**Divine Healing, Medical Science, and Striking a Word-Based Balance in Troubled Times**

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In the midst of a global pandemic, entire nations are gripped by fear, confusion, and uncertainty. The media only fuels this anxiety, and reliable information—much less the truth—often seems out of reach.

Yet Believers occupy a privileged position: we have an anchor, and all the blessings and safety that come from having the Token applied. Indeed, there is a tremendous peace that comes from knowing God is in control of every situation and keeping watch over His flock. We should never fear the final outcome.

As a pastor, I’m often asked what Brother Branham said about healing, medical science, and vaccinations. I get these questions even in the best of times, but with the continual news coverage on COVID-19 and the efforts by governments around the world to control its spread, it behooves us to search the Scriptures and the Message to find the answers God has already provided.

This document is designed to share some of the things I’ve found through my own studies on these topics. I’ve tried my very best to present a balanced, Word-based perspective along four major themes that cover many of the questions I receive. I trust it will help you.

**Divine Healing Always Stands in Contrast to the World’s Thinking**

While on earth, Jesus’ teachings on sickness and healing differed from the mainstream thinking of the day. He showed an interest in the physical and mental welfare of men and women that represented a departure from traditional beliefs in Jewish culture and society.

In Old Testament times sickness was often perceived as God’s rebuke for human sin, while health and wealth were seen as God’s rewards. This was derived from many Scriptural references to God’s power and the frailty of the human condition, and aspects of the Hebrew culture.[[1]](#footnote-1) However, when Jesus came on the scene He immediately began to heal the sick. Nearly one fifth of the entire gospels is devoted to healing (seventy-two accounts in all). Healing, according to Jesus, was good work, even on the Sabbath. This brought Him into direct conflict with the religious world around Him. Jesus also sent His disciples out to continue this ministry.[[2]](#footnote-2)

*If you believe in healing, and believe that God has healed you, confess it, and God will make your body obey your confession, for He's the High Priest of your confession; setting at the right-hand of the Father now with His own Blood to make intercessions for any confession upon anything that He died for.*

*And He died to rid sin. And sickness is the result of sin. "He was wounded for our transgressions, with His stripes we are healed." Remember that. Have faith. Don't waiver. Stand on it.[[3]](#footnote-3)*

Following Christ’s ascension and the Day of Pentecost, the Book of Acts records many examples of Divine healing as a sign the Holy Spirit was working through God’s people.

Hundreds of years later, the religious world still opposed the power of Divine healing. For example, the Theory of Cessationism suggested that the mighty works, like Divine healing, were only for a particular period of time in Scripture. Martin Luther, based on his teaching of “Sola Scriptura” (Only Scripture) countered the Catholic teaching about their assumed right to interpret the Bible, and make their teaching equal to or more authoritative than the Bible. He wrote:

*“The day of miracles is past, and the real gift of the Holy Spirit is to enlighten Scripture, now that the Apostles have preached the Word and given their writings, and nothing more that they have written remains to be revealed, no new and special revelation or miracle is necessary.”[[4]](#footnote-4)*

In John Calvin’s words, “The gift of healing disappeared with the other miraculous powers which the Lord was pleased to give for a time, that it might render the new preaching of the gospel forever wonderful.”[[5]](#footnote-5) Practically all of Protestant theology originated with the teachings of these two men, along with teachings of the Church of England. Understandably, when William Branham arrived on the scene with a supernatural gift of healing he captured the attention of the masses, and much like Jesus, stood in contrast to the mainstream thinking of the day.

**Brother Branham on Divine Healing**

Divine healing was a central theme of Brother Branham’s ministry, and represented the first of the three pulls. In one of the earliest recorded sermons in 1948 Brother Branham prayed, “God, let the people know that I'm here trying to help poor suffering humanity. I'm not here for any other cause but to try to help these sick, dying people.”[[6]](#footnote-6) Throughout his ministry, Brother Branham consistently emphasized that all healing comes from God:

*26 And there never was nothing that ever come before our Master, Jesus, but what He was more than a match for it. And no incurables to Him. All things are possible. Is that right? And He's the same yesterday, today, and forever. Is that right? Then nothing too incurable for Him.[[7]](#footnote-7)*

