

Mark 2:5-11

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you." And some of the scribes were sitting there and reasoning in their hearts, "Why does this Man speak blasphemies like this? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" But immediately, when Jesus perceived in His spirit that they reasoned thus within themselves, He said to them, "Why do you reason about these things in your hearts? Which is easier, to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Arise, take up your bed and walk'? But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins"--He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, arise, take up your bed, and go to your house."

If you have read or heard my testimony then you would know that before I was saved I used to cuss all the time, in fact every other word that came out of my mouth was a curse word. My mouth was so foul that I would make sailors blush. But the day I was saved, this sin was immediately taken from me. I counted 4 times that day that I said a curse word, and since then (over 35 years now) it is really, really, really rare that any curse word would ever come out of my mouth (Maybe once a year if even that).

But even though I was released of this sin, I still had physical problems, one was my eyesight, I have always worn glass and wanted to be healed of this, but the Lord never has. As I get older other physical problems start to set in as well, with no healing of them either. It took almost 25 years for me to quite smoking, even though I prayed about it all the time (12 years smoke free now).

"Wow Steve, this is a real exciting devotional today, NOT"

Well, actually it is, because even though we are not always healed of things right away, or even never will be. We didn't come to the Lord in the first place for a physical healing, but for salvation. If you read today's devotional verse again you will see that Jesus' main focus was on this man's sins and the forgiveness of those sins, not his physical healing.

† *When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Son, your sins are forgiven you."*

Some people will even say that if you come to Jesus and are saved that you will get physically healed as well, but that's just not true. Sure, it's possible a person will get healed, but if it doesn't happen, that makes either that person or God a liar, and God doesn't lie, so it must be someone else! That other person who said that.

Even Paul had a thorn in the side, and many believe that it was because he was hunchbacked and almost blind.

† *2 Cor 12:7-10 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with*

the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

So sure, I want my vision to be 20/20 and healed of all these other things, and I will pray about them once in a while, but if God doesn't heal me, should I love Him or serve Him any less?

Nope, I will boast in the Lord and His saving grace, which is sufficient for me, and you too.

† *Gal 6:14 As for me, God forbid that I should boast about anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of that cross, my interest in this world died long ago, and the world's interest in me is also long dead.*