

Introduction:

- One thing greater than divine healing is divine health.
 - Since we live under a better covenant, it is important that we learn to believe God for a fuller manifestation in healing than we have so far.
 - Jesus paid the full price for our healing and for our freedom from sin. This is one reason we hear him saying in the Gospel “Which is easier to say, “Your sins are forgiven.” or Take up your bed and go home?” Mark 2:9
- I want us to look at the subject of the health of the inner man or the Kingdom of God domination of the inner man.
- *“Dear friend, I hope all is well with you and that you are as healthy in body as you are strong in spirit.”* (3 John 2, NLT)
- *“Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers.”* (3 John 2, NKJV)

I. Sickness and the Soul

- A.** Sin takes its toll on all of life. Part of the nature of sin is destruction and corruption.
 1. Environment
 2. Relationships
 3. People
- B.** It has been estimated that upwards of 85% of all sickness originates in the mind. In other words, much of our sicknesses that we encounter are rooted in an unhealthy thought life.
 1. You have heard me share that my grandmother instilled a great amount of fear in me through her own words. She never abused me, she always loved me well but her words caused my soul to be open to fear. As I look back over my life here is what I find:
 - a) I find that a root of fear has brought sickness into my life.
 - b) As a young child, I suffered from continuous stomach and bowel problems. They could never find a cause.
 - c) In my Jr. High and Sr. High years I had terrible allergies. (asthma)
 - d) In seminary, I came down with an abdominal issue that resulted in lower abdominal pain, and diarrhea. Lost a tremendous amount of weight. Christmas at doctors.
 2. Do you know what all those things have in common? Spirit of fear, anxiety.
 3. Fear and anxiety are the spiritual root cause of allergies, asthma, colitis, and some insomnias. Fear is a condition of the inner man where the Spirit of the Lord has not been given the place of Lordship. My mind had been trained to fear and I had to un-train it to have faith.
 4. Bitterness and unforgiveness are major spirits that eat away at the souls and the physical health of people. Often in ministry I have run into the spirit of unforgiveness in person that has held them prisoner to sickness. *“But if you refuse to forgive others, your Father will not forgive your sins.”* (Matthew 6:15, NLT)
 5. Things like anger, regret, anxiety, hatred, unforgiveness and jealousy are killers. They eat away at immune systems and set us up for all kinds of physical ailments.
- C.** So much of what we fight physically is rooted in our thought life, brought on by our belief system. Make that belief system corrupt and the physical man will be corrupt. Make that belief system whole/Godly, they the physical man will follow. I am talking about how the health of your soul, affects the health of your body.

1. Ie. Bill Johnson relates praying for a woman with Crohn's disease. It is a wretched disease that eats away at the colon making normal seem totally impossible. He asked her if she was hard on herself as in being self critical, judgmental, and condemning. She said yes. He explained to her that a colon eating itself is a physical manifestation of what she was doing to herself in her thought life. She repented, asked for forgiveness and was healed.
2. I like Graham Cooke's thought, "Jesus is supremely unworried!" That is what He wants us to be as we are in Him and He is in us. Jesus is the picture of a man with God thoughts dominating His inner man.

II. The Kingdom Dominated Soul

- A. There is a powerful connection between the physical health of a person and the health of their soul. Now, lets note that not every sickness is connected to a condition of the soul. But lets also not excuse ourselves by leaving a portion of our soul a captive of the devil.
 1. In 3 Jn 2. When John says the words, *just as your soul prospers,* he is literally saying in the same way your internal world prospers and is blessed, so should your external world be prospering in same accord.
 2. We learned in the messages on holiness, "sanctify them spirit, soul and body." that the soul is made up of the mind, the will and the emotions. What our will chooses has great impact on our thought life and upon our emotions. John is saying that prosperity is to touch every area of life flowing from a healthy soul.
 - a) "*Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.*" (Proverbs 4:23, NKJV)
 - b) Springs are to flow with life that will touch every area. When our will reflects His will our emotions receive God's good medicine. A healthy spirit makes for a healthy soul and a healthy soul contributes to a much better physical being.
 - c) Ie. Why was Jesus able to sleep in the bow of a ship in the midst of the storm? Healthy soul! Because of what was in Him, He was able to shift the atmosphere around Him.
- B. Note the connection of sin and sickness in the Word.
 1. "*Is it easier to say 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up and walk'?"* (Matthew 9:5, NLT)
 2. "*He forgives all my sins and heals all my diseases.*" (Psalm 103:3, NLT)
 3. "*The people of Israel will no longer say, 'We are sick and helpless,' for the Lord will forgive their sins.*" (Isaiah 33:24, NLT)
 4. "*But he was pierced for our rebellion, crushed for our sins. He was beaten so we could be whole. He was whipped so we could be healed.*" (Isaiah 53:5, NLT)
 5. Many people would experience healing if they forgive others. Some would experience their miracle if they could believe they were forgiven.
 6. Many would experience healing if they could trust God rather than embrace fear. Fear is the opposite of faith. Sometime we need to address the issues of unforgiveness and fear with people at the risk of causing them pain.
- C. Creating a Kingdom Dominated Soul - Bill Johnson
 1. "*The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the brokenhearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed.*" (Isaiah 61:1, NLT)
 - a) A prisoner is behind bars because of what they have done. They need to repent and be forgiven.

- b)** A captive is imprisoned because of what has been done to them. They too need to forgive their captors and use the authority given them to get out of captivity.
- 2.** Praise helps create a prosperous soul. God inhabits the praises of His people.
- 3.** Meditate on the Word and the goodness of God. Pro 4:20 My son give attention to my word.... Is 26:3 The steadfast mind you will keep in perfect peace because he trusts in you.
- 4.** Good works. Doing things for others with no expectation of return is so liberating!
- 5.** Happy soul.
 - a)** Do well. *“If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door. And its desire is for you, but you should rule over it.”* (Genesis 4:7, NKJV)
 - b)** Do well basically means to prosper or to be glad/pleasing. If Cain would have discovered the prosperity of soul available through honoring his brother, sin would have lost its grip on his heart.

Conclusion:

- We were created for joy! Designed by God that way.
- We have been created to have the mind of Christ! Let's not think below that level.