

Spirit of infirmity

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In my circle of believers, this topic almost never comes up. Surely it shouldn't be taboo! Most ministers I know won't touch this subject. They intentionally ignore it. And then there are others who go to extremes on it, in my opinion. But there are several scriptures that deal with this topic, so I will NOT and cannot ignore it. I hope you'll carefully listen to this teaching and look up the scriptures in your own Bible.

IS there such a thing as a true “spirit of infirmity” in the Bible? And are there demons that “specialize” in certain diseases and afflictions – like a demon or “spirit of cancer” or spirit of depression? Two separate questions. What do we read in scripture?

I find it interesting that in so many cases of healings when Jesus and the apostles walked the earth, so many who were healed also had “a spirit of infirmity” or demon that was cast out as well at the same time – as you will soon see. First, let's establish that scripture **does** speak of spirits who can keep people in **prolonged illnesses – or “spirit of infirmity.”**

But please note: I'm not saying this applies to everyone or even *most* people who are sick. I'm NOT. *But the Bible and Jesus himself tell there IS such a thing as “a spirit of infirmity” in some cases.* I hope this audio sermon will clarify this topic.

And neither do I believe – as some teach – that there are spirits that specialize in certain maladies, like disability, or cancer, or stroke, etc. I don't see that kind of specificity in scripture. So NO, I do not believe in “a spirit of cancer” or a spirit that specializes in Covid 19 or something. All the Bible tells us is that sometimes a person gets a malady caused by a demon and that God apparently had given that permission.

Especially when it comes to God's children, Satan and his demons cannot touch them without God's permission, as I'll show you. But, God does give permission at times!

And yes, we are in spiritual warfare **as Ephesians 6** says. Our real enemies are Satan and his demons. But neither should we give more power to demons than the Bible does. Especially with God's children, they can go only as far as God allows. That should comfort you. In fact, in Jesus' name we have power to cast out evil spirits. But my point is: God DOES allow them some influence from time to time. And it's possible that we open the door to these evil spirits if we live a life of uncleanness, immorality, and careless control of our minds, as you will see.

Also, a lot of people get sick – never mind the spirits – by their own unhealthy lifestyle of lacking exercise, eating junk food and sweets, becoming obese or overly stressed or living in immorality. And yes, I preach to myself too! Probably we all have had at least some periods of unhealthy living. Let's read about the “spirit of infirmity” in Luke 13.

Luke 13:10-13

Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. 11 And behold, there was **a woman who had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years**, and was bent

over and could in no way raise herself up. 12 But when Jesus saw her, He called her to Him and said to her, "Woman, **you are loosed from your infirmity.**" 13 And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

“Spirit of Infirmary” in NKJV and KJV is translated differently by other versions:

NIV & NLT – “Had been crippled”

ESV – “a disabling spirit” or as Berean says: “had been disabled by a spirit”

NASB – “had a sickness caused by a spirit”

By the way, if any of you don't have **the free Bible Hub application**, you should get it and use it. You'll find so many translations, concordance, topical studies, Greek and Hebrew, etc. Just go to www.Biblehub.com

Anyway, Jesus then explained clearly that this was a woman **whom “Satan has bound”** – but Jesus commanded that spirit to untie her from bondage. Jesus got criticized for healing this woman on the sabbath. Imagine that! So here's what he said to them:

Luke 13:15-16

“The Lord then answered him and said, "Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? 16 So ought not this woman, *being a daughter of Abraham*, **whom Satan has bound** – **think of it – for eighteen years, be loosed** from this bond on the Sabbath?”

So this woman had suffered for 18 years from this demon, but in one instant, Jesus/Yeshua commanded her release and healing, and it was done. This was on the sabbath day, symbolizing the peace and liberty she would now experience. The way our Savior responded with compassion and encouragement reminds us all of what a wonderful Savior we have.

So we find Jesus himself teaching us that for 18 years, Satan had caused this woman – a daughter of Abraham-- to be badly bent over. This is **NOT** saying, and I'm **NOT** saying, that every health issue that's gone on for a long time, or even that most such health issues, is a case of a foul spirit binding that person. I'm *not* saying that. But it could be, at times. Notice that Satan bound this “daughter of Abraham” – verse 16 above.

But again, not all disease is caused by demons. Please don't go there. **Matthew 4:23-24** for example, lists many diseased people who were healed, and only in some cases is it implied that demons were involved.

