

## What was Jesus' main purpose in healing?

It was that people would know He was the Son of God, (John 11:41-42), and that by believing they would have life in His name. (John 20:30-31).

God's primary concern is with redeeming people to Himself. (Luke 1:68, John 3:16).

God is concerned with wholeness — healing our whole person. He is in the process of doing this, but this process will not be completed until Jesus returns. (Matthew 1:21, Romans 5:8, 1 Peter 3:18).

**People with disabilities need a personal relationship with Jesus, a church home where they are fully included and accepted, and the freedom for God to work through them to accomplish His purpose in their lives**

## Life Examples

Margie Willers (from New Zealand) was born with Cerebral Palsy and uses a wheelchair for mobility. She sought healing for a number of years and even went to USA. Despite great faith in God, she was not healed.

Margie is a well known speaker and teacher, and a talented writer, and has impacted thousands of people's lives positively. She also co-founded the Christian Ministries with Disabled Trust

Joni Eareckson-Tada (USA) is a great example of a disabled person who God is working through to further His Kingdom. Joni became a tetraplegic as the result of a diving accident as a teenager. Joni is the founder & President of Joni and Friends, a ministry for people with disabilities (in USA), that has partner organisations worldwide, & has impacted the lives of millions of people. Joni is also a prolific writer

We could tell you many stories of people with disabilities who haven't been healed, they believe this is God's will for them. They live full lives, allowing God to work through them to impact people, and to accomplish His purposes.

May God richly bless you as you and your church accept and include people with disabilities fully, and by doing so further God's Kingdom.

## Books to read on the topic of Healing

Dobson, Dr James:

*When God doesn't make sense*

*Trusting God when life goes wrong*

Eareckson-Tada, Joni:

*A Step Further*

Rees-Larcombe, Jennifer

*Unexpected Healing*

Yancey, Phillip

*The Jesus I never knew*

*Where is God when it hurts*

*Disappointment with God*

Willers, Margie

*Awaiting the Healer*

## Acknowledgments

Dicken, P

Biblical Healing in the Disability Community

How the Church is Excluding people with Disabilities

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# What about Healing?

## Introduction

The reason we have produced this brochure is because one of the most common misconceptions we come up against as we teach in churches is about healing. As well as this, many of our people have been hurt by well-meaning Christians who see them as an object to be healed, rather than a person who needs to be loved, understood and accepted, and welcomed into the body of Christ.

This is by no means a comprehensive statement about healing, but serves to outline our position on this issue, and to state what we believe the Bible says about healing.

The four most common misconceptions we find are : -

- 1) It is God will that everybody should be healed.
- 2) There must be a lack of faith in the person if they are not healed.
- 3) The person must have sin in their lives to be disabled.
- 4) God does not heal at all today.

## What is the cause of disabilities?

We believe that disabilities are mostly the result of three causes :-

- 1) The degeneration of the gene pool as the result of the fall/ sin, through Adam and Eve. (Romans 8:19-23)
- 2) Accidents, which are for the most part, consequences of a free will.
- 3) God sometimes allows people to have disabilities. (Exodus 4:11).

## The Christian Ministries with Disabled Trust position on healing is this.

- 1) **Yes God can heal today, and sometimes does.**
- 2) **God is sovereign and allows some people to have disabilities.**
- 3) **People with disabilities can help further the Kingdom of God.**

God is all-powerful. Nothing is impossible for Him (See Luke 1:37). This means God is capable of healing.

But at the same time, God has the big picture; we must trust Him, who loves us, to do what is best for us, even if we do not understand.

We believe in healing. However, we implore the church to have more grace and understanding when ministering with people with disabilities. (So often disabled people's faith has been affectively negatively in circumstances surrounding prayer for healing).

**When looking at this complex issue of healing, and non-healing, we need to look at this in the light of eternity, and to gain an eternal perspective on life.**

Even if a person is healed, they will still die. We must keep our eyes on eternity, and see things in the light of that. This earthly life is very short, and one day we will all die. (1 Peter 1:24, 2 Corinthians 4:16-18).

The Bible teaches that it is more important to be spiritually whole in Christ. (To have Jesus as our Lord and Saviour), and to have the assurance of salvation — that when we die, we will inherit eternal life, and will be with God forever. (John 3:16, John 14:4)

## How did Jesus see physical healing?

We see in the passage about the man who was lowered through the roof, in Mark 12:1-12, that the first thing Jesus did was to forgive the man's sins.

Jesus healed the man to prove that He was the Son of God to unbelievers that were present.

We can see Jesus' priorities by His actions. First, He forgave the man's sins. Second, He healed him. This means having forgiveness of sins is important to Jesus. And may be more important than physical healing.

The most valuable point we can learn through this Biblical story is the importance of being in the presence of Jesus, and allowing Him to minister, and work in our lives.

In Mark 10:50-52, Jesus asked a blind man, "What do you want Me to do for you?". This is not a silly question.

Jesus did not just automatically heal, even though He could have. He asked people what they thought their greatest need was.

A lot of offenses would be prevented if this question was asked before praying for people with disabilities.

We see through the Biblical narrative that Jesus treated people with dignity and respect. He asked questions of people, and engaged them. It was a two way thing.

We need to ensure in our churches that the way we go about praying for a person honours Jesus AND honours the person.

**When a person with a disability comes forward for prayer, ask them what they want prayer for, as you would with any other person coming forward for prayer.**