

Being a Believer and Being Sick

February 24, 2008

Harold Wilson, Guest Speaker

Harold_Wilson: okay — let's open in prayer now please

Harold_Wilson: Father, we thank you that you love us, we're reminded that YOU are interested in each one of us personally, when Jesus said the hairs of our head are numbered, that wasn't to prove that God was brilliant - he meant, we have so much of God's attention that if even a hair falls out God takes notice. this is YOUR chat and we believe that YOU are going to speak to each one of us what we need to hear. we thank you and we trust you. Amen

Harold_Wilson: Hello again, to everybody - this is awkward for me – I do not type, at a computer - I even find cell phones a mental overload

onepuredreamer: hello too - u r doing great

Harold_Wilson: so forgive me if this is choppy, but I do believe that God is going to use this. we want to talk today about Being a believer and being sick

Harold_Wilson: At Shepherd of Hope Ministry we have a view of "Being a Believer and Being Sick."

We believe that healing is taught in the gospels and in the writings of the Apostles to the Churches.

We believe that God still heals today, both supernaturally and naturally. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights." James 1:17

We believe in ministering to the sick. In Matthew 25:31-46 Jesus reveals a future judgment. In this judgment, Jesus says, "I was sick and you visited me."

Notice that: 1) Jesus IDENTIFIES with the sick person. 2) Jesus does not say, "I was sick and you HEALED me" and 3) Jesus does not say, "I was sick and you REBUKED ME FOR MY LACK OF FAITH."

We are trying to say that you can be sick and still be all that God wants you to be. Being sick does not mean there is something wrong with you spiritually.

Next, let's look at 2 Kings Chapter 13:14, 20-21.

14 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!"

20 Then Elisha died, and they buried him. And the raiding bands from Moab invaded the land in the spring of the year.

21 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.

Elisha was a prophet, he was a servant of Elijah, he had a double portion of Elijah's spirit, he performed more miracles in the old testament than anyone else, including raising people from the dead.

And in Chapter 13:20-21 he had so much of God's Spirit that when a dead man touched his body, the dead man was brought back to life.

From this we see you can be sick, and still be used of God.

In verse 14, Elisha was still being used as a prophet to the King of Israel even though he was sick and in bed.

Notice that Elisha did not go to bed healthy and 'die in his sleep'. He BECAME sick, he WAS sick for a period of time, and EVENTUALLY died from this sickness.

Even though he was sick, God was using him. You may be sick, but what Jesus said in Matthew 25 still applies.

You will either be one who, visited the sick, fed the hungry, clothed the naked; or one who did nothing. Being sick does not give us an excuse to not minister, nor does it disqualify us from being used of God. God wants to use all believers.

Harold_Wilson: 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 reads, "9 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. 10 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."

Harold_Wilson: When we say "Lord, here am I, use me" He will. He puts us in places where we must depend on His grace. He puts us in ministries that we cannot do in our own power. We must be totally dependant on Him, then He works through us and He gets the glory. God is not a wasteful steward; if you belong to Him, He has placed you where He can use you.

Harold_Wilson: In closing let me remind you that Jesus did not come to take us OUT of this world, but to go with us THROUGH this world.

Harold_Wilson: Jesus says in Matthew 28:20, "I am with you always, even to the end of the earth." Thank you and I will open up now for your comments and questions. I will turn it over to Shep as to how to proceed with the question and answer period.

Harold_Wilson: (shep speaking here) that seems to have gone quickly, but I am sure there are a lot of questions and/or comments

Harold_Wilson: so, if you have a question, please type a ?? and I will call on you and Harold will dictate His answer and I will type it for him

Harold_Wilson: let's open for questions and comments

onepuredreamer: Ok here is my question If You smoke (IMTRYING TO QUIT) does that block the Holy Spirit Or is it Satan Pretending to be God.?

Carol: !!It is so true, that often we do lose a lot, but gain much spiritually being ill.

Harold_Wilson: (or we can go helter skelter like we always do and try to keep up —lol)

Harold_Wilson: to opd's question: Christianity is a relationship with Jesus - the only thing that will block the Holy Spirit is willful disobedience - if you are trying to follow Him, He is going to help you

onepuredreamer: that I do have but satan sneaks in sometimes

Harold_Wilson: He does not expect you in your own power, to make yourself good enough

whitecap: God can use us in many ways as intercessors or by starting a card ministry of love and encouragement to others

onepuredreamer: isn't smoking a form of disobedience?