Matthew 4:23-24

“And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and **healing all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease** among the people. 24 Then His fame went throughout all Syria; and they brought to Him all sick people who were afflicted with various diseases and torments, and those who were demon-possessed, epileptics, and paralytics; and He healed them.”

CAN Satan and his demons influence God's children?

Jesus said that woman was a child of Abraham. So even they can be afflicted. Who are the children of Abraham today?

Galatians 3:7

“Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham.”

Galatians 3:26-29

“For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are **all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**”

“Children of Abraham” are all people who have come to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior (**Galatians 3:7; 3:26-29**). Now we're all one in Christ. My point is, Jesus commanded an evil spirit of infirmity to come out of that child of Abraham. WE also are children of Abraham through faith in Jesus. As she was afflicted, though a daughter of Abraham, so can we – with God's permission.

Some teach that once we are children of God and have his Spirit, that evil spirits can't touch us. That true to a point – but let's keep reading. If God gives permission, and sometimes he does, then the evil spirits can affect us.

Even in the Old Testament do we not read the **story of Job, the most righteous person on earth at the time**, and how it was Satan who struck even him with head-to-toe boils?

Job 2:7

“So **Satan** went out from the presence of YHVH, **and struck Job with painful boils** from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.”

Remember that Job was a very godly person, and this still happened to him!! So even being a child of God or super godly like Job was, does not mean Satan – *if given permission* – can't strike you or me. But evil spirits *can do only what God allows*.

As far as coming after us to a degree – how about **Paul's “thorn in the flesh”** which he clearly states ***was a “messenger of Satan*** sent to buffet” him (2 Cor. 12:7). Paul – who wrote 1/3 of the New Testament, had to deal with a malady of some sort that was a “messenger of Satan”!

And one time Jesus rebuked Peter – excuse me, he rebuked Satan influencing Peter, when Peter said Christ would not have to be crucified.

Mark 8:31-33

And He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. 32 He spoke this word openly. Then Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him. 33 But when He had turned around and looked at His disciples, He **rebuked Peter, saying, “Get behind Me, Satan!** For you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.”

Another time he told Peter that *“Satan has asked for you,* but I have prayed for you” (**Luke 22:31-32**). Perhaps Satan and demons are asking to be able to come into your life too!

So there's more going on than we might like to think! But God puts limits on them. And sometimes we may be cracking the door open a bit too.

There are more examples of how evil spirits – demons – can be involved in illness. It does not mean they control the person's mind, or that the person being healed is "possessed" by the demon. I'm not saying that. But it's clear there is a demon causing an illness in some cases. I know, I know. Most ministers won't touch this subject. But it's in the Bible, so let's keep learning.

Acts 19:11-12 "Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and **the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.**"

This next one WAS demon-possessed.

Matthew 9:32-33 "As they went out, behold, they brought to Him **a man, mute and demon-possessed. 33 And when the demon was cast out, the mute spoke.** And the multitudes marveled, saying, "It was never seen like this in Israel!"

In the case above it says this man was possessed of demons. But in my first example, of the woman who was severely bent over for 18 years, it seems she was bound with that infirmity but not necessarily one who was "possessed". Please "get" what I'm saying here.

Because of that woman's example, I have to wonder if in some cases even today – of even godly and nice people – who have long-standing body/health issues: could it be that they might be bound by a spirit of infirmity as well?

But people don't want a minister "casting out demons" when they call for prayer and anointing. I get it. But neither can you – or I -- ignore all these scriptures. But ministers don't have to be speaking of casting out demons, unless we know that that is the case each time.

But surely when anointing and praying for healing, we can speak power into people by saying "IF a foul spirit has bound this person, I command you in Jesus' name to leave and take off your bondage and I mean right NOW!"

Even I could be bound by Satan at some time, in some infirmity, but not necessarily demon possessed. In a case like that, I say let the minister speak his prayer of healing without limiting his options of what he feels led to say.

Once you're loosed, there's no shame in proclaiming victory over the evil spirit world.

Luke 8:1-3 "Now it came to pass, afterward, that He went through every city and village, preaching and bringing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God. And the twelve were with Him, **2 and certain women who had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities** – Mary called Magdalene, out of whom had come seven demons, 3 and Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward, and Susanna, and many others who provided for Him from their substance."

There again, healing and commanding evil spirits to leave – are shown hand in hand at times. Are we to think the demonic activity is less today than in Jesus' day? (There's NOTHING in the Bible, by the way, that says Mary Magdalene was a prostitute. That's a horrible rumor that some continue to propagate).

