

## DISABILITIES

Disabilities are usually thought of as physical or mental impairments that affect the ability to progress or function in a normal way. Of course, the question immediately arises, “what is a normal way?”

One of your cousins is disabled. She has physical and mental disabilities that have and will continue to limit her progress to function in a normal way. I have also had some contact with children at church with disabilities ranging from autism to cerebral palsy – which cause behavior, learning, and physical problems.



Your cousin, Kathryn, is loved by your uncle and aunt (her dad and mom) and their other children in a special, very-caring way. I do not have an understanding or comprehension of the depth of this love that is manifested in increased effort for the daily as well as long-term care of your cousin. But I have a great deal of respect and admiration for the families’ response and ongoing effort in this matter – as many such family situations can cause division and destruction in the family rather than unity and growth.

As apparent as disabilities are at times, the degree of a disability may be somewhat unclear. We may sometimes create or protract a situation or circumstance to make it a disability. For example, you may compare yourself with a friend or student who makes a better grade; and in turn, you may feel disabled (or inadequate) on learning or in the particular subject. The trouble that I find with this perspective is that it does not help us in using what we have (or can develop); but instead, it limits our potential and promotes a pattern of compromise, apathy, and failure.

For the believer, this pattern can be very destructive as it may be directed at God as anger (in that we are something less than his creation and his child). Satan wants us to believe that we have no value and are basically losers without potential, promise, and purpose. What a lie! By such deception are we torn from God and reduced to nothing. Remember the many promises God has given us: *In Him, all things are possible; By Him and through Him, all things were made; and I can do all things through God who gives me the strength.* Make claim to this promises and do not be deceived into destructive thoughts

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