

***D*ynamic Worship *N*ew Insights *A*ppplied Knowledge**

The DNA of FlagNaz is relatively simple (see above). We believe there is a collective wisdom rising up out of our shared experiences and interaction.

Inspiration lasts for the moment. Application a lifetime...

★Write down one new insight you received today...

★Thinking...

- In what ways did I, or do I, think or act in opposition to God?
- How do I know that these thoughts or actions are wrong?
- With the above answers in mind, how much do I value the *remedy* offered by the atonement of Jesus Christ?
- How did God reveal the need for and possibility of *healing* to me personally?
- What thoughts or actions has God prescribed as my *healthy ways* in replace of those above?

★Applying...

- Identify one specific dimension of life in which God is currently prescribing a new *healthy way* of repentance.
- Envision what it will take for you to begin practicing that *healthy way*.
- Plan how you can apply that practice in everyday life.
- Commit to implementing the plan for the next week.
- Journal your performance and how it felt to attempt this change.

★Praying...

- Pray that God power your plan to practice this specific *healthy way*.
- Pray gratitude for God's prevenient grace, His *public service announcement* of your dire condition.
- Pray over others to whom He wants you to provide this same *PSA*.

FlagNaz

Be Healed and Thrive

June 26, 2022

Nazarene Faith – Part 2

The Healthy Way

Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon (NIV).

I) Humanity's Malady...

Our bodies are wonderfully made. In their perfect form they are strong and resilient. Wounds heal and injuries mend. A few of us, though, have imperfect bodies. Some of these imperfections are obvious, like missing limbs. Others are nearly undetectable, such as certain diseases and immune deficiencies. These deviations from the standard make some bodies *unfit* for certain activities. One thing is common across all humans – we all begin life with a spiritual deficiency, one that makes us *unfit* for God's purposes.

♦**Original sin:** Some of the maladies our bodies suffer are hereditary, passed down from one generation to the next. The obvious ones provide the opportunity to develop a life plan that *fits* the body's ability. Unfortunately, many hereditary maladies are not known until some problem reveals them. Our spirits are like this. We *appear* normal, conforming to the standard of what it is to be a *healthy* human, only our standard of health is wrong. Original sin is "corruption of the nature of all the offspring of Adam" that weakens our ability to relate properly to God. By the time we realize this, it is too late. We have already broken the relationship.

♦**Personal sin:** Doctors often use a clinical approach to diagnosing and treating maladies. Being clinical is being fact-based, unemotional, objective. Whether one knew of their inherited malady or not is immaterial to its presence, consequential damage, and the need for treatment. That we do not recognize our *lack of fitness* to relate properly to God does not release us from the responsibility for our behavior, its effects, and our need for healing. We prove *unfit* for the relationship when we disobey His Law, refuse His command, or govern ourselves by our own judgment rather than His.

♦**Scripture references:** Original sin: Gen 3; 6:5; Job 15:14; Ps 51:5; Jer 17:9-10; Mk 7:21-23; Rom 1:18-25; 5:12-14; 7:1-8:9; 1 Cor 3:1-4; Gal 5:16-

25; 1 John 1:7-8. Personal sin: Mt 22:36-40, 1 John 3:4, John 8:34-36; 16:8-9; Rom 3:23; 6:15-23; 8:18-24; 14:23; 1 John 1:9-2:4; 3:7-10

II) Jesus's Remedy...

Some maladies require simple, easy treatments. *Take two aspirin and call me in the morning.* Others require complicated, prolonged, painful treatments. Surgical repairs, debilitating pharmaceuticals, intensive therapies over a lifetime. The nature of our illness is most severe. Sin causes spiritual death. This can only be remedied by a divine encounter with death itself.

♦ **Atonement:** There are maladies that require full organ transplants. A transplant is the replacement of the *unwell* person's organ with that of a *well* person. This sort of treatment deals with permanently *unfit* parts of the body. Nazarenes believe that Jesus, "by His sufferings, by the shedding of His own blood, and by His death on the Cross, made a full atonement for all human sin, and that this Atonement is the only ground of salvation." Our sinful flesh made our spiritual hearts permanently *unfit*, requiring a complete transplant. The only person *fit* to provide the transplant is Jesus.

♦ **Moral responsibility:** Our government requires consent before undergoing a medical procedure. In the case of infants, minors, and those we deem without personal responsibility, the requirement is for consent by parents or legal guardians. We believe God's government operates similarly. Jesus Himself consents that His atonement is "efficacious for the salvation of those incapable of moral responsibility," while morally responsible people receive atonement "only when they repent and believe."

