

DOCTRINE III. - *Rev. Ness*

BIBLE TRUTHS CONCERNING DIVINE HEALING.

We believe that because of much zeal and less knowledge on the part of the elder practising praying for the sick, many sick have been prayed for, when they were not even in a condition to be prayed for; but rather in need of instructions along the line of Divine healing, so that they could appropriate for themselves healing in a more intelligent manner. Now please do not misunderstand. We do not mean that healing cannot be appropriated until the sick can fully understand Divine healing. What we mean is this, that there are sometimes certain conditions that a person must meet before he can really expect to be healed.

We must get a clearer understanding on the subject of Divine healing, that we may intelligently appropriate healing for ourself or help others to do so.

"First", the cause for sickness. Many advocates of Divine healing today, throw all the blame for sickness on satan. The devil gets the blame for many things he is not at all to blame for. Sometime we may blame the devil for things that we are guilty of ourselves. While it is true that the devil is the cause for a great deal of sickness, yet as we make an exhaustive study on this subject, we find that much sickness prevails without the devil having anything to do with it. Of course, we fully are aware of the fact that the original cause for sickness can be traced back to satan in the beginning, when satan tempted Adam and Eve causing them to sin, and with the sin came the consequence of sin; which includes all the sorrows, heartaches, pains and diseases that man-kind have experienced ever since. So we find that generally speaking sin was the original cause for sickness entering into the human family.

Sickness in the body of an individual, may and may not be the direct consequence of sin committed by that individual, as we learn from John 9:1,2. Though in many cases, the individual, or the individual's parents may not be responsible for the disease; yet we know that in many cases the blame falls right back on the individual or the parents. Think of the thousands of infants who are born into this world blind, diseased, and deformed, because of the sins of the parents. Sickness very often is inherited. *NOTE **

We find, that sickness may also be caused by a direct oppression from the devil, as we read in Acts 10:38. This oppression from the devil by the way of sickness may come without the individual having anything to do with it. In this case, of course, there is nothing for the individual to do but to call on God for deliverance, in accordance with James 5:14. While the devil has much to do with the cause of sickness, yet we find from studying God's word that there are other reasons as well. *WE CANNOT JUDGE WHY SOME PERSON IS AFFLICTED!*

** BRO. NESS NO ONE KNOWS BUT THE INDIVIDUAL.*
We note, that God sometimes will smite people with sickness, when they will deliberately attempt to hinder God's children from walking in obedience to His Word. In Exodus we read how God called the children of Israel to leave the land of Egypt, and how the Egyptians tried their very best to hinder them from obeying God; and because of that, God smote them with all manners of diseases and plagues. Ex. 15:26. I want you to note that God said: "Which I have brought." Not the devil this time. Acts 13:6-11. This man was smitten with blindness *God*

DOCTRINE III.

So Did Bill!

not by the devil, but by the hand of the Lord. You cannot fool with God. Many today are sick and afflicted because they have stubbornly tried to hinder and oppose the progress of God's children.

4- We also find, that God sometimes will send sickness upon his own people because of disobedience to Him. Deut. 28:15,22,27,28,35,60,61. Like an earthly father will chastise his own children, so God will chastise His children that they may become obedient and partakers of his holiness. Chastisement is the manifestation of God's love for his children and of his hatred against sin and disobedience. Heb.12:5-11.

5- Then again, sickness may come upon us as a curse from God because we have failed to pay back to God that part of our earnings which rightfully belong to Him. In Mal. 3:8 we read: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed Thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse for ye have robbed me." Jesus said: Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, Hypocrites; for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith; these ought ye have done, and not leave the other (tithing) undone. Matt. 23:23. Have you robbed God? If you have, you have robbed him of the finances that he has set apart to carry on his work here on earth.

6- We also note, that God will punish with sickness those who will speak against, criticise, and find fault with their spiritual leaders. Num. 12:1. Here we find Miriam criticising and finding fault with Moses because of the woman he married, and the anger of the Lord was kindled against her, and God smote her with leprosy; and in the 13th, verse, we read how Moses cried unto the Lord, interceding for her, saying: "Heal her now O God, I beseech thee," and God hearkened unto the pleadings of Moses and healed Miriam after she had repented of her sin. How often hasn't God dealt severely with people because of this sin. God says: "Touch not mine anointed and do my prophets no harm." I Chron. 16:22. Paul says, we should have respect for God's ministers who are over us in the Lord, and to esteem them very highly. I Thess. 5:12,13.

