

**OIL,
ADMINISTRATION
AND
MODERN
MEDICINE**

Oil, Administration & Modern Medicine

When should we ask for administration? / When is it appropriate to call for the Elders? / If the need is not for a healing of sickness, how do we counsel the individual?

- a. The commandment is as follows: "Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord." (James 5:14, 15)
- b. In the Book of Mormon we read, "Have ye any that are sick among you, bring them hither." (3rd Nephi 8:6)
- c. Then it goes on to let us know what the Lord meant by that term, "sick". "Have ye any that are lame, or blind, or halt, or maimed, or leprous, or that are withered, or that are deaf, or that are afflicted in any manner, bring them hither, and I will heal them, for I have compassion upon you;" (3rd Nephi 8:7)
- d. In 4th Nephi 1:6-7 we are able to get a better understanding: "**And there were great and marvelous works wrought by the disciples of Jesus, insomuch that they did heal the sick, and raise the dead, and cause the lame to walk, and the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear; 7 And all manner of miracles did they work among the children of men; and in nothing did they work miracles save it were in the name of Jesus.**" This passage shows us that there is a difference between miracles and healing the sick through administration.
- e. We believe people often ask for "administration" when prayer, study or counseling would be more appropriate, (going for a job interview, faced with a special problem, a big exam tomorrow, ect.) James 5:13

When should we go to doctors? / Do you consider it a sin not to use a doctor?

- a. God has prepared medicinal plants and products to aid mankind in the illnesses and problems inherent to our carnal weakness of the flesh due to the Fall of mankind. "And there were some who died with fevers, which at some seasons of the year was very frequent in the land; But not so much so with fevers, because of the excellent qualities of the many plants and roots which God had prepared, to remove the cause of diseases to which man was subject by the nature of the climate." (Alma 21:75,76) The use of such products as developed by man, and dispensed by doctors, would be harmonious with God's purpose in creating such.

- b. God has granted man the knowledge, skill and ability wherein he can perform medical procedures and create medicine which helps to preserve life and improve the quality of life for many of the afflicted. These resources should be used wisely with the understanding that our dependence is on the Lord as the Divine Healer.
- c. To avail oneself of such would seem to lie within our freedom of choice.
- d. It would seem that to deny a child (one without the ability to make a valid choice) of such a God-given blessing, would be wrong in His eyes.

Is there anything in the scriptures that speaks negatively about our use of a doctor?

- a. There are some scriptures that speak negatively about the use of doctors when people became reliant on the arm of the flesh and did not seek the Lord with their physical troubles. In 2nd Chronicles 16:12 it tells us “And Asa in the thirty and ninth year of his reign was diseased in his feet, until his disease was exceeding great: yet in his disease he sought not to the Lord, but to the physicians.”, and we are told in 2nd Nephi 3:63-65 “Yea, cursed is he that putteth his trust in man, or maketh flesh his arm. 64 Yea, I know that God will give liberally to him that asketh. 65 Yea, my God will give me, if I ask not amiss: therefore I will lift up my voice unto thee; yea, I will cry unto thee, my God, the rock of my righteousness.” See also Jeremiah 17:5-8

Are the ministry commanded to take the place of a doctor?

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- a. No, the elders were commanded by Christ to, “heal the sick”, and were given power and authority to heal. Matthew 10:1, 5-8; Luke 10:1-9. Doctors have not received a God given mandate, and are not able to heal as God is able to heal through His servants.

Are our choices a choice of technology or a question of faith?

- a. No, it does not have to be a choice of technology or faith. The two can go hand in hand. We have the blessings of technology and knowledge as said in Daniel 12:4. Knowledge has increased as we came out of the Dark Ages which was God’s doing. God has given the very resources we need for our well being as stated in Alma 21:75,76, Book of Commandments 60:25-32. We believe we should always seek the Lord first in all things, for He is able to care for our needs both physically and spiritually. (Mosiah 1:88-89, Book of Commandments 44:35-39)

How can the oil be used?

