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Sermon Notes

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God's Purpose in Illness and Healing

Isaiah 38

I. The Scourge of Sickness

A. This Chapter Ushers Us Into the Sickroom of King Hezekiah...

1. Here we see a mighty king, courageous and faithful to God, reduced to a quivering, crying babe
2. Here we see the devastation of disease, a silent, invisible enemy, destroying life from within
3. Here we also see the mighty power of Almighty God in healing Hezekiah, displaying His power over every disease and sickness
4. Here we are led to ask the deepest questions of life... God's goodness in our pain and suffering... and His purpose in it; why does He allow it, or even bring it? Is He really powerful enough to heal it? And if so, why doesn't He heal it every time?
5. Here we have an opportunity once again to lift our eyes from the history of the Bible to our own personal questions, our own personal suffering, our own personal fears and torments, and our own personal sins... ultimately, we are led to ask: **WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED??**
6. As always, the text of Isaiah will ultimately point us to the Savior of the World, to Jesus Christ
7. Isaiah 38 specifically points us to Christ as the Great Physician

B. In Adam, We All Sinned; In Adam We All Die

Romans 5:12 Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned

1 Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

C. Sickness Part of the Curse

1. In this chapter, we come face to face with the issue of sickness... illness... disease
2. We live in a world of sickness, injury, pain, suffering, and death
3. It is part of the curse we inherited from Adam
4. Sickness and pain assault every category of people... the high and mighty (like King Hezekiah) as well as the poor and lowly, like an orphan girl in Bangladesh
5. The body was made for the glory of God... astonishingly well put together

Psalm 139:14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

6. But there is no part of the body or bodily organ or bodily system that is IMMUNE to disease

D. The Variety and Misery of Sickness Worldwide

1. The World Health Organization categorizes 12,420 disease categories in the 2007 version of the International Classification of Diseases (ICD)
2. Examples: 17 main categories, including...
 - a. Infectious and parasitic diseases (e.g. malaria)
 - b. Neoplasms (new growth of tissues, like a cancerous tumor)
 - c. Diseases of the blood and blood-forming organs (e.g. leukemia)
 - d. Diseases of the immune system (e.g. AIDS)
 - e. Diseases of the nervous system and sense organs (e.g. Multiple Sclerosis, migraine headaches; blindness)
 - f. Injuries and poisoning
3. Our sin-cursed planet is a seething cauldron of disease, pain, suffering, and death
 - a. We can hardly imagine how many cries of pain or pleaded prayers to God for deliverance come every single day from some suffering person, or from the loved ones of the sufferers
 - b. It staggers the imagination to consider how great is the pain and suffering of this world, a world filled with sinners descended from Adam

c. And disease and injury, pain and death strike everyone... even tiny babies in NICUs

E. Christ the Only Ultimate Cure

Isaiah 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.

The physical healing of the body and the spiritual healing of the soul are BOTH parts of Christ's atoning work on the cross

Christ healed every disease and sickness imaginable... there was nothing He could not heal

But He always linked those healings to His power to forgive sin:

Matthew 9:6-7 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." 7 And the man got up and went home.

God's true purpose in illness and its cure is to point to Christ the Savior, by whose blood alone can sin, disease, pain and death be removed

II. Hezekiah's Misery and Prayer (vs. 1-3)

A. Hezekiah's Sickness

Isaiah 38:1 In those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death.

1. It seems to have been some kind of disease producing an outbreak (like a boil) on the skin
2. Perhaps it was cancer, with a tumor showing itself on his skin... verse 21 says it was a BOIL
3. In any case, it was a very serious condition, and King Hezekiah was almost dead

B. Isaiah's Warning and Advice

Isaiah 38:1 The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."

1. This is the worst possible news for King Hezekiah

2. Like wicked King Ahaziah who fell through the lattice and lay dying in his bed, he seeks information about his prognosis... "Will I live? Or am I going to die?" Ahaziah sent messengers

2 Kings 1:2 "Go and consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron, to see if I will recover from this injury."

3. Elijah the prophet intercepted those messengers and sent them back with the information the wicked king was seeking

2 Kings 1:3-4 'Is it because there is no God in Israel that you are going off to consult Baal-Zebub, the god of Ekron?' ⁴ Therefore this is what the LORD says: 'You will not leave the bed you are lying on. You will certainly die!'"

4. Here, the godly king Hezekiah yearns to know what will happen to him in his illness... and amazingly, he gets the same answer as Ahaziah

Isaiah 38:1 The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."