*4 Now, Divine healing is nothing that anyone can do. Divine healing is a act of faith in a finished work, that Christ finished at Calvary. No man has power to heal. Not even Jesus had power to heal. We all know that. He said, “It’s not Me that doeth the works, it’s My Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works.” So if the Son of God had not power to heal at random, or in His Own Self… “The Son can do nothing in Himself,” He said. And if He did not take credit for healing the sick, then how much more should any man of this day, or any other day, abstain from honors from people saying that He heals the sick. It’s absolutely an error. If I could heal you, I could save you. Because it’s in the same atonement that the finished work was completed at Calvary by our blessed Lord. And it’s your personal faith in the finished work of Christ at Calvary, that brings both salvation and healing.[[8]](#footnote-8)*

It's difficult to select only a handful of quotes like these because there are literally hundreds of them. Whether in sermons or during prayer lines, Brother Branham always pointed the sick and dying to Christ, as in the 1951 message titled “The Principles of Divine Healing:”

*26 Now, we know that medicine was made for the body. But now, for instance, I’d cut my hand here, and I would fall down dead on the platform, and they could take me down to the undertaker morgue. They had a fluid, that they could embalm my body, that I would look natural for the next fifty years. And we would send—or even take me to Mayos’ Clinic, and let them dress that hand every day for fifty years, put all the salve, and mercurochromes, and penicillin in my body that could be, and in fifty years from today, that cut would be there just the same as it was the moment the knife cut it. Is that right? Sure. You say, “Certainly, Brother Branham, the life went out of your body.” Then I want to ask you which is the healer; the medicine or life? Life, exactly. Well, then if you’ll tell me and pull out of you what part is life or nature, I can show you what part of you is God. God is Life. There you are. So He is the Healer, Healer of all diseases.[[9]](#footnote-9)*

Yet equally consistent throughout Brother Branham’s ministry are statements describing the many forms Divine healing can take, from the playing of music to the laying on of hands to doctors and medications:

*6 There's nothing like music. You know, God heals by music. Did you know that? God heals by music. God heals by love. God heals by medicine. God heals by prayer. God has many ways of healing. Depends on what type that you need.[[10]](#footnote-10)*

*7 And all good things comes from God. What will we do if we had no doctors, had no health and hygiene, and had no hospitals? Wouldn't it be awful? But remember, there isn't one dose of medicine that can heal you. There's no doctor will tell you so. I have been interviewed by some of the greatest doctors of the world. I've been to Mayo's clinics... And many of the fine doctors come to my home to be prayed for. So they say with a big sign; "We do not claim to be healers. There is only one Healer; that is God. We only claim to assist nature." So if the greatest clinic in the world said that, well, that ought to settle it. We'll get into teaching later in the week, but I want to show you how simple healing is.[[11]](#footnote-11)*

*49 …If a man's got a disease, and the doctor's got a toxin for that disease, and the man comes up and he refuses to take the doctor's medicine, then if the man dies right on the doctor's doorstep, can you blame the doctor? Can you blame the toxin? Who's to blame? Hisself. That's right. Can't blame the doctor; he's got the toxin; he's willing to give it. Can't blame the toxin, science has found it for the disease. So he dies right on the doorstep, but don't blame the doctor. Just the same thing today. People are dying right in the pews from sin. It's not because we haven't got toxin; it isn't because we haven't got physicians; it's because the people don't want to take it.*

*50 ... and think that he could fix your arm up, it's a dangerous thing not to do that, you should do it. It's dangerous if you don't do it. And there was a time we didn't have much toxin. People died with diphtheria, but they got a toxin for it. Polio, the Salk toxin, that's fine; I sure appreciate that. I believe a man would be more humble... You say, "Bro. Branham, you believe in Divine healing?" That's all Divine healing. Every bit of it's Divine healing. "I'm the Lord Who heals all thy diseases." Yeah. Every bit of it is Divine healing.[[12]](#footnote-12)*

Isn’t it wonderful to know that God in His mercy heals in many different ways? That means He knows us, and precisely what we need regardless of the ailment. And although God allows scientists to discover things like vaccines for our benefit, it’s always God who does the healing.

And the people, when they knew it, followed him: and he received them, and spake unto them of the kingdom of God, and healed them that had need of healing. LUKE 9:11

**Is it a Lack of Faith to go to the Doctor?**

The only absolute truth is that found in the Absolute, God’s Word. Everything else is limited in some way, either by human bias, limited technology and data, or even things like our culture and societal beliefs.

