

Pharmacy or God's "Farm"-acy ©

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As Christians we believe that God has given us His word to be a guidebook in life. It declares the way of salvation through His son Jesus Christ, and outlines moral and ethical standards and laws for right living. We are to go to God and His Holy Word on all matters of life. Why then have so many believers failed to search the Scriptures when it comes to our health? The Scriptures reveal from the very beginning that God has made provision for man to enjoy good health. In Genesis 1:29 God said, "*Behold I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of all the earth, every tree, in which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for meat.*" Man was designed by his Creator to eat the herbs of the land. (An herb is any edible vegetation). Most natural health professionals agree that a diet rich in whole grains, vegetables, fruits, nuts, and seeds will nourish and cleanse the body.

Yet it is clear that man does not eat every herb – **only those that "taste good."** Thus, man omits from his prescribed diet, foods that may be bitter, but which are thought to dissolve tumors, cleanse and relax the body. Sour foods are known to tighten, tone and constrict loose spongy tissues in the body. God has provided, but man has pursued foods which are sweet, aromatic, easy to prepare, and are easily preserved. No wonder sickness, lack of energy and vitality abound on much of the earth.

In the book of Revelation (22:2) there is a tree (not a pharmacy) that has leaves for the healing of the nations. This tree will be in the new Jerusalem, in the new heaven and earth, but does God say we must wait until then to be healed, or is He showing us the right way for healing? The Scriptures are full of instances where foods (herbs) were used in Divine order for the restoration of health. Ezekiel 47:12 speaks of a river upon whose banks will grow "... *all trees for meat... and the leaf for medicine*". There are over 350,000 identified herbs, but only a fraction have been studied for their medicinal action. Most modern day drugs had their beginnings as herbal remedies. Fresh and dried herbs in salads, herbal teas, tinctures, capsules, poultices, fomentations, tonics, syrups, salves and as essential oils are all ways to utilize God's natural herbal remedies.

There are 188 references to herbs in the form of essential oils in scripture. The people of the Bible knew that essential oils were the strongest form of herbs with proven anti-viral, anti-tumoral, anti-bacterial, oxygenating, uplifting properties. Modern science today is rediscovering these ancient oils and declaring once again their power over illness.

God's "farm-acy" consists of foods, plants, herbs and trees, not drugs. In fact, drugs are in disrepute throughout the scriptures. The Greek word "pharmakeia" from which we get pharmacy is translated "sorcerers" which means those who are enchanted with drugs (page 916, Young's Analytical Concordance to the Bible). Note in Revelation 9:21 where the making of drugs (sorceries) is likened to the sins of murder, fornication and theft; Revelation 18:23 where sorceries deceive all nations; Revelation 21:8 where sorcerers are likened to unbelievers, the abominable, murderers, whoremongers, idolaters and liars. Revelation 22:15 where sorcerers are likened to dogs, whoremongers, murderers and idolaters. Webster's Seventh New Collegiate Dictionary reports on page 633, "pharmacy, fr. pharmakon, magic charm, poison, drugs." *It is obvious that the mixing of drugs in Biblical times was not the esteemed practice that it is today.*

This raises the question of whether drugs have a part in God's plan for maintaining the health of His creation. Certainly natural herbs are the tools of good health. With only a few exceptions, herbs have no side effects, bad effects, or after effects. When one has not followed God's plan for right living, herbs can help to restore the body to proper health. Isaiah 1:6 "*From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but the wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores; they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment*".

By design, good sanitary and dietary practices were of the utmost importance in the Scriptures. The Hebrew children escaped many plagues and much havoc due to obedience to sanitary principles alone. The major advances in health in the United States and in civilized nations are due primarily to good sanitary practices rather than the result of drugs. All known disease outbreaks begin to decline when proper sanitary practices are put into place. Many major plagues have been stopped with the use of simple herbs. Herbs have been used safely since the beginning of time. Hundreds, no, thousands of books have been written declaring the power of God's creation to heal and restore the sick and dying. Most just don't give God the glory.

Faith is also a primary ingredient in good health. *"For without faith the people perish."* Paul, the apostle, admonished the Philippians to *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5)."* The mindset he was speaking of was to think of others, avoiding selfishness. We are also to put into our mind healthy thoughts, *"...whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things."* (Phil. 4:8) The wisest man who ever lived, Solomon, said, *"Hope deferred makes the heart sick."* (Proverbs 13:12) *"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine; but a broken spirit drieth the bones."* (Proverbs 17:22) Hering's Law of Cure says that man heals from the top down and from the inside out. From the top down certainly means from the head or mind. Right belief brings right living. Where is your faith? In God and His medicine or man and his?

So are we never to seek the advice, counsel or services of a medical doctor? No, certainly not. Their training in diagnostic's and trauma care can be life saving. But if you want to achieve optimal health, you must turn to the Bible and practice once again the rules of proper health and living. Cleanse yourself spiritually and physically, and put into your body the wholesome foods God has created.

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