

# THE UNIVERSE AT WAR



**I call heaven and earth to record  
this day against you,  
that I have set before you,  
life and death,  
blessing and cursing,  
therefore,  
choose life  
(A BOOK FOR GOD'S CHILDREN)**

J van der Walt (PhD)  
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# THE UNIVERSE AT WAR

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Scripture references come from the King James and the New  
King James Versions

The book is freely available to all God's children.

Freely you have received, freely give.

Please pass it on to a child of God once you have read it.

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The age old sickness called **ADCS - Acute Demonic Control Syndrome** has reached a new level with the arrival of Covid-19 and the Covid-vaccines. The majority of the world population including the majority of all the church-organisations are caught up in this evil web. It is a deadly spiritual virus. A virus so powerful that it causes spiritual death resulting in everlasting death and the grave site is the bottomless pit called Hell.

The end is near and we need to be ready and prepared. The sixth trumpet of Revelation has blown and the physical and global spiritual as well as spiritual warfare has reached a new all time high. The war between Russia and Ukraine is not just the start of a global war, but it is also the release of a multitude of demons. The physical war is to kill and destroy physical life and the multitude of demons will spiritually kill and destroy one third of the Christians. I use the word Christians because that is how many people prefer to call themselves. The unfortunate reality is that many people that call themselves Christians are not God's children. Satan can not destroy the children of God, because stronger is He that is in them than he that is trying to destroy them.

The number of people that have been vaccinated against Covid-19 is approximately two thirds of the world population. Some of them have realised their sin and have repented and have asked God for forgiveness, the rest have remained in the claws of the destroyer. The spirit of fear entered them when they took the vaccine and they are already spiritually dead.

The numbers given in Revelation is starting to become reality. The "world's" population will be destroyed but God's children will enter eternal life. Two thirds of the "world's" people are already dead. The remaining third will be killed and destroyed within the next few years.

There has never been a time like now where God's children must put on the whole armour of God to fight the forces of darkness so that they can overcome and enter God's rest.

Do you feel uneasy about reading this book or are you about to stop reading this book. Do not allow the forces of darkness to control you. You must overcome evil so that you can find the truth and walk in the light. There comes a time in our lives where we must simply trust and do what is best for us. This is such a time.

You will not loose anything by making the statement below out loud, BUT you will gain immeasurable benefits if you do.

Make the following statement out loud, before you read this book:

*In the name of Jesus Christ, I bind all evil spirits and demons that are trying to prevent me from reading this book and that are trying to prevent me from hearing the truth. The Bible says: The Truth shall set me free, and when Jesus has set me free, I shall be free indeed. No evil spirit shall stop me from hearing and reading the truth. In Jesus name. Amen.*

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*And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirst. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."*

*(Revelations 21: 6-7).*

*(He who overcome is the one that overcomes evil and all the forces of darkness.) We must overcome, nobody else will do it for us, we must do it. Only the children of God can overcome evil. Jesus gives us the authority and the Holy Spirit gives us the power to overcome evil.*

*Now more than ever before is the time to put on the armour of God and fight the good fight and at the end we can all say:*

*“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”*

*(II Timothy 4:7)*

**Isaiah 58:**

6 Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?

7 Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?

8 Then shall thy light break forth as the morning, and thine health shall spring forth speedily: and thy righteousness shall go before thee; the glory of the LORD shall be thy reward.

9 Then shalt thou call, and the LORD shall answer; thou shalt cry, and he shall say, Here I am. If thou take away from the midst of thee the yoke, the putting forth of the finger, and speaking vanity;

10 And if thou draw out thy soul to the hungry, and satisfy the afflicted soul; then shall thy light rise in obscurity, and thy darkness be as the noonday:

11 And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not.

12 And they that shall be of thee shall build the old waste places: thou shalt raise up the foundations of many generations; and thou shalt be called, The repairer of the breach, The restorer of paths to dwell in.

13 If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words:

14 Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The universe is at war and the victims of this war are suffering, they are in agony and in endless pain and bondage. Millions and millions, in fact billions of war victims struggle day and night trying to stay alive. Their misery and oppression know no bounds. They are bombarded with soul destroying missiles. Their minds and flesh are consumed with garbage and filth. They suffer from depression, phobias, addictions and innumerable diseases. They are kept in bondage. Bondage that will end in a bottomless black hole filled with excruciating fire from where there is no escape.

People! We are at war and we have a choice, a choice between life and death. A choice to stay away from hell, a choice to stay away from bondage. Jesus is the way, the Holy Spirit is our guide and God is our end destination.

This crucial war has intensified in the world today. It is not the conflict between nations, tribes, or government leaders that should concern us, but the spiritual war that is directed at us. The war for our souls. Only God knows who will be able to overcome the forces of darkness. We cannot relax for one moment. Evil is standing at the door like a raging Lion ready to devour, kill and destroy, those who are not prepared for the battle.

This battle started more than 7000 years ago when Belial challenged God. Belial rebelled against God and regarded himself worthy to be worshipped and as a result he became God's enemy. Ego entered the arena and became part of life on earth. Belial was not alone. One third of the Angels joined his ego trip.

As God's enemy, Belial began to wage a war against God's children and all mankind. Belial knew that Hell will be his home for eternity, but he wasn't going to go there by himself. He decided to do whatever it takes to increase the numbers joining him in Hell. Belial's plan was and still is to deceive the entire human race.

The fact that Belial was able to convince one third of the Angels to side with him is an indication of his abilities to influence others. Belial and his followers were prepared to give up heaven and all its benefits for satisfying their egos.

It is the same ego-trap Belial uses over the ages to put his followers in bondage. The first victim was Eve and the second Adam. From there it snowballed and went downhill. It became so bad that God decided to destroy the earth and all its inhabitants. Only a few were saved on Noah's Ark. Ego became the weapon of mass destruction. Until today it remains Belial's most powerful weapon.

Since Adam and Eve all humans are born with a sinful nature. The lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and our ego became part of every person's life and Belial targets these three areas.

Ego destroyed more lives than all the atomic bombs and all the weapons of war since the beginning of time. Ego wrecked more families and relationships than any other cause. Ego sentenced more people to eternal condemnation than all other evil together. It is truly a weapon of mass destruction.

After the great flood things did not improve. It became so bad, that God had to come to earth Himself, in the form of Jesus Christ, His Son to save the children of God. Jesus showed God's children the way to salvation. The way that will secure their everlasting future.

At the same time the battle intensified, because Belial had to step up his game to try and counter God's actions. Belial even tried to con Jesus himself in worshipping him.

God warned the people that they will be destroyed because of lack of knowledge(Hosea 4:6). The lack of knowledge because they listen to deceivers and liars. The enemy, the ruler of darkness, that came to kill, steal and destroy God's people.

For those that do manage to find Jesus and

overcome evil there is victory. Victory in the Son of God that came to save God's people. Jesus did not come to save the "world" but He came to save God's children that are in this world.

This spiritual battle continues today but instead of fighting the enemy, Christians are so pre-occupied with building church buildings, studying doctrine, having meetings, counting money and fighting one another that they do not realise that they are fighting on the wrong side. They do not have enough knowledge to fight evil effectively. Evil keeps them so busy with their churchianity that they do not have time to equip themselves for the battle.

While this great spiritual battle rages around them, they are totally ignorant of the effect it has on their current and eternal lives. The enemy has infiltrated the church and many false "Pastors" are responsible for keeping God's people in the dark. Keeping them uninformed.

The battle rages on and Belial, some call him Lucifer, some call him Satan, is going all out to try and fill the bottomless pit. No one will escape his attack. No one has immunity. Even God's children will be attacked but they have Jesus and the Holy Spirit to fight their battle for them if they have faith and allow Jesus and the Holy Spirit to fight on their behalf.

God always was and will always be in full control of the the universe. God won the war long ago, but we are all still involved in our own battle for survival because Belial and his supporters are so arrogant that they refuse to accept defeat and they will not stop trying to kill, steal, and destroy as many as they can.

God's children must be well informed and know what they in for. Luke 14:31 says, "*What king, going to make war against another king, does not sit down first, and calculates whether he is able with ten thousand to meet him that comes against him with twenty thousand?*".

No sane human being ever entered a battle without a careful examination of his resources and development of battle strategies. You must know the enemy and his method of operation. You must be better prepared and better equipped than the enemy. Knowledge is power, power that can defeat the enemy.

Have you ever come across someone that decided to go on holiday not knowing where the holiday destination is and not even knowing which road to take to get to this unknown destination? Just get into the car and drive until the fuel runs out because there is no filling station on the chosen road.

How many people go through life not knowing where they going to end up. They simply go with the flow. What happens to a tree that is swept away by the flooded river? It goes with the flow. Where does it end up? Being dumped somewhere on a deserted place and left there to rot away. Is that where you want to end up? Somewhere where you will rot away?

Are you a person that chooses to live in bondage? Will any sane person do that?

If you choose to be set free, free from bondage, then you should read this book because you will need all the knowledge and know-how to enable yourself to win the battle for life and be victorious.

You have a choice between Life and death, choose Life. Jesus said *“I am the Way the Truth and the Life” whoever believes in me shall have life everlasting.*

## **THE VISUAL WORLD**

The world we live in and what is visible to us consist of objects that are in the first, second, third, and fourth dimensions.

Don't get complicated and give me blisters on my brain you would say. Keep it simple they say. Make it easy they say. "They" are our enemies. To overcome evil, you must be willing to search and search and study. It is part of what we must do to find "Life". We must use our God given brains to acquire the knowledge we need to overcome evil.

Back to the dimensions. The natural world consists of single dimension objects such as a straight line drawn on a piece of paper. One dimensional objects, the one dimension being length. A dimension is something we can measure. E.g.: A line is two centimetres long.

Two dimensional objects are objects that has a length and a breadth such as a square drawn on a piece of paper.

Third dimensional objects have length, breadth and width such as most visible objects around us.

The fourth dimension is time. Everything on earth is related to time. We measure time in seconds, minutes, hours, days, weeks, etc.

All the above dimensions are also known as the physical realm.

The next is a dimension we cannot see, the 5<sup>th</sup> dimension, is called conscious. What is consciousness? The simple definition of consciousness is to be aware. If you are aware of your environment around you, you are regarded as being conscious. This is a physical awareness.

We also get “conscience”. What is conscience? The simplest explanation is that we are conscious of what is good and what is bad. This “conscience” takes us into the spiritual realm. We cannot touch it and we cannot see it but we do feel it and we know it exist. Where does it come from? The unbeliever will come with all sorts of explanations and they call it a “moral law.”

Conscience did not always exist. There was a time where the people did not have a conscience. They were being guided by others and were told and taught what right and wrong was. There were more than six hundred laws to help people distinguish between right and wrong. God introduced conscience to mankind some two thousand years ago. This conscience that we are aware of is none other than “The Holy Spirit” of God. *“The day will come,” says the Lord, ‘when I will make a new covenant with the people of Israel and Judah. . . This is the new covenant I will make with the people*

*of Israel on that day,' says the Lord. 'I will put my law in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people'" (Jeremiah 31:31, 33). We are all God's people, Jews and Gentiles, all who have circumcised hearts and we have the Holy Spirit in us to tell us what is right and what is wrong.*

We can review our actions and what is happening around us and while doing that our conscience will tell us whether it is good or bad, right or wrong. This is where we begin to step into the spiritual realm. The children of God receive help from God by way of God's Holy Spirit. God's children receive the gift of the Holy Spirit when they accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Jesus promised all God's children that they will not be left alone on this earth. For those who are God's children, God shall send a "helper" to be with them. The Holy Spirit lives inside God's children and helps them to make the right decisions between good and bad. They do not always listen but they do have the choice to listen or not. Those that are wise do listen.

It is much more difficult for those who rejected God to distinguish between good and bad.

The spiritual world communicates with humans by way of thoughts. A good or a bad thought will be planted in a persons mind. The person do not realise that the thought comes from outside of him and he reacts on it as if it is his own thought.

Good thoughts come from God and bad thoughts come from Satan. Our own thoughts are limited to the subject or object we think about at a specific moment. Any thought that jumps into our minds is not our own. The Bible says that we must take every thought into captivity meaning that we must evaluate every thought before we act on it. We must find out where it comes from and whether it is good or bad.

People who do not have the Holy Spirit in them, only have themselves and Belial with his fallen angels to rely on. Belial continuously ensures that his children think that bad is good and that good is bad. Yes, Belial perverts all that is good and confuse people so that they think bad is good and good is bad. Belial is very good at it. These people do not even realise it is belial messing with their minds. They think it is themselves that can decide what is good and what is bad. Lucifer uses the “ego” of mankind to convince them that it is them that control their own life’s. Lucifer can also block the attempts of the Holy Spirit to get through to people. He dulls their minds.

It can be compared to today’s computers where you can download software to run the computer. You can get the original software that has no viruses, or you can get an illegal copy that has viruses. You can download your software from God and get the original software that will help you or you can get a virus infected copy from Belial that

will destroy you. A demon can be inside a person in the same way that “malware” can be in a computer. Our anti-virus software is the Holy Spirit. The choice is our whether we listen or not.

