

Lesson 16

Objections to Healing

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VIDEO OUTLINE

Note: All scriptures used in this lesson are quoted from the *New King James Version*.

- I. Many people resist the love of God for them, resist the goodness of God, and resist what grace has provided. There are still many people today who do not believe it is God's will to heal.
 - A. Some have even said that healing died and passed away with the last apostle. It's as if God had this season during the apostles' lifetimes that healing would be administrated and shared, but when that last apostle died, that was it, and none of us today can be healed or expect healing. But that's not true.
 - B. Many people think the same way about Jesus and that even the healings of Jesus were because He was the Son of God. Yet they don't realize Jesus was used in healing not as the Son of God. He was the Son of God, but He operated in healing as the Son of Man. The anointing on Jesus was on His humanity, to connect with people hurting in their humanity, that the goodness of God might be manifest.

How 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

- C. I've even heard people say that Jesus just healed people to prove He was God. It is so sad that people would think God is that self-centered or arrogant or that God is that way in any form or fashion.
- II. God's people are destroyed for a lack of knowledge.

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

Hosea 4:6

- A. We suffer many things unnecessarily because we don't have knowledge of God, knowledge of His love, and knowledge of His will.
- B. The only thing worse than the lack of knowledge is the wrong knowledge, and that comes primarily through the world infecting the church or religion.
- C. Jesus dealt with how the traditions of men can make the Word of God of none effect. I submit to you that much of the sickness within the body of Christ, much of the disease that goes unchecked or counterattacked, is because people have these traditions rooted in their hearts, so it makes the Word of God of none effect.

Making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do.

Mark 7:13

- 1. Traditions in your heart can cancel out the power of God's Word in your life, and it's the power of God's Word that heals our bodies, minds, homes, and churches.
 - D. A lack of knowledge or no knowledge creates a faith deficit that negates grace.
 - E. The wrong knowledge creates doubt and unbelief regarding God and His love for us.
- III. Objections to healing and traditions of men: Paul's thorn in the flesh.

And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

- A. People were getting saved through Paul's message. People were getting healed; there were signs and wonders. He was public enemy number one to the devil, and it was the devil that sent this messenger that was called a thorn in his flesh.
- B. Paul sought the Lord three times, and each time God ministered to him that His grace would be sufficient in this continual buffeting from the messenger of Satan.

1. The word *buffet* means to beat repeatedly. Like ocean waves that buffet the beach, retreat, and then build up momentum to beat the beach again.
- C. So, whatever this buffeting (or this messenger of the devil) was, it was producing weakness in Paul. However, the Lord said that His grace is sufficient because His power is made perfect in human weakness.
- D. Tradition has assumed that the word *infirmities* (2 Cor. 12:9) always means sickness or disease. It can mean sickness and disease, but if you look it up in any concordance, it means human weakness.
- E. In 2 Corinthians 11:23–33, Paul lists all the things that were producing weakness in him. He had to get to a point where he understood that when he was weak with all this opposition, the power of Christ rested upon him so that he was strong in the Lord. He listed all of his infirmities, and he didn't mention sickness one time.

Are they ministers of Christ?—I speak as a fool—I am more: in labors more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequently, in deaths often. From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of my own countrymen, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness—besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is made to stumble, and I do not burn with indignation? If I must boast, I will boast in the things which concern my infirmity. The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is blessed forever, knows that I am not lying. In Damascus the governor, under Aretas the king, was guarding the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desiring to arrest me; but I was let down in a basket through a window in the wall, and escaped from his hands.

2 Corinthians 11:23–33

- F. In 2 Corinthians 6:4–10, Paul lists all of the hardships he went through. When you look at that list, we don't have anything to complain about or murmur about.

But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God: in much patience, in tribulations, in needs, in distresses, in stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in sleeplessness, in fastings; by purity, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by sincere love, by the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor,

by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true; as unknown, and yet well known; as dying, and behold we live; as chastened, and yet not killed; as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

2 Corinthians 6:4–10

G. Everywhere the term “*a thorn in the flesh*” is used, it’s never associated with sickness and disease. It’s associated with persecution and affliction, specifically by unbelievers in the Old Testament.

H. When Paul wrote it, he was ministering to Christians at Corinth, and everyone who heard him knew what a thorn in the flesh was. They knew it was the thorn of persecution and opposition.

IV. Objections to healing and traditions of men: Timothy and his stomach issue.

No longer drink only water, but use a little wine for your stomach’s sake and your frequent infirmities.

