

Illness: Standing strong when things go wrong

UNSHAKABLE: Standing strong

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Bible Text: Psalm 41:3

Preached on: Sunday, November 16, 2014

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Welcome to Capital Baptist Church and welcome to our current teaching series entitled "Unshakable." We are so glad you're here today as we talk about this very, very important topic of illness and then we're going to talk about standing strong over illness.

Please take your Bible and turn with me to Psalm 41:3. In your program is a study guide of our message. I'd like to ask you to take that out and to use that study guide and take advantage of that wonderful, wonderful learning tool that's been provided for you. Inside of your study guide is next week's key verse and every week we have a key verse and next week we're going to talk about doubt and standing strong over doubt. I received a wonderful text this week from one of our church families, from Diane Cornell, we want to pray for her husband, Don, who had to go into the hospital. The Bible tells us in Psalm 41:3 how that God is going to sustain us during times of sickness and during times of illness. Listen what Diane texted me here, I thought this was so awesome. She said, "When we were in the emergency room Thursday night, I had a notepad and I was writing down everything the doctor said and guess what fell out of my notepad? The memory verse you gave us Sunday morning in church, the Unshakable memory verse that said, 'The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness, you will sustain him on his sickbed.'" That's a wonderful testimony and you just never know how God is going to use his word and how God is going to work in your life through his word so I encourage you, our goal is to try to memorize the verse and you'll notice we have a very short one next week so why don't you work hard at maybe getting that verse down to memory. If not, at least be real familiar with it so it's right there on your heart and as we talk about it. The goal is for us, unless you're new, we don't want anybody walking in cold, okay? We want you to know the verse pretty well. We want you to have done the growth guide. Do you know what? If we can do that, we can really move things along in our spiritual growth. So please do your best to get those things done.

I'm really excited about the message today. There was a time when I did a short series on healing, divine healing, back in the day, that was a long time ago. But pretty much, I've never done a whole message just on illness and so I'm pretty excited about it today and our key verse, Psalm 41:3, I must confess to you although I know I've read it, I never noticed it in the Bible until getting ready for this message today so I thank God for growing in the word. Growing in the word. I'm excited about our message for today.

Now, when it comes to this list of issues that we're looking at, illness, let's be real, it's probably right there close to the top. It's something that we deal with a lot. I mean, go to any small group or whatever and when time is there for prayer requests, I mean, you know as well as I do the majority of the prayer requests are going to revolve around illness and yes, we'll hopefully make some other requests but this is far and above a big, big request, perhaps the number 1 request when you turn in your Connection Card today. Many of you, many of you, will put down illness for yourself or for a friend or a loved one because this is part of life. So all of us deal with illness. Some of us deal with illness like an experience at a time, if you will, a temporary illness; we get the flu or whatever. Some of us deal with chronic illness, illness that we have to live with and sometimes we have to live with it a short time; sometimes we have to live with it a long time; sometimes we have to live with it our whole lives. I personally have experienced both of these types of illness, the kind of short-term one and then an illness that I had to live with for many, many years in my life.

But illness is something we deal with and when it comes to healing, I mean, it's just kind of the extreme what's out there. There is one position that says, "Do you know what? God is always about healing and God is going to heal and if you don't get healed it's because you have sin in your life or if you don't get healed you just don't have enough faith." Can I tell you that's not biblical, okay, that's not biblical. Then there's this other extreme over here that says, "Do you know what? God, he really doesn't do much healing. He's really not much about healing these days," or whatever, you know? Do you know what? Can I tell you something? That's wrong. That's wrong. I hope and pray today I can strike a biblical, 1. Biblical and 2. Balanced approach in understanding to illness and that we will get away from these extremes because these extremes are wrong. They are not biblically correct. Basically they're biblical in the sense that people will try to use verses to prove their point but you can't cherry pick the Bible, okay? When you study the Bible, you've got to compare what we call Scripture-with-Scripture. You have to look at the whole content of what's being said, okay? You can't cherry pick verses and pluck them out because that will lead to bad theology in your life.

