, NLT

It is clear that these dead ones, who are resurrected back to physical life, do NOT have faith at the time they are resurrected back to life and given their real chance at salvation. God just hits his override button and up they come. It quite simply would be impossible to attribute faith in Jesus Christ to any of these physically dead people who had never even heard Christ's name. But that will not limit God from doing what he wants.

I have a good friend who, when someone working for him will point out some lesser problem to be solved along the way to a larger goal, will quip, "That would be a detail." Well, evidently, physical death is a detail to God.

So if you are either A) a sinner, B) you lack faith, or C) all of the above ... go to the Healer anyway. He will spiritually save you and he

might physically heal you, but the timing of the physical healing is for God to decide.

After Christ gave a hard teaching in John 6, many of Christ's disciples turned back and walked with him no more (John 6:66). In verse 67 Christ asked the twelve, "Will you also go away?" And Peter gave the Executive Summary, "To whom [else] shall we go?"

The Healer Will Come Again And Heal People, Animals, And The Earth

God reserves the right to decide on the best time to heal. Ecclesiastes 3:1-3 reveals:

"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;" Ecclesiastes 3:1-3, KJV

Ephraim and Judah, as examples of the leading tribes of Israel, (Joseph and Judah), are pictured as returning to serve God. And then they are healed from the earlier punishment that God put upon them (and Israel) for disobedience. This depicts a national healing.

"Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, <u>and he will heal us;</u> he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight." Hosea 6:1-2, KJV

The below passage, from Isaiah 35, describes spiritual healing and the miraculous healing of various physical ailments and also the healing of the earth's deserts.

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you [spiritual healing]. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing [physical healing]: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water [the healing of nature]: ... " Isaiah 35:4-7, KJV In another place in Isaiah it mentions that animals will be changed, children will be safe, and ignorance of God and his values will also be eliminated. These are all healings, as it were.

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and <u>a little child shall lead them</u>. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and <u>the lion shall eat straw</u> <u>like the ox</u>. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for <u>the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the</u> <u>LORD, as the waters cover the sea</u>." Isaiah 11:6-9, KJV

A famous scripture from Jeremiah reveals that the human heart is not as it should be.

"The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9, KJV

Desperately wicked can also mean incurably ill, or terminally ill. Without a healing of our heart, we will spiritually die, as we are all sin positive. Fortunately, this matter is addressed in Ezekiel 36, and other places. Ezekiel 36 also makes an additional, rather startling, promise:

"<u>A new heart also will I give you, and a new</u> spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God. I will also save you from all your uncleannesses: and I will call for the corn, and will increase it, and lay no famine upon you. And I will multiply the fruit of the tree, and the increase of the field, that ye shall receive no more reproach of famine among the heathen. Then shall ye remember your own evil ways, and your doings that were not good, and shall lothe yourselves in your own sight for your iniquities and for your abominations. Not for your sakes do I this, saith the Lord GOD, be it known unto you: be ashamed and confounded for your own ways, O house of Israel. Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded. And the desolate land shall be

tilled, whereas it lay desolate in the sight of all that passed by. And they shall say, <u>This land</u> <u>that was desolate is become like the</u> <u>garden of Eden</u>; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited." Ezekiel 36:26-35, KJV

The Healer is promising to spiritually heal the terminally ill human heart; get rid of famine; rebuild brand new cities from ruins; and, if this were not enough, to make a desolate land like the Garden of Eden. Wow! That is a lot of healing.

Ezekiel 34:25 contains a promise, from the Healer, to cause evil beasts to cease out of the land and that it will be completely safe to sleep outside. I think this means the Healer will get rid of not only creatures like poisonous snakes, but hopefully also mosquitoes, chiggers, ticks, and the like (insert your most hated evil beast here).