5. This is a warning... death is coming, make good use of the brief time you have left

6. PUT YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER

- a. Literally: give orders to your house, charge it, arrange it, put it in good order
- b. For a king, this meant choosing a successor, preparing him to rule in his place
- c. For any person, it means making sure there is no "unfinished business" in life... no unconfessed sins toward God, no unforgiveness or broken relationships, no broken promises
- d. Bring order out of chaos, this is the WORK of life... you don't have much time left, so whatever works you have left to do, do them

Matthew Henry: It concerns us to prepare when we see death approaching: "*Set your house in order, and your heart especially; put both your affections and your affairs into the best posture you can, that, when your Lord comes, you may be found by him in peace with God, with your own conscience, and with all men, and may have nothing else to do but to die.*" Our being ready for death will not make it come sooner, but much easier: and those that are most fit to die are most fit to live.

C. Hezekiah's Misery and Prayer

Isaiah 38:2-3 Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD, ³ "Remember, O LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

1. Hezekiah does not accept this word from the Lord
2. He reacts with great misery and sorrow... as though there is no joy beyond death
3. The turning of the face to the wall and the weeping bitterly is not a good sign
 - a. Ahab, the wicked king of Samaria, did the same thing when Naboth refused to sell him his vineyard
 - b. Amnon, filled with lust for his half-sister Tamar, did the same thing when she was making food for him and he was about to rape her
 - c. Hezekiah is laying on his bed sulking and struggling... but yet essentially different in his relationship with God than those two
4. Hezekiah was godly... he turned to God in prayer, and that's the best thing he could have done!!!
5. BUT the basis of his prayer is somewhat shallow: Remember how I have served you, how I have walked before you in whole hearted devotion
 - a. As though his own righteousness is the basis of his standing with God
 - b. Hezekiah had done some faithful things, and some courageous things

2 Kings 18:3-6 He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. ⁴ He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.) ⁵ Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. ⁶ He held fast to the LORD and did not cease to follow him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses.

- c. But yet, it is even better to live like this and realize it is still insufficient in and of itself to be the BASIS of his whole standing before God
- d. Hezekiah is struggling with as perception that his wholehearted devotion to God shows he is in a right relationship with God by faith... and he expected BETTER TREATMENT from God
- e. In effect... "I have served you well, and this is how you treat me, God??"

D. Contrast with Paul... Delighted Either Way

Philippians 1:20-24 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

III. God's Promise of Healing... and Its Fulfillment (vs. 4-8, 21-22)

Isaiah 38:4-6 Then the word of the LORD came to Isaiah: ⁵ "Go and tell Hezekiah, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life. ⁶ And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city.

A. The Word of the Lord Comes to Isaiah

1. God speaks to Hezekiah through the prophet
2. This is the regular pattern in these chapters... Isaiah is God's official mouthpiece
3. It was God who spoke the word of warning concerning this sickness a moment ago in the text... now He speaks the opposite word... a word of blessing and of healing

B. God's Promises to Hezekiah

1. God identifies Himself: "The Lord, the God of your father David..."
2. God says He has heard Hezekiah's prayer and seen his tears

1 John 5:14-15 This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. ¹⁵ And if we know that he hears us-- whatever we ask-- we know that we have what we asked of him.

^{ESV} Psalm 56:8 You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?

3. God makes some astonishing promises to Hezekiah:

Isaiah 38:5-6 I will add fifteen years to your life. ⁶ And I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria. I will defend this city.

C. God's Sign to Hezekiah

Isaiah 38:22 Hezekiah had asked, "What will be the sign that I will go up to the temple of the LORD?"

Hezekiah's disease, breaking out as it was in a boil, would have made him ceremonially unclean, unable to go up to the temple of the Lord

Isaiah 38:7-8 'This is the LORD's sign to you that the LORD will do what he has promised: ⁸ I will make the shadow cast by the sun go back the ten steps it has gone down on the stairway of Ahaz.' " So the sunlight went back the ten steps it had gone down.

This is a miracle... in 2 Kings, Isaiah asked Hezekiah what sign he would give... should he make the sunlight go forward or back on the stairway of Ahaz?

