

# What About the Guilt!

By B. D. Tate

What Do You Say to Someone who has just lost a loved one through sickness, disease, or accident? If God wants everyone well, healed, and safe, and they didn't receive it that places a lot of guilt on loved ones. **What about the guilt?**

For example: If we say to that person you didn't receive because you didn't have enough faith or because you had too much unbelief we are placing an awful burden on them. **To relieve us of the guilt we teach** that God is sovereign and sometimes He chooses to heal and sometimes He chooses to let others remain sick and suffer for His glory. We further state we are supposed to praise God in any situation ***in the good and the bad***. Therefore we aren't supposed to know if it's God's will to heal. God gives us peace through healing and God gives us peace in the midst of suffering when He doesn't heal.

*As a response:* My wife testifies that when her father died at the age of twelve from pneumonia she was told that God took him. It was God's time for him to go to heaven. When she was told that something inside of her shut down. She said the light went out. She loved her dad and needed him very badly and to think that God took him was just too much to understand. She rebelled and for the next seven or so years ran away from God. Some might say well you just have to have faith. It sounds like she didn't have enough faith to trust God by taking her father or she had too much unbelief to accept God's will in the matter.

**A Faith Problem & Guilt from Both Sides Now!**

It seems we have a faith problem if you try to believe God and we have a faith problem if we turn away from God. **We have a guilt problem if we fail to receive God's Will and we have a guilt problem when we reject God's Will.**

**Why don't we re-examine what the Bible teaches about sickness and disease and how Jesus dealt with situations like this.**

When Jesus disciples could not cure a young boy with a demonic spirit and seizers they brought him to the Lord. The Lord remarked "O faithless and perverse generation how long shall I be with you?" Then Jesus healed the boy. Then the disciples asked the Lord, "Why couldn't we heal him?" Jesus' answered, "Because of your unbelief." **This is an amazing answer because it would certainly place the burden upon his disciples for not curing the boy's problem.** There would be a guilt issue if the boy had died. There is more involved here though, because when the disciples didn't cure the boy many would have said, **"See it is not God's will to heal him."** Yet, Jesus actually rebukes them for not curing the boy. God's will is not determined by the situation it is determined by His word. When Jesus does heal the boy that shows us what God's will is because Jesus is the very representation of the Father to us (Col. 1:15).

Jesus continues, (Mt 17:20) "So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. Faith as small as a mustard seed is able to move mountains and just as important we must notice that Jesus is teaching us to

speak to the mountain! It matters how we pray and it matters that we are in agreement with God’s word when we pray.

## The Doubt Problem

James tells us in the first chapter that we must receive from God by faith **without doubting**. Doubting is defined as being double-minded and tossed like the waves of the sea. This means that we don’t know what God’s will is and are tossed back and forth with **uncertainty**. We may say we have faith that God **can** heal but that doesn’t mean we actually believe He has healed. If we are not sure we are in doubt—it is very simple. We must know God’s will before we can release our faith to receive. Doubt is a major obstacle and reason why we don’t receive from God.

**We can eliminate doubt.** When we are convinced in our heart to the point that we are unmoved, unshakeable, fixed, and knowing what God’s will is, we have removed doubt.

The problem about doubt is that we can incorporate it right into our believing. When we teach that God can heal but doesn’t always heal, we have **integrated doubt** into our believing. **The bottom line is: are we to know God’s will and be single minded about it just as James teaches us?**

What often happens is that our experiences will trump what the Word of God actually teaches. For example: **When someone asks the question why didn’t God heal me?** The question reveals that at the heart level they have let go of what the atonement teaches about healing. When we examine the atonement from Isaiah 53 we see clearly that healing was accomplished in Christ’s offering.

Isa. 53: **Surely He has borne our grief** And carried our sorrows;  
Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted.  
5 But He **was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed.**

Matthew's Gospel takes this passage and connects strongly to physical healing:

Matt. 8:16 When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon–possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick,  
17 **that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: "He Himself took our infirmities And bore our sicknesses."**

## **The types of questions we ask indicate where our hearts are located**

Some questions start from unbelief like this one because it does not believe the atonement. Did Jesus die for all? Did Jesus pay for everyone's sins? And in the same text, does it not say that we are all healed?

