

# UNLESS PROVEN OTHERWISE! JOHN 9:1-4; 1 THESS. 5:23-24

## The issue:

Starting point	Default position
Fall-back position	First blush response
Go-to solution	Assumption / presupposition

When it comes to depression, where should one start? What should our assumption be concerning its cause?

## I. An assumption

**John 9:1** And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. **John 9:2** And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? **John 9:3** Jesus answered, **Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.** **John 9:4** I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

### Thoughts:

The disciples **observe** a symptom / an effect

The disciples **assumed** the cause was sin → someone's

Jesus corrected their assumption!

Jesus then pointed them in a different direction

Why? ←-----→ why?  
 Looking back ←-----→ looking forward  
 Past ←-----→ future  
 Causes(s) ←-----→ purpose(s)

What do we know about assumptions concerning depression?

1. Everyone has assumptions about depression!
2. Not every assumption can be correct → at least for the **same** person in the **same** way and at the **same** time!

Demons? Chemical imbalance? Sin?

3. Our assumption(s) must be identified, & then evaluated & corrected by the Scripture.
4. Our assumptions should **also** avoid reductionism!

Reductionism = all depression is cause by \_\_\_\_\_!

5. The Scripture has one assumption concerning human nature & it must be our assumption:

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** And the very God of peace sanctify you **wholly** (ὁλοτελεῖς); and I pray God your **whole** (ὁλόκληρον) spirit (τὸ πνεῦμα) and soul (καὶ ἡ ψυχή) and body (καὶ τὸ σῶμα) be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. **1 Thessalonians 5:24** Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

Default position / starting point / fallback position – unless proven otherwise:

We are whole people

Who must be dealt with as whole people

Although composed of / consisting of constituent parts - that can be distinguished but ultimately cannot and must not be separated (body, soul, mind, conscience, will, spirit. . .)

Must now (after the fall) be dealt with as whole people

Who are **wholly** (totally) **fallen** (the whole man & each constituent part)

Who also live / exist in a **wholly** (totally) **fallen** world.

**Ephesians 2:1** And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; **Ephesians 2:2** Wherein in time past ye walked according to **the course of this world**, according to **the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: **Ephesians 2:3** Among whom also we all had our conversation **in times past in the lusts of our flesh**, fulfilling the desires of the **flesh** and of the **mind**; **and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.** **Ephesians 2:4** **But God**, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, **Ephesians 2:5** **Even** when we were dead in sins, **hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)**

**Matthew 7:11** If **ye** then, **being evil**, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

**Psalms 51:5** Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

**Psalms 58:3** The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

**Romans 5:12** Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

**Jeremiah 17:9** The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

**2 Corinthians 4:16** For which cause we faint not; but though **our outward man** perish, yet **the inward man** is renewed day by day.

## 6. Human nature, as a whole or in part, is **not** functioning properly!

**Matthew 26:39** And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. **Matthew 26:40** And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour?

**Matthew 26:41** Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: **the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.**

**2 Corinthians 4:16** For which cause we faint not; but though **our outward man** **perish**, yet **the inward man** is **renewed** day by day.

**Job 19:25** For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: **Job 19:26** **And though after my skin worms destroy this body**, yet in my flesh shall I see God: **Job 19:27** Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; **though my reins be consumed within me.**

**Galatians 5:16** This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. **Galatians 5:17** **For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other:** so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

Level of assumption:		
<b>Only spiritual</b>	<b>Combination</b>	<b>Only medical</b>
<b>No medicine</b>	<b>Medicine Plus After With Until</b>	<b>Only medicine</b>
<b>Doctor last or not at all</b>	<b>Check up &amp; a Check list!</b>	<b>Doctor first</b>

Possibilities:							
<b>Sin</b>	<b>Guilt</b>	<b>Fear</b>	<b>Anger</b>	<b>Thinking</b>	<b>Trauma</b>	<b>Physical illness</b>	<b>Chemical imbalance</b>