

# The Complaints God Hears ... ... From People Who Do (& Don't) Understand

In the Church of God, we know ... SO MUCH ... because of our understanding of God's Holy Day Plan ...

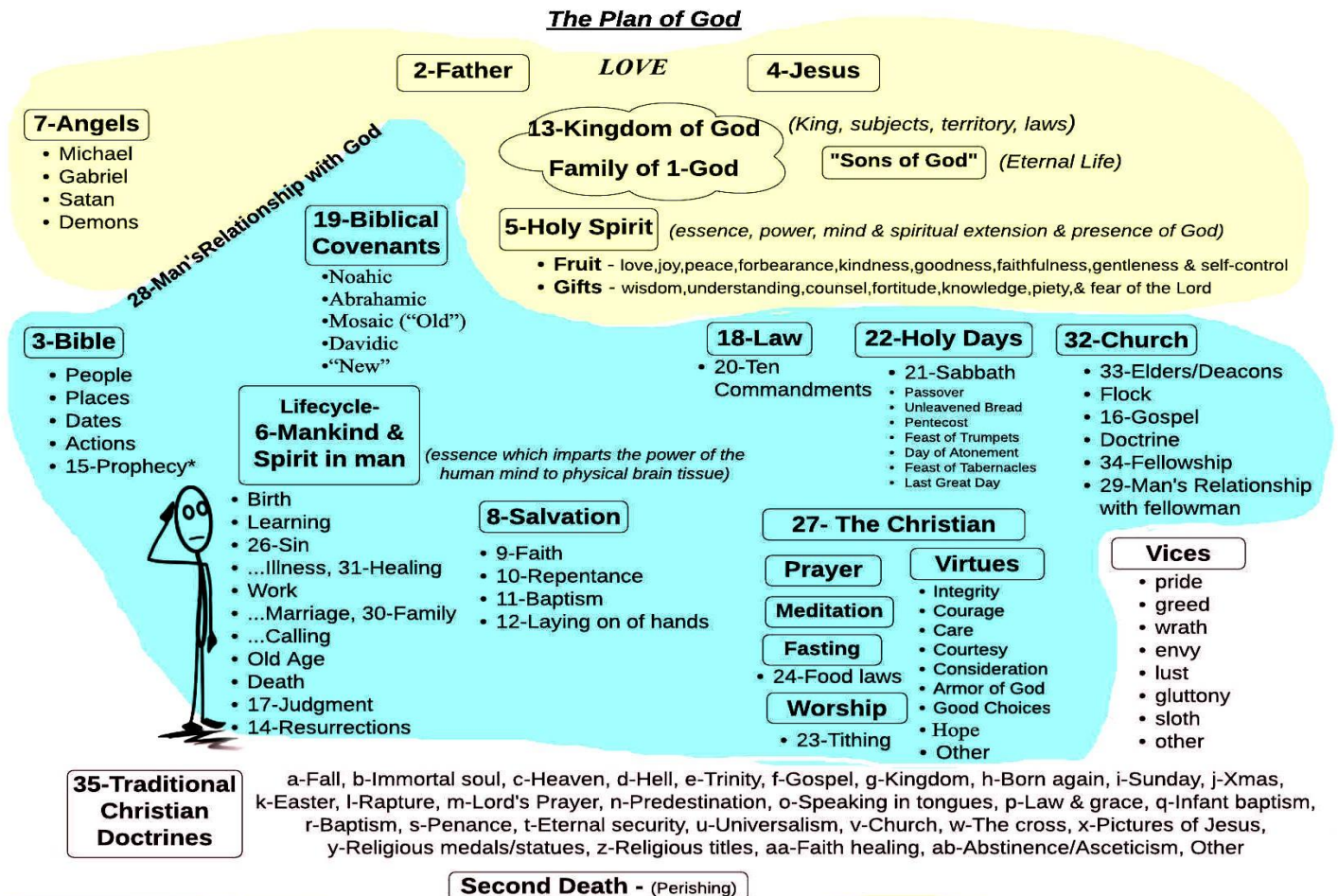
... but we are still human ... and we can *feel "sorry" for* our situations.

*I saw this in myself recently* ... as I was **lamenting before God** for all of the health challenges (a REAL spike!) we see impacting brethren in our congregations.

- Personal illness,
- illness of brethren & family ...

It reminded me of the "broad shoulders" of God our Father & Jesus our High priest who must hear a lot of complaints & criticism from mankind!

Today, we'll talk about these complaints against God ... and ... then ... we'll explore one topic of health & sickness & death ... to hopefully understand *why did God make us this way?* God is **beyond genius** in his planning for creation... so let's explore some of His reasons!



**Time: (Past - History - Creation, 25-Hebrew Calendar ... Present -(World events) ... (Future - 15-Prophecy\*) ... Eternity ...)**

## Things people complain or criticize about God & His creation



People criticize or complain about many different aspects of God, His actions, His laws, and His creation. The Bible itself records these complaints openly — from unbelievers, nations, religious leaders, and **even faithful servants** struggling with pain or confusion!

Here are some major categories:

### 1. Complaints About Suffering, Disease, and Death

People question why pain, sickness, disasters, aging, and death exist.

- “Why is there suffering?”
- “Why do children die?”
- “Why would God allow disease?”

Example:

- Job questioned his suffering repeatedly... “Why did I not die at birth?” (**Job 3:11**)
- & David’s pertinent question “How long, O Lord?” (**Psalms 13:1**)

### 2. Complaints About God’s Justice

People complain that life seems unfair.

- “Why do the wicked prosper?”
- “Why do righteous people suffer?”
- “Why does evil continue?”

Examples:

- “Why does the way of the wicked prosper?” (**Jer 12:1**)
- “All who do evil are good in the sight of the Lord...” (**Malachi 2:17**)
- Asaph struggled with this: “For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.” (**Psalms 73:3**)

THAT’S  
NOT  
FAIR!



### 3. Complaints About God’s Commands and Laws

People often criticize God’s standards as restrictive, harsh, outdated, or difficult.

Example:

- Some criticized Sabbath laws, holy living, sexual morality, discipline, or obedience requirements. “The way of the Lord is not fair.” (**Ezekiel 18:25**)

### 4. Complaints About God’s Authority



People resist the idea that God has the right to rule, judge, command, or define truth.

- “Why should God tell me what to do?”

Examples:

- Pharaoh: “Who is the Lord, that I should obey His voice?” (**Exodus 5:2**)
- “We will not have this man to reign over us.” (**Luke 19:14**)
- Rebellion at Babel (**Genesis 11**) reflected mankind’s resistance to divine rule.

## 5. Complaints About Human Limitations

People criticize aspects of human existence:

- weakness
- mortality
- labour
- limitations
- dependence
- emotional pain



Examples:

- “Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it...” (**Genesis 3:17**)
- Solomon lamented futility in Ecclesiastes: “Vanity of vanities, all is vanity.” (**Ecc 1:2**)



## 6. Complaints About Creation and Nature

People criticize natural disasters, predators, storms, extreme climate, decay, or dangerous creatures

Examples:

- Fear of sea/storms: disciples “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” (**Mark 4:38**)
- Paul explains creation itself suffers effects of corruption: “The whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.” (**Romans 8:22**)

## 7. Complaints About God’s Timing

People often feel God is too slow, absent, silent, or late.

Examples:

- “My lord delayeth his coming (**Matt 24:48**)
- “How long, O Lord?” appears repeatedly in **Psalms**.
- Martha and Mary felt Jesus delayed before Lazarus died (**John 11**).

## 8. Complaints About God’s Mercy or Judgments

Interestingly, people complain both when God judges and when He forgives.

Complaints about judgment:

- the Flood
- Sodom
- plagues
- hell
- national judgments

Complaints about mercy:

- Jonah became angry because God spared Nineveh. “Therefore now, O Lord, please take my life from me...” (**Jonah 4:3**) Jonah resented God’s compassion toward repentant enemies.

## 9. Complaints About God Choosing Certain People

People criticize:

- election
- calling
- favouritism
- blessings given to others

Examples:

- Older brother in the prodigal son resented mercy toward his brother (**Luke 15**).
- Workers in vineyard complained about equal pay (**Matthew 20:11–15**).