Harold_Wilson: to opd: satan does not have the power to veto God

onepuredreamer: so true

Harold_Wilson: God is going to use you as you allow him to or as you respond to him

Harold_Wilson: opd asked if smoking is a form of disobedience. If God tells you to do something and you say "NO! I won't do it" it is rebellion. but You said You were trying to quit. that is obedience

onepuredreamer: yes its so hard too even though I am Spirit filled

Harold_Wilson: okay — was there another question or comment that I missed?

Carol: ??Many people think we are being punished and that hurts, and we think we must have done something wrong, and end up trying to think what we did that was so horrible. . What do you think about all this guilt, and hurt placed on us?

Harold_Wilson: okay carol

whitecap: yes and with God's help you will quit

onepuredreamer: yes i agree and all your Prayers too

Harold_Wilson: to carol's question:

whitecap: you have them

Harold_Wilson: God has reserved punishment for after the judgment, He is not punishing you now. Paul does say "we reap what we sow" but that's not punishment - and being sick is NOT a punishment. The Bible is clear on what is wrong and if the conviction does not come from the Bible, it's not real guilt it is only a 'guilt trip' being placed on you

Carol: ! ty ?? * Also , it is not just a generational curse from the Garden Of Eden is it?

Harold_Wilson: ty

Harold_Wilson: Carol, I do not fully understand that but the only curse from the garden of eden is the effects of sin on humanity. In the New Testament it says that Jesus came to destroy the works of satan

Harold_Wilson: okay — Regina, I think you had a question as well

Carol: !!Well what I mean is did God say we would grow old, and like when he said, more pain in child birth etc wondered if the growing old Dying, and may ability to get ill comes from that disobedience from Garden Of Eden?

Regina: I struggle with some leaders/ pastors in church that preach that Christians should not be sick because Jesus took our sickness on the cross (Is 53).....So I get confused sometimes if God wants be to get well...

Harold_Wilson: carol: yeah.... Paul says that all creation groans for redemption and one day we will all have a new body and sin will be defeated

Carol: !!Ok, TY---

Regina: Some pastors says that we need to apply this in our lives, that we must believe it!!!

Harold_Wilson: to regina's question:

Alice: Regina — I know of pastors who taught this, but still got sick and some have died.

Harold_Wilson: It is true that God heals us, many things were purchased on the cross

Harold_Wilson: Paul can say, Oh death where is your sting, Oh grave where is your victory?" Jesus defeated death and the grave - we still die and it still hurts - but one day, when Jesus returns, we will receive TOTALLY what Jesus won on the cross - Now we life in faith

Alice: AMEN!!!

Regina: Amem, thanks.....

onepuredreamer: YES AMEN!!!!

Harold_Wilson: (((Shep says Amen too!)))

Carol: !!! Paul lived with a "Thorn in His side"

Harold_Wilson: Yep!

Harold_Wilson: Yes, it is interesting that Paul says the thorn was a messenger of satan, but he says, the messenger of satan was 'given to him'

whitecap: The Bible is not clear what Paul's thorn was is it?

Harold_Wilson: God's in control and he's even in control over what satan does

LRae: !!! I often think of the verse you used earlier, Harold, about God's grace being sufficient for us...Paul said this...a man of INCREDIBLE FAITH...and HE asked the Lord 3 times to remove his affliction and God said No...that His grace was sufficient and His power was made perfect in weakness.

Harold_Wilson: Jules — I think you are the first to get the idea of who to do this

onepuredreamer: I did not realize that?

Carol: !! Thank God For that!!!

Jules: What do u mean by we die & it still hurts? I can't think of a better promotion than dying. death is always better 4 a Christian

Harold_Wilson: to jules: I mean that we physically die, and the people that are left still sense the loss
Carol: ! The process is not always fun, though

onepuredreamer: i have a question!

Harold_Wilson: and that there IS going to be a resurrection where there will one day be no death

Jules: thx

Harold_Wilson: yw

Harold_Wilson: the thorn in the flesh issue—

onepuredreamer: I do not have a concordance I'm hoping to get strong's but haven't yet but when God speaks about having a covenant does that mean a promise????

Harold_Wilson: regarding what the thorn in the flesh was is "IT DOESN'T MATTER" . The point is verse 9 — "My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness"

daisygirl: a covenant is like a promise on both sides...we do something and He does something

Harold_Wilson: we are all going to be put in a position where this verse applies

Carol: !!!Thank you!! This is very helpful...

onepuredreamer: ok ty I'm on the right track then I thought so but wasn't totally sure

daisygirl: yw

Harold_Wilson: yw carol

Harold_Wilson: another question or comment?

daisygirl: what about mean doctors and nurses. must we suffer from illness and them too

Harold_Wilson: ((Shep asking — out of curiosity — how many of you hear have been told that if you just had enough faith you would be healed?))

daisygirl: me

Regina: me also

onepuredreamer: I Have

Carol: !! Oh yes, I hear this at times....

onepuredreamer: And I'm Spirit filled!!

onepuredreamer: yes!