This is why scientists may state that coffee is good for you in a magazine article, only to issue another article months later highlighting the dangers of coffee, and then a few years after that suggest a few cups per day is perfectly safe. Their knowledge continually shifts as they ask slightly different questions, introduce new variables, or explore different populations. Brother Branham said it best in 1954:

*13 Science is only as good as it can measure. As close as science can measure, that’s how powerful they become. And as close as the Church can measure that’s just as powerful as the Church becomes.[[13]](#footnote-13)*

So even at its best, science can only produce what the limited tools of scientific inquiry allow. This is sometimes difficult to understand. Throw in the so-called ‘experts’ on the internet, conspiracy theories, and outright lies on top of the scientific uncertainty—and, well, you get the picture.

Yet science has its place. For example, Bro. Branham often spoke about his gratitude for medical science as a blessing from God:

*Some people says we shouldn’t have doctors. We shouldn’t have hospitals and perform operations. I disagree with that. I’m very thankful for hospitals and doctors and operations. I’m thankful for these electric lights tonight. I’ve thankful for the automobile that brought me here; but if any time they work contrary to God, I won’t fool with it. That’s all. But when it’s working with God they are natural blessings that God has given us.[[14]](#footnote-14)*

In other sermons, Bro. Branham spoke about the need to support medical professionals:

*30 And today we have osteopath, chiropractors, medical science, Divine healing, and each one seems to fight against the other. And now, friends, we got to admit that all of them helps people. That’s right. And why can’t people forget their differences and let’s all work together to try to help our fellow man, our brother. And if we don’t have that kind of motive, my opinion that there’s some other selfish motive behind it.[[15]](#footnote-15)*

*4 There's only one Healer, and that's God. Now, we have doctors, and medical institutions, and scientists to research in medicine, and which we are grateful. And as Christian people we should not let a day pass without praying for the help of those men who are trying in research to find something to help relieve the suffering.[[16]](#footnote-16)*

Is it a lack of faith to visit a doctor? Certainly not. Brother Branham recounted many visits to the doctor, and even spoke about an examination he underwent at the famed Mayo Clinic. He even heeded medical advice when his own body suffered from ailments and disease. Of his personal physician, Dr. Sam Adair, Brother Branham said:

*31 Now, many time I’ve went in with Doctor Adair, the doctor of our city, the one that comes to my church.[[17]](#footnote-17)*

*27 I went up for an examination to Mayo Clinic, the greatest in the world. And they examined me a good examination. And it’s a good thing to go by once in a while and be examined. But when I received that examination up there at Mayo’ Clinic, though as thorough as it was, I never had any more examination than my own little doctor here, Dr. Sam Adair, here in the city. He could give me the same kind of examination, and to my opinion, just as good a doctor as they got there. And I’m not saying that to plug for him; I’d say that across the world.[[18]](#footnote-18)*

*25 (speaking of Dr. Adair) … He’s a specialist, and one of the best doctors that I know of in the nation. Not because he’s a chum of mine, but he’s absolutely… When it comes to a doctor, I just got plenty confidence in him as a doctor.[[19]](#footnote-19)*

However, neither medicine, nor doctors, nor the latest scientific discoveries should displace our faith in God. Rather, Brother Branham establishes a balance by teaching us that even though Divine healing can take many forms—from surgery to medication—science is never a substitute for faith:

*172 God never did ordain us to go out and have schools. He never. He never told us to build hospitals. They're good. He never told us to build libraries. No, sir. He never.*

*He said, "Preach the Gospel..." 177 Can anybody speak evil of a hospital? No, sir. Library? No, sir. Education? No, sir. But, see, they're giving them that without the Word. See how deceiving it is?[[20]](#footnote-20)*

In summary, Brother Branham always supported medical science when it helped people. He taught that medical science is one of the tools that God sometimes uses to ease suffering and deliver healing. We too have a part to play in helping others:

*8 ...I think this, that each of us, and all know that operations does good, medicine does good. Bible said so. And you know a chiropractic and osteopathic, many times helps people... That's a good aid, a help. So what we should do, would each one of us join hands and hearts together and march forward to do everything we can for our people... to help one another, do all that we can to benefit and to make life more pleasant for each person that's traveling this journey. It's to this end that I'm here, to try to do that, to join hands with your doctor, your chiropractor, surgeon, pastor, neighbor, and all to try to make life just a little better.[[21]](#footnote-21)*

On a personal note, I often pray that God will guide physicians as they provide care to those among us battling demons of affliction. I’m especially grateful for God-fearing doctors and nurses, some of whom are Believers. I know many of them, and have observed first-hand their sacrifice, dedication, and faith. Please join me in praying for them as they minister to those in need.