The spiritual realm cannot be expressed in physical terms. It is not a worldly dimension. Our conscience is just a link we can acquire when we receive the Holy Spirit, to link us with God and God’s spiritual environment. People that do not have the Holy Spirit normally have one or more unclean spirits, called demons, occupying the space where the Holy Spirit is suppose to be.

The spiritual realm involves our mind, our soul and our spirit. Not our physical mind, but the processing of information in our mind. It is a realm that only the we can account for. It is a realm in which we will live forever and ever. It is part of our soul. It is the spiritual realm.

Nothing in the physical realm can kill or destroy our soul, but in the spiritual realm there are good and evil spirits. They can give you eternal life or cause eternal death.

This death is unfortunately not death as we know it in the physical realm. It is not the process of dying. It is what happens after the dying process. The spirit of believers will go to heaven and spirit of the unbelievers will go to hell and remain there for eternity. This is eternal life or eternal death.

This eternal process however actually starts on earth. Believers in Jesus Christ has eternal life from the moment they accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour. All other people have eternal death. They are the proverbial dead men walking.

We are taught a lot and we learn a lot about our physical realm but very little is done to help us acquire the knowledge we need to overcome evil in the spiritual realm. The knowledge we need to ensure that we live in the spiritual realm forever. Knowledge that will keep us out and away from the bottomless pit. A pit where suffering and sorrow and pain will last forever.

We all have a choice between eternal life and eternal death, therefore choose life.

There are those that believe in predestination and say that “God decided who will go to hell and who not.” If it was that simple and none of us had to decide whether to accept or reject Jesus, then surely God would have separated His children from this world and allow them to live in an environment free from sin, free from Satan, free from temptation. Why will God expect His children to choose between right and wrong if God wants His children to always do what is right. He would then simply tell them what is right and God being almighty will prevent Satan from coming close to His children to try and tell them otherwise. If Satan can block people’s minds from hearing the

truth so much more God can if He wants to block the minds of His children from hearing Satan's voice.

Like Adam and Eve we all have a free choice. We choose God or we choose Belial (Satan). Once we have made our choice we have no free will, we are controlled by either God or Satan. In His foreknowledge God knew who will choose Him and He therefore choose those that He knew will respond to His calling, as His children. Those He foreknew He predestined to be His children.

## **CHRISTIANS AND DEMONS**

Careful study of the Bible tells us that because Adam and Eve chose to listen to Belial and disobey God we are all born in sin. To be born in sin means to be born a child of Satan. No one can be born in sin and be born a child of God. It is not possible. We are therefore born with unclean spirits and we must crucify our unclean spirit and allow the Holy Spirit to replace the unclean spirit/s in us so that we can become a new person.

By the grace of God, those that respond positively to God's calling, are being set free from the bondage of Belial. Jesus sets us free if we, repent of all our sins and accept Him as Lord and Saviour. The day we accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. On the day that we are baptised, we are baptised in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. At some later stage, Jesus baptises us with the Holy Spirit and we then receive the power of the Holy Spirit to do all that Jesus did on earth, in His name.

The process of sanctification and being filled with the Holy Spirit are some of the topics that most churches neglect and in many cases they completely avoid it. Due to a lack of knowledge most church going Christians never reach the point where they are baptised with the Holy Spirit.

The biggest challenge the church face today is the number of church leaders that have become victims of evil spirits. Evil has infiltrated the church and these evil spirits are preventing the church leaders from seeing and finding the truth. They are so blinded that they refuse to accept that they are blind. They have become the modern day Pharisees.

Neither Pastors nor church members go through a proper process of spiritual cleansing. The Bible is clear in that it requires us to get rid of all evil spirits before we are baptised. This does not happen automatically during baptism. Most if not all Christians end up walking around with demons because these evil spirits were not removed. The proof is in the fruit that Christians bear. Do you know baptised Christians that are alcoholics, getting anger rages, having epileptic attacks, suffering from asthma, abuse their wives, are gluttons, drug abusers, etc? These are all signs of demonic presence.

John the baptist came to show us what we need to do before we can be baptised. John called it the baptism of repentance. Studying the life of John the Baptist shows us that he did not baptise anybody unless the person has convinced him that he/she has had remorseful repentance and has turned away from all their sins. Today's churches spent little or no time on repentance and it is left up to the individuals to figure it out themselves. As

little as one percent of baptised Christians reach the point where they understand what is required to overcome evil.

The most common evil spirit amongst church leaders are what is called a “familiar spirit”. This familiar spirit has been in the persons family for many generations and as a result the person is totally unaware that he/she has a familiar spirit controlling their lives. All people are born with familiar spirits and they will not leave a person unless they are forced to. This does not happen by itself, it requires the person to physically reject and expel the familiar spirit/s.

These familiar spirit even convinces the church leaders and members that they are immune against evil spirits. The moment a church leader utters those words you must know that that person is being controlled by a familiar spirit. The Bible says:” MY PEOPLE perish due to alack of knowledge”. This is exactly what the evil spirit does to these leaders and many other people in church. The evil spirit prevents them from receiving the knowledge they need to be set free. The church leaders prevent the members of the church to receive the truth.

These evil spirits are also responsible for all the confusion and misinterpretations within churches. That is why you must trust God and God alone. Study scripture and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal

the meaning and interpretations to you. Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. God said that in the new covenant He will teach His children. There will be no need to go to another person to be taught.

There are some people that are “filled” with the Holy Spirit from the day they are saved. This can be clearly seen because they bear the fruits of the Holy Spirit, every day all day. The instantaneous filling of the Holy Spirit is however rare. Why do I say that? Simply based on the fruit of the Spirit manifested in Christians. Most Christians go through the process of maturing as Christians before they are filled with the Holy Spirit. The first sign they show of being filled with the Holy Spirit is when they start bearing the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

We see that in the parable of the Sower:

*“A Sower went out to sow and as he sowed, some seed fell by the wayside; and the birds came and devoured them. Some fell on stony places, where they did not have much earth; and they immediately sprang up because they had no depth of earth. But when the sun was up, they were scorched, and because they had no root they withered away. And some fell among thorns, and the thorns sprang up and choked them. But others fell on good ground and yielded a crop: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.”*

The parable is given to help us understand what

happens in people's lives when they hear God's word. The word is sowed, and it enters people's minds and hearts.

The seed that fell by the wayside; that the birds came and devoured are those people that can be compared with a concrete pavement. There is no soil and no chance for salvation. They remain children of the devil. (You either a child of God or a child of Satan – no neutral position).

The next group are people that receives the word and it starts to grow. The stony places. But when the sun came up, they died because the soil was shallow, and they had no water or food to survive. They withered away. The same happens with many people. They hear God's word, accepts it but because they have too much of the world inside them, too much darkness, too much evil, they withered, and died. This dying is the start of eternal death. Some Christians are baptised at this stage which should not be allowed. These "Christians" we never children of God. They were not even Christians, they were churchians. The parable clearly states that the plant died. Once a person has died spiritually, that person belongs to Satan (Belial). They might continue to live on earth until they die a natural death, but they have already entered "eternal death" because they will go to hell.

The question is, did they receive the Holy Spirit the moment they accepted the word? If we answer yes,

then we must also accept that the Holy Spirit left them at some stage and why would the Holy Spirit have left them? Because they allowed evil to overcome them. While they were withering the Holy Spirit was still in them. If we argue that the Holy Spirit did not enter them, what do we say? At what stage will the Holy Spirit then enter someone who has received the word? It cannot be only once a person is completely without sin. Without the Holy Spirit no one will reach that point. This then implies that both the Holy Spirit and evil can influence a person's mind at the same time.

It also raises the issue of receiving the "gift of the Holy Spirit" and being "filled" with the Holy Spirit. If this person was filled with the Holy Spirit, the person would not have failed. God clearly said that He will not lose anyone that is filled with the Holy Spirit. Only God's children can be "filled" with the Holy Spirit.

It must then be accepted that this person could hear the Holy Spirit trying to help him but because he allowed evil to overcome him, the Holy Spirit left and never entered this person. Remember this is not the same as the lost son that was saved got lost and came back. No, they withered and died.

The next is the group that are compared with seed falling amongst the thorns. Again, we can argue the same as the previous example, and the conclusion must be the same. The parable says,

the thorns sprang up and choked them. They lived longer but they died as well.

The only group that survived are those where the soil was good. They grew and yielded a crop. In a follow-up parable of the wheat, Jesus explains that there will still be weed amongst the wheat but the wheat will survive and will yield a crop.

To yield a crop, this person must have the Holy Spirit, because it is the fruit of the Holy Spirit that is the crop. A human being on his/her own can bear no fruit (yield no crop). This indicates a difference between the “gift” of the Holy Spirit and being “baptised” with the Holy Spirit. Those that are baptised with the Holy Spirit receives power. Acts 1:8 *“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”* and Acts 8:16. *“For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”* Those that are baptised with the Holy Spirit also receives power to overcome evil.

It also indicates that only those that are baptised with the Holy Spirit will be able to be witnesses for God and will receive power from God to do His work. But even these ones will still have to contend with the weed that are being sown by the devil, the weed that tries to take the water and the food away from the wheat in an effort to destroy the wheat.

We as humans and especially pastors would like to see ourselves as being sowing seed for God, but Jesus said; "I am the Sower." We can water and look after the wheat, but Jesus is the one that plants the seed and God makes it grow. Preaching the word and telling people about Jesus is not sowing seed. Sowing seed is when the Holy Spirit takes what we preach and sows that seed in some of the listeners. Many others sitting listening to the same message do not even hear what is being preached. They are the weed trying to suffocate the wheat. Many churches have more weed than wheat.

An interesting fact about the weed is that it is a plant called Darnel. Darnel is poisonous, but in small enough doses can give food a special "kick". Darnel is a "mimic weed," neither entirely tame or quite wild, that looks and behaves so much like wheat that it can't live without human assistance. Some people use it and it is baked into "dazed bread" or brewed into beer as a drug to confuse people. (makes them dizzy). This helps us even more to understand what the weed does in the church. The effect of these evil spirits on believers.

The wheat is safe with God but as soon as they allow evil into their lives, they open the gate for evil to come in and mess with them. The wheat shall however overcome the weed because the wheat is filled with the Holy Spirit. The wheat does not live on bread alone but live according to the word of

God. The wheat receives the water and the bread of life. They never go hungry and they never thirst. Evil cannot take away this food and this water from them.

Further on in the Bible Jesus explains that He is the sower of the good seed (wheat) and Satan sows the bad seed (weed). We see that some of the good seed dies and the bad seed is planted to restrict the growth of the good seed. That is what Satan does. He kills those good seeds where he can and then makes the life of the remaining good seeds as difficult as possible by blocking the water and the nourishment that was meant for the good seed. It might sound strange to us that the Bible tells us to not remove the weed amongst the wheat. We must leave the weed, God will remove it. Why? God can change weed into wheat. We were all weed before God changes us into wheat.

A second example is that of the lost Son. The Son decided to leave his father's house because the world appeared more attractive than life at home.

The son eventually realised his mistake and returned to the father.

A child of God can get lost but will eventually return to God. God will not lose anyone that has become a child of God. This parable confirms that someone that has the Holy Spirit can get lost. God can allow evil to enter their minds and their hearts

for a period, but the Holy Spirit will continue to work in that person until the person decides to come back to God.

Even with Peter, Jesus said to him “*Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and **when you have returned to Me**, strengthen your brethren.*”

A child of God is protected by God by way of a spiritual wall and as in the case of Job and Peter, the devil must ask permission to come in and tempt God’s children. A child of God can however be disobedient and open the gate to the enclosure himself, and then the devil will come in and spend time with that person until the person repents, asks forgiveness, receives deliverance, and sins no more.

The earliest mention of demons in the Temple where God was present comes from Ezekiel 8:16 where demon worshippers were praying to their demons in the Temple in Jerusalem. They worshipped the sun. This all happened while God was still in the Temple. Our bodies are now the Temple of God and the same applies to us. How many Christians worship Satan by gambling, lying, addictions, anger, gossip, to name but a few.

Let’s get back to the Christians in churches. Or the Churchians. How many have been “baptised” and

received the gift of the Holy Spirit, but they were never baptised with the Holy Spirit? The baptism with water is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Only Jesus can baptise someone with the Holy Spirit. Only the seed that fell on the good soil, where the seed grew and produced a crop is filled with the Holy Spirit.

How many think they are Christians but at the end they will still perish? Jesus said: “My people perish due to a lack of knowledge” Why do they have a lack of knowledge? Who is supposed to provide them with this knowledge? Pastors, Ministers, Preachers, the Church? Parents? Why don't people get the knowledge?

Even some of Jesus' disciples left and went back to their old ways: *“From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more”* Jesus said: *“Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’* Matthew 7:22-23.

Belial is the father of all lies. He has perfected lies and can disguise a lie as being the truth. Belial is so good, that even though God's children have the Holy Spirit to help them, they battle to distinguish or discern between good and bad as well as between lies and truth. Satan has infiltrated the

minds of some of God's people and has convinced them to believe that they are untouchable by him. Satan convince some of God's people that they cannot be influenced by him or any of the demons. As soon as a person believes that, Satan has full control of that persons mind.

