

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

On April 30, 2012, we received the following inquiry:

“I read that someone who says they are anointed may have mental illness, and therefore not be true anointed. It will mean the anointed can not have mental illness? or any anointed may have mental illness? What do you think?”

To the author, we thank you for your inquiry. We have also read and heard this comment. We hope you are not among those holding this view or one who is subject to this view.

As you no doubt are aware, it has been repeatedly emphasized that whether a person has been anointed is a matter between that person and Jehovah alone.

“The spirit itself bears witness with **our** spirit that we are God’s children.” – *Romans 8:16*

“Now because you are sons, God has sent forth the spirit of his Son into **our** hearts and it cries out: “Abba, Father!” – *Ephesians 4:6*

“For who among men knows the things of a man except the spirit of man that is **in him?**” – *1 Corinthians 2:11*

Thus, it would be inappropriate, unloving, unwise, intrusive, and even judgmental to presume that because someone suffers what would be considered a ‘mental illness,’ that they cannot be anointed.

According to current medical literature, mental illness is a medical condition, often treatable and curable. It is often associated with difficulties in coping with the ordinary demands of human life, and are not related to a person’s character or intelligence. In fact, many otherwise ‘normal’ people suffer from some kind of mental illness at some point in their lives, especially when confronted by stressful conditions such as divorce, death, lengthy unemployment, etc. Imperfections, trials and tribulations are a reality we all must deal with.

“I returned to see under the sun that the swift do not have the race, nor the mighty ones the battle, nor do the wise also have the food, nor do the understanding ones also have the riches, nor do even those having knowledge have the favor; because time and unforeseen occurrence befall them all.” – *Ecclesiastes 9:11*

It further shows a lack of understanding of what the anointing is. See our **Response dated April 28, 2012** about the anointing and learning disabilities. None of these problems

affect or diminish the Father's love for us and the Christ's welcoming of us into the Kingdom of the Heavens.

Now, mental illness and mental disabilities are different matters. The Father's spirit works with a normal functioning mind. But when the brain has been affected with a physical abnormality such that a person might be considered mentally handicapped, it might be difficult for such a person to recognize their sonship, to understand the nature of the anointing or even to participate in congregational activities such that their professed anointing even becomes an issue.

Nevertheless, even to such ones, the scriptures still apply. It is a matter between that person and the Father. Period. We should never shortchange the Father's ability to understand his children and His willingness 'to show mercy to those to whom he chooses to show mercy.' (*Romans 9:18*)

The Christian Greek Scriptures are replete with references to the Father's love toward the afflicted. And many of them were baptized and received the promised holy spirit. So, why would we today presume on Jehovah's mercy? Why would we even enter into the arena of judging our brother's hope or standing before God? What harm is there in allowing persons to serve the Father as their spirit sees fit?

None of God's people should have **any** sharing in shutting up the Kingdom of the Heavens. (*Matthew 23:13*)

To the author, if this is a personal issue for you or if you are subject to this type of judging, please feel free to write us with your return email address. We will be happy to discuss your specific experience in more detail privately and confidentially.

“Elaia Luchnia”
