

Yahweh Rapha: I Am Your Healer. You Will be Well.

By Bobby Schuller

God heals. God heals. He heals everything. Everywhere He goes all He does is heal. He brings goodness, He brings life. God does not condemn you today. He speaks healing, life, encouragement, goodness over you. Receive it by faith.

Many of us are coming to church today sick, a little sick or a lot sick, or burdened, or maybe you're bringing today your broken relationships, your broken family, a broken heart, a broken mind. I want you to know God heals. He heals everything. He heals everything and He's going to heal you. I want you to believe that today and if you believe anything, believe that. It's easy to get discouraged when we say that God heals; so many rotten things can happen in life. It's easy to lose your faith, and to think well where is God, or is there a God, or why has He forgotten us? And I want you to never stop believing, friends, that God heals, God does miracles, and I mean legit miracles that He can heal your body, He can heal what doctors say can't be healed. He's a great physician, and His very name, Jehovah Rapha means I am your healer and that's what we're going to talk about today.

Maybe you're bringing today some woundedness, some brokenness, some sickness; God can heal it. In fact if you get close

enough to God, He will heal it. That's all He does is heal. Well He does a lot more than that, but He heals, and that's who He is.

I know today Hannah and I got some terrible news yesterday. A friend of our family, a young girl in her 20's passed away yesterday. She's actually attended this church before. And so like it's really hard in a time like that to say like where is God in that? Or any other tragedies that maybe you're facing. When we talk about a God who heals and a God who does good, and then something so horrible happens, how do we reconcile that with the true belief that God really does heal people.

And the answer is simply hear this: there is no tragedy, no tragedy God cannot redeem. He redeems death, He redeems sickness, He redeems all of the things that you're facing in your life. I truly believe the only reason God doesn't give people the miracle they ask for is because He has a better one in store. And I know our friend who died yesterday received her miracle. That can seem hopeless because it's like well I don't want to die and receive my miracle of dying and going to heaven, right? But when you get there, you'll see. It truly is. It's more like waking up than falling asleep. And we don't have to worry. We don't have to worry. But when we say things like that, never let that negate from the very true fact that God can heal your body today. Today! That's what Jesus did, that's what He's still doing. I've seen it lots of times, and I believe it, and I believe it for you, if you'll receive it.

God heals and His name is Jehovah Rapha. He heals bodies, He heals minds, He heals relationships, He heals countries, and the only reason that something is not healed is that it's either not God's time or it's not close enough to heaven. Jesus brings His whole life into your life and can bring healing.

Actually, it was interesting. I was talking to a friend of mine. Now I don't know if this is a true orthodox view, but he was Eastern Orthodox, like Greek Orthodox and studying for seminary, and he said we believe as Orthodox Christians, our definition of salvation is it's kind of like the whole world had a sickness, and God injected His son Jesus Christ, as you would inject through a needle, He injected Jesus as a cure into the world. Isn't that an interesting image? That as Jesus came into the world, He brought with Him heaven. And the closer people came to Jesus, the closer they came to health, life, goodness. Anyone who follows Him receives eternal life.

One of the coolest ways to understand this is in the Old Testament understanding of the temple. Today we read a scripture from 2nd Chronicles, which is an important part. And it goes like this: God chose a people; we've been talking about this, to usher in heaven back into the world. When you read the Bible, you actually see we, as Americans, say heaven and hell a lot. Heaven and hell. Heaven and hell. They're always paired. But the Bible usually pairs heaven with the earth. So you say heaven and earth, and then hell is usually mentioned separately over

here. So you've got heaven and earth always together. Heaven and earth. All of heaven and earth. Heaven and earth. Heaven and earth. And then over here you've got hell. Hell is a real place, it's a thing in the Bible, but the reason heaven and earth are together is because God wants to bring heaven and earth back together. And the way He began doing that was through the temple. Everyone say the temple. This is so important. To understand Judaism, and in fact to understand the Holy Spirit, you have to understand the temple.

So God chose a family, Abraham, and through this family He made covenant with them; that they'd be blessed and they'd be a blessing to the whole world. And this family, who grew into a great nation, was brought into captivity in Egypt. And as God brought them out of Egypt into the Promised Land, they carried with them this thing called the Ark of the Covenant. Now you know what the Ark of the Covenant looks like because you have seen "Raiders of the Lost Ark." It is that golden death box that opens up and kills all the Nazis. And Indiana and his girlfriend are tied to the pole, they keep their eyes closed. Right? You know what it looks like. And by the way, it looks just like that, and it's a big golden box with wings. And in that box are the stones of the Ten Commandments. And this golden box, it represents the throne of God. Everywhere this box is the real actual presence of God is.