Belial's (AKA Lucifer) intelligence is far greater than that of any human. How clever is that. Lucifer can convince God's people that the lies and misinformation he plants in the minds of God's people is just a thought that comes from within the person's own mind. Lucifer convinces God's people that all the sickness and diseases they have is just "coincidental". It's just part of life. The Bible says: If we allow darkness to come into us, thinking that we allow the light in, how great is the darkness in us if the light in us is darkness.

Covid-19 is a very good example of how Satan controls people. Satan convinced two thirds of the world population to take the vaccine. Out of fear they allowed the spirit of fear to enter them and now Satan controls those people. Ask the demons in a vaccinated person and the demon will tell you. As little as one or two percent of the worlds population are children of God.

This is where things become more difficult and you will have to use all your God given brain power to overcome evil and be able to see beyond the lie. If not, you will never be able to overcome evil. If you

are unable to understand this, you will never find the “abundant life” Jesus promised God’s people.

Remember, it is only the Holy Spirit that can help us to understand what is true. The first step is to ask the Holy Spirit to open our minds to receive His explanations. The second is to rebuke and bind Lucifer and all other evil spirits that are dulling our minds and preventing us from hearing and receiving the truth, in Jesus name. (do this out loud). Demons cannot read our minds, but they can hear us when we speak.

To overcome evil means that we must testify (verbally) what the Bible says the blood of Jesus does for us.

(Revelation 12:11)

- *Through the blood of Jesus, I am redeemed out of the hand of the devil. (Ephesians 1:7)*
- *Through the blood of Jesus, all my sins are forgiven. (1 John 1:9)*
- *Through the blood of Jesus, I am continually being cleansed from all sin. (1 John 1:7)*
- *Through the blood of Jesus I am justified, made righteous, just-as-if-I’d never sinned. (Romans 5:9)*
- *Through the blood of Jesus, I am sanctified, made holy, set apart to God. (Hebrews 13:12)*
- *Through the blood of Jesus, I have boldness to enter into the presence of God. (Hebrews 10:19)*
- *The blood of Jesus cries out continually to God in heaven on my behalf. (Hebrews 12:24)*

1 John 1:9 *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us*

*from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”*

Many Christians today believe that all their sins are forgiven just because they have accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour. This is not true. Jesus took away the curse of sin, but all Christians must repent of all their sins daily and only the repented sins will be forgiven. Another heresy that is preached in the church is that Jesus has already forgiven our past, present, and future sins. Continuously sinning and expecting Jesus to “forgive” that person is not asking for “forgiveness” that person is asking Jesus to “condone” his sin. Paul clearly states that a person doing this wants to crucify Jesus again and again.

The seed that fell in the wrong places and died were overcome by evil. Why will evil overcome a person. Because the person does not turn his/her back on evil and walk away from it. The person did not repent. We must overcome evil or evil will overcome us.

*James 1:21“Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, (abundance of evil) and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.”*

James is talking to Christians. Christians must set aside filthiness and wickedness. If a Christian

cannot be controlled by Belial or any of the fallen angels, how can a Christian be filthy or wicked?

In Revelations 2:18 John refers to the “*the angel of the church in Thyatira*” and he writes, “*These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass: “I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed, I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.”*”

God is talking to God’s children. “*you allow Jezebel ...to teach and seduce My servants...*”. God says, “*I am He who searches the minds and hearts*”. If anybody say that this cannot be or that it is impossible or that it is a lie, then that person must be controlled by Lucifer. Only Lucifer will call this a lie.

In Revelations 2:8 John wrote: “*And to the angel of*

*the church in Smyrna write, “These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: “I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested.”*

Again, it is written to Christians – *“the devil (Lucifer) is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested.”* Being thrown into prison means they will be under Satan’s control.

In Revelations 2:14 John writes *“But I have a few things against you, because you have there, those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel.”*

It is addressed to the Church, God’s children, *“you have there, those who hold the doctrine of Balaam ... to put a stumbling block before the Children of Israel”.* Christians are “Israelites” in the New Covenant. This is not going to happen someday in future, it is happening now in many churches.

In 1 Timothy 4: 1 Paul writes: *“Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and*

doctrines of demons.“ some Christians will depart and go back to Satan (Belial). That is exactly where we are now. The blowing of the sixth trumpet has released a myriad of demons to attack the Christians. Nobody knows the exact numbers but of the 2 600 000 000 Christians currently on earth only approximately 50 000 000 will remain standing. 2 100 000 000 will perish and spiritually die and go back to worshipping Satan (Belial). Only those that are well equipped and well prepared will overcome evil.

In 2 Peter 2: Peter writes: *“For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.”*

In all these examples it refers to God’s children, Christians, and it refers to Lucifer and other demons such as Jezebel and Balaam influencing and effecting Christians in the church. Christians turning away from God and going back to Lucifer.

If you are not at this point convinced that Christians can be influenced and controlled by Lucifer and other demons, then you have a very serious problem.

It can be that you are already at the point as described in these passages. You are controlled by Lucifer and you do not even realise it. Pray to God, repent and ask forgiveness. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you. Increase your knowledge by studying God's word. It is not too late.

The easiest way to accept that God and evil can be in the same place or space is the fact that God, and that includes the Holy Spirit is omnipresent. He is everywhere. Now if God is everywhere, where are the devil and the demons? Yes! They are also everywhere. Like a Pastor preached the other day – he said that there are more demons in church on a Sunday than anywhere else. How can he say that? The demons are in church distracting people, making them sleepy, dulling their minds, irritating them, making sure they do not convert from churchians to Christians.

If you have been misled by your Pastor to believe that Christians cannot be affected or controlled by evil spirits, you should hear the alarm bells ring. Your Pastor is under the control of Belial and his demons and he taught you the incorrect way. Walk away from that church and find the true church.

What did your church tell you to do about the covid vaccine? If the church told you to get vaccinated then you are in Satan's church.

In 2 Timothy 2 Paul writes: "*Nevertheless the solid*

*foundation of God stands, having this seal: “The Lord knows those who are His,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity.” But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife. And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”*

*In the book of John, it says: “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy.” Jesus said: “I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.” And “For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”*

Confusion exist in many people’s minds in that they fail to understand how it can be possible for a Christian to be affected by demons and evil spirits.

The confusion starts by not being able to distinguish between body, mind/soul, and spirit. Our spirit can belong to God and the Holy Spirit can be with our spirit, but our bodies and our minds are still attached to the world. Paul battled with the fact that his spirit and his body and mind wanted different things. His mind and body rebelled against his spirit. In the book of Romans, Paul refers to; “sin that dwells in me.” We have three weaknesses. Lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh and pride.

We experience the same battle. It is here where the devil and evil spirits launch their attack. Why did Jesus teach us to pray “*lead us not into temptation*” Who tempts us? Yes, the devil tempts us. How? By putting thoughts in our minds, giving us pains and aches, visual temptations and tempting our bodily needs and desires. Why did Jesus teach us to pray: “*deliver us from evil?*”. We must pray that every day as often as possible, but at least every morning and every evening. Why? If evil cannot affect us, why must we be delivered from it? We cannot be delivered from ourselves, we cannot be set free from ourselves. We are being set free when we are delivered, set free from what? From evil. Who is evil? The devil and his evil spirits. Unless you are saying that you, yourself are evil and that means what? Yes, it means that you are demon possessed. That’s the only way you can be so evil.

What happens to us before we are baptised? In

many of the instances where Jesus went to the people, he first drove out the demons and then healed them. Many of the sicknesses were as a result of demonic activity in people. All people were born in sin and lived in sin until they found Jesus as Lord and Saviour. What happens to the demons in all people that become saved? We must accept that all people had demons in them, and the demons will remain until they are removed. Why? Because we are all children of Satan until we are born again as children of God. All children of Satan have demons in them. How do they get removed if no one removes them? Only the Holy Spirit can remove a demon. In Matthew 12: 28-30 Jesus explain that a demon can only be removed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus says that the demon must be cast out and that only a spirit that is more powerful than the demon can remove the demon and take the demons place. Jesus also explains that no one can take a strong man's house unless you first bind the strong man and remove the strong man. Until you have done that you cannot take the house. Each person is a house. The devil and evil spirits possess the person (house). Before the person can become saved, the demons must be removed. As long as the demons are in a person the Holy Spirit cannot own the person. Jesus says; "*how can one enters a strong man's house and plunder his goods, unless he first binds the strong man.*" This means that a person cannot be filled with the Holy Spirit while demons remain him.

Baptising a person that has a demon is not going to get rid of the demons. There is not one instance in the Bible where Jesus said: “just baptise them and their demons will flee.” This is what is causing so much pain and suffering in the church. The demons are left in the people and they continue to bear the fruit of the devil.

If you want life and life more abundantly, then you must overcome evil and get rid of the control and influence Belial and the demons have over you. You must repent; close all open gates; ask Jesus to cleanse you from all evil and demonic control; rebuke and bind all evil spirits that are influencing your life; and then ask Jesus to baptise you with the Holy Spirit. Do not leave the space previously occupied by Belial and his demons unoccupied. Fill it with the Holy Spirit.

The explanation given by Jesus in Matthew 2:28-30, tells us that the Holy Spirit enters the person from whom the demon is being removed. It actually confirms that the kingdom of God has come on that person. *“If I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you.”*

Jesus himself did the deliverance. Therefore, the people accepted Jesus at that moment before the demons were removed. What does that tell us? It tells us that a person must accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour and then **IN THE NAME OF JESUS**

and the power of the Holy Spirit remove all demons so that the Holy Spirit can fill the person.

Baptism is an act of obedience and a physical expression of our inner conviction.

WARNING: NEVER TRY AND DO DELIVERANCE ON A NON-CHRISTIAN OR ON SOMEONE THAT DOES NOT UNDERSTAND EXACTLY WHAT IT IS AND HOW SERIOUS IT IS. THE PERSON MIGHT END BEING WORSE OF THAN BEFORE SHOULD THE PERSON GO BACK TO HIS/HER OLD WAYS.

## **SPIRITUAL DISCERNMENT**

If you are reading this, you are one of the fortunate ones. You have reached a level of maturity that few Christians allow themselves to reach. Most Christians get stuck in religious pre-school or primary school and they never mature as Christians. They are happy with baby food and cannot process solid spiritual food.

The more mature we become the more we understand, and the more God reveals to us. Our level of maturity depends on ourselves. The Bible says: “*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling*” trusting God and God alone to help you. Do not blindly follow any human being or blindly believe what is being said by anybody. You must seek, seek from God, and God will help you. Spend as much time as possible with God.

We read in Ezekiel 47:3-6.

*3. When the man went forth eastward with the line in his hand, he measured a thousand cubits and he caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were to the ankles.*

*4 Again he measured a thousand and caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were to the knees. Again he measured a thousand and caused me to pass through the waters, waters that were to the loins.*

*5 Afterwards he measured a thousand and it was a river that I could not pass through, for the waters have risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed through.*

*6 And he said to me, Son of man, have you seen this? Then he brought me and caused me to return to the bank of the river.*

As Christians we must go deeper and deeper into the river of life. The deeper we go the more we will discover, the more will be revealed to us. It takes time and a lot of walking with God. A lot of trust and obedience and the reward is rivers of living water flowing from us. The river of life is the Bible, the Bible is the Word of God, the Word of God is Jesus. (John 1:1-3). The Holy Spirit reveals the inner secrets to us. The river flowing out from us is the Holy Spirit.

To understand the spiritual realm, we must train our physical mind to think in the spiritual realm. We must reach a point where we are able to

discern what is good and what is bad for our spiritual lives. We must follow the instructions and the directions given to us by the Holy Spirit to ensure that we end up at the destination where we will have everlasting life. We must prepare ourselves for everlasting life. We must at all cost stay away from the dump site, the bottomless pit called hell. C.S. Lewis calls it the great divorce. We must divorce ourselves from all that is earthly and evil and strive to become holy.

The spiritual realm has no time. There is no yesterday and no tomorrow. There is just “now”. That is why it is called eternity. “Now” has no beginning and it has no end. You cannot move away from “now” because you need a future to move away from the present and “now” has no future and it has no past. That is why, when you reach eternity you will stay where you are forever. If you end up in Hell, it will be forever. Forever has no escape and there is no second chance. Forever is forever and ever.

In this spiritual realm you do not sleep, you do not get tired, and you do not eat food. The spirit beings that are already there do not sleep and they do not get weary.

They battle non-stop, day and night. Evil spirits continuously war against mankind. Lucifer and his evil spirits have one purpose and one purpose only. They kill, steal and destroy. They are like a

spiritual cancer that continuously trying to kill, steel and destroy all that is good and all who are good, all that belongs to God.

Our normal physical minds cannot comprehend the full extent of the spiritual realm. It is only once the Holy Spirit has entered us that we can understand more about the spiritual world. That is why it is crucial that we must have the knowledge to choose between God and Lucifer.

If we choose God, the Holy Spirit will enter us, and we will begin to understand the spiritual realm of God and end up in heaven. If you choose Lucifer, a demon will enter you and you will be led down the path into the bottomless pit called hell.

