

# S.O.H.L.

## WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

*Pronounced "Soul"*

July 13, 2015

## It's Time to Straighten Up! (Pt. 1 of 2)

**LUKE 13:10-17 NKJV** – (10) 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.

Ultimately, our full physical healing awaits us in heaven. In heaven, there will be no more pain, sickness, disease, suffering, or death (**Revelation 21**). Until that time, it is important to be less preoccupied with the physical condition in this world and a lot more concerned with the spiritual condition (**Romans 12:1-2**). Nurture the spiritual condition, focuses the heart on heaven where physical problems do not exist.

Whether it be physical, mental or spiritual, Jesus has the power to heal. He wants us complete in all aspects, but He will not force Himself on us - we must choose. He has the cure, however it is up to us if we want to be cured!

In the above scripture reading, there are two issues at play - the dilemmas and the deliverance. Let's take this time to review and discuss the dilemmas.....

Now, He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. The healing took place in the Philadelphian Synagogue on the 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost. The Chief ruler of the synagogue (a Pharisee) was said to be unfriendly. As Jesus was teaching, 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. There are obvious physical dilemmas in this story, however there are also spiritual dilemmas to extract and discuss how they apply to us today. First the bible tells us she had a .....

**SPIRIT OF INFIRMITY** – A demonic spirit; a physical sickness due to the direct result of demonic activity or oppression. The word refers to an ailment that deprives someone of enjoying or accomplishing what they would like to do. It focuses on the handicaps that go with the weakness. A state of debilitating illness, 'sickness, disease.' **NOTE: This spirit affects the mind like never before!**

**BENT** – Primarily 'bent forward or stooped,' of a fixed, bent-over position, 'be bent over' ... 'bent double.' Luke, the Beloved Physician, describes her as "bent over and could not straighten up at all."

**18 YEARS** – BEING BENT OVER, SHE PUT ON HER CLOTHES BENT, WALKED BENT OVER, SAT BENT OVER, TALKED BENT OVER, WORSHIPPED BENT, SERVED BENT, ATTENDED CHURCH WITH THIS PHYSICAL LIMITATION CONTENTLY FOR 18 YEARS – ALWAYS BENT!

How does this relate to us today? Many in the church have bent (spiritual) situations! People attend church for years, but their status is still the same. The spirit of infirmity affects the mind, allowing the enemy to foster complacency! The enemy does not want action/healing; the enemy wants acceptance. The enemy wants you to believe that you are "okay as you are". Jesus is ready and willing to heal those with the spirit of infirmity...it is up to us to reach for Him for the cure!

**SCRIPTURE READING:**  
JEREMIAH 33:6

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:**

"The practice of forgiveness is our most important contribution to the healing of the world."