♦ **Scripture references:** Isa 53:5-6, 11; Mk 10:45; Lk 24:46-48; John 1:29; 3:14-17; Acts 4:10-12; Rom 3:21-26; 4:17-25; 5:6-21; 1 Cor 6:20; 2 Cor 5:14-21; Gal 1:3-4; 3:13-14; Col 1:19-23; 1 Tim 2:3-6; Titus 2:11-14; Heb 2:9; 9:11-14; 13:12; 1 Pet 1:18-21; 2:19-25; 1 John 2:1-2

III) Public Service Announcement...

Health issues that often go undetected yet produce great harm are targets of public service announcements. Perhaps while watching a sporting event a message will be presented about forms of cancer common among men urging those of a certain age to be tested. This is an attempt to prevent prolonged ignorance that permits the malady to develop past a point of remedy. *Early detection saves lives...* God is compassionate, graciously providing us with a *public service announcement* about our *malady* informing us of the available *remedy*.

♦ **Truth revealed:** Some of us go about our daily lives unaware of the hidden maladies lurking within. Clogging arteries, painless growths, loss of sensation. Each of these can be signs of impending health catastrophes if overlooked. Yet without indications nor knowing what to look for, these signs are missed. There are many stories of *grace* in which someone goes to the

doctor for one thing and learns of something far more important. Our Articles of Faith read that God makes His *public service announcement* to all, "enabling all who will to turn from sin and to righteousness."

♦ **Faith enabled:** Knowing what to look for is not valuable if there is no access to a remedy. Those convinced they have a lump needing attention must access a qualified physician, have funds or insurance to pay, and get an appointment. God graciously gives us not just the awareness of the malady but the means to acquire the treatment of atonement. This *preventive grace*, or grace granted without our asking, empowers us to "believe on Jesus Christ for pardon and cleansing from sin."

♦ **Scripture references:** Godlikeness and moral responsibility: Gen 1:26-27; 2:16-17; Dt 28:1-2; 30:19; Jos 24:15; Ps 8:3-5; Isa 1:8-10; Jer 31:29-30; Eze 18:1-4; Mic 6:8; Rom 1:19-20; 2:1-16; 14:7-12; Gal 6:7-8. Natural inability: Job 14:4; 15:14; Ps 14:1-4; 51:5; John 3:6a; Rom 3:10-12; 5:12-14, 20a; 7:14-25. Free grace and works of faith: Eze 18:25-26; John 1:12-13; 3:6b; Acts 5:31; Rom 5:6-8, 18; 6:15-16, 23; 10:6-8; 11:22; 1 Cor 2:9-14; 10:1-12; 2 Cor 5:18-19; Gal 5:6; Eph 2:8-10; Phil 2:12-13; Col 1:21-23; 2 Tim 4:10a; Titus 2:11-14; Heb 2:1-3; 3:12-15; 6:4-6; 10:26-31; Jas 2:18-22; 2 Per 1:10-11; 2:20-22

IV) Choosing Wellness...

Wellness is not fulfilled by awareness and means alone. It requires attending the medical appointment and following the prescribed treatment. A life of wellness only begins with treatment and requires us to adopt *healthy ways*. Adopting *healthy ways* necessitates abandoning *unhealthy ways*, an act the church calls Repentance.

♦ **Habits of health:** Surgeons in high demand who provide valuable treatments often will spend time interviewing patients and deny surgery to those unwilling to adopt *healthy ways*. They reserve their scarce talent and time for those who will benefit. God insures glory to His Son by demanding Repentance "of all who have by act or purpose become sinners against God." This "sincere and thorough change of the mind in regard to sin" and "a voluntary turning away from sin," is the adoption of *healthy ways*.

♦ **Embracing our identity:** Doctors who work with athletes may treat patients differently than others. Knowing the identity of their patient, the doctor can prescribe appropriate treatment and therapy to restore the athlete to a *holistic wellness* of their full physical potential. When we choose *healthy ways*, the "Holy Spirit who bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God." He produces *holistic wellness*, enabling "unbroken fellowship with God," the thriving life of those fully healed.

♦ **Scripture references:** 2 Ch 7:14; Ps 32:5-6; 51:1-17; Isa 55:6-7; Jer 3:12-14; Eze 18:30-32; 33:14-16; Mk 1:14-15; Lk 3:1-14; 13:1-5; 18:9-14; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 5:31; 17:30-31; 26:16-18; Rom 2:4; 2 Cor 7:8-11; 1 Th 1:9; 2 Pet 3:9