**The right question is:** "What hindered me from receiving/accepting what Jesus has done for me?"

## **There are many Biblical reasons given why we don't receive!**

Some are found in James chapter four:

**James 4:3-10**

3 You ask and do not receive, **because you ask amiss**, that you may spend *it* on your pleasures.

4 **Adulterers and adulteresses!** Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

5 Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"?

6 But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "**God resists the proud**, But gives grace to the humble."

7 **Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil** and he will flee from you.

8 **Draw near to God** and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, *you* sinners; and **purify your hearts, you double-minded.**

9 **Lament and mourn and weep!** Let your laughter be turned to mourning and *your* joy to gloom.

10 **Humble yourselves** in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up.

### (Vs. 3) **We ask amiss!**

James' teaching is **quite blunt**. James tells us that we ask and don't receive because we ask amiss. This means we asked wrong, or incorrectly, or we have muddled it, confused it, or mixed it up.

(Vs. 4) Then he explains what some of those wrong or incorrect ways are:

- 1) To spend our answers *on ourselves*—for selfish reasons and pleasures
- 2) *Adultery*, which is to focus our heart on another, another kingdom, another's word, another's truth...maybe even our own agendas.
- 3) *Friendship with the World*, which is to love this life, the pleasure of this life, to be material minded, covetous, to

fear what others think, say, or believe...these things make us an enemy of God...so if we are asking for things that promote this position God will not answer...nor will His grace manifest on our behalf.

- 4) (Vs. 5) *The Spirit yearns jealousy* to manifest according to the Will and purpose of God, to deliver, heal, cast out, restore, and destroy the works of the flesh...to destroy the works of the devil.
- 5) (Vs. 6) *God resists the proud*, those who would see him or herself as the reason, source, as better than, superior, someone who has earned, worked for, who thinks they have a superior faith and purpose...

In other passages it lists unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, doubt, unbelief, fear, unrepentant sins, treatment of others (spouse), lack of knowledge, our soul not prospering, not abiding in His Word, lack of persistence, casting away our confidence, letting go, giving up, giving in, distractions from the cares of this world, lusts of other things, and the deceitfulness of riches...to name a few.

## **It's What We Believe**

We could get caught up in trying to eliminate every hindrance and still find receiving from God a struggle. **Who can rid their heart of all these hindrances and all the unbelief that fights against our faith?**

The answer isn't so much in trying to clean up everything as it is in finally trusting in God's grace as a gift to us. **It is not that God is holding these things against us it is often that these things are holding us from believing God!** Our hearts are hardened by

sin but as we accept by faith what Jesus has done for us in God's grace we will begin to see results.

## Great Grace!

If I was working with my son on homework that was hard for him to handle, I would encourage him, and help him overcome. I wouldn't leave him to fail. He may not have been as responsible as he should have been but I would consider his heart now and **if I am satisfied with his effort**, his progress, I am not going to deny him the help he needs. God is not going to refuse to overcome our weaknesses, our unbelief, our doubts, and fears, until we have conquered them completely—In fact He's already overcome every weakness we have when we became born again. He is going to work with us where we are at. **He wants us to progress** as any good parent would, and ***He is not holding back***, but grace is empowered to receive His healing the moment our hearts are right with Him. Again, it may not be instant but from that moment healing is operating to bring to pass what Jesus has already accomplished for us. **Our main obstacles to receiving will be brought to our attention by the Holy Spirit** revealed in the form of unbelief, doubt, fears, and lack of knowledge, **but the moment we repent**, acknowledge, and confess, **our sins are forgiven** and He cleanses us from all unrighteousness (1 Jh 1:9).