**What did Brother Branham Say About Vaccines and Vaccination?**

Brother Branham actually says quite a bit about vaccines, but first, it may be helpful to address some of the controversy surrounding this topic. A quick internet search will lead to plenty of conflicting ‘facts’ about the potential dangers to children, herd immunity, the pharmaceutical industry, and the worst-case scenarios. Although some of the early research linking vaccines to conditions like autism has been thoroughly debunked and subsequently retracted, there is other evidence to suggest some vaccines may be unnecessary or even risky.

There is always place for ‘healthy’ skepticism. Vaccines and medications aren’t perfect. There are instances (albeit rare) of negative reactions to vaccines, and one glance at the list of possible side effects for pharmaceutical drugs illustrates the limits of man-made interventions. We also know that medicine alone cannot heal:

*9 Now, medicine does not heal. We all know that. There’s no medicine that claims to heal. Doctors don’t claim that. Medicine is an aid to nature; God is the Healer. There’s never been anyone healed by medicine. You can’t do it…. If you got a bad tooth, the doctor can pull it. But he cannot heal the socket, and the tissue that he tore out. He might remove appendix, or a growth in your side, or something, but he cannot heal the place where it come out of. He can remove, but cannot heal. Medicine doesn’t heal. No medicine heals. It just simply keeps clean, while God heals. And we must keep that in mind.[[22]](#footnote-22)*

Brother Branham struck a balance by thanking God for vaccines (which he often referred to as toxins) that stopped the spread of contagious diseases. In fact, he often described vaccines as an answer to prayer. Consider these quotes:

*36 …. He’s the Lord who heals all of our diseases. Certainly, I believe that, and I’m thankful to God for these toxins, and the Salk vaccine. And it’s a dangerous thing to not take it. The little children, and things, to get inoculation, what would we do without such? Now, everybody can’t have faith for healing. They should, but they don’t. So, what would you do? You’d just have sickness, and, oh, it would be a terrible place if we had no hospitals, or things. It’d be an awful place if you didn’t have hygiene, and so forth, health clinics, and what we have. We thank God for everything that we’ve got. Every good thing cometh from God. Certainly.[[23]](#footnote-23)*

*45 You know there was a time when there wasn't any toxin on the earth for smallpox. Diphtheria, but now you can get inoculated from that… I'm thankful for that. I'm glad we got it. Salk vaccine for little children, I thank the Lord for that. Pray that He will give us more and more.[[24]](#footnote-24)*

*25 And seeing in medical books that I even have it in my home to read. I'm interested in medicine, anything that'll help God's people, help human beings. If it's studying peace terms, I am interested. I am interested in a better community to live in. I'm interested in better schools for our children to go to. I'm interested in anything that's good, wholesome and right.*

*And medicine has done some great things. I believe, if we'd be more sincere and consecrated to God, they'd already had stuff for cancers and everything else. God's got the thing, if we'd just ask Him about it…*

*I believe the reason the Salk vaccine was, just because of little children suffering the way it is. And Satan, that evil thing out there, paralyzing them little children; God just let that be discovered, for the inoculation.[[25]](#footnote-25)*

*48 When polio struck the nation. As, we're all commanded now to go get this vaccine, to stamp it out. Yesterday I was listening to a doctor as I was driving over the road, some doctor from Louisville. He said, "A few years ago, when the great plague hit Louisville, if men would have stood where I did, and saw fifty-seven respirators at one time, and men, women, boys and girls, paralyzed with a disease called 'polio,' and there was nothing could be done about it. I never want to see a thing like that again."*

*49 But science thought, "If there is such an evil as polio, there surely is something to counteract it." They fought, they stood on the streets with boots, those firemen, they put hats out, and they begged, they bummed, they done everything, trying to find the key to unlock the door to liberty. And, finally, one Christian gentlemen by the name of Salk found the vaccine. Why? There was an evil at stake, there was a killer at stake; there was a key somewhere that could unlock freedom again for man, and the Salk vaccine was the great treatment. Oh, what the key can do! The vaccine was brought forth, and now is stamping out the polio with this vaccine, because that it was a "never tiring and never give up," that key laid somewhere. There was something would inoculate from it, and they were determined to find it.*

