

God's Will in Calamity, Sickness and Disease

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Does God will disaster for some; for some to be sick? Is it His will for some to incur disease? What about serious infections? Birth defects? Infant death, such as SIDS?

His good, pleasing and perfect will

There are and always will be questions concerning God's will toward disasters, or those who are sick and afflicted with disease. And no simple answer is available for such serious questions. For those who accept its truths, the Bible has the answers. Christians, with an eye on truth and a heart predisposed to knowing God's will in such matters, will turn to God's Word for their answers. A good place to begin an analysis of this topic is Paul's letter to the Romans. He emphasized his position and strongly encouraged the believers at Rome to "... not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will."

Romans 12.2 NIV

We should not be conformed to the pattern of this world. There was no pre-Adamic man. God created him perfect, along with his wife Eve. It was through Lucifer, who thought himself equal to or better than God, that evil (*sin*) entered into the world. His initial appearance in Scripture is in the Book of Genesis, where in Chapter 3.1-19, Lucifer's influence on the woman God had created as a help-mate for Adam, through the personality and guile of a serpent, resulted in an extremely bad choice being made by Adam. Consequences from this act have produced the present condition of mankind and will forever be referred to as the "fall of man."

God made it perfect. Satan came on the scene and messed it up. The Genesis account, with limited detail, suggests what occurred between Lucifer, the "Shining One" and the first man and woman. The Prophet Isaiah was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write the following about this shining one: "How you have fallen from heaven, morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! You said in your heart, 'I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' But you are brought down to the realm of the dead, to the depths

of the pit. Those who see you stare at you, they ponder your fate: 'Is this the man who shook the earth and made kingdoms tremble, the man who made the world a wilderness, who overthrew its cities and would not let his captives go home?' All the kings of the nations lie in state, each in his own tomb. But you are cast out of your tomb like a rejected branch; you are covered with the slain, with those pierced by the sword, those who descend to the stones of the pit. Like a corpse trampled underfoot, you will not join them in burial, for you have destroyed your land and killed your people." *Isaiah 14.12-20 NIV*

Doesn't leave our imaginations needing much to know and even understand that, as one of the greatest of the Cherubs, even being in charge of the guardians of the very Throne of God, Lucifer incurred great distaste from God by his attitude and actions.

We read more about the rebellion and judgment in heaven from the Prophet Ezekiel, who, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote, "The word of the Lord came to me: Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre (*referring to Lucifer*) and say to him: 'this is what the Sovereign Lord says: You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: carnelian, chrysolite and emerald, topaz, onyx and jasper, lapis lazuli, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones. Your heart became proud on account of your beauty, and you corrupted your wisdom because of your splendor. So I threw you to the earth; I made a spectacle of you before kings. By your many sins and dishonest trade you have desecrated your sanctuaries. So I made a fire come out from you, and it consumed you, and I reduced you to ashes on the ground in the sight of all who were watching. All the nations who knew you are appalled at you; you have come to a horrible end and will be no more.'" *Ezekiel 28.11-19 NIV*

And, if these Scriptural accounts don't make it clear as to what God thinks about Lucifer and his kind, look a little deeper into His Word and see what the Apostle John was inspired to write about his personal visit into heaven where he met with the Alpha and Omega and then, by direction from Jesus the Christ,

wrote, “... war broke out in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they (*the dragon and his angels*) lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.” *Revelation 12.7-9 NIV*

God gave Adam, a perfect man, into a perfect earth. Adam chose — made a free will decision, to disobey God and gave his authority over the Earth and everything in it to Satan, the fallen one from heaven. So, from his point of entry into the affairs of man, we can see that Satan is and has been an influence of and for evil in the physical world and in the spiritual world as well. God did not will Adam to choose sin. He willed Adam to be obedient and live within and to honor the constraints He laid out for him and those who would be born out of Adam and Eve to populate the Earth. Due to his sin, those who have come through Adam are his heirs and successors. They (*we*) are not contemporary with him here on the Earth. Like everyone today, Adam had to accept his self-imposed condition and live with the consequences of his actions. And, what began with two created beings developed into serious enough situations that God determined a “do-over” or a “Mulligan” would be required to “clean-up” the problems that had developed with and through His original creation, by or from the involvement of Satan. Most certainly these situations did not come about as a result of God’s will. He demonstrated His will with the judgment He rendered on His creation. God could have chosen to just start over. Many today take this position and blame God for all the pain and misery in the world because He didn’t just throw Adam and Eve away and start anew. This is a “mankind-idea” to get himself off the hook for aligning himself with Lucifer and going/coming against God’s will for His creation.

