

YAHWEH RAPHA

JANUARY 17, 2021

WORSHIP

Your Love Awakens,
Healing is in
Your hands,
Resurrecting

WELCOME

Briefly share your most unforgettable healing experience or that of someone you know.

WORD

PSALM 147:3

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds

EXODUS 15:26

And He said, "If you will listen carefully to the voice of the Lord your God, and do what is right in His sight, and listen to His commandments, and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have put on the Egyptians; for I, the Lord, am your healer."

We continue on with our series ANEW. This is the perfect time for us to discover more about who God is and to know what He means to us today as we face our personal challenges. This week, let's discover the heart of God when it comes to healing anchoring on **Psalm 147:3**.

In **Exodus 15:26** which takes place in Marah, is where for the very first time we see God saying "...I, the Lord, am your healer." (*Yahweh-Rapha or Jehovah Rapha*). The Hebrew translation of "Rapha" (râpâ) means - to comfort, to restore or to heal. He is the God who heals. Even David cried out for three areas of healing in his own life in **Psalm 6:2-3**. He needed **Emotional** healing (*Be gracious to me, Lord, for I am frail*); **Physical** healing (*Heal me, Lord, for my bones are horrified*); and **Spiritual** healing (*And my soul is greatly horrified; But You, Lord—how long?*).

GOD HEALS US EMOTIONALLY

Our Heavenly Father is Yahweh Rapha when we are in need of emotional healing. **Psalm 147:3** says God heals the brokenhearted (*crushed, smashed, shattered into pieces*). Some of us are undergoing deep emotional pain caused by others who have wounded us so deeply that it feels that nothing can heal our hearts.

Emotional distress can also be caused by situations beyond one's control just like this pandemic. Fear, anxiety, hopelessness, and insecurity can easily lead to mental anguish and depression. Emotional pain can be as devastating as physical pain. If unaware, this emotional pain can be like a cancer or acid slowly eating away your mind and your body. Our natural default is to get sad and be angry at that person or at God. But don't discount the fact that God allowed this to happen for a purpose to build character and strengthen your faith.

Nothing touches your life without first passing through the loving hands of God. If you are in emotional pain due to circumstances beyond your control, admit that they are beyond your control. God offers a prescription in **1 Peter 5:7**. Surrender or give all the emotional pain to God because He cares for us so much. Ask Him to take control daily and give us peace.

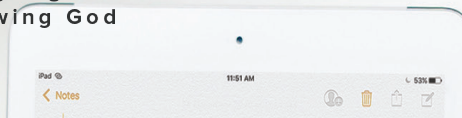
It is God who can heal you. Though your pain may be great, God is greater. He heals your emotional sickness completely. Only God can cure, restore, comfort, and heal your heart. God heals the root and source of the problem in the heart with His prescription: **forgiveness**. Forgiveness is the Greek word *apoluein*, which means "to release." There is healing and freedom in forgiveness because forgiveness is more powerful than pain. **1 Peter 2:22-23** also shows us Jesus' response to pain caused by others. He did not threaten and kept entrusting Himself to God. Forgiveness doesn't make the perpetrators right; it makes us right before God. Forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling. Whatever pain you are carrying, you need to hand it over to the Healer Himself.

GOD HEALS US PHYSICALLY

God continues to exercise His divine power over human sickness by healing people who are physically sick. He can and He does heal many of those we pray for through His power and for His Glory. God calls Himself the God who heals. This is who He is, and this is what He does. True to His character and nature, He fulfilled His promises in the Old Testament numerous times—healing His chosen people and even nations who did not consider Him as Lord. There are multiple examples from the Old Testament where God healed His people. His healing extended to unbelievers as well.

In the New Testament gospels, Jesus had countless miracles of healing that revealed he is the Son of God. Notice in **Matthew 4:24**, just one among many other accounts, that Jesus healed all of them. Everyone who sought healing from

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WORD

Jesus were restored. He even raised some from the dead. Jesus taught his disciples and gave them the power and authority to cast out demons and heal the sick which many of them did as well.

Spiritual gifts of healing were not only given to apostles and leaders but also to the church members in the New Testament (**1 Corinthians 12:8-9**), including some today. We are clearly taught that when we pray in the name of Jesus in accordance with His will and with faith and conviction, God promises to hear and answer. We are to ask to receive (**John 16:23**). If we truly humble ourselves before God, He will hear us and answer in a way and time that is best in His sight.

Sometimes God's perfect plan for our lives is to allow us to suffer and to experience disease, illness, and hardship. One reason for this is that He can often teach us things through suffering that we will never be able to learn through a book or seminar or when life is going well. In the midst of suffering, remember that He still loves you and He still has a plan and purpose for that pain that can end up as a blessing beyond you could ever imagine (**2 Corinthians 4:16-17**).

God heals in whatever way He chooses, and we can't demand healing because we do not know the specific heart of God in each case. Remember that death does not mean God is defeated. It is victory when we are in Christ (**Psalms 116:15**). It is our homegoing.

GOD HEALS US SPIRITUALLY

By far, this is the most important among the three truths of healing. There is an infection more deadly than any plague or disease. It is the spiritual cancer of sin. It can kill our future, reputation and relationship with God. If left uncured, it will definitely kill us forever by keeping us from God's presence for all eternity. God has created us with a soul that has the ability to feel guilt when we do something wrong. This is God's alarm bell warning us to deal with what's wrong before it leads to spiritual death.

In **Psalms 32**, David openly pours out his moral sickness and pleads for spiritual healing after his wretched sins of adultery with Bathsheba, murder of Uriah, and living with lies and deceit. He confessed the condition of his heart (**v.3**). He felt a heavy burden on his heart (**v.4**). David came to his senses and admitted his sin (**v.5**). Finally, David's guilt is cleansed, and his spiritual sickness is healed.

One of the greatest miracles of healing is when you are born again. You were once dead in your sins but then made alive by the Spirit of God. This is how God heals us spiritually. This is what you can experience as well. Quit trying to hide away and justify your sin. Repent and turn to God (**Acts 3:19**). Relief from your pain, healing for your heart, and cleansing for your soul are all found at the foot of the cross of Christ Jesus—where every sin is paid in full by the blood of Jesus. He is the Living Water who gives us eternal life (**John 4:14**).

SURRENDER TO GOD IN PRAYER AND HAVE FAITH IN GOD OUR HEALER!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. Self-Check.

What are the deep emotional wounds and physical ailments that need to be healed in your life today?

2. Setting It Right

What steps of action will you take together with God to be healed in those areas?

3. Living It Out

How can you be an instrument of God to help others who are in need of healing?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for emotional, physical, and spiritual healing. Be an instrument of God's healing in someone's life. Share the healing power of God's Word—the Gospel, to your loved ones.

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

II. Country and the World

Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
A God-centered Philippines
Repentance and Salvation

III. Church

That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
Ministries and Churches worldwide

IV. CCF Facilities

Worship and Training Center
Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

Deeper intimate relationship with God
Righteous living
Salvation of family and friends