



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Jehovah Rapha

SPEAKER SP Daniel Foo

THEME Knowing and Experiencing God

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

JEHOVAH RAPHA – THE LORD WHO HEALS

In this sermon, SP taught about the fourth redemptive name of God found in Psalm 23: Jehovah Rapha, the Lord who heals. The first mention of Jehovah Rapha is in Exodus 15:26. God told the Israelites that He would not let them experience the diseases that He brought on the Egyptians for He is “the LORD, your Healer”, if they would heed His Word and do what is right in His sight.

To experience God as our Healer, we need to understand the sources of sicknesses and infirmities, He has made provision for our healing and the ways to be healed. SP also provided guidance that we can use to pray for our healing on a personal level and when praying for others.

EXPERIENCING GOD AS JEHOVAH RAPHA

1) UNDERSTANDING DIRECT SOURCES OF SICKNESSES AND INFIRMITIES

There are three direct sources of sicknesses and infirmities. The first is *generally* due to the fallenness of Man (SOFCS), *specifically* due to the sins of the individual, as well as due to the evil one.

- The fallenness of Man: God is not the direct source of sickness or evil, accidents and calamities on the earth. When Man first sinned, we fell short of the glory of God and had to pay the wages of sin, which is death (Rom 3:23, 6:23). The fallenness of Man has resulted in the corruption and mortality of the physical body through the aging process and sickness and disease.
- The sins of the individual: Firstly, there can be a direct correlation between sins and sickness. Our foolishness can lead to us dying before our time as we reap the consequences of what we wrongly sowed in the past (Ecc 7:17). For example, living an unhealthy lifestyle can lead to certain diseases and the weakening of the immune system. Secondly, unforgiveness is a major reason for sickness. The root of bitterness causes trouble and bitter torment that then defiles us (Heb 12:15); unforgiveness produces toxins in our body.
- The evil one: The devil is a murderer. We must ensure that we are sober and vigilant so that we do not sin and thereby give the devil a foothold to destroy us (Eph 4:26-27; 1 Pet 5:8; John

10:10, 8:44).

2) GOD HAS MADE PROVISION FOR OUR HEALING

Christ bore our sins through His death so that we may be forgiven and healed (Isa 53:4-5; 1 Pet 2:24).

3) KNOW THE DIRECT SPECIFIC AREAS OF THE SICKNESS/INFIRMITY

Sickness-infirmary can be of the body, soul or spirit or a combination of any of the three. It is important to have sharp discernment on the specific areas you are sick in so that an accurate diagnosis can be made and correct treatment given. *In all our ways, acknowledge God*; ask God to help others give us an accurate diagnosis and the correct treatment when we are sick. In addition, we need *God's Word to build the spiritual strength and health* so that our soul may be transformed through the *continual renewal of the mind, the continual evidencing of the Fruit of the Spirit and the continual alignment with the will of God*. The transformation of our soul can then translate into good physical health. We should find people who value add to our lives and stay away from anything or anyone who is unedifying.

4) HOW DOES HEALING TAKE PLACE?

Healing comes through five different ways, through

- physical-natural means, such as medicine, nutrition and rest.
- the Word of God. We must heed the Word for it is life and health (Psa 107:20; Prov 4:20-22)
- the laying of hands by believers in outreach. Healing for pre-believers is a special grace of God for the purpose of salvation (Mark 16: 17-18, 20; Luk 10:9).
- believers appropriating healing in the atonement (Psa 103:2-3; Jam 5:14-15). Also, forgiveness and cleansing, deliverance and healing are intertwined (Jam 5:16)
- God in anointed meetings as gifts of the manifestation of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:7-10)

5) PASTORAL GUIDANCE

On a personal level, we should aim to walk in divine healing, health and life. Do not stop praying for healing – asking especially for the grace of God – and explore all possibilities for healing. Sometimes, there may be a more critical need than the healing we want. Ask God to reveal it and help you meet the need. Guard against ungodly beliefs, grow in faith and *always keep our focus on God, not the healing*. We must remember that healing is temporal for our body that is corrupt and mortal and instead look forward to the incorruptible and immortal body that is to come.

As for praying for others, always minister as priests and kings and pray from perspective for God to heal. Remember that the outcome is not in our hands and we do not know everything as we are not the Holy Spirit. *Never downplay God's power*. Never tell a person who is not healed during prayer/service that he/she has no faith. *Faith is always expressed in love* (Gal 5:6; 1 Cor 13).

CONCLUSION

James 5:14-15 is the bottom-line of this message about God as Jehovah Rapha. If we are sick, ask for the prayers of others, especially from our leaders so that they may pray over us, anointing us with oil in the Lord's name. The prayer of faith will heal us and if we have sinned, we will be forgiven – healed inside and out.

QUESTIONS

1. The God who heals is concerned with more than just our physical well-being, but also heals us mentally, emotionally and spiritually. How have you experienced or witnessed God's healing in your life (or someone else's life) in any of these areas? How has your experience strengthened or reaffirmed your faith?

2. We can be sick in body, soul or spirit or be sick in a combination of the three. What are some things that we can do to ensure our physical, mental and emotional well-being? How can the CG provide the necessary environment and support to encourage one another to keep healthy in all these areas?

3. SP provided pastoral guidance on how to be wholesomely well and to be healed as well as on how to pray for others. In what area of your life do you need God's healing today? Is there also someone in your life who needs healing? Share with the CG and put into practice the guidance that SP has provided.