

FEBRUARY 18

“YOU DON’T HAVE THE STRENGTH, THE STAMINA, OR THE POWER TO HELP YOURSELF.”

READ

Luke 13:10-13

The story of the woman bent over from a spirit of infirmity might look like just a miracle that Jesus performed, but in that miracle is a sermon. We live in a “self-help” world that stresses if you do the right thing and think positive thoughts, you’ll be straightened out or straightened up. It isn’t true. You don’t possess the quality to straighten yourself up. If you could, you wouldn’t need God. When He lays His hands on you, you’ll be made straight. Somewhere we got the idea that God miraculously saves us from sin, but then we’re on our own after that. We think that, after we get saved, the Lord stands back to see if we can hack it. The same Holy Spirit that saves is able to keep you walking straight and upright. God is able to keep you from falling into those temptations which bring defeat into your life. Most of us wait until we fall into temptation to start praying to find a way out. What would be wrong with praying for God to keep you from it? God wants you to live an overcoming life.

PRAY

Straighten me up, Lord, by Your righteous hand. In no way can I do it myself. Your hand will guide and strengthen me. Lead me not into temptation, but deliver me from evil.

From February 18, 2001