## 10. Complaints About Truth and Exclusivity

People object to the idea:

- there is one truth
- one God
- one way of salvation
- moral absolutes

Example:

- Many reject Christ's exclusive claims: "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6)



## 11. Complaints About Conviction and Exposure of Sin

People often hate correction, rebuke, or exposure.

Example:

- "Everyone practicing evil hates the light..." (John 3:20)

## 12. Complaints About God Allowing Free Will

Some criticize God for allowing humans and angels freedom to rebel.

Questions include:

- "Why allow Satan?"
- "Why permit temptation?"
- "Why not stop all evil immediately?"

Example:

- "...I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life, that you and your offspring may live". (Deu 30:19)

## 13. Complaints About God Appearing Hidden

People struggle with divine hiddenness:

- "Why doesn't God show Himself clearly?"
- "Why doesn't He speak audibly to everyone?"

Examples:

- "Truly You are God, who hide Yourself..." (Isaiah 45:15)
- Even faithful people sometimes felt abandoned: "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Psalm 22:1; Matthew 27:46)

## 14. Complaints About Believers and Religion

People often transfer criticism of religious hypocrisy onto God Himself.

Example:

- David caused enemies to blaspheme because of sin (2 Samuel 12:14).



## 15. Complaints About the Cost of Discipleship

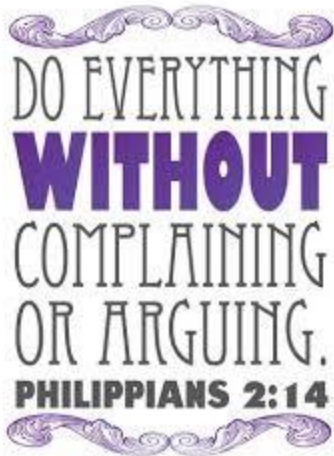
People object to:

- self-denial
- sacrifice
- persecution
- endurance
- holiness

Jesus said:

- "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself" (Matthew 16:24)

Many turned away because the path was difficult (John 6:66).



The Bible shows that **complaints against God** come from several different roots:

- pain and grief
  - confusion
  - pride
  - desire for autonomy
  - disappointment
  - envy
  - unbelief
  - partial understanding
  - rebellion against authority
  - moral conviction
  - impatience
- Some complaints in Scripture are sinful rebellion.  
- Others are honest cries of suffering from faithful people seeking understanding.

## **Several reasons ... Why God created disease & health issues?**

Scripture presents disease and health issues as part of a fallen world, but also **as tools** through which God judges, corrects, humbles, tests, teaches, reveals His mercy, and ultimately points mankind toward repentance, dependence on Him, and the coming restoration of creation.

Scripture also **distinguishes** between sickness caused by natural consequences, sin, spiritual attack, and God's direct judgment or discipline.



### **1. To Show the Consequences of Sin Entering the World**

Disease is connected to mankind's fall into sin.

- **Genesis 3:16–19** — Garden of Eden-suffering, pain, decay, & death entered after sin
- **Romans 5:12** “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin...”



Lesson:

- Sin damages creation.
- Disease reminds mankind the world is not yet restored.

### **2. As Judgment for Sin and Rebellion**

Sometimes sickness is shown as divine judgment.

- **Deuteronomy 28-** covenant blessings **& curses** for persistent rebellion.
- **Exodus 15:26** “If you diligently heed the voice of the LORD... I will put none of the diseases on you...”
- **Numbers 12:10** — Miriam struck with leprosy.
- **1 Cor 11:27–30** — some weak, sick, & dead because of abusing the Lord's Supper

Lesson:

- God takes sin seriously.
- Persistent rebellion has consequences.

### 3. To Correct and Discipline His People

God sometimes uses affliction to bring people back to Him.

- **Hebrews 12:5–11** — the Lord disciplines those He loves.
- **Psalms 119:67** “Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.”
- **Psalms 119:71** “It is good for me that I have been afflicted...”
- **Job 33:19–30** — suffering may turn man from destruction.

Lesson:

- Affliction can awaken repentance.
- Hardship may redirect a wandering believer.



