

## **OVERCOMING THE SPIRIT OF INFIRMITY**

**“And He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had a sickness caused by a spirit, and she was bent double and could not straighten up at all.**

**And when Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her ‘Woman, you are free from your sickness’ and then He laid his hands upon her and immediately she was made erect again and began glorifying God.**

**..... And this woman, a daughter of Abraham as she is, who Satan has bound for eighteen years, should she not have released from this bond on the Sabbath day” (Luke 13:11-13, 16)**

Thank God for the revelation of the New Testament that Jesus brought. One of the things that we have seen in the course of our ministry is an increasing number of incurable diseases and infirmities, daily we hear of people who die of these ‘incurables’ despite receiving the best of medical care and in many cases a multiplicity of prayers for their recovery, we need to understand a bit better how to deal with this kind of problem.

Here was this woman who for 18 long years had suffered an incurable and may be inexplicable disease, the best doctors of her time had examined her and had come to a conclusion ‘we know what is wrong with you but we just don’t know how to help you.

No wonder! Her sickness was cause by a spirit of infirmity; a demon power that had attached itself to her body and was perpetuating it’s wickedness in her life, today more than ever before the devil is releasing hordes of spirits of infirmity against the young and the old, the great and the small, no one is immune, it seems we are all under a siege of wickedness, you need to understand this, sicknesses and diseases that are caused by evil spirits will not respond to medication or even “prayers” the spirits concerned have to be discerned and cast out.

A while ago a young lady came up to me for prayers, her complaint was extremely painful and crippling monthly periods, I laid hands on her stomach and prayed for her healing, and then I said to her ‘what now? Has the pain left? She indicated it had not, as I was going to minister to her again, I felt the Holy Spirit indicating to me the presence of an evil spirit attached to her abdomen, so this time I commanded the evil spirit to come out of her and as I said so, she said, she felt something leave her abdomen and the pain disappeared.

In an indirect sense all sickness and disease are the handiwork of Satan and are a result of the fall of Adam, but in a direct way, there are some physical conditions that are the result of the literal presence of an evil spirit in or on the body of the afflicted.

Friend, I believe that behind very terminal disease whether cancer, leukaemia, migraine or whatever name that it is called by is a spirit of infirmity, thank God for hardworking doctors and medical personnel who do their best for the afflicted but we need more that that here, we need

the power of Jesus Christ, I want to announce to you that God through Jesus Christ has given us the means whereby we can live victoriously over the spirit of infirmity.

We do not need to fall victim to anyone of Satan's destructive schemes and manipulations. Read this:

*"Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, For he has visited us and accomplished redemption for his people ...*

*To show mercy towards our fathers and to remember his Holy covenant The oath which He swore to Abraham our father To grant us that we, being delivered from the hand of our enemies Might serve him without fear. Luke 2:68, 72-74.*

Sickness is an enemy, make no mistake about it, it is a thief of peace, a destroyer of hope, a killer of dreams, and it is a weapon from the arsenal of the devil.

Jesus went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil (Acts 10:38) and he is still doing the same today for all those who look to him in faith.

The earthly ministry of Jesus Christ was a foretaste of the deliverance that will come to all who believe, it was a fulfilment of the prophetic scriptures.

*"And when evening had come they brought to Him many who were demon possessed and He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were ill,. In order that what was spoken through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled saying "He himself took our infirmities and carried away our diseases". Math. 8:16-17.*

Praise God, this Jesus is still alive today!

Firstly: we must believe that the redemptive work of Jesus was total and complete; His victory over Satan was for these who were alive then and for us who live now. 'Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, today and forever. Jesus died for our sins and was striped for our healing, it is the will of God that we are whole and healthy, sickness is not, has not and never will be God's will for us.

As we read through the New Testament we see Jesus destroying every work of Satan including sickness, Satan is defeated and if He is defeated then all the spirits of infirmity are defeated.

Hear me very well, Jesus has done all that he could possibly do for us concerning the works of the devil, we must take a stand against them in faith.

Secondly: We must believe that Jesus has transferred the authority to act in his place to His Church and His anointed representatives.

