

Di223 We Believe

Lesson Di223-22 Divine Healing

A company bought a new piece of equipment with the latest improvements. One day the machine broke down. Unable to get it running again, they called the maker and requested a mechanic to come. When the mechanic arrived, the foreman thought he looked too young to fix such a complex machine? Without telling the young mechanic, the foreman called the head office of those who made the machine. He asked whether they should let someone so young work on such an expensive and complex piece of equipment. The man replied, “Don’t worry; he will fix it. He designed and built the machine.” Sometimes things go wrong with our bodies that doctors can’t cure. The One who created us in the first place, however, can certainly fix us. That is what this lesson will present.

Have you ever wondered why people get sick? What or who really causes sickness? Sickness and sin are related, but not in the way you may think. We cannot blame every sickness on sin in the life of the person suffering. Health, not sickness, was what God planned for the human race. The first act of not obeying God in the Garden brought sickness on Adam and Eve and all people since then. First Corinthians 15:21-22 says, “Since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.” Although we were not present when Adam first sinned, we will all die as he died. The fact that we have a sinful nature because of Adam’s sin is shown every time we disobey God’s laws. Both sickness and death are results of the Fall. The natural tendency to sin—to choose self—is part of every person coming into the world.

Does God ever cause sickness? No, God does not cause sickness. God gives only good, not evil. Sickness is a part of sin in this fallen world.

Do we get sick because of sin in our lives? No. Sinful lifestyles can bring sickness, but not all sickness can be related to sin in the sick person’s life. It is a result of sin’s influence in the world.

If God permits Satan to put sickness in our lives, doesn’t that make God responsible for our suffering? God is sovereign in all human affairs, and especially in the lives of believers. So we must understand that sickness can touch the Christian only as God permits it. However, God is not responsible for illness and suffering. He has divine reasons when he allows Satan, through sickness, to afflict the believer. God works in the lives of believers by turning sickness into an opportunity for spiritual growth. He shows that God has triumphed over the curse that sin has brought on the human race.

After God delivered the Israelites from Egypt, they traveled three days without water. Then they came to the waters of Marah. Instead of finding the water refreshing, they found it bitter and undrinkable. They complained to Moses, who asked God for guidance. God told Moses to take a piece of wood and throw it into the water. When Moses did this, the water was purified. Then God gave Moses and the people a very special word. God said, “I will not bring on you any of the disease I brought on the Egyptians, for I am the Lord, who heals you” (Ex 15:26).

God gave four requirements that the people of Israel had to observe to receive God's special care: 1) Listen carefully to the Lord your God. 2) Do what is right in his eyes. 3) Pay attention to his commands. 4) Keep all his decrees. If we faithfully love, serve, and obey God, he is pleased to bless us and keep us in health. If we fall ill, despite being faithful, we can call on God for healing. Many more examples of healing are found in the Old Testament. Job's body was healed, though God allowed Satan to afflict him for a time. The Shunammite's son was raised from the dead and Naaman was healed of leprosy.

Jesus' ministry was also filled with healing and deliverance. The Gospel of Mark records, "The people brought to Jesus all the sick and demon-possessed. The whole town gathered at the door, and Jesus healed many who had various diseases. He also drove out many demons" (Mark 1:32-34). In Jesus' many miracles of healing, some were healed by a touch, some by a spoken word, and some by spit or mud.

Jesus spoke to blind Bartimaeus and he immediately received his sight. Jesus took the dead daughter of Jairus by the hand and said, "My child, get up," and she stood up. Her parents were astonished (Luke 8:49-56). Jesus told the ten lepers to go and show themselves to the priest, which was the lawful thing to do. As they went in faith, they were healed (Luke 17:12-16). Peter's mother-in-law was sick with a fever. Jesus took her hand and helped her out of her bed. Her fever left and she prepared food for Jesus and his disciples (Mark 1:29-31).

A Roman centurion's servant was ill. Jesus was on his way to the centurion's house. The centurion sent word to Jesus to just speak the word and his servant would be healed. Jesus was amazed at the soldier's faith. The servant was healed at that moment (Luke 7:1-10).

Doubters at the time could and did check out the claims of miraculous healing. By his healing people and his Resurrection, Jesus proved he is the Son of God, and that he cares for those who are in need. Peter preached, "Jesus of Nazareth was a man accredited by God to you by miracles, wonders and signs, which God did among you through him" (Acts 2:22). Wherever he went, Jesus encouraged the sick to believe that he could heal them.

This lesson is **important** because it helps us understand the cause of sickness and God's provision for healing. We must also know that following Christ is not a guarantee that we will never be sick in this fallen world. Also, even believers die. Only God knows how and when that will happen.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that sickness and sin are related as a result of Adam and Eve's rebellion in the Garden of Eden. However, God has provided healing through Christ.

Let's **review** this lesson—

1. When did sickness first enter the world? [Pause.]
 - A. If you answered, "In the Garden of Eden when the first humans disobeyed," you are correct.
2. Does God ever cause sickness? [Pause.]
 - A. If you said, "No, God does not cause sickness," you are right.

3. Do we get sick because of sin in our lives? [Pause.]

A. If you answered, “Sin can bring sickness, but not all sickness can be related to sin in the sick person’s life; it is a result of sin’s influence in the world,” you are correct.

Your **assignment** is to memorize our eleventh **Statement of Faith**: “We believe healing is provided for in the atonement of Christ and is the privilege of all who ask and believe.” Also learn the **Memory Verse**: “He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed” (Isaiah 53:5). Share with at least two other persons about sickness and how it came into the world. Tell them about Christ, our Healer.