

By is Stripes 2

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If we are going to receive what God is wanting to get to us (healing), we need to know how to receive it.

Here are a few individual cases of healing from Jesus' ministry in scripture. In 10 of them, the individual's faith is explicitly referred to.

- Nobleman's son ("the man believed");
 - John 4:46-54
- Paralytic let down through the roof ("Jesus saw their faith")
 - Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-39
- Centurion's servant ("let it be done for you as you have believed");
 - Matthew 8:5-13
- Woman issue of blood ("your faith has made you whole/well");
 - Mark 5:25-34, Matthew 9:20-22, Luke 8:43-48
- 2 blind men ("according to your faith, be it done to you")
 - Matthew 9:27-31
- 10 lepers ("your faith has made you whole")
 - Luke 10:17
- Blind Bartameaus ("your faith has made you whole")
 - Mark 10:46-52
- Canaanite woman's daughter ("great is your faith, be it done for you as you desire")
 - Matthew 15:21-28
- Father of boy with unclean spirit: I believe; help my unbelief
 - Mark 9:14-29
- Jairus's daughter ("Do not fear; only believe")
 - Mark 5:21-43

What did Jesus emphasize in these people's reception of healing? Did He say "according to the will of God..." or "according to the power of God"? No, Jesus emphasized that they received according to their faith and that their faith made them whole. He put the emphasis, not on the will of God or the power of God, but on their faith.

Galatians 3:5-6 (ESV) - ⁵ Does he who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you do so by works of the law, or by hearing with faith— ⁶ just as Abraham "believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"?

If we are to receive healing, miracles, even the Spirit of God, how does it happen? Do we receive these things just because God is able? Do we receive these things just because God is willing? Or, do we receive these things because of faith (hearing with faith)? If faith is central to us receiving healing in our bodies, then it begs the questions what is it and how do I get it?

What is Faith?

It comes from a root word meaning “to persuade or be persuaded.” It is believing. It is trusting.

Hebrews 11:1 (ESV) – ¹ Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

Faith is a divine persuasion of the heart.

Romans 10:10 (NIV) - ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

Faith is not agreeing with your head. It’s being persuaded in your heart.

How do I get Faith?

Persuasion is a result of information. It is the result of evidence. You don’t have faith without evidence. No, faith is the most logical and reasonable thing in the world, and it is based on the highest evidence.

Romans 10:17 (ESV) - ¹⁷ So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

The Word of God is evidence that gives us a divine persuasion. Faith says, "God said it; that settles it." Evidence can be the written Word of God, the spoken Word of God to your heart, your personal time in His presence, the testimonies/stories of others, and remembering God’s past faithfulness.

Examples of persuasions from Word of God:

If you’re questioning if it’s God’s will

Matthew 8:2-4 (NLT) - ² Suddenly, a man with leprosy approached him and knelt before him. “Lord,” the man said, “if you are willing, you can heal me and make me clean.”
³ Jesus reached out and touched him. “I am willing,” he said. “Be healed!” And instantly the leprosy disappeared.

1 John 5:14-15 (ESV) - ¹⁴ And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

Proverbs 4:20-22 (NLT) - ²⁰ My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. ²¹ Don’t lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, ²² for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body.

Proverbs 3:7-8 (NLT) - ⁷ Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the Lord and turn away from evil. ⁸ Then you will have healing for your body and strength for your bones.

Psalms 30:2 (ESV) - ² O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

Referring to Jesus' sacrifice on the cross

Isaiah 53:3-5 (NIV) - ³ He was despised and rejected by mankind, a man of suffering [pains], and familiar with pain [sickness]. Like one from whom people hide their faces he was despised, and we held him in low esteem. ⁴ Surely he took up our pain [sickness] and bore our suffering [pains], yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. ⁵ But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

If you think your sin disqualifies you from healing

Psalms 103:2-3 (NLT) - ² Let all that I am praise the Lord; may I never forget the good things he does for me. ³ He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.

James 5:14-15 - ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven.