

Aspects of Biblical Health Care

One of the challenges we face as Christians is to live our lives in accordance with God's Word. In health care, we face the challenge of finding and working out what that means daily in our workplace. Much of the world we live in does not have any concept of the significance of Biblical principles and practice. As Christians we are in a privileged position to know God and His Word and apply His truth, ways and precepts in every aspect of our lives.

However, it is easy for us to accept or at least be significantly influenced by values and worldviews that are non Biblical. This can include our understanding of and practice of health care which is based largely on a humanistic worldview. The Greek worldview which dominates Western thought separates the heavens and the earth, the sacred and the secular, contrary to the Hebrew worldview which sees God in all and through all & over all.

Ephesians 1:17-23 is an amazing passage of scripture. Verse 18 speaks of the riches of the glory of His inheritance and verse 22 says that "He put all things under His feet". 'All' includes the world of health care so what does it mean in our health context that God put all things under the feet of Jesus? I believe God is challenging us to work towards discovering this in our workplace, in our own area of influence and authority. Colossians 1:18 has a similar theme "that in all things He may have pre-eminence". Ephesians 2:8-10 states that we are "created for good works, that we should walk in them". It would seem that by walking in the good works which God calls us to, we are giving Him pre-eminence. 1Thess. 2:12 adds, "that you would walk worthy of God who calls you into His own kingdom and glory". It would seem that by that obedient walk we do see His Kingdom and indeed His glory being revealed.

In 2001, at a prayer summit in Sri Lanka sponsored by Health Care Christian Fellowship the Lord revealed to us the concept of "bringing back the ark of God into health care". This was based on 1Chronicles 13 and 15 where the Israelites initially attempted and later succeeded in taking the Ark up to Jerusalem, the rightful place that God had prepared for it. The Ark represented the presence and glory of God. We interpreted this to mean that God was calling His people in health care to bring His glory and presence into the health world in a greater way. We have believed over the last few years that part of that process is a new exploration and practice of Biblically based health care. Last year, I was sharing about these things at a prayer summit in the Judean hills in Israel. We later learnt that Kiriath Jearim, the place where the Ark was taken up from in 1Chron 13 was in fact on the next hill to where we were praying. The next day, a group of us were able to go there and pray on the very place where Abinadab's house was situated. We were able to make a declaration of Biblical Health Care on the site. That declaration is at the end of the article and you are invited to join us in committing yourself to that process in health care.

So what might a more Biblical health care practice look like? I believe we need to establish more Biblical foundations upon which to work. This would involve openly examining, researching and discerning the roots of what we do in health care, and more specifically in the geographical area and the discipline in which we work. Health care is essentially founded on Him, our Creator and Healer but ungodly foundations have also been laid as a counterfeit to His work. These ungodly roots need to be dealt with firstly in our own lives, and then corporately over health care as a whole.

Some principles of Biblical Health Care

As I have thought and sought God regarding Biblical Health Care I have found many Biblical words recurring that will have great relevance to our journeys in seeking and finding more Biblical expressions of health care. I think the words that have occurred most often are "truth", "righteousness" and "humility". I believe that it is only as we come in humility before God that we will receive His revelation to understand a deeper level of His truth and righteousness that must be the basis of what we practice and how we practice it. From this I present here a number of principles that apply to Biblical health care. They are:

- Health care based upon Biblical truth, love and righteousness
- Health care that acknowledges that God is the healer (Psalm 103:3), and that wholeness of body, soul and spirit can only be found in Jesus Christ
- Implemented by God's people, people of faith, who are anointed and consecrated to Him and who will humbly seek His face for the Holy Spirit's revelation in health care
- Outworked in love, humility and faith
- It recognizes and incorporates Biblical principles and practice of health, healing and wholeness
- It aims to bring glory to God and bring His Kingdom in health care ("Bringing back the ark of God into health care")

God's promises to those who will seek God

As we seek more of God there are numerous scriptures that encourage us that He will meet with us and speak to us when we are listening. These are exciting promises to apply into our work.

In Exodus 25:22 God says that He will meet with us & speak with us. He wants to reveal much to and through those who will listen. He wants to speak to his people in health care, about the whole of health care.

Psalm 25:9 tells us that He reveals His way to the humble and verse 12 says to those who fear the Lord. In medicine and health care, there is a great deal of pride that rises up against God. But His desire is to speak to His people, if only we will humble ourselves and our work before God.

Psalm 85:8-13 gives us wonderful promises that we will hear what God the Lord will speak – He will speak peace, salvation, glory, mercy, truth, righteousness. Through this the "land will increase". How it is our longing that the land would increase in God, His ways and His means, that we would see His glory among us.

Transformations around the world

In many places around the world societies have been transformed by the power & presence of God. It has been documented in the "Transformations" videos by George Otis Junior, www.glowtorch.org. Those who have analysed these transformations have noted various common factors that bring God's presence. Attractors of God's presence and favour are –

- Humility 2Kings 18:5, 2Chron 30:11
- Holiness 2Chron 30:11
- Faith 2Chron 30:18-20, 32:7-8
- Unity 2Chron 30:12

- Fervent united sustained prayer Is 37:1- 4

As people who are desperately wanting to see health care changed, we would be well advised to consider and meditate upon these attractors and seek how to apply them in health care. God desires to work in and through us to impact our workplace, our area of influence and responsibility. As this happens, we will begin to see His transformation and His glory in health care. We will see change in our health care world. May God lead you to be His instrument to bring God's presence into your sphere of influence.

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