

## Shall We Pray for the Sick

### 1 Scriptural Encouragement To Pray

- 2 Ps. 103:3 (God not only forgives, he also heals)  
3 Jer. 17:14 (Healing is encouraged)  
4 Matt. 4:24; 8:14-16; 14:14;15:30;19:2;21:14; Mark 1:34; 3:10,11  
5 (Healing was a major part of Jesus' ministry)  
6 Matt. 10:1,8 (God gave His disciples power over unclean spirits... and  
7 the ability to heal all kinds of sicknesses)  
8 Mark 16:15-18 (The disciples were sent out with instructions to heal)  
9 Mark 10:46-52 (We are invited to ask for healing)  
10 Acts 3:6,7 (Healing resulted in 5,000 joining the church)  
11 Acts 5:16; 8:5-8 (Healing was ongoing in the early church)  
12 James 5:13-16 (James admonishes anointing if someone is sick)  
13 3 John 1:2 (God wants us to enjoy good health)  
14 1 Cor. 6:19 (Our Bodies are to be temples of Holy Spirit)

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### The Recovery of the Sick

18

19 **But only as we live in obedience to His word can we claim the**  
20 **fulfillment of His promises.** The psalmist says, "If I regard iniquity in  
21 my heart, the Lord will not hear me." Psalm 66:18. If we render to Him  
22 only a partial, halfhearted obedience, His promises will not be fulfilled  
23 to us. {CCh 303.3}

24 **In the word of God we have instruction relative to special prayer**  
25 **for the recovery of the sick. But the offering of such prayer is a**  
26 **most solemn act, and should not be entered upon without careful**  
27 **consideration. In many cases of prayer for the healing of the sick,**  
28 **that which is called faith is nothing less than presumption.** {CCh  
29 303.4}

30 **Many persons bring disease upon themselves by their self-**  
31 **indulgence. They have not lived in accordance with natural law or**  
32 **the principles of strict purity.** Others have disregarded the laws of  
33 health in their habits of eating and drinking, dressing, or working.  
34 Often some form of vice is the cause of feebleness of mind or body.  
35 **Should these persons gain the blessing of health, many of them**  
36 **would continue to pursue the same course of heedless transgression**

37 **of God's natural and spiritual laws, reasoning that if God heals**  
38 **them in answer to prayer, they are at liberty to continue their**  
39 **unhealthful practices** and to indulge perverted appetite without  
40 restraint. **If God were to work a miracle in restoring these persons**  
41 **to health, He would be encouraging sin.** {CCh 304.1}

42 **It is labor lost to teach people to look to God as a healer of their**  
43 **infirmities, unless they are taught also to lay aside unhealthful**  
44 **practices.** In order to receive His blessing in answer to prayer, **they**  
45 **must cease to do evil and learn to do well. Their surroundings must**  
46 **be sanitary, their habits of life correct.** They must live in harmony  
47 with the law of God, both natural and spiritual. {CCh 304.2}

48 **To those who desire prayer for their restoration to health, it should**  
49 **be made plain that the violation of God's law, either natural or**  
50 **spiritual, is sin, and that in order for them to receive His blessing,**  
51 **sin must be confessed and forsaken.** {CCh 304.3}

52 The Scripture bids us, "Confess your faults one to another, and pray  
53 one for another, that ye may be healed." James 5:16. To the one asking  
54 for prayer, let thoughts like these be presented: "We cannot read the  
55 heart, or know the secrets of your life. These are known only to  
56 yourself and to God. **If you repent of your sins, it is your duty to**  
57 **make confession of them."** Sin of a private character is to be  
58 **confessed to Christ,** the only mediator between God and man. For "if  
59 any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the  
60 righteous." 1 John 2:1. Every sin is an offense against God and is to be  
61 confessed to Him through Christ. **Every open sin should be as openly**  
62 **confessed. Wrong done to a fellow being should be made right with**  
63 **the one who has been offended. If any who are seeking health have**  
64 **been guilty of evilspeaking, if they have sowed discord in the home,**  
65 **the neighborhood, or the church, and have stirred up alienation**  
66 **and dissension, if by any wrong practice they have led others into**  
67 **sin, these things should be confessed before God and before those**  
68 **who have been offended.** "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and  
69 just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."  
70 1 John 1:9. {CCh 304.4}

71 **When wrongs have been righted, we may present the needs of the**  
72 **sick to the Lord in calm faith, as His Spirit may indicate.** He knows  
73 each individual by name, and cares for each as if there were not another  
74 upon the earth for whom He gave His beloved Son. Because God's love  
75 is so great and so unfailing, **the sick should be encouraged to trust in**  
76 **Him and be cheerful. To be anxious about themselves tends to**  
77 **cause weakness and disease.** If they will rise above depression and  
78 gloom, their prospect of recovery will be better; for "the eye of the  
79 Lord is upon them" "that hope in His mercy." Psalm 33:18. {CCh  
80 304.5}

81 In prayer for the sick **it should be remembered that "we know not**

1161 a medical doctor, and he said: "Why, there is no miracle in that! It was  
1162 just up-to-date hygiene—giving nature a chance by cleanliness!" **I**  
1163 **replied: "Doctor, to me the miracle lay, not in the poultice, but in**  
1164 **God's telling me what to use; and now it is to me all the more a**  
1165 **miracle of prayer,** since you say it was up-to-date hygienic  
1166 treatment."—Rosalind Goforth

1167

1168 George & Mary Muller had a little boy in March of 1834 who they  
1169 named Elijah. In June of 1835 Elijah became very ill, and four days  
1170 later passed away. It is interesting that **neither parent felt led to pray**  
1171 **for the healing of that little boy.**

1172

1173 Soon after coming to China the Rev. Hunter Corbett, one of the most  
1174 devoted and saintly of God's missionaries, gave a testimony which later  
1175 was used of God to save the writer from giving up service in China and  
1176 returning home to Canada. Dr. Corbett said that for fifteen years he  
1177 had been laid aside every year with that terrible scourge of the East—  
1178 dysentery; and **the doctors at last gave a definite decision that he**  
1179 **must return at once to the homeland and forsake China. But, said**  
1180 **the grand old man: "I knew God had called me to China, and I also**  
1181 **knew that God did not change. So what could I do? I dared not go**  
1182 **back on my call; so I determined that if I could not live in China I**  
1183 **could die there; and from that time the disease lost its hold on me."**

1184 This testimony was given over twenty-five years ago, when he had  
1185 been almost thirty years in China! In January, 1920, when well-nigh  
1186 ninety years of age, this beloved and honored saint of God passed to  
1187 higher service. For several years I had been affected just as Dr.  
1188 Corbett had been, and each year the terrible disease seemed to be  
1189 getting a firmer hold upon me. At last, one day my husband brought me  
1190 the decision of the doctors, that I should return home. And as I lay there  
1191 ill and weak, the temptation to yield came. But, **as I remembered Dr.**  
1192 **Corbett's testimony, and my own clear call, I felt that to go back**  
1193 **would be to go against my own conscience. I therefore determined**  
1194 **to do as Dr. Corbett had done—leave myself in the Lord's hands --**  
1195 **whether for life or death. This happened more than twenty years**  
1196 **ago, and since then I have had very little trouble from that dread**  
1197 **disease.** Yes, the deeper the need, and the bitterer the extremity, the  
1198 greater the opportunity for God to show forth His mighty power in our  
1199 lives, if we but give Him a chance by unswerving obedience at any  
1200 cost. "In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst  
1201 me with strength in my soul" (Ps. 138:3).—Rosalind Goforth

1202

1203 *Compiled by Dan Augsburg. This is a first draft so corrections will*  
1204 *be made. Find more on the topic at [path2prayer.com](http://path2prayer.com). Contact Dan by*  
1205 *calling via 2694715415. 5-30-2015*

1115 disease. The poor mother was in great distress, for the doctor had told  
1116 her also that there was no hope. She thought that if we would plead  
1117 with the doctor he could save her child. At last Mr. Goforth pointed to  
1118 our little Gracie, saying: "Surely, if the doctor cannot save our child,  
1119 neither can he save yours; your only hope and ours is in the Lord  
1120 Himself." The mother was a poor, hard-working, ignorant woman, but  
1121 she had the simple faith of a little child. Some weeks later she called  
1122 again, and told me the following story: "When the pastor told me my  
1123 only hope was in the Lord, I believed him. When I reached home I  
1124 called my husband, and together we committed our child into the Lord's  
1125 hands. I felt perfectly sure the child would get well, so I did not take  
1126 care of him more than of a well child. In about two weeks he seemed so  
1127 perfectly well that I took him to the doctor again, and the doctor said  
1128 that he could discover nothing the matter with him." That **Chinese**  
1129 **child is now a grownup, healthy man. And our child died. Yet we**  
1130 **had prayed for her as few, perhaps, have prayed for any child.**  
1131 **Why, then, was she not spared? I do not know. But I do know that**  
1132 **there was in my life, at that time, the sin of bitterness toward**  
1133 **another, and an unwillingness to forgive a wrong.** This was quite  
1134 sufficient to hinder any prayer, and did hinder for years, until it was set  
1135 right. **Does this case of unanswered prayer shake my faith in God's**  
1136 **willingness and power to answer prayer? No, no!** My own child  
1137 might just as reasonably decide never again to come to me with a  
1138 request because I have, in my superior wisdom, denied a petition. Is it  
1139 not true, in our human relationships with our children, that we see best  
1140 to grant at one time what we withhold at another? "What I do thou  
1141 knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter."—Rosalind Gorforth,  
1142 Missionary with the China Inland Mission

