

Jehovah Rapha

A Hebrew word that can mean to 'restore' or to 'heal'

Exodus 15:26

He said, "If you listen carefully to the Lord your God and do what is right in his eyes, if you pay attention to his commands and keep all his decrees, I will not bring on you any of the diseases I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you."

We have heard this term a lot over the last year in relation to the most popular pandemic at the moment (I personally recognise that there is more than one pandemic affecting the whole world right now). Underlying health conditions are long-term illnesses that people already have which affect their health adversely. Or if we are looking at mental health, we recognise that there are factors in childhood that can result in periods of poor mental health. As I have been studying for tonight, the term 'underlying conditions ' has shed a new light to my Christian faith.

For a long time when I have turned to Jehovah Rapha, it has almost always been for physical healing because for me when I read the stories below I only look at the physical aspect :

Matthew 8 1-4 healing a man with leprosy.

Mark 2 5-12 forgiving and healing a paralysed man.

John 11 41-44 raising Lazarus from the dead.

Matthew 9 27-31 restoring the eyesight of two blind men.

Luke 8 42-48 healing a woman who had been bleeding for 12 years.

Mark 6 53-56 Healing of a multitude of people from touching Jesus' garment.

Maybe I have started hearing sermons about healing in a way that has limited my view of who God the healer is. Tonight I invite you to look beyond whatever you've been researching about God the healer and perhaps start pondering on this:

Have you ever thought or looked into a) the attitude of the person after they are healed? b) have you ever looked into how the people around the healing react? Maybe write your answers down after reading the bible verses listed above.

What happens after healing of a loved one? What happened to you after God healed you? Did anything change in your way of thinking and if it did are you still on the same level or at an ever higher level of gratitude?

The reason I mention the underlying conditions is this: we each have a purpose that God has assigned us. I believe that the majority of the time that I do not or fail to fulfil this purpose is because of underlying conditions. Some of us have toxic behaviours or in enable toxic behaviour, we criticise more than we praise, we talk about Jesus and how he died for our sins but we do not forgive, we are bitter, angry, we worry so much, the list goes on. It is time to look at God the healer for restoration and healing of body and mind.

Let us pray for healing that goes beyond what we have imagined. David in his latter years reflects in Psalm 103 1-5

I think the old church really benefited from seeing physical healing. The church today needs healing embedded in the way we see ourselves, the way we react to life or community. Because God is in constant healing form. That is who He is — it doesn't stop - His mercy and grace are never ending. His presence heals.

And so when I pray for healing I pray for those things that hinder my calling like worrying about an illness and what the

implications of that illness may be on my life goals and purpose.

Jehovah Rapha to me is that motivation to go out and exercise, the discipline to eat healthy and follow doctors instructions about my health but just as he is constantly forgiving me or pouring his love on me he's also constantly healing me, restoring me. Psalm 58:10 *God create a pure heart in me and renew a right attitude within me.*

Questions

1. Do you have an underlying condition? How is it stopping or hindering your calling?
2. How do you cope with a medical diagnosis and Jehovah Rapha?
3. What does healing or restoration in our church look like to you?
4. Who is Jehovah Rapha to you?
5. What is your favourite healing scripture? As a learning resource I would encourage you to look up Dr Caroline leaf at [Dr leaf.com](http://Dr.leaf.com) and start looking at healing beyond the physical aspect of it.