"And I will make with them a covenant of peace, and <u>will cause the evil beasts to cease</u> <u>out of the land</u>: and <u>they shall dwell safely in</u> <u>the wilderness</u>, and <u>sleep in the woods</u>." Ezekiel 34:25, KJV Getting back to the Healer fixing the hunger problem, there is a further interesting scripture in Ezekiel 34:29:

"And <u>I will raise up for them a plant of</u> <u>renown</u>, and they shall be no more consumed with hunger in the land, neither bear the shame of the heathen any more." Ezekiel 34:29, KJV

I always picture this plant of renown as edible kudzu, or something like that. Kudzu is a plant that grows extremely fast to the point of becoming a pest to some. At any rate, whatever this plant of renown will be, my take is that a poor person could, if they had to, eat this plant of renown and sleep in the woods and they would be fine. That would take a lot of pressure off of someone who was struggling financially to make ends meet.

The New Heaven And New Earth

The Bible promises that the Healer will some day create a new heaven and a new earth, in essence, a new universe. The Healer further promises that there will be no more death, or sorrow, or pain.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful." Revelation 21:1-5, KJV

The Healer might as well say, "Behold, I am healing everything."

How are God The Father and Jesus Christ going to create a new universe? I have no idea, but since they are "The Big Entrepreneurs In The Sky," I am not going to bet against them.

Spiritual Healing

Sometimes we are too proud to admit we need help and then we are not humble enough to go and get that help. James 4:5-6 has an admonishing scripture to remind us.

"Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, <u>but giveth grace unto</u> <u>the humble</u>." James 4:5-6, KJV

You have to come to the place where you know you are sin positive and to also be humble enough to actually go to the Healer! That is the $E = MC^2$ of this book. Fortunately, God, the Healer (Jehovah Rapha, the Physician who heals, Exodus 15:26), wants to heal us. God does not want to condemn us. He wants to save us. He wants to heal us.

"For God sent <u>not</u> his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved." John 3:17, KJV

" ... Our faults defeat us, but you forgive them." Psa. 65:3, GNB

The ultimate spiritual healing and the defeat of death itself are depicted throughout the 15th Chapter of I Corinthians, per the scriptures below. Please note that we are to receive an eternal spiritual body.

"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death." 1 Corinthians 15:20-26, KJV

"So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: <u>It is</u> <u>sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual</u> <u>body</u>. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body." 1 Corinthians 15:42-44, KJV "And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." 1 Corinthians 15:49-50, KJV

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed [ultimately healed in every way], In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Corinthians 15:51-57, KJV

God gives the victory through the Healer, Jesus Christ. And as a further encouragement the scripture below reveals something rather amazing! For those with God's Holy Spirit now, that Holy Spirit is the same power working inside us to commence the healing process now, that God the Father used to resurrect Jesus Christ himself from death.

"and how very great is his power at work in us who believe. <u>This power working in us is the</u> <u>same as the mighty strength which he used</u> <u>when he raised Christ from death</u> and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly world." Ephesians 1:19-20, GNB

Summary

In Acts 10:38 Peter was rehearsing some things about Jesus Christ and gave a great summary of his works on earth with one scripture.

"How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost [Spirit] and with power: who went about doing good, <u>and healing all that</u> <u>were oppressed of the devil</u>; for God was with him." Acts 10:38, KJV

With the above scripture, and a litany of other Bible references of Jesus Christ healing, it is unmistakable that an honest reading of the New Testament shows that Jesus Christ is the Healer.

We are all sin positive, i.e., all of us have sin as a spiritual disease and this evil disease has made us blind from birth and has also crippled us from birth. The Bible made a point, via two powerful healing examples, that being blind from birth and crippled from birth will not stop God when he is determined to fix a problem. Jesus Christ can, not only heal us physically, he WILL save us spiritually. So, go to the Healer.

God has an override button and can heal you even if your faith is not what it should be. Don't give up and don't be afraid. Get the help you need. Go to the Healer.

Christ will heal us and save us spiritually with the same power working in us that was used to raise Jesus Christ himself from the dead. We will be changed and spiritually saved! We will ultimately be healed physically as well.

Christ will come again and he will heal people, nations, animals, and places.

Christ will come again and heal the heavens and the earth, i.e., there will be a new heaven and a new earth.

And remembering Ezekiel 37 and the dry bones coming back to life: We will help Jesus Christ go back for our loved ones and those lonely little people the world never cared anything about. We will go back for them. They will be resurrected back to physical life and given their first real chance at understanding God's plan and cooperating with God to fulfill his purpose for them. Satan is not going to win.