The normal rotation of the sun would have seen the shadow move always in the same direction, but now, God in effect moves back time

D. How Do We Harmonize This Promise with the Earlier Word... and With Psalm 139?

1. Significant problem: God had said he would die, he would not recover... but now, it seems God changed his plan and his mind because of Hezekiah's prayer and tears
2. Should we understand that God's plans are contingent on our approval, or our prayers, or our faith or lack of it? Does prayer change the mind of God or the plans of God?
3. Furthermore, what about Psalm 139:

Psalm 139:16 All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

4. The best answer to this is that God knew Hezekiah's heart and prayer before the foundation of the world and knew full well that those extra fifteen years would be an essential part of the plan of God
5. During those fifteen years, Hezekiah's successor, Manasseh, would be conceived and born, and he would be in Jesus' genealogy... so clearly, these fifteen additional years were always part of God's plan
6. BUT God uses human agency and actions to achieve his plans... the illness and earlier statement was necessary to get Hezekiah to pray. So, as with most statements of God, they are INCOMPLETE... "You are going to die, you will not recover... unless you seek me in prayer and ask me for more time."

E. Hezekiah Healed (vs. 21)

***Isaiah 38:21* Isaiah had said, "Prepare a poultice of figs and apply it to the boil, and he will recover."**

God used the poultice to heal him... just as Jesus used mud to make the man born blind able to see... the figs didn't heal him any more than the clay... but God does use medicines and medical procedures to do His healing work

IV. Hezekiah's Thoughtful Praise (vs. 9-20)

A. Looking Back on His Suffering and God's Power with New Eyes

***Isaiah 38:9* A writing of Hezekiah king of Judah after his illness and recovery:**

B. The Bitterness Recounted (vs. 10-14)

***Isaiah 38:10-14* I said, "In the prime of my life must I go through the gates of death and be robbed of the rest of my years?" ¹¹ I said, "I will not again see the LORD, the LORD, in the land of the living; no longer will I look on mankind, or be with those who now dwell in this world. ¹² Like a shepherd's tent my house has been pulled down and taken from me. Like a weaver I have rolled up my life, and he has cut me off from the loom; day and night you made an end of me. ¹³ I waited patiently till dawn, but like a lion he broke all my bones; day and night you made an end of me. ¹⁴ I cried like a swift or thrush, I moaned like a mourning dove. My eyes grew weak as I looked to the heavens. I am troubled; O Lord, come to my aid!"**

1. Hezekiah bitterly feels God is robbing him of years, of time, in the prime of his life
2. This is one of the hardest lessons of life: our days are in God's hands, and He alone decides how long we will live... God can take our life any time and not be unjust

***Acts 17:28* 'For in him we live and move and have our being.'**

***Daniel 5:23 [to Belshazzar]* ...you did not honor the God who holds in his hand your life and all your ways.**

***James 4:15* Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that."**

3. Vs. 11 Deepest pain... he will not see the Lord in the land of the living... and he will no longer have fellowship with others either...

C. The Bitterest Aspect: God is Doing this to Me! (vs. 12-15)

***Isaiah 38:15* But what can I say? He has spoken to me, and he himself has done this.**

1. He uses metaphors for what God is doing with him in killing him:

Isaiah 38:12-13 Like a shepherd's tent my house has been pulled down and taken from me. Like a weaver I have rolled up my life, and he has cut me off from the loom; day and night you made an end of me. ¹³ I waited patiently till dawn, but like a lion he broke all my bones; day and night you made an end of me.

2. He completely focuses on GOD... in effect, God, you are KILLING ME!!
3. Day and night, God is making an end of Hezekiah!
4. In this, Hezekiah was RIGHT: Some Christians struggle with this, but it is God who decides when everyone dies

Psalm 104:29 When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.

Psalm 90:3 You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men."

Isaiah 40:24 No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown, no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither, and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

5. God kills all people that die... every last one of them
 - a. For the wicked, this is a display of the wrath of God against them
 - b. For the righteous, this is precious in God's sight, for He is bringing them to Himself, to their eternal reward

Psalm 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

6. So, Hezekiah cries out in grief and agony:

Isaiah 38:14 I cried like a swift or thrush, I moaned like a mourning dove. My eyes grew weak as I looked to the heavens. I am troubled; O Lord, come to my aid!"

D. God Strikes and God Heals... FOR OUR BENEFIT (vs. 15-17)

Isaiah 38:15-17 I will walk humbly all my years because of this anguish of my soul. ¹⁶ Lord, by such things men live; and my spirit finds life in them too. You restored me to health and let me live. ¹⁷ Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish. In your love you kept me from the pit of destruction; you have put all my sins behind your back.

