

## QUESTIONS *and* ANSWERS

**QUESTION: IF SICKNESS IS CAUSED BY DEMONS, WHAT IS THE RELATION TO MEDICINE? IF CERTAIN MEDICINES EXPEDITE THE BODY'S CURING ITSELF OF DISEASE, THEN THE DEMON-CAUSED DISEASE IS HELPED BY THE MEDICINE, AND THE MEDICINE DEPRIVES THE DEMON OF ITS HABITATION. IF THAT ALL IS TRUE, THEN THE DEMONS WOULD OPPOSE SCIENTISTS AND DOCTORS WHO DEVELOP ANTI-BODIES AND MEDICINES. F.G.**

**T**HIS is a rather complex question. To understand it fully, would require some knowledge of the action of medicine, as well as the nature of disease, and the peculiarities of the activities of demons. In the space available, we may only briefly discuss this subject.

### THE PLACE OF PHYSICIANS

We do not believe that it is helpful to condemn or despise the medical profession. The Bible commends the sympathetic care of the sick and the suffering. (Luke 5:31 and 10:30-37). It would appear that nature itself teaches that there should be those trained in the care and knowledge of the body. When a child is born in a home, should an untrained person attend the birth, or rather one skilled in the science of obstetrics? The main function of a physician, however, should be to prevent disease rather than to cure it, by teaching people the laws of health. After the Lord gave the ordinance of healing to the children of Israel, he gave them a series of laws regulating diet, rest, cleanliness, segregation, quarantining of sickness, etc.

There is a second field in which specialists have achieved a certain success through the use of natural means, that is surgery. A dentist (a doctor of the teeth) can fill a decayed tooth, though the only way he can help a sick tooth is to pull it. In the same way a surgeon unable to cure a gangrened limb, may amputate it, and replace it with an artificial one. However, if a disease has spread too far, surgery fails, especially in cancer, for with the removal of diseased parts, organs vital to the body are destroyed.

There is a third method that physicians use to prevent disease—inoculation. In this case, they take advantage of the body's mechanism to build up anti-bodies against specific diseases. A person is given a light form of a disease, so that his body will build up an anti-toxin which will resist the more virulent forms of the disease, a person vaccinated is generally made immune from small-pox for a certain specified time.

The fourth method physicians use in combating disease is to use drugs which will kill germs after they have entered the body. There is nothing mysterious about this, as germs are a simple form of life, and all physical life is vulnerable to car-

tain poisons. Germicides easily kill skin infections, because they can be readily applied to the skin. But inside the body, germs have a peculiar way of lurking in hidden recesses where the potency of the drug cannot reach them. Quinine powerfully antiseptic to malaria, may temporarily cure the patient, but it usually is not able to destroy all the germs. Hence malaria once contracted is often recurrent. This circumstance is one of the great weaknesses of medicine to cure disease.

Penicillin, one of the so-called "wonder drugs," recently discovered, has proved to be, perhaps, the most powerful of all drugs in combatting disease. But even it has been found to have serious limitations. Not a few people are allergic to penicillin and may be seriously poisoned by it. Moreover, successive injections of the drug tend to produce a penicillin-resistant strain of bacteria, against which the drug has little power.

Thus far we have considered sickness apart from demon oppression and possession. Medicine has some effect against disease germs, but is utterly impotent against demons. Disease germs and demons are not the same thing, one is physical, the other is spirit—though they have a common master. Satan has in some way perverted certain kinds of bacteria, so that they are harmful to man. (There are hundreds of varieties of beneficial germs and bacteria.) Job 2:7, reveals that Satan was directly responsible for the boils coming on the patriarch Job. Now boils are not demons, but are caused by disease germs. Yet Satan put the boils on Job! Sickness then is indirectly caused by Satan through disease germs. It is of the works of Satan, but not necessarily demon possession. **It can, however, lead, and in many cases does—as Satan no doubt, has planned—to actual demon oppression or possession of part or all of the body, if the disease is not arrested.**

How does demon possession of part or all of the body take place? There are several ways in which this can happen, but in each case there is involved a weakening of the nervous system. In other words, evil spirits cannot attack and enter the human body at will. A severe sickness, however, may so weaken some part of the nervous system that an evil spirit may fasten itself upon part or all of the body. Demons may likewise secure control as the result of an accident, or through an inherited weakness. Demons may also take control of the mind, of an individual who gives himself over to excessive fear, worry, or moral depravity, or to playing with evil spirits as spiritualists do. (For further information on this subject, read pages 90-93 of our book BIBLE DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN.)

### THE CASTING OUT OF DEMONS

Now let us consider the problem of ejecting demons. As has been said before, demons cannot enter the human body at will. If that were not true, soon everyone would be demon-possessed. The human body normally repels an exterior spirit. (Some people indeed find it very hard to yield to the Spirit of God.) When a person becomes sick, the defensive agencies of the body usually repel the disease germs, and the body recovers. Physicians at this stage sometimes are able to assist nature—but mark this, that is all they can do, assist the natural healing powers of the body. If however, the body weakens sufficiently, a demon is able to get control, by settling on some nervous center of the body. Medicine is completely impotent against demons. It is at this stage that physicians are completely baffled. The person may then be sent from doctor to doctor, but eventually he is declared incurable. The person cannot be cured until the demon oppression is cast away, which is only possible through the power of the name of Jesus. Such was the case of the woman who had the serious back injury, whom Christ healed. (Luke 13:16.)

Consider the case of a cancer, which begins with a bruised cell. No drug applied to the cancer will kill it, for it has a diabolical life from Satan that has caused the cell to become insane as it were, and it goes into a wild multiplication of cells. If the cancer is caught early enough the surgeon may be of help. He simply removes that part of the body that contains cancer, and the life of the cancer dies. But if the cancer is allowed to grow until it enters a wide area of the body, its removal will entail the destruction of vital organs. It is then the same problem as that of ejecting the demons from an insane man with natural means. You can kill the insane man, and the demons no longer have a body, but for obvious reasons this method is not to be desired.

Thus we see the inefficiency of medicine to cast out demons, once they have control over the body. Physicians may be able to prevent disease, or assist nature in curing itself in the early

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## Helpless Hand Healed in Reesor Meeting

Excerpt from the  
Bridgetown, Barbados  
Advocate.

"Harold Skeete of Roebuck Street, walked around for years with his hand in a sling. He was injured as a result of a truck accident seven years ago.

While the bones were not broken, the hand remained lifeless at his side. The only remedy was a nerve engraftment and he would have to go to the States for this treatment. Skeete said that one of the preachers at the revival meeting in Queen's park prayed for him (Rev. Reesor) and told him to "believe that God will heal you." He felt a change in his body that he could not describe. When told to raise his hand he did so to his own amazement. Since then he has been able to move the hand about and he can feel if anything touches it."



stages of disease, but they are powerless when the body becomes weakened to the extent that the demons assume possession of one or more organs of the body. People in desperation will submit themselves to long and costly processes of medical experimentation, and physicians may do their best, but too often the story is the same as that of the woman with the issue of blood that came to Jesus. The record declares that she "had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather grew worse." Mark 5:25-26. But when she, in faith touched the hem of the garment of Christ, she was instantly made whole. Christ is the Great Physician, the Healer of every disease. Without hesitation we may recommend Him to every sick person. Divine Healing is God's provided way of deliverance for those who have faith in God. The Great Physician succeeds where all others fail. Healing from heaven is the believer's way of life, having been purchased at great cost by the Saviour himself. (Matt. 8:14-17.)

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