

Healing: Is God Glorified Through Sickness?

So many people—God’s people—are tormented in their bodies. They are suffering all types of debilitating ailments many of them unto death. The most unfortunate part is that many of these people believe that their diseases and illnesses are God-ordained. They honestly believe they are “suffering for the Lord.” They are sorely misinformed, and terribly mistaken.

Much of the blame for this disgraceful error can be placed on the very ones they trust for truthful spiritual guidance—the men and women of the pulpit. In other words, preachers and teachers are ignorantly perpetuating a lie that is keeping millions of God-fearing folk sick.

What is the truth of the matter? The truth is that Gods Word is clear that He wants us to be well, to be healed, to prosper wholly,

3 John 2 says, “Beloved I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just at your soul prospers.”

“Where Does It Come From?”

Let us look at Acts 10:38:

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.”

For those who believe that God puts an affliction on you to get glory from you just read this following passage of Scripture.

Luke 13:11-16

11 And behold, there was a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise *herself* up.

12 But when Jesus saw her, He called *her* to *Him* and said to her, “Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity.”

13 And He laid *His* hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

14 But the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath; and he said to the crowd, “There are six days on which men ought to work; therefore come and be healed on them, and not on the Sabbath day.”

15 The Lord then answered him and said, “Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead *it* away to water it? 16 So ought

not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”

Sick for God’s Glory?

A lot of Christians, especially preachers, are determined to prove that God gets glory when His Children are ill. However, the Scriptures with which they try to prove their point do not hear out their case.

Let us look at John 11:1-4:

John 11:1-4

The Death of Lazarus

1 Now a certain *man* was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the town of Mary and her sister Martha.

2 It was *that* Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.

3 Therefore the sisters sent to Him, saying, “Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick.”

4 When Jesus heard *that*, He said, “This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it.”
(NKJV)

Look at John 11:39-40:

John 11:39-40

39 Jesus said, “Take away the stone.” Martha, the sister of him who was dead, said to Him, “Lord, by this time there is a stench, for he has been *dead* four days.”

40 Jesus said to her, “Did I not say to you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?”

41 Then they took away the stone *from the place* where the dead man was lying. And Jesus lifted up *His* eyes and said, “Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.

One of the key principles in the operation of faith are these words, spoken by Jesus Himself in Mark 11:23:

Mark 11:23

23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. (NKJV)

John 11:42-44

42 And I know that You always hear Me, but because of the people who are standing by I said *this*, that they may believe that You sent Me.”

43 Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come forth!”

44 And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Loose him, and let him go.” (NKJV)

God is not glorified when people are sick. God gets the glory when people are well.

Let us read Matthew 9:1-8;

Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic

1 So He got into a boat, crossed over, and came to His own city.

2 Then behold, they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, “Son, be of good cheer; your sins are forgiven you.”

3 And at once some of the scribes said within themselves, “This Man blasphemes!”

4 But Jesus, knowing their thoughts, said, “Why do you think evil in your hearts?

5 For which is easier, to say, ‘*Your* sins are forgiven you,’ or to say, ‘Arise and walk’?

6 But that you may know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Arise, take up your bed, and go to your house.”

7 And he arose and departed to his house.

8 Now when the multitudes saw *it*, they marveled^[a] and glorified God, who had given such power to men.

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16 So ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound—think of it—for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?”

Scripture reveals that God gets glory when people are well-not when they are sick.

Matthew 15:29-31

Jesus Heals Great Multitudes

29 Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there.

30 Then great multitudes came to Him, having with them *the* lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and He healed them.

31 So the multitude marveled when they saw *the* mute speaking, *the* maimed made whole, *the* lame walking, and *the* blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.

Luke 7:11-16

Jesus Raises the Son of the Widow of Nain

11 Now it happened, the day after, *that* He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd.

12 And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her.

13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep."

14 Then He came and touched the open coffin, and those who carried *him* stood still. And He said, "Young man, I say to you, arise."

15 So he who was dead sat up and began to speak. And He presented him to his mother.

16 Then fear came upon all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen up among us"; and, "God has visited His people."

Instances of the sick being healed and the blind being made to see did not occur just during Jesus' earthly ministry.

Acts 3:1-10

A Lame Man Healed

1 Now Peter and John went up together to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth *hour*.

2 And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple which is called Beautiful, to ask alms from those who entered the temple;

3 who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked for alms.

