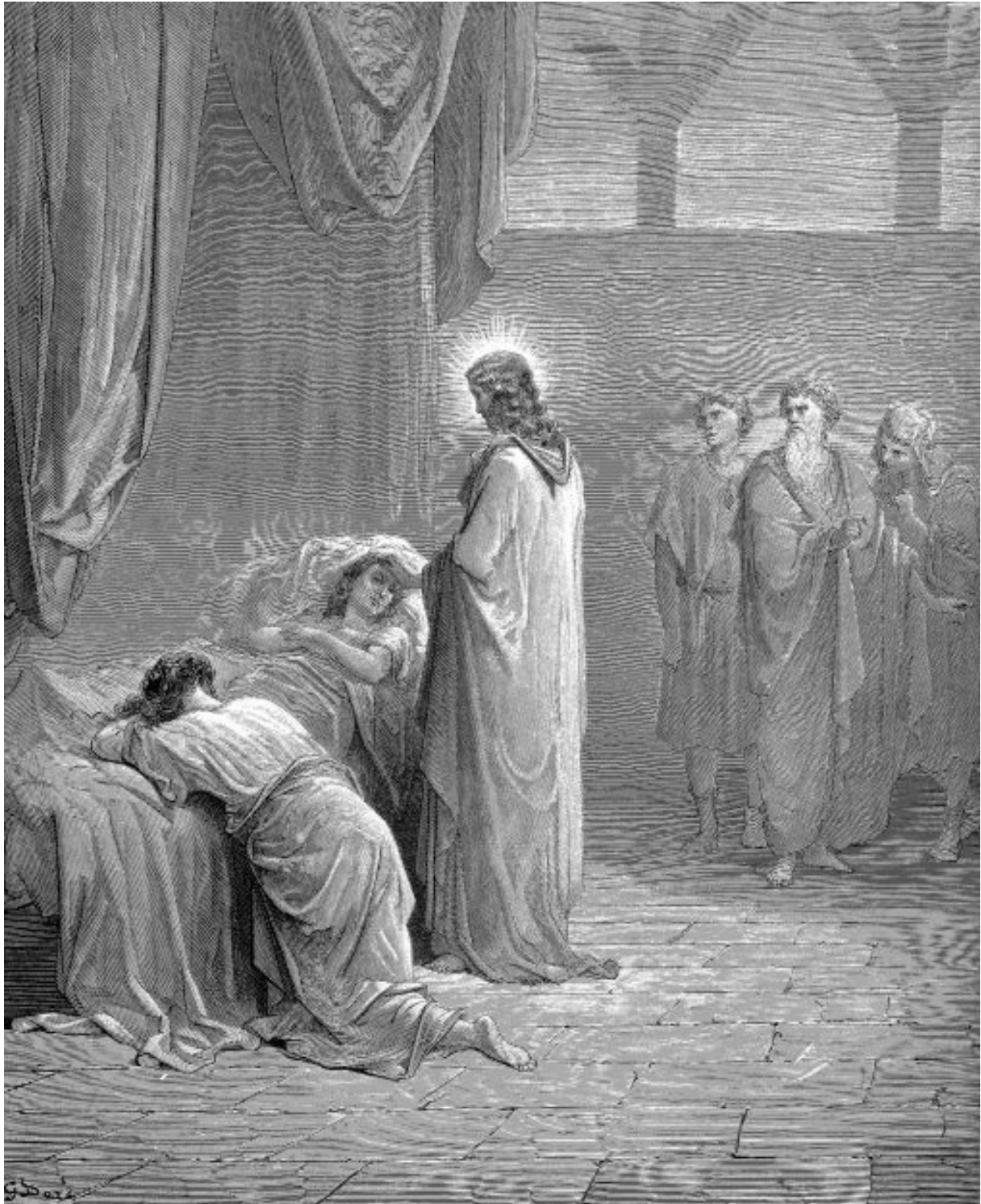


## Jesus heals today



And He took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise!"  
Luke 8:54

© Luzius Schneider – February 2008

[www.luziusschneider.com](http://www.luziusschneider.com)



**Jesus heals today**

*Is it God's will to heal today? ..... - 1 -*  
*Limitations ..... - 2 -*  
*Jesus is the life – looking up to HIM gives eternal life ..... - 3 -*  
*Faith..... - 4 -*  
*The task to be HIS disciple – our identity ..... - 6 -*  
*The gift of healing ..... - 9 -*  
*The health of God's children..... - 9 -*  
*Suffering and death..... - 10 -*  
*Paul's „thorn in the flesh“, a counter-argument? ..... - 11 -*  
*Murmuring, a frequent obstacle ..... - 12 -*  
*Does Jesus always heal? – Instantly? ..... - 12 -*



---

## **Is it God's will to heal today?**

Jesus came to this world to redeem us from sin, death and sickness. He was made to be sin on our behalf, that we might have life.

**Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But 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.**

**Isa 53:4-5**

Jesus demonstrated this when he was on earth 2000 years ago.

**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."**

**Mat 8:16-17**

**And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease among the people.**

**Mat 4:23**

Jesus is the same today as he was then and he still lives on earth through his Holy Spirit in us. We are his ambassadors! Through us, he wants not only to proclaim the gospel in words, but also to heal the sick! He wants to save people from damnation and set free from captivity and sickness!

The original Greek word which is translated in the New Testament with save is the same word which is used for heal. Three examples:

**God desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

**1Ti 2:4**

**If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

**Rom 10:9**

**"Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." But when Jesus heard it, He answered him, saying, "Do not be afraid; only believe, and she will be made well."**

**Luk 8:49-50**

Here, as in many other places, you will find in the original Greek text the verb σωζω, which means *save, heal, make whole*.

We do not doubt that Jesus still calls us to repentance today, that he wants to save us from the in-

fluence of Satan and bring us into the kingdom of God. He died on the cross for our sins, for everything which separates us from God! He is leading us to the Father!

Why is it so difficult for us to expect and to experience that he heals our sicknesses?

---

## Limitations

First we must remove all thorns and weeds before we start sowing the good seeds. First we must uproot all false thinking and lies before we sow the truth, the word of God. We will focus on what the Bible says. **WE WILL NOT SETTLE FOR PULLING DOWN GOD'S WORD TO THE LEVEL OF OUR PAST EXPERIENCE, BUT OUR EXPERIENCE MUST REACH THE LEVEL WE FIND IN OUR BIBLE.** Our thinking is shaped by the possibilities of this world. With God, there are no limitations.

**I know that You can do everything, And that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You.**

**Job 42:2**

**Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for Me?**

**Jer 32:27**

**But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossi-**

**ble, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."**

**Mar 10:27**

Unfortunately we can limit God through our thinking, through our beliefs, through things in our heart which we trust! Now we want to tear down these old walls and clear the way for God, who is able to do so much more than we can ever ask for or even think of (after Eph 3:20). HE is the one who is able to meet our needs. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil (1Jn 3:8) and this is a question of power, not of words alone (1Th 1:5)!

**For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance.**

**1Th 1:5**

**And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.**

**Php 4:19**

**For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and**

**length and depth and height to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Eph 3:14-21**

Jesus is the same at all times. We can be absolutely sure that he means what he says in his word. Nothing, not one word we must understand somehow “symbolically, spiritualized”.

**Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.**

**Heb 13:8**

**And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.**

**Mar 16:17-18**

In my experience, it's worth giving enough room to the question whether Jesus wants to **heal you today**. An illustration: H. suffered from a painful infection with multi-resistant bacteria for years after surgical treatment of a broken leg. Further operations

did not help and the doctors had no hope for improvement. H. had asked God for healing, but she thought he probably put this sickness and pain on her in order to achieve something. After a longer discussion on the basis of the Bible, she was persuaded that Jesus wants to heal “even” her. Then I could command the infection to leave in the name of Jesus and speak healing into her leg. The pain vanished and didn't return!

---

## **Jesus is the life – looking up to HIM gives eternal life**

Jesus is the life. Through HIM everything was created.

**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.**

**Joh 1:1-4**

**Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.**

**Joh 14:6**



**Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."**

**Joh 11:25**

**For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself.**

**Joh 5:26**

He came that we may have life. If we look to him, we have eternal life!

**I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.**

**Joh 10:10**

**For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.**

**Joh 6:40**

Death, sickness and need came into this world through sin. Sin is the cause of all destruction. The solution: Sin is set in the light and revealed publicly. Jesus was made sin for us and was lifted up on the cross. Whoever looks up to him will live! It happened the same way in the desert when the fiery snakes had bitten the Israelites. Mose was instructed to erect a bronze snake on a high pole and everybody who had been bitten by a poisonous serpent and looked up to it would stay alive.

