

Reading: Luke 8:40-48

*“Behold, I am the Lord, the God of all flesh;
Is there anything too hard for Me?” (Jer 32:27)*

Some Churches teach that taking medicine is sin. Several believers who bragged that they would never touch medicine regretted afterwards with guilt when a situation necessitated medical treatment. The doctrine that believers should not use medicine is found nowhere in the Bible.

Several effective medicines are herbal extracts and they are actually God’s provision for our health and strength (Gen 1:29). Rachel begged Leah for some mandrakes because it was a herb believed to promote fertility in women (Gen 30:14). Even after God promised King Hezekiah extension of life, it was Prophet Isaiah who advised medical treatment to the King (Isa 38:21).

Jesus endorsed the medical ministry to the sick (Mt 9:12). The good Samaritan applied oil and wine on the wounds of the robbed man and bandaged them (Lk 10:34). Luke was a “beloved” Physician, obviously because of his loving medical help to the believers and the ministers (Col 4:14). Paul encouraged Timothy to take a little wine for his chronic stomach ailment (1 Tim 5:23).

In the case of King Asa, he sought “only” the physicians. That was wrong. What was necessary on his part primarily was repentance (2 Chr 16:12). The woman with nonstop bleeding was not chided by Jesus for spending so much on doctors. Rather Jesus cheered her up and healed her (Lk 8:43-48). Medicine and Faith do not contradict each other. They can harmoniously coexist. In Christian hospitals, prayer, faith and medicine are administered together. Aren’t doctors a gift from God? (Jer 8:22). There are surgeons who kneel down and pray in operating rooms before they pick up the scalpal.

There are godly men and women who would not touch medicine. It’s a commendable faith. But that should not be thrust on others. “Do you have faith? Keep it to yourself before God” (Rom 14:22). All do not have the same “measure” of faith (Rom 12:3). Parents who don’t immunize their children against polio are failing in their moral responsibility.

Preachers, especially healing evangelists, need not feel awkward to go to doctors, and then hide it from people. Let people know that preachers are perfectly normal human beings! (Acts 14:15; Gal 4:13). The full blessings of Redemption, especially for our bodies, can be realised only at Christ’s return. Until then we enjoy just the firstfruits (Rom 8:23; Heb 9:28).

Almighty God,

We worship You as our loving Father concerned about our spiritual and physical wellbeing. You are Jehovah-Rapha, our great Physician. We thank You for Jesus Your Son who carried our sins and our sicknesses on His body on the Cross. The healing miracles He performed during His earthly ministry are amazing. Yes, Father, He is the same yesterday, today and forever. We confess that nothing is impossible for You.

Dear Lord, we thank You for the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit to quicken our mortal bodies. Thank You for Your sufficient grace and strength to sustain us in our weaknesses and infirmities. Thank You for the gifts of healing and performing of miracles bestowed on the Church through the Holy Spirit. Thank You for our healing Evangelists who move the masses to bring deliverance to people. Thank You for the unusual healing miracles You perform through Missionaries in virgin soils. We pray for more signs and wonders to be witnessed in their outreach ministries to silence the opposers.

Thank You, O God, for the Doctors, Christian or otherwise, who minister to the sick with service-mindedness. We are sorry, Lord, for the commercialisation of medical work in our generation. We pray that You reveal Your salvation to the non-Christian Doctors who do yeomen service. We pray that more and more of Christian medical graduates go to work among the uncivilized and underprivileged where there's no Doctor. Bless Indian Missions with lots of medical Missionaries. Let there be medical miracles in Mission Hospitals as a daily affair. We pray for the medical scientists doing research for new drugs and vaccines. We thank You for the modern medical and surgical treatments.

Dear Father, we thank You for the healings we have experienced through Your miracle power in our bodies. We pray for those of us, and especially Your servants, who suffer from chronic diseases and unbearable pain. Have mercy on us, O God. Send forth Your Word and heal us! May Your healing virtue flow into our bodies. We thank You for our family and friends who support us lovingly when we are bedridden. It is never too late for You, O God, to perform a miracle. Help us resist the negative thoughts from the devil to doubt Your Word and limit Your power. Help us sing Your praises both when the day is bright and as we go through the darkest night. May we glorify You by life or death! Through the unchanging Name of Jesus, Amen!

*(Mt 7:7-11; Ex 15:26; Isa 53:4-6; Lk 1:37; Heb 13:8; Rom 8:11;
2 Cor 12:9; 1 Cor 12:7-10; Acts 4:24-30; Psa 42:8; 107:20)*