In point of fact, whatever Satan and his team (aka the goons) destroy, the Healer can heal (fix). Because of God the Father and Jesus Christ and their incredible creative and healing powers, it will ultimately be like Satan was never here! The Healers will erase Satan and undo his work.

The Healers possess and employ a lot of very thoughtful and loving power and they are determined to save us and to heal us. And they will.

Appendix A

Examples of Healing In Matthew to Acts

Note 1: The below table is not a meticulously detailed complete listing, but it is a significant listing of healing references mentioned in Matthew to Acts. Some of the below references include the resurrection account, since the resurrection is an obvious and profound example of healing.

Note 2: Obviously, the four Gospels sometimes reference the same event.

| Book | Notation | Brief description |
|---------|----------|---------------------------------|
| Matthew | 4:23 | Healed throughout Galilee |

| Matthew | 4:24 | Fame went throughout Syria - healed & cast out demons |
|---------|---------|--|
| Matthew | 8:2-4 | Healed leper |
| Matthew | 8:5-13 | Healed Centurion's servant from a distance |
| Matthew | 8:14-15 | Healed Peter's mother-in- law |
| Matthew | 8:16-17 | Healed the sick and cast out demons |

| Matthew | 8:28-34 | Episode of casting out demons and then they entered swine |
|---------|---------|---|
| Matthew | 9:1-6 | Healed paralytic by saying, "your sins are forgiven you." |
| Matthew | 9:18-26 | A woman touches his garment & is healed and also a ruler's child |
| Matthew | 9:27-31 | Healed two blind men |
| Matthew | 9:32-33 | Heals dumb man possessed by demon |

| Matthew | 9:35 | Healed throughout many cities and villages |
|---------|----------|--|
| Matthew | 10:1 on | Gives authority over unclean spirits to disciples and also power to heal |
| Matthew | 12:9-13 | Healed man with withered hand |
| Matthew | 12:22-23 | Healed one who was blind and dumb Gennesaret healed all those who touched his |
| Matthew | 14:35-36 | robe |

| Matthew | 15:22-28 | Healed a woman of Canaan's daughter of a demon problem |
|---------|----------|---|
| Matthew | 15:29-31 | Healed many on a mountain top |
| Matthew | 17:14-18 | Healed child of demon possession |
| Matthew | 19:1-2 | Healed near the borders of Jordan and Judah |
| Matthew | 20:30-34 | Healed two blind men |
| Matthew | 21:14 | Healed the blind and the lame at the Temple |

| Matthew | 27:52-53 | Saints were resurrected to physical life at Christ's death |
|---------|----------|---|
| Matthew | 28:5-7 | An angel says Christ rose from the dead |
| Mark | 1:23-27 | Casts out an unclean spirit |
| Mark | 1:29-31 | Healed Peter's mother-in- law |
| Mark | 1:32-34 | Healed the sick and cast out demons Cast out demons |
| Mark | 1:39-39 | throughout Galilee |

| 1:40-45 | Healed a leper |
|---------|---|
| 2:1-12 | Healed paralytic let down through the roof |
| 3:1-6 | Healed man with withered hand on the Sabbath |
| 3:9-12 | Healed plagues and cast out unclean spirits |
| 3:14-15 | Gives authority over unclean spirits to disciples and also to heal |
| | 2:1-12 3:1-6 3:9-12 |

| Mark | 5:1-17 | Episode of casting out demons and then they entered swine |
|------|---------|---|
| Mark | 5:22-43 | A woman touches his garment & is healed and also ruler's child healed |
| Mark | 6:4-6 | Prophet not without honor - heals a few sick ones |
| Mark | 6:12-13 | Disciples healed the sick and cast out many demons |

| Mark | 6:52-56 | Healed the sick including those who just touched his garment |
|------|----------|---|
| Mark | 7:24-30 | Healed a woman of Canaan's daughter of a demon problem |
| Mark | 7:31-37 | Healed deaf man |
| Mark | 8:22-26 | Healed blind man |
| Mark | 9:17-27 | Cast out a very tough demon |
| Mark | 10:46-52 | Healed a blind man named Bartimeus |

