

If We Pray for Healing and it Doesn't Happen, Does that Mean It is Not God's Will?

From: In Defense of My Father:
Toward a Better Understanding of the Sovereignty of God

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A pastor once said to me, “When I pray for the sick, and they are healed, then it was God’s will. If they aren’t healed, then it wasn’t God’s will.” This pastor belonged to a denomination that firmly believes without wavering that divine healing is available to all believers, so I was shocked to hear him say it.

First of all, this idea that God heals one but not another maligns God’s character, implying that God only heals whom He wants to heal and lets those He doesn’t want to heal to continue to suffer. God does not keep His promises randomly, my friends. He is no respecter of persons.

This also arrogantly supposes that the person praying for an individual has perfect faith, and that because their supposed perfect faith did not result in healing, God must be saying no. The minister can then dust his hands in the matter instead of patiently teaching the individual about God’s willingness to heal him so that he may have faith to be healed. It doesn’t even consider the possibility that the minister himself didn’t have sufficient faith for the person to be healed, nor that the person being prayed for did not believe it either. It points the finger at God instead of dealing with the actual situation.

Additionally, this causes us to doubt all of God’s promises. If He only randomly answers prayer concerning healing, how can we have faith to receive anything from God that He has promised? It allows the enemy to sow doubt. “See! You weren’t healed. God must want to keep you sick a little longer to teach you a lesson about something. He is trying to work something together for good in this sickness. Maybe He is leaving you sick to keep you humble. Maybe He just doesn’t like you as much as the person who did get healed. Maybe you don’t have enough faith to be healed. Or maybe there is no hope for you in God. Maybe there really isn’t a God.” These are lies of the enemy. Lie after lie he will sow, but when we know the truth, we are set free.

Note: Let us not dictate to God what promises he makes, nor attribute to Him some sort of fickle response. Rather, let us study the word of God more diligently about whatever the promise may be. Let us reflect on Jesus, who was always willing to heal and denied no one ever.