

Common Denominator

- First learned in math to do fractions.
- Became a logical means to understand complex relationships
- Example: What do these have in common?
 - Heart Disease
 - High Blood Pressure
 - Cancer
- They are all ***“silent killers”***
- They take away our life one day at a time.
- Foods and habits we didn't know will kill us

Common Denominator

- After assessing multitudes of people: certain key symptoms found.
- Once a “common denominator” is found:
 - Risk factors identified.
 - Tests devised to find them.
 - Changes in behavior to avoid them.
 - Surgery or drug therapy to heal them.
- Since they are “*silent*” we devise screening tests to assess everyone to help identify.
- We are foolish if we don’t take these tests, identify our risk factors, and avoid them.

Common Denominator

- *Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and **be in health**, just as your soul prospers. 3Jn. 2-3*
- *And when the Pharisees saw it, they said to His disciples, "Why does your Teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?" 12 When Jesus heard that, He said to them, "**Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.** Mt. 9:11-13*

Common Denominator

- *But shun profane and idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. 17 And their message will spread like cancer. 2 Tim. 2:16-17*
- *But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. 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. 1 Cor. 11:28-31*

Common Denominator

- Spiritual health mirrors physical health
- Behavior leads to sickness: physical/spiritual
- Common actions/thoughts lead to common sins and diseases.
- Common actions/thoughts lead to common surgery / medicines – spiritual / material.
- Scripture offers the same “**tests**” to identify the same “**sins**” and offer the same “**changes in behavior**” that will bring the same “**cure**”

Terminal Illness in God's People

- *Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored? Jer. 8:22*
- *“Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive. 10 Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.” Isa. 6:9-10*

It Must Start Here

- *Examine yourselves*, to see whether you are in the faith. *Test yourselves*. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—*unless indeed you fail to meet the test!* 6 I hope you will find out that *we have not failed the test.* 2 Cor 13:5-7
- *We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.* 1Jn 4:6

We Must Learn How to See

- *Your eye is the lamp of your body. **When your eye is healthy, your whole body is full of light**, but when it is bad, your body is full of darkness. 35 Therefore be careful lest the light in you be darkness. 36 If then your whole body is full of light, having no part dark, it will be wholly bright, as when a lamp with its rays gives you light." Lk 11:34-36*
- *If then the light in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! Mt 6:23*

When We Test ... We See...

- *but **test everything**; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 1Th. 5:21-22*
- *But let each one **test his own work**, and then his reason to boast will be in himself alone and not in his neighbor. 5 For each will have to bear his own load. Gal 6:4-5*
- *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits** to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. 1Jn. 4:1-2*

What Do We Test?

- *Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life. Pr. 4:23*
- *I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; It shall not cling to me. Ps. 101:3*
- *Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight, O LORD, my rock and my Redeemer. Ps. 19:14*
- *who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them. Rom. 1:32*

Defiling Thoughts and Behavior

- *And He was saying, "That which proceeds out of the man, that is what defiles the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts, fornications, thefts, murders, adulteries, deeds of coveting and wickedness, as well as deceit, sensuality, envy, slander, pride and foolishness. All these evil things proceed from within and defile the man. Mk. 7:20-23*

Don't Get Distracted

- *Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' 18 So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.'" 20 But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' Luke 12:16-21*

Common Denominators

- *For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. Rom. 15:4*
- *Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted. ... 11 Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall. 1 Cor. 10:6, 11-12*

Common Denominators

- *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. By faith Abel ...*

Heb 11:1-4

Common Denominators

- *Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Heb. 12:1-2*

Terminal Illness in God's People

- *Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of the daughter of my people not been restored?*
Jer. 8:22
- *“Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive. 10 Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and blind their eyes; **lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their hearts, and turn and be healed.**”* Isa. 6:9-10