And so to handle this box, they built a tent like temple around it called a tabernacle. And the tabernacle is meant to create the certain

necessary rights and protections to actually protect people from that throne because if you touch it, you die. Even if you're a good person, there's like really good guy and it's falling over and he tries to keep it from falling over, and when he touches it, he dies. Because it's like electricity, it's just charged with power.

Anyway, so there's this tabernacle and the dream is as the tabernacle is in Shiloh that they will actually be brought to Jerusalem and it'll be made into a temple.

Well David, King David, in Chronicles wants to do this. He dreams of it. He gets everything in order, all of the timber and the stone and the musicians and everything that the Lord says will be needed to build this temple to house the real actual throne and presence of God. But through Nathan, God tells David, you can't build this temple because there's blood on your hands. Now we don't know how to parse that. David was a general. Lots of wars. He was, in fact, a murderer, a forgiven murderer but still killed a guy. And for whatever reason, God said you're not going to build this temple – your son will.

Years later, Solomon goes through the biggest, most important building project of his life. Builds this immense, amazing temple, places the Ark of the Covenant on the inside, lays out a sacrifice of 20,000 bulls and a 120,000 sheep. Some of that will probably be eaten later in a big feast, so it doesn't totally go to waste, but man, that is a lot of filet mignon and mutton. And he brings these animals in, right? And he sets

everything up, and everything is about ready to go, and then heaven opens up and the center of the temple is filled with fire, smoke and a great cloud of God's presence. I mean just picture just this huge thing of power. And nobody can go inside; they're all kind of afraid and the priests all fall down in unison on their knees and they shout in song "his love endures forever." And the altar was lit aflame or the lamps were. And those lanterns stayed lit for 400 years until the Babylonians destroyed that place.

And that temple, then, became the priestly center of Judaism. The first temple ever built. And that's where Jews could go before the throne of God, as you would before a king. And it was in that place you would find healing, forgiveness, healing, forgiveness. In that place heaven was there, right there. Right in the middle. Because everywhere God is, heaven is, and heaven has all you need. And so this is the beginning of heaven on earth in the temple, right there, right in the middle. Isn't that cool?

That night, Solomon, they've been partying all day, right? I mean they had a huge celebration. They ate a lot of that steak and a lot of that mutton, and they had wine and celebrating and this great thing that God had done to begin the reconciling of all mankind through Abraham's family is now really symbolically taking root in this temple.

So that night, he's had a great day and King Solomon lays down to bed. And the Lord visits him in the quiet of the night. And He says "some

of my people will turn their back on me. Some of them will sin and fall away. Some of them will be broken. Some of them will lose their farms. But, if my people, who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, and I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin, and I will heal their land.”
What a promise. What a promise.

I often think that healing and forgiveness go together very, very well. Very often, the stuff that we’re.. well actually all of the stuff that we face in life is the result either of our sin or someone else’ sin; the fallenness of the world from heaven, its separateness from God and vice versa. A lot of times, a lot of the sin we do is coming from a place of hurt and brokenness, not always a place of choice. I put this down that some of us are praying for forgiveness when we need to pray for healing. And some of us are praying for healing when we need to pray for forgiveness.

Maybe you come to church today and you’re addicted. You’re addicted to substance, maybe you’re sexually addicted to stuff, maybe you’re addicted to spending, you’re addicted to work, you’re withdrawing into whatever it is, and you feel guilty about it, and you feel a lot of shame, and you just keep asking God, forgive me. Forgive me. Forgive me. But the Lord might be saying to you today that maybe more than forgiveness, what you really need is healing. Healing. Maybe at the core of some of these decisions is a brokenness, a hurt, a loneliness, an

emptiness, a meaninglessness that hasn't been addressed, that leaves you powerless in your ability to make good decisions.

And some of us come today and we're saying God, heal my family, or heal my body, or heal this, or heal that, but we have all these choices that we've been making. And maybe you want to reconcile with your kids or with your brother or with a colleague, but you haven't taken responsibility for your side. Yes, they did a lot of bad stuff, but you haven't asked for forgiveness. You're asking God to heal, but you're not able to heal with them because in their eyes, you haven't reconciled or taken responsibility for your choices. And so in that case, forgiveness has to happen before your healing.

In all cases, when God heals, and when God forgives, He doesn't do just a little part, He does everything. When God heals, He doesn't just heal your body, He heals your soul, He heals your spirit, He heals your heart, He heals your family, and He heals your country. God is a healer. Everywhere He goes, He brings healing with Him.

And maybe you're here today and you think, Bobby, you don't know what the doctors just told me. Or Bobby, you don't know what my family has gone through. Bobby, you don't know what kind of loss I've faced, or the way that I was hurt when I was a child, or the way I was hurt when I was in college. This hasn't been healed for 50, for 20, for 100, whatever, years, and I just don't feel like I'm ever going to be healed.

God heals. It's all He does and He wants to heal you today. He wants to heal you!

