

It can be really hard to handle personal loss, setback, and pain and keep going

*“Yet his daughter was profoundly deaf and never got healed. **Wigglesworth** himself suffered from kidney stones and would be sometimes preaching in acute pain.”*

Let's Look at Paul - in your own bible, see for yourselves

Acts 19:11 - “God was performing extraordinary [e]miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.”

Acts 28:7-9 - Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the leading man of the island, named Publius, who welcomed us and entertained us courteously three days. 8 And it happened that the father of Publius was lying in bed afflicted with recurrent fever and dysentery; and Paul went in to see him and after he had prayed, **he laid his hands on him and healed him. 9 After this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases were coming to him and getting cured.**

YET:

2 Timothy 4:20 - *Erastus remained at Corinth, but Trophimus I left sick at Miletus.*

Trophimus - Paul said he left him “sick” at Miletus (a Greek city) - safe to assume it is the same Trophimus from Acts 20, who accompanied him, along with others, through Greece.

- In 21:29 - after Paul had set sail from Miletus, the Jews stirred up a riot because he was seen with Trophimus, who was Greek (an Ephesian), and they supposed that He had even brought Trophimus into the temple

Sick - ἀσθενέω **asthenéō**, as-then-eh'-o;

- Gospels - language for literally sick
- Paul uses it sometimes for weakness
- Safely assume that he left him behind for a bodily illness, disease, sickness, etc.

Exact word used in [Act 19:12 NASB95] 12 so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to **the sick,[G770]** and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out.

***No idea if Trophimus recovered



Epaphroditus - Phil 2:25-30

- Sick to the point of death - **27** - same word - astheneo
- Paul's Fellow worker and soldier - good relationship - **25**
- He **was** eventually healed, but we don't know whether by Paul's prayer or just sovereignly
- Either way, it was sickness unto the point of death, and Paul didn't just fix it at will

1 Timothy 5:23 - *"No longer drink water exclusively, but use a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent ailments."*

Timothy

- We tend to focus on the why the wine, and end up **forgetting the frequent ailments part**
- This is close to home...
- **ἀσθένεια asthēneia, as-then'-i-ah;** - in essence, plural form of word from before
 - Is used in a weakness sense in some places
- [Mat 8:17 NASB95] 17 [This was] to fulfill what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet: "HE HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES[G769] AND CARRIED AWAY OUR DISEASES."
- [Act 28:9 NASB95] 9 After this had happened, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases[G769] were coming to him and getting cured.

It's also the same word as...

Galatians 4:13-15 - *13 but you know that it was because of a [a]bodily illness that I preached the gospel to you the [b]first time; 14 and that which was a [c]trial to you in my [d]bodily condition you did not despise or [e]loathe, but you received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus Himself. 15 Where then is [f]that sense of blessing you had? For I bear you witness that, if possible, you would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me.*

Paul Himself

- This was the guy from the hankies, Malta, etc.
- *Now in those days, they had some oriental diseases affecting the eyes, causing a constant kind of a pink eye condition, the running sort of conjunctivitis of which they had no cure. And so, it would affect the eyesight. It was repulsive to look at, and some believe that this is what Paul had. And yet, Paul says, you know, "You received me; you love me so much that some of you would have been glad to give your eyes, given your eyes to me."* - Chuck Smith
- Heard it suggested anything from epilepsy to malaria, connection to thorn in the flesh



- However, we should remember what Morris quoted from Stamm: "The difficulty of diagnosing the case of a living patient should warn us of the futility of attempting it for one who has been dead almost nineteen hundred years." Guzik Commentary
- Was there some sort of expectation to be despised or rejected for it? Apparently so

I do not believe the thorn was...

- And even if it is, note where it came from
- Acts 2:27 - that given word is used as allow - *you will not allow your holy one to undergo decay*
- **Grant as well, passed, yield, venture, even cause, produce**
- **Wide word**
- Romans 12:19 - *leave room for (the wrath of God)*
- Revelation 9:5 - *they were not permitted* -
- GW - especially because of the excessive number of revelations that I've had. Therefore, to keep me from becoming conceited, I am forced to deal with a recurring problem. That problem, Satan's messenger, torments me to keep me from being conceited.
- ICB - But I must not become too proud of the wonderful things that were shown to me. So a painful problem was given to me. This problem is a messenger from Satan. It is sent to beat me and keep me from being too proud.
- NOG - especially because of the excessive number of revelations that I've had. Therefore, to keep me from becoming conceited, I am forced to deal with a recurring problem. That problem, Satan's messenger, torments me to keep me from being conceited.
- **Thorn in side/flesh in scripture:**
- 3 *Therefore I also said, 'I will not drive them out before you; but they will [b]become as thorns in your sides and their gods will be a snare to you.' " Judges 2:3*
- 55 But if you do not drive out the inhabitants of the land from before you, then it shall come about that those whom you let remain of them will become as pricks in your eyes and as **thorns in your sides**, and they will trouble you in the land in which you live. - **Numbers 33:55**
- Speaking towards Tyre and Sidon - 24 And there will be no more for the house of Israel a prickling brier or a **painful thorn** from any round about them who **scorned them**; then they will know that I am the Lord God." **Ezekiel 28:24**
- **I think it may have been permitted for Paul to be sifted (like peter luke 22:31)**
- **Messenger** - angelos, never devoid of personality/being

Mark 9:14-28 - why could we not



Why People Don't Pray For the Sick - It's painful

- It's emotional and painful! "Failure"

Randy Clark 1984 Experience with Wimber: A Turning Point

"In 1984 I was with John Wimber at a Methodist Church in Texas.

On the first night many were healed as I followed him and watched. But on the next night NOT ONE was healed. John Wimber said to me, "You don't get it do you Randy? I had no more faith last night than tonight, and no more sin in my life tonight than last night. I just stick my fat hand out and say, 'Come Holy Spirit.' I know it isn't me, so I don't get proud when they're healed and I don't blame myself or feel I failed if they don't." This night of seeing him fail gave me great encouragement. This was the night I understood I could do this! I could stick my hand out and say "Come Holy Spirit!"

Humble approach - **I DON'T KNOW**

1 Corinthinas 13:8-9, 12

Love never fails.... where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For **we know in part** and we **prophesy in part**,...Now we see but a **poor reflection** as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now **I know in part**; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

Can't let failures define beliefs

My Greatest Source of Encouragement Verse-wise regarding this:

Hebrews 2:8-9

8 You have put all things in subjection under his feet."

*For in subjecting all things to him, He left nothing that is not subject to him. But now **we do not yet see all things subjected to him.** 9 **But we do see Him.**"*

- It's navigating it in wisdom when you let the joy of it encourage you without letting the loss of it drag you down
- Wrestling with the mystery doesn't change the mandate
- Blessed is He who does not take offense at me - Matthew 11:6