1143

1144 On one of the early visits to the city of Linchang, a woman came with a  
1145 little child whose foot was terribly burned. The whole foot was badly  
1146 swollen, the inflammation reaching some distance up the leg. The child  
1147 was feverish, and seemed in a serious condition. It happened that on  
1148 that trip I had forgotten to bring the simple remedies which I was  
1149 accustomed to take out with me, so the woman was told nothing could  
1150 be done. But she begged so piteously that I could not turn her away;  
1151 and lifting up my heart in prayer I asked the Lord to guide me, if there  
1152 was anything I could do. **Even while I prayed the thought of a**  
1153 **bread poultice came to mind. This remedy seemed almost absurd. I**  
1154 **had never heard of such a thing being used before under like**  
1155 **circumstances, but I resolved to try it.** Twice a day the foot was  
1156 cleansed and put in the poultice, and it was really wonderful to see how  
1157 it healed. We were there ten days, and when we left the foot was almost  
1158 completely well. The mother, father, the child herself, and indeed the  
1159 whole family, became Christians. On a later visit I examined the foot,  
1160 and found not even the sign of a scar remaining. I told this incident to

82 **what we should pray for as we ought." Romans 8:26. We do not**  
83 **know whether the blessing we desire will be best or not. Therefore**  
84 **our prayers should include this thought: "Lord, thou knowest**  
85 **every secret of the soul.** Thou art acquainted with these persons. Jesus,  
86 their Advocate, gave His life for them. His love for them is greater than  
87 ours can possibly be. **If, therefore, it is for Thy glory and the good of**  
88 **the afflicted ones, we ask, in the name of Jesus, that they may be**  
89 **restored to health. If it be not Thy will that they may be restored,**  
90 **we ask that Thy grace may comfort and Thy presence sustain them**  
91 **in their sufferings." {CCh 305.1}**

92 God knows the end from the beginning. He is acquainted with the  
93 hearts of all men. He reads every secret of the soul. **He knows whether**  
94 **those for whom prayer is offered would or would not be able to**  
95 **endure the trials that would come upon them should they live. He**  
96 **knows whether their lives would be a blessing or a curse to**  
97 **themselves and to the world. This is one reason why, while**  
98 **presenting our petitions with earnestness, we should say,**  
99 **"Nevertheless not my will, but Thine, be done." Luke 22:42.** Jesus  
100 added these words of submission to the wisdom and will of God when  
101 in the Garden of Gethsemane He pleaded, "O My Father, if it be  
102 possible, let this cup pass from Me." Matthew 26:39. And if they were  
103 appropriate for Him, the Son of God, how much more are they  
104 becoming on the lips of finite, erring mortals! {CCh 305.2}

105 **The consistent course is to commit our desires to our all-wise**  
106 **heavenly Father, and then, in perfect confidence, trust all to Him.**  
107 We know that God hears us if we ask according to His will. But to  
108 **press our petitions without a submissive spirit is not right; our**  
109 **prayers must take the form, not of command, but of intercession.**  
110 {CCh 305.3}

111 **There are cases where God works decidedly by His divine power in**  
112 **the restoration of health. But not all the sick are healed. Many are**  
113 **laid away to sleep in Jesus.** John on the Isle of Patmos was bidden to  
114 write: "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth:  
115 Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their  
116 works do follow them." Revelation 14:13. **From this we see that if**  
117 **persons are not raised to health, they should not on this account be**  
118 **judged as wanting in faith.** {CCh 305.4}

119 **We all desire immediate and direct answers to our prayers, and are**  
120 **tempted to become discouraged when the answer is delayed or**  
121 **comes in an unlooked-for form. But God is too wise and good to**  
122 **answer our prayers always at just the time and in just the manner**  
123 **we desire. He will do more and better for us than to accomplish all**  
124 **our wishes. And because we can trust His wisdom and love, we**  
125 **should not ask Him to concede to our will, but should seek to enter**  
126 **into and accomplish His purpose.** Our desires and interests should be  
127 lost in His will. These experiences that test faith are for our benefit. By

128 them it is made manifest whether our faith is true and sincere, resting  
129 on the word of God alone, or whether depending on circumstances, it is  
130 uncertain and changeable. Faith is strengthened by exercise. We must  
131 let patience have its perfect work, remembering that there are precious  
132 promises in the Scriptures for those who wait upon the Lord. {CCh  
133 305.5}

134 Not all understand these principles. **Many who seek the Lord's**  
135 **healing mercy think that they must have a direct and immediate**  
136 **answer to their prayers or their faith is defective. For this reason,**  
137 **those who are weakened by disease need to be counseled wisely,**  
138 **that they may act with discretion. They should not disregard their**  
139 **duty to the friends who may survive them, or neglect to employ**  
140 **nature's agencies for the restoration of health.** {CCh 306.1}

141 Often there is danger of error here. **Believing that they will be healed**  
142 **in answer to prayer, some fear to do anything that might seem to**  
143 **indicate a lack of faith. But they should not neglect to set their**  
144 **affairs in order as they would desire to do if they expected to be**  
145 **removed by death. Nor should they fear to utter words of**  
146 **encouragement or counsel which at the parting hour they wish to**  
147 **speak to their loved ones.** {CCh 306.2}

148 Those who seek healing by prayer **should not neglect to make use of**  
149 **the remedial agencies within their reach. It is not a denial of faith**  
150 **to use such remedies as God has provided to alleviate pain and to**  
151 **aid nature in her work of restoration. It is no denial of faith to co-**  
152 **operate with God, and to place themselves in the condition most**  
153 **favorable to recovery.** God has put it in our power to obtain a  
154 knowledge of the laws of life. This knowledge has been placed within  
155 our reach for use. We should employ every facility for the restoration  
156 of health, taking every advantage possible, working in harmony with  
157 natural laws. **When we have prayed for the recovery of the sick, we**  
158 **can work with all the more energy, thanking God that we have the**  
159 **privilege of co-operating with Him, and asking His blessing on the**  
160 **means which He Himself has provided.** {CCh 306.3}

161 **We have the sanction of the word of God for the use of remedial**  
162 **agencies. Hezekiah, king of Israel, was sick, and a prophet of God**  
163 brought him the message that he should die. He cried unto the Lord,  
164 and the Lord heard His servant and sent him a message that fifteen  
165 years should be added to his life. Now, **one word from God would**  
166 **have healed Hezekiah instantly; but special directions were given,**  
167 **"Let them take a lump of figs, and lay it for a plaster upon the boil,**  
168 **and he shall recover."** Isaiah 38:21. {CCh 306.4}

169 **When we have prayed for the recovery of the sick, whatever the**  
170 **outcome of the case, let us not lose faith in God. If we are called**  
171 **upon to meet bereavement, let us accept the bitter cup,**  
172 **remembering that a Father's hand holds it to our lips. But should**

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#### Prayer for Healing From Ungodly Practices

1074

1075 A brother said, "Thank God for the answer to prayer. In every  
1076 emergency, here is help and relief for the burdened and distressed. I  
1077 want to love God and keep his commandments. God has answered my  
1078 prayers, even mine. Jesus has great power. When he was upon earth he  
1079 healed the sick. He will surely hear the prayer of faith, if we come  
1080 sincerely and humbly before him. I want to be an entire Christian, a  
1081 temperate man in all my habits. I want to lay aside every thing that will  
1082 prove injurious to health, or demoralizing in its effects. I have used  
1083 tobacco from a child. I have tried to leave off the pernicious habit, but  
1084 it has seemed impossible. The physicians have said it would kill me. I  
1085 know I cannot do this in my own strength, but God will help me, and in  
1086 him I trust. Here goes my idol, tobacco! [Here he threw a large package  
1087 of tobacco upon the ground.] Now I hope to be more worthy of  
1088 worshiping a pure and holy God! My Saviour, preserve me from this  
1089 debasing appetite! Purge me from this polluting habit! Supported by  
1090 your prayers, brethren, and clinging to God myself, by faith, I shall be  
1091 victor. Brethren, do not forget to pray for me." {RH, May 25, 1876  
1092 par. 31}