4 And fixing his eyes on him, with John, Peter said, “Look at us.”

5 So he gave them his attention, expecting to receive something from them.

6 Then Peter said, “Silver and gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk.”

7 And he took him by the right hand and lifted *him* up, and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.

8 So he, leaping up, stood and walked and entered the temple with them—walking, leaping, and praising God.

9 And all the people saw him walking and praising God.

10 Then they knew that it was he who sat begging alms at the Beautiful Gate of the temple; and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Acts 4:21-22

21 So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. 22 For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed.

Please note that, nobody praised the Lord that the man was begging and lame and all the cases we have read say that God got the glory when people were healed.

You cannot glorify God in your body when it does not function properly.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit *who is* in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

Therefore, we must conclude that God is not glorified through sickness? Not according to the Bible. In fact, the people we read about who were healed were not even Christians. They were under the old Covenant. The bible says we have a better covenant, established upon better promises.

What of Paul's Thorn?

There is a concept among Christians that they use to justify being sick. It has to do with Paul's thorn. Many believe that the Apostle Paul was sick throughout much of his ministry, and that although he prayed for healing, God did not heal him.

Did Paul really go through life afflicted?

Let's look at 2 Corinthians 12:1-10;

2 Corinthians 12

The Vision of Paradise

1 It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

3 And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

4 how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

5 Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my infirmities.

6 For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me *to be* or hears from me.

The Thorn in the Flesh

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He

said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

In verse seven, Paul refers to his “thorn in the flesh”; if you read the verse closely Paul says nothing about being sick. Let us look at how the word thorn is used in the other places in the Bible and make sure it does not refer to sickness or disease.

Numbers 33:50-55

Instructions for the Conquest of Canaan

50 Now the LORD spoke to Moses in the plains of Moab by the Jordan, *across from* Jericho, saying,

51 “Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: ‘When you have crossed the Jordan into the land of Canaan,

52 then you shall drive out all the inhabitants of the land from before you, destroy all their engraved stones, destroy all their molded images, and demolish all their high places;

53 you shall dispossess *the inhabitants of* the land and dwell in it, for I have given you the land to possess.

54 And you shall divide the land by lot as an inheritance among your families; to the larger you shall give a larger inheritance, and to the smaller you shall give a smaller inheritance; there everyone’s *inheritance* shall be whatever falls to him by lot. You shall inherit according to the tribes of your fathers.

55 But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall be that those whom you let remain *shall be* irritants in your eyes and thorns in your sides, and they shall harass you in the land where you dwell.

The words irritants and thorns describe the inhabitants of the land.

Joshua 23:11-13

11 Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God.

12 Or else, if indeed you do go back, and cling to the remnant of these nations—these that remain among you—and make marriages with them, and go in to them and they to you,

13 know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land which the LORD your God has given you.

The words nations and marriages in verse 12 alert us to the fact that Joshua is talking about people. Nations are made up of people and people get married. Thorns in verse 13 refer, figuratively, to “the inhabitants of the land, not ants, cattle, sickness, or diseases.

2 Samuel 23:1-6

David’s Last Words

¹ Now these *are* the last words of David. *Thus* says David the son of Jesse; *Thus* says the man raised up on high, The anointed of the God of Jacob, And the sweet psalmist of Israel:

² “The Spirit of the LORD spoke by me, And His word *was* on my tongue.

³ The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me: He who rules over men *must be* just, Ruling in the fear of God.

⁴ And *he shall be* like the light of the morning *when* the sun rises, A morning without clouds, *Like* the tender grass *springing* out of the earth, By clear shining after rain.’

⁵ “Although my house *is* not so with God, Yet He has made with me an everlasting covenant, Ordered in all *things* and secure. For *this is* all my salvation and all *my* desire; Will He not make *it* increase?

⁶ But *the sons* of rebellion *shall* all *be* as thorns thrust away, Because they cannot be taken with hands.

In each of the examples of these from the Old Testament, the word “thorn” is used as a figure of speech, just like when we call someone “a pain in the neck.”

Paul was using the term thorn idiomatically.

2 Corinthians 12:7

The Thorn in the Flesh

7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.

Paul plainly states that his “thorn in the flesh” was a messenger of Satan. What Paul was saying was that one of Satan’s angels was sent to him and the reason he was sent was “to buffet him,” lest he be exalted above measure. Now please be careful that you do not misunderstand the point, because it can appear that God sent the Devil to humble Paul. If that be the case then God and Satan are working on the same team. If that were so, then we might as well give up because we have no chance of winning or overcoming

James 1:17 says, “Every **good gift** and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.” (NKJV)

John 10:10 The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly. (NKJV)

Now let us look at John 10:11.