| Mark | 16:6-7 | An angel says Christ rose from the dead |
|------|----------|--|
| Mark | 16:17-18 | These signs shall follow: casting out demons, healing the sick etc. |
| Luke | 1:64 | Zacharias regains his speech after obeying God |
| Luke | 4:18-19 | Fulfills Isaiah's prophecy to preach the gospel and heal |
| Luke | 4:33-36 | Casts out demon |

| Luke | 4:38-39 | Healed Peter's mother-in- law |
|------|---------|--|
| Luke | 4:40-41 | Healed many and cast out many demons |
| Luke | 5:12-14 | Healed a leper |
| Luke | 5:15 | Healed great crowds |
| Luke | 5:17-26 | Healed paralytic let down through the roof |
| Luke | 6:6-10 | Healed man with a withered hand on the Sabbath |

| Luke | 6:17-19 | Healed them all & cast out the unclean spirits |
|------|---------|--|
| Luke | 7:2-10 | Healed Centurion's servant from a distance |
| Luke | 7:11-17 | Brought the widow of Nain's dead son back to life |
| Luke | 8:2 | Reference to previously casting out 7 demons from Mary Magdalene |
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| Luke | 8:26-40 | Episode of casting out demons and then they entered swine |
|------|---------|---|
| Luke | 8:41-56 | A woman touches his garment & is healed and also a ruler's child |
| Luke | 9:1-2 | Gives authority over unclean spirits to disciples and also to heal |
| Luke | 9:11 | Christ heals those in need of healing |

| Luke | 9:38-42 | Cast out a very tough demon |
|------|----------|--|
| Luke | 10:1,9 | Appointed 70 others and gave them authority to heal the sick |
| Luke | 10:17 | The 70 also cast out demons |
| Luke | 11:14 | Cast out a demon and a dumb one was then able to speak |
| Luke | 13:10-17 | Healed a women who for 18 years had a spirit of infirmity |

| Luke | 14:1-4 | Healed man of the dropsy |
|------|----------|---|
| Luke | 17:12-19 | Healed ten lepers |
| Luke | 18:35-43 | Healed a blind man near Jericho |
| Luke | 22:51 | Christ heals the ear of one of those coming to arrest him |
| Luke | 24:5-8 | Angels state that Christ is risen |
| John | 4:46-54 | Heals a man's child |

| John | 5:1-17 | Heals a man who had an infirmity for 38 years and he walked |
|------|----------|--|
| John | 9:1-38 | Heals the man blind from birth |
| John | 11:1-48 | Raises Lazarus from he dead |
| John | 20:12-16 | Christ shows himself resurrected to Mary Magdalene Christ shows himself resurrected to most of |
| John | 20:19-23 | the disciples |

| John | 20:24-30 | Christ shows himself resurrected to Thomas and other disciples |
|------|----------|--|
| John | 21:1-25 | Christ shows himself again to the disciples and the 153 fishes |
| Acts | 1:1-9 | Christ teaches the disciples and ascends in their presence |
| Acts | 3:1-16 | Peter and John are used to heal a man lame from birth |

| Acts | 5:14-16 | Peter's shadow is used to heal people and the casting out of unclean spirits |
|------|---------|---|
| Acts | 8:5-8 | Philip is used to heal and casts out unclean spirits |
| Acts | 9:17-18 | Saul is healed of blindness and turns into Paul |
| Acts | 9:32-34 | Peter is used to heal a man paralyzed for eight years |

| Acts | 9:35-43 | Peter is used to heal Dorcas who had died |
|------|----------|--|
| Acts | 10:38 | Peter explains that Christ healed all those oppressed by the Devil |
| Acts | 14:8-10 | Paul is used to heal a man lame from birth |
| Acts | 16:16-18 | Paul and Silas are used to heal a girl possessed with a spirit of divination |
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| Acts | 19:11-12 | Paul is used to heal people even through aprons or cloths from his skin touching them |
|------|----------|---|
| Acts | 20:9-12 | Paul is used to bring back a man from the dead |
| Acts | 28:1-7 | Paul is bitten by a poisonous snake and no harm comes to him |
| Acts | 28:7-9 | Paul is used to heal Publius and others |