The Holy Spirit works within our minds to convert our minds (our souls) to be able to understand the spiritual realm. We must become a new creation to enable us to be a child of God. We are born a child of Belial and will remain with Belial unless or until we are spiritually born again as children of God. As children of God we enter the spiritual realm and become aliens on earth because we already have eternal life in heaven. As aliens on earth we have targets on our backs. Belial's fiery darts will continuously try and hit the target.

Being born as spiritual children of Belial, humans have a disadvantage in that Belial and his evil angels will do everything possible to keep all

humans with him. That is why we must battle to get away and battle to stay away from Belial. We must battle to secure a room in Heaven. We cannot sit back and do nothing, it is a real battle. If you are not in the battle, you are a child of Satan. You have nothing that Satan wants, he already has it.

Many people argue that we should leave evil alone and then evil will leave us alone. That is true. The only problem is that we will then end up where evil will end up because we are friends with evil.

God gave us His word, the Bible, to help us in our struggle. The Bible provides all the answers we need to fight the good fight and end up victorious. All we have to do is to study the Bible and ask the Holy Spirit to teach us. The more we study the Bible the better we will become at understanding and discerning between good and evil.

The Bible was written for God's people. God communicates with His children through the Bible. The Holy Spirit explains the Bible to us as we read it and as we ponder on the Bible scriptures.

There are many examples in the Bible showing us how God revealed the spiritual world to His children. Perhaps one of the best examples of natural and spiritual discernment is recorded in II Kings chapter 6. It records the story of a natural battle in which troops of Syria had surrounded a small town called Dothan where the prophet Elisha

was staying. When Elisha's servant, Gehazi, saw the great host of the enemy he became fearful. Elisha prayed that God would open Gehazi's spiritual eyes so he could see the angelic hosts surrounding and protecting them. On this occasion, God opened the eyes of Gehazi and allowed him to visibly see the superior forces of God.

The story of this battle at Dothan is like present spiritual conditions in the Church. There are some, like Elisha, who see clearly into the spiritual realm. They know there is a conflict occurring and they have identified the enemy. They also recognize the greater forces of God that assure victory.

There are others like Gehazi, who with a little encouragement will be able to open their spiritual eyes and no longer be fearful of and defeated by the enemy. But sadly, there are many people who like those in the city of Dothan are spiritually sleeping. They do not even know that the enemy has surrounded them and they are not ready for the attack.

## **SPIRITUAL KINGDOMS**

There are two spiritual kingdoms: The Kingdom of God and the kingdom of Belial. Every person alive is a resident of one of these two kingdoms.

The Kingdom of Belial consists of Belial, spiritual beings called demons, and all humans who live in sin and rebellion against God. These are the spiritual forces of evil at work in the world today.

The Kingdom of God consists of the God, spiritual beings called angels, and all God's children who worship God. These are the good spiritual forces.

The Kingdom of God is not a denominational church. Denominations are man-made organizations of groups of people. They have been established for practical purposes.

The Bible speaks of the true Church which is not a denomination or religious organization. The true Church is composed of all those who have become residents of the Kingdom of God. Each one being a building block in God's Temple.

At the present time, in the natural world, the Kingdom of God exists in every man, woman, boy or girl who has accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour. It exists communally where these people worship God in Spirit and in Truth. They are one in Christ.

They are of the same mind, they have the same doctrine and they are filled with the Holy Spirit.

## **THE INVISIBLE WAR**

The invisible spiritual war is a battle which involves all men and women. The Kingdom of Belial (Satan) is a spiritual kingdom... *"...we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* (Ephesians 6:12). We – means all of us.

Spiritual warfare is "multidimensional," which means it is fought in different dimensions. It is...

- A social battle between God's children and the world: John 15:18
- A personal battle between the flesh and the spirit: Galatians 5:16
- A supernatural battle between God's children and evil spiritual powers: Ephesians 6:10-27

Every person alive is engaged in this battle, whether we realize it or not. There is no neutral ground. Unbelievers (those that do not believe in God (Father, Son and Spirit) are in bondage to evil and remain captive by enemy forces. They are the slaves of Satan and they assist Satan in achieving

his goals.

God's children have been freed from the curse of sin and they received authority and power to overcome evil through Jesus Christ and are overcomers, but they are still engaged in the war. Those who do not overcome evil, will be victims of this war.

The text refers to wrestling. "Wrestling" is a close personal combat. No one is exempt from this battle. No one can view it from a distance.

You are in the midst of conflict whether you acknowledge it or not. If you believe it will get better, you are wrong. The Christian warfare never ceases.

Many people say "I don't agree." Or "I do not believe it is true." These comments are symptoms of the disease. What disease? ADCS. Acute Demonic Control Syndrome.

## **WHERE THE BATTLE RAGES**

This invisible war is being waged on earth and in heavenly places. There are three heavens. The first heaven is the earth's atmosphere, the second heaven is between the first and the third heaven and the third heaven is where God is. Belial rules the second heaven and he operates on earth.

Satan fights to maintain control of the kingdoms of the world. He does not want people to come under God's authority. The battle also rages within the hearts, minds, and souls of men and women.

Satan blinds the minds of believers and unbelievers and attacks believers in the areas of worship, the Word, their daily walk, and their work for God. He focus on the weaknesses being the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and pride.

In the Bible, Ananias, a Christian was asked why did you allow the devil to enter your heart? How did they know that he lied to the Holy Spirit? Because the Holy Spirit was in him when he allowed the devil to enter him, and the Holy Spirit exposed him. He allowed the devil into his mind, and the devil controlled his actions.

## **THE CHURCH TODAY**

In the natural world a king is the sovereign ruler of a kingdom. All the territory and people in the kingdom belong to him. He has the power of life and death over his subjects. The same is true in the spiritual world. You are either part of the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of Satan. There is no other religion. All the religions that do not worship the triune God, worships Belial, regardless of what they might call it.

Either God or Satan has power over your life.

One of the parables told by Jesus illustrates that all men are either part of the Kingdom of Satan or the Kingdom of God. Jesus compared the world to a field. The good seed in the field were children of the Kingdom of God. The bad seed, which resulted in the growth of tares (weeds), were children of the wicked one: *“The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the Kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one.”* (Matthew 13:38).

People enter the Kingdom of Satan through natural birth. The Bible teaches that all men are born in sin. This means that they have a basic sin nature or the "seed" of sin within. Their natural inclination is to do evil: *“Behold, I was shaped in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.”* (Psalms 51:5). *“Wherefore, as by one man, (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so, death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”* (Romans 5:12) (Death being Hell)

*“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.”* (Romans 3:23)

Because we are born with a basic sin nature, we have all at one time been part of the Kingdom of Satan. All who remain sinners remain part of the Kingdom of Satan.

The whole message of God's written Word, the Holy Bible, is the appeal to man to move from this evil Kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God. Men are

born into the Kingdom of Satan through natural birth. They must be reborn into the Kingdom of God through spiritual birth. Entrance to the Kingdom of God is the new birth experience explained in John 3.

There are only two divisions in the invisible war. Jesus said, "*He that is not with me is against me*" (Luke 11:23). You cannot be neutral in this spiritual war. You are on one side or the other.

Some believers, because of their fear of confrontation with the enemy, try to ignore the war and form a truce with the enemy. They think if they ignore Satan, he will not bother them. This is one of Satan's main strategies. Satan convinces people that the Ostrich approach actually works. Stick your head in the sand, if I cannot see you then you cannot see me.

There is no neutrality in this war. You are either a victim or victor. The spiritual "call to arms" is going out...Are you on the side of good or of evil? Are you part of Satan's Kingdom or the Kingdom of God?

To which kingdom do you belong? Are you a victim or victor in the invisible war?

Where does the church stand today? Is the church the same as what it was 2000 years ago? Does the church follow the same doctrine of salvation as it did 2000 ago?

The answer is YES but we must define the word church. Church as we know it has unfortunately split into two groups. The Christians and the Churchians. The Christians are the children of God who has already obtained a place in heaven. The Churchians are so called Christians, but they do not even know what they believe in. They are simply traditional Church going people, or one can call them habitual Christians or social Christians or financial Christians. They are not God's children. For them it is just a social club.

God's children cannot be counted and even an estimate will be impossible. Only God knows the number. We do not have to know how many are "children of God". We must however be sure that we are children of God. We are called to spread the Gospel and to do the good works that God had planned for us, but it does not include the counting of numbers. God knows the number, why will he want anyone of us to try and count them.

It is unfortunate that most denominations and Christian organisations had become victims of Lucifer's onslaught. The references found in Revelations and elsewhere is clear that most if not all denominations have succumbed to Lucifer's evil tactics and made themselves guilty of so many sins. Members of these churches are tragically tagged along because they trust the denomination they belong too, to keep them on the straight and

narrow road to Heaven.

Money, ego and idolatry have become the main focus of many denominations and organisations. They perish due to a lack of knowledge. They do not know enough about Lucifer to enable themselves to overcome evil. They continue to fall in the same trap. The trap set by Lucifer. Ego and money the weapons of mass destruction.

When a denomination becomes more important than God, idolatry has taken over and they do not serve God anymore. They serve the denomination. That applies to the leaders in denominations as well. Members go to church to worship the person, they do not worship God anymore.

Many people go to church because of what God can do for them and not because of who God is. They worship the benefits it brings, they forget about worshipping God himself.

The Bible warns us: *“work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure”* Philippians 2:12. Do not rely on anybody but God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Bible tells us: *“God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that whoever believes in Him shall have eternal life”* John 3:16. Jesus said: *“I am the way, the truth and the life, no one can get to the Father accept through me”* Jesus continues by

saying: *“The Father will send you a helper (the Holy Spirit) to be with you, He will guide you in all things.”*

Study the Bible and God shall guide you and teach you. The more time you spend with God the more God will reveal His word to you.

Question everything that comes from another human being. Test the spirits to ensure you do not listen to a deceiving spirit. Trust God and God alone.

## **BECOME A WARRIOR IN THE ARMY OF GOD**

All armies in the natural world have induction procedures--special things you are required to do in order to join.

No one can fight in a war unless you are well prepared, motivated, enlisted, equipped and physically fit. In God’s army similar principles apply. We must be well prepared, motivated, enlisted, equipped and be spiritually fit, and we must be fearless.

In the natural world, when a soldier joins an army, he must deny any previous allegiance he has had to another army or country.

To become a warrior in God’s army we must get our own house in order before we can enter the

battle field. We must clean ourselves from all possible spiritual diseases. We must immunise ourselves to prevent future contamination.

## **REPENTANCE**

Joining the army of God, you must break your allegiance to sin and denounce the Kingdom of Satan. This is done by repentance.

Repentance is a spiritual renewal, a turnaround, a change of heart, soul and mind resulting in the outward action of worshipping God and God alone. Acts 26:20 calls it "*repentance toward God.*" *they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance*"By the act of repenting you turn away from your sin and leave the Kingdom of Satan.

Repentance is a very sincere and personal decision to change your allegiance from the Kingdom of Satan to the Kingdom of God. This change of mind and turning from sin cannot be done by yourself. It is the power of God which brings the change in the mind, heart, and life of a sinner.

Repentance is a gift of God: "*We ought to obey God rather than men. The God of our fathers raised up Jesus whom you murdered by hanging on a tree. Him God has exalted to His right hand to be Prince and Saviour, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.*"Acts 5:29

Although true repentance can be emotional, true repentance is a decision, not just an emotion. Sorrow for sin and the shedding of tears is not enough in itself. This must be accompanied by an inward decision that results in an outward change.

## **THE IMPORTANCE OF REPENTANCE**

Repentance is important Luke 13:4-5 *“Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse sinners than all other men who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”*

Repentance is a determined turning away from sin and Satan (Amos 3:3). *“Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?”* If we sin, we agree with Satan because we walk with him. We cannot walk with Jesus and Satan at the same time because Jesus will not walk with Satan. We must decide and turn away from Satan and follow Jesus. It means we regret having walked with Satan. One must loathe his sins (Ezekiel 20:43-44). *“And there you shall remember your ways and all your doings with which you are defiled; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight because of all the evils that you have committed. Then you shall know that I am the Lord, when I have dealt with you for My name’s sake, not according to your wicked ways nor according to your corrupt doings.”* We must hate what is wrong to truly repent.

Repentance is the abandonment of evil, In Matthew 3:7-8 John the Baptist said when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to his baptism: *“Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore, bear fruits worthy of repentance”*.

If you repent you must also completely abandon it by destroying all literature and items associated with that sin, and sin no more. (Acts 19:18-19). *“This became known both to all Jews and Greeks dwelling in Ephesus; and fear fell on them all, and the name of the Lord Jesus was magnified. And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds. Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all.”*

We cannot repent and at the same time keep that what we are repenting. It means we are double minded. God hates double minded people. We must destroy all literature, all contacts, all relationships that links us to the evil that we are turning from. Our actions must confirm our words. Repentance and asking God for forgiveness of all our sins is vital. Demons and evil spirits gain access because of our sins, iniquities and transgressions. The demons and evil spirits will not leave us until we have repented and until we receive forgiveness from God for our sins. Our sins entitle the demons to occupy us.