So today we're going to look at lots of Scripture. Now, I'm going to tell you right up front: we're going to not look at some Scripture that you maybe think we should look at. Do you know what? I think we should look at it too but we're not because this is a big topic and trying to do it in one message is quite a challenge. But I'm going to give you lots of Scripture and then there is other Scripture that, honestly, we're not going to get to today so maybe down the road we can kind of hit on some of that. But I'm going to give you plenty to chew on, plenty to think about when it comes to the word of God.

Psalm 41:3 says,

3 The Lord will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed.

God's word is that he will strengthen us when we're on a bed of illness and he will sustain us when we're on a sickbed.

Let's go to page 2 and let's talk about how to stand strong over illness. How to stand strong over illness. How can God help us during this time? I mean, what is it that will help us? What is it that will sustain us during those times in our lives? And what can we do to stand strong over these illnesses? Let me give you 3 things to consider to help you stand strong over illness. 1. Sense the purpose. Sense the purpose. I think if you're going to stand strong over illness, you have to search your heart and consider: what's this about? What is this about, this whole area of illness because the Bible gives us some different reasons why we get sick and if we are going to stand strong, it will help us, not in an attacking way toward God like, "Why did you let this happen?" but, "Why is this happening?" In other words, you see, it's not a sin to ask why, by the way. Jesus asked why. People say it's a sin to ask why. That's not true, Jesus never sinned and he hung on the cross and said, "Why have you forsaken me?" Whoever told you it was a sin to ask why is biblically ignorant, okay? Because Jesus never sinned one time and he asked why. But you don't want to ask why in an attacking way, you want to ask why in a searching way.

So you want to consider: what is this for? What is going on? I'm going to give you 4+1 possibilities. 4+1 because I've got a new one, okay? 1. An unhealthy lifestyle. An unhealthy lifestyle. One of the reasons we get ill is because we live an unhealthy lifestyle. The Bible says in Galatians 6:7-8, "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that, listen, "that he will also reap." So God's word is very clear, you're not going to mock God. You're not going to mock God. I call this the most powerful law in the world and if you get this law working on your side, you're going to have a great life and if you get this law working against you, it is going to eat you alive, okay? But you're not going to avoid this law. The law is: whatever you sow, that is what you reap. Using agricultural terms, you sow tomatoes, you get tomatoes. Whatever you sow, that you will also reap. The Bible says if you sow to your flesh, you'll reap corruption. If you sow to your flesh, you'll reap corruption. But if you sow to the Spirit, if you allow the Holy Spirit to control you and not your flesh, you'll reap life everlasting. Everlasting life.

Now, this was the whole basis of my illness and there was a time when I had chronic illness in 3 different areas. I had high blood pressure; I had high cholesterol; and I had diabetes. The reason I had these illnesses in my body was because I was sowing to my flesh and my problem was a problem of under-exercising and over-eating. Some of you know my story, some of you don't. We have all kinds of new people here for "Unshakable," and don't know a thing about what I'm talking about here. But there was a time when I played college football. I played football at Liberty University and after playing college football, I made a decisive decision that I was absolutely never, ever, ever going to exercise again in my whole life. I decided to never exercise and I was a hard worker, I always had a strong work ethic from the earliest times in starting this church but I loved sitting in the lazy boy chair too. The lazy boy was sitting in his lazy boy chair and one of the things he loved to do in that chair was to eat. So I went from the time I was like 8 years old to the time I was like 21, 22 years old very active. I could bench

press about 400 pounds. I could dunk a basketball. You look at me today but that was quite the hunk, whatever, okay? But I made a decision to sow to my flesh. We were made to move, do you know that? God didn't tell Adam and Eve, "Go sit down here in the garden and eat Twinkies all day." God says, "I'm going to put you in a garden and you are going to take care of the garden. You're going to move your body." And I decided not to move my body.

