

Look at Nature

I. Nature Reflects the Gospel

If you walked into heaven right now, every sickness in your body would disappear because there is no sickness in heaven. If you had sin in your life, it would be gone by the time you got to the throne of God because no sin exists in God's presence.

As we draw closer to God on this earth, we should have less sin and less sickness in our body and we should walk in greater righteousness, health, and prosperity.

3 John 2

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.

It is God's desire that the closer we draw to Him, sickness, sin, and poverty should diminish. His very nature is healing.

If you have any sadness or depression in your life, it would be gone by the time you got to the throne of God because in His presence is fullness of joy. It's not that God would have to do something special, it is just that His very nature emanates healing, joy, prosperity, and forgiveness. We can tell that God is a healer by looking at nature.

Romans 1:19-20

Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shown it unto them.

For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.

For the sinners who don't have a preacher or a Bible and for the heathen around the world who have never heard the Gospel, God presents the Gospel through nature. Nature teaches of God and of His character.

Romans 1:19-20 (NIV)

Since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them.

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

Have you ever had people ask you, "What about the heathen who have never heard about God?" When those heathen stand before God, they will be without excuse. Although they never had a preacher, God preached to them through the stars. He preached to them through nature. It is within the heart of man to know about God, so they will be without excuse.

Nature teaches us that God is omnipotent, all-powerful. If you know there is a God out there, how can you look at the stars and the universe without realizing He is all-powerful? He created all that and He runs it. He also runs the earth. He creates all life. He knows about everything that happens on this earth.

Nature also teaches us about the Trinity. Verse 20 says, "*It teaches us about His eternal power and Godhead.*" Nature teaches us about the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, whether we ever open a Bible or not.

Nature teaches us about salvation. You can walk into any Christian bookstore and find books about God's plan of salvation revealed through nature. God put the stars in their place. He arranged the stars. When I mention the signs of the zodiac, many Christians become offended and claim that is witchcraft. No, witchcraft got in on what God did and tried to pervert it. The twelve signs of the zodiac teach everything from salvation to the infilling of the Holy Spirit, to the divine walk of God, and to the crushing of Satan's head.

If you look at where Sagittarius has his bow pointed, it is right at the heart of Scorpio. Right above Scorpio's head is a heel with a cross in it. Genesis 3:15 says he will crush his head.

Aquarius, with the water pot, is a beautiful type of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost.

God never intended that those stars run your life, but that they teach you. God has a plan of salvation and redemption for you and that plan can even be seen in the stars.

Nature teaches about God's character. Solomon taught from the smallest of the twigs to the largest of the cedar trees. He taught us about how God wants us to be industrious when he said in Proverbs 6:6, *"Go to the ant, thou sluggard, who stores up her food in the summertime so that she'll have food in the wintertime."*

Jesus referred to the birds and the flowers when He said in Matthew 6:26-28, *"Behold the fowls of the air...Consider the lilies of the field."*

II. We Are To Have Dominion Over Nature

When I look out into space, I see the power of God, the beauty of God. Man just marvels because he doesn't know God, but I rejoice because one day that's going to be my playground. When I have a resurrection body, I'm going to enjoy the universe. We will be able to go anywhere we want to. People often ask me, "What are we going to do in heaven forever?" Which part of the universe do you want to see? Which planet or galaxy do you want to visit? That is all out there for us. That is our inheritance!

The world looks at nature and says, "We're just a part of this. In fact, we're messing this up. Man shouldn't be here. If man wasn't here, nature would get along just fine because we wouldn't be polluting the streams and the air. We wouldn't have ozone problems."

One night David lay outside on a hill and looked at the stars. He wrote what the stars taught him.