## START TO WALK IN THE SPIRIT

*"We walk by faith, not by sight."* (2 Cor. 5:7.) How short is this description of real Christians! And yet how exceedingly full! It comprehends, it sums up, the whole experience of those that are truly such, from the time they are born of God till they move into eternity. For, who are the "we" that are here spoken of? All that are true Christian believers. I say Christian, not Jewish, believers. All that are not only servants, but children, of God. All that have *"the Spirit of adoption, crying in their hearts, Abba, Father."* All that have *"the Spirit of God witnessing with their spirits, that they are the sons of God."*

All these, and these alone, can say, *"We walk by faith, and not by sight."* We *"walk by faith,"* because we live by faith, and not by sight. And to all real Christians our Lord said, *"Because I live, you live also:"*

All the children of men that are not born of God *"walk by sight."* How different is the world for those that *"walk by faith!"* God, having *"opened the eyes of their understanding,"* pours divine light into their soul; whereby they are enabled to see the invisible, to know God and the things of God. What their *"eye had not seen, nor their ear heard neither had it entered into their heart to conceive,"* God from time to time reveals to them, by the *"function of the Holy*

*Spirit, which teaches them of all things."* They can enter the Holy of Holies by the blood of Jesus. They all can say, "*I live not, but Christ lives in me;*" [Gal. 2:20].

We that live by faith, walk by faith. We regulate all our judgements concerning good and evil, not with reference to visible and temporal things, but to things invisible and eternal. We think visible things to be of small value, because they pass away like a dream; but, on the contrary, we account invisible things to be of high value, because they will never pass away. Whatever is invisible is eternal; the things that are not seen, do not perish.

We must weigh whatever occurs in this balance: "What influence has it on our eternal state?" We must regulate all our anger and passions, all our desires, joys, and fears, by this standard. We must control all our thoughts, all our words and actions, to prepare them for that invisible and eternal world to which we are shortly going. We do not dwell, but only camp here; not looking upon earth as our home, but only travelling through Immanuel's ground, To fairer worlds on high.

Are we of this number, who are now here before God? Do we see "Him that is invisible?" Have we faith, living faith, the faith of a child? Can we say, "The life that I now live, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me"? Do

we "walk by faith?" By what standard do we judge of the value of things? By the visible or the invisible world? Which do we judge best, --that our son should be a pious cobbler, or a profane lord? Which appears to us most eligible, --that our daughter should be a child of God, and walk on foot, or a child of the devil, and ride in a limousine?

It is not whether we live in any outward sin or neglect; but, do we seek in the general sense of our life, "the things that are above," or the things that are below? Do we "set our affection on things above," or on "things of the earth?"

If on the latter, we are as surely on the way of destruction, as a thief or a common drunkard.

Every man and every woman must deal honestly with him/her self. Ask your own heart, "What am I seeking day by day? What am I desiring? What am I pursuing? Earth or Heaven? The things that are seen, or the things that are not seen?" What is our object, God or the world? If the world is our purpose for living, then all our religion is in vain.

To His children, God gives that important direction: "*Love not the world, neither the things of the world.*" Give no place to "*the desire of the flesh,*"--the gratification of the outward senses, whether of the taste, or any other. Give no place to "*the desire of the eye,*"--the internal sense, or imagination, --by gratifying it, either by grand things, or beautiful, or uncommon. Give no place

to "*the pride of life*,"--the desire of wealth, of splendour, or of the honour that comes of men.

True Christian religion is not this or that opinion, or system of opinions, be they ever so true, ever so scriptural. Those who suppose it to be religion are given up to a strong delusion to believe a lie, and if they suppose it to be a sure passport to heaven are on the high road to hell.

Worldly religions send thousands to the bottomless pit. Christian religion is not morality, it is not formality, it is not church rules, it is not blind observance of earthly doctrine. No: Christian Religion is no less than living in eternity and walking in eternity; and hereby walking in the love of God and man, in lowliness, meekness, and resignation. This, and this alone, is that "*life which is hidden with Christ in God*." He alone who experiences this "dwells in God, and God in him."

All that fear God must flee from indulgence! Dread and abhor the very name of it! Work hard to have God in all our thoughts, to have eternity ever in our eyes! "Look" continually, "*not at the things that are seen, but at the things which are not seen*." Let our hearts be fixed there, where "*Christ sits at the right hand of God!*"

### **IDENTIFYING ALL OUR KNOWN SINS**

Sins, wounds, and hurts are always barriers which

separate us from approaching God or from feeling connected to Him. These dark influences in our lives (at times resulting in bondage) hinder or prevent us from being restored to our rightful relationship with the Lord, from hearing His voice and knowing His will for our lives. Dark influences severely restrict our ministry; they keep us in bondage and prevent God's healing power from working in us.

The problem is one of awareness. Again, "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*" (Hosea 4:6). "*Where there is no counsel, the people fall*" (Prov 11:14). "*My people are gone into captivity because they have no knowledge*" (Isa 5:13-14).

A person who is sick and doesn't know it, will never go to a doctor. A Christian who is crippled on the inside, but who thinks his life is normal, will never ask God for healing; and "*you have not because you ask not*" (Jas. 4:2). Many Christians struggle with major issues in their lives but are ignorant of the fact that the victory Jesus won for them on the cross not only assures them of eternal salvation but also provides the keys to healing (Is. 53:5, Mal. 4:2).

Unfortunately, many Christians believe that because they have been saved and born again, they are untouchable by the devil and demons, no matter what they do. They do not realise that one small mistake can open the door and allow evil an

opportunity to get in. Satan loves such spiritual blindness and false beliefs. These people do not realise that they still far from being safe. This is a weakness in many churches. They believe once saved always saved. NO, it is a deliberate surrender and obedience that is renewed daily.

Healing of the Spirit involves the blood of our Lord Jesus, and the resurrection life and light of Jesus—to whatever in the person's spirit has not yet been redeemed. With the help of the Holy Spirit and the assistance of godly intercessors, we can be cleansed of all defilements and of every deposit of evil and sin.

Many times, physical healing comes when our inner spirit healings happen. God's promises of healing, and the inherited rights of the believer given to us by Jesus' death on the cross, are for those who have accepted Jesus into their hearts, have been baptised, and have a desire to follow Him.

Here is guideline to identify possible signs and causes that can be stumbling blocks or hindrances:

- Continuous repetition of specific behaviour that causes negative results – habitual anger-habitual quarrelling –habitual negativity-
- Obsessive habits – TV –games – internet – reading

- Belonging to secret organisations – Free Masons
- Behavioural disorders – any abnormal behaviour
  - Abnormal dress code
  - New age movement – influences
  - Music – Dark world music
  - Occultism
  - Habitual lying
  - Anti-social habits
  - Pornography
  - Regular Scars – signs of abuse
  - Confused or disordered thinking: loss of touch with reality - delusions
  - Persistence of erroneous convictions in the face of contrary evidence
  - Hallucinations; disconnected speech.
  - Obsessions: absorption with a subject or idea to the exclusion of others
  - Compulsions - uncontrollable urges.
  - Inability to cope
  - Poor social skills - isolation,
  - Withdrawal from society - "loner" life-style.
  - A pattern of failure across-the-board: at school - at work - in sports – in personal relationships.
  - Prolonged or severe depression: suicide threats/attempts.
  - Immaturity: infantile behaviour (such as bed-wetting) - over dependence on the mother (excessive clinging as a child - continuing dependence in teens and twenties) - failure to keep pace with peer group.

- A series of physical ailments which do not run a typical course and/or fail to respond to treatment.
- Neglect of personal hygiene (disturbed and unsanitary surroundings) or exaggerated concern for order and for cleanliness.
- Difficulty adjusting to new people and places.
- Undue anxiety and worry: phobias - feelings of being persecuted.
- Too much or too little sleep.
- Excessive selfcenteredness: indifference to other people's feelings, doings, ideas -lack of sympathy with another's pain or need.
- Substantial rapid weight - gain or loss.
- Muted, "flat" emotions (absence of angry/delighted/ sorrowing reactions to stimuli) or inappropriate emotions (sharp, inexplicable mood swings - silliness at serious moments, unpredictable tears).
- Negative self-image and outlook: "inferiority" complex - feelings of worthlessness.
- Frequent random changes of plans: inability to stick with a job, a school program, a living arrangement - failure to keep appointments, abide by decisions.
- Extreme aggressiveness (combativeness, hostility - violence, rage) or exaggerated docility (lack of normal competitiveness and self-assertion -refusal to confront, avoidance of argument).
- Risk-taking.
- Lack of zest and enthusiasm: listlessness, sadness, mood habitually "down" -limited or

missing sense of humour.

- Refuse be involved with worshipping God.
- Refuse to pray
- Hallucinations

The presence of any of the above symptoms or signs is an indication that the person needs repentance and deliverance?

We can repent if we identify any of the above symptoms or signs but deliverance from any demonic and evil spirits must be done only once the person has a very clear understanding of deliverance.

Why do we need to know about all these things at this stage? It is important that we identify all possible sins and evil influences that we were involved in or could have been involved in. The rule “rather be safe than sorry” applies as well. It is better to ask forgiveness for a possible sin than to not ask and the possible sin is a real sin. It means that we did not repent of all our sins and it can be a hindrance in our future spiritual walk.

## **FORGIVENESS**

God freely forgives all who confess their sins and ask forgiveness through His Son (I John 1:9). He expects us to forgive all others who have ever wronged us in any way (Matt. 6:14-15). Willingness to forgive is absolutely essential (Matt. 18:21-35).

Jesus taught us to pray “*forgive us our sins as we forgive those that sin against us*”. We must remember that God is light and where God is there can be no darkness. Darkness means “the lack of light”. Not forgiving others means that we have darkness in us.

We must again emphasise the difference between body, mind/soul, and spirit. Paul said he battled because his body and mind rebelled against his spirit. Our spirit wants to do what is good, but our body and our minds sometimes do what is wrong. We must continuously try and align our minds and our bodies to our spirits. That is what walking in the spirit means. Having hatred and resentment in us means that we have darkness in our minds. We allow evil to control our minds. We all have some level of darkness because none of us are totally sanctified yet. The question is whether we allow darkness to control us or whether we are walking in the light, getting away from darkness every day. When we turn our backs on darkness and walk towards the light, our backs are still facing the darkness, but we continuously walking away from it until the darkness exist no more.

Deliverance is a tool to help us remove the darkness that is in our minds and bodies, but we cannot be delivered from evil unless we forgive all those that has harmed us in any way. This forgiveness, as with repentance, must be true

forgiveness. We must be sincere to the point that we release all those that harmed us and that we pray for them that God will help them and deliver them as well. It is only once we have repented and once, we have forgiven all our debtors that we can stand before God and ask for deliverance. It is not a feeling, it is obedience.

## **THE BIBLICAL VIEW**

The subject of spiritual warfare must be studied within the context of God's total purpose for the redemption of sinful mankind. Studying the parables of the sower and the weeds among the wheat in Matthew 13, we see that both parables concern the growth of the Kingdom of God which occurs through the sowing of God's Word. Both parables picture the warfare between the two kingdoms.

Learning spiritual warfare prepares you to enter the arena of this world and fight for the souls of men and women, boys and girls. Therefore, authority over Satan was given to the disciples before they were sent out to share the Gospel (Matthew 28:18-20). Satan and his hosts of demons will war against you as you seek to win men to Christ and take them away from Satan.

Employing Scriptural strategies of spiritual warfare helps you challenge and win against the evil principalities and powers who rule over individual human lives, societies, and areas of the world. Yes, all the children of the world, those who are not God's children are ruled by evil.

## **GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

When Jesus baptise us with the Holy Spirit we receive special spiritual gifts. These spiritual gifts

manifest in us when we allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are necessary to equip the believer for combat against the forces of evil. Children of Belial also receive gifts from him – these gifts are however all the bad gifts that manifest themselves in Belial’s children. The Bible tells us that “by your works, (the fruit that you bear) you will be known.” by simply witnessing the gifts that manifest themselves through people, we can clearly see which spirit controls them. We must also be very careful to not boast and claim that the gifts that we have received comes from our own abilities, our own ingeniousness. We must give God the glory or we shall die. (meaning that God will remove the Holy Spirit from such a person, and hand that person over to Belial).

The gifts of the Holy Spirit include the following:

Special gifts to equip God's people:Apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers.

Speaking gifts to explain God's truth:Prophecy, teaching, exhortation, word of wisdom, word of knowledge.

Serving gifts to enable God's work:Serving, helps, leadership, administration, giving, showing mercy, discerning of spirits, faith,hospitality.

Sign gifts to establish God's authority:Tongues,

interpretation, miracles, healings, deliverance.

## **FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit also develops spiritual fruit in the life of the believer. The "fruit of the Holy Spirit" refers to the nature of the Spirit revealed in the life of the believer, spiritual qualities which should be evident in the lives of all Christians.