1093 Before proceeding with the testimonies of this meeting, I will say  
1094 that we afterwards went to the tent where this brother, Bro. Strong,  
1095 made his home. We found the tent's company in prayer. We earnestly  
1096 besought God in behalf of our brother, that strength and grace might be  
1097 given him, through Jesus' name, to overcome this strong appetite for  
1098 tobacco. We felt the assurance that it would be done. The blessing of  
1099 the Lord rested upon us while we prayed. August 17, Bro. Jordan  
1100 reported that Bro. Strong was firm in the truth. He had had no appetite  
1101 for tobacco since we united in prayer to God for him. He was cheerful  
1102 in the Lord, and felt that through the all-powerful help of Jesus he had  
1103 gained a great victory in overcoming his appetite for tobacco. He is a  
1104 happy man. We will now return to the meeting. {RH, May 25, 1876  
1105 par. 32}

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#### Quotes From Others

1109

1110 This, in short, is the way I have prayed for the sick. Our little Gracie  
1111 became ill with a terribly fatal disease, so common in malarious  
1112 districts -- enlarged spleen. The doctors pronounced her condition quite  
1113 hopeless. One day a Chinese Christian woman came in with her little  
1114 child of about the same age as our Gracie, and very ill with the same

1026 *Lessons From The Months Of Suffering*

1027 I have been passing through great trial in pain and suffering and  
1028 helplessness, but through it all I have obtained a precious experience  
1029 more valuable to me than gold. When I was first convinced that I must  
1030 give up my cherished plans to visit the churches in Australia and New  
1031 Zealand, I felt to seriously question whether it was my duty to leave  
1032 America and come to this far-off country. My sufferings were acute.  
1033 Many sleepless hours of the nights I spent in going over and over our  
1034 experience since we left Europe for America, and it has been a  
1035 continual scene of anxiety, suffering, and burden bearing. Then I said,  
1036 What does it all mean? {RY 142.2}

1037 I carefully reviewed the history of the past few years and the work  
1038 the Lord gave me to do. Not once did He fail me, and often He  
1039 manifested Himself to me in a marked manner, and I saw I had nothing  
1040 of which to complain, but instead precious things running like threads  
1041 of gold through all my experience. The Lord understood better than I  
1042 the things that I needed, and I felt that He was drawing me very nigh to  
1043 Himself, and I must be careful not to dictate to God as to what He  
1044 should do with me. This unreconciliation was at the beginning of my  
1045 sufferings and helplessness, but it was not long until I felt that my  
1046 affliction was a part of God's plan. I found that by partly lying and  
1047 partly sitting I could place myself in position to use my crippled hands,  
1048 and although suffering much pain I could do considerable writing.  
1049 Since coming to this country I have written sixteen hundred pages of  
1050 paper of this size. {RY 142.3}

1051 Many nights during the past nine months I was enabled to sleep but  
1052 two hours a night, and then at times darkness would gather about me;  
1053 but I prayed, and realized much sweet comfort in drawing nigh to God.  
1054 The promises, "Draw nigh to God, and He will draw nigh to you"  
1055 (James 4:8), "When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of  
1056 the Lord shall lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19), were  
1057 fulfilled to me. I was all light in the Lord. Jesus was sacredly near, and  
1058 I found the grace given sufficient, for my soul was stayed upon God,  
1059 and I was full of grateful praise to Him who loved me and gave  
1060 Himself for me. I could say from a full heart, "I know whom I have  
1061 believed" (2 Timothy 1:12). "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to  
1062 be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also  
1063 make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians  
1064 10:13). Through Jesus Christ I have come off more than conqueror,  
1065 and held the vantage ground. {RY 143.1}

1066 I cannot read the purpose of God in my affliction, but He knows  
1067 what is best, and I will commit my soul, body, and spirit to Him as unto  
1068 my faithful Creator. "For I know whom I have believed, and am  
1069 persuaded that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto  
1070 Him against that day" (2 Timothy 1:12). -- Letter 7, 1892. {RY 143.2}

173 **health be restored, it should not be forgotten that the recipient of**  
174 **healing mercy is placed under renewed obligation to the Creator.**

175 When the ten lepers were cleansed, only one returned to find Jesus and  
176 give Him glory. Let none of us be like the unthinking nine, whose  
177 hearts were untouched by the mercy of God. "Every good gift and  
178 every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of  
179 lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." James  
180 1:17. 547 {CCh 306.5}

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Additional Quotes

184

185 *We Must Pray For the Sick*

186 It has often been my privilege to pray with the sick. We should do this  
187 much more often than we do. **If more prayer were offered in our**  
188 **sanitariums for the healing of the sick, the mighty power of the**  
189 **Healer would be seen. Many more would be strengthened and**  
190 **blessed, and many more acute sicknesses would be healed.** {3SM  
191 295.2}

192

193 **When you neglect to offer prayer for the sick, you deprive them of**  
194 **great blessings; for angels of God are waiting to minister to these**  
195 **souls in response to your petitions.** In every possible and pleasant  
196 way, those who know the truth should seek to reveal the power of the  
197 grace of Christ. As they exemplify truth in their daily walk and  
198 conversation, they will exert a holy influence, and the grace of Christ  
199 will cooperate with human effort. Working intelligently for the  
200 recovery of body and soul from the results of sin, they will be true  
201 workers together with Christ and will be instruments in His hands to  
202 show forth His praise and salvation. {MM 195.1}

203

204 *Many Are Needing Healing of the Soul*

205 Many are suffering from maladies of the soul far more than from  
206 diseases of the body, and they will find no relief until they come to  
207 Christ, the wellspring of life. **The burden of sin, with its unrest and**  
208 **unsatisfied desires, lies at the foundation of a large share of the**  
209 **maladies the sinner suffers.** Christ is the Mighty Healer of the sin-sick  
210 soul. These poor, afflicted ones need to have a clearer knowledge of  
211 Him whom to know aright is life eternal. They need to be patiently and  
212 kindly yet earnestly taught how to throw open the windows of the soul  
213 and let the sunlight of God's love come in. Complaints of weariness,  
214 loneliness, and dissatisfaction will then cease. Satisfying joys will give  
215 vigor to the mind and health and vital energy to the body. When the  
216 gospel is received in its purity and power, it is a cure for the maladies

217 that originated in sin. The Sun of Righteousness arises, "with healing in  
218 His wings." . . . The love which Christ diffuses through the whole  
219 being is a vitalizing power. Every vital part--the brain, the heart, the  
220 nerves-- it touches with healing. By it the highest energies of the being  
221 are roused to activity. It frees the soul from the guilt and sorrow, the  
222 anxiety and care, that crush the life forces. With it come serenity and  
223 composure. It implants in the soul joy that nothing earthly can destroy--  
224 joy in the Holy Spirit--health-giving, life-giving joy. **Our Saviour's**  
225 **words, "Come unto Me, . . . and I will give you rest," are a**  
226 **prescription for the healing of physical, mental, and spiritual ills.**  
227 Though men have brought suffering upon themselves by their own  
228 wrongdoing He regards them with pity. In Him they may find help. He  
229 will do great things for those who trust in Him. . . . If human beings  
230 would open the windows of the soul heavenward, in appreciation of the  
231 divine gifts, a flood of healing virtue would flow in. **The burden of**  
232 **sin, with its unrest and unsatisfied desires, lies at the very**  
233 **foundation of nine-tenths of all the maladies the sinner suffers.**  
234 Christ is the mighty healer of the sin-sick soul. These poor afflicted  
235 ones need to have a clearer knowledge of Him whom to know aright is  
236 life eternal. They need to be patiently and kindly, yet earnestly taught  
237 how to throw open the windows of the soul and let the sunlight of  
238 God's love come in to illuminate the darkened chambers of the mind.  
239 {ML 155.6}

240

241 *Healing Can Bring Conversions*

242 **On the sickbed Christ is often accepted and confessed; and this will**  
243 **be done oftener in the future than it has been in the past,** for a quick  
244 work will the Lord do in our world. Words of wisdom are to be on the  
245 lips of the physician, and Christ will water the seed sown, causing it to  
246 bring forth fruit unto eternal life. {6T 233.1}

