

## KEEPING A BIBLICAL ORIENTATION THROUGH THE PHYSICAL CHALLENGES OF LIFE



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Begin with a sound biblical view of illness and suffering.

- Physical challenges can be a result of God's judgment for willful sin. Deuteronomy 28:22,27,28,35; 2 Kings 5:27; 2 Chronicles 26:19; Acts 13:8-11
- Physical challenges can be a result of work of the devil. Job 2:4-7
- Physical challenges can be the result of the general effect of sin on creation. Romans 8:18-25
- Miraculous healing from physical challenges are driven by God's sovereignty, plan, and purpose. (Consider the ministry of Jesus and the days of the early church in the Gospels and the book of Acts.)

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Begin with a sound biblical view of illness and suffering.

- Physical challenges are used by God to accomplish His purposes.
  - Job
  - John 9
  - John 11
  - 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

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### Some examples of physical challenges.

- Diagnosis of a chronic disease
- Diagnosis of a terminal disease
- Diagnosis of a potentially fatal disease
- Injury resulting in prolonged or permanent loss of function
- Illness resulting in prolonged or permanent loss of function
- Age-related diminished capacity or loss of function
- Family members impacted by any of the above.

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### Example of presenting issues

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|---------------------|--------------|
| • Confusion         | • Despair    |
| • Outburst of anger | • Bitterness |
| • Envy              | • Rebellion  |
| • Coveting          |              |
| • Isolation         |              |
| • Paralyzing fear   |              |
| • Self-condemnation |              |

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### Impact of physical challenges.

- Heart issues are revealed through physical challenges.
- What we really believed is revealed through physical challenges.
- Our understanding of the person and work of God will be revealed through physical challenges.
- The basic root sins of bitter jealousy and selfish ambition are exposed through physical challenges. James 3:14-16

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### Help for keeping a biblical perspective in the face of physical challenges.

- Biblical understanding of God's love for us. Romans 5:8; Ephesians 5:25-27
- Confidence in God's care. Romans 8:28-29; 1 Peter 5:7-8
- God has not obligated Himself to relieve us from suffering. John 16:33; Hebrews 11:36-38
- Acceptance of God's sovereignty over His creation. John 9:3
- Confidence in God's promises for eternity. Romans 8:18-25; Revelation 21:1-4

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### Walking with those who face physical challenges.

- Bring the comfort and encouragement found in God's Word for times of challenge. Romans 8:18-39;
- Bring scriptural teaching to bear on sinful reactions to these challenges and the scripture remedy of confession and repentance. Hebrews 4: 12-13; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11; 1 John 1:9

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### Walking with those who face physical challenges.

- Help identify heart issues that need to be brought into alignment with God's Word. Matthew 15:18-19; Mark 7:21-23
- Recognize that we must learn how to face the challenges of life. Romans 8:38-39; Philippians 4:11-13

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Questions?



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