John 10:11 ¹¹ “I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep.

Disease and sickness are destroyers of life and God has nothing to do with it. When Paul says that a messenger of Satan was sent to keep him humble that is Paul’s opinion not God’s command.

Luke 14:11 says, “For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.”

God’s way of keeping you humble is to tell you to do it yourself. He wants you to see yourself as you really are and not have a prideful way of being or look about you.

Hindering the Gospel

Paul was the foremost exponent of God’s Word during his life, and Satan will always try to stop anyone who is influential in the things of God. That is the reason he sent his angels to harass Paul – to hinder him from spreading the Gospel. Their primary purpose is still to deliver confusion, sickness, and disease-whatever it takes to stop you from witnessing for the Lord Jesus Christ. Often our own foolish actions open the door for bad things to occur, but it is Satan’s wicked angels and demon forces that actually bring the calamity to pass.

Some people believe that Paul was sick throughout his life, but this sounds unreasonable because, how could a sick man write more than half of the New Testament, travel as extensively and continuously as he did, establish all the churches that he did, then come to the end of his life and say, “I have finished my course”?

After Paul was converted God made this statement about Paul in Acts 9:15-16.

Acts 9:15-16

¹⁵ But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is a chosen vessel of Mine to bear My name before Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel.

¹⁶ For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake.”

Our real example of what it means to suffer is Jesus.

People often think of the word suffer, as meaning one is sick or in all kinds of pain. But the real example of what it means to “suffer” would be Jesus. At no time throughout the Bible does Jesus’ suffering mean He was ever sick. He detested sickness so much that whenever anyone was sick around him, he healed them! What Jesus suffered was persecution. And that is something we all must put up with. We cannot escape it as long as we are in this earth-realm.

2 Timothy 3:12 says, “Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.”

Persecution is satanically inspired pressure from the outside. It is designed to do one thing: to grind you into the ground and cause you to give up. But it will only do that if you allow it to. Jesus overcame it, Paul overcame it, and so can you. Paul put up with a lot but nowhere does he mention that he was sick and had a disease. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 11:23-27 about his many tribulations.

2 Corinthians 11:23-27

23 Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I *am* more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often.

24 From the Jews five times I received forty *stripes* minus one.

25 Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep;

26 *in* journeys often, *in* perils of waters, *in* perils of robbers, *in* perils of *my own* countrymen, *in* perils of the Gentiles, *in* perils in the city, *in* perils in the wilderness, *in* perils in the sea, *in* perils among false brethren;

27 in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-

Paul’s tribulations were many, and we do not need to add anything that he did not list. If Paul had to put up with sickness and disease, I believe he would have said so for our benefit.

Acts 19:11-12

Miracles Glorify Christ

11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul,

12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.

How could God take a man full of sickness and disease, have some handkerchiefs laid on his diseased body, then put them on the bodies of other sick people, and get them healed?

Paul talked about good works a lot and certainly you can accomplish good works when you are limited physically, but you can do so much more when all your limbs, organs, and cells are working at their optimal level of proficiency. In other words why settle for less than God's best for you?

If God healed others and left Paul sick, then God would be a respecter of persons. We should look at Paul as an example of how to persevere, and how to use the power of God to our advantage. The Bible does not say that Paul was sick, but that he went through incredible incidents in the course of his ministry. Nevertheless, he was delivered of all of them by the power of God. That should inspire us to hold fast to our confession of faith for healing and divine health, but to stand against all the enemy would put in our path and, having done all, to continue standing in Jesus' name.

What about Job?

He experienced terrible trials and tribulations at the hands of Satan once the hedge was removed from him. God has a hedge around all of His children and Job was no exception.

Psalm 34:7 says, "The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, And delivers them." (NKJV)

That is the hedge that was around Job. However, when you walk in doubt and unbelief, you pull the angel of the Lord back, hindering him from operating on your behalf, thus allowing yourself to stand without any protection. That what Job did.

Look at Job 3:25,

Job 3:25, when he says, "For the thing I greatly feared has come upon me, And what I dreaded has happened to me."

If you are afraid, you will end up talking about it. And when you say it with your mouth and believe it in your hearts, you will have it in your life. That's what Mark 11:23 says.

