

Judy's Manna for April: The Problem of Pain

When our bodies cry out in pain, we have two choices about how to respond. We can choose to curse God or bless Him. Let's see what actually happens when someone curses God. We find in Proverbs 19:1 AMP "*Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is perverse in his speech and is a [self-confident] fool.*" What a sad consequence results when anyone chooses to speak any words other than words that honor God.

When we are in pain, we will follow what is in our hearts. I will qualify this statement by saying that I know that medically given drugs will cause people to do and say things that they would not ordinarily say. I am not speaking of that situation. I am speaking of when we are in our right minds and in pain and choose to speak evil rather than God's truth. See what happens when someone chooses to curse. "¹⁸ *He clothed himself also with cursing as with his garment, and it seeped into his inward [life] like water, and like oil into his bones.* ¹⁹ *Let it be to him as the raiment with which he covers himself and as the girdle with which he is girded continually,*" (Psalm 109:18-19 AMP). Imagine being clothed in cursing! See how cursing infiltrates a life. See how it envelops a person and actually becomes something that he wears!

Pain is demanding. It can become to us as something we cannot tolerate. What do we do? God has provided the Psalms for us to let fly our emotions. We can cry out to God with all of our might! We see how when we cry out, God answers. I can say from personal experience that God answers when I cry out. I remember in times of childbirth, I would cry out, "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!" The name of Jesus brings us through any situation. The name of Jesus is Jesus Christ Himself.

When I experienced severe pain in December when I had the pancreatic attack, I cried out, "Jesus! Jesus! Jesus!" I knew that whoever was attending me was hearing something perhaps unusual, but I was in the presence of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His presence is glorious.

I recently lifted too heavy a weight on a weight machine at the YMCA. Instead of changing the weight, I did three sets of eight repetitions. I injured my neck and shoulders severely. I have been in a recliner with heat and ice for close to a month. This error of judgment was extremely costly in terms of pain. I have the best chiropractor, our very long-time friend, Dr. Al Gadomski, (www.drgadomski.com)

who is the chiropractor for the Toronto Blue Jays. He is amazing and I thank God for the wisdom and excellence that God pours through Dr. Al to me.

I have been listening to the audio Bible and praying God's Word back to Him in His glorious healing Scriptures. (We wrote a book: *Receive Healing from the Lord* and a set of Scripture cards, "Receive Healing from the Lord." We did the work for you!) Spending time with God receiving healing is a treasured time. We can grow closer to God in our pain or we can separate ourselves from him. The pain of separation from God would be so much worse than any physical pain, to me.

One choice when we are in pain is to choose to curse God as was reported to me just this week. The highest and best choice when we have pain is to cling to God and never let go. In our great time of need we can pursue God. He actually desires that we pursue Him all of the time. "²*The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men to see if there were any who understood, dealt wisely, and sought after God, inquiring for and of Him and requiring Him [of vital necessity],* (Psalm 14:2 AMP). What better time to seek God in Christ Jesus with every fiber of our being than when we are in pain! God is actually looking down to see who will pursue Him! Let that be each of us!

Let us cry out as David did when he was in the wilderness of Judah. "¹*O God, You are my God, earnestly will I seek You; my inner self thirsts for You, my flesh longs and is faint for You, in a dry and weary land where no water is,*" (Psalm 63:1 AMP). Especially when we are in pain, if we choose to thirst for God, He is our Living Water. "¹⁴*But whoever takes a drink of the water that I will give him shall never, no never, be thirsty any more. But the water that I will give him shall become a spring of water welling up (flowing, bubbling) [continually] within him unto (into, for) eternal life,*" (John 4:14).