**Then the LORD said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent, and set it**

**on a pole; and it shall be that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at it, shall live."**

**Num 21:8**

**And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.**

**Joh 3:14-15**

We will end up in the place we have been looking at. Fix your eyes on Jesus that you may LIVE! It is not prayer which heals, but looking at Jesus.

**Keep your eyes on the LORD! You will shine like the sun and never blush with shame.**

**Psa 34:5**

**But we all, with our face having been unveiled, having beheld the glory of the Lord as in a mirror, are being changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Lord Spirit.**

**2Co 3:18**

---

## **Faith**

**But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.**

**Heb 11:6**

A very central message of the New Testament is our faith. The original Greek text uses the word

**πιστις**. It means believe, trust, loyalty, faithfulness. The translator must decide from the context which English word to use. For us this means that it's not enough to think something to be true. We must also have a heart which trusts in God, which knows and believes him and which is faithful.

**Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?"**

**Joh 11:40**

**Jesus replied, "Why do you say 'if you can'? Anything is possible for someone who has faith!"**

**Mar 9:23**

**Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.**

**Mar 11:24**

**But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord.**

**Jas 1:6-7**

We can't produce this faith of the heart by ourselves. Every attempt "to pull ourselves together and believe" must fail because it is impossible out of our flesh and our own thinking! Only God can

put such a believing faith in our hearts and only this will produce the corresponding results. It never works the other way round, that we "create" our faith by deeds or hard work. So we want to ask the Lord to pour faith into our hearts!

**For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.**

**Eph 2:8-9**

**So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who shows mercy.**

**Rom 9:16**

As we have seen, our duty is not primarily to pray with sick people for healing, but we are instructed to heal them! This is possible only if we have the necessary faith in our heart. To receive this faith we should indeed struggle in prayer. This faith can be expressed in different ways. Some receive a word or an impression to bring healing to a sick person. This gives faith of the heart for the healing. Of course the sick person will then be healed.

Now let us seek the Lord, that he will change our hardened hearts, that he will fill us with a living faith which trusts in HIM. Let us soak ourselves in his word and beseech him to change us into his

image, to give us a heart after his heart!!

Change our hardened heart.

**For they had not understood about the loaves, because their heart was hardened.**

**Mar 6:52**

Fill us with your word:

**So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.**

**Rom 10:17**

Conform me to your image:

**For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.**

**Rom 8:29**

I cling to YOU, where should I go?

**But Jacob said, "I will not let You go unless You bless me!"**

**Gen 32:26**

**But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life."**

**Joh 6:68**

Jesus, I need you more than everything, I want to look unto you! You are my all in all!

**Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.**

**Heb 12:1-2**

I'm unable to produce this faith, but I can receive it by his grace.

Even my struggle in prayer can not produce faith. It is an expression of my loyal 'clinging to Jesus'. Even if nothing remains but to say, "Father, I don't understand you, but I trust in you", with this I want to show him that I expect everything from HIM! As I said before, the original Greek word for believe means more than the English word. A good translation would be 'trusting loyalty' or 'trusting faith'. This in effect characterizes our relationship to the Lord Jesus and means much more than to rely on a healing. On the contrary, if I decide to keep this 'trusting faith' and harbor it in my heart, I will not waver even if I don't see the healing!

---

## **The task to be HIS disciple – our identity**

Jesus sent us, his disciples, to do as he did: to proclaim the kingdom of God with words and with power, to bring life to people. For this mission, he not only made us his disciples, but through him we are children of God, his brothers and sisters! Our identity is to be ambassadors of the living God, children of God.

**But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to**

**become children of God, to those who believe in His name.**

**Joh 1:12**

**So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you."**

**Joh 20:21**

**And as you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.' Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.**

**Mat 10:7-8**

**For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**

**Rom 8:14**

**For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.**

**Gal 3:26**

He equipped us with the same glory he had, with everything we need to accomplish his commission! It's impossible to do this with our own possibilities, out of our flesh. But if we live in the Spirit, walking as children of God, then our natural fruit is the fulfillment of his commission. The father in heaven loves us as much as he loves Jesus! We are Jesus' little brothers and sisters!