- a. While no scriptures strictly prohibit the use of oil outside of administration, consecrated oil should be primarily used by the Elder's as it is set aside for this use. So that, if Elder's are available they should be contacted first. However, it is important to emphasize that the prayer of faith can heal, or rather, bring God's blessing even without oil." (Priesthood Guide 3-6, James 5:14-15, Exodus 30:22-31, Matthew 26:7-12, Acts 19:11-12) *Mark 6:13*

Do you have to use oil?

- a. No, there are many examples in scripture of the ministry healing without the use of oil. See Mark 16:18; Mormon 4:87,88

Why are some not healed?

- a. Some are not healed because of lack of faith by the ministry, the congregation, or the persons needing it.

2nd Nephi 11:145, Mark 6:3-6, Moroni 7:41-43, Moroni 10:18-20

- b. Some were not healed because there were additional requirements for the blessing that was needed.

Matthew 17:13-21

- c. Some were not healed because the ministry were not spiritually prepared and cleansed of their sins.

3rd Nephi 4:2

Excerpt from a revelation given January 9, 1953, to the shepherds of the sheep, through Apostle Don. W. Housknecht, "Prove herein your desire to serve as my chosen shepherds by supplicating yourselves before me in mighty fasting and prayer and I will cleanse you that you might be fit vessels in my hands to the bringing forth to my sheep the gifts and blessings that they have only in small measure known."

- d. Some may not be healed because their malady or problem is a consequence of their sins.

Revelation 18:4-5

Should everyone be healed?

- a. The scriptures show us that not everyone was to be healed since some were appointed to die and sickness was the Lord's means to take them home to Himself. Alma 21:73-77
- b. The Lord also gives weakness of the flesh for His purposes, i.e. Paul's thorn in the flesh. 2nd Corinthians 12:7-9 ETNW 5:28
- c. The consequences of our sins may determine that some things are not removed. See Exodus 34:6-7, Jacob 5:22-36, Alma 16:52-77

Does God ever give disease or sickness as a punishment?

- a. Yes, sometimes it is God's judgment. See Leviticus 26:16; Deuteronomy 7:15; 28:22, 27, 28, 35; Revelation 18:4-6

Are all sicknesses and diseases of demonic origin?

- a. No, sickness and disease resulted because of the fall of man and every man suffers because of it. See Genesis 2:17; Romans 5:12; Ether 5:28

What about plastic surgery?

- a. Regarding our bodies, we have been given abundant scriptural reference:

[Gen 1:27] So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

[1 Cor 6:19] What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
[1 Cor 6:20] For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.
- b. The use of plastic surgery can be placed in two distinct categories. The first is necessary for restoring the body to its normal condition, especially in cases where disfigurement would lead to further health problems or genuine loss of self esteem. The second category would be considered unnecessary and for the purposes of vanity only, especially for the carnal purpose of attracting the opposite sex.

1. Necessity

There are many scriptural passages that indicate that the Lord was concerned with the health of our physical bodies, but always with an eye toward glorifying God, not man. Christ himself was the original plastic surgeon. We recognize that disfigurement due to prior surgery, such as a mastectomy, could lead to a loss of self esteem or even serious emotional problems. Reconstructive surgery in this case would not be considered vanity but rather restorative.

The following scriptural passages could be referenced in this regard:

Luke 22:47-51, 3 Nephi 8:6-7, 4 Nephi 1:6-7

2. Vanity

The Lord has created us in his image to live on this earth as a vessel for the indwelling of His Spirit. Although we are expected to present a respectable image to the world, we are admonished to consider the heart of a person, not his outward appearance. Plastic surgery for the purpose of making oneself more attractive is consistent only with the world's preoccupation with bodily beauty. The following scriptures could be referenced regarding the use of plastic surgery for vain purposes.

1 Timothy 4:8, Romans 8:5-6, 1 Samuel 16:7, 1 Peter 3:1-4, Isaiah 3:15-24