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are for power. (Power to do good). The fruit of the Holy Spirit is for character in the life of a believer. It shows that the person has crucified his old character and has now allowed the Holy Spirit to transform his character to be Christ like. If you do not develop Christlike character traits, then you will become a victim of the forces of evil. Spiritual fruit is evidence of spiritual maturity. Like fruit in the natural world, it is a product which is the result of the process of life.

Jesus said: *"You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain"* (John 15:16). Christians MUST go and bring forth fruit. Not a once off or every now and then but always, continuously.

The fruit of Christlike qualities are completely opposite of the fleshly nature of man: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance:*

*against such there is no law.” (Galatians 5:19-23).*

These are Godly love, Godly joy, Godly peace, etc.

Although the power of the flesh was defeated at the cross, as a believer you experience this only to the degree that you practice faith in the finished work of Jesus. Therefore, to be effective in denying the power of the sinful nature of the flesh, it is necessary that you develop or "*put on*" the fruit of the Holy Spirit. The fruit will be an indication that the Holy Spirit is in you.

### **WHERE IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

Jesus promised His followers that upon His return to Heaven, God would send the Holy Spirit to earth to comfort them: *“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the **Spirit of truth:** whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows Him; but you know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”* (John 14:16-17).

One of the main functions of the Holy Spirit is to direct attention to Jesus Christ: *“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceeds from the Father, He shall testify of me”* (John 15:26)

God the Holy Spirit is in the world today. He is

active in convicting men of sin, drawing men to Jesus Christ, equipping believers with power for spiritual warfare, guiding them, and testifying of Jesus.

## **WHAT ARE ANGELS?**

Angels are ministering spirits sent by God to do His will: "*Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation.*" (Hebrews 1:14) The title "angel" means messenger.

## **THE ORIGIN OF ANGELS**

Angels were created by God: "*Praise Him, all His angels: praise Him, all His hosts. Let them praise the name of the Lord: For He commanded, and they were created.*" (Psalms 148:2 and 5)

All the angels were righteous and holy when they were first created. They worshipped and served the one true God. Later, Belial and one third of the angels rebelled against God and lost their position as angels. They became part of a force of evil called "demons."

There are now two kinds of angels: Good angels, which are the subject of this chapter, and evil angels (demons).

## **THE ORIGIN OF SATAN**

Belial (the Angel) was created by God: “*All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made.*” (John 1:3) and “*For by Him were all things created, that are in Heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by Him and for Him.*” (Colossians 1:16)

God however did not create evil. Belial was perfect when he was created by God but was given a free will to choose good or evil: “*You were perfect in your ways from the day that you were created till iniquity was found in you.*” (Ezekiel 28:15). Belial chose evil and he became the devil/Satan, the evil one.

## **THE FORMER POSITION OF SATAN**

The Bible describes the original position of Satan in Ezekiel 28:12-17. When Belial was originally created, he was an angel of God. He was one of the Cherubim class of angels, holy, wise, beautiful, and perfect.

He was the leader among the cherubs and is called a "guardian" or "covering" cherub. His name was originally Belial. The Latin translator were the first to call him Lucifer (Lucifer is the Latin name for Venus – the morning star which is actually a

planet), translated which means "light bringer". (Isaiah 14:12). He was decked with precious stones set in gold (Ezekiel 28:13; Exodus 28:15-11). He was given a position on God's holy mountain and was the worship leader. (Ezekiel 28:13).

What a brilliant, beautiful picture of Belial in his original position is given in the Word of God. He is described as a gem of precious stones. But a gem has no light of its own. It is not beautiful in a dark room. Its beauty is in its ability to reflect light from without.

When God created Belial, He made him with a capacity to reflect the glory of God to a greater degree than any other created being. God was the light that made Lucifer radiate beauty. Satan/Belial is not the "red devil" that has two horns and a tail. Satan still is as he is described in the book of Isaiah. That is why Satan finds it so easy to deceive people, they do not even know what he looks like.

### **THE FALL OF SATAN**

But Satan did not retain this glorious position. The Bible describes his rebellion and fall:

*How you are fallen from heaven,  
O Lucifer, son of the morning!  
How you are cut down to the ground,  
You who weakened the nations!*

*For you have said in your heart:  
'I will ascend into heaven,  
I will exalt my throne above the stars of God;  
I will also sit on the mount of the congregation  
On the farthest sides of the north;  
I will ascend above the heights of the clouds,  
I will be like the Most High.'  
Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, (Hell)  
To the lowest depths of the Pit.*

Isaiah 14:12-15

Satan's fall from his angelic position occurred because of pride and rebellion.

### **RESULTS OF SATAN'S SIN**

Here are the terrible results of Satan's sin:

Banishment from heaven: Because of his rebellion, Belial was cast out of Heaven by God and became known as Satan/Lucifer. Belial was thrown out of the third heaven but he and his demons now occupy the second heaven and they operate in the first heaven. (Earth's atmosphere is the first heaven).

Corruption of character: Lucifer, once created for God's glory, became Satan with a character that opposed all God is and does.

Perversion of power: Satan's power was once used for God's glory. Now it is turned to disruptive and destructive purposes. The New World Order and all

it's affiliated organisations such as the Free Masons.

Destined to the lake of fire: Satan was destined to the lake of fire (Isaiah 14:15), and he wants to take as many people as possible with him.

Affected other angels of god: When Satan fell from Heaven he did not fall alone. He took with him a one third of the angelic host of Heaven who participated in his rebellion against God. This group of angels are now part of an evil force of demons.

### **WHERE IS SATAN?**

Satan, in spirit form, is present in the world: "*From where you come?*" So, Satan answered the LORD and said, "*From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.*" (Job 1:7)

Although Satan is present in the world, he is not omnipresent, which means he cannot be every place in the world at one time as God can. This is why he employs a host of demons to accomplish his plans.

### **SATAN'S ACTIVITIES**

Satan has access to the presence of God and operates on the earth, including the "air" or region above the earth.

We may summarize the activities of Satan by noting that they are always directed against God, His plan, and His people. He will attack you in the areas of worship of God, the Word of God, your Christian walk, and your work for God. The book called "The Screw Tape Files" written by C.S. Lewis gives insight into the work of the demons. People like pastor John Ramirez, a former Satanist, is also a valuable source of information.

He is the accuser. Satan constantly watches what God's people do and as soon as they slip up, Satan accuses them. Satan also keeps on reminding people what they did in the past.

Belial and his demons never sleep. They constantly plan on how to destroy God's children. When Jesus died and went to Hades, all the demons and Belial, knew that their fate is final, they will end up in the bottomless pit. All that is left for them is to try and destroy God's children.

We are warned against conspiracy theorist and yes, we must test all things we hear and read but look at this. *Luciferase In Vaccine. A chip you cannot remove with a knife The scientist who named it more than 120 years ago chose that name from the Latin word for "light-bearer mRNA vaccines."* Once *vaccinated the person has a gene called NFAT-RE-luc2P HEK293. This cell Line is a clonal derivative of Human Embryonic Kidney 293 (HEK293) cells. These cells contain a luciferase gene (luc2P). The*

“Embryonic Kidney” 293 cells are taken from aborted 16 week old babies. What more proof do you need for the mark of the beast and the blood of the aborted babies are on the hands of all that received the vaccine.

### **SATAN’S GIFTS TO HIS CHILDREN**

We know that all people are born in sin. All people have a natural tendency to sin. In this state of being born in sin, people make choices between good and bad and they are also influenced by other people and demons including the devil himself. The people that choose God become children of God. The people that choose evil are children of Satan. Satan has a system like that what God has for God’s children. God’s children receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and children of Satan receive gifts from Satan. The gifts from Satan are demons and demonic powers. The eviller a person becomes; the more demons enters that person.

People that have not made a choice to accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour is not a threat to Satan because they already belong to him. They are left in the state they are in because they are doomed for hell in any case. The people that choose to become actively involved in practices that are evil, receive more evil spirits and more evil powers.

Most people fall in the category of not having made a choice to follow Jesus. Two thirds of the world

are non-Christians and they were born in sin and will remain where they are forever. Satan continues to dull their minds and prevent them from accepting the truth and from accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour.

## **THE ACTIVITIES OF DEMONS**

Demons follow orders given by Satan. They have a reporting and command structure like what Moses had for the Israelites.

They have commanders over legions, commanders over thousands, commanders over hundreds and commanders over tenths. They are also able to “split” into more than one. As with the good spirit in Moses that was taken from and given to the seventy to help him. Demons and evil spirits can do the same. Lucifer himself is targeting many people by using this method. Remember a demonic spirit in one person (the leader of a group or Pastor of a group) can enter all the members of the group and the entire group is then controlled by the demon/s.

We can summarize the activities of demons by noting that they are always directed against God, His plan, and His people.

Demons are used by Satan to attack the Word of God, your worship of God, your walk with God, and your work for God, your relationships on

earth, your mind and your body.

Satan uses his demons to accomplish this strategy throughout the world. Demons extend Satan's power by promoting deception and wickedness. They affect individuals, governments, nations, and the world system. They promote rebellion and slander both God and men. They promote idolatry, false doctrines, and blind men and women to the truth of the Gospel.

These demons attack people driving them to commit terrible evil acts, to murder, injure, commit suicide, child abuse, etc. They affect the mind with emotional problems and the body with physical infirmities. Demons also attack people by temptation, deception, depression, and oppression.

They try to keep you in bondage to bad habits and fear. They accuse and slander you and create division among the people of God. They target your spiritual walk with God and fight against the Word of God, the worship of God, and your work for God. They also attack your physical body.

Unbelievers are defenceless against the attacks of demonic powers, but believers have powerful spiritual weapons and strategies for dealing with this mighty spiritual force of evil.

## **THE FLESH**

The worldly spirits is an evil force of Satan that works from the outside to attack Christians. It is the corporate organisation of fleshly individuals. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and pride, is an evil force working from within people.

The same "fleshly spirit" that operates in the world will operate in your life if you allow it to do so. The word "flesh" as used in Scripture refers to the spiritual part of the actual body of man and beast. The lust of the flesh is your mind/feelings/emotions being your soul.

The Bible also uses the word "flesh" to describe the basic sin nature of man. The flesh is the centre of wilful defiance and rebellion against God. The flesh is a compulsive inner force which expresses itself in rebellion through sin. The words "carnal" and "old man" are also used to describe the fleshly nature of humans.

## **THE LUST OF THE FLESH**

*"This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."* (Galatians 5:16)

What is the lust of the flesh? Lust is "*strong desire, soulish emotions, the natural tendency of man towards evil.*" The Bible warns that we should not lust after evil things. Wanting what belongs to

someone else or wanting something we do not have, or desire something that will satisfy our earthly needs.

Lusting after evil things which will please your fleshly nature is "*lust of the flesh*." It is how Satan attacks from within. It is like a civil war within a nation, with your spirit and flesh warring against each other and your soul is undecided.

God created humans and their needs and desires, but the devil perverted it all.

We are created as humans with certain basic needs but we must never allow these basic needs to control us. It can become an Idol that we worship. Some people live just to satisfy their basic needs. It consumes them. It is said that some people live to eat and others eat to live. We must do all things in moderation and do it to live and not live to do it.

## **HOW LUST DEVELOPS**

Lust, or sinful desire, first enters through the natural senses. The eye sees something evil or the ear hears something wicked. A touch, a taste, or even a smell can even foster lust. This is how Satan uses the environment of the world to tempt the flesh. These natural senses trigger an evil thought or desire in the mind. This is lust. The lustful thought is what tempts you to do evil. Our

evil thoughts come either from Satan or from our own evil desires. The Bible tells us to take each thought captive. We must put every thought in jail, judge whether it is good or bad, and release the good thoughts only.

Remember, God never tempts you. You are tempted by Satan when you are drawn by your own sinful, fleshly lusts. But you do not have to yield to this temptation. God always provides a way of escape.

Satan will provide the “flame” that can set your lust on fire. It is for you to decide whether you blow out the flame or whether you allow it to ignite your evil lust.

When you are saved and filled with the Holy Spirit the Holy Spirit opposes the lusts of the flesh. Your flesh wars against the Spirit of God within you. The flesh entices you to sinful lusts. Evil desires trying to replace Godly desires.

Looking at someone or something once, is temptation. The second look is sin, giving in to temptation. The decision to resist temptation must be immediate, no second thoughts.

Paul described this battle between the spirit and the flesh in Romans chapter 7.

## **POWERFUL EVIL FORCES**

The world and Satan and his demons war against people. They are the forces of evil. Their power is underestimated by most people. Hear what converted Satanist has to say about what they do and what they can do, speak to people that have been traumatised by demons and you will get an idea of the magnitude of what they are capable of. Never underestimate the power and skills of demons. Belial was the most senior angel before he fell from heaven. He had more than seven thousand years to study the humans and to find their weaknesses. He has all the patience in the world to wait for an opportune time. Be sure evil will be their when you are at your weakest and most vulnerable. Never get in the ring with Satan, he will knock you out. Call on Jesus to get in on your behalf and you shall be victorious.

## **THE ENEMY AND GOD**

Satan's original sin was that he wanted to be like God, power and activities are directed primarily against God. All his activities and his very nature are stemming from his original rebellious ambition.