**And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may**

**know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.**

**Joh 17:22-23**

**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.**

**Act 1:8**

The task he gave us is not primarily about what we must do, but who we are! Religion talks about a far-off God, the gospel says that Jesus makes his home within us! God lives in us through the Holy Spirit just as in Jesus when he was teaching and working for three years here on earth. This means that God acts through us simply because HE lives in us. Our task is to give HIM room, to listen to HIM and then to obey.

**Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.**

**Joh 14:23**

**Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?**

**1Co 3:16**

**You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should**

**remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you.**

**Joh 15:16**

Sometimes, it may be enough to pass close to someone who is sick and he will be healed, because the Spirit of the Lord touches him. Our duty is to carry life to the people. The life is Jesus!

**They brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them.**

**Act 5:15**

We don't need any particular prayers or methods. Our natural man wants to make everything complicated, so he can earn it and boast with it. We shouldn't copy methods from evangelists or "mighty man of God". We need to give the Spirit of God room and leave it to HIM to lead us, as Jesus did.

**Then Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but only what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.**

**Joh 5:19**

Let us do what Jesus did. He did not see sickness or death but he saw life and brought it to people. Once he said "he sleeps" after

somebody had died, because he saw God's possibilities. He did not commit himself to things he saw, to things Satan had done. Our words have power! If we pronounce God's words we bring life; if we allow ourselves to be influenced by Satan and speak his words, we are responsible for the resulting destruction and death!

**He said to them, "Make room, for the girl is not dead, but sleeping." And they ridiculed Him.**

**Mat 9:24**

He had deep compassion with people and acted out of this love and compassion. He didn't have just a miserable pity which leads to inactive self-pity!

**So Jesus had compassion and touched their eyes. And immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed Him.**

**Mat 20:34**

**When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried him stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."**

**Luk 7:13-14**

You yourself are a child of God through Jesus! You can speak and command as Jesus did because he lives in you. Do you see

yourself as a son/daughter of God almighty? What you see, you will get ...

**... to reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the Gentiles**

**Gal 1:16**

---

## The gift of healing

And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues.

**1Co 12:28**

Just as the Lord gave some the gift of prophecy to a high degree, to another less, he did with the gift of healing also. Some have more authority in this field – perhaps even to overcome unbelief and sin of the sick – some have less. Some even have an exceptional anointing to heal only a specific kind of sickness.

**My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.**

**Joh 10:27**

Just as every disciple of Jesus hears his voice even without a special gift of prophecy, each of his disciples has the task and the authority to heal the sick in the name of Jesus.

---

## The health of God's children

If we live with Jesus as our Lord, if we are God's children through Him, the normal state will be that no disease can harm us. This was true already in the old covenant for the people of Israel.

**So you shall serve the LORD your God, and He will bless your bread and your water. And I will take sickness away from the midst of you.**

**Exo 23:25**

In Jesus we also inherit the blessings of Abraham and much more. If you have the right priorities meaning you are owned by Jesus in all your being, in all your actions and with all your possessions, then God will provide whatever you need.

**But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**

**Mat 6:33**

Whenever sickness may appear, maybe even the priorities of the kingdom of God are upset, the Lord gives clear instructions.

**Is anyone among you sick? 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 the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise**

him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

**Jas 5:14-16**

Sickness and death are a consequence of sin. Where there is sin, sickness has an open door. But Jesus brought once and for all the solution for sin and thus for disease and death, as well.

**For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.**

**Rom 6:14**

In the same way, sickness and death can not rule over us because we live under grace. We are called to take up this dominion in our life actively. It's given to us!

**For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.**

**Rom 5:17**

So rule over sin and disease!

**Jesus Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness -- by whose stripes you were healed.**

**1Pe 2:24**

The devil tries to involve us in sin and consequently in sickness. But we needn't accept that. He has no more place in us.

**We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him.**

**1Jn 5:18**

Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit (1Co 3:16). In the temple in Jerusalem, where God promised to be present, nothing unclean - including sick persons - was allowed to enter. If a priest was sick, he was unfit for service (Lev 21:16 – 22:9).

We disciples of Jesus, who are called for service as a royal priesthood, are unfit to serve if we soil ourselves with sin.

