

NAR Error #9 – Approach on Healing

While we absolutely should believe for healing, it is **how** we believe and **Who** we place our faith in that looks completely different from the NAR model.

The New Testament explicitly commands us to pray for healing and to expect that God hears us.

This topic is not about stopping our prayers for physical healing; it is about **changing our posture** from demanding reality *to* bending our words to humbly asking our loving Heavenly Father to intervene.

Here is the beautiful, biblical balance of how we believe for healing without falling into the traps of the "commanding" theology:

1. We believe in a Personal God, not a Formula

In the NAR logic chain, faith is like a spiritual vending machine: you input the right words, turn on the internal Jesus-power, and healing *must* come out.

Biblical faith is about relationship. When we pray for healing, we are coming before a sovereign, loving, and deeply personal God. We ask Him to heal because we know He is compassionate, He has the power to do it, and He loves us.

2. We ask with bold confidence, but yield to His will

We can pray for healing with incredible boldness! Scripture tells us to approach the throne of grace with confidence (Hebrews 4:16). But true biblical faith always includes a posture of surrender.

Even Jesus, facing the agony of the cross, prayed boldly in the garden in Luke 22:42: "*Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me.*" **But** He immediately followed it with, "*Yet not my will, but yours be done*". Trusting God means believing He is powerful enough to heal us but also trusting that if He chooses a different path, His wisdom and plan are higher than ours. *Are the people even saved?*

3. The New Testament gives us a specific model for healing

Instead of telling individuals to command their own bodies, the New Testament tells us to lean on the community of faith. The instruction for prayer for healing is found in **James 5:16** *starting with humility*:

"Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

Notice the mechanics here:

- It is petitionary prayer directed to the Lord, not a command spoken to the sickness.
- It is done in community, admitting our weakness and asking others to intercede for us.
- It acknowledges that the Lord is the one who raises them up.

4. Healing is a gift, not a burden

If you pray for healing and God heals you, it is an occasion for profound worship and gratitude for His mercy. If you pray for healing and the sickness remains, it is not a punishment, a curse, or a sign of weak faith, but a trial. Seek the Lord, confess His Word, and lean on His goodness and love.

In mainstream Christianity, remaining sick means you are walking the exact same path that Paul, Timothy, and Epaphroditus walked. It means God's grace is sufficient for you right now, and His power is *being made perfect in your weakness*. It keeps your eyes fixed on the ultimate hope of the Gospel that the day when Christ returns He will wipe away every tear, sickness, and pain forever (Rev 21:4).

Believing for healing is a beautiful part of the Christian walk. It means looking at a broken world, knowing God has the power to fix it, and asking Him as a child to their parent completely trusting Him with the outcome. *Thy Will Be Done*, of course God doesn't put sickness or cancer on us.

Does separating in boldly *asking* God for healing than from *commanding it* help take the burden off your and place it unto Jesus and His Blood? Faith working by love for the brethren - that is true faith!

The primary danger in those tangents is shifting the focus from **God's sovereign will** to **human power and formulas**.

Here is a comparison of how to approach speaking to illness balanced with biblical truth versus the NAR/Word of Faith extremes:

Balancing Command and Submission

The NAR / Word of Faith Tangent:	The Balanced Biblical Truth:
Human Sovereignty: Believes human words have inherent, creative spiritual power ("little gods" or "law of attraction"). If you say it, God <i>must</i> do it.	Delegated Authority: Words have no power of their own. Any command issued is strictly a delegated authority relying entirely on Jesus' name and backing (Acts 3:12-16).
Guilt & Lack of Faith: Teaches that if healing doesn't happen, it is entirely due to the sick person's lack of faith or a "generational curse."	Sovereign Grace: God is the healer, but He operates in His own timing and wisdom. Paul left Trophimus sick (2 Tim 4:20) and was told "My grace is sufficient" for his own thorn (2 Cor 12:9).
Demanding / Decreeing: "Decreeing and declaring" health as if issuing orders to God or demanding that reality bend to human desire.	Rebuking the Affliction: Addressing the sickness based on Christ's victory, while remaining in complete submission to God's ultimate will and lordship.

Three Keys to Staying Grounded

1. Distinguish Between Faith in God and Faith in "Your Faith"

NAR tangents often treat faith like a force or a tool to wield. True biblical faith is not a force; it is **trust in a Person**. When Jesus says to speak to the mountain in Mark 11:22-23, the very first command He gives is, **"Have faith in God."** The authority to speak to an obstacle flows out of relationship and trust in God's character, not confidence in your own spoken words.

2. Model the Full Ministry of Jesus and the Apostles

While Jesus spoke to sickness, He also modeled absolute submission to the Father ("*Not my will, but yours be done*" - Luke 22:42). Furthermore, New Testament believers didn't just use authoritative commands; they also petitioned God directly:

- **Acts 4:29-30:** The early church prayed, "*Lord... stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.*" (They asked God to stretch out His hand; they didn't just decree it themselves).
- **Philippians 2:27:** Paul writes that Epaphroditus was ill and almost died, but "*God had mercy on him.*" Paul viewed it as divine mercy, not a formulaic guarantee.

3. Keep the Gospel, Not Miracles, as the Main Thing

A major hallmark of NAR theology is an over-emphasis on signs, wonders, and physical manifestation as the primary proof of the Gospel. In contrast, biblical theology treats healing as a beautiful, merciful **signpost** pointing to the greater reality of the Kingdom of God and the forgiveness of sins.

Summary for Daily Practice

You can confidently speak to sickness in Jesus' name in commanding a fever to leave or a body to be aligned with health all the while simultaneously praying, "*Father, your will be done, and I trust your goodness regardless of the outcome.*" This honors the authority Christ gave His church without usurping His role as the sovereign Lord.