It is like telling someone that you've messed up, thank you so much for helping me when I couldn't help myself; I am going to learn my lesson and apply it so that I am not in this same place in the future. **God's Great Grace** is not waiting **for us to earn it** to receive what He's done; He is waiting for us to obey Him so that we can become skillful and **not as hindered in receiving in the**

**future. While we are growing** up in our training God's answers manifest; however, God is expecting us to move with Him, to remove old habits, bad language practices, and stop feeding on doubt, unbelief, and fear.

## **Stay in Faith!**

Our faith must be established (convinced) in God's Word even when circumstances or symptoms and things we don't understand fly in its face. **We can't let go of what we do know because of the things we don't know yet.** This is a major flaw in faith matters. Once we have let go of what we do understand (and can see clearly from scripture) we are adrift in the sea of doubt.

## **What About Guilt?**

Some argue God can't be placing any responsibility upon us to believe him. We aren't responsible to actually live by faith? **We want to relieve ourselves of guilt but it is guilt that is prompting us to make changes. First let's realize that guilt is from the old man situation. The new man is just like Jesus in nature and therefore there is NO COMDEMNATION TO THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS. If we are feeling guilt it is a work of the flesh, the sin nature; we need to accept the truth that we are forgiven of ALL our sin past, present and future. God is not pleased when we remain in re-crimination, self loathing, basking in guilt over sins that Jesus paid for! Let's believe God and change our attitude, change our mind, and the way we handle setbacks, sin, and failure, to realize it is finished! It was finished**

**two thousand years ago and it pleases the Father when we accept our forgiveness and then forgive ourselves in Jesus name!**

## **Let's address guilt head on**

Let's get over guilt, please. **We are all guilty** of sin and its consequences. Adam and Eve's decision to rebel against God's dominion resulted in world of suffering, pain, sickness, and disease, not to mention all the violence, crime, hatred, war, murder, etc...**Who's responsible for this?** God is not the one who brought sin and the curse into the earth. When Jesus goes to the cross His blood covers all of our guilt past, present, and future. In Christ there is no condemnation **for we have passed from death to life, from judgment to peace.** Jesus spent his earthly ministry destroying the works of the devil and then re-commissions us to do the same! (John 14:12)

**There is plenty of guilt to go around!** There are many doctors' mistakes in the graveyard. When that happens what do they say to the surviving loved ones? Do they admit that they made a mistake and it cost their love one's life? No, they usually say that it was complications or unforeseen circumstances, or that things like this just happen; but the truth is, the doctor made a mistake and it cost a life. Why do they lie? Isn't it to avoid guilt?

Guilt plagues someone who had been drinking and drove their car into an accident and killed the other occupants of the vehicle he/she hit. Many soldiers just doing their duty have killed innocent men, women, and children. Many parents cannot overcome their guilt because by some neglect their child was killed, or maimed, (maybe in a drowning accident in their own backyard pool). **This kind of guilt plagues humanity why? It is**

**because we are responsible.** We have been given dominion and we are operating in it very poorly—through sin and selfishness. We need God but God’s grace eludes us and instead of telling the truth we make up stories just like doctors do.

## **Is there any guilt for Witnessing?**

What about the whole idea of witnessing salvation for those around us. If we don’t witness and tell people about Jesus and how to get saved there are going to be many who will die and go to hell. Are we responsible? Shouldn’t there be some guilt? Maybe this guilt thing is suppose to motivate us to get going! We don’t sit back and think that if this or that person didn’t get witnessed to it was God’s will for them to go to hell. We don’t think after witnessing to someone that if they don’t receive it is God’s will for them to perish. No, we are convinced that Jesus died for all but why don’t all get saved? It is because everyone has to decide for themselves and complicating that is the many issues, distractions, lies, unbelief, false religions, and personal experiences with suffering and pain that are competing for their souls. There is a lot of confusion out in the world detracting from the truth. **Likewise there is a lot of confusion detracting from our success with healing!**

We are forgiven in Christ. We all miss it. We all fall short. **To the degree that we actually walk by faith in God’s grace we begin to change things...**and in pursuing training in Christ we remove the reproach and guilt we feel **for being powerless** when Jesus said, “I give you power and authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and all the power of the enemy and nothing will harm you.” (Luke 10:19) Jesus didn’t lie to us, let’s be reasonable,

we are in a spiritual war but many of us are fighting like it's a police action, or some week end effort. We might get some results but we need to apply ourselves to be filled with Spirit and full of God's grace so that we are useable in God's army.

