

# Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

*Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).*

Our speaker shared this week from John 5 on the miraculous healing Jesus did for the man at the pool of Bethesda. This healing brought physical healing to one man and gave emotional healing in the form of hope to all who saw him healed that day, and it gives hope to all of us who read the account today.

In this week's message extras, I am writing on hope and healing from my own personal journey. Hi, my name is Steve, and it is my privilege to volunteer at White River Christian Church writing the message extras one to two times a month. When I saw the message topic this week, my heart was full of joy because I knew I would have an opportunity to share about Jehovah-Rapha, the Lord our Healer.

The Lord meets us and brings healing in our physical needs, our emotional needs, and most of all in our spiritual needs. God's greatest work of healing is in His promise to give us new life in Christ and to give us eternal life in Christ if we will only believe in Jesus and receive Him into our hearts. If you have not yet received Jesus into your heart for spiritual healing, today is your day of salvation. Tell the Lord you believe in Jesus, and you want Jesus to come and live in your heart and bring healing to your soul!

Before I share about the physical healing of God and the emotional healing we have in Christ Himself, please let me first tell you about my grandma Marian. Marian went to be with the Lord when I was an infant. My parents were in their mid-20s when the Lord took Marian home. My grandfather and my parents and all the family pleaded with God to heal her, but in His divine providence, the Lord did not heal Marian. As she was dying, Marian took my mom's hand and she said to her, "Sweetheart, take time to stop and smell the roses."

I share this to convey 2 life lessons. First, we only get one life – don't waste it. Second, God does not always bring physical healing. This is a difficult truth to accept, but before I share about God's miraculous healing power, we must accept, in His providence, He does not always heal.

Now fast forward with me about four years. I was at a bonfire at a church gathering by Lake Ontario. I watched and saw the older boys catching sparks with their hands, and I thought,

“that looks fun.” So, I jumped up and caught the biggest spark I could see floating off the fire. But the spark I caught was an ember and it left my palm with an open third-degree burn. My mom took me to my dad, and he wrapped his hands around mine and asked God to heal me. We then walked to the car to go to the ER, and by the time we got to the car, my hand was completely healed. There was no evidence of a burn and there are no scars on my hand today. The Lord our Healer healed my hand.

Fast forward with me another four years. I stood in the kitchen of our little parsonage in Anderson and my dad came in with my older brother on crutches and said to my mom, “He has a broken ankle. We will go back tomorrow to get a cast.” As we were getting ready for church that evening, my brother was struggling on his crutches to come down the stairs and he tripped and tumbled down the last three stairs. His ankle was in excruciating pain. He was able to make it to church that night and at the end of the service, my mom brought him forward to be anointed by the elders (see James 5). The next day, when they brought my brother home from the hospital, he walked into the house with no cast. The Lord our Healer healed my brother’s ankle.

For the next seven years at our little church in Anderson, IN, I would watch people go forward on Sunday nights to be anointed with oil, and then the next week they would stand up and tell the congregation how God, the Lord our Healer, had healed them.

Now I know there is nothing magical about the oil that My dad used to anoint people because one Sunday after church, I snuck up and found the oil in the pulpit. It was just an ordinary bottle of olive oil. So, what was it about this process of prayer and anointing that would bring miraculous healing? And more than this, why didn’t God heal my grandma?

When I was young, I asked my parents these very questions, and they instructed me, “our hope is not in the healing but in the Lord our Healer.” They went on to teach me, God calls us to be obedient. When we are obedient, then we create fertile ground in our lives and in our hearts to experience the fullness of God in our lives, including His healing for our physical and emotional needs.

This brings us back to the man by the pool of Bethesda who the Lord healed. When Jesus approached him at the pool of Bethesda among the crowds of people there, He said to the man, “Do you want to be made well?” The man didn’t answer the Lord’s question, but instead gave the Lord an excuse... “I can’t sir. I have no one to put me in the pool. Someone else always gets their first.”

Jesus was not interested in this man’s excuses. Instead, the Lord commanded him, “Stand up, take your mat, and walk!” The man obeyed, stood up, took his mat, and walked.

Today, if you need physical healing, I encourage you to be obedient to God and to the Word of God. White River Christian Church holds regular prayer nights with the elders. Call the

elders and ask them to anoint you and pray for your physical healing. Trust the Lord our Healer for your physical healing. But even if He does not heal your physical needs, do not lose hope.

Ephesians 3:20 says, "Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Our hope is not in the healing of God. Our hope is not in the healing itself. Our hope is in the Lord our Healer for He is able to heal. And His mighty power is at work in you! I believe if you will seek God in obedience, He will heal you, but I also know, sometimes He does not give physical healing. Still, I am confident He is always able to accomplish infinitely more than we ask and think.

This brings me back to my grandma Marian. Her dying regret was that she didn't take more time to smell the roses... too often she focused on the wrong things in life. Perhaps this is you. Right now, at this time in history, there are so many fearful things raging around us that it is easy to take our eyes off of what really matters. And if we are not careful, we can become like the man by the pool of Bethesda. Oh, our bodies might work ok, but our hearts and our minds are broken, and we become crippled in our emotions... basically, we lose hope.

Are you crippled in your emotions, sitting by your pool of Bethesda just wishing someone would help you into the pool? Jesus loves you! He is standing in front of you saying to you, "Do you want to be made well?" He is saying to you, "I have come to give you a full life. Now, in My power, stand up and walk!" It is time to stop responding to the Lord our Healer with excuses. It is time to receive the healing of the Lord and stand up and walk.

- Take some time to read John 5 this week and consider this, what if this man sitting by the well didn't obey when Jesus said, "Get up!" Do you think the Lord would have healed him?
- Remember there is power in obedience! Is there anything in your life, physical, emotional, financial, familial, which Jesus has walked up to you as you wait by your pool of Bethesda and said, "do you want to be made well? Are you offering the Lord excuses or responding in obedience?"
- The man the Lord healed was in his condition for 38 years and he had lost hope. How long have you been waiting by your pool of Bethesda? Have you lost hope? What must you do today to renew your hope in the Lord our Healer?