247

248 *We May Pray With Others for the Sick*

249 As to **praying for the sick, it is too important a matter to be**  
250 **handled carelessly. I believe we should take everything to the Lord,**  
251 and make known to God all our weaknesses and specify all our  
252 perplexities. **When in sorrow, when uncertain as to what course to**  
253 **pursue, two or three who are accustomed to pray should unite**  
254 **together** in asking the Lord to let His light shine upon them and to  
255 impart His special grace; and **He will respect their petitions, He will**  
256 **answer their prayers.** If we are under infirmities of body, it is  
257 certainly consistent to trust in the Lord, making supplications to our  
258 God in our own case, and if we feel inclined to ask others in whom we  
259 have confidence to unite with us in prayer to Jesus who is the Mighty  
260 Healer, help will surely come if we ask in faith. I think we are  
261 altogether too faithless, too cold and lukewarm. {MM 16.2}

982 A case was held up before me of \_\_\_\_\_, a minister; eighty miles he  
983 was sent for, to pray for a sick sister who sent for him in compliance  
984 with the teaching of James. He went and prayed in earnest, and she  
985 prayed; she believed the minister to be a man of God, a man of faith.  
986 Physicians had given her up to die of consumption. She was healed  
987 immediately. She arose and prepared supper, a thing she had not done  
988 for ten years. Now the minister was vile, his life was corrupt, and yet  
989 here was a great work. He took the glory all to himself. {2SM 347.2}

990 Then again the scene mentioned above passed before me. I saw that  
991 the woman was a true disciple of Christ; her faith was that she should  
992 be healed. I saw their prayers: One was misty, dark, fell downward; the  
993 other prayer was mixed with light or specks which looked to me like  
994 diamonds, and arose upward to Jesus and He sent it up to His Father  
995 like sweet incense, and a beam of light was immediately sent to the  
996 afflicted one and she revived and strengthened under its influence. Said  
997 the angel, God will gather every particle of true, sincere faith; like  
998 diamonds shall they be gathered up and will surely bring a return or  
999 answer; and God will separate the precious from the vile. Although He  
1000 bears long with the hypocrite and sinner, yet he will be searched out.  
1001 Though he may flourish with the honest a while like the green bay tree,  
1002 yet the time will come when his folly will be made manifest, and he be  
1003 brought to confusion.--Letter 2, 1851. {2SM 347.3}

1004

1005 *Spurious Healings*

1006 Men under the influence of evil spirits will work miracles. They will  
1007 make people sick by casting their spell upon them, and will then  
1008 remove the spell, leading others to say that those who were sick have  
1009 been miraculously healed. This Satan has done again and again (Letter  
1010 259, 1903). {7BC 939.5}

1011

1012

1013

1014

Blessings in Suffering

1015 When Paul prayed that the thorn in his flesh might be removed, the  
1016 Lord answered his prayer, not by removing the thorn, but by giving him  
1017 grace to bear the trial. "My grace," He said, "is sufficient for thee." Paul  
1018 rejoiced at this answer to his prayer, declaring. "Most gladly therefore  
1019 will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest  
1020 upon me." When the sick pray for the recovery of health, the Lord does  
1021 not always answer their prayer in just the way they desire. But even tho  
1022 they may not be immediately healed, He will give them that which is of  
1023 far more value,--grace to bear their sickness. {ST, November 18, 1903  
1024 par. 17}

1025

938 "The fanaticism and errors into which he had fallen through evil  
939 influence seemed to hinder the exercise of his faith. He gratefully  
940 received the plain testimony borne him, and made humble confession  
941 of his fault. Only a few who were strong in faith were permitted to  
942 enter the sick room. The fanatics whose influence over him had been so  
943 injurious, and who had persistently followed him to Brother Patten's,  
944 were positively forbidden to come into his presence, while we prayed  
945 fervently for his restoration to health. I have seldom known such a  
946 reaching out to claim the promises of God. The salvation of the Holy  
947 Spirit was revealed, and power from on high rested upon our sick  
948 brother and upon all present. {LS80 200.3}

949 "Brother Hyde immediately dressed and walked out of the room  
950 praising God, with the light of heaven shining upon his countenance. A  
951 farmer's dinner was ready upon the table. Said he, 'If I were well I  
952 should partake of this food; and as I believe God has healed me, I shall  
953 carry out my faith.' He sat down to dinner with the rest and ate heartily  
954 without injury. His recovery was perfect and lasting. {LS80 201.1}

955

#### 956 *The Healing of Sister Meade*

957 Just as the meeting closed, Sister Meade, who had been afflicted  
958 with a slow fever, requested us to pray for her. We went into a room by  
959 ourselves, Brethren Holt, Wheeler, Stowell, James, and self. **After I**  
960 **had anointed her with oil we prayed over her, and she was healed**  
961 **every whit** and fell prostrate by the power of God. That night we got  
962 into a rowboat and went on the pond about one mile to Brother  
963 Meade's. His sister was there with a very sick child. We anointed it  
964 with oil and prayed over it, and God heard our prayers.--5MR 239.  
965 {PaM 234.1}

966

#### 967 *The Healing of Ellen White*

968 Tenney and his wife, and Brethren Stockton and Smith came to our  
969 house at my request to pray that the Lord would heal me. We had a  
970 most earnest season of prayer, and we were all much blessed. I was  
971 relieved, but not restored. **I have now done all that I can to follow**  
972 **the Bible directions, and I shall wait for the Lord to work**, believing  
973 that in His own good time He will heal me. My faith takes hold of the  
974 promise, "Ask, and ye shall receive" (John 16:24). I believe that the  
975 Lord heard our prayers. I hoped that my captivity might be turned  
976 immediately, and to my finite judgment it seemed that thus God would  
977 be glorified. I was much blessed during our season of prayer, and I  
978 shall hold fast to the assurance then given me: "I am your Redeemer; I  
979 will heal you." -- Ms 19, 1892. {RY 137.2}

980

#### 981 *God Honored the Faith of the Sick One*

262

#### 263 *Jesus Turned Away None Who Needed Healing*

264 This world is a vast lazarus house, but Christ came to heal the sick, to  
265 proclaim deliverance to the captives of Satan. He was in Himself health  
266 and strength. He imparted His life to the sick, the afflicted, those  
267 possessed of demons. **He turned away none who came to receive His**  
268 **healing power. He knew that those who petitioned Him for help**  
269 **had brought disease upon themselves, yet He did not refuse to heal**  
270 **them.** And when virtue from Christ entered into these poor souls they  
271 were convicted of sin, and many were healed of their spiritual disease  
272 as well as of their physical maladies. The gospel still possesses the  
273 same power, and why should we not today witness the same results?  
274 {CH 30.1}

275

#### 276 *Healing and Faith*

277 In praying for the sick, it is essential to have faith, for it is in  
278 accordance with the Word of God. "The effectual fervent prayer of a  
279 righteous man availeth much." **So we cannot discard praying for the**  
280 **sick**, and we would feel very sad if we could not have the privilege of  
281 approaching God, to lay before Him all our weakness and all our  
282 infirmities, to tell the compassionate Saviour all about these things,  
283 believing that He hears our petitions. {19MR 227.2}

284

285 **Sometimes answers to our prayers come immediately;**  
286 **sometimes we have to wait patiently and continue earnestly to**  
287 **plead for the things that we need**, our cases illustrated by the case of  
288 the importunate solicitor for bread. "Which of you shall have a friend,  
289 and shall go unto him at midnight, and say unto him, Friend, lend me  
290 three loaves; for a friend of mine in his journey is come to me, and I  
291 have nothing to set before him? And he from within shall answer and  
292 say, Trouble me not; the door is now shut, and my children are with me  
293 in bed; I cannot rise and give thee. I say unto you, Though he will not  
294 rise and give him, because he is his friend, yet because of his  
295 importunity he will rise and give him as many as he needeth." -228-  
{19MR 227.3}

296

297 This lesson means much more than we imagine. **We are to keep on**  
298 **asking, even if we do not realize the immediate response to our**  
299 **prayers.** "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and  
300 ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that  
301 asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh  
302 it shall be opened." {19MR 228.1}

302

303 We need grace, we need divine enlightenment, that through the  
304 Spirit we shall know how to ask for such things as we need. If our  
305 petitions are indited of the Lord, they will be answered.--Letter 17,  
1892.

306

307 *Healing and Gratitude*

308 **Nothing tends to promote health of body and of soul then does a**  
309 **spirit of gratitude and praise.** It is a positive duty to resist  
310 melancholy, discontented thoughts and feelings—as much a duty as it  
311 is to pray. If we are heaven-bound, how can we go as a band of  
312 mourners, groaning and complaining all along the way to our Father’s  
313 house? {MH 251.3}

314

315 How often those who are in health forget the wonderful mercies that  
316 are continued to them day by day, year after year. They render no  
317 tribute of praise to God for all His benefits. But when sickness comes,  
318 God is remembered. The strong desire for recovery leads to earnest  
319 prayer, and this is right. God is our refuge in sickness as in health. **But**  
320 **many do not leave their cases with Him; they encourage weakness**  
321 **and disease by worrying about themselves. If they would cease**  
322 **repining and rise above depression and gloom, their recovery**  
323 **would be more sure.** They should remember with gratitude how long  
324 they enjoyed the blessing of health; and should this precious boon be  
325 restored to them, they should not forget that they are under renewed  
326 obligations to their Creator. When the ten lepers were healed, only one  
327 returned to find Jesus and give Him glory. Let us not be like the  
328 unthinking nine whose hearts were untouched by the mercy of God. --  
329 Testimonies for the Church, vol. 5, p. 315 (1885).

