

EPHIPHANY 3

THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1. What do we pray the Almighty and everlasting God mercifully to look upon?
A. Our _____ (Psalm 25:18)
2. When do we pray God to help and defend us?
A. In all _____ and _____.
(Psalm 23:6)
3. Why do we pray to God to help and defend us?
A. Because in Hebrews 4:15-16 we read, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been _____ as we are, yet _____ sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw _____ to the throne of _____, that we may receive _____ and find _____ to help in time of need."

INTRODUCTION.

Before our lesson today, read the following passages;
St. Matthew 8:17 Romans 8:26 Hebrews 4:15-16

One long word comes over and over again in these places. What is it? The word "infirmities." What does the word "infirmity" mean? Weakness. Just as "confirm" means "to make strong" so "infirm," means to be "not strong," i.e. to be weak. Tell me the weakest thing you know? A little baby. Does it get hurt or neglected? No. Why not? Just because it is weak: its weakness appeals to us. That is why all good and noble people are so angry and sorry if a little child is neglected, or if a dumb animal is cruelly treated, or if blind, lame, and deformed people are made fun of. But where do good people get these feelings from? Why, from God. So if infirmity appeals to *us*, how much more do our infirmities appeal to *God*. That is why we delight to use these prayers, and plead with the great, loving God and Father on the ground of our weakness.



EPHIPHANY 3

THE COLLECT

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities, and in all our dangers and necessities stretch forth thy right hand to help and defend us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



1. What do we pray the Almighty and everlasting God mercifully to look upon?
A. Our _____ (Psalm 25:18)
2. When do we pray God to help and defend us?
A. In all _____ and _____.
(Psalm 23:6)
3. Why do we pray to God to help and defend us?
A. Because in Hebrews 4:15-16 we read, "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been _____ as we are, yet _____ sin. ¹⁶ Let us then with confidence draw _____ to the throne of _____, that we may receive _____ and find _____ to help in time of need."

INTRODUCTION.

Before our lesson today, read the following passages;
St. Matthew 8:17 Romans 8:26 Hebrews 4:15-16

One long word comes over and over again in these places. What is it? The word "infirmities." What does the word "infirmity" mean? Weakness. Just as "confirm" means "to make strong" so "infirm," means to be "not strong," i.e. to be weak. Tell me the weakest thing you know? A little baby. Does it get hurt or neglected? No. Why not? Just because it is weak: its weakness appeals to us. That is why all good and noble people are so angry and sorry if a little child is neglected, or if a dumb animal is cruelly treated, or if blind, lame, and deformed people are made fun of. But where do good people get these feelings from? Why, from God. So if infirmity appeals to *us*, how much more do our infirmities appeal to *God*. That is why we delight to use these prayers, and plead with the great, loving God and Father on the ground of our weakness.



I. WHAT ARE OUR INFIRMITIES?

1. Three passages of Scripture.

- In Matthew 8:17, the infirmities here spoken of are chiefly of the *body*. This sickness and suffering, of which, somehow, Christ felt the anguish that He might take it away from us.
- In Hebrews 4:15, we see there are hindrances and temptations that come to our *souls*, through spiritual weakness.
- In Romans 8:26 infirmity shows itself as being unable to p _____ rightly because of ignorance, weakness, &c.

2. Help us *in* our Infirmities.

The Collect does not ask God to take away the infirmities, but to help us *in* them. A father may not be able to cure his little boy's lameness, but he can carry his little boy; he may not be able to cure his child's blindness, but he can lead his child (see 2 Corinthians 7:9).



3. So there are Infirmities—

Of *body*— weakness, illness, defects, weariness; they need food, medicine, strength. Of *mind*— ignorance, dullness, &c. Of *soul*— hot temper, impatience, coldness, wandering thoughts, &c.

II. HOW SHALL WE DEAL WITH THEM?

- Supplication.** They are a plea with God. They make us feel our need. They call us to watch and pray (St. Matt. 26:41). This is the usefulness of them. They lead us to ask for help and defense, for removal of the evils, and that God's wisdom may put right the wrongs in our devotion caused by ignorance and unworthiness.
- Sympathy.** Our weakness is meant to make us feel for others, and the more we feel for others, pray for them, and help them, the less we shall feel the burden of our own.
- Sanctification.** Because we learn humility and trust, we think less of our own power and strength and learn to lean on God, and so Christ is glorified (2 Cor.12). That is why often the sick, the suffering, the young are able to so wonderfully glorify God and to help His work.

*Our Father gives us succor with tenderness and strength.
Jesus experienced our infirmities, and gives us help and comfort.
The Holy Ghost gives us strength and words to pray.*

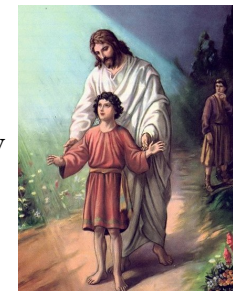
I. WHAT ARE OUR INFIRMITIES?

1. Three passages of Scripture.

- In Matthew 8:17, the infirmities here spoken of are chiefly of the *body*. This sickness and suffering, of which, somehow, Christ felt the anguish that He might take it away from us.
- In Hebrews 4:15, we see there are hindrances and temptations that come to our *souls*, through spiritual weakness.
- In Romans 8:26 infirmity shows itself as being unable to p _____ rightly because of ignorance, weakness, &c.

2. Help us *in* our Infirmities.

The Collect does not ask God to take away the infirmities, but to help us *in* them. A father may not be able to cure his little boy's lameness, but he can carry his little boy; he may not be able to cure his child's blindness, but he can lead his child (see 2 Corinthians 7:9).



3. So there are Infirmities—

Of *body*— weakness, illness, defects, weariness; they need food, medicine, strength. Of *mind*— ignorance, dullness, &c. Of *soul*— hot temper, impatience, coldness, wandering thoughts, &c.

II. HOW SHALL WE DEAL WITH THEM?

- Supplication.** They are a plea with God. They make us feel our need. They call us to watch and pray (St. Matt. 26:41). This is the usefulness of them. They lead us to ask for help and defense, for removal of the evils, and that God's wisdom may put right the wrongs in our devotion caused by ignorance and unworthiness.
- Sympathy.** Our weakness is meant to make us feel for others, and the more we feel for others, pray for them, and help them, the less we shall feel the burden of our own.
- Sanctification.** Because we learn humility and trust, we think less of our own power and strength and learn to lean on God, and so Christ is glorified (2 Cor.12). That is why often the sick, the suffering, the young are able to so wonderfully glorify God and to help His work.

*Our Father gives us succor with tenderness and strength.
Jesus experienced our infirmities, and gives us help and comfort.
The Holy Ghost gives us strength and words to pray.*