1 Timothy 5:23

A. The reason Paul said not to drink water but to use wine was because the water was bad and was making him sick, and Timothy had an alternative.

B. One of the things that you have to learn if you are going to walk in health is that you can’t tempt the Lord. You can’t drink bad water and expect to be healed. Timothy was probably believing Mark 16:18 because he had heard it. He had heard, “We will drink any deadly thing and it won’t hurt us.” However, when you have an alternative, you can’t tempt the Lord like that.

They will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

Mark 16:18

C. The water was creating the stomach problems and he needed to go to the alternative. Just because there is divine protection, it doesn’t mean I can tempt God and purposely drink something deadly and expect it not to damage me.

D. If people take these scriptures and justify Timothy being sick, saying, “Who are we to believe for healing?” that objection needs to be turned on its head. Faith in

the Word of God will cause us to realize that God wasn't withholding healing from Timothy. God wasn't making Timothy sick.

V. Objections to healing and traditions of men: Paul leaving Trophimus sick in Miletus.

And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen! Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus. Erastus stayed in Corinth, but Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick.

2 Timothy 4:18-20

- A. The apostle Paul left a lot of people lost in Miletus. Not everybody was born again. That doesn't mean God didn't will to save everybody in Miletus.
- B. Evidently, Paul didn't have some special power or anointing whereby everybody he prayed for was healed. We need to let that sink in because we have been taught, through the traditions of men, that the apostles had some supernatural power where everybody they prayed for was healed.
- C. Paul had to leave somebody sick. I've had to leave people sick. I've had to leave people lost. Trophimus may have gotten sick and had to be left behind, but God's will is still to heal.

VI. Objections to healing and traditions of men: Epaphroditus almost dying.

Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need; since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick. For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. Therefore I sent him the more eagerly, that when you see him again you may rejoice, and I may be less sorrowful. Receive him therefore in the Lord with all gladness, and hold such men in esteem; because for the work of Christ he came close to death, not regarding his life, to supply what was lacking in your service toward me.

Philippians 2:24-30

- A. Epaphroditus was a minister, a co-laborer together with Paul, who got sick.
- B. Paul's attitude was, "I've seen signs and wonders and miracles, and we're in a battle for a friend of mine who got so sick that he almost died. And God didn't just have

mercy on him, but also on me. In other words, if I'd have lost my friend, it would've broken my heart."

- C. Epaphroditus overworked himself in the name of the ministry. No pastor is immune to sickness or disease. We don't have some special anointing. We don't have some special corner on God.
- D. We need to understand that we can't abuse our bodies and expect to stay healed. This man worked so hard, so many hours, and so long for the name of Christ and for the people, that he abused his body until he got sick.

VII. Objections to healing and traditions of men: Elisha got sick and died.

Elisha had become sick with the illness of which he would die. Then Joash the king of Israel came down to him, and wept over his face, and said, "O my father, my father, the chariots of Israel and their horsemen!" And Elisha said to him, "Take a bow and some arrows." So he took himself a bow and some arrows. Then he said to the king of Israel, "Put your hand on the bow." So he put his hand on it, and Elisha put his hands on the king's hands. And he said, "Open the east window"; and he opened it. Then Elisha said, "Shoot"; and he shot. And he said, "The arrow of the Lord's deliverance and the arrow of deliverance from Syria; for you must strike the Syrians at Aphek till you have destroyed them." Then he said, "Take the arrows"; so he took them. And he said to the king of Israel, "Strike the ground"; so he struck three times, and stopped. And the man of God was angry with him, and said, "You should have struck five or six times; then you would have struck Syria till you had destroyed it! But now you will strike Syria only three times." Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year. So it was, as they were burying a man, that suddenly they spied a band of raiders; and they put the man in the tomb of Elisha; and when the man was let down and touched the bones of Elisha, he revived and stood on his feet.

2 Kings 13:14-21

- A. Elisha was a man who served under Elijah and had a double anointing. He was a pastor, a minister, a prophet, and an awesome man of God who saw miracles, signs and wonders.
- B. People anointed by God get sick and die all the time. Healing preachers can get sick and still die.
- C. However, we can glean from Elisha that on his deathbed the man was so anointed that he was ministering to the king on how to overcome the enemies of Israel.

So, right up to his death, he was still anointed by God for ministering the Word and deliverance for Israel.

- D. Elisha's anointing went past the grave. They took a dead man, threw him into Elisha's tomb, and the Bible says that Elisha's bones were so anointed it caused the dead man to come to life.

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