Mark 11:23

23 For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. (NKJV)

Once Job’s children and all of his possessions were destroyed by the Devil, Job said in Job1:20-21;

Job1:20-21

20 Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

21 And he said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD.”

What Job said was untrue, because God did not take anything away from Job. It was the Devil - not God. God permitted it to happen, just as He allowed Adam to sin in the Garden of Eden. He had to let Adam exercise his “will” and he had to do the same for Job. Job was sold out for God, but when he blamed his calamities on God, that was not the truth.

God did not take anything away from Job. It was the devil – not God. Job operated in fear, which opens the door for the devil.

Let us look at the latter days of Job.

Job 42:10-17

10 And the LORD restored Job’s losses[\[a\]](#) when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.

11 Then all his brothers, all his sisters, and all those who had been his acquaintances before, came to him and ate food with him in his house; and they consoled him and comforted him for all the adversity that the LORD had brought upon him. Each one gave him a piece of silver and each a ring of gold.

12 Now the LORD blessed the latter *days* of Job more than his beginning; for he had fourteen thousand sheep, six thousand camels, one thousand yoke of oxen, and one thousand female donkeys.

13 He also had seven sons and three daughters.

14 And he called the name of the first Jemimah, the name of the second Keziah, and the name of the third Keren-Happuch.

15 In all the land were found no women *so* beautiful as the daughters of Job; and their father gave them an inheritance among their brothers.

16 After this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren *for* four generations.

17 So Job died, old and full of days.

The Blind Man

This event of the blind man in John 9:1-3, is another event that many Christians try to validate suffering for the Lord.

John 9:1-3

A Man Born Blind Receives Sight

1 Now as *Jesus* passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.

2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

The disciples asked Jesus a two-fold question saying in essence, “The man is blind, that we can see, there’s no doubt about that. What we want to know is what caused the man’s blindness: Did the man sin or did the parents? Notice this: They did not ask Jesus whether God made him blind. The Jews had the idea that a baby could sin inside its mother’s womb and that’s why they asked if the man had done something to make himself blind. But Jesus says in verses three and four of that same chapter;

John 9: 3-4

3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.

4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; *the* night is coming when no one can work.

If it had been the will of God for the man to be blind, then why would Jesus interfere with the will of God by healing the man? Because once the man was healed God could get no glory. Jesus never said that the man was blind for the work of God. He said that the work of God was that the man be made whole.

Therefore, you cannot use Job as an excuse for being sick, because God healed Job and gave twice as much as the devil had previously destroyed! You cannot use the story of the blind man to claim that infirmities or diseases are a means of glorifying God because Jesus healed the blind man. So there must not have been any glory in that man remaining blind. Neither can you use what happened to Paul because his “thorn in the flesh” was not illness, but rather persecution from the devil. As Christians we can expect the enemy’s harassment until the appointed time for him to be bound and chained and put in the bottomless pit for a thousand years, and thereafter, put in the “lake of fire” forever.

When Jesus ministered in the earth-realm, how did the people who lived in that day know whom to bring to Jesus for healing? Did they go down the line and say to every other person, “He won’t heal you? If it were not God’s will to heal everyone, it would have been a waste of time to bring everyone to Jesus for healing. The bible says that all manner of sick and diseased people were brought to Jesus and He healed them all. The Bible tells us that everyone that wanted to be healed was healed. And everyone that Jesus was living under the Old Covenant. If our covenant is better we should have everything that old one had, plus some more! How could people under the Old Covenant be healed and the people under the “better covenant” not be healed?

Experiences of people

Many times people’s opinions about divine healing is based entirely on the experiences of others instead of God’s Word. Sometimes people know of a wonderful Spirit-filled, God-loving person who was stricken with a disease. This person was prayed for, so they believe “the Lord took her.” However, if you do not know the truth concerning divine healing and do not have a good doctor or have God intervene supernaturally through the gifts of the Spirit, you are going to die. It has nothing to do with loving the Lord or not loving the Lord enough. It is simply according Hosea 4:6, which states;

Hosea 4:6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. (NKJV)

Sometimes a person is not healed because of unbelief. Unbelief is prevalent not only in some sick people, but also in people of the pulpit. But they would never consider weak faith as a possible reason why someone did not receive healing.

Sometimes a minister may be a victim of his theological training or of his denominational background. He may not know better. It has nothing to do with sincerity or love for the Lord. It has nothing to do with whether or not he is saved. If he is not informed of God’s Word, he cannot operate in it. If you are sick, you have every right in Christ Jesus to be well. According to God’s Word, divine healing is for us today. It is for every Christian. If you are not walking in