On top of that, I kept eating like a football player. Quit exercising like one but I kept eating like one. I love food. Philippians 3:19 says that there are a group of people whose belly is their God and I fit that category. I was an idolater. I was sowing to my flesh, under-exercising, over-eating. Guess what happened? I gained weight. I gained a lot of weight and I got up to over 340 pounds and I diseased my body. I had high blood pressure. I had high cholesterol. I had diabetes. All because of my lifestyle. All because of my lifestyle. You say, "Well, how do you know that?" Because I'm 56 years old today and I'm totally disease-free. I'm totally disease-free. God healed me, okay? God healed me. You know, you're not going to blow smoke into your lungs with tar and not pay a price for it. Do you understand that? Do you understand that? I mean, you're free to blow it into your lungs if you want to but you're not free not to suffer consequences from it. Do you understand what I'm saying? You sow to your flesh, you will reap corruption.

2. Divine judgment. Yes, God sometimes judges people for their sin using the judgment of sickness. 1 Corinthians 11 talks about a group of people and they were sinning in that they were not properly doing communion. The purpose of communion is to examine yourself and to judge yourself so God doesn't have to judge you. These people were not doing that and the Bible says in verse 30, "For this reason," because of their sin, "many are weak and sick among you." People are sick because they are not properly doing communion. They are not properly dealing with the Lord's Supper. There are all kinds of passages on this. Numbers 12:10, the Bible tells us that Miriam and Aaron revolted against Moses' leadership. Moses was the appointed leader by God and basically they said, "Dude, you're not the only one who's got a brain around here." They started saying, "Let's run this thing by committee," or whatever and God had appointed Moses and God came to them and because of their sin of not following the leadership that God had placed over them, they ended up with leprosy. They ended up with leprosy because of that sin.

I've got a bunch of little illustrations here. Sometimes you're sick because you have sin in your life and then 3. There's Satanic attack. Satanic attack. God allows, keyword is "allows," Satan to produce illness in your life and guess what? God turns it around and uses it for his purpose. The most famous example of this is Job. In Job 2:5 it says, "But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" God and Satan are having this conversation. It's a fascinating passage of Scripture. Satan says to God, "The only reason Job is loving you and serving you and praising you is because everything is going great in his life. I mean, he's got an awesome family. He's got all kinds of possessions. He's healthy. I mean, things are rocking for Job and the only reason he's praising you is because things are going so well. I bet if you take any of that away from him he's going to curse you." Do you know what God said? "Hands off. Satan, you can do what you want to but you can't kill him. You can't kill

him." That's what the verse says, the following verse, "And the Lord said to Satan, 'Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.' So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils."

One of the reasons, we're going to see Paul in a second. Satan came and buffeted him with illness to humble him and in this situation, God allowed Satan to do it to check out his motive. You know, we ought to pause for a second and think about this. Think about it: why do you love God? Is it because this is going good and this is going good and things are going great here? You know, there are going to be times perhaps when Satan is going to come to God and say, "Hey, I see that Steve Reynolds down there and he really loves you and he's doing a lot of great things to praise you but, hey, do you know what? You give him some boils and see what happens to him," or whatever. God's going to check out your motive and, listen, if things go bad in your life and you start cursing God and get a bad attitude toward God, you just revealed yourself. Do you understand that you just revealed yourself? Your God is Santa Claus and as long as Santa is bringing the toys, he's an awesome Santa but once he doesn't bring the toys anymore, all of a sudden, "Oh, you're horrible," or whatever. Something to think about, amen?

4. God's work. God's work. Sometimes God is going to allow illness, actually not even allow it, he's going to bring it himself, okay? Satan ain't going to have nothing to do with it. God himself is going to bring it into your life and the purpose of it is to grow spiritually or to see positive things happen. In John 9, the Bible says there was this guy who was born blind and the disciples, verse 2, came to him and said, "Who sinned, this man or his parents?" So they see this blind guy and their question is, "There is this blind guy so who sinned? Did his parents sin or did he sin?" And God said, "Nobody sinned. I had this person born with blindness to do my work." To do my work. To bring glory, okay? Sometimes God is going to allow illness in your life to do his work. To do his work. And that work is to grow you spiritually and in this situation, God actually miraculously healed the man which is awesome but he doesn't always do that. He doesn't always do that.

