

Western Wisdom Bible Study

Peter's Wife's Mother and Others Healed

And when Jesus was come into Peter's house, he saw his wife's mother laid, and sick of a fever. And he touched her hand, and the fever left her: and she arose and ministered unto them. When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick. That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sickness. Now when Jesus saw great multitudes about him, he gave commandment to depart unto the other side. —Matthew 8:14-18

And forthwith, when they were come out of the synagogue, they entered into the house of Simon and Andrew, with Jesus and John. But Simon's wife's mother lay sick of a fever, and anon they tell him of her. And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up; and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered unto them. And at even, when the sun did set, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils. And all the city was gathered together at the door. And he healed many that were sick of divers diseases, and cast out many devils; and suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him. —Mark 1:29-34

And he arose out of the synagogue, and entered into Simon's house. And Simon's wife's mother was taken with a great fever; and they besought him for her. And he stood over her, and rebuked the fever; and it left her: and immediately she arose and ministered unto them. Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ. And when it was day, he departed and went into a desert place: and the people sought him, and came unto him, and stayed him, that he should not depart from them. And he said unto them, I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent. And he preached in the synagogues of Galilee. —Luke 4:38-44

In this instance of Christ Jesus' healing ministry, it is interesting not only to compare the details of the accounts given by the three different authors, but also to note some of the features peculiar to the healings. In addition, this is further evidence of the importance of the healing aspect of the ministry of Christ Jesus. It hardly can fail to impress the earnest aspirant with the necessity for fulfilling the second part of His admonition to preach the gospel and heal the sick.

These descriptions all tell of the same wonderful accomplishment: the instantaneous dispelling of the fever from Peter's wife's mother.

Though briefly described, this is a graphic example of healing by "the laying on of hands." The hands are said to symbolize the directive principle of activity, the positive or outgoing pole symbolized by the right hand, and the negative or incoming by the left. There are definite centers of energy in the hands, and one who is sufficiently evolved spiritually can direct the inner healing force through them and dissipate the disease vibrations of the affected part. "The Healing Force comes direct from the Father," we are told but human beings can become instruments of transmitting it by perfecting their vehicles through pure and helpful living.

In the Healing Service of *The Rosicrucian Fellowship* we also are told that:

"We recognize fever as a fire, but tumors, cancers, and all other diseases are really also the effect of that invisible fire which endeavors to purify the system and free it from the conditions which we have brought about by breaking the Laws of Nature." Fever is thus a purifier, originating in the Lucifer-imbued passionate nature. After the purification takes place, only through clean, unselfish living can one maintain a condition free from disease.

In addition to the healing of Peter's wife's mother, relief was given to many others: and many "possessed with devils." Concerning the latter, we may note particularly that He "suffered not the devils to speak, because they knew him." Luke records that they cried out: "Thou art Christ the Son of God." He silenced them because He did not wish the people in general to know who He was. This incident reminds us of the occasion recorded in Acts 19:13-14 when "certain of the vagabond Jews" attempted to remove evil spirits by "the name of the Lord Jesus." "And the evil spirit answered and said, "Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye?" The obsessing spirits then, as well as today, recognized the Christ Power and knew that they were subservient to it. This Power cannot be simulated, however, so that only those possessing it are in a position to emulate the Christ and relieve the unfortunate people who have become obsessed.

It is indicative of the New Age influences now at work that more and more people are becoming aware of the fact that obsessions do take place just as recorded in the Bible. In fact, a large number of the so-called mental and psychiatric cases existing today are the result of undue influence from outside entities, and how to deal with these cases will become more and more the object of research and investigation as time goes on. □