Harold_Wilson: okay — Alice, you had a question for Harold

Regina: I always thought that I didn't have enough faith or something was wrong with me because I was sick

LRae: !!! I haven't been told exactly that, but I've told not to talk about all the issues because that was "speaking"

those things over me and making them happen

Carol: ! The faith of a mustard seed.. not very much faith needed, you just need to have it(that is what I hear)

Alice: Harold - As a pastor, how would you suggest that we get through to our pastors just how important a ministry is to those with chronic illnesses?

Harold_Wilson: good question (shep's response)

Carol: !! I know I have faith so I ignore that one...

whitecap: practicing being loving with the love God has for us to others such as family members who are not always understanding or seemingly cruel caregivers

Alice: In our churches, I mean. If we don't have "physical" illnesses, i feel we get left out

Harold_Wilson: to answer Alice: Pastors are human, and often times they don't really see or are not aware of how much chronic illness is out there. I believe pastors trying to obey the Lord want to shepherd the WHOLE flock

Regina: They want everyone get well and not be sick I guess

Harold_Wilson: but often they don't see the need (the chronically ill)

Alice: But, i have a HopeKeepers group through RM - and my pastor told me he felt it was more a "support group" and not a ministry for the church to deal with.

Regina: My pastor usually says to me; we don't accept this illness in your life....

Carol: !! Maybe you have to be ill, or live with it near you to know? It can make you more compassionate of others.. I believe...

onepuredreamer: I'm sorry I've go to go now God Bless Each of you and may you find comfort and Peace through Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

Harold_Wilson: still to alice: unfortunately — it has to be someone close to you to see it

whitecap: YOU MUST REMEMBER SOME PEOPLE MAYBE GOING THROUGH JUST AS MUCH OR ALMOST AS MUCH BUT HIDE THEIR PAIN OR CAN DEAL WITH IT BETTER

Harold_Wilson: if I didn't live with Shep, I would not see the chronic illness, so I would not sense a need to minister to it — thinking on that one moment —

whitecap: true

Harold_Wilson: Alice, what do you want your pastor to do?

Alice: I would like to see him give us a space at church to hold meetings — and to show up once in a while to show people he cares — and to recognize that not all illnesses are visible. I have talked to him — my husband has talked to him - i am at a loss

Harold_Wilson: to alice again: I think you are going about this the right way...

Alice: I myself have been home bound for several Sunday straight, and i have not received a call or visit from him.

Carol: !!! Excuse me, for coming in on this.. but wonder if another minister, like minister to minister would help, Alice? Maybe could help convince him?

whitecap: I wish Pastor or someone from church could help me deal with my apartment supervisor's better but they are unable to help me

Alice: I feel our meetings should be recognized as a ministry, since we use the Bible as a basis for our meeting studies.

Carol: !!! Or Elders in charge, Or Deacons in charge?? Well do not know the set up in your church just example

Harold_Wilson: to alicia continued: if you have a number of people who you feel you need space a the church to hold a meeting for, get those people together and see if they would be willing to meet and then go to the pastor and say "WE would like to hold a meeting at..... such and such a time" — I guess I am saying you take a leadership role

Alice: Yes - i would even appreciate maybe an Elder being put in charge to help us - but as i said, we aren't recognized as a ministry to the church body there. Okay - I have not tried taking any of our group with us to visit our pastor. Good suggestion - thanks

Harold_Wilson: I don't have an answer for your particular church Alice, and that is why we are offering Shepherd of Hope Ministries

Alice: And, oh how i appreciate Shepherd of Hope!!!!

Jules: I just went to my Pastor & told him of the need to minister to the chronic pain /chronic illness people & that God had called me to help in that ministry. He is well aware of my situation & agrees that it would be a good ministry to have in place

Harold_Wilson: and how we appreciate you too!