God even tells us that if we seek Him above all else, He will take care of everything else! "³³*But seek (aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness (His way of doing and being right), and then all these things taken together will be given you besides,*" (Matthew 6:33 AMP). This promise is one of the greatest, most spectacular "if-then" truths ever offered to anyone! If we put all of our energies into seeking God, He will put all of His energies into taking care of all that concerns us. Let us spend our lives living the reality of this promise 😊

When Paul was speaking to the Athenians about their worship of unknown gods, He enlightened them by explaining: "²⁴*The God Who produced and formed the world and all things in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in handmade*

shrines.²⁵ Neither is He served by human hands, as though He lacked anything, for it is He Himself Who gives life and breath and all things to all [people].²⁶ And He made from one [common origin, one source, one blood] all nations of men to settle on the face of the earth, having definitely determined [their] allotted periods of time and the fixed boundaries of their habitation (their settlements, lands, and abodes),²⁷ So that they should seek God, in the hope that they might feel after Him and find Him, although He is not far from each one of us.²⁸ For in Him we live and move and have our being; as even some of your [own] poets have said, For we are also His offspring, (Acts 17:24-28 AMP). Especially in our pain if we choose to live in God in Christ Jesus, to abide in Him, we will be so attached to Him that we will identify more with Him than we do with ourselves and our pain.¹⁴ But whoever takes a drink of the water that I will give him shall never, no never, be thirsty any more. But the water that I will give him shall become a spring of water welling up (flowing, bubbling) [continually] within him unto (into, for) eternal life, (John 15:4).

I have a treasured friend who lives in constant pain from ALS. He says that he talks with God and thanks Him for the opportunity to know a bit of what Jesus did for Him on the Cross. He chooses to identify with Jesus instead of with the pain. What flows out of my friend is the glory of God. From him comes encouragement and life! What God does through him is glorious! Of course, we are all believing and trusting God for his healing; in the meantime he praises God with all that he has and is.

When in our deepest pain, whether physical or emotional, let us, as does my friend, stand with Habakkuk as he spoke in his prayer: "¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not blossom and there is no fruit on the vines, [though] the product of the olive fails and the fields yield no food, though the flock is cut off from the fold and there are no cattle in the stalls,¹⁸ Yet I will rejoice in the Lord; I will exult in the [victorious] God of my salvation!¹⁹ The Lord God is my Strength, my personal bravery, and my invincible army; He makes my feet like hinds' feet and will make me to walk [not to stand still in terror, but to walk] and make [spiritual] progress upon my high places [of trouble, suffering, or responsibility]! (Habakkuk 3:17-19).

Now I will throw in a curve ball. At the very same time you are praising God *in* and not *for* your circumstance, you hold forth God's highest and best and pray God's victory as well, speaking His truth. God is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Jesus healed when He walked the earth (Luke 6:19 and many more). He told His disciples that they would do even greater works than He did because He was going to the Father and would leave the Holy Spirit (John 14:12;

John 14:26). Peter and John had the joy of being the instruments of the power of the name of Jesus Christ in the healing of the lame man (Acts 3:1-8) Through the apostles many signs, wonders, and healings occurred (Acts 5:12-16). I want to make clear that God has not changed. We are the hands and feet of Jesus Christ on earth today in the power of the Holy Spirit.

As I was researching healing Scriptures, I came upon Sid Roth's free e book on Healing Scriptures which includes teaching and testimonies. Sid Roth is one of the most filled-with-God's'-love-and-joy people on earth! He has a television program "It's Supernatural!" He simply reports what God is doing on the earth today. I invite you to go to the website www.sidroth.org and download the free e book on Healing Scriptures. No matter what you believe about healing for today, you will be blessed by Sid's book. The key is to keep our focus upon Jesus Christ and not upon ourselves.

For those who do not have access to the Internet, here are some of the verses taken from Sid's e book on Healing Scriptures: Joshua 1:7-8; Hebrew 11:6; Matthew 11:23-24; Romans 10:17; Exodus 23:25-26; II Corinthians 1:20; Isaiah 53:4-5; Psalm 1:1-3.

I pray for you today:

*"May the LORD answer you (David) in the day of trouble!
May the name of the God of Jacob set you securely on high [and defend you in battle]!*

*May He send you help from the sanctuary (His dwelling place)
And support and strengthen you from Zion!*

*May He remember all your meal offerings
And accept your burnt offering. Selah.*

*May He grant you your heart's desire
And fulfill all your plans.*

*We will sing joyously over your victory,
And in the name of our God we will set up our banners.
May the LORD fulfill all your petitions.*

Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed;

*Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
But we will remember and trust in the name of the LORD our God.
(Psalm 20:1-7).*