The cataclysmic event of a world-wide flood purged the earth of all dry land inhabitants, except Noah, those in his immediate family, and the specific representatives of the animal kingdom personally selected by God, to be preserved and saved from the flood. Scripture is silent as to the whereabouts of Lucifer and his group of angelic followers during this part of mankind’s history. More likely as not, Satan and his crew were egging-on those folks who were left outside the ark when the storm began. All sorts of blasphemies were likely to have been hurled at God and those safely inside the ark. Satan was most assuredly upset that his plan to capture the souls of all the pro-created inhabitants of the Earth had been foiled by God Himself with the saving of Noah, his family and the animals. Satan also knew that if God saved

them, then God had a purpose in mind for them. He would just have to wait and see what God was going to do. Satan had been banished from heaven, but the Earth was his. He just needed to wait and find out what Noah and his descendants would do.

Since the time of Noah, man has had use of the Earth and all it produces at his discovery and for his utilization. Modern man can review his accomplishments and failures by a simple examination of history. And, even the simplest of efforts to find out where we have been and what we have been doing during the time since the flood, reveals the presence and influence of Satan in the affairs of man. God created, destroyed and then reclaimed the Earth for His purposes. Satan and his crew of demonic spirits have been on the scene as well. Remember, he had the authority transferred from Adam, and until the Lord Jesus Christ came into the world and rested that authority from him, Satan was actively involved with demonstrating that authority in the lives and affairs of man. He is against any good thing that honors and glorifies God. He cannot alter the perfect order of the universe that God created, but he can and has aggressively been involved in messing with every facet of mankind's association with what God has made.

Adam and Eve were created and given instructions in God's will to "be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole Earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the Earth and all the birds in the sky and all the creatures that move along the ground—everything that has the breath of life in it—I give every green plant for food." And it was so.

Genesis 1.28-30 NIV.

Satan stepped in, abridged those instructions and using his guile and craftiness, accessed the minds and wills of man in his vain attempt to thwart God's divine plan of salvation. "You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." *Genesis 3.4-5 NIV.*

God made it perfect. Satan compromised it. Man has developed his own opinions during the process, but God's will has never changed. He has always had a plan. From the Patriarchs, through the Prophets and the Apostles, Christ, the Anointed One, has been the theme for the redemption of man. God knows the end from the beginning, and from the beginning He knew Lucifer

would be who he is and do what he has been doing to cause so much pain and anguish in the lives of those who are descendants of Noah.

Through Adam, Noah was instructed in living by the fruits of his labor. Through his sons, living on and from the land, we have progressed to our present day, with abilities to sustain ourselves on the Earth. However, in the process, Satan has been involved and his “end game” has been directed toward messing things up. Through him, sin, i.e. anything less than God’s will, entered the world. Everywhere man has been involved in the process of life, Satan has been there to skew, or aggressively try to skew things his way. As an alternative to anything good, Satan has been, or is there to present his counter opinion. And since Adam, man, more often than not, has been willing to co-exist with this condition, to his own peril. God directs our attention to this condition through Solomon, His “man on the ground,” who wrote, “There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.”

Proverbs 16.25 NIV

Adam may have considered God’s probable reaction to his disobedience. Maybe not. Either way, he knew God’s will and chose to go against it. Noah most certainly was God’s representative to his community and the communities in and around his physical locale. He heralded a warning but no one accepted. God imposed His will on all those who rejected Him. Noah and his descendants went forward in God’s will and began the task of populating the post-diluvian Earth. And of course Satan was close by sending his emissaries into every quadrant of the world as man spread out across the land. He permeated, or at least tried to permeate every area of man’s existence. Name it. If it was good, Satan came against it. If it is less than what God imagines, Satan indorses it. Anything, anytime, anywhere Satan can mess it up, he will. But God’s will is available to us for the asking. Just as Solomon penned it, as he was led by the Holy Spirit, “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will direct your paths.” *Prov.3.5-6 NIV*, we are to take God at His Word, follow His instructions and abide in His will. His will. Not ours, and certainly not Satan’s.