God's delivery system is faith. Faith is the thing that connects your heart, your mind and your body to heaven. I'm a preacher, so I got off track, I'm sorry. We were talking about the temple, weren't we?

Four hundred years goes by after King Solomon, and this temple, the flame burns within, and people can come to the holy of holies, and to atone for their sins, and to receive healing and life and everything that makes them a people and makes them in covenant with God. And after 400 years, they're conquered by the Babylonians and the temple is destroyed.

Seventy years goes by. The Jewish people then are able to rebuild the temple with Ezra and Nehemiah, and this is the second temple. Everyone say second temple. Now this is an important thing because it's the reclaiming after the Babylonian exile. Cyrus comes in, he's the Persian who conquers Babylon and he frees the Jewish people to go home, and they then give the second temple a face lift. Everybody say face lift, this is California. We know what that is. We know what a face lift is. A lot of sun here; a lot of wrinkles because we enjoy the sun. The temple got a face lift from a guy named Herod. Everybody say Herod. I'm going to.. this is dumb. This is not youth group. We're going to stop doing this.

A guy named Herod comes in. He makes the temple awesome! Oh my gosh, the temple looks amazing. I mean it is at that time, one of the largest, most spectacular buildings in the world, and it is the center of Jewish life. The Holy Spirit dwells in the center of the holy of holies, and it is the throne of God. And only some people, particular priests at certain times are allowed to go into the holy of holies, and the only way you get close to God is through animals, and through this priest, and through ceremony, and that's how you're able to get to the very dangerous but very good power and life of God.

And so there's a whole culture and religion built around this, and this is ancient first century Judaism. And it's into that world that Jesus comes. And everything that people want from the temple as Jews, they start getting from Jesus. Why? Because Jesus is God. And so that same piece of God that is in the Holy Spirit in the holy of holies is now in Jesus, so that as people who have gone to the temple, have gotten miracles and gotten things from God, when they get close to Jesus, it's like Jesus is like the temple on steroids. It's like times a million. And everywhere Jesus goes, I mean everything changes for the better! Everywhere He goes. And everywhere He goes, He heals. He heals everybody. Everywhere He goes, He's bringing heaven with Him. He's raising people from the dead, He's healing people of leprosy, He's freeing people from demonic oppression, He's speaking truth to power, He's breaking all of these chains in society and religious bondage. And

everywhere He's going, people are just getting freed left and right. He's God.

And then, like one of the coolest things about Jesus, He's such a healing presence. He's on His way to heal Jairus' daughter. On His way, while He's on His way to raise someone from the dead, someone else who has a bleeding disease, she's had this disease for ten years. She thinks if I could just touch Him I'll be healed. She just barely touches the hem of His garment and she's healed. Jesus is such a healer. He heals people on accident. You don't think it was an accident? Of course it was. He turns around and He goes who touched me? Right? And then of course His disciples are like ah Jesus, everybody's touching you. He's like no, no, no, no, no, someone touched me with faith and I felt power go out of me into her. Huh? So Jesus is healing. Jesus is heaven! And to touch Jesus is to touch heaven. To be with Him is to be in heaven, alive today.

This same Jesus goes into the second temple, we already said it. Say second temple. And He says destroy this temple and I will rebuild it in three days. This famous line, by the way, is the main thing that His enemies used to have Him crucified. They said he was inciting a rebellion. But we know what that meant. When Christ was crucified, that same place, the holy of holies, that was the throne of God. They had all this power in it. This like Raiders of the Lost Ark, Nazi killing, body healing power, right? It's in this little room. When Jesus dies on the cross, this veil that covers that holy place is ripped in two, huh? Because

when Christ dies, that spirit then leaves. Well where does it go? We know. On Pentecost, every believer, not just Pentecostals, okay? I'm charismatic, so I get to say that. But every believer in that room received power from the spirit. That same spirit that was in the holy of holies, it's in you! Right now!

Lots of Christians and Jews talk about the third temple that will be built on Mount Mariah, where right now the dome of the rock is. Lots of people talk about it'll happen. Maybe it'll happen. That would be cool. I don't know. The third temple's already been built and is being built. It's you and it's me. You're the third temple. You're the temple. You're the temple! You see when Jesus came into the world, He didn't just want to come into the world to save it, He wanted to make you like Him. Do not miss this. You became in your baptism a part and totally the third temple that will never be destroyed. Your heart became the holy of holies. God sits upon the throne of your heart right now, and everywhere you go, you can be like Jesus where people just being near you are healed, touched, blessed by you. That people will touch the hem of your garment and get healed accidentally. You have so much incredible power and life in you, and many of you don't even know it. And part of what God wants to reveal to you today is that healing is yours, and it is those who come to you by faith.

