



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

“Satan is like the flu. You cannot see him but his ways are devastating for you.”

The Unseen Enemy

“The horrific scale of the 1918 Spanish flu pandemic is hard to fathom. The virus infected 500 million people worldwide and killed an estimated 20 million to 50 million victims— that’s more than all of the soldiers and civilians killed during World War I combined. ...Since Spanish journalists were some of the only ones reporting on a widespread flu outbreak in the spring of 1918, the pandemic became known as the “Spanish flu.”

One of the first registered cases was Albert Gitchell, a U.S. Army cook at Camp Funston in Kansas, who was hospitalized with a 104-degree fever. The virus spread quickly through the Army installation, home to 54,000 troops. By the end of the month, 1,100 troops had been hospitalized and 38 had died after developing pneumonia. An estimated three-quarters of the French military was infected in the spring of 1918 and as many as half of British troops. Luckily, the first wave of the virus wasn’t particularly deadly, with symptoms like high fever and malaise usually lasting only three days, and mortality rates were similar to seasonal flu.

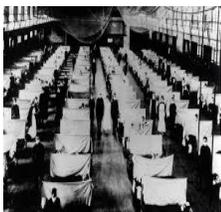
Reported cases of Spanish flu dropped off over the summer of 1918, and there was hope at the beginning of August that the virus had run its course. In retrospect, it was only the calm before the storm. Somewhere in Europe, a mutated strain of the Spanish flu virus had emerged that had the power to kill a perfectly healthy young man or woman within 24 hours of showing the first signs of infection. From September through November of 1918, the death rate from the Spanish flu skyrocketed. In the United States alone, 195,000 Americans died from the Spanish flu in just the month of October. Harris believes that the rapid spread of Spanish flu in the fall of 1918 was at least partially to blame on public health officials unwilling to impose quarantines during wartime.

By December 1918, the deadly second wave of the Spanish flu had finally passed, but the pandemic was far from over. A third wave erupted in Australia in January 1919 and eventually worked its way back to Europe and the United States. Global deaths from the third wave, while still in the millions, paled in comparison to the apocalyptic losses during the second wave.” The above is from www.history.com/news/spanish-flu-second-wave-resurgence

“In 1918, the city of Philadelphia threw a parade that killed thousands of people. Ignoring warnings of influenza among soldiers preparing for World War I, the march to support the war effort drew 200,000 people who crammed together to watch the procession. Three days later, every bed in Philadelphia’s 31 hospitals was filled with sick and dying patients, infected by the Spanish flu. By the end of the week, more than 4,500 were dead. By the time Philadelphia’s politicians closed down the city, it was too late. A different story played out in St. Louis, just 900 miles away. Within two days of detecting its first cases among civilians, the city closed schools, playgrounds, libraries, courtrooms, and even churches. Work shifts were staggered and streetcar ridership was strictly limited. Public gatherings of more than 20 people were banned. The extreme measures—now known as social distancing, kept per capita flu-related deaths in St. Louis to less than half of those in Philadelphia.”¹

Today, we are facing a similar pandemic, Coronavirus Covid-19. As of March 18, there was been 218,642 cases and 8,942 deaths with 125,317 currently infected patients worldwide and the numbers are climbing hourly.² There 133 positive cases within my state and two positive cases in my city.³ Those that are at high risk are over age 60 with underlying health conditions like heart conditions, diabetes, and lung issues. (I am in that risk group but my mother-in-law is at very high-risk. Out of caution and not fear, I am working at home and keeping limited contact with the world.) The President was declared a State of Emergency against this enemy and gives these [guidelines](#).

There is also another unseen enemy which is Satan. “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.” I Peter 5:8 We all must be more cautious and fearful of him, for he has destroyed more lives than any health issue, war, famine, or disaster. His effects are eternal.



Charles L Stambaugh

“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Matt 10:28



¹gz.com/1816060/a-chart-of-the-1918-spanish-flu-shows-why-social-distancing-works/

²www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/ ³ www.health.pa.gov/topics/disease/Pages/Coronavirus.aspx

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