*50 And if there is such an evil as polio, diphtheria, smallpox, yellow fever, tetanus, lockjaw, and so forth, that science... these evils, has been able to fight, day and night, till they found an inoculation from it, because it's evil, it's a killer, how much more is there a key to salvation for a man that's in prison house of sin? There is a key to that door, to liberate men from it.[[26]](#footnote-26)*

There are many similar quotes throughout the Message. The key—and where I believe we can achieve balance—is to never place faith in vaccines or medications, but rather to consider vaccination and medication from a position of faith.

My own views on vaccination are irrelevant, and my only objective is to present you with a vindicated prophet’s balanced teaching on subject in the midst of the fanaticism that surrounds this subject. The decision to vaccinate is a deeply personal one, but I always encourage those who ask about it to consider Brother Branham’s comments and make the decision prayerfully.

**Faith in Troubled Times**

We will always be surrounded by confusion and fear even after COVID-19 has subsided. God’s plan doesn’t involve saving or repairing this world; we long for a new heaven and new earth. This world is in for more pandemics, plagues, wars, and strife, followed by tribulation, but God in His sovereign mercy has already made a way of escape for His Bride.

Faith and Divine healing will always stand in contrast with mainstream thinking and modern wisdom. No political leader has opened a COVID-19 press conference with prayer, nor will any epidemiologist suggest turning to God’s Word for answers. But regardless of what the world may say, Divine healing is a promise to the Believer. Whether by the laying on of hands or the surgeon’s knife, we are never without this resource.

Let me leave you with this final quote from Brother Branham as an encouragement in the midst of these troubled times.

*18 …What we need brother is take courage. What we need is to be encouraged. And it's right. Trials may come; we never was promised to be immune from them; but He will give grace to go through them. If the mountain's too high to go over, too deep to go under it, too wide to go around it, He will give grace to go through it. Just don't worry, but keep your eyes on Christ, for He's the only one that can take us through.[[27]](#footnote-27)*

We have nothing to fear my friends. May God richly bless and protect you.

Bro. Barry Coffey

1. For example, refer to Deuteronomy 32:39, Exodus 4:11, or Psalm 103:2-3. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. See Mark 6:7-13, Matthew 10:5-10, and Luke 9:1-6. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Rev. William Branham. 1950. Who Is God. Paragraph 35 <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Sermons on the Gospel of St. John, Chap. 14-16, Luther’s Works, 24:367 [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. John Calvin, *Institutes of the Christian Religion* IV. 18 (1953), 2:636 [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1948. Experiences. Paragraph 80. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1950. Moses. Paragraph 26. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1958. Can We See Jesus? Paragraph 4. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1951. The Principles of Divine Healing. Paragraph 26 <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1963. Look. Paragraph 6. [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1955. Fellowship. Paragraph 7. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1961. Balm in Gilead. Paragraph 49-50. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1954. Have Faith in God. Paragraph 13. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1955. Jairus, A Secret Believer. Paragraph 13. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1956. Shepherd of the Sheepfold. Paragraph 30. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1961. Be Not Afraid It Is I. Paragraph 4. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1947. Faith is the Substance. Paragraph 31. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)
18. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1951. The Principles of Divine Healing. Paragraph 27. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-18)
19. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1953. Do You Now Believe? Paragraph 25 (the wonderful testimony of Dr. Sam Adair’s clinic goes until paragraph 35). <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-19)
20. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1965. The God of This Evil Age. Paragraph 172, 177. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-20)
21. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1958. Jesus Christ the Same. Paragraph 8. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-21)
22. [↑](#footnote-ref-22)
23. 21 Rev. William Marion Branham. 1960. Why. Paragraph 36. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-23)
24. Ibid. Paragraph 45. [↑](#footnote-ref-24)
25. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1960. The Uncertain Sound. Paragraph 25. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-25)
26. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1962. The Key to the Door. Paragraph 48-50. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-26)
27. Rev. William Marion Branham. 1956. A Secondhanded Robe. Paragraph 18. <http://table.branham.org> [↑](#footnote-ref-27)