Carol: !! It is great, as many cannot get to church or every sunday anyway

Harold_Wilson: to jules: That is excellent

Harold_Wilson: it is also encouraging to the rest of us — it can be done! and maybe, as your ministry unfolds it is something that others can duplicate

Carol: !! Maybe this should be a study placed in Seminary? To understand how to deal with those in chronic illness etc?

whitecap: I agree

Harold_Wilson: (shep's comment here) Remember, Shepherd of Hope offers 2 Sunday praise and worship times and we don't have a very large attendance at them — so this is another opportunity to use the ministry — come to those that are schedule

daisygirl: maybe it could be my thesis

Harold_Wilson: to carol's comment on study in seminary: churches have different ministries every where they go - many growing churches use the idea "Find a need and fill it" - the needs aren't the same everywhere. they don't teach it in seminary because it isn't a need everywhere — they want to teach the pastor to look for the need in the area they are placed and fill it

Alice: I was told that pastors do touch on ministry to those with chronic illnesses - just not at length. Is this true, Harold?

Alice: When they go to seminary, i mean

whitecap: Experience is best teacher you can't learn it all in school

Harold_Wilson: Carol: ! True..just I guess when someone finds a need they need a listening ear to let them fill it? Perhaps they have to attend a certain meeting, then would be heard?

Alice: Yes — find a need and fill it" is exactly what our pastor believes. Do you all think this is a good thing? I do believe that we have to be led by the Holy Spirit to be called to do certain ministries, though.

Harold_Wilson: I would agree with that

Carol: ! Yes, I certainly do, Alice

whitecap: and maybe it is up to some of us to educate them about our problems and needs

Alice: Harold — i don't mean to be mean — but i disagree. I feel there are chronically ill people in every church everywhere.

Regina: a lot of chronic illness people feel lonely because there's nobody to help and understand them, so it's great when there's a group of people who cares about them...

Harold_Wilson: (shep's comment) I already told him that he would receive a feedback on that

Harold_Wilson: I agree Alice it is everywhere (shep)

Harold_Wilson: back to Harold now

Carol: !!The aged, if they have many aged.. (Not that we have to be old to be ill, as we can prove this, but the Aged in a church would have chronic needs from illness.

Harold_Wilson: to Alice: there are many needs that the Shepherd of Hope Ministry does not address — it focuses on one area of need - all churches do not have the ability to focus on all areas of need

whitecap: yes but it is vitally important

Harold_Wilson: I believe that there needs to be more ministry to chronic illness — all churches are not going to be able to do that

Harold_Wilson: you are right, in trying to start a ministry in your church and I do believe that when a ministry is started it will be very fruitful

Alice: I think that is a shame - they certainly find time for dinners, etc. and baby showers and all that kind of thing. (oh my! I sound angry - Sorry!) I am not usually this way, i am not feeling well today, and probably shouldn't be saying anything. Please forgive me everyone. I am basically a shy person most of the time.

Harold_Wilson: (shep speaking — Alice, we want you to express yourself and this is okay - you are okay to express your frustration)

Carol: !! Alice I think these are good points and helpful for many of us

Alice: Our HopeKeepers group was VERY FRUITFUL as long as the “last” pastor was there - he helped me start this group.

Ron: to alic: why not get your group together for a dinner and invite the pastor to come along and meet them

Harold_Wilson: excellent point Ron

Alice: Another good suggestion, Ron. Thanks

Regina: I find sometimes frustrated also dealing with people in church

Harold_Wilson: (Shep's question to Harold): As a pastor, you must have an idea what it is like to be expected to know all of the needs and to meet all of the needs in “YOUR” church — how can we best approach our pastor without adding another responsibility to him, but yet, get his support and blessing on the area we wish to address

Regina: But we need to ask God for wisdom

Carol: !!People are people.. but when in severe pain, an angel could frustrate me lol

Harold_Wilson: very good carol

Harold_Wilson: to shep: In answer to your question I think Ron's suggest was good

Alice: Thanks Carol - I needed that.

Harold_Wilson: Pastors are busy people

Regina: and if they never get sick or a chronic problem they will not understand either

Harold_Wilson: asking them to “take on another job” they probably don't really know HOW to minister to the chronically ill — they don't see it, so they don't know what to. Also, they want to feel the Lord leading them in their life — so pray for your pastor to see the need

bleu: don't see depressed people either. they stay at home

Harold_Wilson: and unfortunately, not all pastors are going to be sympathetic — that's a simple fact of life

Regina: My brother is a minister and pastor and he does not understand me; it's frustrating sometimes

Harold_Wilson: (Shep's response We here at Shepherd of Hope know very well the difference between someone who is SYMPATETHIC and someone who is EMPATHETIC - and it makes a huge difference in how we will open

up or NOT open up to them

Angie: Amen

Alice: I have prayed and prayed and prayed. He's a good man - and certainly overworked. I do understand that. But, he does understand about chronic illness - He has parents with chronic illnesses

Harold_Wilson: so, to all of us — do we really expect our pastors to be EMPATHETIC if they haven't dealt with chronic illness or cared for someone with it?

whitecap: Again we should always remember that you don't know what someone else is going through until you have walked a mile in their shoes and vice versa

Jules: People in most churches are good at helping with a 'temporary situation' such as a surgery, but most don't have a clue how to help those that are in chronic pain. It's like they 'forget' about us after a short while. Sad but true.

