SPIRITUALLY

LIMPING

I MAY BE LIMPING
BUT I AM STILL WALKING

Elder Elaine R. Westbrook
Spiritually Limping

I May Be Limping But I Am Still Walking

Second Edition

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Dedication

The book is dedicated to My Father, My Saviour and My Comforter... The Holy Trinity. I would also like to dedicate this writing to all those whom the Lord has allowed to touch my life, my earthly father, the late Mr. Hugh Roberson, my mother; Mrs. Emily Roberson, my siblings, children, friends, acquaintances, and especially my spiritual mentors. There are those who were only there for a season, some only for a reason, but especially those who are with me for a lifetime.

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Introduction

The Lord inspired me to write a book on this very subject... "Spiritually Limping". It is my firm belief that many of us in church professing to be Christians are limping, which simply means that we are facing or have faced some struggles in their personal walk with God. While it may not something that we like to talk about, our struggles have a purpose. There are some struggles that are ordained by God Himself, to serve as testimonies. Our struggles become or can our testimonies, which can help others along the way. It is however tragic that during our struggles we discover that for most people in church they cannot always speak out about their limping... for some reason we have forgotten that the church is a hospital to the sick.

It is in church that we should find our healing instead we find criticisms, put-downs, and unforgiving saints. Jacob wrestled with God, but I believe that in fact his wrestling was more with who he was, his past and all of his mistakes. When God touched him he was then changed! Yes, he was left with a limp but I believe that was his outward sign of
his encounter with God. In our imperfections God can be glorified. Jacob limped after the struggle was over, but his life was indeed changed for the better. To those looking on they saw a physical limp, the inward limping that could not so easily be seen was far worse. If we could ask Jacob I am sure he would not trade the outward limping for the inward limping any day.

This book was written to help those of us in the church who are struggling with a specific area in our lives... one that causes us to walk this Christian walk with a limp. It is not designed to give us an excuse or to cause us to glory in our limping. It is however, written to help us get real with ourselves, our Christian brothers and sisters, and most importantly with God. The Lord, who is omniscient, knew us before we were ever formed in our mother’s womb, and yet He called us to be His disciples. He knows everything that we have done and will ever do and yet He loves us and chooses to use us anyway. God knows who we really are.
What we accomplish in the work of the Kingdom is not a credit to us, or anything that we could do in our own might. Kingdom work is not our work but God’s work; we are only vessels that He has chosen to carry out His divine plan for mankind.

**KJV Jeremiah 1:5-8**

5. Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.

6. Then said I, Ah, Lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child.

7. But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak.

8. Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord.

When we find our walk being hindered by a limp, let us be real concerning our weakness and continue on, fasting and praying, until the Lord either delivers us or strengthens us
for the journey, then give God the glory for His mighty works. Let us no longer make excuses, hide out or concern ourselves with what others may think or say, for the Lord God shall be with us. Say not that I am limping, instead Keep On Walking! When we confess our sin… the Word says that God is faithful and just to forgive us.
Foreword

With all that is happening in the world today – especially in Christendom, Elder Elaine Westbrook’s *Spiritually Limping* is a timely, in season work that is sure to be a blessing to those who have become victims of their own decisions and circumstances. The one thing that we must always remember is that the Lord allows nothing to occur in the life of the believer to destroy us, but it is designed to discipline us and bring our commitments into proper focus. That’s why we will find ourselves constantly being challenged and stretched; that’s why many of us will find ourselves, if we’re not there already, at an uncomfortable place in our walk with God. What we have to do is look at all of life’s circumstances through the eyes of God and only then will we be able to agree with the Apostle Paul when he says, “Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ’s sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong”.

Many times, our deliverances will come in a form that is unusual and strange to us. God did not promise that our
deliverance would involve the removal of a circumstance or condition, but He did promise that His grace would be sufficient. Through our limping, God teaches us one of the great mysteries of the faith. When God gets ready to give us more of Him, He has to make sure that more of Him will not be too much for us. Many will suggest that limping is merely to humble us; I conclude that God has a greater purpose in mind. The ultimate goal of God is to allow us to experience – first hand – the sufficiency of His grace. Paul said it himself in Romans 5:20 when he said, “Where sin did abound, grace did much more abound”. Grace does not become a reality for us until we have something in our life that requires the grace of God to cover. The greater my limp, the more dependent I am on the grace of God.

The greater your struggle with yourself, the greater your dependence on the sufficiency of God’s grace.

Elder Westbrook’s *Spiritually Limping* gives us a fresh look at what it truly means to struggle and yet remain anointed. Our limp is there for a reason – it’s there to mold your character, to chisel you into the man or woman God
has called you to be, to show you that you can’t have a problem that God can’t touch.

Overseer W. James Thomas, II, D.D.

Senior Pastor, Shiloh Church of Memphis

Memphis, Tennessee
**Excerpts**

“The church today has been trying to imitate and adapt to the world instead of setting the example for the world. This has caused us to tolerate things in the church and in us that have no connection to God.

Our walk, therefore, has been tainted by our trying to carry around the things of this world instead of the things of God. We are the light that should be shining brightly, but instead the overshadowing of the world’s devises has dimmed us.”

“As an unsaved person we are much like the caterpillar, crawling around leaving a trail of slime behind us as we consume and devour whatever we desire. We have no protective covering which makes it easy for us to be destroyed. We are destructive and unattractive and we take on many forms and have many names.”

