

## **Spiritual Roots of Disease**

Is there a connection between disease and sin (missing the mark resulting in separation from God)? Consider the following Scriptures: “<sup>6</sup>For everything in the world—the desire(lust) of the flesh, the desire(lust) of the eyes, and the boasting(pride) of life—is not from the Father but from the world” (1 John 2:16) and “<sup>2</sup>Bless Adonai, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: <sup>3</sup>He forgives all your iniquity. He heals all your diseases” (Psalm 103:2-3). In the IBLP video that I shared with you on June 20 as we were “Tracing Problems to Root Causes” there were three major root causes (over the years I have discovered that there is a fourth root cause, “Involvement with the Occult”) and these align with the 1 John 2:16 Scripture, mainly (1) Immorality (*the desire/lust of the flesh*), (2) Temporal Values (*the desire/lust of the eyes*) and bitterness (*the boasting/pride of life*). Bitterness deserved its own Scriptural warning: “<sup>15</sup>See to it that no one falls short of the grace of God; and see to it that no bitter root springs up and causes trouble, and by it many be defiled” (Hebrews 12:15). This pride-based third root cause, bitterness, was identified as the number one cause of demonic disturbances in Christian home schooled teens by the IBLP’s ATIA program in the early 2000’s. On Tuesday May 6, 2003 from 1:00p-4:30p and again from 6:30p-9:30p Kol Simcha hosted Dr. Henry Wright who taught a reduced portion of his seminar “A More Excellent Way” which is also the name of his renown book on the Spiritual Roots of Disease. Many people benefitted from his impactful seminar including our Joe and Stephanie Simpkins and their family. They went to the “Be In Health” seminars in Thomaston, GA and obtained incredible results and miracles of healing.

*“Bitterness is sin because you become God in the situation, judging right from wrong, and choosing not to forgive. Bitterness is an ugly sin that corrodes like acid, eating away at your soul. First, it poisons the mind, and then it poisons the body. There are levels of the root of bitterness that get progressively worse. Bitterness begins with unforgiveness and then moves to resentment, retaliation, anger/wrath, hatred, violence and finally murder, even if it is not the physical murder of the person you are bitter against, but murder with the tongue. When you decide to follow the law of sin and hold a record of wrongs against another person, it will likely produce a disease in your body. That’s true even when that person truly sinned against you. They opened their mouth and said something or did something that wronged you. They betrayed you. They destroyed something precious in you. Yes, they did it. It was their sin. But because your agreement with a spirit of bitterness, you now have a disease” (Exposing the Spiritual Roots of Disease pp. 59-60).*

In Matthew 18 verses 21-35 we have *Yeshua’s* great discourse on forgiveness. In the parable (verse 34) *Yeshua* tells us that the king decrees that deputy-1 is to be put in jail until he pays everything he owes. How can you pay back an un-payable debt in jail? If he were out of jail he could do some moonlighting. He could do something to earn money. But the Bible is very precise when it says that he is to be put in jail until he pays, how much? Everything! Does this make sense? At the end of the chapter Messiah *Yeshua* said: “<sup>34</sup>And in anger his master turned him over to the jailers for punishment (torturers or *verdugos* in Spanish) until he paid back everything he owed. <sup>35</sup>This is how my heavenly Father will treat you, unless you each forgive your brother from your hearts” (Matt. 18:34-35). I have no problem with God disciplining me, or with the Lord chastising or even with the consequences of my sin having to be faced. But being turned over to torturers (*verdugos*)? Torturers inflict pain for the sake of pain itself. There is no redeeming value in torture. Would you like to find the answer to these difficult words of *Yeshua*? We will...