### 4. To Humble Human Pride and Self-Reliance

Illness reveals human weakness and dependence on God

- **2 Corinthians 12:7–10** - Paul's thorn in the flesh
- **Deuteronomy 8:2–3** — God humbled Israel to teach dependence.
- **James 4:13–16** — life is a vapor.

Lesson:

- Humans are fragile.
- Health is not guaranteed.
- God opposes pride & teaches reliance on Him.

### 5. To Test Faith and Produce Spiritual Growth

Trials refine character and faith.

- **James 1:2–4** — testing produces patience.
- **1 Peter 1:6–7** — faith refined like gold.
- **Job 1–2** — Job tested through suffering and physical affliction.

Lesson:

- Trials can mature believers.
- Faith is proven through suffering.

### 6. To Display the Works and Glory of God

Some sickness exists so God's power may be revealed.

- **John 9:1–3** “Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him.”
- **John 11:4** — Lazarus' sickness was for God's glory.

Lesson:

- Not all sickness is punishment.
- God can use suffering to reveal His power, mercy, and glory.

### 7. To Produce Compassion and Service Toward Others

Sickness creates opportunities for love and mercy.

- **Matthew 25:35–40** — caring for the sick is service to Christ.
- **Galatians 6:2** — bear one another's burdens.

Lesson:

- Affliction can deepen compassion.
- The church learns sacrificial love through caring for the suffering.

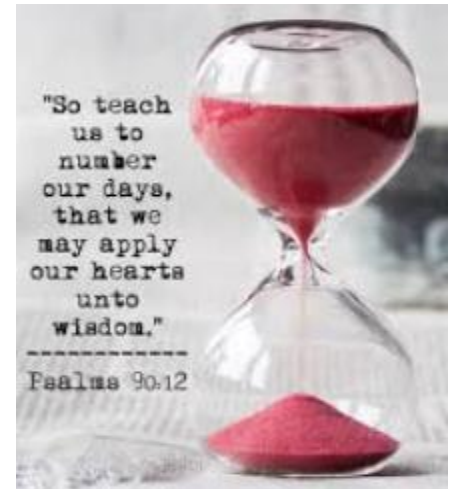
## 8. To Teach the Temporary Nature of Physical Life

Disease reminds mankind of mortality.

- **Psalm 90:10–12** — teach us to number our days.
- **Ecclesiastes 3:1–2** — a time to be born and a time to die.
- **Ecclesiastes 8:8** “No one has power in the day of death.”
- **Hebrews 9:27** — appointed for men to die once.

Lesson:

- Earthly life is temporary.
- People should prepare spiritually for Judgment / eternity.



## 9. To Reveal God as Healer and Sustainer

God allows sickness yet also reveals Himself as healer.



- **Exodus 15:26** For I am the LORD who heals you
- **Psalm 103:2–3** — God forgives and heals.
- **Matthew 8:16–17** — Jesus healed diseases.
- **James 5:14–16** — prayer for the sick.

Lesson:

- God is compassionate toward suffering.
- Healing points to His Kingdom and mercy.

## 10. To Show the Need for Christ and the Coming Kingdom

Disease points to mankind’s deeper spiritual sickness and need for redemption.

- **Isaiah 53:4–5** — Messiah bears griefs and sorrows.
- **Mark 2:17** “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.”
- **Revelation 21:4** “There shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying...”
- **Revelation 22:1–2** — healing of the nations.

Lesson:

- Physical healing foreshadows ultimate restoration.
- Christ came to heal both body and soul.
- God’s final Kingdom removes suffering entirely.

### Important Biblical Balance

The Bible does NOT teach:

- that every sickness is caused by a specific personal sin,
- or that sick people necessarily lack faith.

Examples:

- **John 9:1–3** — blindness was not due to personal sin.
- **Job** — Job suffered though called upright.
- **1 Timothy 5:23** — Timothy had ongoing stomach ailments.

## Overall Biblical Theme

1. Sin brought corruption and death into the world.
2. Disease can serve as judgment, warning, discipline, testing, or instruction.
3. God uses suffering to humble, refine, and teach people.
4. Jesus demonstrated God’s compassion through healing.
5. The Plan of God & Kingdom of God will remove disease, pain, & death completely