

Dear Nihal,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions Radio. You asked us two questions. Your first was in reference to Jesus' statement about Judas in Matthew 26:24 that it would have been better had Judas not been born. You wanted to know if the statement was applicable to all who die without being saved.

When Jesus died, he paid the price once for **all**. God has a place for everyone in either his heavenly or earthly kingdom. "This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants **all** men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for **all** men—the testimony given at its proper time. (1 Timothy 2:3-6) "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death **for everyone.**" (Hebrews 2:9) "For as in Adam **all** die, even so in Christ shall **all** be made alive." (1 Corinthians 15:22) These scriptures tell us that Jesus came to provide a ransom for Adam and **all** his progeny, some now, who are following Jesus and sacrificing their wills, and some later. Those who are sacrificing now have been called by God, have received a portion of his holy spirit, and look forward to a heavenly reward mentioned in John 13:33-36; 14:1-4; and 17:24. Although there is definitely a heavenly destination, it is only for a very select few, who, if faithful, will have a change of nature from human to spiritual (Romans 6:5; 2 Corinthians 5:1-2; Revelation 3:20-21). But, the vast majority of mankind, good and evil alike, will be awakened on earth to a period of judgment, or decision, in which they will have an opportunity to come to a knowledge of the truth, learn the ways of righteousness and willingly perfect their characters as they walk up the "highway of holiness" (Isaiah 35:8). God does not wish to destroy those who have sinned in this present life, but to destroy sin and evil and bring **everyone** to salvation. Would Jesus instruct us to pray for a kingdom to come on earth if there wasn't going to be one? (Matthew 6:6-13) For more on the kingdom soon to be established on earth in which all will come forth from their graves, read Isaiah 35:5-10; Revelation 21:1-4; Revelation 11:15; Isaiah 9:6-7; Isaiah 65:21-25. We look forward with great joy to that day when all these scriptures will be fulfilled.

There are two perspectives on the fate of Judas. One is that he will not return from the grave because he was already judged. The other perspective, which we believe, although we cannot be sure, is that Judas will return from the grave with the rest of mankind to a period of judgment. We endorse this view because none of the apostles were spirit begotten when Jesus died. Spirit begetting would take place later at Pentecost.

In your second question you wanted to know if prayers would be answered to re-create an amputated limb.

Although we know that nothing is too difficult for God, we feel that prayer for physical healing is usually inappropriate. The purpose of the healings that Jesus and his disciples performed was to show the people a small picture of what Christ's kingdom on earth would be like during the millennial age to come. When the Apostle Paul prayed three

times to have the “thorn” in his flesh removed, the Lord answered by saying, “ ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ . . . For when I am weak, then I am strong.” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10) When we are afflicted, either physically, emotionally or spiritually, we draw closer to God in prayer, and by so doing he draws closer to us and we are strengthened.

Prayer is a great privilege for the Christian. In fact, it is our lifeline to God. Through prayer, we are comforted and fortified so that we are able to continue on our Christian walk. Because we have accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and renounced our own fleshly wills in order to do the will of God, God hears our prayers and will grant our requests for strength and spiritual peace as we endure the trials of the world, the flesh and Satan. If we are faithful to our covenant of sacrifice, we will be with our Lord in glory. “Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.” (Revelation 2:10) “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16) “And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” (1 John 3:22)

Therefore, our prayers should focus on attaining spiritual strength, comfort and guidance, not fleshly healing. We reach this conclusion because we see no instances where Christian believers were physically healed in the New Testament. We firmly believe that healings as you mentioned are not for this age.

We hope we have answered your question. May you be blessed with God’s grace and mercy in every time of need. Please write us again.

Sincerely,
Christian Questions Radio