1. Hezekiah is HUMBLER by this, and he resolves to walk humbly before God the rest of his life
2. Anguish of soul produces humility of life

3. By such things men live... and Hezekiah is now more alive (spiritually) than ever
4. Surely It was for My Benefit that I suffered such anguish!!!! (vs. 17)
5. The godly learn how to humble themselves under God's mighty hand, and let him do his work of affliction in our lives
6. Vs. 17 Hezekiah remembers that he is SINFUL and could have been KILLED for his sins... but God showed him grace... affliction makes us remember our sins, and acknowledge that we deserve to die like anyone else
7. In Christ alone does God PUT ALL OUR SINS BEHIND HIS BACK!!

Ephesians 1:7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

E. The Ultimate Problem: How Can We Praise You If We're Dead? (vs. 18-19)

Isaiah 38:18-19 For the grave cannot praise you, death cannot sing your praise; those who go down to the pit cannot hope for your faithfulness. ¹⁹ The living, the living-- they praise you, as I am doing today; fathers tell their children about your faithfulness.

F. The End Result: Resurrected People Spend Eternity Praising God (vs. 19-20)

Isaiah 38:20 The LORD will save me, and we will sing with stringed instruments all the days of our lives in the temple of the LORD.

Ephesians 1:6 to the praise of his glorious grace, which he has freely given us in the One he loves.

Revelation 5:9-10 And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. ¹⁰ You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

V. Lessons from the Sickbed

A. Come to Christ... the Only Savior from Sin and Death!!

Matthew 4:23 Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness among the people.

1. Christ's Miracles Point to His Power and Love

2. Especially: they prove His power to FORGIVE SIN... the true “sickness” of our souls

Matthew 9:6-7 But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins...." Then he said to the paralytic, "Get up, take your mat and go home." ⁷ And the man got up and went home.

3. The Future World: Free from All Sickness and Death
4. Come to Christ!

B. Put Your House in Order: It Is Appointed Unto You to Die!

1. Strong advice from Isaiah to the whole world... not just Hezekiah

Isaiah 38:1 The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."

2. Clear teaching in Hebrews

Hebrews 9:27 man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment

3. The universal warning of the bible to every person on earth: PUT YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER, BECAUSE YOU ARE GOING TO DIE!!
4. Illness is a “shot across the bow”, warning us that death is inevitable (if we are not the final generation)
5. Sickness and injury and pain teach us this vital lesson... death is coming!!!
6. What does it mean to “put your house in order?”
 - a. Understand that death is inevitable
 - b. Look at your relationships... are they in order? Any unforgiveness? Any brokenness?
 - c. Look at your set of good works... is the set complete?

Illus. Like the set of state quarters... gaps for the quarters that had not been collected yet

Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

[to Sardis] *Revelation 3:2 Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.*

John 17:4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

- d. "Bucket list": not for fun experiences you are collecting, but for good works God gave you to do
- e. Internal journey works: putting besetting sin to death; "Put your house in order, for you are going to die" means get your heart right with God
- f. External journey works: "Put your house in order" means witness, be involved in missions, go on a mission trip, make the most of your days

C. Trust in Christ During Illness... Yours and Others'

- 1. Focus on the Great Physician... Christ
- 2. Remind yourself that He can heal any illness any time, as He showed
- 3. But also realize, the true illness He is healing in His children is SIN... and in order to do that, often He uses sickness (ours and others') to shape our souls
- 4. If you or a loved one gets injured or sick, look immediately to Christ and set your trust fully on Him

D. Pray for Healing! But Understand, It May Not Be Given

- 1. Since Christ showed He could heal any illness, and since He still has that power today, we should ALWAYS PRAY for healing

James 5:14-15 Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

- 2. BUT sometimes, God does not grant the request:

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. ⁸ Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. ⁹ But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."

2 Timothy 4:20 Erastus stayed in Corinth, and I left Trophimus sick in Miletus.

- 3. Beware of the "Faith Healing Movement" that says that physical healing is guaranteed in every case if you have enough faith

- a. That is so damaging, because if that teaching is true, then not only do you find the trial of the sickness, but the extra burden of being told that the only reason you continue to be sick is that you lack faith
- b. The example of Paul's "thorn in the flesh" shows plainly that sometimes God wills to keep an affliction lodged in our lives to sanctify us

E. Suffer Well by Learning Hezekiah's Lesson

Isaiah 38:17 Surely it was for my benefit that I suffered such anguish.