330

331 *Healing and Obedience*

332 **In order to be purified and to remain pure, Seventh-day Adventists**  
333 **must have the Holy Spirit in their hearts and in their homes.** The  
334 Lord has given me light that **when the Israel of today humble**  
335 **themselves before Him, and cleanse the soul-temple from all**  
336 **defilement, He will hear their prayers in behalf of the sick and will**  
337 **bless in the use of His remedies for disease.** When in faith the human  
338 agent does all he can to combat disease, using the simple methods of  
339 treatment that God has provided, his efforts will be blessed of God. **If,**  
340 **after so much light has been given, God's people will cherish wrong**  
341 **habits, indulging self and refusing to reform, they will suffer the**  
342 **sure consequences of transgression. If they are determined to**  
343 **gratify perverted appetite at any cost, God will not miraculously**  
344 **save them from the consequences of their indulgence. They "shall**  
345 **lie down in sorrow."** Isaiah 50:11. Those who choose to be  
346 presumptuous, saying, "The Lord has healed me, and I need not restrict  
347 my diet; I can eat and drink as I please," will ere long need, in body and  
348 soul, the restoring power of God. Because the Lord has graciously  
349 healed you, you must not think you can link yourselves up with the  
350 self-indulgent practices of the world. Do as Christ commanded after  
351 His work of healing--"go, and sin no more." John 8:11. Appetite must  
352 not be your god. **The Lord gave His word to ancient Israel, that if**

893 ye shall receive.’ {LS80 198.4}

894 “The blessing of God attended our prayers, and we had the  
895 assurance that God was willing to heal the afflicted one. Elder D. cried  
896 out, ‘Is there a sister here who has the faith to go and take her by the  
897 hand and bid her arise in the name of the Lord?’ {LS80 199.1}

898 “Sister Frances was lying in the chamber above, and before he  
899 ceased speaking Sister Curtis was on her way to the stairs. She entered  
900 the sick room with the Spirit of God upon her, and taking the invalid by  
901 the hand said, ‘Sister Frances, in the name of the Lord arise and be  
902 whole.’ New life shot through the veins of the sick girl, a holy faith  
903 took possession of her, and obeying its impulse, she rose from her bed,  
904 stood upon her feet, walked the room praising God for her recovery.  
905 She was soon dressed and came down into the room where we were  
906 assembled, her countenance lighted up with unspeakable joy and  
907 gratitude. {LS80 199.2}

908 “The next morning she took breakfast with us. Soon after, as Elder  
909 White was reading from the fifth chapter of James, for family worship,  
910 the doctor came into the hall, and, as usual, went up stairs to visit his  
911 patient. Not finding her there, he hurried down and with a look of alarm  
912 opened the door of the large kitchen where we were all sitting, his  
913 patient in our midst. He gazed upon her with astonishment and at length  
914 ejaculated, ‘So Frances is better!’ {LS80 199.3}

915 “Brother Howland answered, ‘The Lord has healed her,’ and the  
916 reader resumed his chapter where he had been interrupted, ‘Is any sick  
917 among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray  
918 over him.’ The doctor listened with a curious expression of mingled  
919 wonder and incredulity upon his face, nodded, and hastily left the  
920 room. The same day Sister Frances rode three miles and returned home  
921 in the evening; although it was rainy she sustained no injury, and  
922 continued to rapidly improve in health. In a few days, at her request she  
923 was led down into the water and baptized. And although the weather  
924 and the water were very cold, and her disease rheumatic fever, she  
925 received no injury, but from that time was free from the disease, and in  
926 the enjoyment of her usual health {LS80 200.1}

927

928 *The Healing of William Hyde*

929 “At this time Brother Wm. Hyde was very sick with bloody  
930 dysentery. His symptoms were alarming, and the physician pronounced  
931 his case almost hopeless. We visited him and prayed with him, but he  
932 had come under the influence of certain fanatical persons, who were  
933 bringing dishonor upon our cause. We wished to remove him from their  
934 midst, and petitioned the Lord to give him strength to leave that place.  
935 He was strengthened and blessed in answer to our prayers, and rode  
936 four miles to the house of Brother Patten. But after arriving there he  
937 seemed to be rapidly sinking. {LS80 200.2}



848 cruel death. {AA 57.2}

849 His disappointment excited the sympathy of those who knew for  
850 how long he had eagerly hoped to be healed by Jesus, and daily they  
851 brought him to the temple, in order that passers-by might be induced by  
852 pity to give him a trifle to relieve his wants. As Peter and John passed,  
853 he asked an alms from them. The disciples regarded him  
854 compassionately, and Peter said, "Look on us. And he gave heed unto  
855 them, expecting to receive something of them. Then Peter said, Silver  
856 and gold have I none." As Peter thus declared his poverty, the  
857 countenance of the cripple fell; but it grew bright with hope as the  
858 apostle continued, "But such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus  
859 Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk. {AA 58.1}

860 "And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and  
861 immediately his feet and ankle-bones received strength. And he leaping  
862 up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking,  
863 and leaping, and praising God. And all the people saw him walking and  
864 praising God: and they knew that it was he which sat for alms at the  
865 Beautiful Gate of the temple: and they were filled with wonder and  
866 amazement at that which had happened." {AA 58.2}

867 "And as the lame man which was healed held Peter and John, all the  
868 people ran together unto them in the porch that is called Solomon's,  
869 greatly wondering." They were astonished that the disciples could  
870 perform miracles similar to those performed by Jesus. Yet here was this  
871 man, for forty years a helpless cripple, now rejoicing in the full use of  
872 his limbs, free from pain, and happy in believing in Jesus. {AA 58.3}

873 When the disciples saw the amazement of the people, Peter asked,  
874 "Why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though  
875 by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?" He  
876 assured them that the cure had been wrought in the name and through  
877 the merits of Jesus of Nazareth, whom God had raised from the dead.  
878 "His name through faith in His name," the apostle declared, "hath made  
879 this man strong, whom ye see and know: yea, the faith which is by Him  
880 hath given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all." {AA  
881 59.1}

882  
883 *The Healing Sister Frances Howland*

884 "Soon after quite a number of us were assembled at the house of  
885 Brother Howland in Topsham. Sister Frances Howland, a very dear  
886 friend of mine, was sick with the rheumatic fever and under the doctor's  
887 care. Her hands were so badly swollen that we could not distinguish the  
888 joints. As we sat together speaking of her case, Brother Howland was  
889 asked if he had faith that his daughter could be healed in answer to  
890 prayer. He answered that he would try to believe that she might, and  
891 presently declared that he did believe it possible. We all then knelt in  
892 earnest prayer to God in her behalf. We claimed the promise, 'Ask and

353 **they would cleave strictly to Him and do all His requirements, He**  
354 **would keep them from all the diseases such as He had brought**  
355 **upon the Egyptians; but this promise was given on the condition of**  
356 **obedience.** Had the Israelites obeyed the instruction they received, and  
357 profited by their advantages, they would have been the world's object  
358 lesson of health and prosperity. The Israelites failed of fulfilling God's  
359 purpose, and thus failed of receiving the blessings that might have been  
360 theirs. But in Joseph and Daniel, in Moses and Elijah, and many others,  
361 we have noble examples of the results of the true plan of living. Like  
362 faithfulness today will produce like results. To us it is written: "Ye are  
363 a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar  
364 people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who hath called  
365 you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Peter 2:9. {9T 165.1}

366  
367 You may say, "**Why not, then, take hold of the work, and heal the**  
368 **sick as Christ did?" I answer, You are not ready.** Some have  
369 believed; some have been healed; but there are many who make  
370 themselves sick by intemperate eating or by indulging in other wrong  
371 habits. When they get sick, shall we pray for them to be raised up, that  
372 they may carry on the very same work again? **There must be a**  
373 **reformation throughout our ranks; the people must reach a higher**  
374 **standard before we can expect the power of God to be manifested**  
375 **in a marked manner for the healing of the sick. . . .** {MM 15.4}