The Earth is moaning and groaning

God made a perfect Earth for His creation to enjoy. Satan brought sin into the equation and the perfection God planned for His own became disorder and confusion. God said enough and brought His judgment against the Earth. Before the *Great Flood* there was no bad weather on Earth. Extreme weather

is a consequence of that judgment. In fact, we can conclude from God's Word that it had never rained on Earth prior to the diluvian event. Blame for the flood should be on the one who brought sin into the world and made the judgment necessary. And of course there is the continual controversy as to how much rain actually fell on the Earth and how the world's land masses were configured before the deluge. Well, here's a thought:

From God's own account we can read what Moses wrote, "... God said, 'Let there be a vault between the waters to separate water from water.' So God made the vault and separated the water under the vault from the water above it. And it was so. God called the vault "sky." And there was evening, and there was morning—the second day. And God said, 'Let the water under the sky be gathered to one place, and let dry ground appear.' And it was so. God called the dry ground "land," and the gathered waters he called "seas." And God saw that it was good."

Genesis 1.6-10 NIV

Easy to note, but let's not miss it. The "vault" sometimes referred to as the "firmament," is the sky. Land and seas (*water gathered in one place*) were under the vault (*sky*) and there was water above the vault (*sky or firmament*). God doesn't say and no one knows how much water was contained in the heavens above the vault.

Moses' account went on to say, "Now no shrub had yet appeared on the land and no plant had yet sprung up, for the Lord God had not sent rain on the Earth and there was no one to work the ground, but mists came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground."

Genesis 2.5-6 NIV, and since it had never rained before, there were no rain gauges. (*Certainly more observations, but this will do for the moment.*)

So, recapping, there was a large mass of dry ground (*land*) and waters gathered to one place (*seas*) and it didn't rain on the Earth. Then comes the flood. The Word of God says, "—on that day all the springs of the great deep burst forth, and the floodgates of the heavens were opened." *Genesis 7.11 NIV*. Whatever amount of water that resulted from this one-of-a-kind event, it was enough to cover the Earth to the extent the mountains that existed then were twenty-feet under water, and stayed that way for 150 days. Then, "The water receded steadily from the Earth." *Genesis 8.3 NIV*.

From Adam, up to and including Noah, mankind had been subjected to Satan's perverse nature and attitude toward God. He affected the minds and wills of men and women and caused all types of problems. (*A list of which would be exceedingly long*). A detailed study of the Book of Genesis, specifically Chapters Five and Six, would be of assistance, but for this transcription suffice it say that God became so displeased with the way His creation was behaving, He purposed to "wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the Earth—" *Genesis 6.7 NIV*.

God judged the Earth and all its inhabitants. When He was satisfied, the Earth reappeared out of the waters of the flood with a new look. God caused a wind to blow upon the Earth and the waters began to recede. In their book, *The Genesis Flood*, John Whitcomb and Henry Morris addressed the *Biblical Record and Its Implications Concerning the Emergence of the Lands*. With specific reference to Psalm 104.5-9, they present, "... the only way in which land could have then appeared again would have been for a tremendous mountain growing event, an orogeny, to take place. Mountains would have had to rise and new basins be formed to receive the great overburden of water imposed upon the Earth,"¹ which is still moaning and groaning in response to God's judgment. Climatic events, earthquakes, localized flooding, forest fires, droughts, continue to occur, just as Dr. Luke quoted Christ, who said, "There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven.

Luke .21.11 NIV

All of this is relative to God's will in calamity, sickness and disease, how ?

As a direct result of mankind's indulgence of Satan's will in and for our lives, we have permitted him to destruct and destroy much of what God has provided. From Noah and his descendants who survived the flood, through today, Satan has been active in his programs of deceit and prevarications to the extent that God is now being blamed for everything that causes us, or anyone, physical, emotional or mental discomfort and/or pain.