DON'T OPEN The DOOR

Part of my mission in this teaching is to also say this: Be so very careful **not to be opening doors for evil spirits to come in and trouble you.**

Hear God's voice in his commands to Israel preparing to enter the Promised Land. This list from God include ways that "doors" may be cracked open for demons to enter a life (with permission):

Deuteronomy 18:9-14 "When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations. 10 There shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or his daughter pass through the fire, or one **who practices witchcraft, or a soothsayer, or one who interprets omens, or a sorcerer, 11 or one who conjures spells, or a medium, or a spiritist, or one who calls up the dead.** 12 For all who do these things are **an abomination to the Lord**, and because of these abominations the Lord your God drives them out from before you. 13 You shall be blameless before the Lord your God. 14 For these nations which you will dispossess listened to soothsayers and diviners; but as for you, the Lord your God has not appointed such for you."

But otherwise, we can also be posting the "welcome here" signs to evil spirits into our minds and hearts by:

- **Participating in seances, trying to contact the dead**, going to fortune tellers, palm readers, card readers, crystal ball gazers – and don't do any of these for "a lark," for fun! God denounces all this and hates it.
- **NEVER seek to see or pray to "your angel" or ever wish to worship any angel.** God's angels won't allow it! If you sense or see or hear a "spirit" – TEST IT. MOST likely it's not one of God's angels. And neither seek to get guidance from a deceased mom or dad! They are gone, they are dead. If you're getting any communication from a past relative, it's most likely a demon posing as an "angel of light."
- NEVER, ever, ever play **with Ouija boards**. If you have one, repent – and burn it!
- Never ever read your **horoscope**. That's a potential door opener.
- Never, never dabble with **hypnotism**. When you give up control of your mind to someone else, you clearly are on thin ice, shaky ground.
- **Drug addiction** also muddles up your mind and makes it easier for an evil spirit to come into your life. Any of you hearing this who are addicted to drugs, you could find yourself dealing with a demon in your life, as you've opened the door to them. They don't come in all the time, but don't open the door, even just a crack – at all.
- Especially those of you in Haiti and in Africa –listen: NEVER have anything to do with **Voodoo**. Never have anything to do with **local witch doctors**. Do not FEAR them; do not fear their curses on you -- for we have the victory over Satan and his fallen angels! He who is with us is far greater than he who is in them, in the world (1 John 4:4) But don't tamper with them at all either.

- Never, in any way whatsoever, get involved in **Halloween** - a night devoted to witches, demons, darkness, and evil of all kinds. DON'T get involved this year or EVER again. NO question that God HATES Halloween. DON'T do it this year.
- **Stop watching demonic topics, movies, TV shows** like Walking Dead, or even Harry Potter movies or any movie or show that focuses on witches, the black magic arts, flying, sorcerers and worse! These will potentially open the door for demons to come in some how into your life. Don't risk it. Don't let your kids watch any of this.
- **Now here's one for all of us: Engaging in any ongoing repetitive sin you are allowing in your life and seem unable to overcome** – and most of us have had those at one time or other, admit it! – these will open the door to evil spirits as well. Believers, children of God, we cannot for example EVER be looking at any pornography, even “soft porn.” Ever.

Too many of God's children dismiss – admit it -- any such problem when watching a movie that has “just a few seconds” of nudity and adultery and other sins going on. But that's opening the door to evil and to evil spirits themselves when we persist in ongoing sin or being entertained by such sin.

ALL our sins were washed away when we accepted Jesus as Savior. But if we callously continue in a LIFE of sin after that, you're playing with fire. Maybe even the Lake of Fire. So we have to stop the ongoing repetitive sins.

IN Christ, and through His power, we should have total victory over any evil spirits.

Read the story again in John 5 about the man who wanted to get into the pool to be healed when an angel stirred the waters. Jesus healed him. But later that day, when they met again, our Savior told him (and US) this:

John 5:14 Afterward Jesus found him in the temple, and said to him, "**See, you have been made well. Sin no more, lest a worse thing come upon you.**"

This implies he got such a sickness from having allowed unconquered sin to be in his life.

God's holy children – you and I – should not be finding any entertainment value in watching sinners sin. Over the years I've had to repent of getting very lax in some of these issues myself. Can you admit it too? And together, let's all of us as children of our most Holy God wake up, become zealous again, and seek our God!