Alice: Yes Jules. Well said

Regina: That's true Jules

Harold_Wilson: to Jules: the question is - how do they GET a clue? still thinking ...

LRae: !!!The thing is, the pastor is responsible for so much...we can't expect him to do everything, but I think it's good to let them know and perhaps ask for suggestions on how he thinks we can be part of the solution in meeting the needs of chronically ill.

Jules: people like me tell them, gently

whitecap: I often feel that way to but realize they all have issues of that need our input

Harold_Wilson: usually, pastors are supportive of people in their church who are ministering — it's going to take someone with chronic illness to effect a chronic illness ministry

Alice: I have too, Jules. I love our pastor - don't mean to be hard on him. As I said, he is really too overworked - but he brings a lot of it on himself. He is an over achiever.

Angie: That's the beauty of "empathy." An empathetic person NEED NOT have the experience to begin to understand it.

Angie: Any one can be sympathetic, few are empathetic - it's more like a gift, innate in nature, not learned

Harold_Wilson: (Shep's comment: I think Empathy is learned through walking in the shoes, more often than not) sympathy is perhaps a genuine concern, but not able to really 'understand or empathize' with the person

whitecap: yes

Harold_Wilson: harold again....

Angie: Sorry Shep, I have to agree to disagree on empathy

Harold_Wilson: no matter what the condition of your life, there are going to be times when it is going to feel like it

is just Jesus and You - He provides our needs along the way. The Israelites coming out of Egypt didn't get everything they wanted, but they did get their needs met

whitecap: Yes and at those times we can grow in Christ

Harold_Wilson: unfortunately, some of you may feel like you are in the desert but God is still going to meet your need

Alice: Amen — And He surely is

Harold_Wilson: that is all I have for now..... there is a better day coming.... thank you

<Angie> sent sound: applause

Regina: It's true Harold, sometimes He Himself wants to console us so we can console others (II Cor)

Alice: Thank you so much Harold for letting God use you today. I certainly appreciate both Shep and you.

Jules: I think that sometimes God will allow the least empathetic people to be afflicted & in severe pain for awhile so they can understand better how to reach out to the hurting. Such as what happened with my Pastor. He was NOT very sensitive to other's pain until he broke his hand & suffered greatly for a LONG while. After that he was MUCH more empathetic to others pain.

<LRae> sent sound: clap

Harold_Wilson: alice: you are welcome

Jules: although I'd never pray 4 someone 2 be in pain

whitecap: Thank You Harold and Shep I guess I' didn't contribute much as I meant to though sometimes have difficulty getting things across way I mean them

Harold_Wilson: Harold again: I definitely believe that Shepherd of Hope is a Ministry ordained of God.....

Angie: ty Harold & Shep, for everything

Alice: And, I can say with you, that God does supply my needs and keeps me busy no matter if I'm at home, church or in the grocery store. He is so good! Love to all. Going to go spend some time with my husband. He is trying to help Tiger Woods win this golf tournament. Ha-ha. He had a great S.S. class this morning. He loves teaching, as do I.

Harold_Wilson: and Jesus will use it to shepherd His flock

Regina: Thanks Harold and Shep, you're a blessing !!

Ron: Thank you for the fresh insight into God's word about living with illness: of Elisha, the words of Jesus and of Paul. Something to take away and chew on.

Carol: It was really great!!! Thank you both! Very helpful and placed things into perspective.

Jules: thank you, Harold & Shep!

Harold_Wilson: you are all very welcome from both of us! thank you for coming out and God richly bless you — check out the schedule for other gathering times - we have two praside and worship times on Sundays, prayer and praise each morning, and 2 pm chats M_-F

Regina: Yes, people all over the world, even from Brazil being shepherd here at shepherd of Hope

LRae: Thank you SO much Harold!

<Angie> sent sound: kids-yeah

LRae: Hope you join us again in the near future

Regina: God's ways are not our ways, hehe

Harold_Wilson: (shep agrees)

daisygirl: i would like to hit on a subject before we all go

Harold_Wilson: good bye, and thanks for your questions, comments and thoughts!

daisygirl: the room is something everybody enjoys, but we are in financial trouble