

God's Will for Our Health



The Bible asserts that it never is God's will for any person to be sick, weak, or defeated, ever. Even if he/she seems to have given up all hope for him or herself, He has not. And, if it ever has been His will for one of us to be healthy, then He wants for us all to be because, in His eyes we are all equal. Jesus demonstrated over and over that this was God's desire every time He healed any person of any ailment whatsoever

"God shows personal favoritism to no man (or woman)." (Galatians 2:6)

"Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health just as your soul prospers." (III John 2)

God maintains His faith concerning our restoration even when we not have recognized that our own unbelief at a given moment has been subverting any positive progress. We may feel sorry for ourselves, actually want the attention that illness brings, look at our situations and doubt that they can be improved, be in such agony that we want to die, or just feel too lazy to do what we must to endure and persevere towards God's unwavering goals. Our motives make no difference upon God's desire to want to make us whole.

However, God's faith unsupported by ours is not sufficient for a lasting cure, due to the fact that He always will allow us to override His desires with our freewill. In such cases, we may show improvement for a time but it will not last. Or, we will be attacked by another disease later and maybe succumb to that one. Regardless, it will be a cycle of disease/depression-->health-->disease/depression-->health-->disease/depression with no continuing progression. It will be like forever taking two steps forward and one backward.

In addition, we cannot afford to feel guilty about what we ever do to counteract God's blessings. We must repent immediately and turn around, no matter how many times we have permitted those feelings to occur. Guilt, like sickness, does not come from God. He cannot condemn us because if He pardons, too, that would cause a division within split His Kingdom. (*Matthew 12:25*) Fortunately, God does understand and empathize with our deficiencies because He experienced them through His Son.

"We do not have a High Priest Who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses but was tempted in all points as we are, yet without sin. Let us, therefore, come boldly to the Throne of Grace that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16)

God the Father has presented humanity with at least two significant gifts that demonstrate His good intentions towards mankind: (1) His spoken and written Word, and (2) His Son's life. In the Bible, God states plainly and repeatedly exactly what He knows is foolish or ultimately harmful behavior. As mentioned previously though, He says that He

never will force us to listen, accept, or follow His ways either. We have the freedom not to pay attention to His voice at all, or else ignore what we do hear. *Mark 4:24 and Galatians 6:7-9*) He will not stop us if we decide *not* to comply with Him; He merely will wait, ever ready to intervene if we should call.

"I call Heaven and earth as witnesses today against you that I have set before you life/Life and death/Death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, choose life/Life." (Deuteronomy 30:19 -- Note: life, death = physical, temporary versus Life, Death = spiritual, eternal)

We have been warned against hearing, thinking, saying, or doing certain things because they will be detrimental to us, whether immediately or periodically, not because God does not understand our feelings or want us to have any fun. In like manner, we are told to continue to practice certain behavior because ultimately it will be beneficial to our well being.

"My son (or daughter), do not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor detest His correction, for whom the Lord loves He corrects just as a (human) father the son (or daughter) in whom he delights." (Proverbs 3:11-12)

"Give attention to my words. Incline your ear to my sayings. Do not let them depart from your eyes. Keep them in the midst of your hear, for they are life/Life to those who find them and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all diligence for out of it spring the issues of life. Put away from you a deceitful mouth and put perverse lips far from you." (Proverbs 4:20-24) (Matthew 12:34-37)

It is like nutrition: continually eating certain foods, in a certain quantity will contribute to our health. Whereas, consuming others, or too much, will be a deterrent to a completely sound body. Even though our physical bodies require food to stay alive we must monitor when, what, and how we eat. In addition, we must exercise to be flexible, coordinated, and strong. Any imbalance of these elements ultimately will cause a breakdown of full bodily potential.

It does not matter whether or not we are capable of actually perceiving any of the aftereffects as a result of following God's directions for our lives. Although we cannot feel the force of gravity, it still affects us regardless. And, what we can view is only a temporary condition, while what we cannot will exist forever. The Bible tells us that precisely in the same manner we must take care of the parts of ourselves that we can see it is necessary to do likewise concerning the parts that we cannot--our souls and spirits.

"While we do not look at the things seen but at the things not seen, for the things which are seen are temporary but the things which are not seen are eternal." (II Corinthians 4:18)

"For we walk by faith, not by sight." (II Corinthians 5:7)

The messages sustained throughout the Word continually are based on the foundation that God wishes for all mankind to come to Him and be like Him,

"God so loved the world, that He sent His only begotten Son (so) that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting Life." (John 3:16)

"Be imitators of God as dear children." (Ephesians 5:1)

The Scriptures state plainly that God (the Trinity--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) formed us in Their Own image, exactly in the same way that any human child is made through his/her earthly parents. The God of the Bible declares that things naturally duplicate their own class. Everything *"yields fruit, according to its kind--whose seed is in itself."* (Genesis 1:11) We are no exception to this rule; a human couple gives birth to a human child, not a puppy. This, likewise, is how and why God made His first human child, in His Own reflection. This included His Own Spirit when He breathed into him. (Genesis 2:7)

Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, was born as a release for our souls and spirits out of the predicament within which we were deteriorating (Satan's kingdom after the Adams sinned--Genesis 2:17, 3:4 and 22-24) to allow us back into an influence where we would not (God's Kingdom). Jesus' sacrifice of His human body, soul, and spirit was a ransom the same way that something valuable in earthly terms is used to deliver a child from a kidnapper. He took all of humanity's earthly grief and sickness upon Himself so that we did not have to just surrender to their affects anymore.