- 1. Don't assume that because you're a Christian you shouldn't suffer
- 2. Illness will come, pain will come, death will come
- 3. Be ready to glorify God in those times!!
- 4. Understand that God never means you any harm

Romans 8:28 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.

- 5. Accept Hezekiah's final lesson: It is for OUR BENEFIT that we are afflicted with illness

Psalm 119:67 Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word.

Psalm 119:71 It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees.

- 6. Afflictions teach us:
 - a. Our own frailty in Adam
 - b. Our future death
 - c. The brevity of life
 - d. The great wickedness of sin and rebellion against God's holy laws
 - e. The transitory nature of all of life's physical blessings
 - f. The greatness of God's mercy in Christ
 - g. The need for constant prayer... it cures us of INDEPENDENCE
 - h. The greatness of God's mercy to us when He heals us
 - i. The far greater mercy God will show us in the resurrection

j. How to be deeply compassionate to others who are suffering

7. Humble yourself under God's mighty hand... trust that He knows how to deal with your soul and teach you these valuable lessons

F. Set Your Hope Fully on the Next World!

1. Hezekiah's initial attitude is common among us... we are often surprised at earthly suffering AS THOUGH WE HAD ALREADY ARRIVED in heaven

2. Brothers and sisters, this isn't heaven!

Hebrews 11:13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.

3. Expect to suffer here... not only sickness but all manner of adversities

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

4. Set your hope fully on the grace of resurrection!!

1 Peter 1:13 Therefore, prepare your minds for action; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed.

5. Only in heaven is the scourge of sickness removed

Revelation 21:4 He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

a. Tears are linked to death, mourning, and pain

b. Pain in particular is related to bodily infirmities... to sickness and to injury

c. There will be NO PAIN in the New Heaven and New Earth because there will be no sickness and no injury and no death

d. The "old order of things" is this present order of things... the era of sin and death

e. Death is the "final enemy" of Christ that He will destroy at the end of the world

f. In the meantime, we must suffer

G. Embrace again the doctrine of the bodily resurrection

1. The resurrection body described

1 Corinthians 15:42-44 So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ⁴³ it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ⁴⁴ it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

- a. Perishable vs. imperishable: clearly this has to do with the corruption of sickness and death... sickness and injury make the body stink and perish with loathsome odors and terrible pain... but the resurrection body is IMPERISHABLE... no aspect of it is subject to corruption or pain
- b. Dishonor vs. glory: the dishonor of the perishable body is on full display at the scene of the car accident, or on the battlefield, or in the hospital, or at the nursing home, or in the morgue... it is a disgusting thing to see the dishonor of the corruptible body in those places... but the resurrection body is GLORIOUS... radiant with the glory of God in Christ... we will SHINE LIKE THE SUN in the Kingdom of our Father!!
- c. Weakness vs. power: the weakness of the body is on full display in the hospital or at the nursing home... the dying man can barely scrape together enough strength to cough the phlegm out of his lungs... little by little, he loses the fight against the congestion and his breathing becomes more and more shallow... eventually, the sickness wins and he dies... this is the WEAKNESS of the body; but the resurrection body is POWERFUL, mighty though the Spirit, conformed perfectly to Christ's powerful body... it is tireless, able at every moment to do whatever God wants it to do... I do not imagine that we will all be like Superman, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound... but the loathsome weariness and weakness of our flesh will be transformed forever... the body that is raised will be POWERFUL!!!!
- d. Natural body vs. spiritual body: this is the most mysterious couplet of all... somehow the resurrection body will be a perfect combination of spirit and body... there is no longer be this kind of struggle:

Matthew 26:41 "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak."

So often our fleshly bodies, our mortal bodies, our bodies of sin, our bodies of death FIGHT AGAINST what God wants us to do... our spirits would continue to pray, but our bodies are screaming for sleep; our spirits would be holy, but our bodies are craving food or drink or sex or relief from aches and pains... the body seems to fight against the spirit; but after the resurrection, that struggle will be over forever... we will be in SPIRITUAL BODIES, the inner and the outer in perfect harmony

This transformation MUST HAPPEN for us to be fit for eternity in the Kingdom of God:

1 Corinthians 15:50-53 I declare to you, brothers, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ ¶ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed-- ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality

So we must set our hope FULLY on this, not on some deliverance in this present era from all sickness and pain. That doesn't mean we shouldn't seek healing now and pray for it... James 5 says we should. But the resurrection of the body is the true healing the gospel of Jesus Christ offers!