

SICK CHRISTIANS Pt. 2



This is Pastor Erustus and his wife Pastor Sarah. Pastor Erustus heads up our outreach ministry in Kenya. He has been pastoring for several years longer than I have and I wanted to draw on his experience with healing in the church.

Here's what he shared: Pastor I look at the days of Apostle Paul's ministry time, in 1 Tim 5:23, Paul informs Timothy to, "No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments." From this text Timothy who was the spiritual son of Apostle Paul and very close to him was suffering from a stomach ailment, though the ailment is not known or specified. Apostle Paul prayed for many people and they were healed. Even some he just sent his aprons /pieces of cloths to the sick and through faith they were healed. I believe he tried to pray for his spiritual son Timothy for healing but it didn't come, thus he ended up advising him to use wine to help him in the stomach ailments. This tells me God sometimes for His own reasons and wisdom will choose to heal or not heal us. Ours is to thank Him in all circumstances (**1 Thess.5:18**) and not to be bitter nor doubt His word.

I want to interject here for those of you who are not healed yet and you have been praying and waiting – do not get angry at God. Do not be frustrated or bitter with Him. Do not lose faith because you haven't seen Him move on your behalf in this thing. Never doubt that He loves you. He loves you so much He gave Jesus as a sacrifice so you could be saved and be brought back into a right relationship with Him. To have fellowship and closeness with Him. To have eternal life with Him. If you have been upset with Him and you have been hurt in all of this ask Him to please forgive you all of these wrong feelings toward Him and wrong attitude toward Him. Those things are sin against Him. Trust His perfect plan for your life even when it doesn't look perfect. He is in control. Make peace with Him and ask forgiveness and if necessary ask Him to help you to have a right attitude about not being healed yet. Ask Him to give you strength and help you to persevere. Never ever get mad or stay angry and upset with God. As soon as you realize you are, make it right with Him. You would not want to die in that state, separated from Him because you got mad at Him.

Back to what Pastor shared: Again the Bible records 2 Timothy 4:20 "Erastus abode at Corinth: but Trophimus have I left at Miletum sick." Apostle Paul left behind Trophimus because of sickness. I also believe he tried praying for his healing but it didn't come on time hence he left him behind and proceeded with his journey for ministry work. In the Old Testament the Prophet Elisha died from a disease and yet he performed many miracles. **(2 Kings 13:14)** I agree with you among many reasons known to God himself for not healing us always, the unhealed diseases/sicknesses may be one of the pathways God uses to take us out of this earthly life. In Hebrews 11 the Bible says the heroes of faith died though not having gotten hold of what they hoped or believed God for but nevertheless they died still believing in God.

I think when we don't see something God has promised in His word come to pass in our lives, it is because His plan for us individually did not include that particular thing. Like the scripture says all things for the good but it ends with according to His purposes. **(Romans 8:28)** So we have to remember that. And when there are broad promises, it is for His children in general but may not apply to your own specific life because His plans will prevail. **(Prov.16:9, James 4:13-15)** We are to keep standing and believing.

At the church we attended before I received my call I used to think because I wasn't getting healed that I was making God look bad! Lol Look how twisted my thoughts were. When He does not heal you instantly, miraculously and you are living in obedience, there is a purpose that is being fulfilled and it is for God's glory. We don't always get to know what the purpose is this side of heaven but sometimes we can see bits and pieces of what is being accomplished. Like brother John in Kenya, I shared recently about his life. He was born with MS and passed away at the young age of 28. He came to Christ and the last years of his life were dedicated to serving God and being a light for Christ in this world. His faith and perseverance even through great sickness ministered to so many. God used his life for His glory.

2 Cor.1:4 - Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

How can we show comfort and empathy for others going through sickness, disease and pain if we ourselves never face any of it? It carries more weight when you comfort someone and you've actually been through it yourself. Your testimony can encourage them not to give up on God. When we go through things we can minister to others facing the same things, we can encourage them and our testimony can give them strength to keep going. Do you know if people know you are a Christian they are watching your life. You are ministering to people when you keep standing in faith in spite of things not going the way you would like them to.

Pastor Dalbeer has had diabetes for years now and that has not slowed him down in serving on God's altar as a minister. I have suffered from migraines for over 25 years, rheumatoid arthritis for 17 ½ years and for the last several years from osteoarthritis. I have seen some improvement in my health but not completely healed and delivered from these things.

