



Servant's Corner

October 2014

The Diagnostic Power Of Pain
By Rich Henderson, Love INC Director

All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness. Heb. 12:11

“Does this hurt?” asked the dentist as he tapped on the problem tooth. “OUCH, **YES!!!**” said the patient. “Good to know—because it **shouldn’t**” replied the dentist. God created our bodies in such a way that when something needs attention, we feel pain. Pain is the Creator’s alarm that tells us something is wrong and needs to be fixed. Due to extreme tooth pain, I recently went to my endodontist to see if I needed a root canal. When I told him that I had taken two extra-strength Acetaminophen three and a half hours earlier, he explained that the tests he would normally conduct to see if I needed a root canal would be inconclusive. For him to give an accurate diagnosis that would solve my tooth problem, I needed to be able to feel pain.

I think there is a corollary there to how the Great Physician treats His patients (us). If we always treat the symptoms by deadening the pain and never solve the problem that is causing the pain, we can be at cross-purposes to the healing God wants us to have. Have you ever thought that sometimes, by relieving pain of people in need, we might be working counter to something God is trying to teach them? If a church pays a person’s utility bill every time they receive a shut-off notice, might we be giving them a painkiller instead of letting them learn though the pain? The natural consequence is to experience the pain of living in a dark, unheated house. If it is mid-winter, that can provide tremendous motivation not to get another shut off notice. It takes great discernment and intense listening to the Lord and to those we seek to help, but God can direct us how to help in a way that doesn’t go against His purposes in another person’s life.

On a personal level, is there a pain in your soul that you are anesthetizing? Alcoholism and drug abuse are obvious examples of how people do this, but less obvious things like overworking, overspending, distractions or entertainment can be other ways to deaden the pain. I encourage you to allow the Great Physician to bring the deep healing He desires for you.



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