Psalm 8:3-8

*When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars,
which thou hast ordained;*

*What is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son [offspring] of man, that
thou visitest him?*

*For thou hast made him [man] a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned
him with glory and honor.*

*Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all
things under his feet.*

When David looked at nature, he said, “Look what God has done. God has made me in His image and has put me here to have dominion over the works of His hands.” David didn’t claim to be equal with nature or subject to nature. Nature is subject to us through the work of the cross. Nature has been placed out there as my servant and it is under the feet of mankind who has been redeemed by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I look at a big tree, I think, *Isn’t that a nice tree. It sure makes some nice shade.* But if I got cold, I would cut that nice tree down and make firewood out of it, and another tree would grow in its place. That is what God has intended in nature. Nature is here to bless us, but nature is also our servant. God waited until the last day in the Garden of Eden to put man in it and then He told him to have dominion over it — over the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and over everything that creeps on the face of the earth. (*Genesis 1:28*) Nature is here to take care of man and we are to be caretakers over the earth. He hasn’t called us to be equal with nature or think that we are less than the animals around us. That is *evolutionary* thinking. God has given us *revolutionary* thinking by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Plants and animals are our food. God set them here for that purpose and told man he could eat of everything out there. Plants and animals are also the source of our clothing. That is how God intended it to be. When man tried to cover himself with nothing but leaves, God slew an animal and put the animal skin around him. The shedding of blood was necessary for man to have clothing.

Nature keeps us well. Plants and trees exchange the carbon dioxide we breathe out for oxygen. They take the very curse that comes from us and turn it around to make a blessing for us.

Medical research continues to investigate sources of nature to cure diseases. God has designed nature to be there for man's healing, and man is trying to tap into it and find out what we can use to benefit our health. Years ago, leeches were placed on someone to remove disease. We thought that was so barbaric, but now we are reinstating that practice. The medical field is discovering the power God has placed in the smallest of creatures to help with man's health. This is God's plan for nature.

III. Made In The Image of God

God placed man in this earth on a higher level because only man was made in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

I want to qualify this verse. Our *spirit* is made in God's image. The Hebrew word means *exact image*. Our *body* is made in God's likeness. Our spirits are made in His exact image because God is a spirit, not a body. In unregenerate man, that spirit is dead. Once we become born again, our spirit is alive and is in the very image of God. God doesn't look like you and me, but we look like His likeness. In our body, we all look different, but we have certain attributes that remain the same.

God's nature is healing, and He has placed that nature inside of us. Do you realize your body fights for its health every day? Germs enter your body and your body goes to work immediately to fight them. Poisons that try to enter through your breath are filtered out through your sweat and waste. Your body holds and keeps nutrients for food, but gets rid of whatever it doesn't need. Your body was designed by God to keep itself well. God placed that nature inside of you.

Every part of our body works together to accomplish that task, whether it is the lungs, the kidneys, the heart, or the liver. For years, doctors didn't know what the appendix was for, but every time they removed one, it was filled with poison. That poison had to come from somewhere and apparently, the body was doing its job.

Your body fights for health. If you cut yourself, your body tries to heal itself. Our bodies build up immunities. As diseases change and mutate, our immune system tries to adapt.

IV. Being Too Clean

Soon after I began working for Brother Hagin years ago, a man by the name of Larry Huggins was hired to do graphic design. Larry was a saved hippie. He and his family had lived a life removed from civilization, his wife delivered two of their children in teepees in Arizona, and they finally built a small home in the hills of Arkansas. They ate off the land and drank clear stream water. They went into town only once a year. As a result, their bodies were extremely clean from the inside out.

One day, after hearing some singing from a little white church in Arkansas, he went to the church, listened to the preacher, and got saved. Next, he took his family to church and they all received Jesus. He knew he had to get a job and his time of living secluded in the mountains was over. That was when he found the job opportunity for Brother Hagin listed in a newspaper. His family packed up and moved to Tulsa from Arkansas and he was hired to work for Brother Hagin.

I asked him how different it was living away from civilization and then moving back into society. He responded, "When I arrived in Tulsa, I could feel the electricity in my body as I drove under the power lines. It would cause us to shake. I could almost feel radio signals coming through my body because we were just too clean."

I asked, "What did you do?"

He said, "I had to get some coffee in me as fast as I could!" He went on to explain, "It's dangerous to be that clean. Doctors vaccinate you by putting a little bit of a disease in your body so you can build up immunities to it."

I believe in being healthy and watching what you eat, but God has designed our bodies with an immune system. Whether we breathe germs in or take them in by our food, our body is designed to keep us healthy. That is how nature works.

I have heard Christians get upset when someone sneezes. But those sneezes are getting rid of something that is trying to enter the body. Coughing is the body's way of breaking things up and contributing to a healthier body. If something tries to infiltrate this holy temple of God, I want my body to reject it. Your body goes through a natural process to get rid of certain things that don't belong.