I've got a 5th one I want to add, a 5th reason for illness is death. Death. Sometimes God is going to allow you to get ill or he is going to make you ill because it's your time to go. Hebrews 9:27 says it this way, "It is appointed unto man once to die." It is appointed unto man once to die and so the deal is you're going to die. Now, if you die and you're saved, you know Jesus as your Savior, you're going to go to heaven. If you die and you don't know Jesus as your Savior, you're going to go to hell. There is nothing in between. So prepare to meet your God. Prepare to meet your God and if you have never accepted Christ as your Lord and Savior, now is a good time. Now is a good time.

Now, the question isn't whether you're going to die, you're going to die, the question is which bus are you going to take? Is he going to put you on the cancer bus? Is he going to put you on the heart attack bus? Is he going to put you on the CP bus? I don't know but you're going to go on a bus and he's going to use illness to take you home, to take you to be with Jesus.

So 1. You want to sense, try to figure this out because all of these have different very important things underlying them, right? So you want to sense the purpose. Am I ill because of my lifestyle choices? Is there sin in my life and this is divine judgment? Is there not sin in my life and Satan has come in but yet God even in the midst of that, God is in control and he has a purpose. He allowed it to happen for a purpose. Then, is it God's work? Is God just bringing this into your life himself and he has a work he wants to do. He wants to grow you spiritually or he might want to allow you to get up in front of the church and tell how God healed you to bring glory to him, whatever. Maybe he's just going to take you home with that, okay?

2. See the positives. Now, this is important but it's very hard. When you're in pain, it's hard to be positive. When you're ill, it's hard to be positive. But listen, here's what you've got to realize: if you've got a bad attitude, it's going to be worse. You might not be able to control your illness but guess what? You can control your attitudes. You are in charge of your attitudes. It's the most important thing you put on every day is your attitude. In study after study, just look them up yourself, tells us that if you keep a positive attitude, that's going to be part of healing. That's part of the healing is keeping a good optimistic attitude, you know? And trying to avoid depression when you're ill. I'm not saying it's easy. I know it's very hard what I'm talking about here, particularly you who are in chronic pain. I'm not saying this is easy, all I'm saying is it's part of what God is going to use to help you stand strong and if you go negative, you're not going to stand strong. It's going to take you down so here's the deal: one of the ways to be positive is to realize that illness is a great teacher. It's a great teacher.

There are things that you can learn in illness that you don't learn in other ways. For example, 1. Illness teaches humility. It teaches humility. Man, when you get ill, you realize how fragile you are. You realize how out-of-control you really are, meaning that it's out of your control. You start understanding that subject. Just like I love what Wayne said, "I turned my life over to God every year but I thought I had health under control. I'm running and I'm doing all of this stuff." This happened with Paul, 2 Corinthians 12, the Bible said that he got an illness, he just simply calls it a thorn in the flesh. We don't know exactly what he had. He 1. Sensed the purpose. He sensed the purpose. He says the purpose in verse 7 twice, "And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations," and then he says it again, "lest I be exalted above measure." So he sensed the purpose and what he sensed was that God was allowing Satan, you see, he says "the messenger of Satan is buffeting me." What he's talking about, he says, "the revelations." What does he mean by revelations? Well, Paul got great revelation from God. For example, Paul wrote more books in the New Testament than anybody else. As we're going to see in a few minutes, he didn't write the most content in the New Testament but he did write the most books. I'm studying Colossians a lot now because if we get a chance next year we're going to do a series on Colossians and so Paul wrote Colossians and God gave him revelation into much of God's word. Of course, that could cause any of us to have pride, right? I mean, if God gave you the revelation to write a Bible book, that could cause some pride.

So Satan came, they probably had a conversation and said, "I know he's praising you. You let him write all this New Testament stuff." "Okay, go and do what you want to do." And Paul says, "Lest I should be exalted above measure." Twice he says it. He understood that this illness was going to teach him to be humble and he prayed 3 times to be healed and God says, "No, you're in for good on this one because I've got to keep you humble." And what did Paul say in the last verse? Verse 10. We're going to skip a lot of it here but the last part of the verse, verse 10 says, "For when I am," what? "Weak, then I am," what? "Strong." You see, he learned humility. He learned that he was weak but yet in weakness, humility, he also learned that he was strong.

