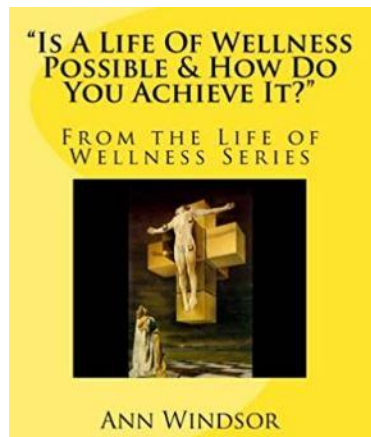


Is A Life of Wellness Possible & How Do YOU Achieve it?



(available through Amazon worldwide)

Roadblock #4: God chastens us with sickness.

Does God send sickness to chasten us for not being in His will or for being disobedient? **This cannot be proven by the example of Jesus, the early Church or the New Covenant.**

- "Afflictions" and "Chastenings"

When people quote Scripture passages to explain their having sicknesses by saying, "many are the afflictions of the righteous" or "God chastens His children," you realize what their understanding is about the source of their sickness or reason why they are sick: to them, God is behind their illnesses & troubles. However, the words "afflictions" and "chastenings" in those passages do not mean sicknesses or diseases.

Psalm 34:19 in the King James Version begins with, "Many are the afflictions of the righteous." Notice that it **does not say**, "Many are the sicknesses of the righteous," but even if it did say this, the verse ends with, "but the Lord ***delivers*** them out of them all."

Defining Affliction:

The truth, though, is that the word "afflictions" in Psalm 34:19 means "anguish, burdened, persecution, tribulation, trouble" (Strong's Dictionary). This word does not mean "sicknesses."

Defining Chastening:

But what about "the chastening of the Lord"? What really is the 'chastening of the Lord'? Here is that passage in the NIV:

"The Lord disciplines ["chastens" in the KJV] those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son. Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?" (Hebrews 12:6-7)

The word "**chasten**" or "**discipline**" means "instruct, learn, teach" (Strong's Greek Dictionary).

What kind of parents would instruct or even discipline their beloved children by inflicting cancer or AIDS or any other disease on them? God is a God who loves His children and has our best interests at heart. He is not a God of child abuse.

Looking at this verse from the traditional viewpoint, if we DID believe that sicknesses are "chastenings," what does the passage above instruct us to do? We are instructed **to endure** chastenings!

If we believe that sicknesses are "chastenings" then we should not go to a doctor nor take any medication nor do anything to alleviate our symptoms or to try to get better, because then we're not enduring our discipline.

To use this passage of Scripture to justify sicknesses as chastenings, but then to go against this Scripture by not enduring the sicknesses, wouldn't that be hypocritical and rebellious against God?

Men's Translations & Commentaries:

In my search of men's translations and commentaries, the word 'punish' was consistently used with the thought that God 'sends' trials upon the children that He loves and that the trial is of His "sovereign" choosing and wisdom. Therefore, we should not question the 'why' of the trial, just embrace it and try to find out what God is teaching us through it. This interpretation is based primarily on looking at the New Testament through an Old Testament mindset. God did bring Israel to repentance through physical hardship, but that was the only avenue open to Him, as their hearts were hard. In the New Testament He has 'taken out the stony heart and put in us a heart of flesh'. He has written His laws on the tables of our hearts and **speaks** correction to us in our tender hearts. That is why Jesus said over and over: "be careful how you hear." And "he that has an ear to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

With this idea of God chastening with sickness and calamity being promoted through commentaries and pulpits, it is no wonder that the picture of God as the 'source of all things, including troubles' is so prevalent. (Refer back to our section on the 'Sovereignty of God').

We have seen that afflictions and chastenings do not mean sicknesses.

Paul gave us several long lists of trials that he went through, and not only endured but boasted about (2 Corinthians 6:4-10, 11:23-28, 12:7-10), and there is not a single example of sickness or disease in any of those lists of afflictions.

Unfortunately, many people are misusing these Scriptures and are imprisoned in their sicknesses, diseases and infirmities. But wouldn't you rather believe what the Bible really says and then be healed of your sickness and pain?

How does He chastise/discipline/correct His own? With His Word & His Spirit

Second Timothy 3:16-17 says, "Every Scripture is God-breathed--given by His inspiration--and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, and for training in righteousness, So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work" (The Amplified Bible).

If you'll look in 2 Corinthians 7, you'll see an example of this. There the Apostle Paul talks about a situation in the Corinthian church that needed correction...a man was living in an intimate relationship with his father's wife.

How did Paul do it? Not by asking God to send an earthquake to shake them up! He did it by writing them a letter. He wrote them a word of reproof that hurt so badly they would have preferred being beaten with a stick. It cut deep into their spirits and brought them to repentance.

3 Foundations for a Life of Wellness:

Let us remember our 3 foundations for a Life of Wellness:

**The Word of God
The Ministry of Jesus
The Work of the Cross**