¹ The Genesis Flood, Baker Book House, 1975, p.265
John C. Whitcomb, Jr. and Henry M. Morris

Sin, the opposite of God's will, was introduced into the world with Adam and Eve. It (*sin*) was with Noah and his descendants during and following the flood. Century upon century has produced an immeasurable amount of sin. Misuse of the Earth, God's gift to mankind, has resulted in or produced great quantities of inappropriate combinations of natural elements. Disease and illness are products of sin. God did not create cancer. It developed as a result of sin. Cell mutation is directly attributable to Satan. Name an affliction. It is or was caused by sin. God has not, never has and will not "will" anyone to be oppressed with sickness and disease. However, His perfect will has been and will continue to be demonstrated in the way He addresses a particular situation and uses it for His purpose. The Apostle John provided an example of God using a Satan caused affliction to demonstrate His healing power when the Lord Jesus Christ gave sight to a man who had been blind from birth. "As he (Christ) went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned,' said Jesus, 'but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' After saying this, He spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man's eyes. 'Go,' He told him, 'wash in the Pool of Siloam.' So the man went and washed, and came home seeing." *John 9.1-6 NIV*

God allowed, didn't cause, the blindness to occur. The malformation of physical sight characteristics in the womb of the mother, dysfunctional cell order during gestation, or whatever caused the man to be born blind, was a result of Satan's influence in the lineage of this particular family. God knew about it and during Christ's time on Earth, at the appointed time, He used His power and gave sight to the blind man. Satan put the particular sin in motion and it simply ran its course. He didn't sit around watching to see what would happen. His actions always result in something distasteful. All he does is initiate the process. In the case of the blind man, his "bad seed" resulted in the condition of fetal blindness. The man's parents and family were distraught of course, but Satan got the glory he wanted when everyone blamed God. God used the man's life-long condition for His glory. The example here is Christ healed the condition.

God hardened the heart of Pharaoh, and the Egyptians followed suit. Pharaoh was predisposed to this hardening. God used Pharaoh's sinful nature and attitude to establish an obedient attitude in the hearts of the Israelites. God's

judgment was involved with the plagues He brought against the Egyptians. His will was imposed on the Egyptians and the Israelites. The Egyptians suffered because they, through their leadership corps, refused to acknowledge God's will for the Israelites. When the Israelites bemoaned their position God left them in the desert for forty years. Did Satan have any involvement with any of these activities? While he could not be everywhere, his emissaries were all over the place. Only God is capable of being omnipresent. Satan is limited to just being around to cause doubt and confusion by means of his demonic allies.

Was it God's will for Job to suffer so gravely? No, but it was God's will to use Job as an example and allow Satan to oppress him. From the Book of Job we can read where, "...the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan (*the adversary*) also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, 'Where have you come from?'"* Satan answered the Lord, 'From roaming throughout the Earth, going back and forth on it.' Then the Lord said to Satan, 'Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on Earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.' 'Does Job fear God for nothing?' Satan replied. 'Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land. But now stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face.' The Lord said to Satan, 'Very well, then, everything he has is in your power, but on the man himself do not lay a finger.' Then Satan went out from the presence of the Lord." *Job 1.6-12 NIV*

* Does anyone think, let alone believe, God did not know where Lucifer was or had been? God speaks "down" to Satan by asking him such a question and Satan shows his pompous attitude with his answer.

Did you notice that God actually gave Satan the power to mess with Job? Satan did not have that power until God gave it to him. The Word of God says that Job "was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil." *Job 1.1 NIV*. God "allowed" Satan to afflict Job with all the trouble he could muster, but he could not lay a finger on Job. God knew Job could and would stand the test. Satan did not. When Satan complained, God allowed Satan to afflict Job with painful sores all over his body. Read the story. Satan poured everything he had on Job, but through his faith in God Job endured and was blessed. Job said, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon

the Earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.” *Job 19.25-26 NIV*

When “common sickness” is involved we can usually persevere, ride it out and let the bodies God has so wonderfully made see us through. Some people are sick because they refuse to do right with their eating, activities, etc. Solomon put these words together for us to have a better perspective of what God thinks. “...pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; for they are life to those who find them and health to a man’s whole body.” *Proverbs 4.20-22 NIV*. This echoes what the Apostle Paul wrote in his first letter to the Corinthians, “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy that person; for God’s temple is sacred, and you together are that temple.

