

The Spirit of Infirmary

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Luke 13:10-13 And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

- I. The woman in our Scripture had a “spirit of infirmity.”
 - A. The words do not indicate that she had anything wrong with her body.
 - B. Although Jesus laid his hands on her, and she was made straight, the problem is clearly identified in this case as spiritual, not physical.
 1. Nothing is said about anything being healed in her body.
 2. Rather, she was loosed from the spirit of infirmity to which she had yielded control of her own spirit eighteen years before.
 - C. This spirit of infirmity had taken control of her mind and emotions and her very life until she was bowed together upon herself so that she could only look down at the ground or upon her own self.
 1. This is what a spirit of infirmity does, it makes a person focus upon themselves and the problems (real or imagined) in their body.
 2. It prevents them from looking upward or outward and they fold in upon themselves.
 3. This poor woman had thought herself sick for eighteen years.
 - D. A person can have a spirit of infirmity without having anything really wrong with their body.
 1. This is such an obvious fact that it should not require much expounding upon.
 2. Doctors have known forever about placebos, or sugar pills, and how they are so very effective in treating people who think they are sick, but have nothing really wrong with their body.
 - E. A person can be really sick and NOT have a spirit of infirmity.
 1. Not all sickness is spiritual in its origin.
 2. Other than the fact that sin has brought corruption into the world and into every aspect of God’s creation.
 3. Infirmities can be caused by germs, viruses, toxins, injuries, and simply anomalies that occur in the process of life in this corrupt environment.
 - F. A person who will not let a spirit of infirmity gain control of their mind will be the kind of person who goes on anyway, sick or not; without letting the infirmity stop them in their work, or their duties, or responsibilities.
 - G. But this is not the case with most people because sickness is usually a good way to get attention and get out of responsibilities and duties.
- II. It is very important to realize a few facts in this matter.
 - A. First of all, infirmities are a reality that we all live with in this world.

INFIRMITY, n. inferm'ity. *L. infirmitas.*

1. An unsound or unhealthy state of the body; weakness; feebleness.

2. Weakness or failing of the mind.
 3. Weakness of resolution.
 4. Any particular disease; malady; applied rather to chronic, than to violent diseases.
 5. Defect; imperfection; weakness.
 - B. People DO get sick, and we all have many infirmities throughout our lives.
 1. Most of us have been through sicknesses or injuries that took weeks or months to get through.
 2. We have all been sick for the past 3 weeks or so as the virus made its way through our families.
 3. Our prayer list is mostly about infirmities of others that we are praying for.
 - C. So understand that there is a difference between “infirmity” and a “spirit of infirmity.”
- III. The “spirit of infirmity” is one of the most powerful spiritual forces that we will encounter while we live on this earth.
- A. One of our infirmities (weaknesses) is that we are very susceptible to yield to the influence of this spirit, because of the infirmity of our flesh.
 - B. Our body is pretty important to us and when it begins to fail us we get alarmed and that is when the door is unlocked and opened for the spirit of infirmity to come in and set up a stronghold.
 - C. The woman in our Scripture had some kind of infirmity eighteen years before and it had long been gone, but the woman was still focused on it and constantly tormented by the fear of its return.
 - D. This is what happens to so many people and they are effectively neutralized by the devil, as far as being of any usefulness to others, as well as to the kingdom of God.
 - E. In fact, they become a burden to others and their life becomes a series of misery and woe and fear of being sick, even though they are not.
- IV. The way to deal with a spirit of infirmity is the same way we deal with every other spiritual evil.
- A. First, we must put our faith in God and trust Him no matter what the circumstances may look like.
 - B. Second, we recognize and identify that the problem is spiritual, and that this is an evil spirit of infirmity that has us bowed together and tormenting us with infirmity we have, or that we think we might have.
 - C. Third, we resist the devil, and he will flee from us.
 - D. Finally, we yield control of our spirit back to God who will comfort us and calm us and assure us, regardless of the circumstances.
- V. It is a spirit of infirmity that torments us and strikes fear into us about any sickness or injury or problem with our body.
- A. When you realize your imagination is running away with you because of some pain, or abnormality, or other feeling in your body, also realize that you have a spirit of infirmity that is trying to get control of your mind and emotions.
 1. This is what happens to a person while they sit in the doctor’s office waiting to have a test done that might show they have cancer or some other problem.

- B. At that point that spirit is very close to breaking through and usurping your spirit and gaining a stronghold in your mind, which is a very great danger.
- C. We should be more afraid of this happening than any sickness or infirmity we might really have in our body.
- D. To live the rest of our life under the oppression of a spirit of infirmity is a worse fate than being diagnosed with terminal cancer.
- E. A spirit of infirmity will dominate your mind and feelings concerning your health and wellbeing of your body.
- F. It is a spirit of infirmity that causes people to obsess with health and what they can eat, or take, or do to make or keep themselves healthy.
- G. This evil spirit of a devil will cost you everything else in life before he is through with you.
 - 1. When a person focuses on their pains and weaknesses, that are usually not anything abnormal at all, they will eventually be ignored by others who tire of it.
 - 2. A spirit of infirmity will eventually leave you alone with your misery.
- H. Being sick or crippled or weak is no fun, but THINKING we are when we really are not is a far worse state to be in.
- I. We must be wise enough to take care of our body when there is a real problem with it.
 - 1. We are doing no one any good and we are harming ourselves when we will not do what is necessary to let our body heal from whatever infirmity has come upon it.
- J. At the same time we need to be wise enough to know when the infirmity is past and get on with life and forget about it.
- K. We need to be wise enough to not let a devil talk us into being sick when we are not.
- L. We need to be concerned about others and the things of God more than about our own weaknesses, pains, and physical problems.
 - 1. We need to be wise enough not to let a devil talk us into thinking about ourselves all the time and whatever physical problems we “might” have, or face in the future.
- M. We need to be wise enough and spiritually discerning enough to realize that many times our infirmity is a means God is using for some divine purpose that we may never know this side of heaven.
 - 1. Therefore, we need to be vigilant to not let a devil steal the opportunity for God to us for his purpose.
 - 2. Some of the greatest fountains of spiritual blessings have sprang from a bed of affliction, or a wheel chair, or a dying saint who did not allow a spirit of infirmity to overwhelm his spirit even unto death.
- N. Like I have said so many times, we need to die living, and not live dying.
- O. It is a part of the spiritual battle that we are involved in and this spirit of infirmity is one of our most formidable foes.
- P. Watch for him, recognize him, resist him, and cast all your care upon the Lord, for He careth for you.

Romans 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Proverbs 18:14 The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?