

Why People Are Sometimes Not Healed

1. Those praying for the person are inadequate ministers of healing.
Matthew 17:16 “And I brought him to your disciples, and they could not heal him.”
2. Those praying for the person do not have enough faith.
Matthew 17:19-20 Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.”
3. There has been insufficient prayer (and/or fasting).
Mark 9:29 And he said to them, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”
4. The prayer has not been specific.
James 4:2c You do not have, because you do not ask.
5. The prayer has not dealt with the root issue/underlying cause.
Luke 11:24-26 “When the unclean spirit has gone out of a person, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and finding none it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came.’ And when it comes, it finds the house swept and put in order. Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and dwell there. And the last state of that person is worse than the first.”
6. A different person is to be the instrument of healing.
1 Corinthians 12:28 And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.
7. The social and spiritual environment blocks healing.
Mark 6:4-6a And Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.” And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. And he marveled because of their unbelief.
8. The person continues to engage in the destructive behavior which caused or continues the condition.
John 5:14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple and said to him, “See, you are well! Sin no more, that nothing worse may happen to you.”
9. The person does not obey God’s direction about what to do to be healed.
2 Kings 5:10-12 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.
10. The person has unconfessed sin which must be dealt with first.
1 Corinthians 11:27-30 Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died.

11. The person does not want to be healed.
John 5:1-9 After this there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now there is in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate a pool, in Aramaic called Bethesda, which has five roofed colonnades. In these lay a multitude of invalids—blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man was there who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had already been there a long time, he said to him, “Do you want to be healed?” The sick man answered him, “Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, and while I am going another steps down before me.” Jesus said to him, “Get up, take up your bed, and walk.” And at once the man was healed, and he took up his bed and walked.

Or: The person attaches a false value to suffering through illness.
12. The person does not have enough faith.
Mark 5:34 And he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”
13. The person believes he or she is being punished and should not be healed.
John 9:2 And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
14. The person has refused to accept medicine as a way God heals.
1 Timothy 5:23 (No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.)
15. Now is not the time. Some healing comes instantaneously; some healing comes after a delay; some healing comes gradually.
Mark 8:22-25 And they came to Bethsaida. And some people brought to him a blind man and begged him to touch him. And he took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village, and when he had spit on his eyes and laid his hands on him, he asked him, “Do you see anything?” And he looked up and said, “I see people, but they look like trees, walking.” Then Jesus laid his hands on his eyes again; and he opened his eyes, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly.
16. The person is not responding to the needs of the poor.
Isaiah 58:6-8 “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover him, and not to hide yourself from your own flesh? Then shall your light break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up speedily; your righteousness shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.”