1 Corinthians.3.16-17 NIV.

Our bodies belong to the Lord, if we belong to him, i.e., if we are born again through faith and saved by God’s grace. Even so, Satan has access to our mental processes even if we are believers. Over the centuries since creation he has been busy pushing his program and just generally messing with the minds and bodies of everyone who became or becomes exposed to his message and methods. His actions and those of his demonic associates caused massive problems throughout history. Today, this same alliance produces sickness and disease, along with all types of calamity, in all sectors of the world.

Where was God during *Katrina* and the *Joplin Storm* ?

His Word exclaims His attributes: Omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent, eternal. Nothing has ever caught, nor will anything ever catch God by surprise. That said, it doesn’t mean or even imply that He is not grieved when bad things happen to good people. His will from the beginning is for everyone to know Him as LORD. But, all of mankind since Adam and Eve, was/is conceived and born in sin. Satan did that for everyone. The Earth was created perfect, as was the first man. God judged the Earth and man then renewed His commitment to mankind. He intervenes in the affairs of mankind on His terms, not Satan’s or ours.

Severe climate conditions are present around the world as a result of sin. And mankind, while becoming more capable in predicting as well as tracking some of these events, is still unable to control them. In the Book of Ecclesiastes,

Solomon wrote, "Since no one knows the future, who can tell someone else what is to come? As no one has power over the wind to contain it, so no one has power over the time of their death." *Ecclesiastes 8.7-8 NIV.*

Katrina, the *Joplin Storm* and other "force majeure" acts of nature are part of life in this world and on the Earth. These types of disasters will always be a physical threat to mankind until Christ returns and establishes His Throne on the Earth. Our hearts desire for anyone involved in such a calamity is for them to come through safely. We grieve at the loss of life and for those who are injured and traumatically affected by such events. The sheer power associated with such occurrences should impress everyone again, that God is no respecter of persons, (*cf. Acts 10.34*). We truly never know the time of our demise and that makes it even more important for us to be right with God by accepting His offer of eternal security through faith in Jesus. There are also other aspects for us to consider.

Katrina damaged property and caused death all along the Gulf Coast of the United States. Advanced warning spared many thousands of folks the grief associated with loss of life. Others actually refused to accept, or simply ignored the warnings. The result was horrific. But who received the blame? Somehow the affect Satan has on the Earth goes unmentioned and God is tagged with not loving mankind enough to stop the event. No attention is given to some underlying conditions that added to the severity of the situation. Many years earlier, greed replaced need in the hearts of those charged with constructing levees along the *Mississippi River* and around New Orleans, LA. History is available for those who want to look. Corrupt officials and contractors built the levees to a lesser condition than actually designed. (*Everybody knows the Government "over-designs" everything*). Piles were not driven to specified depths and backfill materials were not placed correctly. Those responsible for the work pocketed the difference and years later thousands suffered when those levees failed. As usual, the love of money is a root of evil, but somehow Satan gets a "pass."

The *Joplin Storm* is more recent and no levees were involved. More than 150 lives were lost and hundreds more were injured. One-third of an entire city was destroyed. Why? Part of the answer is that Joplin was built where it was built over the span of many years, right in the path of that particular storm. Had growth of the United States not moved through the mid-west, it is possible that the industry and infrastructure of today's Joplin would not have been there. But it is there and the storm did strike. Lives were lost and

thousands of folks were displaced. Of the more than 150 lives lost, those who died believing in Christ are with Him now. Those who died without trusting Jesus for their eternal future are forever lost. Reports on the event identified many young children and infants who were killed. What about them?

Salvation of those who cannot cognitively understand their sinful condition or God's cure is most assuredly a mystery. Part of God's nature is mercy and He bestows His mercy and His grace on whom He will. While the mystery of infant death is not clearly revealed to us we can look to the Word of God. Mark quoted Christ who said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." *Mark.10.14 NIV*. Certainly provides an aire of comfort to the families of believers who have suffered the loss of a small child, through whatever cause or circumstance.

We also find an example of God's grace being bestowed on King David. In fulfillment of Nathan's prophecy, the son born to David by the widow of Uriah, the Hittite, was stricken (*born with a severe illness*) and died as a babe, living only seven days. David was distraught but composed himself according to the writings of the Prophet Samuel: "... The Lord may be gracious to me and let the child live. But now ... he is dead, ... Can I bring him back again? I will go to him, but he will not return to me." *2 Samuel 12.22-23 NIV*. We can understand and believe that David, through faith, believed he would see his son again in heaven. Beyond that, we must trust the fact that God does not will that any should perish, but come to repentance. (*cf. 2 Peter 3.9 NIV*).

