

WORLDWIDE CHURCH OF GOD

**MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE MAY 1976**

**STATEMENT ON HEALING**

The following statement of the Worldwide Church of God  
supersedes all material heretofore published on this subject.

MINISTRE DU BUDGET ET DE LA FAUCONNERIE  
MINISTERIAL CO-OPERATION BOARD

STATEMENT ON REVENUE

## STATEMENT ON HEALING

Physical life is only temporary and was so intended from the time of Adam. Whether it is 969 years, seven decades, three months, or one day, each physical life will eventually come to an end. The human body was designed to die. It may come by accident; it may be by disease; or perhaps the body just wears out. But the statistics for it have never dropped below 100 percent.

God could of course preserve physical existence to eternity, but He has not chosen to do so. We know of no case where He has maintained physical life indefinitely, even for such notables as Enoch and Elijah. Yet God has many times chosen to extend physical life temporarily by healing a disease or repairing an injury.

God has healed, He does heal, He will continue to heal so long as there is physical life extant. But the reasons for doing so are always short term--to show mercy, to encourage the spiritually weak, as a witness of the gospel, etc.

Once this physical life ends, healing ceases to be a concern, since the body of the resurrection will be a spiritual one. Healing therefore pertains to this life alone and is a temporary concern along with eating, sleeping, etc.

From that point of view healing is not a test of spirituality--since even the most spiritual eventually die of something physical. Healing is simply an example of God's mercy, a product of God's wisdom. When He chooses to intervene and heal, we should be grateful. When He does not, we should not necessarily assume lack of faith or insufficient spirituality. And when we die, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." Rev. 14:13

Yet even though physical life is not the primary object of our concern, it is important, and God expects us to take care of our bodies. Consistent with this is making use of all knowledge available about the human body, its functions and processes. In addition to showing how to maintain good health, specialists can aid the body in time of injury or bad health. This human aid in no way hinders God if he decides to intervene miraculously and do what physical means cannot.

Therefore, we may summarize the present Church position on the question of healing:

1) God can and does heal miraculously. However, any intervention by God is only of temporary benefit since all physical life will eventually end. One's ultimate reward is not determined by physical healing in this life.

2) Neither healing nor the lack of it are an indication of one's level of faith or spirituality. God sometimes heals the new convert and the spiritually immature while he may withhold it from the mature Christian. And we will all, no matter how spiritual, eventually die of a physical state which God does not correct and heal.

3) If one seeks help and advice from trained physicians, this is not at all inconsistent with God's concern for physical life. Neither does this show a lack of faith nor prevent God from performing a miracle.

(Note: When one seeks professional medical help, he should select the most competent within his means. There are different specialties and different degrees of competency among individual practitioners just as in any other profession. One is not more "righteous" than another, but one might be more skilled than another.)

4) Anointing for sickness is a solemn ceremony analogous to footwashing and baptism. It is an expression of the faith of Jesus Christ and an affirmation of our faith in Him--the recognition of God's sovereignty over our life and well-being. It is a very personal thing between the individual and God, similar to prayer, though the minister is an essential part of the process. Therefore, any reasonable request for anointing should be honored, regardless of the nature of the illness or affliction and regardless of whether the person is consulting a physician or what treatment he may be undergoing.