

## HEALTH & HEALING



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### 3. Cause of Sickness (1)

#### Introduction

Sickness is everywhere! We read of heart disease and cancer, malaria and AIDS, taking the lives of millions of people every year. Where does sickness come from? We need to understand the source to help us pray more effectively and stand against it in our lives and the lives of others.

#### A. The Source of Sickness

☐ How did God describe His creation? Genesis 1:31

All that God created was good – it was perfect. However when sin entered the world, pain and sickness also entered. This was part of the curse that came upon mankind as a result of sin.

☐ What curses come upon our lives as a result of sin? Genesis 3:16, Deuteronomy 28:21-22, 60-61

*(Pain in child birth, diseases and sickness.)*

☐ Who is the source of sickness, according to John 10:10 and Acts 10:38?

*(The enemy, Satan or the devil.)*

We have learnt that God heals, and yet sometimes when people are prayed for we don't see the answer. Why is this? We do not always know, but there is one reason that we see in God's Word.

#### B. Sin Opens the Door to Sickness

God had promised the Children of Israel that sickness would not come upon them if they listened to His voice. However there were times when they turned from Him and sickness came as a result. Let's look at one of those incidents. It is found in Numbers 16. The people of Korah and 250 other leaders objected to Moses being their leader. God dealt with this rebellion but then the rest of the people began to complain. Read Numbers 16:41-50

☐ Why did God allow this plague to come upon His people, and what had to be done so it would stop? What can we learn from this?

*(The plague came upon the people because they grumbled and accused Moses of killing the leaders. Their complaint was really against God as He was the One who had destroyed those men. It was only when Aaron took incense and made atonement for the people that the plague stopped. This speaks of repentance and prayer. When sin is the cause of sickness it needs to be repented of before healing will take place.)*

Let's look at an example in the New Testament now. In the church in Thyatira there was a woman who professed to be spiritual, but she was living in sin. Revelation 2:20-23

☐ What judgment was about to come on this woman? Could she have escaped this? What does it show us about God?

*(She was about to suffer some kind of sickness and her children would die. However, Jesus said that if she repented, she would be forgiven. Sin had opened the door to sickness in this woman's life, but we see God's grace in giving her a warning.)*

God has made a wonderful provision for us through Christ's death on the cross. In Isaiah 53 it says, "He (Jesus) was pierced for our transgressions ... and by His wounds we are healed." Whenever we take the Lord's Supper we can receive the benefits of what has been done for us on the cross.

- ☐ Why did Paul say there were many in the church that were weak, sick and had even died? 1 Corinthians 11:27, 29 What must we do before we take the Lord's Supper and why? v28, 31, 32

*(Jesus has made a wonderful provision for us through His death on the cross – He died so we can be forgiven of our sin and healed of our diseases. We have access to that provision when we take the Lord's Supper. If we come with unconfessed sin we dishonour the Lord and what He has done for us, and we won't receive the benefits of what He has done.)*

- ☐ God has also made another provision for us if we are in need of healing. Who are we to call, and why is it important that we confess our sins to one another? James 5:14-16

*(We can also call the elders of the church to pray for us. Since sin can hinder prayers being answered and can sometimes be the cause of sickness, we are to confess our sins first.)*

## **Conclusion**

When sin entered the world, so did sickness. Sin opens a door in a person's life and the enemy takes advantage of it. When we are sick it is good to ask the Lord if there is anything in our life that has allowed the enemy in. If there is we need to repent, however if the Holy Spirit doesn't show you anything, then come in faith and ask for healing. Remember His name means, "I am the Lord who heals you."