

"There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil." (Job 1:1)

Let me start this piece by saying that I believe in healing. We prayed for the first time in our lives in 1969, asking God to heal our deathly-ill infant daughter. She was only 5 days old but had a tumor that filled her little body cavity and had pushed all her organs to the outside wall. It was choking her from within.

The doctor said he had performed the operation 4 times before - all those children had died either on the operating table or shortly afterward. He said he gave her a 20% chance of surviving the surgery, but we knew he was just being kind. He said he'd give us a day to prepare ourselves, and would operate at 8:00 am the next day

We were not yet believers, but went to the closest church to pray. When they opened her up the next morning they were surprised to see the situation had changed overnight. That hard mass had turned cystic (filled with fluid) and the surgeon was able to drain and shrink it and remove it with relative ease. That would never have shown on the X Rays.

(No, that was not primitive medicine, that was 1969. No, that was not sloppy doctoring. No, that was not faulty X Rays, or an oversight, or small town doctors. That was Mt. Sinai hospital in Manhattan, and that was not anything but the supernatural power of God to heal. That Jewish surgeon said it was a miracle.)

And we have seen much healing after that. So yes, I am a firm believer in the power of God to Heal. Healing prayer is always - always - our first move. But then we found that when the healing doesn't come right away, what do you do? Yes, you keep on praying, keep on praying. But you still have the condition; what do you do? You have to live with it until healing comes.

People tell you you have a demon, and that you don't have enough faith. But you're the one that asked for prayer, so you know you have the faith for healing.

At that point you have two options: A) Continue to pray, rebuke, reject, curse sickness, resist, or B) do all the above but let God work in the situation as it is. Let Him make lemonade.

If you haven't been there, you might not understand. So let me explain

In 2012 darkness came over me. I had my ministry taken from me underhandedly. And I had started getting sick; I was sick with pain and bleeding day and night 24/7 for 9 months. (Doesn't matter what I had, I can't tell it on this forum.) Healing was elusive.

I prayed every which way I could - called the elders to come with oil, brought in a deliverance minister, went out for prayer, laid hands on myself, did positive confession - "I don't have this,

I've just been diagnosed with it, I don't receive this into my body" - and commanded healing. I was told I didn't have enough faith and that I had a demon, but I laid those 2 things to rest.

My surgeon, after 2 surgeries with no results, said there was nothing more he could do for me. (Some people refuse medical attention. I know a guy who went blind that way, but he's still sick.) The medical community had thrown me out.

I cried myself to sleep at night. I had served God with everything I had for 40 years, and, even though I knew better, I thought it must have been something I had done, and God had taken His hand off my life and I was devil bait.

I needed answers. My faith had been stretched as far as it could go and beyond. And so I turned to the Bible to see if God had anything to say about it. I read the first verse in the book of Job, cited above, and I saw that what befell Job wasn't his fault. Job was perfect and upright.

What a load was lifted from me. What relief I found from just the first verse. (God is at hand, faithful, true. We don't have to go far to find help.) I knew that what had happened to me wasn't my fault. What comfort. It didn't explain anything more than that, but that was what I needed right then. I could make it through the night.

There are people who say Job is Old Testament. But Timothy (New Testament) said "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." I could go to sleep.

So in the morning I read on and found this (this wasn't a quick scan of my Bible; this was digging in, looking for answers. I was desperate.) When the devil came around, God initiated the conversation: "Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?"

(Let's not write that off as being that old King James version. All the modern translations say the same thing. That's easy to research with an electronic Bible app like the Blue Letter Bible.)

God was bragging on Job - God was so proud of him. I put my name there. The devil said He did so well because God gave Him so much. Take it away and see what he does. And God said fair enough, everything he has is in your hand; just don't touch his body.

Then Job lost everything - goods, animals servants, children - all gone. But next we read that Job tore his robe, shaved his head, and fell to the ground and worshipped. He worshipped. Then he said "the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." Read that again. Who did he say gave, and who did he say took away? You have 2 choices. The Bible (the BIBLE) says Job said the right thing.

Then the same thing happened with Job's health - God bragged on Job. (who initiated the conversation? You have 2 choices. Read it for yourself. Go ahead, it's ok to read the Bible, even the book of Job. No one will know.)

Then the devil said of course he still honors you because you gave him good health. But take it away and see what he does. And God said "Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life." (Job 2:6)

(This is straight Scripture we're citing here, so I can't be twisting it.)

Let's pause and ask some questions. Is God good? "All the time," we say. But do we believe it? Not so much. Do we say "God is in control?" Yes, and often. But then we say "the devil sent this." So much for God being good and in control.

What did Job say when his wife told him to curse God and die? "What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips."

Receive evil from God? You can't do that if you regard Him as some petty little deity on the same level as the devil. But if you regard Him as the Almighty God Who can do everything, then you let Him do everything.

Well, people say, that's Old Testament. Ok, here's New Testament - "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." (Luke 22:31)

Same. exact. thing. Jesus didn't stop it from happening, He allowed it because it had a purpose. (I can hear it now - that doesn't include sickness. God heals all your diseases, by His stripes you were healed.) Ok, let's read that in context:

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed." (1 Peter 2:24)

What is that talking about? It's talking about sin and being healed from that. Again, I'm not spinning this, merely pointing out what Scripture says. We seem to be more taken up with the health of our bodies than the health of our souls. We don't hear much at all about sin and being healed from that these days.

We say God is good because He would never let anything bad come into our lives. But God is SO good that whatever He brings into our lives is good. To think otherwise is to have a dim view of His sovereignty, goodness, love and compassion, and is an affront to God.

I find that only people who have suffered understand this. So let my voice be heard. Pray for healing - always the first option - but until that comes, receive your condition (that's not giving up on healing, don't ever do that) and let God do His work in you. What do you have to lose? You just might find a whole lot more than you ever imagined. "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." (2 Corinthians 4:17) "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us." (Ephesians 4:20)

So let's ascribe unto God glory and power and wisdom and strength. Let's let Him be God, and not us. Let's give Him back His sovereignty. Hallelujah, what a way to live!