

## "Infection"

Vital Signs – Pt. 6

February 26, 2017

**Review:** To be a healthy Christian means being healthy in these Vital Areas (our Vital Signs):  
Inhaling (spiritual intake) ...Cardio (Holy Spirit, heart pumping transfer) ...Exhaling  
(Spiritual giving of life) ...Temperature or Fighting Infection

**INTRO** ...the physical dimension of what's happening in our body when there's a temperature  
...the presence of infection

*What causes a fever?*

*If you have a fever, chances are you also have an unwelcome virus or bacteria. When your immune system detects an intruder, it releases chemical messages that reset your internal thermostat. As your body fights the infection, your body temperature slowly rises, making life a little harder for the invading germ. Of course, your life will get a little harder, too. But in the end, you'll likely be on the winning side.*

*Usually, there isn't much mystery to a fever. When you have the flu, for instance, you won't be surprised when your temperature rises. Occasionally, however, adults will develop a lingering fever with no obvious cause. Doctors call this a fever of unknown origin or FUO. Many such fevers turn out to be hard-to-spot infections, such as infections of internal organs. Other possible causes include reactions to drugs or medications, cancer (especially lymphomas), or certain inflammatory conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and Still's disease. (From [Healthday.com](http://Healthday.com))*

### (1) "AN UNWELCOME VIRUS OR BACTERIA" ...AN INTRUDER

- Today, there is a hyper-consciousness & awareness of 'germs & bacteria'— A healthy Christian is to live life with a similar, spiritual awareness.

**James 1:13-15** Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am being tempted by God," for God cannot be tempted with evil, and he himself tempts no one. 14 But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire. 15 Then desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully grown brings forth death.

This verse traces the 'epidemiology' of sin.

**...At some moment: "something out there is magnetically connected with something inside us"—that is the essence of temptation—and infection begins with temptation.**

**v.14 ...temptation involves "luring & enticing"** ...and luring & enticing get their energy from "our own desires"

**...'LURED' and 'ENTICED' (Gk. = bait) - a lure/bait 'appeals' to the innate appetite of a fish** ...Temptation finds its unique script in something that YOU have a Craving or Appetite for!

*"It is to be feared that very many have little knowledge of the main enemy that they carry about them in their bosoms. ... Labour to be acquainted with the ways, wiles, methods, advantages and occasions of its success, is the beginning of warfare. So do men deal with enemies. They inquire out their counsels and designs, ponder their ends, consider how and by what means they have formerly prevailed, that they may get the start of them." John Owen, The Mortification of Sin, p. 71*

- "Enemy ... in their bosoms" — "The ways, wiles, and methods" — "Occasions of its success"  
— Are you aware of how your enemy has gained success against you?

*"[today] the need for self-scrutiny is insufficiently emphasized. In Scripture, much stress is laid on the deceitfulness of the fallen human heart, and the danger of self-ignorance, with the result that one thinks well of one's heart and life when God, the searcher of hearts, is displeased with both. ... We must watch and examine ourselves by Scripture in order even to know what habits of our hearts need to be mortified." J.I. Packer, Intro to The Mortification of Sin by John Owen, p. 17*

- Are you more of a FEARFUL Person—then sin will appeal to (LURE) your hyper appetite for safety, security, control, predictability. ...Are you an AMBITIOUS Person—then sin will appeal to (LURE) your appetite for achievement, new experiences, notoriety, competition, etc. ...Are you a SENSORY Person—then sin will appeal to your sensual pleasures (tasting, seeing, ease/comfort, pleasure, addictions, habits, etc.) ...Are you a PEOPLE Person—then sin will tap into your people motives, your relational pursuits, into jealousies or comparisons, etc.