A second lesson of illness is it teaches you empathy. It teaches you empathy. It equips you to minister to people so you can empathize with people. When somebody says, "I've got diabetes," I get it, okay? I know what goes through a person when they say they have diabetes. When they say they have high blood pressure. When they say they have high cholesterol. I get it. When you tell me your little baby, your child is sick and is going to have to have surgery, I get it because our firstborn child had many, many surgeries and actually if you look at "Unshakable," the 4 I wrote there, that was the biggest illustration I used of God shaking my life when he took our first child and shook us hard. But when you tell me your baby is going to have surgery, I get it. Now, you tell me you've got cancer, I don't get it the same way. I can show sympathy but I can't show empathy. There is a difference in my mind. When you go through something, you know the little things that make a big difference. You know things that the other person, you miss them. I don't know what it's like to have cancer and I've been around it a lot, a whole lot but I can sympathize but I can't empathize. There is a difference. There is a difference. The point I'm making is: God uses illness to teach you empathy. 2 Corinthians 1 says God comforts us in our tribulation so we're able to comfort those that are in that same type of situation.

3. Illness teaches spirituality. It makes you more like Jesus. It makes you more like Jesus. Philippians 3:10, Paul says, "I want to know him and I want to know him and to know him I've got to know the power of his resurrection." That's when God heals you and God does miracles in your body and praise Jesus. But then, I've got to fellowship in his sufferings and that's when you're sick and you stay sick and that's when you're ill and you stay ill and God takes all of that to make you like Jesus.

But listen, there's more, I don't know why you turned your page because there's more. There's more. I want to give you 2 more that I thought about, God showed me actually. Two more. You can think of more stuff on both these lists. Illness also deepens relationships. I'm telling you, when you get sick, you appreciate the people around you. What did Wayne say? Just picture: you're at the doctor's and so you're getting ready to die and you might die real fast here and we're going to call the ambulance up to come and get you and whip you off to a hospital. His wife is at work. Just think of that. "No. No. I'm going to call my wife because if I die today, the last person I want to see is my wife." Whoa, I love that. Awesome. Man, husband of the year. Amen. Capital Baptist Church. That's what illness does for you. It makes you appreciate those that are closest to you.

But there's more. Illness encourages evaluation. When you get sick, you start examining your life. That's what I did and I'll tell you about it in a second.

Now, the back page of our notes: seek the power. Seek the power. God is a healer. God is a healer. He is in the healing business. The Bible says in Philippians 2 there was a guy named Epaphroditus and Paul talks about this great relationship that he had with this guy, Epaphroditus. He calls him, "My brother, my fellow worker, my fellow soldier." I love that description, by the way. He's my brother. He's a fellow worker. He's a fellow soldier. I love that. "He's your messenger. He's the one who ministered to my need. He was longing for you all. He wanted to see you all and he was distressed. When you heard he was sick, he was sick, he wasn't just a little bit sick, he was sick unto death. He was on the edge of death but God had mercy on him." God had mercy on him. God healed the guy. I love this part because I can relate, I don't want any of you all to die, by the way, okay? Nobody currently in the church, anywhere, I don't want any of you to die. Just teasing. He said, "God had mercy on me too so that I wouldn't have to go through that sorrow."

God healed this guy but God doesn't always heal. Do you understand that? God doesn't always heal. Let me give you another example, 2 Timothy 4:20. Here's another fellow servant of Paul, his name was Trophimus, "Trophimus I have left in Miletus sick." Sick. So you got over here and you've got Epaphroditus, God healing him and you've got another person in Paul's life, a special person, Trophimus, and he just had to leave him somewhere just sick. Sick. But when you're ill, you want to seek the power because you don't know whether...well, you're hoping to figure it out but remember there are 5 possible things that could be going on.