For example, Satan's attack on the first man and woman, Adam and Eve, was really an attack on the character and control of God (Genesis 3:1-5). Satan also convinced Cain to murder Abel in opposition to God (I John 3:10-12). You can study

every attack of Satan recorded in Scripture and you will discover that it is actually an attack on God. The war is not ours, it is between God and Satan. God has already won, but Satan will never give up trying to destroy God's children.

Satan is in direct opposition to God in every activity and quality of nature. For example, God is love where as Satan is hateful and promotes hatred (I John 3:7-15). God is life and creates life while Satan promotes death and destruction (Hebrews 2:14). You can spot who controls a person by looking at his/her actions and behaviour.

People can be so easily confused because of a lack of knowledge. One example is the word "love" as referred to in the Bible. It has more than one meaning. The love of God is an unconditional love, a commitment, a love as described in the Bible. A converted Satanist said that God gave pets (dogs) too humans so that they can get an idea of what unconditional love is. It is not the erotic love between two people that are "in love" fulfilling their bodily lust. The word "love" is used by Satan to misdirect people.

You often hear people say, "if you love me, you will allow me to do whatever I want to do." Real love is to direct a person to what is right, not what they want to hear but what they need to hear.

Satan opposes God and His nature, and he also opposes God's program. He either denies the existence of God or he wants to replace God (Psalms 14:1-3), he is the father of lies (Ephesians 2:2; II Thessalonians 2:8-11); and he is behind false religions, the occult, and cults with their false doctrines and practices. Satan's religious system results in false teachers, prophets, and "false christs." Everything that is not of God is of Satan.

### **NATIONS OF THE WORLD**

Satan is called the "god of this world" which includes men who are not believers as well as demonic angels. (II Corinthians 4:4) He offered the nations to Jesus during the temptation of Christ, and our Lord did not dispute the legitimacy of the offer. (Matthew 4:8-10).

Satan uses his demons to influence and deceive the nations, leading the leaders and people astray from God. This is why there are cruel dictators and ungodly political systems in many nations. It also accounts for the wars and divisions between the nations. Satan especially influences leaders against the Church and God's chosen people, Israel. He also works through governments to hinder the spread of the Gospel.

Just look at the recent Covid pandemic. The majority of the world including most church organisations supported Satan. Two thirds of the

world were vaccinated driven by fear, the spirit of fear.

## **UNBELIEVERS**

we refer to unbelievers as people not believing in God. Strangely many of them believe in Satan. How deceived can they be. The enemy has a very powerful strategy operating against unbelievers. He blinds their minds to the Gospel (II Corinthians 4:3-4) and snatches away the truth of the Gospel when they do hear it so that no response will occur (Luke 8:12). As a result, the Gospel sounds foolish and irrelevant to those who are lost in sin (I Corinthians 1:18). they do not even realise that it is Satan and his demons doing it. Reminds of the definition of a good manager. It is said that a good manager is a person that can send people to hell in such a way that they enjoy going there. Words directly out of Satan's mouth.

Satan also snares many people in false religions (I Timothy 4:1-3) and leads them to walk according to the "course of the world" which is the philosophy of the age. That philosophy may vary from generation to generation and culture to culture, but it is always creature-centred and creature-promoting rather than God-centred. Even some churches are falling pray and has become "false religions". These people will believe the lies but they will not believe the truth. Evr wondered why? Because they have an evil spirit in them.

Birds of a feather flock together.

Satan is constantly sowing the seeds of rebellion(ego) in the hearts and minds of people. One of the purposes of the Holy Spirit is to warn God's people against Satan. The Holy Spirit works to convict men and women of their sinful rebellion against God (John 16:7-11). the Bible says "test the spirits". Do not listen to the thoughts being placed in your mind without testing it first.

## **THE BATTLE PLAN**

### **THE DEFINITION OF WAR**

A simple definition of war in the natural world is "an act of force intended to compel our opponent to fulfil our will." This definition is applicable also in the spiritual world. Satan is constantly using the forces of evil to try and compel us to fulfil his will. Now we must do the opposite and take control of evil and destroy evil in the name of Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit. Allowing Satan to control us means that we worship Satan. Satan becomes our lord and our destroyer. We must at all cost keep Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

### **THE OBJECTIVE OF WAR**

The main objective of warfare in the natural world is victory over the enemy. This is also the main objective in the spiritual world. To achieve victory in natural warfare, there are many, short-range objectives that must be met. Individual battles must be won, and separate territories claimed. Each of these individual battles contribute to the final goal of victory. It can be compared with the Israelites having to concur the enemies on their way to the promised land. The same is true in the spirit world. Our main purpose in life is to fight our way back to our promised land, God in heaven. Our long-range goal is victory over the enemy. We must overcome evil. The attack comes

from all corners and we must have the full armour of God on all the time. Blink and the devil will knock you out. Our eyes must remain wide open.

Listen to the Holy Spirit, walk in the spirit, draw close to Jesus, be in the presence of God and we will be protected. Stay on the road, do not take any detour, no matter how enticing it might be.

## **BASIC TRAINING**

Knowing the objectives for war is not enough. A soldier must receive basic training on how to achieve these objectives. In the natural world this training includes learning about the enemy, his tactics, how to use the weapons of warfare, and a proper battle plan.

In the spiritual world believers often enter the battlefield without this basic training. They do not understand the tactics of the enemy. They are not aware of their spiritual weapons and how to use them and they have not studied the battle plan (God's written Word).

In the natural world, to send a soldier to the battlefield without basic training results in defeat. The same is true in the spirit world. You must be trained in spiritual warfare if you are to experience victory. When a soldier enters basic training in the natural world, he leaves civilian life behind. He is no longer entangled with civilian affairs but is

concerned with the army in which he has enlisted.

In the spiritual realm, in order to war a good warfare, we must not be entangled in the affairs of life. We are not civilian citizens of this present world. We are warriors of the Kingdom of God. Nobody can be a soldier in both opposing sides. You cannot make war against yourself. That will be an act of insanity.

There are many different Scriptural strategies that can be used in spiritual warfare, but the basic battle plan for believers is revealed by observing how Jesus dealt with the enemy.

The basic battle plan for spiritual warfare is based on six major points. These are:

- The Word of God
- Delegated Power and Authority
- Prayer
- Fasting
- Keys of The Kingdom
- The Name of Jesus

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

One direct confrontation between Jesus and Satan came during a special period of temptation by the enemy. In this encounter, one of the major portions of our spiritual battle plan was revealed.

First Satan tried to get Jesus to turn stones into bread. Jesus turned water into wine surely could have turned stones into bread. But to do so in this situation would have been acting independently of God and using His power for personal benefit. The wrong motive.

Next Satan tried to get Jesus to cast Himself down from the top of the temple. Note that Satan said: "Cast thyself down." Satan could not cast Him down, because the power of Satan is a limited power. Satan can persuade you to sin, but he cannot cast you down. As you have learned, every man is tempted when he is drawn away by his own lust. He is not forced but enticed. In this temptation, Satan used God's Word to back up his appeal, but he misapplied it (Matthew 4:6). Misapplication of God's Word is a major strategy of Satan.

In both first two temptations Satan said: "*IF you are the Son of God,*" do these things. Satan always try create doubt in someone's mind. He did the same with Adam and Eve. Jesus knew that He was the Son of God. Satan did not know that at this stage. If Satan knew, he would not have said it. Jesus knew that this fact must only be revealed to Satan after His crucifixion. If Satan had to know in advance that Jesus is the Son of God he would never have convinced the people to crucify Jesus. It was only when Jesus arrived in Hades, after the crucifixion that Satan and all the demons realised who Jesus really was.

The final temptation was an appeal by Satan for worship. In return, Satan would deliver to Jesus all the kingdoms of the world. More proof that Satan had no idea who he was dealing with.

In these three situations of temptation you can see the evil forces of the world, the flesh, and the Devil warring against Jesus. Jesus met the temptations of Satan with the Word of God.

The Bible is a very important spiritual weapon and part of the armour of God. It is called "*the sword of the Spirit.*" The Word of God is the only divinely inspired manual of spiritual warfare. The Word of God being the original Word of God. John tells us that the Word of God is Jesus.

In meeting the temptations of Satan, Jesus used the Word of God. Jesus quoted specific Scriptures applicable to the immediate battle. He did not quote passages of chronology or history from the Old Testament. Jesus said, "*It is written again...*" When you use specific Scriptures, be sure they are in balance with the remainder of the Word of God. They must be viewed in their context and applied in harmony with the total revealed Word of God. In order to use the Word of God effectively in spiritual warfare, you must know the Word of God. Satan and his demons know the Bible back to front and you cannot afford to quote the Bible incorrectly, it will have no power.

You must study, ponder on, and memorize it. Many defeats in life come because we do not know God's Word. The Bible says: "*My people perish due to a lack of knowledge.*" It is sad that most church leaders and Christians do not know the Word of God. Demons will very quickly tell you that you are wrong if you are and then you have lost that battle.

### **POWER AND AUTHORITY**

The second part of the battle plan is based upon the power and authority over Satan which Jesus delegated to His followers.

Authority and power are two different things. Consider the example of a policeman. He has a badge and a uniform which are symbols of his authority. His authority comes because of the position he holds with the government. But because all people do not respect that authority, the policeman also carries a weapon. The weapon is his power.

Your authority over the enemy comes through Jesus Christ and your position in Him as believers. Your power over the enemy comes through the Holy Spirit.

Like the policeman, you must have both authority and power to be effective. Believers receive authority through the new birth experience and

their position in Christ, but some never go on to receive the power of the Holy Spirit, which is to be combined with the authority for effective warfare. The power Jesus gave (baptism with the Holy Spirit) is directed power for specific purposes.

These include:

- POWER OVER THE ENEMY
- POWER OVER SIN
- POWER TO EXTEND THE GOSPEL

## **PRAYER**

Prayer is the third part of the basic battle plan.

### **HOW TO PRAY**

- Humble yourself.
- Repent and ask forgiveness.
- Forgive all your Debtors.
- Prayer is to be made to God: Psalms 5:2
- You sin by neglecting to pray for others: I Samuel 12:23
- Pray with understanding (in a known tongue): Ephesians 6:18
- Pray in the Spirit: Romans 8:26; Jude 20
- Pray according to the will of God: I John 5:14-15
- Pray in secret: Matthew 6:6 (Not out loud)
- Quality rather than quantity. Prayer is not successful because of "much speaking":
- Pray continually: Romans 12:12

- Pray without ceasing: I Thessalonians 5:17
- Pray to the Father in the name of Jesus: John 15:16
- With a watchful attitude: I Peter 4:7
- Pray according to the example of the model prayer: Matthew 6:9-13
- Pray with a forgiving spirit: Mark 11:25
- Pray with humility: Matthew 6:7
- Sometimes accompany prayer with fasting: Matthew 17:21 – fasting is abstention from the world and drawing closer to God.
- Pray fervently: James 5:16; Colossians 4:12
- Pray with submission to God: Luke 22:42
- Use the strategies of binding and losing in prayer: Matthew 16:19

## **HINDRANCES TO PRAYER**

Certain things can hinder your prayer. Many people say that it feels like they are praying, and their prayers do not go beyond the ceiling of the house they are in. In the Old Testament believers had to go to the Temple because God (the Holy Spirit) was in the Holy of Holies. God promised his people that He will always be in the Temple and if they come to the Temple where He is, He will listen to them and answer their prayers.

The new Testament explains to us that once we become a child of God, our bodies are God's Temple. We must make sure that our bodies are not defiled, that it is God's Temple. Knowing that it

is God's Temple, we can go to God, that is in us. No need to go anywhere else or pray against the ceiling. If you feel that God is not listening, that there is a barrier between you and God, then you must ensure that you remove any possible barriers.

Once the barriers are removed you will know that God is with you, the Holy Spirit is in you.

### **BARRIERS**

- Sin of any kind: Isaiah 59:1-2; Psalm 66:18; Isaiah 1:15; Proverbs 28:9
- Idols in the heart: Ezekiel 14:1-3
- Spiritual Idolatry and spiritual adultery.
- An unforgiving spirit: Mark 11:25; Matthew 5:23
- Selfishness, wrong motives: Proverbs 21:13; James 4:3
- Power hungry, manipulative prayers: James 4:2-3
- Wrong treatment of marriage partner: I Peter 3:7
- Self-righteousness: Luke 18:10-14
- Unbelief: James 1:6-7
- Not abiding in Christ and His Word: John 15:7
- Lack of compassion: Proverbs 21:13\
- Hypocrisy, pride, meaningless repetition: Matthew 6:5; Job 35:12-13
- Not asking according to the will of God: James 4:2-3

- Not asking in Jesus' name: John 16:24
- Satanic demonic hindrances: Daniel 10:10-13; Ephesians 6:12
- Not seeking first, the Kingdom: It is only when you seek first the Kingdom of God that you are promised the "other things": Matthew 6:33
- God has a higher purpose in denying your request: II Corinthians 12:8-9
- When you do not know how to pray as you should, prayer is hindered. This is why it is important to let the Holy Spirit pray through you: Romans 8:26

### **KEYS OF THE KINGDOM**

Jesus gave to believers the keys of the Kingdom. Those keys include the power to bind and loose: *“And I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven; and whatsoever shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven”* (Matthew 16:19)

Jesus taught the importance of binding evil spirits before casting them out, but the principle of binding and loosing is more than casting out demons. You can bind the power of the enemy to work in your life, home, community, and church fellowship. You can loose men and women from the bondage of sin, depression, and discouragement of the enemy.