You say Bobby I don't have anything inside of me. I don't have any fire or anything like that. I always think it's like this: that when you're

baptized, you get fire put inside of you. And the lowest it can go is a pilot light. You know pilot light? Little blue flame? You don't even see it unless you get close, but it's there and you need it. And the way you turn that flame up is through faith and faith is the gas. Man, some of you old timer Christians here, you've got so much fire and life. You've known the Lord for a long time. You are just a source of healing and life and goodness. But sometimes in our lives, as we've gone through hurt and anguish and sickness and doubt and dark night of the soul, that gas gets turned down and we think well gosh there's nothing left of that. I think the Lord wants to say to you today, turn the gas up. Turn up that flame. You have not only a right, but a responsibility to be Rapha. To be healing. There is this power within you released by faith that allows you and others to be healed.

So you come today and maybe somebody told you that God doesn't heal bodies anymore. Yes He heals hearts and He heals minds. That is baloney. I know its baloney! God did not take away miracle working power with the disciples. That's dumb. You know why that's dumb? I have seen so many miracles, and it doesn't even say that in the Bible. It's modernism that rejects. It's like everything has to be scientific. God does miracles all the time. And though we don't always get it the way we want it and when we want it, do not lose your faith in believing God can give you your miracle today.

I remember when I was in Thailand, one of the first early miracles I ever saw: a lady with a cancerous tumor on her neck. I was with people of faith, and they laid hands on her, and when they were done praying, they pulled their hand off and the tumor was gone. See we're scientific world. So now you are given a choice. You have to choose to believe me. Either this guy is crazy, or he's lying, or he really saw this. Not only did I see that, we prayed for rain on this same.. it was actually in the same prayer. It hadn't rained, they were in a drought, and we prayed for rain and the end of the day it started raining, and the locals started worshipping us as gods. We said no, no!

You guys know many of these stories. We saw a leader of our troupe, a young girl who was.. she was young.. seemed so old at the time, 28. She's young. She was hit by a car, flung through the air. Wasn't hurt. Her pants weren't even dirty. That was the coolest part. She was wearing white pants.

And we saw.. gosh in fact I remember when, and I've told you this story, when I was going deaf in my ear for months, chronic.. I was losing my ear.. I was losing my hearing, and I went to bed depressed early, and Hannah's mom, who I think was one of the few people that knew, just stayed up all night fasting and praying that I would be healed, and I was. Now there are lots of times we pray and we don't get what we ask for. Don't! Don't stop praying! God does miracles. Easter did happen. God will reconcile all things. Heaven is here. Heaven is in you right now.

There's so much power and it is released through faith. Believe you are living stones in a holy temple. Believe you are the temple of God. Believe that your heart is the throne of God, and believe everywhere He is heaven and healing is, and believe in your miracle.

Yes, everything's changing and change is hard, but there is not one tragedy God will not redeem if you respond with faith. Faith to believe that He is not God the judge, He is God the healer! He's not God the abandoner, He's God the healer. He wants you to hear this voice today: my beloved child, I haven't left you. Release your faith and believe in healing: healing for your body, healing for your broken heart, healing for your wounded soul, healing for your broken family, forgiveness of your sins, and healing for your country. We need healing for our country. You bet we do. Need healing in your family? You bet we do and God can do it. You need healing in your body? Oral Roberts said everybody's a little bit sick. You bet we do. I guarantee you half the people in this room brought something in their body today and it's easy to think God doesn't care about your arthritis, or He doesn't care about your small health problem that's bothering you. He does and you can believe in faith today that He will heal you. Don't give up that miracle. Don't give it up. Doctors don't give you the last word, the Bible does and it is good.

And don't think that just because you're wounded, or just because you're sick, or just because you're broken, or you're divorced, or your family is broken, or you have some sin in your life that you too can't

be a healer. You didn't choose God, He chose you. And sometimes it's through the process of being a healing presence to others that we receive our healing. It's sometimes in forgiving others that we receive our forgiveness. Henri Nouwen called this the wounded healer. The best doctors in the world are the ones who have been sick themselves because they know the pain and the suffering of being stuck in a hospital; of being sick. Of not being able to get out and do things, and so they not only provide the healing, they know what their clients need. The best counselors and the best pastors are the ones who have had to work through their own issues. I believe that the more wounded you are, and the more wounded you've been, the more capable you are of being a healer. Don't view your wounds or your sin as something that's keeping you back from doing God's will. See the pain of those experiences as the very crucible that prepared you for this moment. God has forgiven your sin. He's going to get you out of whatever your addiction is. Whatever your brokenness or whatever your woundedness is. He's going to heal you and he's going to do it for a greater purpose that you can be a wounded healer to others. That you can be the temple. That you can be the place that people can come to and draw close to the real presence of God and perhaps touch the hem of your garment and receive the healing they've been praying for for years. Believe it in faith, in Jesus' name, amen.