

B. Brief analysis of the sickness and healing passages of the New Testament:

1. James 5....note the emphasis on confession, forgiveness, admission of guilt. Note that the prayer of faith shall save....and observe how complete is the promise. We might as well say it honestly that the church of Christ has not totally agreed on the meaning of this passage but some things are easily seen by all. We will note these:
 2. 1 John 5: a sickness unto death...a sin unto death....a word for the believer, not particularly encouraging but important.
 3. 2 Corinthians 12...some think the Apostle recovered from the thorn in the flesh but everything in the passage seems to suggest otherwise. That question need not be resolved however, before seeing the important truth....that sickness or weakness often issues in greater strength not after you recover but while you are still ill.

C. Observations:

1. There are physical judgments in the body, apparently imposed by the Spirit in connexion with deficiencies in doing the will of God.
 - a. Acts 5: Ananias and Sapphira...they lied to the Holy Ghost ---to God, we are told---and they died for it.
 - b. 1 Cor. 5...such a wicked practice as that countenance in this chapter called for the deliverance of the sinner (a brother) to the devil for the "destruction" of the body...that the soul might know deliverance and the testimony might be spared further embarrassment.
 - c. 1 Corinthians 11:30...temporal judgments in the flesh for some who have not been observant of the Lord's body.
2. Not all physical suffering is indicative of these:
 - a. 2 Timothy 4:20...the case of Trophimus
 - b. 3 John 2...Gaius...obviously a man in good spiritual state but not in good physical state.
 - c. Galatians 4:13...reflection on Paul's affliction