Health and wealth is a process / Faith and trust is involved

From the beginning God has held to His position of wanting His creation to enjoy the blessings of a bountiful life. He created a perfect man; saved a good man and his family out of a worldwide catastrophe to affirm His commitment to mankind; provided example after example of how true believers were/are to conduct their lives; confirmed in His Word what we are to understand about His care of/for us, balanced in the New and Old Testament Scriptures by the Apostle Peter and the Prophet Isaiah:

We are to die to sin through faith in Christ. Live for righteousness. We are healed by Christ's wounds. "He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed." *1 Peter 2.24 NIV*.

Surely he took up our pain and bore our suffering, yet we considered him punished by God, stricken by him, and afflicted. But he was pierced

for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed. *Isaiah 53.4-5 NIV.*

All of mankind has access to God through Jesus Christ. Through the process of faith and by His grace we are able to accept and bear-up during difficult situations and circumstances. The destructive nature of illness and disease is all around as a result of sin. When we are confronted with illness we have instructions from the Lord. A believer who is or becomes sick or afflicted is to:

“... call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” *James 5.14-16 NIV.*

As believers, we need to and should understand what Paul shared with the believers in Rome:

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned— Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. *Romans 5.12 & 14 NIV*

Through Adam, every person arriving on the Earth inherits a terminal condition called life and occupies an individual position in a local culture controlled by tradition, superstition, nationality, geography, language, and other isolating elements. All of these conditions are a direct result of Satan's interference in the affairs of mankind. (*Tower of Babel, etc.*) More confusion develops when communication is fouled by innuendos from multiple religious sects. Paul reminds us with his letter to the believers at Ephesus and John speaks about it in his first general epistle:

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Ephesians 6.12 NIV

We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one. *1 John 5.19 NIV*

Many health problems of today can be tied to, or at least be related to improper diets and laissez-faire attitudes toward the care and protection of the bodies given to mankind by God. King Eglon is an example, or at least an illustration of “the flesh not being under control.” He is described as being extremely obese (*not unlike Eli, who became fat from the choice parts of sacred offerings*) self-indulgent King of Moab*, who died in accordance to God’s will at the hand of Ehud. Eglon was so unctuous the fat on his body closed around the dagger Ehud had thrust into his belly. The writer of the Book of Judges and the Apostle Paul provide strong scriptural reference:

Ehud reached with his left hand, drew the sword from his right thigh and plunged it into the king’s (*Ehud’s*) belly. Even the handle sank in after the blade, which came out his back. Ehud did not pull the sword out, and the fat closed in over it. *Judges 3.21-22 NIV.*

For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

1 Corinthians 11.29-30 NIV

**The nation of Moab originated because of an incestuous relationship between Lot and his daughters--the flesh not held in check.*

God has been and will continue to be involved in the affairs of His creation on occasions as He deems appropriate. He has declared His position and made His commands. When accepted and adhered, His blessings flow(ed). When forsaken or ignored, His wrath is/has been kindled. His will is always involved, even when He must deliver judgment on those who refuse to accept His will. Jehoram is one God’s creation who just wouldn’t do it God’s way. He most assuredly got the point of God’s will as a result of his disobedience. The writer of the Books of Chronicles tells about a specific instance in the life of Jehoram:

Jehoram received a letter from Elijah the prophet, which said: “This is what the Lord, the God of your father David, says: ‘You have not followed the ways of your father Jehoshaphat or of Asa king of Judah. ... So now the Lord is about to strike your people, your sons, your wives and everything that is yours, with a heavy blow. You yourself will be

very ill with a lingering disease of the bowels, until the disease causes your bowels to come out.' ... the Lord afflicted Jehoram with an incurable disease of the bowels. In the course of time, ... his bowels came out because of the disease, and he died in great pain."