376 If we will take hold of the Master, take hold of all the power He has  
377 given us, the salvation of God will be revealed. **Let me tell you that**  
378 **the sick will be healed when you have faith to come to God in the**  
379 **right way.** We thank God that we have the medical missionary work.  
380 Wherever we carry the gospel, we can teach the people how to take  
381 care of themselves.--G.C.B., April 3, 1901. {MM 16.1}

382  
383 *Tithing, Troublemaking and Healing*  
384 We should **first find out if the sick one has been withholding tithes**  
385 **or has made trouble in the church.**--U. T. {HL 237.4}

386  
387 *Prayer For Healing Is Sometimes Answered Through Education*  
388 Should all the sick be healed by prayer, very few would improve  
389 their opportunities to become acquainted with right ways of eating,  
390 drinking, and dressing. Those connected with our sanitariums should  
391 realize the duty resting upon them to give the patients an education in  
392 the principles of healthful living. {MM 260.1}

393 The sick have their lesson to learn. They must be denied those  
394 preparations of food that would retard or prevent their recovery to  
395 health. They must learn the science of self-denial, eating simple food  
396 prepared in a simple way. They should live much in the sunlight, which  
397 should find its way to every room of the building. Lectures on health  
398 topics should be given. These lectures will open the blinded

399 understanding, and truths never before thought of will be fastened on  
400 the mind.--Letter 63, 1905. {MM 260.2}

401

402 The remark is often made, by one and another, "Why depend so  
403 much on sanitariums? Why do we not pray for the miraculous healing  
404 of the sick, as the people of God used to do?" In the early history of our  
405 work many were healed by prayer. And some, after they were healed,  
406 pursued the same course in the indulgence of appetite that they had  
407 followed in the past. They did not live and work in such a way as to  
408 avoid sickness. They did not show that they appreciated the Lord's  
409 goodness to them. Again and again they were brought to suffering  
410 through their own careless, thoughtless course of action. How could the  
411 Lord be glorified in bestowing on them the gift of health? {YRP 201.2}

412 When the light came that we should have a sanitarium, the reason  
413 was plainly given. There were many who needed to be educated in  
414 regard to healthful living. A place must be provided to which the sick  
415 could be taken, where they could be taught how to live so as to preserve  
416 health. . . . {YRP 201.3}

417 Lectures should be diligently kept up as a means of teaching the  
418 patients how to prevent disease by a wise course of action. By means of  
419 these lectures the patients may be shown the responsibility resting on  
420 them to keep the body in the most healthful condition because it is the  
421 Lord's purchased possession. Mind, soul, and body are bought with a  
422 price. . . . "Therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit,  
423 which are God's" (1 Corinthians 6:20). . . . {YRP 201.4}

424 In the providence of God, instruction has been given that  
425 sanitariums be established, in order that the sick may be drawn to them,  
426 and learn how to live healthfully. The establishment of sanitariums is a  
427 providential arrangement, whereby people from all churches are to be  
428 reached, and made acquainted with the saving truth for this time.--  
429 Manuscript Releases, vol. 7, pp. 378, 379.

430

431 "The sick may look to the great Healer as they do all that is possible to  
432 be done on their part, cooperating with Him who so loved the world  
433 that He gave His only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in Him  
434 should not perish, but have everlasting life. He who would be healed  
435 must cease to transgress the law of God. He must cease to lead a life of  
436 sin. **God cannot bless the one who continues to bring upon himself  
437 disease and suffering by neglecting and violating the laws of  
438 heaven. But the Holy Spirit comes with a healing power to those  
439 who cease to do evil and learn to do well.** {LLM 31.3}

440 "I think I have answered the question, why do we not pray for  
441 the healing of the sick, instead of having sanitariums? The  
442 education of many souls is at stake. In the providence of God,  
443 instruction has been given that sanitariums be established, in order

804 palatable. {CH 469.3}

805

806 I have been instructed that little companies who have received a  
807 suitable training in evangelical and medical missionary lines, should go  
808 forth to do the work to which Christ appointed His disciples. Let them  
809 labor as evangelists, scattering our publications, talking of the truth to  
810 those they meet, **praying for the sick, and, if need be, treating them,**  
811 not with drugs, but with nature's remedies, ever realizing their  
812 dependence on God. As they unite in the work of teaching and healing,  
813 they will reap a rich harvest of souls. {1NL 140.7}

814

815

816

#### Healing Prayer Part of Literature Work

817

818 The warning message is to be carried to all parts of the world. Our  
819 books are to be published in many different languages. With these  
820 books, humble, faithful men are to go forth as colporter evangelists,  
821 bearing the truth to many who otherwise would never be enlightened.  
822 Those who take up this line of work should go prepared to do medical  
823 missionary work. The sick and suffering are to be helped. Many for  
824 whom this work of mercy is done will hear and accept the words of life.  
825 Many will be healed by the prayer of faith, and will go forth to  
826 advocate the precious principles of health reform. {PUR, November 6,  
827 1902 par. 12}

828

829

830

#### Instructive Examples of Healing

831

832 *A Crippled Man Was Healed After the Day of Pentecost*

833 The disciples of Christ had a deep sense of their own inefficiency,  
834 and with humiliation and prayer they joined their weakness to His  
835 strength, their ignorance to His wisdom, their unworthiness to His  
836 righteousness, their poverty to His exhaustless wealth. Thus  
837 strengthened and equipped, they hesitated not to press forward in the  
838 service of the Master. {AA 57.1}

839 A short time after the descent of the Holy Spirit, and immediately  
840 after a season of earnest prayer, Peter and John, going up to the temple  
841 to worship, saw at the gate Beautiful a cripple, forty years of age,  
842 whose life, from his birth, had been one of pain and infirmity. This  
843 unfortunate man had long desired to see Jesus, that he might be healed;  
844 but he was almost helpless, and was far removed from the scene of the  
845 great Physician's labors. His pleadings at last induced some friends to  
846 bear him to the gate of the temple, but upon arriving there, he found  
847 that the One upon whom his hopes were centered, had been put to a

759 **sick and suffering to God in the arms of our faith.** We should teach  
760 them to believe in the Great Healer. The Saviour would have us  
761 encourage the sick, the hopeless, the afflicted, to take hold upon His  
762 strength. {CCh 303.2}

763

764 We cannot heal. We cannot change the diseased conditions of the body.  
765 **But it is our part, as medical missionaries, as workers together with**  
766 **God, to use the means that He has provided. Then we should pray**  
767 **that God will bless these agencies.** We do believe in a God; we  
768 believe in a God who hears and answers prayer. He has said, "Ask, and  
769 ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened  
770 unto you."--Medical Ministry, p. 13. {CME 35.1}

771

772 It is **labor lost to teach people to look to God as a healer of their**  
773 **infirmities, unless they are taught also to lay aside unhealthful**  
774 **practices.** In order to receive His blessing in answer to prayer, they  
775 **must cease to do evil and learn to do well.** Their surroundings must  
776 be sanitary, their habits of life correct. They must live in harmony with  
777 the law of God, both natural and spiritual. {CCh 304.2}

778 To those who desire prayer for their restoration to health, it should be  
779 made plain that the violation of God's law, either natural or spiritual, is  
780 sin, and that in order for them to receive His blessing, sin must be  
781 confessed and forsaken. {CCh 304.3}

782

783 In the early history of our work, many were healed by prayer. And  
784 some, after they were healed, pursued the same course in the  
785 indulgence of appetite that they had followed in the past. They did not  
786 live and work in such a way as to avoid sickness. They did not show  
787 that they appreciated the Lord's goodness to them. Again and again  
788 they were brought to suffering through their own careless, thoughtless  
789 course of action. How could the Lord be glorified in bestowing on them  
790 the gift of health? {CH 469.2}

791 **When the light came that we should begin sanitarium work, the**  
792 **reasons were plainly given. There were many who needed to be**  
793 **educated in regard to healthful living. As the work developed, we**  
794 **were instructed that suitable places were to be provided, to which**  
795 **we could bring the sick and suffering who knew nothing of our**  
796 **people and scarcely anything of the Bible, and there teach them**  
797 **how to regain health by rational methods of treatment without**  
798 **having recourse to poisonous drugs, and at the same time surround**  
799 **them with uplifting spiritual influences.** As a part of the treatment,  
800 lectures were to be given on right habits of eating and drinking and  
801 dressing. Instruction was to be given regarding the choice and the  
802 preparation of food, showing that food may be prepared so as to be  
803 wholesome and nourishing and at the same time appetizing and

444 **that the sick may go to them, and learn how to live healthfully.** The  
445 establishment of sanitariums is a providential arrangement, whereby  
446 people from all places are to be reached and made acquainted with the  
447 truth for this time. It is for this reason that we urge that sanitariums be  
448 established in many places outside of our cities." {LLM 31.4}