### **Let's also consider this...**

People who get sick and die they were going to die anyway. People are dying all around us every day from this sickness or that disease. Many accidents happen every day that take the life of someone. When we pray for the sick and nothing happens they were going to die anyway. At least our effort is beginning to change the end result for more and more...

### **We are ARE NOT ALONE in being Responsible!**

Not one person on earth is responsible solely for the soul of another. God hasn't put all of His money so to speak on one person to witness and lead to salvation another person. We, the body of Christ, are responsible together to reach the lost.

**Likewise, God is *NOT* limited to one person to heal the sick.** The body of Christ is responsible to heal, deliver, and cast out demons.

When doctors have family members who need their skills in surgery they do not perform on their own loved ones. They find someone else to help when it comes to their own loved ones because they are too close emotionally. When it comes to family members we also may need others who are not as emotionally close to pray and heal our loved ones. God has put the responsibility to heal the sick, restore and deliver, cast out demons on the whole body of Christ, not just one person.

### **Training in Healing isn't Instant**

When we consider that medical doctors spend years training to become a doctor then we must realize how involved sicknesses and diseases are...it is not one size fits all. We are also learning while we are training to be like our master (Luke 6:40), we will have ups and downs just as a doctor in training does. **No training is instant** but takes time and effort. Many have quit when the going gets tough but God wants us to grow up in our faith and become skillful like Jesus was. Through grace and faith in healing, knowing God's will, we have begun to see more and more results. We haven't arrived but we have left. **We have taken on the burden of life and with God's grace are overcoming it.**

## **What is the burden of life?**

The burden of life knows we are responsible but do not have the power to change it. Yet, now in Christ, in the understanding that God has already done everything and we are standing on His Word, we are overcoming our powerlessness. **God did not leave us in our guilt.** He has done everything He can by giving us His name, His grace, His peace, His power, His will and Word, and His Spirit. When we realize to what extent Jesus went to give us victory over guilt we will start to rise up and remove its burden.

## **In Conclusion**

*The Problem:* When we are walking according to the flesh, as mere men, we are under the law **and in guilt**. When we are thinking worldly, speaking and acting worldly we are under the law **and in guilt**. Jesus put this way,

John 3:18 “He who believes in Him is not condemned; **but he who does not believe is condemned already**, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Or as Paul the apostle wrote:

Ro 8:6 **For to be carnally minded is death**, but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace.

*The answer:* When we are walking according the Spirit all that changes from death (guilt) to life (peace).

Ro 8:1 **There *is* therefore now no condemnation** to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.

Ga 6:16 And as many as walk according to this rule, **peace and mercy *be* upon them**, and upon the Israel of God.

Ga 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, **you are not under the law**.

These verses and others like them clearly teach us that we passed from judgment, guilt and condemnation in the flesh **to life, health, peace, and mercy in the Spirit**. Our guilt issue remains as we remain in our natural man, living to the world, being governed by the flesh; however, when we walk after the Spirit we are no longer under condemnation, guilt, fear, and judgment from God. We are translated from guilt to peace as we live in our heart to the Spirit!

**When we are overcome by guilt it is not from God**, it not from the Spirit, we are forgiven, accepted, released, and given a new life. We can know that guilt is of the flesh but life and peace are of the Spirit! **We can forgive ourselves**, we are to forgive ourselves and accept the power of the resurrection to let go of those things we have done (no matter how bad they are). We can because in Christ Jesus we have been crucified with Him, we no longer live, and the life we now live we live **is by the faith of the one who loved and died for us** (Gal. 2:20).

*In short:* When I am in the flesh guilt abounds; but when I am walking in the Spirit I am to have life and peace—no guilt.