So here's what you want to do, here's how to react: 1. Seek God's healing power from the Bible. The first thing you want to do is you want to go to the Bible and this is what I did. I said one of the things that sickness teaches you is that it teaches you to evaluate your life and this is what went on in my life. Here I was, 340 pounds, high blood pressure, high cholesterol and diabetes. I fully believed that I was not going to live a lot longer, okay? The stress I was under, pastoring a church, you might think it's easy or whatever but it's very stressful. I said, "Do you know what? You're not going to stay around here much longer. I want to go to heaven, I just don't want to get there any time soon." I still feel that way. I started evaluating my life and I remember God, God calls me "dude" I don't know what he calls you but I remember one day he said, "Dude, what do you tell people when they've got a problem? What do you tell people when they've got a sin?" I said, "Well God, I'm a biblical counselor. I tell them to go to the Bible." He said, "Dude, why don't you follow your own advice? Why don't you look in the Bible?" I said, "Got it." I didn't call him dude okay, I said, "Got it, Lord."

So I decided to look up the word "body" in the Bible and see what it said. I figured, do you know what? The word "body," I'm a big old beast guy here, the Bible has got to have something to help me on this deal and so I looked up the word "body" and it's in their 179 times and out of that just for myself, never intending to tell anybody else about this, I came up with 4 keys, biblical keys. Do you know what? I practiced those keys and I still

practice those keys and at 56 years old today, I am disease-free. And I am disease-free because Proverbs 3 says that when you depart from your evil, your sowing to your flesh, it will be health to your flesh. The Bible is the greatest health book in all the world, okay? It's the greatest health book in all the world and it's the greatest weight loss book in the world. God has helped me lose over 120 pounds. Our church is right on the verge of being at 10 tons of weight loss and I'm telling you, thousands and thousands and thousands of people have lost tons and tons of weight because of those 4 keys. But it's really not the keys, it's the book, it's the Bible. I mean, I don't go through a day in my life where somebody, some way doesn't tell me, "I lost weight." It's all because of this book right here, not because of Steve Reynolds. It's because of his word. Seek God's healing power from the Bible, okay? I was a temple trasher. My body is the temple of God. I was trashing the temple, okay? When I quit trashing the temple, God decided he wanted to heal me and I praise his name for that, okay?

Secondly, seek God's healing power from prayer. From prayer. You need to pray. You need to pray. James 5, this is one of the passages we could do a whole sermon on but it starts out saying if you are suffering, pray. Not only pray yourself, ask other people to pray for you, James 5 says. There is power in prayer. When you're ill, tell people, "I'm ill. Pray for me. Pray for me. Pray for me." Pray for yourself. There is power in prayer. We need to pray.

Then, seek God's healing power from doctors. Doctors. Now listen, I know there is corruption in the medical field. I guarantee you I've read more of this stuff. I put myself up there with you doctors. I study this stuff every day. Maybe not, maybe you know more, you probably do know more, I know you know more about medicine and stuff than me but I'm just saying, I read all about both sides, about the medical industry and all that garbage and whatever. Can I tell you something? Doctors, nurses, they are ministers of God. They are ministers of God and God wants to use them in your life and I'm telling you, the Bible says in Colossians 4:14, "Luke the beloved physician." Luke the beloved physician. This guy is a doctor. Who wrote the most of the New Testament? It was not Paul. Paul wrote the most books but when it comes to content, I'm talking about words in the New Testament, a medical doctor wrote the most words. He's the beloved physician. Go see your doctor. Go see your doctor and if you take a pill and you're healed, God healed you but he used medicine and there's nothing wrong with that, okay? You're just as much healed.