“Will the Lord continue to grow our churches, save the lost through us, or use us to reach the unsaved when we
ourselves are not what we profess to be? Our membership may grow, but not with the unsaved, instead only with more hurting and limping saints. The church today is limping… our walk is awkward, irregular, lame and unsteady.”
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Chapter One

Limping Defined

As Christians how many of us are walking this walk of Christendom with a limp? The word “limping” implies that while you are indeed walking, your walk is lame, unsteady, halting, and with irregularity. Your walk is irregular, jerky and/or awkward. To walk with a limp indicates that there is something wrong with either one side of you or the other.

*LIMPING is defined as:

intr.v. limped, limp·ing, limps

1. To walk lamely, especially with irregularity, as if favoring one leg.

2. To move or proceed haltingly or unsteadily: *The project limped along with half it’s previous funding.*

n. An irregular, jerky, or awkward gait.
• Limping

Limp (lāmp), v. i. [imp. & p. p. Limped (lāpt); p. pr. & vb. n. Limping.] [Cf. AS. lemphealt lame, OHG. limphen to limp, be weak; perh. akin to E. lame, or to limp, a [root]120.] To halt; to walk lamely.

The writer of the book of James records that “a double-minded man is unstable in all his ways”. *(KJV James 1:8)* This could account for a person’s walk being irregular, jerky, or awkward. It would definitely lend itself to a person’s walk being irregular.

An injury to your leg or foot would cause you to walk with a limp. Should your body become afflicted with something such as arthritis, rheumatism, or another one of the crippling diseases that affects your joints… you will walk with a limp. Likewise in the Spirit, should you become a victim of the disease of sin, you will also walk with a limp.
Sin is the one thing that we are all susceptible to. Whether it is the sin of fornication, adultery, drinking, gambling, lying, cheating, stealing, unfaithfulness, boasting, arrogance, laziness, backbiting, unbelief, incest, envy, jealousy, deceit, blasphemy, homosexuality, lesbianism, sexual perversion, or anything else that is unrighteous...”for all unrighteousness is sin.” (KJV 1 John 5:17) Sin is the main thing that could definitely cause a Christian to walk with a limp.

My limp can be caused by the weight of that thing that I am struggling with. It has begun to weigh me down to the point that my walking is unbalanced. Up to a point, I am able to cover up my limp and pretend that there is not a problem in my walk. Over time; however, that thing begins to cause so much of a disturbance in my spirit that I cannot hide it anymore. That is the problem with carrying around a weight that does not line up with what is natural for me to be carrying. I am not designed to carry around sin.
Do not misunderstand; while walking with a limp is not where any of us would like to find ourselves, the good thing is that we are yet walking. The most important thing is that we continue to walk with God. Our limp may slow us down or cause others to stare at us and wonder if we will make the journey, but it does not have to completely stop us. There may not be any pride in walking with a limp, but praise God you are still walking. You may not get there first; however, the race is not given to the swift, but to the one that endureth to the end… *keep on walking.*

There are too many people who have given up or will give up on their walk with the Lord because they cannot seem to get over their limping, or that which caused them to limp.

What does it mean to walk with a limp, in this our Christian walk? To walk with a limp means simply that something is wrong with me. The question is this, is my limp a result of something I have done or something I am doing? If so, that can be fixed. However, if my limping is a result of what God is allowing me to endure so that I will come out with a testimony, all I can do is endure as a good
soldier and keep on walking. I might have to limp in front of all of the deacons, choir members or the preachers. The whole church might have to see me limp, but only God and I know the real reason behind my limp.

Yes, I walk with a limp, but I am still walking. My limp may come from alcohol or drugs but if I keep on walking, one day I can walk right out of the situation that is causing me to limp. I can gain strength, be delivered, and walk upright before God because I kept on walking. My deliverance is in my continuing to walk, so I cannot give up. I have got to keep on walking, limp or no limp. I must keep on walking.

Many people may criticize me because of my limp. They may talk about me because of this limp in my walk. The whole congregation may know of my problem and try to cast me aside because I am walking with a limp. But, if I endure the hard times as a good soldier and continue to limp my way into the presence of God, I will one day be delivered and my walk will be upright. At that point, my endurance and continual walk will become a testimony to
others that God’s power can and will keep us and deliver us out of all our sin… if we only stay in the race.

David walked with a limp, and is now remembered as one of the greatest men in the Bible. David, who was anointed to be king when he was only a boy tending his father’s sheep, walked with a limp. David, who while being chased by Saul and was divinely protected by the Lord, had a problem. David, the man after God’s own heart, had a limp in his walk. David lusted after another man’s wife, committed adultery and had her husband killed to cover his sin. David walked with a limp. Yes, he was a great warrior, the anointed king, a writer of the largest amount of the Psalms, a man that loved the Lord, but he walked with a limp.

While we cannot condone the sins of David we have to take note that the one thing he never did, was to lose sight of whom he served. Even in his sin, David sought the Lord. In other words, David kept on walking. Yes, he had a limp, but he kept on walking. You must be so committed
to God that regardless of your limping, you will still continue this walk.

**KJV Psalms 51:9-12**

9) *Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.*

10) *Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.*

11) *Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me.*

12) *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.*

The Bible sets before us examples for every situation that we might find ourselves in today. For this reason, it is the living and abiding Word of God. It is as applicable today as it was when it was first written. I believe that the Holy Spirit allowed us to know of David’s sin, his shortcomings, his prayers, his restoration and his relationship with God in order to show us that we too can fall short but yet be loved, protected, and used by God.