

IMPACT

I **M**ust **P**ersonally **A**cknowledge **C**hrist **T**oday
Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own under-
standing; *in all your ways acknowledge Him* and He shall direct your path.
Proverbs 3:5-6

Passage: Exodus 15:26 “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His commandments and keep all His statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you which I have brought on the Egyptians. For *I am the LORD who heals you.*”

Quote: “God has a purpose in every pain He brings or allows in our lives. We can be sure that in some way He intends it for our profit and His glory.” Jerry Bridges

The word “Rophe” means to “restore, to heal and to care for physically and spiritually.”¹ Israel had seen Pharaoh’s army swallowed up in the Red Sea. Three days journey into the desert, they came to a place they called “Marah” because the water there was bitter. This difficulty was part of God’s plan for them. It was not for punishment, but for testing and teaching. Israel complained to Moses “so he cried out to the LORD, and the LORD showed him a tree. When he cast it into the waters, they were made sweet.” Faith that trusted and obeyed resulted in the water being made pure to meet their needs.

Sickness can be for God’s glory as was the case of the man born blind in John 9. He had lived for years without sight and on a particular day, at a particular spot where Jesus “happened” to be walking, he received far more than physical sight. “And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, ‘Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind?’ Jesus answered, ‘Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but *that the works of God should be made manifest in him.*’”³ The Pharisees could not handle the truth that Jesus healed the man. “So they again called the man who was blind, and said to him, ‘Give God the glory! We know that this Man is a sinner.’ He answered and said, ‘Whether He is a sinner or not I do not know. One thing I know: that though I was blind, now I see.’” “Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when He had found him, He said to him, ‘Do you believe in the Son of God?’ He answered and said, ‘Who is He, Lord, that I may believe in Him?’ And Jesus said to him, ‘You have both seen Him and it is He who

is talking with you.’ Then he said, ‘Lord, I believe!’ And he worshiped Him.” Years of blindness culminated in him being healed in body and soul by the Great Physician for the purpose of glorying of God!

This account of the blind man reminds us of God’s reply to Moses when he offered the excuse that he was a poor speaker and ill-equipped to lead Israel from Egypt. God asked, “Who has made man’s mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? Have not I, the LORD?”⁴ One only has to read Psalm 139 to affirm the truth that God in His sovereignty fashions every human being as He so desires and even orders the number of their days.

Sometimes God chooses not to grant healing in order to accomplish a greater good. After Paul requested that

Jehovah-Rhophe The LORD Who Heals

God remove a “thorn in the flesh,” “a messenger of Satan to buffet” him, God replied, “My

grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Paul’s response was “most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in weaknesses, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, *for Christ’s sake*. For when I am weak, then I am strong.”⁵

“There is coming a day for all whose faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ that we will be given glorified bodies forever free from the effects of this sin-cursed world. Until then, Christians “know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”⁶ Those “whom He foreknew, He also predestined *to be conformed to the image of His Son*, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.”⁶ Glorified is in the past tense as though it has taken place because it is a promise of God.⁷ Conformity to Christ’s image requires bowing to God’s sovereign script even when it includes sickness. His grace is sufficient!

1 Nathan Sloan 2 Psa.103:2-5 3 John 9 4 Ex.4:11 5 II Cor.12:9-10
6 Rom.8:28-30 7 Titus 1:2