2 Chronicles 21.12-18 NIV

We are all aware of some believers who are suffering or who have suffered greatly because of a severe illness or some afflicting disease. We accept or try to accept the premise that God does not "will" anyone to such a condition, but none-the-less it is occurring in our own life or the life of someone we know and love. As believers we are not to test God. Through the Prophet Isaiah God tells us:

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. *Isaiah 55.8 NIV*

And Paul, in his first letter to the Corinthians wrote:

No temptation (*testing or trial*) has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted (*tested or tried*) beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted (*tested or tried*) he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

1 Corinthians 10.13 NIV

It is quite possible and with some degree of probability, God will allow a situation or circumstance to exist or come upon us for a purpose. A purpose we may or may not understand but can accept because God's ways always have reason or meaning. Faith is the part of His will He wants us to use and trust in His bigger and more significant plan. Both Apostles, Peter and Paul, were inspired to shed some light on this part of God's program for His family of believers when they wrote:

... if you suffer as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. ...So then, those who suffer according to God's will should commit themselves to their faithful Creator and continue to do good. *1 Peter 4.16 & 19 NIV*

...it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, and even though my illness was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. Where, then, is your blessing of

me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me. *Galatians 4.13-15 NIV*

... or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong. *2 Corinthians 12.7-10 NIV*

... let us also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.
Romans 5.3-4 NIV

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. *Romans 8.28 NIV*

If we accept God's will concerning whatever situation or condition He brings to, or allows into our life, we can glorify Him in/with/by our infirmities and rejoice all the more whether we are healed or not. We should embrace our position in Christ like the Patriarchs of King David's time, and know that Christ has the power to heal any illness or disease and restore anyone who, through faith believes for the healing and trusts God for the outcome, as taught by Christ's Disciples and made clear in God's Word:

Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, *Psalms 103.2-3 NIV*

... I will bring health and healing to it; I will heal my people and will let them enjoy abundant peace and security. *Jeremiah 33.6 NIV*

... Peter traveled about ... in Lydda. There he found a man named Aeneas, who was paralyzed and had been bedridden for eight years. "Aeneas," Peter said to him, "Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and roll up your mat." Immediately Aeneas got up. *Acts 9.33-34 NIV*

... A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, ... who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured,
Luke 6.17-18 NIV

... a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him." ... Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment. Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?" He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

Matthew 17.14-20 NIV

A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. *Matthew 8.2-3 NIV*

Conclusion:

God made everything in and of the Earth perfect and flawless and put it all into the care and custody of the first man and woman. Satan, with his wicked friends and through his wicked ways, corrupted the Earth and mankind when he bamboozled Adam and Eve, took control of the Earth, began his conspiracy to take over and show God he was the "power-broker" of the universe. His involvement in the affairs of mankind progressed and re-progressed through the centuries since creation to a place in today's world where he has a pre-eminent position.

Look where we are. (*Circa 2017 AD*). As believers, we have allowed, even caused our culture to be attacked and our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ challenged to the point our nation is no longer considered to be Christian. God's Word has been diluted to where Its message for all who have been born out of God's creation, is no longer the rule and guide of the majority's faith. Satan has done a serious work in the minds and hearts of mankind. To him, our minds are like toys and he enjoys playing with them.

Since we no longer place our faith and trust in God, we blame Him when illness, disaster and all types of calamity comes upon us. It seems easier to complain and blame than to take God at His Word and trust Him with every facet of our lives. The Apostle John put this whole idea of *God's Will in Calamity, Sickness and Disease* into a proper perspective when, in his second epistle, he wrote, "Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the

teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.” *2 John 1.9 NIV*

As always, Christ is the answer. Through the Apostle Paul, He tells us “... the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

Galatians 5.22-23 NIV

So, if love is the answer, and Jesus Christ is love, we should demonstrate it in and through our lives toward others with:

Joy – “Consider it pure joy, ... whenever you face trials of many kinds,”

James 1.2 NIV

Peace – “... Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, ...”

Colossians 3.15 NIV

Patience – “... and patience is better than pride.” *Ecclesiastes 7.8 NIV*

Kindness – “I have drawn you with unfailing kindness.” *Jeremiah 31.3 NIV*

Goodness – “... celebrate your (*God's*) abundant goodness...”

Psalms 145:7 NIV

Faithfulness – “... the righteous person will live by his faithfulness.”

Habakkuk 2:4 NIV

Gentleness – “... Let your gentleness be evident to all.” *Philippians 4:5 NIV*

Self-control – “... live self-controlled, upright and godly lives...”

Titus 2:12 NIV