Glory to God, Jesus did not take his authority and power back with him to heaven; he left them on earth to be administered by His church, through His name and the anointing of His Spirit.

*“And He called the twelve together and gave them power and authority over all the demons and to heal diseases”. Luke 9:1*

Glory to God, authority over all demons; whether African demons, village demons, town demons, European demons, Chinese demons, over all demons and to heal all diseases.

What is the one great reason many are overcome today by the spirit of infirmity? It is unbelief. Friends, unbelief can be present despite loud prayers and protestations of faith, the name of Jesus has not lost efficacy neither has the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we must believe and act on our believing, Jesus, just about when He was going to heaven said.

“These signs shall follow them that believe in my name (or by my authority or as my representative they will cast out evils, they will lay hands on the sick and they will recover...”.

It is either Jesus meant what He said or we haven't got it right somewhere.

After almost 20 years in the healing ministry, I'm convinced that our unbelief has sent more people to the grave than the destructive work of the devil.

How shall we overcome the spirit of infirmity?

Faith is the key, faith will lead you to act on the word of God, to believe in the efficacy of that name and the anointing of the Holy Spirit, faith will inspire your confession of health and victory because you know that you have the victory.

How does this faith come? Only one way, by the word of God, as you see Jesus demonstration complete mastery over Satan and His works, your faith will be emboldened by the truth that He did it for you, as you hear the truths of divine healing proclaimed and taught, the faith of God will take hold of you.

This is the victory that overcomes the world even our faith.

Time after time Jesus commended the faith of different people in the scriptures, if their faith could do it for them, you can do it too.

The key to effective faith is firstly to believe the right things; did you notice that faith is more than believing? Yet if you do not get your believing right your faith will fail. Many people come to Jesus hoping that something good will happen to them, but it takes more than hope to receive from God, it takes believing faith.

Can we overcome the spirits of infirmity? Can we resist Satan's attempts to afflict us with seemingly incurable diseases? Yes we can! It is God's will that we be free from sickness and disease and all that Satan brings. In the first part of this article, I spoke about the place of faith in overcoming the works of Satan. I need to repeat here that an essential part of faith is believing

right, many times the word faith and belief are use synonymously but in biblical terms there is an essential distinction,

*Faith is the product of believing, believing is of the heart, it is invisible, the actions that emanate from believing are visible, all together when we act on what we believe we are exercising faith.*

Now listen, Jesus said in his word, ‘behold, I give you power over all unclean spirits’ that will necessarily include spirits that cause sickness and disease, we have authority over them to cast them out.

## **Resist Satan**

In James 4:7, we are told, ‘so then submit yourselves to God, Resist the devil and he will run away from you’; this is the recipe. Look! sickness is the devil in action, you have a part to play in seeing the back of sickness in your life, thank God for the many anointed men and women through whom He is working today, but when the crunch gets to the crunch, you have to resist the devil for yourself.

But look at this, before we resist Satan, we must first submit to God, how can we do this in practical terms? This will include accepting Christ into your life as your Lord, if you haven’t done that, but that is not all it means, in a further sense you submit to God when you submit to his word, when His word has first place in your life, that is you hide his word in your heart, because the authority to resist Satan flows from your submission to His word.

There are many who still argue against divine healing, that is not submission to the word, when you embrace the word of healing, disease are overcome and healing comes by the stripes of Jesus, you are submitting to Jehovah Rapha the Lord your healer.

When you take the healing word in your mouth and begin to boldly declare healing to your body, declaring that the power of infirmity in your in your body is broken, that the devil of cancer leaves your body and every cancer cell is cured, you are resisting Satan.

Too many times as Christians we don’t recognize our personal responsibility in these matters, somebody will say, ‘ah Pastor I tried it but it didn’t work, don’t try it, do it.

I say this usually when I preach, if Satan could not stop you from being saved from sin when you gave your life to Jesus, then he can’t stop you from being saved from sickness, salvation from sin and sickness came in the same package and we receive both by faith. Are you plagued by a seemingly incurable disease? Take authority over the devil giving life to that disease, command him to leave, then begin to speak healing words to your body, command that body to become whole, it is your body, God’s temple and He wants to be glorified in it.

*God bless you.*