**Pastor Mike Wilson, Preacher**

**2/18/2024**

###

“God Still Heals”

 James 5:13-16

**Blockages to Divine Healing**

**From James Garlow’s book God Still Heals**

1. Lack of prayer.
2. Lack of persistence in prayer.
3. Lack of knowledge about how to pray for healing.
4. Lack of faith on the part of the sick person.
5. Lack of faith on the part of those praying for the sick.
6. Sin in the life of the sick person.
7. Sin in the life of those praying for the sick.
8. Lack of understanding about spiritual authority.
9. Lack of exercising spiritual authority.
10. Lack of knowing the Word.
11. Lack of speaking the Word.
12. Lack of fasting.
13. Lack of faithful participation in worship, personal devotions, or the Lord’s Supper.
14. Living an unhealthy lifestyle.
15. Not seeing what the Father is doing.
16. Inability to identify the need for inner healing.
17. Inability to identify familial spirits.
18. Inability to identify demonic activity.

**Kicker**

We live in a fallen world which is broken, hurting, in pain, and suffering. As a result, there is physical pain in our world – cancer, arthritis, etc. There is emotional pain – loss of a loved one, divorce, job loss, etc. There is mental illness. And then there is the greatest of all brokenness, the spiritual pain of being separated from God because of our sin.

Many times, this hurt and pain is intermixed together. Whatever the pain and suffering, out of love for us, the Lord wants us to be whole people. He desires to mend our broken bodies, fix our wounded heart, restore our relationships, and forgive our sin.

Richard Foster reminds us in his book, **Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home**, ***"God cares as much about the body as he does the soul, as much about the emotions as he does the spirit. The redemption that is in Jesus is total, involving every aspect of the person - body, soul, will, mind, emotions, spirit."***

Jesus still heals today! He knows what is happening in every part of our life and what we need the most. What do you need to be healed of today?

**The Sermon Notes**

### “God Still Heals”

James 5:13-16

## What this church believes:

## We believe in the [Bible] biblical doctrine of divine healing and urge our people to offer the prayer of faith for the healing of the sick. We also believe God heals through the means of medical science. ~ The Manual of The Church of The Nazarene.

**Four facts about healing:**

1. It is never God’s will for His children to be I\_\_\_\_\_.
2. Jesus can and does H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. A\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and P\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to heal are assigned to Jesus’ followers.
4. H\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ may be instantaneous, delayed, or progressive.

**Stop and Think**

1. How did you apply last Sunday’s sermon to your life?
2. Why does illness and sickness exist? For answers, go back to the Fall of Mankind in the Garden of Eden when sin and death first entered the world.
3. Pastor Mike Wilson maintains that it is not God’s will for His children to be sick. Pastor Mike said, “It is a poor view of God we have if we think Jesus’ will is we would be sick.” Illness may happen to us as a result of living in a fallen world, but it isn’t God’s will. Do you agree? Why or why not?
4. The New Testament talks about the believer’s authority. What does that mean? Have you ever prayed for someone’s healing using Jesus’ authority (in His name for His glory?) If not, why not?
5. James 5:14-15 is very clear when we are sick, call the elders of the church to anoint us and pray a prayer of faith over us. Most Christians don’t do this. We hope word of our illness will get back to them by word-of-mouth. However, do we ever initiate our request directly to the church elders for healing prayer? That is a part of the Biblical prescription for our healing.
6. Never use a lack of healing as a basis for judging someone or accusing them.