**But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people.**

**1Pe 2:9**

---

## Suffering and death

**Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me".**

**Mat 16:24**

If we long to be close to Jesus, we will share in his sufferings. He who endured death on the cross for us and who is rejected today by many, suffering in his

love with all these persons - how should we be close to his heart and not suffer with him? How should we administer his comfort if we need no comfort ourselves?

**Blessed be God ... who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.**

**2Co 1:3-4**

But nevertheless, this does not permit us to open the door for disease as suffering given by God. This suffering consists primarily of persecution, rejection, and mockery and in agonizing in love over persons going astray in godless ways.

**All who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

**2Ti 3:12**

At the time appointed by the Lord, we will finally leave this world. Not Satan, a murderer from the beginning (Joh 8:44) will choose our end by sending sickness, but our father in heaven will take us to be with him at his appointed time. Peter said near the end of his life,

**I know that the removal of my bodily tent will come soon, as indeed our Lord Jesus Christ has shown me.**

**2Pe 1:14**

---

## **Paul's „thorn in the flesh“, a counter-argument?**

**So to keep me from becoming conceited because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from becoming conceited. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me.**

**2Co 12:7-9**

The “thorn in the flesh” which Paul speaks about is often taken as an argument that God doesn't always want to heal. But it is nowhere written that this “thorn” was a sickness. Paul speaks about a “messenger of Satan” (Greek *αγγελος* = messenger, angel). From the context it's clear that he means persecution. From 2 Corinthians 11:16 to the end, Paul speaks about nothing but the persecution and suffering he is going through because of the gospel.

An earlier Bible verse speaks of a “thorn” and equates it with human enemies.

**But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from be-**



fore you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain shall be irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell.

**Num 33:55**

Paul was hardly addressing a disease by writing about this “thorn in the flesh”. Thus the argument that God didn’t heal him despite his pleading, is untenable.

---

## **Murmuring, a frequent obstacle**

Nothing limits Gods blessing as much as our murmuring. Murmuring expresses our unbelief, strengthening it through words and passing it on to others. In addition it often works like a curse. We define the situation in a negative way!

**"How long shall I bear with this evil congregation who complain against Me? I have heard the complaints which the children of Israel make against Me. Say to them, 'As I live,' says the LORD, 'just as you have spoken in My hearing, so I will do to you. '**

**Num 14:27-28**

How wise it would be to ponder our words, as if everything we pronounce would come true!

If our hearts are in despair and we are in danger of murmuring, God calls to us,

Therefore do not cast away your confidence, which has great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise.

**Heb 10:35-36**

---

## **Does Jesus always heal? – Instantly?**

As we have seen above, the standard in the kingdom of God is health. Sickness has its origin in Satan and in sin. Nevertheless there are examples in the Bible where even the Apostles did not see healing immediately.

Paul had to leave a sick Trophimus in Milet (2Ti 4:20). When he came to Galatia the first time and preached the gospel, Paul himself was sick (Gal 4:13-14). His associate Epaphroditus was once even critically ill, and Paul pleaded in fear for him before God eventually healed him in his mercy (Php 2:25-27).

Two blind men called Jesus but had to follow him through the village until he reached his house. Only then he did turn to them and ask,

**Do you believe that I am able to do this?**

**Mat 9:28**

Why did he leave them, blind as they were, walking and calling for such a long time?

Beware of trying to get God under control. Yes – **The standard in the kingdom of God is health and healing** – and our duty as disciples is to heal people! In many cases where we don't see healing flow, we can find causes (sin, murmuring, etc.). Nevertheless our knowledge is incomplete (1Co 13:9). If the healing apparently fails to materialize and we are at our wit's end, we want to be content to look up to HIM in trusting faith, because HE is faithful. HE is beyond everything we can conceive.

**I know that my Savior lives, and at the end he will stand on this earth. My flesh may be destroyed, yet from this body I will see God. Yes, I will see him for myself, and I long for that moment.**

**Job 19:25-27**

The kingdom of God is now in our midst – even in us through the Holy Spirit.

And yet its fullness is still in the future – for we desperately long for the day when our Lord Jesus will appear in glory!

**He who testifies to these things says,**

**"Surely I am coming quickly."**

–

**Amen. Yes, come, Lord Jesus!**

**Rev 22:20**