

Series: Divine Healing Series

Title: Session 7 – God’s Sovereignty and Kingdom Explained

Author: Eduard Serediuc

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Answer Objections to Healing

- No matter how much Biblical support is brought for the fact that Jesus healed all people that came to Him, there will always be a few places in the Bible, to which Christians appeal to advocate we cannot heal like Jesus, or that healing is not for all, or not for today. That is mainly because they prayed for some sick people and didn’t get results. So, they need to come up with an excuse otherwise they will lose their position and reputation.
- If you ask any believer why a person would not get healed, most believers would bring up Paul’s thorn, Job’s suffering, or Trophimus, who Paul left sick somewhere, or Jesus not healing everyone in His home town. It is amazing that you don’t learn these things on the street, but in church.

1. God’s Sovereignty

- The objection – God is Sovereign, and He will heal me only if He wants to, and when He wants to. Moreover, there are times when He can decide to put a sickness on someone to teach them something or to work something good in their life.
- Answer: The main problem here is that believers confuse the Sovereignty of God with control and they think God controls everything. If He is supreme, then nothing happens without His approval. Does that mean then that He approves of all the evil things that happen in the world? No.
- If a person really believed that God is the one who put sickness on them because He is trying to work something for good in their life, then they should not go to the doctor or take any medicine. That would be resisting God’s plans. They should let the sickness run its course and thereby get the full benefit of God’s correction. Of course, no one advocates that. That is absurd. It is even more absurd to believe that God is the one behind the tragedy.
- Sovereignty is defined as supreme authority and power, the authority of a state to govern itself or another state, one holding supreme independent authority over a region or state, one that does not have to answer to another entity in the governing of its affairs.
- Divine healing doesn’t affect or interfere with God’s sovereignty. It actually establishes it. We are God’s ambassadors on earth to enforce His sovereignty.
- God’s sovereignty doesn’t mean He can do whatever He wants, whenever He wants, and that He can change His mind about something anytime, or just change things. Otherwise, He would be unrighteous. In fact, God does whatever He wants when He wants, because everything that He does is right. However, the sovereignty of God is not the fickleness of God. God is not fickle, like wanting to do something today, and then the next day do something else.

- Generally, people don't question God's ability to heal them. Their doubts arise when it comes to His willingness to heal them particularly.

Mark 1:40-42 (NKJV)

⁴⁰Now a leper came to Him, imploring Him, kneeling down to Him and saying to Him, *“If You are willing, You can make me clean.”*

⁴¹Then Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, *“I am willing; be cleansed.”*

⁴²As soon as He had spoken, immediately the leprosy left him, and he was cleansed.

- Just like many people today, the leper didn't question the Lord's ability. He probably had heard of His many miracles. He probably knew of some other leper who had been healed. Yet he wondered: What about me? Yes, I know so and so was healed, but what about me? Will He heal me?
- With much compassion, Jesus stretched forth His hand and touched him even before he was cured, something that no one else would have done for fear of contamination. By that simple touch Jesus demonstrated love, compassion and acceptance to the leper, and gave him assurance of His will to heal him, as He replied: *“I WILL: be cleansed.”*
- There are those who think that God would only heal someone when He wants to; and when He doesn't, He wouldn't. They think: *“Whenever God chooses, He will heal me”*, but that's not true. It used to be true in the Old Testament, but it is no longer true in the New Covenant.

Example: Imagine that I am a student in college and my dad said to me: *“I will send you money once every month”*. Then I thanked him and went to school. Throughout that semester, he sent me money monthly, and I lacked nothing. Now that was the way we operated that whole semester. Then came a new semester and my Dad said to me: *“I have opened an account for you in a bank close to your school and deposited an amount of money in it, having known what it took you to go through the last semester. Whenever you need money, go down to that bank and get it yourself.”* Now it's no longer true this semester that he sends me money monthly. That was true last semester, but things are different this new semester. Now there is a better system. All the money I would need for this semester has been paid to my account. Understand the difference? That is the same way God operates with us now.