What careless ongoing evils and sins are you allowing to remain in your life? Are you and I choking the fruit of God's spirit from maturing inside us, from making you loving, joyful, peaceful, kind, and tender hearted? I speak to you who have repented, accepted Christ as your Savior and were baptized and had laying on of hands for the holy spirit.

Cares of this world can choke God's word, so they “bring no fruit to maturity. (Mathew 8:7, 14).

Are we putting other things/gods first before God, and not praying first thing daily and throughout the day? Are we sloppy about being a godly light? Are we hot tempered? Do we

fool around with porn? God's spirit is telling me this is a big problem in the church – mostly men and teens, but not just men.

Just make a habit of going to bed earlier, no more late-night TV after everyone else has gone to bed. No more incognito searches on tablets and computers of for movies or depictions of fornication, nudity, adultery, violence, and so on. I say this because I know too many men of God are hooked on porn on their laptops, cell phones or computers. *Talk about opening doors to the evil world! Repent deeply of this and turn back to the Way of our holy God.*

If you're HOOKED on any of this – then ask God to REBUKE that bondage you've been put into – whether it is being hooked on worrying, or on alcohol, lack of faith, porn, spiritual laziness – whatever bondage, or sins you can't seem to get rid of. Just ask God to REBUKE any evil spirits that are putting us into bondage to sin.

I know you've been forgiven. But if and when we can't overcome, perhaps there's bondage going on. That has to be rebuked! So I've been speaking of the bondage of INFIRMITY/health issues, but there is also this bondage to repetitive sin of some sort-- that we just can't seem to get on top of.

We overcome through and by the power of Christ! Put on God's whole armor.
Then we fight Satan in the power of Christ's might (Ephesians 6:10). But you won't have access to that power if you and I don't connect with him a lot, daily several times, and live by HIS might and HIS power and spirit.

Ephesians 6:10-13

Finally, my brethren, ***be strong in the Lord and in the power of HIS might.***
11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

But too many of us DON'T consciously take up or put on the whole armor – of helmet of salvation, the shield of faith, breastplate of righteousness, engaging our sword – the Holy Spirit, the word of God – and everything mentioned. So no wonder we struggle with sin in our lives. And if we're still not praying first thing every day, we surely are NOT taking up the armor of God, to our peril and hurt.

Would we do what we do, watch what we watch, go where we go – if we truly were aware of Jesus Christ's presence beside us and in us? Will he walk together with you if you continue visiting places he wants no part of? Jesus had friends who sinned, yes – but there's no record that Jesus participated in any sin or he couldn't have been our savior.

This much I am sure of: I'm sure we're actually right now, all around the world, seeing more demonic activity going on than we've ever seen before, and "we ain't seen nuthin' yet" as the saying goes. Once the worst of the worst demons are released – as **Revelation 9** – we're going to see and hear things that we know couldn't possibly be the normal working of a normal mind.

BUT WE HAVE VICTORY in Christ if we claim it. He defeated Satan in Christ's own blood on Golgotha.

So use this time now to get as close to Jesus/Yeshua as you can, seek Father as never before and you will find Him, and commit your life to God's Way, to Jesus as your Savior and king. Proclaim for "**He who is in us is greater than he who is in the world**" (1 John 4:4).

So any sinful addiction we have, let's give each one up to our Defender and Commander of the armies of the Lord of Hosts – Jesus Christ – and in Jesus' name command that addiction to leave us. I'm referring to any repetitive sin we have ongoing. Sins like not loving our wife and loving her alone, not being one with your spouse, not honoring your dad and mom, or peeking into porn, drunkenness, being lax about the sabbath, putting other things ("gods") before God (like social media time, TV, anything that we put ahead of God).

Claim and confess your victory in God and His Son. Command any evil spirits trying to put thoughts in your head to forever leave and cling to the Son of God. Abide in him as never before. Let's do it – in Him. By him and faith in Him while we have time. Let's do it.

So when I anoint someone for healing, *especially when it's been a physical or health problem that's gone on for year after year*, I often now will include in my prayer something like this: "And if there's any spirit of infirmity that is involved here, in Jesus' name, by HIS power and authority, I command you to leave him, to release him/her from this bondage. NOW!"

We have so much godly power we're not using or tapping into. Let's change all that. Jesus even said if we truly and deeply believe in him, that we shall be able to do even greater things than he did! Can you imagine that? **John 14:12-14.**

John 14:12-14

"Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. 13 And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son."

Hallelujah. Praise our Savior and our Father in heaven. And may we all, always, have total victory over the Adversary and his troops.
