

Soundness

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Introduction

Soundness of mind, body and spirit are communicated by several related Greek words: the verb *hugiainō* & the root noun *hugiēs*. The basic concept involves a state of physical well-being, suggesting soundness of mind and body, signifying one who is healthy or whole.

The secondary idea reaches into the spiritual realm. When used figuratively, *hugiainō* means “to be sound or free from error” [BDAG], “to be correct in one’s views, with the implication of such a state being positively valued” [Louw], and is descriptive “(a) of Christians whose opinions are free from any mixture of error; (b) of one who keeps the graces and is strong” [Strong]. The root word, *hugiēs*, pertains “(1) pertains to being physically well or sound, healthy, sound; (a) of persons; (b) of things sound, undamaged; (2) pertains to being uncorrupted or correct, fig. ext of 1” [BDAG]. Collectively, these words occur 24x in the NT, having application in both the physical and spiritual realms.

Physical Realm

The word *hugiainō* signifies physical health (Luke 7:1-10, esp. vs. 10; 3 John 1-4, esp. vs. 2), and is descriptive of both physical and spiritual well-being (Luke 5:29-32, esp. vs. 31; 15:11-32, esp. vs. 27). Most occurrences of the root word also convey this basic meaning (Matthew 12:9-13, esp. vs. 13; 15:29-31, esp. vs. 31; Acts 4:8-12, esp. vs. 10).

Spiritual Realm

These terms are also descriptive of sound doctrine/teaching (1 Timothy 1: 8-11, esp. vs. 10; 2 Timothy 4:1-5, esp. vs. 3; Titus 1:7-9, esp. vs. 9; 2:1), sound words (1 Timothy 6:3-5, esp. vs. 3; 2 Timothy 1:13-14), and sound faith (Titus 1:10-14, esp. vs. 13; 2:1-8, esp. vs. 2 & 8).

Conclusion

Let us and pray for and serve those who are physically sick, that they might be well; let us also minister to those who are spiritually sick, that they might be saved (James 5:13-20).

Sources:

BDAG = Frederick William Danker, ed., *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd ed., (Chicago, IL: The University of Chicago Press, 2000).

Louw = Johannes P. Louw & Eugene A. Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains*, (New York: United Bible Societies, c1989, 1996).

Strong = James Strong, *The Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*, (Ontario: Woodside Bible Fellowship., 1996).

Thomas = Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition*, (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981).