Do you understand how nature reflects God? Nature tries to heal; it does not promote sickness. An enemy has come into nature to promote sickness and nature fights against it.

Why do we call disease an enemy? Even the world knows we have to fight cancer. It takes a kooky Christian to think it is a gift from God. Only a religious person will say, "God has given this to me because He loves me so much." However, nature has taught against that. God's very name is healing. One of His first names was Jehovah Rapha — He is the Lord that heals. He sent His Word to heal us and deliver us from all of our destructions. (Psalm 107:20)

V. Supernatural Healing

The Holy Spirit was also sent to bring healing.

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised.

When the body cannot heal itself and is beyond the point where nature can heal, God has put supernatural healing methods into His Word. God's methods of healing go beyond what the body can do for itself. It goes beyond what nature can do for the body.

Matthew 18:19

If two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.

Think about the power of prayer in a church service. If one can put a thousand to flight, two can put ten thousand to flight. (*Deuteronomy 32:30*) In a church service like this, we can put all hell on the run when we agree in prayer!

We've had cases where doctors have given up and said it was impossible, there was no cure. A prayer request was turned in and the church prayed. Later we heard how that person was healed at the exact time we prayed in our church service. Why? Because the very nature of God is healing.

Congregations can pray. Individuals can join together and pray. Elders of the church can anoint you with oil and pray. There are gifts of healing and the working of miracles that God has sent through the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

God wants us to have His health so we can complete the Great Commission. We can't fulfill the Great Commission if we're confined to a sickbed. Satan sends sickness into the body of Christ in an attempt to stop the Great Commission. Poverty is sent to stop the Great Commission. However, the believer can invoke the Word and the power of the Holy Spirit through prayer. We can use our spiritual authority to see sickness and disease conquered in our midst.

VI. Myths Regarding Sickness in a Believer

If God's very nature is healing, then we know sickness does not come from God. If God instituted healing into nature and God is the author of disease, then God has taught nature to rebel against Himself. Nature cannot rebel against His nature. When you cut yourself and the body tries to heal the cut, your body is reflecting the nature of God. God is a healing God.

We call sickness an enemy and we fight disease. If God is the One who sends sickness and disease, then every medical researcher, doctor, and

nurse should be considered enemies of righteousness. Luke should have never had two books in the New Testament, and God should have never addressed him as “the beloved physician.” (*Colossians 4:14*) I believe God told Paul to call Luke “the beloved physician” because He knew the opposition doctors would receive from Spirit-filled people who think going to the doctor is the wrong thing to do. Yes, we should rely on God for our healing, but doctors have been placed on this earth to learn to work with nature and to promote God’s will in the area of physical healing for our bodies. I applaud the work of doctors, nurses, and those in the medical profession today. They are working with God’s will.

If you think sickness is part of God’s will for you, why are you going to a doctor to try to get rid of God’s will? If happiness comes by being in the middle of God’s will, why are you trying to change things? Your very desire to see a doctor and get rid of sickness indicates that God has divine healing for you.

If sickness comes from God, then sickness must be good because God only gives good things. (*James 1:17*)

Acts 10:38

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.

Doing good means He was *producing good*. Notice that doing good and healing go hand-in-hand. He wasn’t doing good and sending sickness; He was doing good and healing.

This verse says sickness comes from Satan. God’s desire is to take demonic, satanic oppression, sickness, and disease from us by the good work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

In John 5, Jesus healed the man at the pool of Bethesda on the Sabbath. The Jews were very upset about this and sought to kill Jesus. Jesus responded to them that He only does what He sees His Father do. If Jesus brought healing, it was only because He saw His Father bring healing.

Some believe divine healing was only for the time Jesus was on this earth, but now we have sickness. However, we are to take up and continue the works of Jesus. We are to continue the teaching and actions of Jesus. Not only are we to go into all the world and preach the gospel, we are to *lay hands on the sick and they shall recover!* (Mark 16:15-18)

We know the trees and plants take in our carbon dioxide and give out our oxygen. It is the same way with sickness. Jesus absorbed our sickness on the cross and gave us divine healing. Nature even teaches about the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 8:17

Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses.

1 Peter 2:24

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.

Hallelujah for the work of Jesus on the cross; He has come to bring us healing. Jesus absorbed our sickness and disease and through His sacrifice, we have His healing.