- Back in the Old Testament He said:

Exodus 33:19 (NKJV)

¹⁹Then He said, *“I will make all My goodness pass before you, and I will proclaim the name of the LORD before you. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.”*

- But then He said to Abraham:

Genesis 12:2-3 (NKJV)

²I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

- The Bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the Seed of Abraham to whom all the promises were made, and if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and an heir according to the promise

(Galatians 3:16, 29). So, now that Christ has come, we are “the blessed”. God has given us all the blessings in Him. He doesn’t have any more blessings He’s holding back from us, and saying: “Whenever I choose, I’ll give it to you”. No! He has made all the blessings available to us in Christ Jesus (Ephesians 1:3-7).

2. The “Already, but Not Yet” Theology

- The objection – According to the theological concept of “already, but not yet”, the kingdom is “already” here in one sense, and believers are in the kingdom, but the kingdom “it’s not yet” here in another sense, it’s not manifested in its full glory. It will be manifested in its full glory in the new earth and new heaven. That is why, we cannot expect healing to manifest here on earth at all, or not all the times. We were healed by Jesus’ sacrifice on a promissory note, but we will actually walk in health after the second coming of Jesus. While here on earth, God decides when and if to heal or not.
- Answer - The “already but not yet” paradigm was developed by Princeton theologian Gerhardus Vos early in the 20th century. In the 1950s George Eldon Ladd, a professor at Fuller Theological Seminary, argued that the kingdom, is described in Scripture both as a realm presently entered and as one entered in the future. Ladd concluded that the kingdom of God is both present and future.
- That is true, but the interpretation of what is present and what is future from the nature of the kingdom is wrong. What this theology says is that the present of the kingdom is mostly based on promises without a consistent, tangible or continuous manifestation in the material world, while the future of the kingdom is the visible manifestation of the kingdom in all its splendor together with the continuous and tangible manifestations in the physical world. What I say is that in the present the kingdom is invisible, but its effects and power are tangible and continuous here now. In the future, the kingdom would just become visible.
- I will endeavor to answer this objection by going through every so-called biblical support of this paradigm step by step and respond to it.

Hebrews 2:8–9 (NKJV)

⁸You have put all things in subjection under his feet.” For in that He put all in subjection under him, He left nothing that is not put under him. But **now we do not yet see all things put under him.**

⁹But **we see Jesus**, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death **crowned with glory and honor**, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

- Christians adherents of this theory say that “NOW” we see Jesus crowned with glory and honor, but with all that we do not “YET” see all things put under Him as it should be for a King already crowned. We will see all those things put under him after the second coming of Jesus.
- My problem with that interpretation is the following: why should we automatically imply that those all things will be subdued and put under Him after the second coming? Why wouldn’t they be subdued by believers in Christ now while we are on earth, since Romans 5:17 says that those who receive abundance of grace (here on earth) shall reign in life in the same way death reigned on the earth until Christ came? What are we as believer supposed to do until then? Be trampled upon by sickness and darkness? Yes, there is a sense in which the subjection of all things will become fully

visible and final after the second coming of Jesus. But to what use will the gospel be to us then, when we are no longer in the presence of our enemies?

1 John 3:2 (NKJV)

²Beloved, **now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be**, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

- According to the theory, again in the verse above, we have a “now” (we are the children of God), and we have a “not yet” (our future state). We are children of the King, but we must wait to see what that entails.
- I agree that when He will come back, we shall be like Him, physically. That doesn’t mean that in between we cannot do anything, or that the gospel didn’t provide anything for us here while on earth. After the second coming, Jesus will become visible, our bodies will become glorified, and everyone will know who are the sons of God. But until then, we have a job to do as sons of God.

Romans 8:30 (NKJV)

³⁰Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these **He also glorified**.

- The “already and not yet” theory says that we don’t feel very glorified, most of the time, and that is because the present spiritual reality does not yet match up with the future, physical reality.
- In the verse above, predestination and justification are spiritual things. If we think that the glorification this verse talks about is physical, then yes we don’t see our bodies yet visibly glorified and we don’t feel glorified. However, the verse talks about a spiritual glory of God that has been restored to the new creation at salvation.

1 Corinthians 2:6–13 (NKJV)

⁶However, we speak wisdom among those who are mature, yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing.