The only cure to bitterness is forgiveness. There are two circles inside of us, the circle of emotions and the circle of convictions. Anger and bitterness are emotions. You cannot fight them back with good feelings and love because emotions have no substance. Maybe you try and feel good about it. But, you cannot feel good about something terrible that was done to you. This is what you can do: you can make an entry in the circle of convictions. You can say that on such and such a date you made the decision to forgive, and that becomes the conviction. And every time the emotion of bitterness assails you, you can say to yourself and to Satan, look, on this date I forgave that person. I bless them. Yes, I bless them. As you do that you might see that person flourish and be restored. And maybe one day you will have the pleasure and joy of having that relationship restored.

*“I want to share some things I have discovered concerning the spiritual roots of breast cancer. Now, I know that here are always exceptions, but I have seen the following results in a high percentage of testimonies and case histories over the years. If a woman comes for healing from breast cancer in the right breast, in my experience, her unforgiveness is toward a non-blood relative. I have found that, statistically, the number one cause of breast cancer in the right breast is unresolved bitterness and unforgiveness between a woman and her mother in law. If the cancer appears in a woman’s left breast over the heart, statistically, it is related to unresolved bitterness in the woman with another female who is a blood relative (e.g., biological mother or biological sister). I have seen these cancers disappear as a result of sincere repentance and forgiveness. After decades of ministering on disease, I have enough confidence to tell you that most breast cancer, right or left breast, is not happenstance. It is the work of the enemy because unforgiveness and bitterness is the law of sin, and you are not to have bitterness against anyone (including self)” (**Exposing the Spiritual Roots of Disease** pp. 58-59).*

*So what is the root of cause of many of our diseases? The root cause of 80% of disease is spiritual and the result of separation on three levels. Firstly, it is Separation from God – from His person, His love, and His Word. Secondly, it is separation from self (e.g., self hatred), and thirdly separation from others. You need to follow this closely because these separations are the spiritual root of so many diseases that plague us. If 80 percent of all disease involved these separations, then 80 percent of all healing begins with reconciliation to God (to the Father, to the Son, and to His Spirit), reconciliation to yourself (e.g., forgiving yourself), and reconciliation to others: **“the beginning of healing starts with the restoration of your relationship with God, yourself and others”** (**Exposing the Spiritual Roots of Disease** pp. 27).*

*Here is another example from “A More Excellent Way”: I was ministering in 1985, when five ladies came up to me. Each one of them had arthritis. Two of the ladies had gnarly disfiguration. I said to them, “You know, there is sometimes a responsibility to God for healing. I want to tell you that healing and things you receive from God, to a degree, are conditional to your obedience (see James 1:6-8). I want to tell you that with freedom comes a degree of responsibility. So I told the five ladies with arthritis: “there would be a condition to their healing. I asked them to think about the people who had injured each of them in their lifetime, either through word or deed – someone who didn't treat them right, victimized them, lied about them, abused them either, emotionally, physically, verbally or maybe even sexually. I asked them, “When you think of their name, or their face, whether they are living or dead, what do you feel? Do any of you have that high-octane ping going off inside?” They all said, “Yes, there is somebody I have not had resolution with.” There was bitterness and unforgiveness. I told them that in exchange for their healing, they would have to get that right with God, right then, or else we were wasting our time. They were going to have to forgive that person (See Matt. 6:15). I told the five ladies an exchange would happen for their obedience. I said, “If you, from your heart, will sincerely forgive that person of their trespasses whether you feel like it or not, I am going to ask God to heal you. If you do it because you want the healing for selfish reasons and you are using the kind of like mechanism, or system or mantra, then we are still wasting our time.” I led them into prayer of repentance and forgiveness. I am here to tell you that when I finished the prayer, I looked up to them and said, “How’s your arthritis doing??” All of a sudden it dawned on them: they had no more pain, the fingers had straightened out and the pain was gone. All five ladies stood there totally freed from crippling arthritis and its pain. Notice, I did not minister healing to them, not one time... (**A More Excellent Way** pp. 3-6)*

I’d like to invite Joe Simpkins to come share part of his testimony about his encounter with the Spiritual Roots of Disease with you. Joe attended “Be in Health” multiple times with his own family. Shabbat Shalom!