***...SO, personal spiritual health will involve your regularly fending off the types of "bacterial or viral" intruders that are common to man and unique to you!***

**v.15 ... Temptation>>>Desire>>>Sin>>>>>>>>>Death**

- This is the Biblically Described, Lab Study Proven Epidemiology

**(2) "AS YOUR BODY FIGHTS THE INFECTION".** (True physiologically AND spiritually)

...A healthy Christian, as with a healthy body—FIGHTS INFECTION (Intruders) ...If you are a healthy Christian, then you are engaged in the fight, you are not allowing sin to go unchecked/unrepented of, you are experiencing some normal progression into greater liberty! ...If this is not your case, then you need to see a spiritual doctor!!

**The healthy Christian has an active Immune System that FIGHTS SIN.**

**Gal 5:16ff**

Col 3:5-10 Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 On account of these the wrath of God is coming. 7 In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. 8 But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

1 Pet 2:11 "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts, which wage war against the soul."

***Our Spiritual Immune System is a VOLITIONAL Part of Us—Paul & Peter command and urge Our Involvement and Decision Making!***

***Note, when a person's immune system is suppressed, they are vulnerable to all kinds of infection/intruders***

- A Lack of Faith is an Immune System Suppressor ...Remember, 'faith comes by hearing, and hearing the Word of God' (this is healthy INHALING).

**Health Tip:** *Poor Inhaling leads to Weakened Faith which leads to a Suppressed Immune System ...which makes you vulnerable to Temptation (and the epidemiology process that leads to death) ...So, we fight spiritual death and temptation at the Inhaling Level!*

**(3) "YOUR LIFE WILL GET A LITTLE HARDER, TOO"** ...we are weighed down by sin's intrusion into our lives.

***Are we mindful that the "difficulty" of our lives may often be the result of a "low-grade fever"*** (the continuing operation of sin at some persistent and unchecked level). ...Over time we may develop the habit of thinking that our difficulties are coming from other people or some external circumstances—when they are coming from Indwelling sin.

- ***"FUO (fever of unknown origin)... turn out to be hard-to-spot infections"***

*"Why do people do the things they do? ... Why did your friend get upset in the middle of the conversation? Why is your teenager so angry? Why is Amy swallowed up by depression and despair? Why would a man risk his family for twenty minutes of sexual pleasure? ... Why is that once romantic couple now engaged in guerilla warfare? Why is Bill so driven in his career? Why is Sue so critical and controlling? Why does George speak so bluntly and unkindly? Why is your daughter afraid of what her friends will think? Why does Pete refuse to talk? Why do people do the things they do? The simplest, most biblical answer is the heart." Paul Tripp, Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands, p. 59*

**James 1:14** But each person is tempted when he is lured and enticed by his own desire.

***...My Heart Wants Something—and my attitude and actions reflect my pursuit or my frustrations/fears that stand between me and what I crave!—THAT's Why People do the Things They Do!!***

- INSECURITY ...PRIDE ... JEALOUSY ...LAZINESS ...VICTIMIZATION

***"...Lord, I am being lured and enticed away lately—what is it that I'm desiring, that has allowed this to become a temptation for me?"***

- I need to "Fight Infection at the Desire Level"—Not just by Putting Up External Fences

*"[mortification] is not the eradication of sin. No Christian ever comes to the place in this life where he has so completely destroyed indwelling sin that it no longer exists. For such a deliverance we must wait. ...Nor is putting sin to death the same thing as diverting it. Sometimes when men grow older the external circumstances and pattern of their lives may change to such an extent that the 'old' sins no longer trouble them. ...Nor does it mean to divert our sinful habits into another, more socially acceptable form of sin. Nor is it simply a quiet and peaceful temperament.*

*What then is this killing of sin? It is the constant battle against sin which we fight daily — the refusal to allow the eye to wander, the mind to contemplate, the affections to run after anything which will draw us from Christ. It is the deliberate rejection of any sinful thought, suggestion, desire, aspiration, deed, circumstance or provocation at the moment we become conscious of its existence. It is the consistent endeavour to do all in our powers to weaken the grip which sin has." Sinclair Ferguson, The Christian Life, p. 161*

*"Be killing sin, or sin will be killing you." John Owen*