449

450 *Healing and the Laws of Health*

451 While Satan is constantly doing his utmost to take advantage of men's  
452 ignorance and to lay the foundation of disease by improper treatment of  
453 the body, it is best for those who claim to be sons and daughters of God  
454 to avail themselves while they can of the opportunities now presented  
455 to gain a knowledge of the human system and how it may be preserved  
456 in health. We are to use every faculty of mind which God has given us.  
457 **The Lord will not work a miracle to preserve anyone in health who**  
458 **will not make an effort to obtain knowledge within his reach**  
459 **concerning this wonderful habitation that God has given.** By study  
460 of the human organism, we are to learn to correct what may be wrong  
461 in our habits and which, if left uncorrected, would bring the sure result,  
462 disease and suffering, that make life a burden. The sincerity of our  
463 prayers can be proved only by the vigor of our endeavor to obey God's  
464 commandments. {CH 504.1}

465

466 **Many have expected that God would keep them from sickness**  
467 **merely because they have asked Him to do so. But God did not**  
468 **regard their prayers, because their faith was not made perfect by**  
469 **works. God will not work a miracle to keep those from sickness**  
470 **who have no care for themselves,** but are continually violating the  
471 laws of health and make no efforts to prevent disease. **When we do all**  
472 **we can on our part to have health, then may we expect that the**  
473 **blessed results will follow, and we can ask God in faith to bless our**  
474 **efforts for the preservation of health.** He will then answer our prayer,  
475 if His name can be glorified thereby. But let all understand that they  
476 have a work to do. God will not work in a miraculous manner to  
477 preserve the health of persons who are taking a sure course to make  
478 themselves sick, by their careless inattention to the laws of health.  
479 {CME 35.2}

480

481 **Those who will gratify their appetite, and then suffer because of**  
482 **their intemperance, and take drugs to relieve them, may be assured**  
483 **that God will not interpose to save health and life which are so**  
484 **recklessly periled.** The cause has produced the effect. Many, as their  
485 last resort, follow the directions in the Word of God, and request the  
486 prayers of the elders of the church for their restoration to health. **God**  
487 **does not see fit to answer prayers offered in behalf of such, for He**  
488 **knows that if they should be restored to health, they would again**  
489 **sacrifice it upon the altar of unhealthy appetite.**--Medical Ministry,  
pp. 13, 14. {CME 35.3}

490  
491 We need to learn that **indulged appetite is the greatest hindrance to**  
492 **mental improvement and soul sanctification.** With all our profession  
493 of health reform, many of us eat improperly. Indulgence of appetite is  
494 the greatest cause of physical and mental debility, and lies largely at the  
495 foundation of feebleness and premature death. Let the individual who is  
496 seeking to possess purity of spirit bear in mind that in Christ there is  
497 power to control the appetite. {CH 130.1  
498

#### 499 *Healing and Natural Remedies*

500 I have seen so much of carrying matters to extremes, in praying for the  
501 sick, that I have felt that this part of our experience requires much solid,  
502 sanctified thinking, lest we shall make movements that we may call  
503 faith, but which are really nothing less than presumption. Persons worn  
504 down with affliction need to be counseled wisely, that they may move  
505 discretely; and while they place themselves before God to be prayed for  
506 that they may be healed, **they are not to take the position that**  
507 **methods of restoration to health in accordance with nature's laws**  
508 **are to be neglected. If they take the position that in praying for**  
509 **healing they must not use the simple remedies provided by God to**  
510 **alleviate pain and to aid nature in her work, lest it be a denial of**  
511 **faith, they are taking an unwise position. This is not a denial of**  
512 **faith; it is in strict harmony with the plans of God.** When Hezekiah  
513 was sick, the prophet of God brought him the message that he should  
514 die. He cried unto the Lord, and the Lord heard His servant and worked  
515 a miracle in his behalf, sending him a message that fifteen years should  
516 be added to his life. Now, one word from God, one touch of the divine  
517 finger, would have cured Hezekiah instantly, but special directions  
518 were given to take a fig and lay it upon the affected part, and Hezekiah  
519 was raised to life. In everything we need to move along the line of  
520 God's providence. The **human agent should have faith and should**  
521 **cooperate with the divine power, using every facility, taking**  
522 **advantage of everything that, according to his intelligence, is**  
523 **beneficial, working in harmony with natural laws; and in doing**  
524 **this he neither denies nor hinders faith.** {CH 382.1}

525  
526 The true method for healing the sick is to tell them of the herbs that  
527 grow for the benefit of man. Scientists have attached large names to  
528 these simplest preparations, but true education will lead us to teach the  
529 sick that they need not call in a doctor any more than they would call in  
530 a lawyer. They can themselves administer the simple herbs if  
531 necessary. **To educate the human family that the doctor alone**  
532 **knows all the ills of infants and persons of every age, is false**  
533 **teaching, and the sooner we as a people stand on the principles of**  
534 **health reform, the greater will be the blessing that will come to**

715 **nothing to do [in anointing and special prayer] for the sick of those**  
716 **who are daily trampling them underfoot,** unless it is in some special  
717 case where souls are convicted of the truth and are decided to move out  
718 upon it. **The partition wall between commandment keepers and**  
719 **those who trample them underfoot should be kept.**--Lt 4, 1857  
720 (Quoted in 1BIO 404.) {PaM 233.5}

721

#### 722 How Shall We Pray For Them

723

#### 724 *Among Believers*

725 I saw that Brother Bates erred again in praying for the sick before  
726 **unbelievers.** I saw if any among us were sick and called for the elders  
727 of the church to pray over them, we should follow the example of  
728 JESUS. **He went into an inner chamber, and we should go into a**  
729 **room by ourselves separate entirely from unbelievers, and then the**  
730 **atmosphere would not be polluted by them.** By faith we could take  
731 hold on God and draw down the blessing. **I saw that God's cause was**  
732 **dishonored and reproached in western New York at the general**  
733 **conference by praying for the sick in the midst of unbelievers.** I also  
734 saw that Brother Bates erred in attending the washing of saints' feet and  
735 the communion among believers. It only caused reproach to come on  
736 the cause of God. I saw that the example of JESUS should be followed.  
737 He took His disciples away alone, separate from the wicked, and first  
738 washed their feet, and then gave them to eat of the broken bread to  
739 represent His broken body and gave them to drink of the juice of the  
740 vine to represent His spilled BLOOD. {12MR 247.1

741

#### 742 With A Willingness to Accept God's Will

743

744

745

#### 746 Medical Missionaries Are Needed

747

748 Christ is the same compassionate physician now that He was during  
749 His earthly ministry. In Him there is healing balm for every disease,  
750 restoring power for every infirmity. **His disciples in this time are to**  
751 **pray for the sick as verily as the disciples of old prayed. And**  
752 **recoveries will follow;** for "the prayer of faith shall save the sick." We  
753 have the Holy Spirit's power, the calm assurance of faith, that can claim  
754 God's promises. **The Lord's promise, "They shall lay hands on the**  
755 **sick, and they shall recover" Mark 16:18, is just as trustworthy**  
756 **now as in the days of the apostles.** It presents the privilege of God's  
757 children, and our faith should lay hold of all that it embraces. **Christ's**  
758 **servants are the channel of His working, and through them He**  
**desires to exercise His healing power. It is our work to present the**

669 **had respect unto the light, nor have they walked circumspectly; yet**  
670 **they solicit the prayers of God's people,** and call for the elders of the  
671 church. Should they regain the blessing of health, many of them would  
672 pursue the same course of heedless transgression of nature's laws,  
673 unless enlightened and thoroughly transformed. They solicit the prayers  
674 of God' people, and call for the elders of the church. But little is known  
675 of their home or private life. **Sin has brought many of them where**  
676 **they are,—to a state of feebleness of mind and debility of body.**  
677 **Shall prayer be offered to the God** of heaven for his healing to come  
678 upon them, then and there, **without specifying any condition? I say,**  
679 **No, decidedly no. What then shall be done? Present their cases**  
680 **before Him who knows every individual by name.** {GCDB,  
681 February 26, 1897 par. 2}

