

## Purity and Holiness – the Only Way to Fulfilment

If you were experiencing severe headaches and felt really ill you would go to your doctor wouldn't you? If your doctor suspected it may be a tumour he/she would send you for a MRI or CT scan and you would go for the scan wouldn't you? If the scan showed you had a brain tumour and the doctor said it was operable and you would be fine if they removed the tumour immediately, you would have the operation wouldn't you? If you didn't the doctor said it would grow and the pain would become intolerable and you would soon die. So what would you do?

- Would you avoid going to the doctor in the first place even though the pain was getting more and more severe every day?
- Would you resent the doctor for telling you had a tumour and suggesting you have the op?
- Would you refuse to have the op and get rid of the thing that was causing you such pain and illness even though you would become even more ill and soon die?
- Or, would you thank the doctor for his/her correct diagnosis and have the op and enjoy good health and a long happy life afterwards?

I'm sure we all agree we would choose the latter option.

Now, let us think of and apply this analogy in terms of the health of our spirit and soul.

Sin in our lives in any form (wrong thoughts, unkindness, lies, impurity, foul language, deceit, selfishness, disobedience, and so on ... you name it. Sin.) is the most destructive force to the well-being of our spirit, mind, and body. It's like the brain tumour or a cancer in our example above which cause such trouble to us. Rom 6:23 tells us that ... *"The wages of sin is death"* ... which is the ultimate destruction. But, you know what, sin not only destroys us, but it also separates us from the only One who can help us and bring us to fulfilment.

In John 10:10 Jesus told us that ... *"the thief (Satan and sin) comes only to steal, kill and destroy; I came that they might have life, and might have it abundantly."*

Because Dr Jesus knows how destructive sin is to us He has sent the Holy Spirit to lead us in holiness and righteousness – to purity and the abundant and fulfilled life – and so He convicts us of sin when we sin. That's like the doctors diagnosis that tells us there's a problem, but that it can be fixed. So if we accept the diagnosis of the Holy Spirit's conviction and we repent and ask for forgiveness and don't go back to the sin, it's like having the operation and getting rid of the problem and getting back to good health.

So what will you choose to do?

- Avoid asking the Holy Spirit to help you when you know you're doing something displeasing to God?
- Will you resent the Holy Spirit for His conviction of your sin and His offer to help you live a holy and pure life?
- Will you do nothing and let sin overtake you completely and bring destruction and failure and ultimately death to your life?
- Or, will you submit to the loving discipline of the Holy Spirit and repent and be made whole and walk in abundant and fulfilled life?

I trust you'll choose the latter option, and through repentance live in peace, purity and fulfilment.

Let's finish by reading some verses from God's word (the handbook to our life):

Prov 1:23 (NLT) ... *"Come and listen to my counsel. I'll share my heart with you and make you wise."*

Prov 1:33 ... *"But he who listens to me shall live securely and will be at ease from the dread of evil."*

Prov 2:7-8 NLT ... *"He is a shield to those who walk with integrity. He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to Him."*

Prov 8:13 NLT ... *"All who respect and fear the Lord will hate evil. For, I hate pride and arrogance, corruption and perverse speech."*

Prov 11:19 ... *"He who is steadfast in righteousness will attain to life, and he who pursues evil will bring about his own death."*

Prov 19:20 PTP ... *"Listen well to wise counsel and be willing to learn from correction so that by the end of your life you'll be known for your wisdom."*

Prov 25:26 PTP ... *"When a lover of God gives in and compromises with wickedness, it can be compared to contaminating a stream with sewage or polluting a fountain."*

Prov 29:1 MSG ... *"For people who hate discipline and only get more stubborn, there'll come a day when life tumbles in and they break, but by then it'll be too late to help them."*

Heb 12:10 PTP ... *"Our parents corrected us for the short time of our childhood as it seemed good to them. But God corrects us throughout our lives for our own good, giving us an invitation to share his holiness."*

Heb 4:15-16 NLT ... *"Jesus the Son of God, our High Priest understands our weaknesses, for He faced all of the same testings we do, yet He did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most."*

Trust Him. Submit to Him. He has your back. He wants the best for you.