When I was 6 weeks old I had severe pneumonia and almost died but Jesus healed me. I had a terrible car wreck when I was 17 and almost lost my leg but Jesus spared my leg. He has healed me from covid more than once and from so many things throughout my life. He sustains me. I never slack off in praying to be

healed and praying for the body of Christ to be healed but I just keep going in the strength that God gives me.

Job's friends tried to pass judgement against him as to why he wasn't being healed and why all the bad things happened to him. They told him it was because of sin. They got it exactly wrong. We should be careful about passing judgement on someone when we may not know God's purpose in what is going on in their life.

Job is one of the best examples of someone being tested by God. He almost reached his breaking point but he managed to hang on to his faith. God allowed Satan to tear Job's life down, took all that he had, killed all his children, took all his livestock and last of all made him very ill. Job was a righteous man and yet God allowed all this heartache and pain in his life. But in the end of it all He blessed him double above what he initially had. **(Job 42:10-12)** He stayed with him through it all, He never left Job. God has not promised us a life free of pain.

Jesus said blessed is he who is not offended in Me. **(Matt.11:6)** It means that when you keep standing even if you are persecuted for living out God's Word in your life, even if you do not get what you wanted from God but you keep the faith and do not turn away – God will bless you and in the end of it all you will have eternal life. John the Baptist could not understand why he was in prison if Jesus was The Messiah, and he knew that he was, but he started to falter because Jesus wasn't getting him out of prison and The Jews were occupied by Rome and that wasn't changing. Don't be offended if Jesus doesn't heal you instantly the first time you pray. We must keep standing even if our healing doesn't come or we have to wait for it.

Demons have confessed to trying to kill Pastor Erustus and he did have a car crash but he was spared. The demons said that angels and fire are all around Pastor Erustus. They cannot kill him. And even with that strong of a witness of God's protection around His children, Pastor Erustus has had malaria several times. Malaria to the point that he had no strength, no appetite, malaria can be deadly and it takes him weeks to recover. I praise The Lord Jesus He has healed Pastor of malaria so many times and even again just this past week as we had been praying

for Pastor to be healed. We will go through hard things. Jesus never said it was going to be easy and many times we are tested through our health.

Remember when Nebuchadnezzar made the huge golden statue and wanted everyone to worship it? Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah – called Babylonian names by Nebuchadnezzar - Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego refused to bow down.

Daniel 3:15-18 – Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; *well*: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who *is* that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we *are* not careful to answer thee in this matter. If it be *so*, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver *us* out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.

Let's have the faith of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego when they refused to bow down to Nebuchadnezzar's golden statue. Even if God does not deliver me from this sickness I will keep the faith, keep serving Him and only Him. That is strong faith. God did deliver them but they were prepared to keep standing even if He didn't.

CLOSING

Be sure of your salvation. Stay covered in Jesus' blood. Keep seeking Him in prayer for your healing. Repent of known sin and close the doors to the demonic that may be causing sickness with a legal right through sin. Ask God to show you any unrepentant sin that is causing sickness in your life. Do the things you know to do to be healthier. Ask The Lord to lead you to the things you should be doing and to help you stop doing the things that are damaging to your health. Most of all keep standing and wait on The Lord.

I Kings 15:11,14,23b-24 – And Asa did *that which was* right in the eyes of the LORD, as *did* David his father. But the high places (pagan shrines) were not

removed: nevertheless Asa's heart was perfect with the LORD all his days. ... Nevertheless in the time of his old age he was diseased in his feet. And Asa slept with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the city of David his father: and Jehoshaphat his son reigned in his stead.

He was a righteous king but in the end he had a disease in his feet and it doesn't say he was healed from it either. God took Elisha through sickness.

One day God will probably use some type of sickness to take us home to be with Him. He has to take each one of us somehow. Pastor Erustus' spiritual father died at just 60 years old from diabetes. He certainly knew Christ and God's Word and yet was not healed. We are told to persevere so don't let anything tear you away from Christ, not even chronic illness or pain or disease of any kind. Keep the faith and run a strong race and God will reward you abundantly, if you feel like you don't see it in this life, you will see it in eternity.

PRAYER