

What is the point of pain?



As a former Physiotherapist I choose to answer this on two levels.

On the Physiological level, pain is a valuable mechanism to protect the body from harm. How do you know that you should take your hand out of the fire? A small percentage of people have a defective nervous system which results in them not being able to feel pain. Such people have a difficult time in keeping themselves from injury.

One of the biggest challenges though that I had with patients was differentiating pain from harm. Many people associated normal physiological pain with the presence of injury or disease. Such people became overprotective and often lost the ability to perform the normal tasks of daily life.

From a spiritual level though short term protective pain is one thing but the severe debilitating pain encountered with injury and disease is something entirely different. Such pain does not belong in the Kingdom of God. Rev 21:4b, in a vision of a new era states quite categorically, 'there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain for the old order of things has passed away.' In our time though the old order has not yet passed away. Although the Kingdom of God has come in Jesus, the kingdom of the old order continues to exist also. We see signs of God's Kingdom in the healing ministry and I believe also through the medical professions but until Jesus returns those signs will inevitably be only part of the story.

Steve