

Word of God Ministry Church Under The Son

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AIDS / HIV

Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS) is a condition caused by the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) in which the body's immune system breaks down, rendering it unable to fight disease. AIDS is contracted in a variety of ways, and those who come down with the virus are in perpetual danger from any number of ordinarily curable diseases.

If you suffer from AIDS or carry HIV, or are close to someone who does, you are probably going through various stages of grief.

God's love and compassion for you are great. He wants to be your source of strength as you walk through the uncertain days ahead of you. In order to receive all that God has for you, you must first have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. *Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6).*

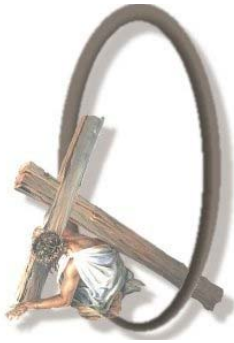
- God Is On Your Side

Lamentations 3:21-26 ²¹This I recall to my mind, Therefore I have hope. ²²Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, Because His compassion fail not. ²³They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness. ²⁴"The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "Therefore I hope in Him!" ²⁵The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the soul who seeks Him. ²⁶It is good that one should hope and wait quietly For the salvation of the Lord.

God is a merciful, compassionate God of hope. The "salvation of the Lord" comes through a relationship with Jesus Christ. If you have already committed your life to Jesus Christ, God's strength will carry you through the challenges ahead. *"What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? . . . Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? . . . Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us" (Romans 8:31, 35, 37).*

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Page 1



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Pray for God to give you a new outlook on life and to use your life as a mighty witness of His saving grace. Read and study God's Word daily to gain a new understanding of life and eternity from God's perspective. Become part of the Church, and let the Pastor know of your situation. I can help ensure that you find the support and acceptance to grow spiritually.

Even if you are not yet ready to make a commitment to Christ, call me for a referral to a Christian Professional Counselor and to a Christian Agency addressing the needs of AIDS patients. Such an agency will be glad to offer you help without regard to your religious affiliation or beliefs.

- Is AIDS God's Judgment On Homosexuals

Romans 1:18, 27 ¹⁸For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ²⁷Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.

All "ungodliness and unrighteousness" deserves God's wrath. All sin carries consequences. AIDS is not a judgment against homosexuals, though it can be a repercussion of sin, just as many other sexually transmitted diseases are. Sin's consequences often affect innocent victims, as well.

The Bible teaches that all humans are sinners (Romans 3:23) and any sin separates us from God, including the sin of homosexual behavior. 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 lists homosexuality as one of the sins the Corinthian Christians had formerly practiced. But the homosexuals at Corinth were forgiven just like the others, when they renounced their sin.

When you begin a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. He saves you from all of your sin, regardless of its label. Your salvation is based on God's grace, not on your own moral goodness. "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9).

AIDS / HIV

Page 2



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- Will God Heal AIDS

2 Corinthians 4:17 ¹⁷For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

God can always choose to cure any person of any illness, but history indicates that He often chooses to let human suffering do the greater work of making us long for the lasting “cure” of eternal life. This assurance of eternal life also helps us endure whatever suffering we have in this present life. Our suffering in this life can make us more like Christ.

- Trusting God In Suffering

Isaiah 53:5, 6 ⁵But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. ⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the Lord has laid on Him the iniquity of us all.

All the reasons why God allows us to suffer in this life cannot be explained. But we know He allowed His only Son, Jesus Christ, to suffer greatly. Even though He is God, Jesus Christ suffered more than any human will ever suffer, so He understands how we feel when we suffer. God never promised us freedom from suffering during this short time of life on earth.

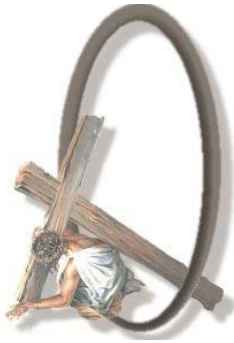
It's very normal to feel bitter about having a terrible disease, but do not let such bitterness stand in the way of your relationship with God. He is your advocate and source of strength. Pray and ask Him to enable you to trust Him in your suffering.

- Help For Family And Friends

Matthew 25:43, 45 ⁴³I was a stranger and you did not take Me in, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' ⁴⁵Then He will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.'

AIDS / HIV

Page 3



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If you have a friend or family member who has AIDS or is HIV positive, approach the situation as an opportunity to show this person Christ's love and acceptance. Pray for an opportunity to share the Gospel. Keep the lines of communication open; avoid condemnation and show acceptance through your actions. Invite him or her to your home or to social activities with you. Use discernment about what situations your friend or family member will be comfortable in and situations in which others will be accepting and show God's love to him or her.

Encourage the person who has AIDS or who is HIV positive to seek counseling and other available support networks; especially encourage his or her involvement in the Church. Counseling can be very helpful for family members, as well, especially for younger children, who may have questions about the person living with AIDS.

AIDS / HIV

Page 4