7- We find further, that God will send sickness upon us in order that we may be kept humble. Sometime sickness will act as God's knockout blow to spiritual pride. David said: "Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept thy Word. It is good for me that I have been afflicted that I might learn thy statutes. Ps.119:66,72. Paul writes to the Corinthians "And lest I should be exalted through the abundance of revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure." I know of a certain preacher who was wonderfully healed at one time of eye trouble. He had worn extra thick glasses for many years. He was prayed for and completely healed, but he became very proud and puffed up in himself, publicly and openly condemning all others who had to wear glasses. This he did for some time until one morning when he awoke, finding his eyes in very bad condition. He travelled many miles to come and see me and have me pray for him, and he confessed that he knew it was God, who was chastising him for his foolish doings. We must never try to fix the cause for the sickness in some one else's body. We do not always know. Only God does. It is a matter between God and them. This was a real lesson to him, and may it be a lesson to us all.

DOCTRINE III. *The Apostle by Sheldon Asher*

8 Then we find also, that God will send sickness upon His own, some-time most precious children, in order to test their faith; as in the case of Job for instance, recorded in the first and second chapters of Job. In this case we find God permitting satan to smite him with boils in order to prove to satan that the accusations preferred, that Job was only serving God because of the blessings that God had bestowed upon him, were false. Thank God, Job was a man that stood the test, and the Lord healed him; and we read in Job 42:12: "the Lord blessed the later end of Job more than his beginning."

If we go through with God, in the time of testing: God will always reward us in the end. I Peter 1:6,7.

9 We find that God will permit sickness to come upon individuals, because of their irreverent attitude towards the things of God, as we learn from I Cor. 11:27-30. It behooves us to pay the strictest reverence to all things pertaining to the kingdom of God, His Word, the house of worship, His ministers and ordinances. God demands it, and we owe it to Him. We believe many are suffering the consequence of the sin ignorantly. It's up to us to enlighten them.

10 We may add another cause for sickness, as being the neglecting, the misuse, and abuse of our physical bodies. Many are sick because of over-eating, not eating the proper food, eating things that are harmful for them, lack of proper sleep, poorly ventilated sleeping quarters, and insufficient clothing. We firmly believe that if we expect God to keep us healthy; he demands that we do our very best in keeping our bodies healthy. Doctors claim that ninety percent of all diseases come from the abuse of our stomach, as one Physician recently stated most people use the stomach as a garbage can, pouring down drug-containing harmful liquids, acid-containing pickles and what not, and is it any wonder that people are sick. We have given you some of the main reasons why men and women are sick, and now we shall take up the REMEDY.

The first intelligent step. in remedying sickness and disease, would naturally be to remove the cause. If you are sick and in need of healing for your body; the first thing for you to do is to begin to search your heart, to see whether any of these points that we have brought out should be the cause of your sickness, if so, the thing for you to do first of all, is to ask God to forgive you, and to have the cause removed. It stands to reason, if the sickness that you now have, has come to you as chastening, and rebuke from the Lord, that rebuking the devil in this case, certainly will not be in order. Furthermore, we do not believe, that Physicians, or any other medium will have any affect in this case. If God has caused this sickness to come upon you, there is but one remedy, and that is God Himself.

Have you been guilty of hindering some precious child of God from going all the way, that God has led him? Have you been disobedient to God? Have you robbed God of the money, which rightfully belongs to Him, for His work here on earth? Have you criticised and found fault with your spiritual leader, your pastor, or evangelist, Sunday-school teacher, etc? Have you become proud because of God's blessings upon you? Have you acted irreverent towards the things of God? Have you misused or failed to properly take care of your body? Have you spoken evil of, or slandered some of God's precious children, who possibly are doing better under the circumstances than you would if in their place? If so, what you need first of all, is to quit your

DOCTRINE III

sin-business and get right with God. ^{d. men!!} There will be no use to seek God for healing, as long as there are sinful deeds and thoughts in our life. Neither will there be any use, as long as you are not in good fellowship with both God and man. If you are willing to confess and forsake your sins, God is more than willing to both forgive and heal you.

