

**[Mark 4]** 'Are there consequences for following: *the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desire for other things entering in and [choking] the word, and it [becoming] unfruitful...?*

**Q: Are Christians today suffering in health b/c of disobedience?** Mental? Emotional? Marital? Family? Even death? **Js 5:14-20 Praying 4 Church Revival**

**A: The Bible says 'Yes'...what says the church?** [Ruth, Nancy, Ferne, Linda...]

1. Does God 'Cause /Decree ALL things' in life? (Sov. Reformed Determinism)

- No, if He did than He would be causing evil. [war, rape, abortion, etc.]
- Humanity has God's 'Light'/Word – 'free will' choice: is affected & affects

**God's Kingdom/Edenic design has been 'tainted':** [Spiritual, Physical] **but will begin its restoration in the Mess. Kingdom...with it's completion in Eternal State.**

**Which means:** There are 'things/aspects' In the world that are a result of 'The Fall' [God's Judgment 4 disobedience] **that are NOT part of God's Design.**

- **Inevitable:** Mortality, age, disease, cancer, infant death, mental illness, Etc.]
- **Sovereignty:** is being in complete control/auth. while **NOT Causing All things**
- **Theocracy:** is recognizing that God is God and permits/allows/"Steps Back' in the midst of Humanity/Creation as He sees Fit.
  - **Satan** finds his limited authority in '**this permission**' amongst 'the orderly arrangement of those who do NOT belong to God' (**world**), and fleshly/disobedient/wayward/backslidden Christians. (**carnal**)
  - **EVERY** person @ Conception **IS AN ETERNAL Created Being** – Their Destination is determined by Where they 'Stand before God' - **Faith**

2. **BUT...**What happens when an individual 'Places their Faith in Christ'?

**You are: Regenerated (born again), Indwelt, Adopted, and sealed (ES)**

- Being '**IN** Christ...comes with 'Spiritual Intimacy' – based on Obedience.

**Faith 4 Relationship -> Obedience 4 Spiritual Fellowship with God**

**Eternal Life NOW -> THEN: Kingdom inheritance, place/position, blessing**

- NO Spiritual Intimacy if there is NO Obedience: Dead –Death-Loss

3. They find themselves 'IN' God's Plans/Purposes – Test & Testimony:

- **Romans 8:28** – Which @ times includes God **calling/commanding** His Children to 'suffer' as a testimony, Gospel opportunities, following Christ's example as God extends His grace to those around you.

**Suffering is something the Spirit leads in - the believer trust/seek Him thru it:**

- Persecution, grief, cancer, disease, mental ill.: there is 'nothing OUTSIDE of God's Sovereignty that a 'Child of God' walks thru—**but 'if' THEY choose**

4. What happens if a [OT/NT] Believer **Chooses** to live in DISOBEDIENCE?

**God's Principle:**

Relationship is Eternally Secure **[POSITION]...BUT**

Sp. Fellowship is Broken with Physical Consequences in LIFE NOW - > **THEN**

OT Principle: 'Sin = Death' **Gen. 2:15-7; Deut. 28:9...15...58...63; Ezek. 18**

**Romans 8:5-13**

[Follows A believers Testimony of How He constantly wrestles with His flesh]

1. **(v.5)** 'living according to the flesh' – [**world, riches, other things**]
2. **(v.6a)** 'fleshly minded is **death**' – physical/sp. Broken fellowship
  - a. NOW -> THEN...Judgment Seat of Christ [**zemioo**]
3. **(v. 6b)** 'spiritually minded is **life and peace.**'
  - a. **Life [NOW->THEN K.]...Peace [Messianic Salv./Promise]**
4. **(v. 7)** 'fleshly mind is enmity against (toward) God' (Jm 4:4)
5. **(v.9)** 'if' – you are a believer with the Spirit; He will be leading you AWAY from those things/thinking [**world, riches, other things**]
6. **(v.10)** 'the Spirit is life [Et. Life NOW-> THEN]...b/c of righteousness [Fruit]
7. **(v.11)** 'give Life to your mortal bodies thru/b/c of His Holy Spirit who dwells in you.'
  - a. Leaving behind sin/world – Bearing Fruit 4 Life NOW -> THEN

**(v.13) What happens to a believer choosing to 'Live according to the Flesh'?**  
**[world, riches, other things]**

**There are consequences:** NOW -> THEN...Judgment Seat of Christ [**zemioo**]

- **Jn 15; Acts 5; Rom. 3:23; 6:23; I Cor. 3; 5; 11:30; 15:10; Js 1:21; 2:14; 5:14-20**

**We have arrived at our destination: AS A Christian** If I am fighting Cancer – Sickness – Disease – Mental Illness – Marital -Financial Difficulty:

**"ARE YOU saying that THIS is b/c of Sin IN MY LIFE?"**

**Biblically:** "Why on earth would this NOT be the VERY 1<sup>st</sup> Question asked?" **Ps.51**

1. **We would FIRST answer... 'YES'** (Garden)... [ affects/affected – choice]
2. 2<sup>nd</sup> **We would Answer: YES 'It could be'**...God chastises whom He loves
  - Sin brings 'Death' – **The blood of Christ (I Jn 1:9), Confession & Repentance are a Precious Gift from God to those in Christ: Spiritual Maturity Examines itself**
3. 3<sup>rd</sup> **'YES'** and go to **MY** closest spiritual friend to seek accountability –**Js 5:15-16...and ...'IF'...[NOT necessarily but that is between U & God]**

**ONLY AFTER** all these 3 things have been prayed over...we would be on our knees long enough to Ask God – **Clean and completely dependent on Him:**  
Lord Help me thru this suffering...for YOUR Purpose/Glory...Use Me/Lead Me thru this today.