

What About Healing? Understanding Suffering and Sickness

I. Introduction

- A. Job 2:1-7 (NAS) *¹Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD. ²The LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Then Satan answered the LORD and said, "From roaming about on the earth and walking around on it." ³The LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man fearing God and turning away from evil. And he still holds fast his integrity, although you incited Me against him to ruin him without cause." ⁴Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. ⁵However, put forth Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh; he will curse You to Your face." ⁶So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your power, only spare his life." ⁷Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.*
- B. Numbers 25:9 (NAS) *Those who died by the plague were 24,000.*
- C. Numbers 21:6 (NAS) *The LORD sent fiery serpents among the people and they bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.*

II. The Biblical Tension Between Sickness and Healing

- A. Old Testament examples
1. Psalm 103:1-3 (NAS) *¹Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. ²Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget none of His benefits; ³who pardons all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases.*
 2. Job 42:12a (NAS) *The LORD blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.*
- B. New Testament examples
1. II Timothy 4:20 (NAS) *Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.*
 2. Philippians 2:26-27 (NAS) *²⁶Because he was longing for you all and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. ²⁷For indeed he was sick to the point of death, but God had mercy on him, and not on him only but also on me, so that I would not have sorrow upon sorrow.*
 3. I Timothy 5:23 (NAS) *No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments.*
 4. John 5:1-9 (NAS) *¹After these things there was a feast of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ²Now there is in Jerusalem by the sheep gate a pool, which is called in Hebrew Bethesda, having five porticoes. ³In these lay a multitude of those who were sick, blind, lame, and withered, waiting for the moving of the waters; ⁴for an angel of the Lord went down at certain seasons into the pool and stirred up the water; whoever then first, after the stirring up of the water, stepped in was made well from whatever disease with which he was afflicted. ⁵A man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. ⁶When Jesus saw him lying there, and knew that he had already been a long time in that condition, He said to him, "Do you wish to get well?" ⁷The sick man answered Him, "Sir, I have no man to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up, but while I am coming, another steps down before me." ⁸Jesus said to him, "Get up, pick up your pallet and walk." ⁹Immediately the man became well, and picked up his pallet and began to walk. Now it was the Sabbath on that day.*

III. What Should We Do When It Comes to Suffering and Sickness?

- A. When you're suffering, pray!
1. James 5:13a (NAS) *Is anyone among you suffering? Then he must pray.*
 2. "Suffering" - - "to endure hardship"
 3. God is our only source for help and comfort!
 4. Jesus Christ is victor, if we will simply give ourselves to Him in the midst of our difficult circumstances!
- B. When you're sick, call the elders to pray for you.
1. James 5:14 (NAS) *Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*
 - a. "Sick" - - "to be weak, feeble, diseased, or sick physically"
 2. "Elder" - - "one who shepherds you, counsels you, looks after you spiritually"
 3. That's why small groups are so important!
 4. James 5:14 (NAS) *Is anyone among you sick? Then he must call for the elders of the church and they are to pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord.*
 5. Praying for the sick is supposed to be a normal activity of the church!
 6. Our next Ministry Training I class will begin on November 12th during our 9:15AM service.
 7. James 5:15 (NAS) *And the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him.*
 8. If you're a follower of Jesus, the answer for healing is always "Yes!"

IV. The Tension in the Kingdom of God

- A. Mark 1:15 (NAS) *"The time is fulfilled. The Kingdom of God is at hand."*
- B. Matthew 6:10 (NAS) *"Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."*

- C. If we don't pray for the sick, then nobody gets well!
- D. James 5:15a (NAS) *"The prayer offered in faith."*

V. Conclusion