

Reading: 1 Corinthians 11:18-32

*“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health,
just as your soul prospers” (3 Jn 2)*

In the New Testament Church one of the conditions to be fulfilled to receive physical healing is to reconcile with the wronged. Medical Science recognizes that emotions such as envy, resentment and hatred are responsible for the majority of sicknesses. Solomon the wise wrote, “A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones” (Prov 14:30). Pluck out all roots of bitterness from your heart. Take the initiative yourself to set matters right with anyone with whom you are not in good terms (Mt 5:23,24). Holding grudge against someone is to our disadvantage only. Let’s forgive everyone freely.

The Corinthian Christians were participating in the Lord’s supper with all their fights and factions. They did not discern or realise that the bread represented the Lord’s Body of which each of them was a member. Therefore the Lord judged them with diseases and even death (1 Cor 11:30). This is written for our warning. How can we expect the Lord to heal our bodies when we hurt His Body? You should retribute matters not only with believers but also unbelievers if you have hurt any of them. There’s no medicine like a guilt-free conscience. Good and smooth relationships keep us cheerful. Health and cheerfulness mutually beget each other. If you cannot meet the offended in person, send him a letter of apology, without delay.

Next, we must rest on the Word of God. When Abraham and Sarah believed the promises of God they received healing and strength against their barrenness and deadness (Rom 4:21). When Mary took God at His Word, her virgin womb conceived without a man’s help (Lk 1:37,38). The Word of God has the same supernatural power to perform medical miracles today if we can believe. About the healing experience of the people of Israel we read that “God sent His Word and healed them” (Psa 107:20). Christ healed people with His Word (Mt 8:16). He called the faith of the military official great. It was because his faith was based solely on the power of Christ’s Word (Mt 8:8-10). The healing power of Christ was manifest even “as He was teaching” (Lk 5:17). If due to illness you are not able to concentrate and study the Scriptures, you may simply be recollecting the promises of God you know by heart. The Holy Spirit indwells believers to remind them of the words of Christ (Jn 14:26).

*Jesus stands among us with mighty power;
And as ointment poured forth in His name...
He sends His Word to heal you now!*

O Lord God, our Great Physician,

We worship You as the unchanging God. You have known us even before we were formed in the wombs of our mothers. Our bodies with their bones, sinews, flesh and skin belong to You. Our very hairs are all numbered. You have made each of us as it seemed best to You. We cannot add one inch to our height. We rejoice before You that we, as men and women, are created in Your image. What love! What honour!

We confess before You, O God, that most of our diseases are self-invited. Bitterness has damaged our mental health. Envy has rotten our bones. Eating unhealthy food has spoilt our wellness. Overwork has worn us out. Insufficient rest has resulted in physical burnout. Immoral lifestyle destroys our bodies. We have not thankfully acknowledged the gift of a good physique. Oh, how many babies are born blind, deaf, dumb, deformed, and mentally retarded! Help us, O Lord, never to defile our bodies with unclean habits. Deliver us from all addictions like overeating and oversleeping. Help us not become slaves to comforts.

Thank You, Father, for the Lord's Supper Your Son has instituted for us, for remembering His death and His return. Help us, O Lord, to recognize the fellow-believers as members of the same Body of Christ to which we belong. Help us throw away all bitterness, wrath, anger, loud quarrelling, evil-speaking, corrupt communication, malice, hypocrisy, guile, selfish ambitions, dissensions, and the like. Let us not eat the bread and drink the wine to our judgment. We praise You, Father, that we are cleansed by the blood of Jesus, and healed by His stripes.

Forgive us, O Father, our irregularity in the meditation of Your Word. Help us to consider it more necessary than our basic food. We believe that Your Word has the same power as in the days of old. We beseech You to speak Your unchanging Word to heal our sick bodies. Quicken us through Your Holy Spirit. We confess that all things are possible for You. May Your miracle-working power operate on our bodies, so we may love and serve You not only with our soul and spirit but also with our strength.

In the Name of Jesus our Unchanging Healer, we pray! Amen!

*(Psa 102:27; 139:13-16; Jer 1:5; Lk 12:7; Mt 6:27; Gen 1:26,27; Prov 14:30; 1 Cor 6:18;
Mt 26:26-29; 1 Cor 11:26; Phil 3:5,8; Gal 5:19,20; 1 Cor 11:29;
1 Jn 1:7; Isa 53:5; 1 Pet 2:24; Job 23:12; Psa 107:20; Rom 8:11; Mk 12:30)*