⁷But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, the hidden wisdom which **God ordained before the ages for our glory**,

⁸which none of the rulers of this age knew; for had they known, they would not have crucified **the Lord of glory**.

⁹But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man **The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.**”

¹⁰But **God has revealed them to us through His Spirit**. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God.

¹¹For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

¹²Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that **we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God**.

¹³**These things we also speak**, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

- The wisdom of God was predestined for OUR GLORY here on earth (v. 7).
- The Lord is the Lord of glory (v. 8).
- What is that glory? Verse 9 tells us that glory consists of things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard.
- What are those things? They are things revealed to us, things freely given to us by God, things of the spirit, which the natural man does not understand. So the things that God has freely given us are our glory.

John 17:22 (NKJV)

²²And **the glory which You gave Me I have given them**, that they may be one just as We are one:

- Jesus gave us the same glory that He had and that He manifested on earth.

2 Corinthians 3:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, **are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory**, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

- We have been fully glorified in our spirits at the moment of salvation, we carry the glory of the Father, but that glory is manifested through us on earth in stages, according to our beholding and renewal of the mind.

Ephesians 2:6 (NKJV)

⁶and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

- The “already and not yet” concept says that our surroundings do not much resemble “heavenly realms”, but the Bible says that we sit together with Christ in the heavenly places.
- The heavenly places realm is the whole invisible realm around us, which includes our earth, the first heaven, second heaven, and the third heaven, because in the heavenly places are the forces of darkness, us, and Christ Himself. Although heavenly places are not physically visible, they nevertheless govern the physical world now.
- The “already and not yet” camp also claims that the Bible never speaks of “advancing the kingdom”, but the kingdom will come:

Luke 11:2 (NKJV)

²So He said to them, “When you pray, say: Our Father in heaven, Hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.

- However, Jesus’ prayer above was before He died and resurrected. Yes, there is a visible and manifested kingdom of God to come in the future, but the kingdom has already come on earth in an invisible way and full power. Its effects and laws are in full operation.

Luke 10:9 (NKJV)

⁹And **heal the sick** there, and say to them, ‘**The kingdom of God has come** near to you.’

Luke 11:20 (NKJV)

²⁰But if **I cast out demons** with the finger of God, surely **the kingdom of God has come upon you**.

- The “already and not yet” camp also claims that the kingdom is currently “not of this world” according to John 18:36 and that based on Jesus’ parables of the kingdom, the kingdom is slowly working toward an ultimate fulfillment. It is not sporadically “breaking through” to bring us comfort in this world.

John 18:36 (NKJV)

³⁶Jesus answered, “My kingdom **is not of this world**. If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight, so that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now **My kingdom is not from here.**”

- What Jesus meant was that His Kingdom is not like the physical kingdoms of the world and it doesn't function in an earthly way. Its nature is not earthly, it's spiritual. That doesn't mean the kingdom is not in this world, or that it's not real.
- Besides the responses above, I have a few more arguments to bring:
 - It seems that according to the "already and not yet" concept, the "not yet" cancels completely the "already" while we are on this earth. It doesn't do us any good. We are more slaves, than sons, while on earth.
 - This paradigm definition focuses very much on visible things, and not spiritual. If I see healings, then the kingdom is here. If I don't see them, then the kingdom is not yet here.
 - This concept makes the word of God and the promises to us void. If the kingdom is not yet here, then how can I have faith in God? What is the fight of faith then? Just to remain faithful to God until the end and endure being stepped on by the devil?
 - This concept also shifts the responsibility and blame on God. If healings don't happen, then it's because God is sovereign or the kingdom is not yet here. And I am absolved of any responsibility. There is no place where maybe I don't have enough knowledge and understanding of how things should work, or maybe I don't have enough faith, or maybe I didn't persevere enough yet. There is no fight of faith on our part.
 - The Kingdom of God on earth in the church era it's like the electric current or like the flying phenomenon. Before the electric current was discovered, it was in full operation in the world ever since creation. It was already here, but not yet discovered and manifested. Once it was discovered, although invisible, it impacted our physical, visible and material world in an extraordinary way. The same with flying. The flying laws were already here on earth since the creation of the world. But they were not yet manifested, until someone discovered them and then they were here and impacted our world tremendously.