

**JAMES SERIES #24:
Divine Healing (Part 1)
James 5:14-16
Grace Community Church
Sunday, July 14, 2019**

1. INTRODUCTION:

a. **JOKE:** two men at a faith healing service

b. Faith healers and those who are sick appeal to this passage in James as a blanket prescription, which guarantees people who are sick, can be healed, if they will only do what is prescribed in the text? Is that so?

2. **TEXT:** James 5:14-16, (14) Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. (15) And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. (16) 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.

3. QUESTIONS:

a. Is it always God's will for you to be healed if you are sick?

b. If you are not healed when you are sick, is it because you do not have enough faith?

I. THE CAUSES OF SICKNESS (4)

A. SATAN'S INTERFERENCE IN OUR LIVES

1. Some people are sick because Satan has caused them to be sick

a) Job 2:7, "So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown."

2. Jesus Himself acknowledged that Satan has the capability to cause physical ailments among humans

a) Luke 13:11, "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."

b) In Lk. 13:16, "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?"

3. In Acts 10:38, Peter acknowledges that Satan has the capability of making humans sick, "... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

B. SOVEREIGN'S INTENDED LESSON

1. It is not always God's will for everyone to be well. If it were, then how would He take us out of this world?
2. In 2 Tm. 4:20 Paul said, "Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick."
 - a) Paul had the gift of healing (Acts 14:8-10, he healed a man who was lame)
3. In 1 Tm. 5:23, Paul wrote to Timothy, "No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach's sake and your frequent infirmities."
4. 2 Kings 13:14, "Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, 'O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!'"
5. Sometimes, if not most of the times, it is not God's will that people who are sick be healed
6. The apostle Paul's thorn in the flesh
 - a) 2 Cor. 12:7-10, (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.
 - b) Some Bible scholars speculate that Paul's "thorn" was perhaps an eye problem
 - (1) Gal. 4:13-15, (13) You know that because of physical infirmity I preached the gospel to you at the first. (14) And my trial which was in my flesh you did not despise or reject, but you received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus. (15) What then was the blessing you enjoyed? For I

bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your own eyes and given them to me.

7. When God allows sickness in our lives, it is because He has a loving purpose in those sicknesses (4):

a) POWER

- (1) 2 Cor. 12:7, Paul's thorn in the flesh, "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."**

b) PRODUCTIVITY

- (1) Physical sickness makes believers more spiritually productive**

(2) Ex:

(a) Fanny Crosby

(b) David Miller

(c) David Ring

(d) John Piper

- (3) Spiritually productivity is one of the divinely prescribed functions of our ailments**

(a) 2 Cor. 1:6, "Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation."

(b) The word CONSOLATION refers to: comfort, exhortation and encouragement

Ex—husbandman pruning fruit trees

c) PURIFY

- (1) 1 Pt. 5:10, "But may the God of all grace, who called us to His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after you have suffered a while, perfect, establish, strengthen, and settle you."**

- (2) Job 23:10, in the middle of Job's intense emotional and physical sufferings he said, "But He knows the way that I take; When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold."
- (3) Psm. 119:67, "Before I was afflicted I went astray, But now [after my affliction] I keep Your word."

d) PRAISE

- (1) 1 Cor. 1:27, "But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty"
 - (a) "Weak" means, "sickly" (James 5:14, "Is any among you SICK?")
 - (b) 1 Cor. 1:29, "that no flesh should glory in His presence."
 - (c) 1 Cor. 1:31, "that, as it is written, "He who glories, let him glory in the LORD."
- (2) Jn. 11:4, "This sickness is not unto death, but for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."
- (3) How is God glorified in our sickness?
 - (a) Shuts the Devil's mouth
 - (i) James 5:11, "Indeed we count them blessed who endure. You have heard of the perseverance of Job and seen the end intended by the Lord—that the Lord is very compassionate and merciful."
 - (ii) Job 2:4-5, So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. (5) But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"
 - (b) Others can see our faith in God during adverse circumstances and be blessed by it and learn a spiritual lesson and God is glorified in our ailments

C. STYLE OF LIVING

D. SIN IN OUR LIVES