

Jehovah The God who heals Rapha

Today, I would like to share with you a short personal testimony. In March, when I got back from the outreach in Indonesia, I began to have an irritating, red rash on my face around my mouth. It would appear regularly, following a cycle of 4 days on and 5 days off. It bothered me greatly because of the burning sensation it caused and it also made me avoid social occasions. I tried every possible remedy I could think of and went to a specialist who had no cure either. I was getting desperate because it seemed I just had to live with this nuisance.

Then I began to read a book about divine healing by T.L. Osborn. I've read many books about healing and even worked at a healing ministry but while reading this book, I once again in a whole new way realized a truth that became a key to my healing. This truth has been ignored by many believers, myself included, and I might carefully like to suggest that this could well be a reason why so many are sick and so few experience healing. I applied this truth over myself with the result that the rash was gone and has not returned ever since.

Today, I'd like to share with you the key that I believe brought my healing. Before I tell you what I did in practice, I would like to lay a foundation by studying a certain scripture together with you. We find it in Isaiah 53:4-5 **"Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows... He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed."**

When Jesus suffered for us from the point of whipping to dying on the cross, He provided for us a complete redemption – body, soul and spirit. In this Isaiah scripture, we find the elements for redemption for all these three areas. We can break it down and see how the sufferings of Jesus has impact on our whole being – body, soul and spirit.

1. Redemption of the spirit

Sin is a spiritual sickness, like cancer that slowly eats us up and eventually causes spiritual death. In verse 5, we read that Jesus **"was wounded for our transgressions,**

bruised for our iniquities and the chastisement for our peace (with God) was upon Him." He took all our sins and paid a full price for our spiritual redemption. We can receive forgiveness, freedom of guilt and condemnation as well as eternal salvation through His work on the cross. It's already paid in full for you and me!

2. Redemption of the soul/mind

Our soul/mind can get sick, for example through trauma, loss and negative experiences, leading to sorrow and grief, causing deep emotional suffering. In verse 4, we read that Jesus **"has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows"** offering for us complete redemption and freedom of mind/soul. All this is already paid in full for you and me!

3. Redemption of the body

Our body can get sick through diseases and accidents causing us great physical suffering. In verse 5, we read that **"by His stripes we are healed."** The Hebrew word for 'healed' in this scripture is the word *rāphāh* which is one of the names of God (Jehovah Rapha), meaning "The God who heals", and in most cases it's used in the Old Testament referring to physical healing. In the New Testament, we find a direct reference and the fulfillment of this verse. Matt. 8:16-17 says, **"When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and HEALED ALL WHO WERE SICK that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'He Himself took our infirmities and bore our sicknesses.'"** This is clearly referring to Is. 53:5 because there is no other place in all of Isaiah that speaks of this other than Is. 53:5. Physical healing has been fully paid for by the stripes on the body of Jesus – for you and for me!

Jesus' suffering, death, burial and resurrection had to take place in order for us to be free from the power of sin which brought a physical, mental and spiritual curse upon all mankind.

The shedding of His life blood and dying on the cross paid for our sin and provided eternal salvation for our spirit. The thorns that pierced into His head paid for our mental well-being. The stripes on His body were the price for our physical healing.

In the light of all this, I started pondering on these truths in a whole new way because I wanted to see myself healed from the rash. I decided to start taking communion the first thing every morning. By taking it, I paid conscious attention to both the wine AND the bread and their corresponding meanings. So often we just take the bread symbolizing His broken body for us, and then the wine symbolizing the blood He shed for us, but don't really meditate on the powerful truths hidden in these elements. Or if we do think of them, we often have them out of balance. The cup, the blood seems to get greater attention but we forget the significance of the bread, the body.

So I began to take communion in a whole new way and according to 1 Cor. 11:29, I consciously made the decision to **"discern the Lord's BODY"**, which provides healing for us. As I took the broken piece of bread into my hand, I proclaimed that I'm healed by His stripes and thanked Him for my complete healing that was paid for already 2000 years ago. And guess what happened? The rash disappeared and has never come back! It's been 2 months now. **THANK YOU JESUS, THE HEALER!**

I find interesting, the way the Matza bread that the Jews eat during their Passover meal, looks. The bread is pierced with rows of little holes forming stripes. It is also slightly burnt. Many churches and individual believers including myself use it today in their communion. Do you know what this bread pierced, striped and burnt bread symbolizes?

It symbolizes the broken, pierced and striped body of Jesus which provides our healing. The Jews however don't have this revelation as chapter 53 is always skipped by the Rabbis and never read in the synagogues.

There's no magic in the Matza or any bread itself – don't get me wrong. But there's power when we take the bread and wine with understanding and discernment and apply our faith in Jesus' finished work on the cross.

If you need healing, I would advise you to do what I did. As you take communion, discerning these powerful truths about His body, you are partaking in it in a manner that has power to make a difference in your life. I do not have an exhaustive answer to why God doesn't always heal but I do know that He still does heal. **What if today was your day?**

With this testimony and short teaching, I want to encourage you to stand up, press in and believe for your healing. Take a hold of it! Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever (Heb. 13:8) and this promise is also yours in your situation. If you need prayer for healing, you can send us your request to info@awakethenations.org and we will be honored to pray for you and stand together with you for your breakthrough.



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