Lastly, seek God's healing power from heaven. From heaven. Do you know what? God is going to heal you every time but sometimes he's going to choose to heal you in heaven, you know? Revelation 21 tells us that heaven is a place, there is no more pain, no more suffering, no sickness, no illness, no nothing. What we don't understand is that's sometimes how God heals. Clay M., a member of our church died yesterday at about 5:30. A wonderful, wonderful church member, soul winner, big-time soul winner. He told people about Jesus everywhere, okay? The previous, I think, Saturday I went over and saw him and I prayed, "God, help him to be alert," because he had been kind of out of it a lot. God answered my prayer and I'm thankful for that. He was so alert, it was crazy. We had a wonderful discussion, wonderful time together. Man, I got my Bible out and I

preached on failure. The week before that I got Romans chapter 8 out and a lot of times I'll just read a Scripture and people just kind of sit there and look at me like, "When is that going to be over with?" or whatever. Man, that dude started amening and I said, "I'm going to preach some more here." It was probably the longest sermon I have preached beside a bed.

I prayed for that man. You see, when somebody's sick, I pray for healing. I don't pray for God's will. God's going to do his will either way. You don't have to give God permission to do his will. It's because you're weak and scared. Just go for it, man. Amen? Just go for it. Every other word, "If it's your will. If it's your will." Can I tell you something? God is going to do his will without your permission anyway so just go ahead and ask what's on your heart, okay? I laid my hands on that man and I said, "God, I love this man and, Lord, I want you to heal him and raise him up out of this bed." You know what happened yesterday at 5:30? That man got healed. Now, he didn't get healed the way I wanted him to get healed but the last time I looked, that's not on my job description. He's healed. He is in a cancer-free body today, praise Jesus. Praise Jesus. We're having a good time, aren't we? Seek God's healing power from heaven. Seek God's healing power from heaven.

Lord, we love you and praise you in Jesus' name. Amen.

III. SEEK THE **POWER**

*“25 Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need;
26 since he was longing for you all, and was distressed because you had heard that he was sick.
27 For indeed he was sick almost unto death; but God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.”*
Philipppians 2:25-27

- A. Seek God's healing power from the **Bible**.
*“7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.
8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones.”*
Proverbs 3:7-8
- B. Seek God's healing power from **prayer**.
“Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray....”
James 5:13a
- C. Seek God's healing power from **doctors**.
“Luke the beloved physician and Demas greet you.”
Colossians 4:14
- D. Seek God's healing power from **heaven**.
“And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.”
Revelation 21:4

OBEDY GOD'S WORD ABOUT ILLNESS

“Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock:”
Matthew 7:24

UNSHAKABLE STANDING STRONG WHEN THINGS GO WRONG

Illness
Pastor Steve Reynolds

INTRODUCTION

- A. What storms in your life are shaking you? The storms of life will cause you to fall unless you build a rock solid life.
“He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps.”
Psalm 40:2

- B. During the Unshakable spiritual growth campaign you will learn how to stand strong when things go wrong. This teaching series will focus on the top storms of life that will shake you.

Oct 5	Rock Solid Life
Oct 12	Lack Of Purpose
Oct 19	Marriage Issues
Oct 26	Career Challenges
Nov 2	Failure
Nov 9	Family Problems
TODAY	Illness
Nov 23	Doubt
Nov 30	Temptation
Dec 7	Financial Stress
Dec 14	Death
Dec 21	Disconnection From God

These are tough times! Come and hear these messages and discover how the Bible can help you to be Unshakable!

- C. **TEXT:** Psalm 41:3 (Pew Bible/Pg. 541/Old Testament)

HOW TO STAND STRONG OVER ILLNESS

II. SEE THE POSITIVE

I. SENSE THE PURPOSE

- A. Unhealthy lifestyle.
“7 Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap.
8 For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life.” Galatians 6:7-8
- B. Divine judgment.
“28 But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup.
29 For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord’s body.
30 For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.
31 For if we would judge ourselves, we would not be judged.” I Corinthians 11:28-31

C. Satanic attack.

- “5 But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!”
6 And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.”
7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.” Job 2:5-7

D. God’s work.

- “1 Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth.
2 And His disciples asked Him, saying, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
3 Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.” John 9:1-3

A. Illness teaches humility.

- “7 And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.
8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.
9 And He said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.
10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ’s sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.” II Corinthians 12:7-10

B. Illness teaches empathy.

- “3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.” II Corinthians 1:3-4

C. Illness teaches spirituality.

- “that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death,” Philippians 3:10