You remember, when Jesus was called to the tomb of Lazarus that the first thing Jesus commanded them to do was for them to roll away the stone, and when they had rolled away the stone he called: "Lazarus come forth", and he came forth. Now there may be a stone for us to roll away before healing can ever come to our body, and God says for you to roll away the stone, before He will do anything for us. Matt. 5:23; James 5:16. *Every promise in the Bible is conditional*

So remember, before we take any step towards healing for our body, we must search our heart, and if guilty, repent, and come clean-cut, confessing our faults; and then and only then, will we be a proper candidate for Divine healing. Sin, unrighteousness, disobedience, are the things that keep God's blessings from us. Matt. 6:33. Heb. 12:14.

"Just as sickness may be the shadow of sin, so health may become the sunshine of holiness." *Bro. Reed*

People come and are prayed for, and nothing happens. The first thing they blame it to, is the lack of faith, when in many cases, if the truth was known there is some sin in their life that they refuse to straighten out and forsake. Sometimes people tell they have prayed and prayed but there seems to be no answer. Well, there must be some reason. We know that God's promise is true. The fault can never be with God, so it must be with us. We will give you just a few of the most common reasons why prayers sometimes remain unanswered.

James 4:3 - the chief purpose of prayers should be that God may be glorified in the answer. If we ask merely that we may receive for use in our own pleasures or for our own gratification in one way or another we "ask amiss" and need not expect to receive what we ask. Now this very clearly explains why many prayers remain unanswered.

DOCTRINE III.

Ezek. 14:3. Prayers remain unanswered when the one who prays takes idols into his heart. Many professing Christian men and women have idols in their hearts as truly as the ancient Israelites. We do not recognize these things as Idols, but they are just the same. Anything upon which we set our hearts and do not give up for Christ's sake is an idol and a hinderance to prayer. God often calls our attention to the fact that we have idols by not answering our prayers and thus leading to ask why prayers are not answered. Thus we discover the idol that we may put away that hinderance to our prayers.

Mark 11:25-26. Prayers are unanswered because we do not forgive those against whom we have something. This is one of the commonest hindrances to prayers. far more common than we realize. Prayers are answered on the basis that our sins are forgiven, but God cannot deal with us on a basis of forgiveness while we are harboring ill will against those who have wronged us. Any one who grudges against another has fast closed the ear of God against his own cry. Our attitude toward our christian brothers and sisters has a great deal to do whether our prayers be answered or not. God commands us that we are to Receive one another Gal. 5:13; Confess to one another Jam.5:16; Consider one another Heb. 10:24; Forbearing one another Eph. 4:2; Exort one another Heb. 3:13; Submit to one another Eph.5:21; Be kind to one another Eph.4:32; Serve one another Gal. 5:13; Comfort one another I. Thess. 4:18; Abound in love toward one another. I Thess. 3:12; Pray for one another Jam. 5:16 and to bear one anothers burdens. Gal.5:2. This is part of God's measuring stick. How about it brother and sister, do you line up?

James 1:5-7. Prayers remain unanswered because of our unbelief, because we doubt whether we should receive that which God has promised. God demands that we shall believe His word absolutely. To question it is to make Him a liar. Many do this and there is no wonder that their prayers are not answered.

I Peter 3:6-7. The prayers of husbands are hindered because they do not render to their wives that considered regard which is due. It is doubtless also true that prayers of wives are hindered because of their failure in duty and obedience toward their husbands. If husbands and wives should search diligently for the cause of their unanswered prayers they would often find it in their relations to one another and action toward one another as husband and wife.

I John 3:21. After we have come clean-cut for God, and we know there is nothing between us and our God and fellow-men, we may follow the instructions given by James 5:14. It is for us then to exercise faith and through faith appropriate healing for our body. Faith must be exercised in order to be healed. Heb. 11:6. Jesus said, "According to thy faith be it unto you."

Our God has provided healing for our sick bodies. If we meet God's conditions He is more than glad to heal us. Divine healing is not only a wonderful Bible truth, but it is a reality. It is an established, present day, fact.

Ministers, scientists, and some of the greatest physicians in the world are firm believers in the healing power of God. Why shouldn't they? Has God Changed? Is not Christ the same? Has He not promised that He would heal? Why then shouldn't we believe?