682  
683 You feel afflicted over the course that some have pursued in praying  
684 for the sick. This [praying for the sick] is a very delicate question, and  
685 to many minds, I fear, will not be satisfactorily settled. I have tried to  
686 act upon the light the Lord has given me in the fear of God. I have  
687 **prayed for several, presenting a very urgent petition,** for it seemed  
688 to me it would glorify God for them to be raised up to health, and **I**  
689 **would not take a denial.** To **all appearances several for whom I**  
690 **have prayed have been in the last moments of their existence.** My  
691 prayer was very urgent, for it seemed to me that my petition must be  
692 answered, and they were raised up to health. **Now a number of these**  
693 **cases have resulted in something very different than could be**  
694 **desired; for the course of several has proved that it would have**  
695 **been better had they died.** One, after having grown to years, became a  
696 notorious thief, another became licentious, and another, though grown  
697 to manhood, has no love for God or His truth. **I have been troubled**  
698 **over these things, and years ago took the position that if I had any**  
699 **duty to pray for the sick, I would come before the Lord with a**  
700 **petition of this kind: "Lord, we cannot read the heart of this sick**  
701 **one; but Thou knowest whether it is for the good of his soul and for**  
702 **the glory of Thy name to raise him to health.** In Thy great goodness,  
703 compassionate this case, and **rebuke disease, and let healthy action**  
704 take place in the system. The work must be entirely Thine own. We  
705 have done all that human skill can do. Now, **Lord, we lay this case at**  
706 **Thy feet.** Work as only a God can work, and, if it be for his good and  
707 Thy glory, arrest the progress of disease and heal this sufferer."  
708 {19MR 226.1}

709  
710 You inquire if we **should pray for none that are sick except those in**  
711 **the third angel's message, or pray for all that shall make**  
712 **application,** et cetera. James 5 is our rule to follow. "Is any sick among  
713 you? let him call," et cetera. It is those that are among us. **God had**  
714 **shown me those who keep God's commandments are to have**

535 **those who would do true medical work.** There is a work to be done in  
536 treating the sick with water and teaching them to make the most of  
537 sunshine and physical exercise. Thus in simple language we may teach  
538 the people how to preserve health, how to avoid sickness. This is the  
539 work our sanitariums are called upon to do. This is true science. {SpM  
540 137.2} (1885) 5T 443

541  
542 There are many ways of practicing the healing art; but there is only one  
543 way that Heaven approves. **God's remedies are the simple agencies of**  
544 **nature, that will not tax or debilitate the system through their**  
545 **powerful properties. Pure air and water, cleanliness, a proper diet,**  
546 **purity of life, and a firm trust in God, are remedies for the want of**  
547 **which thousands are dying;** yet these remedies are going out of date  
548 because their skillful use requires work that the people do not  
549 appreciate. Fresh air, exercise, pure water, and clean, sweet premises,  
550 are within the reach of all, with but little expense; but drugs are  
551 expensive, both in the outlay of means, and the effect produced upon  
552 the system. {CD 301.2}

553  
554 God's miracles do not always bear the outward semblance of  
555 miracles. Often they are brought about in a way which looks like the  
556 natural course of events. When we pray for the sick, we also work for  
557 them. We answer our own prayers by using the remedies within our  
558 reach. Water, wisely applied, is a most powerful remedy. As it is used  
559 intelligently, favorable results are seen. God has given us intelligence,  
560 and He desires us to make the most of His health-giving blessings. We  
561 ask that God will give bread to the hungry; we are then to act as His  
562 helping hand in relieving hunger. We are to use every blessing God has  
563 placed within our reach for the deliverance of those in danger. {2SM  
564 346.3}

565 Natural means, used in accordance with God's will, bring about  
566 supernatural results. We ask for a miracle, and the Lord directs the  
567 mind to some simple remedy. We ask to be kept from the pestilence  
568 that walketh in darkness, that is stalking with such power through the  
569 world; we are then to cooperate with God, observing the laws of health  
570 and life. Having done all that we possibly can, we are to keep asking in  
571 faith for health and strength. We are to eat that food which will  
572 preserve the health of the body. God gives us no encouragement that  
573 He will do for us what we can do for ourselves. Natural laws are to be  
574 obeyed. We are not to fail of doing our part. God says to us, "Work out  
575 your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which  
576 worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Philippians  
577 2:12, 13). {2SM 346.4}

578 We cannot disregard the laws of nature without disregarding the  
579 laws of God. We cannot expect the Lord to work a miracle for us while

580 we neglect the simple remedies He has provided for our use, which,  
581 aptly and opportunely applied, will bring about a miraculous result.  
582 {2SM 346.5}

583 Therefore, pray, believe, and work.--Letter 66, 1901. {2SM 347.1}  
584

585 In regard to **the matter of prayer for the sick, many confusing ideas**  
586 **are advanced. One says, "He who has been prayed for must walk**  
587 **out in faith, giving God the glory, and making use of no remedies.**  
588 If he is at a health institute he should leave it at once." {2SM 345.1}

589 I know that these ideas are wrong, and that if accepted they would  
590 lead to many evils. {2SM 345.2}

591 On the other hand, **I do not wish to say anything that might be**  
592 **interpreted to mean a lack of belief in the efficacy of prayer. {2SM**  
593 **345.3}**

594 **The path of faith lies close beside the path of presumption.** Satan  
595 is ever seeking to lead us into false paths. He sees that a  
596 misunderstanding of what constitutes faith will confuse and disappoint.  
597 He is pleased when he can persuade men and women to reason from  
598 false premises. {2SM 345.4}

599 **I can pray for the sick only in one way--"Lord, if it be in**  
600 **accordance with Thy will, for Thy glory and the good of the one**  
601 **who is sick, heal the sufferer, we pray. Not our will, but Thine be**  
602 **done." {2SM 345.5}**

603 Nehemiah did not regard his duty as done when he had mourned and  
604 wept and prayed before the Lord. He did not only pray. He worked,  
605 mingling petition and endeavor. {2SM 346.1}

606 **It is no denial of faith to use rational remedies judiciously.--**  
607 **Manuscript 31, 1911. {2SM 346.2}**

608

609

610 *Healing Is Not Always for Our Good*

611 Many **would not endure the time of trial**, and will therefore be laid  
612 away.--U. T. {HL 238.5}

613

614 We know of instances where the Lord has laid a case of diseased  
615 humanity upon the heart of His people and put within them a longing of  
616 soul, and they have prayed most earnestly for recovery and have  
617 supposed they had a right to claim the promise, and yet the sick died.  
618 The Lord, who sees the end from the beginning, understood that should  
619 He work by His power to heal, the divine will would be misunderstood.  
620 {2SM 347.4}

621 At times, restoration would not be best, either for the friends or for  
622 the church, but would result in wild enthusiasm and fanaticism, leading  
623 some to the conclusion that impulse is the ground of our faith. The only

624 safe course is to follow the written Word. After you have done all you  
625 can for the sufferer, place the case in the hands of the Lord. It may be  
626 that death will be for His glory. The Lord permits some to die who for  
627 months and years have lingered in sickness. He sees fit to give His  
628 suffering ones rest.--Manuscript 67, 1899. {2SM 348.1}

629

630 I would come before the Lord with this petition: "Lord, we cannot read  
631 the heart of this sick one, but thou knowest whether it is for the good of  
632 his soul and for the glory of thy name to raise him to health. In thy  
633 great goodness, compassionate this case, and let healthy action take  
634 place in the system. The work must be entirely thine own. We have  
635 done all that human skill can do; now, Lord, we lay this case at thy feet,  
636 work as only God can work, and if it be for thy good and for thy glory,  
637 arrest the progress of disease and heal this sufferer."

638 . . . But after **I have prayed earnestly for the sick, what then? Do I**  
639 **cease to do all I can for their recovery?--No, I work all the more**  
640 **earnestly, with much prayer that the Lord may bless the means**  
641 **which his own hand has provided;** that he may give sanctified  
642 wisdom to co-operate with him in the recovery of the sick.--U. T.,  
643 March 11, 1892. {HL 239.4}

644

645 *Our Pride May Hinder Answers*

646 God desires us to trust implicitly in Him, and if it is for our good and  
647 His name's glory to do the work, it will be done. We are to wait. The  
648 power of the Lord is limitless. **We poor mortals need to purify our**  
649 **souls, that when the Lord works for us, it will not ruin us. This is**  
650 **the reason that so few of the sick are healed. If they were [healed],**  
651 **men would be elevated in self-esteem.** We must learn from Jesus to  
652 be meek and lowly of heart, and we shall find rest unto our souls. {UL  
653 375.7}

654

655 *Who Shall We Pray For*

656 **In this matter of praying for the sick, I could not move in exactly**  
657 **the same lines as my brethren.** I have been considering many things  
658 that have been presented to me in the past in reference to this subject.  
659 **Suppose that twenty men and women should present themselves as**  
660 **subjects for prayer at some of our camp-meetings.** This would not  
661 be unlikely, for those who are suffering will do anything in their power  
662 to obtain relief, and to regain strength and health. **Of these twenty, few**  
663 **have regarded the light on the subject of purity and health reform.**  
664 They have neglected to practice right principles in eating and drinking,  
665 and in taking care of their bodies, and some of these who are married  
666 have formed gross habits, and indulged in unholy practices while of  
667 those who are unmarried some have been reckless of life and health,  
668 since in clear rays the light has shone upon them; but **they have not**