"The Son of Man (Jesus) did not come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:28)

"God--our Savior--Who desires all (mankind) to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the Truth, for there is one God (the Father) and one Mediator between God and men--the man Christ Jesus Who gave Himself a ransom for all." (1 Timothy 2:3-6)

"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." (Acts 10:38)

When we pray for guidance, God may not tell us precisely His opinion for our individual treatment or behavior in a given situation. However, He always will direct us to read, study, learn, and follow His Word instead of focusing on and being depressed by our own predicaments. He guides us in this way not to be self-centered but God-centered. God has declared and demonstrated His will concerning all disease by the example set by His Son. He is against it forever and He wants us to be as positive of that fact as we are about anything whatsoever. He wants us to let *Him* teach us how to be able to endure pressure as we persevere toward a goal of restoration, wholeness, and peace.

"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth--where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in Heaven where neither moth nor rust destroys and thieves do not break in and steal, for where your treasure is there your heart will be also."

"The lamp of the body is the eye. If, therefore, your eye is good your whole body will be full of light, but if your eye is bad your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore, the light that is in you is darkness how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and riches. Therefore, I say to you, do not worry about your life--what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body--what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air. They neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns, yet your Heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of much more value than they? Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? So, why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field how they grow. They

neither toil nor spin and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not dressed like one of these.

"Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore, do not worry saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?', for after all these things the Gentiles seek. For, your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things, but seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added to you. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will worry about its own. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:19-34)

The Bible instructs us to keep our focus on Jesus, not the "storm" raging all around, or within us, no matter how bad or hopeless the situation appears. Whenever we persevere in this decision we will be able to discern that God truly is far, far greater than any predicament, so we can begin to let Him influence us more and more.

"Not being weak in faith (Abraham) did not consider his own body.... and being fully convinced that what (God) had promised He was also able to perform.... Now, it was not written for his sake alone, but for us who believe in Him Who raised up Jesus from the dead." (Romans 4:19-24)

Although this particular passage does not refer to any acquired illness in Abraham's body, but only the deterioration of aging, it applies to everything. We should repeat it regularly, each time believing it more routinely, as we would take tangible medicine or vitamins. *Hebrews 12:4* says that the Word is "living", thus it is able to reproduce itself. In this case specifically it has to generate the identical faith that Jesus of Nazareth used to keep Himself healthy while He lived on the earth in a human body. We will discover that when we find more of God's promises in the Bible, have faith and plant their seeds by believing in them over any current predicament just as Jesus did, God's healing power will begin to show in our bodies, too.

"Who Himself bore our sins in His Own body on the tree, that we having Died to sins, might live for righteousness--by Whose wounds you were healed." (1 Peter 2:24) (Isaiah 53:5 and Matthew 8:17)

"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us. Now He Who establishes us with you is Christ, and has anointed us is God Who has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee."

(II Corinthians 1:20)

Jesus of Nazareth Never Was Sick

There exists no record of Jesus' ever being ill or even weak until He Himself permitted it in order to suffer in our place. Jesus became:

- (1) hungry (*Matthew 4:2*),
- (2) thirsty (*John 19:28*),
- (3) sleepy (*Luke 8:23*),
- (4) compassionate (*Matthew 14:14*),
- (5) frustrated (*Matthew 16:8-11*),
- (6) angry (*Matthew 21:12; Mark 11:15*), and even
- (7) sad and cried (*Luke 19:41; John 11:35*).

However, four separate testimonies of His ministry never record Him as ever being ill, even when He was around, and touching, scores of people who did have diseases, many of them

very contagious--like leprosy. The Bible teaches that even such a horrible and severe ailment like that one not only could not infiltrate Jesus' defenses, the disease itself had to leave His presence. Think about it: if God's worst enemy merely could have made a single person sick in the history of the entire world it is a logical assumption that his consummate challenge would have been to infect God's Only Child.

Additionally, there are no accounts of any of Jesus' disciples ever being sick either. At times only one or a few were with Him, but the Scriptures never teach that it was because any of the rest of the group had any ailment. Even when they all went to Peter's house and his mother-in-law was ill with a fever they did not catch it. Instead of staying away from the home for fear of any of them being infected, Jesus purposely went there with them all and healed her. In fact, she plainly felt good enough not only to receive the party, but serve her guests like a good hostess.

Similarly, when Jesus sent His disciples out in pairs (without Him being present) they, too, healed many afflictions. Yet, they likewise did not succumb to a single exposure of any illness. They all regrouped triumphant in their assignments and even seemed giddy about sharing their experiences with employing God's power and the Name of Jesus. If you have the opinion, "Yes, but those people were the disciples.", please notice that in this particular instance Jesus sent out seventy of His followers, not just His twelve main disciples.

When Jesus left the earth He gave His them all another command to follow: to spread the Gospel everywhere--the good news about His Father. Wherever they went, the Holy Spirit accompanied them and kept them as safe as they let Him, while they continued to follow His bidding. Even in times of severe duress like prison the Spirit led them through the predicament and they even grew stronger from it.