

"FEVERS"--Part 1.--Chapter 68

1. WELL, I CERTAINLY HAD LOTS MORE TO LEARN ABOUT HEEDING THE SYMPTOMS OF FEVER & how to treat them, when a little over one year later, at 4 1/2 years-old, Davidito one summer July morning complained of a headache & wanted to rest in bed. Next, he added that his throat was sore, so Alfred & I agreed to giving him half a crushed aspirin in water. Mommy & Daddy & Techi were living nearby, but not in our same home because of security conditions at the time, so we informed them by phone that afternoon of David's sickness.

2. DAVID GOT OUT OF BED (our first mistake!) then & wanted to take a walk in the sunny outdoors, then ate a normal lunch that day. However, he woke crying from his nap & very feverish, so Alfred & I prayed for him, & he rested in bed, rather listless, yet happy. At 10 PM--BOOM! A high fever began its attack & he began to sweat & had an extremely rapid heartbeat & pulse rate that actually scared me! There was no doubt that he was seriously ill!

3. AGAIN WE HAD PRAYER, this time calling for the others to unite with us & anointed him with oil with laying on of hands.--James 5:14-16. Poor little David tried to sleep then, but woke about every 10 minutes till around four in the morning. He'd wake, cry, sit up, grope in the air, & talk out loud, apparently slightly delirious with fever! It did subside after our united prayer with him, yet did not actually break into a full sweat all night long. I was at his bedside most all night, covering him up again & just so he'd know I was there to help & comfort & pray for him.

4. ALTHOUGH IT'S REALLY BETTER TO SLEEP IN YOUR "BIRTHDAY SUIT" (naked) in either cold or hot weather, children who always kick covers off in their sleep may need to wear at least a thin cotton shirt or pajamas in bed to avoid getting chilled. (This, of course, depends on climate, season, room temperature, etc.) But on this particular night, to prevent David's getting chilled with a sweat & fever,

July, 1979 4 1/2 Years Old.

he wore a sleeveless T-shirt under a short-sleeved cotton T-shirt, & under-wear with only a thin sheet to cover. Dad advised that we keep David warm:

5. WE HAD AGAIN NOTIFIED MOMMY & DADDY of David's increase in temperature that night, & they sent him a sweet tape of their prayers & counsel (which we hope to share with you soon, available from Wild Wind tapes!)



Davidito hears Mommy & Daddy's sweet encouragement & songs on tape while sick with fever.

Dad counseled us, "Aspirin steps up the blood pressure, opens the vessels, steps up circulation & generally helps everything! Lotsa times that'll do the trick!"

6. WE FINALLY BOUGHT A THERMOMETER & found his temperature was back to normal, TTL--but there is still lots more to the story, to be continued! Here's what Dad & Maria discussed & advised when they heard of the increase in David's body temperature that evening:

7. NOW I THINK IT WAS A MISTAKE that they allowed him to get up after he was already sick, & walk around outside in the garden & all, because a child doesn't know how to take care of himself, & when a child is that

sick he should be kept in bed, if at all possible, with complete bed rest.

8. I'M SURPRISED THAT THEY DON'T HAVE A THERMOMETER. We can give them ours & Sara can take his temperature, because if she calls the doctor in the morning, that's one of the first things the doctor is going to want to know, "What's his temperature?" (Maria: And because he isn't sweaty, that just means that...) That simply means that the fever is not broken.

9. WHEN YOU HAVE A HIGH FEVER you are usually quite dry, if anything, & of course it's also an attempt of the body to fight some kind of infection usually. Dr. Koger's belief was that fever was to burn up the poisons in the body from the infection, but rather than allow it to get too high, try to break it, if possible, with aspirin drops.

10. ASPIRIN TABLETS ARE USUALLY PRETTY HARD FOR KIDS TO SWALLOW, so they usually put the aspirin drops or powder into water for children. Of course they can even dissolve a couple of crushed aspirin in half-a-glass of water & have him drink it. I think that is probably just as effective. If he's got a sore throat, it's a lot easier than trying to swallow aspirin whole, that's for sure. (Maria: Or in juice.) Yes, in water or juice. (We gave him half a crushed aspirin in a teaspoon of orange juice & washed it down with 1 gr. of Vitamin C in water.--Sara.)

11. THE DOCTOR ONCE GAVE ME WHAT THEY CALL AN ANALGESIC--and that's what aspirin does for you. Give him a couple of aspirin to try to help & perhaps break the high fever. And then if the fever breaks he will probably break out in a sweat & sweat very much. This is the body's effort to throw off poisons through the pores & through perspiration.

12. WHAT IT IS, OF COURSE, WE DON'T KNOW, there are so many different childhood diseases! That's why I'm always worried about him having contact with other children. Well, no use crying over spilled milk now, he's got it, & how he got it is something we can discuss later. Whether it's those cats

or the dog or another child, (Maria: What does it sound like?)

13. WELL, IT SOUNDS LIKE ANY NUMBER OF CHILDHOOD DISEASES that could start with a fever, so it's pretty hard to tell. I mean, a cold, headaches, & a sore throat with a fever, could mean any of several things. But we have prayed, we've all prayed that the Lord is going to heal him, & we simply have to trust that the Lord is going to do it!

14. BUT I THINK AT THE SAME TIME HE OUGHT TO DO WHATEVER WE CAN & one thing would be to consult our woman pediatrician friend in the morning & tell her on the telephone what symptoms he has had & the extent of his fever & so on. Tell her they have given him a couple of aspirin & ask what she thinks they should do, if she wants them to bring David in or what. Explain to her who it is, too, so she'll remember which patients we are.

15. HOW COME THEY DIDN'T TELL US ABOUT HIS WHINING IN HIS SLEEP last night? Of course that might not have been considered to be anything serious. But a sore throat... (Maria: When he got up this morning he didn't go out like usual, because he had a little headache.) Well, having a rapid pulse in case of a fever is of course normal--the fever's a strain on the body, strain on the heart, it's a strain all the way around.

16. (NOTE: WHEN THERE IS A RISE IN TEMPERATURE the heart beats faster, so there is an increase in the pulse rate. The rate is increased by, of course, exercise, emotion or when there is inflammation affecting the respiratory tract--bronchitis or broncho-pneumonia, for instance. The pulse rate & breathing should be observed when a child is ill, as the quality of a patient's breathing is very important, if it is noisy, shallow, gasping or abnormal in any other way, the doctor should be informed should you feel you need medical counsel.--Sara.)

17. (MARIA: WHEN HE GETS A FEVER HE ALWAYS GETS TERRIBLY SICK, & oh, we have to baby him & prevent him from