

Praying the gospel: Psalm 103v1-5

- ¹ Praise the Lord, my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- ² Praise the Lord, my soul,
and forget not all his benefits—
- ³ who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
- ⁴ who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- ⁵ who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

When David praises God that he 'heals all your diseases' how should we pray this? Think of how Christ fulfills this. When Jesus rose from the dead physically, he proved that one day all our diseases will be gone. So, for those struggling with physical and mental illness, yourself or in those closest to you, what a glorious hope we have in Christ. One day there will be no more diseases!

But although God always forgives our sin when we ask him, he does not always remove our sickness in this world. Because although our sin is always a barrier to our relationship with God, suffering can deepen our dependence on Him (see 2 Corinthians 12:8-9).

The healing of diseases that v3 describes is not only physical, but spiritual. God is the great physician of the soul. He heals all our spiritual diseases.

When God goes to work in us by his Spirit he not only forgives our sins, we are justified, but he begins the life-long process of healing our spiritual sickness, he sanctifies us.

It is God who makes the changes in your life and mine, humbling us where we are proud, softening us where we are hard, strengthening us where we are weak in our faith. He heals us, as the master physician, from the spiritual diseases that afflict our souls.

Think of one area of your life where you want God to go to work in you and ask for his help.

Prayer: Father God, thank you that you are at work in me to change me, to heal me and make me more like Christ. I need your Spirit's power to change in this area....

And thank you for the promise that one day, in the new creation, I will be fully healed, body and soul.

Daily Devotions – 27.04.2020

Amen