The principle of binding and loosing is an important strategy to overcome the power of the enemy. It is a key to the Kingdom of God. In every situation with which you are confronted...every problem, every challenge...there is a spiritual key. That key is in exercising the principle of binding and loosing. When you recognize what to bind and what to loose and act upon this discovery, the enemy will be defeated.

### **THE NAME OF JESUS**

The final part of the basic battle plan is found in the name of Jesus. The Word of God is to be applied in His name, we pray, fast, and use our delegated power and authority and the keys of the Kingdom in His name.

*John 14:12 -14“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”*

You are to teach, baptise, cast out demons, heal the sick, and overcome every power of the enemy through the name of Jesus. It is more powerful than any other name.

The death of Jesus fulfilled the plan of God. Men

could now be saved from the bondage of sin and the penalty of the "second death" (eternal separation from God because of sin).

Great though it was, salvation from sin was not the only victory gained by Jesus through His death on the cross. Through His death and resurrection, Jesus defeated all the power of the enemy, including death. He also passed judgement upon Satan.

Jesus made a way of salvation. He defeated death and the principalities and powers of the enemy. He restored to man dominion over all things. He pronounced judgement on Satan which will be fulfilled in the future.

Jesus has conquered Satan and set his judgement, but he is still at large and his forces of demonic powers, the flesh, and the world are still at war in the land. They attempt to control territory that is rightfully that of the Conqueror. They try to blind men to the fact Satan has been defeated and is under judgement. They try to control homes, churches, and nations. That is where the warfare of the believer comes into focus.

Jesus has defeated the enemy, but Satan remains at large in the world. It is our task to open the eyes of men and women to his deception and regain control of territory that is rightfully ours. Your personal battle will continue until judgement on

Satan is executed or until you go to be with Jesus through death, whichever comes first.

## **DEFENSIVE AND OFFENSIVE WARFARE**

### **DEFENSIVE WARFARE**

Defensive warfare is battle waged to defend territory. It is warfare that waits for the enemy to strike, then pulls its forces together in defensive response. The defender must respond to his opponent and his decisions are forced on him by the attacker. This type of warfare does not advance into enemy territory. It defends territory already claimed. It is important, however, because the spiritual forces of evil are constantly attacking you as a believer. If you do not know how to defend yourself, you will become a victim of these attacks.

### **OFFENSIVE WARFARE**

Offensive warfare is aggressive warfare. It is not a warfare of waiting and responding in defence. It is warfare which takes the initiative of attack. The enemy is identified, his strategy recognized, and offensive advances against him are made in the spirit world. In offensive warfare the attacker has the advantage of making decisions first. Offensive warfare gains territory rather than defends it.

Offensive advances are the only type of spiritual warfare which will reach the world with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We cannot remain in our comfortable homes and churches and practice defensive strategies only. The army of God must advance into enemy territory. It must go to the

strongholds of Satan with the power of the Gospel message. We must wage aggressive offensive spiritual battle.

### **THE COMMON FACTOR**

There is one thing in common about offensive and defensive warfare. Both involve personal action by the believer. In natural warfare, unused weapons do not inflict casualties on the enemy nor win wars. The same is true in the spirit world.

Your spiritual weapons are affected by your will to use them. It is true that God empowers you for battle, but you have a personal responsibility in both defensive and offensive spiritual strategies.

In Old Testament battles, the Lord fought for and with His people, Israel. But first, they had to position themselves on the battlefield. When God sees a spiritual weapon being used in His name and a man or woman on the battlefield daring to attempt the impossible, the Lord of Hosts is moved to action. Victory is always for God's glory.

### **WIN FIRST BEHIND CLOSED DOORS**

It is what happens behind closed doors, where you spend time with God, that determines your victories in the actual battles of life. Seek first the Kingdom of God and all the other things will be added on to you. Surrender all things to God. Only God can win this battle and this war.

## **DEVICES OF SATAN**

Basic to both offensive and defensive warfare is knowledge of the strategies of Satan. The word "devices" means a scheme, project, plot or underhanded plan of evil character. Satan can gain advantage over you when you are ignorant of his devices and fail to respond.

C.S. Lewis wrote a book "The Screwtape Files." In this book he divulges some of the devil's tactics. The tactics the devil and evil spirits use to keep people in bondage. Reading this book will help you understand how evil operates in your life. It will help you to recognise when the devil is at work in your life. It is life changing. The verse "*My people perish due to a lack of knowledge*" is again applicable. Read this book and obtain the knowledge that will help you overcome evil.

## **THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The Holy Spirit is critically important in spiritual warfare. The Holy Spirit knows the strategies of Satan and intercedes for believers engaged in battle. The Holy Spirit gives power to claim enemy territory. Remember, we battle in the authority of Jesus and with the power of the Holy Spirit. Without God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit you can do nothing, you are defenceless.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit are valuable weapons of battle. The gifts of the word of knowledge and the word of wisdom provide supernatural revelation for

spiritual warfare. The gift of discerning of spirits reveals the deception of the enemy. You must get out of the way and allow the Holy Spirit to work through you. Yes, allow Jesus and the Holy Spirit to reveal Themselves in you, and allow Them to fight the battle and the war.

### **PUT ON THE ARMOUR OF GOD**

Put on the whole Armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the Devil. (Ephesians 6:11). "Put on" indicates action you must take. The basic description of the armour of God is given in Ephesians 6:10-17. Spiritual battles must be fought with spiritual weapons.

The purpose of the armour is to be able to stand against the tricks (deceit, cunning, craftiness) of the enemy, Satan. It is your responsibility to put on the armour: "*Put on the whole Armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*" (Ephesians 6:11)

- Having your loins girt about with truth (verse 14)
- Having on the breastplate of righteousness (verse 14)
- Having your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace
- Taking the shield of faith (verse 16)
- Taking the helmet of salvation (verse 17)
- Taking the sword of the Spirit (verse 17)

## **THE MIND OF CHRIST**

*“For as much then as Christ has suffered for us in the flesh, ARM YOURSELVES likewise with the same mind...”* (I Peter 4:1). *“LET THIS MIND BE IN YOU, which was also in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 2:5). To "let" means to permit or embrace. We must allow the Holy Spirit to control our minds and transform our minds to be same as Jesus' mind.

You are to arm yourself with the same mind that Jesus had, a mind set to wage aggressive warfare. *“...For this purpose, the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil.”* (I John 3:8)

You must "let" or permit this mind to be developed. You must take forceful action to “arm yourself” with a similar mental attitude. *“And be not conformed to this world; but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God.”* (Romans 12:2)

To be "transformed" means to experience a complete change which will be expressed in character and conduct. Renewing and arming your mind with Christlikeness results in such a transformation. Step aside and allow Jesus to manifest Himself in you. Let Jesus control your mind.

## **PULLING DOWN STRONGHOLDS**

The goal of offensive warfare is to pull and cast down the strongholds of the enemy: *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God, to the PULLING DOWN OF STRONG HOLDS; CASTING DOWN imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”*(II Corinthians 10:4-5)

To "pull down" means to take down by effort or force. To "cast" means to throw or hurl. You are told to cast off the works of darkness (Romans 13:12) and cast out demon powers (Matthew 10:8).

When you pull and cast down strongholds of Satan you are waging offensive warfare. You are not waiting to defend against an attack of Satan, but you are attacking strongholds of the enemy's power. Your actions must confirm your words and your thoughts. You must out loud rebuke the devil and say, "in the name of Jesus Christ I command you to leave", "In the name of Jesus, I pull you out and cast you down." At the same time, you must physically pull evil out and cast evil down. Take your hand, pull evil out and cast evil down.

## **BINDING AND LOOSING SPIRITS**

You have the power to bind the forces of evil and loose the forces of good: *“And I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven: and whatsoever thou shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven:*

*and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven.”(Matthew 16:19)*

Through delegation of power and authority from Jesus, you can bind and loose spiritual forces. Note that this weapon can work together. Whenever you bind something, you should also lose something. For example, if you bind the spirit of lying you should loose the spirit of truth to operate in its place.

Sometimes you just need to bind the evil spirit when the evil spirit behaves badly. In some cases, you must bind an evil spirit while you are dealing with another pressing issue. Once you have dealt with the pressing issue you can return and deal with the evil spirit.

## **THE BLOOD OF JESUS**

When Jesus died on the cross of Calvary, He loosed us from the dominion of sin and the power of the enemy. His blood secures our access to God and release from the bondage of Satan. The Word of God indicates that "*they (believers) overcame him (Satan) by the blood of the Lamb (Jesus Christ)*" (Revelation 12:11) and by their testimony of what the Bible says the blood of Jesus is doing in their lives.

Salvation, healing, and deliverance are all available because of the blood of Jesus. His blood enables you to wage warfare for the souls of men and women and bring deliverance and healing in the name of Jesus. Your power to "overcome" the enemy is because of the "blood of the lamb."

## **YOUR TESTIMONY**

Revelation 12:11 indicates the enemy is defeated by the "word of your testimony." The word "testimony" means "evidence or record" like that used in a legal case in a court of law. Your testimony of what the Bible says the blood of Jesus is doing in your life.

You will recall that Jesus often commanded people who had been delivered to go and tell others what God had done for them. As you "testify" or give evidence to the power of God in your life, you wage offensive spiritual warfare. To be effective, your testimony must be based upon the testimony of

the Word of God.

### **THE NAME OF JESUS**

You already learned that the name of Jesus is part of God's basic battle plan. The name of Jesus is a powerful offensive weapon also. Jesus said: *"in My name you will cast out demons, heal the sick, and overcome all the power of the enemy"* (Mark 16:17).

The name of Jesus is not some magical phrase with which we conclude our prayers. It is a symbol of the authority and power He has given us. You had better be authorized to use His power an authority before you start using His names to war against Satanic powers.

In John 14:12-14 Jesus said: *"Most assuredly I tell you, that he who believes in me, the works that I do, he will also do and greater works than these he will do. For I go to the father and whatever you ask in my name, I will do so that the Father can be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in my name, I will do it."*

We know for certain, that Jesus shall destroy evil in us or anybody else if the Father can be glorified through it.

### **A WARTIME LIFESTYLE**

When a nation is at war, the life-style of that nation is affected. Men give up their jobs to fight for their nation. They spend hours in preparation

and training. Funds are drawn from the economy to aid in the battle. Residents are alert to invasion and extra guards are posted at national borders. The nation supports all those that go to war.

In the churches today, ignorance and misinformation are the order of the day. Many Churchians (church going people) are totally unaware of the warfare raging around them and have not adopted a wartime lifestyle. Church fellowships plan programs and parties but they do not have a battle plan. They live in luxury and ease while the enemy is claiming the souls of unnumbered men and women without Jesus Christ. Members of the fellowship are discouraged, depressed, and living in fleshly sins. They are in bondage. They are victims of a war they do not even know exists. They do not even support others that are involved in spiritual warfare, instead, they fight against them. They support the enemy. They war against God.

They will never live an abundant life, because they cannot be set free from bondage until they join the warfare against evil.

You must understand: We are at war! I repeat, we are at war! We should adopt a wartime life-style in the spirit world. Spiritual warfare should become the focus of our lives. We should spend time in preparation and training. We should learn of and use our spiritual weapons. We should designate

material wealth to extending the Gospel message to claim nations being threatened by Satan. We should be alert to invasion from the enemy and post extra guards at the borders of our heart, mind, tongue, soul, spirit, home, community, and church fellowship.

We are at war, and our life-style in the spirit world should reflect it.

## **SATAN WORKS THROUGH THE WORLD**

Satan is the prince of this world and as its prince he influences the governments of nations. He is described as a "deceiver of nations" in Revelation 20:3 and 7. Daniel chapter 10 identifies a demonic power over the nation of Persia working to prevent Daniel's prayer. Satan is as a roaring lion in the world. Satan works both openly and secretly in the world.

Satan's activities are varied in the world, but they are always directed against God, His plan, and His people. Satan opposes God's work in the world. This is quite evident in his rebellion and fall from Heaven which you already studied (Ezekiel 28:12-19). Satan opposes the work of Jesus in the world. He is behind the "anti-Christ" spirit of the world.

Satan also opposes the work of the Holy Spirit in the world. One of the purposes of the Holy Spirit is to guide men and women into the truth of the Word of God. Satan tries to keep the Word of God from influencing the hearts and lives of men and women.

Satan afflicts and tempts believers in the world. Satan deceives the world through "spiritual wickedness in high places." This is how he works in the religious structure of the world. He deceives through false doctrine, ministers, teachers, apostles, and religions.

Satan also wages warfare against believers who are in, but not of, the world. You can read about this warfare in Ephesians 6: 10-18. Satan accuses and slanders believers.

He plants doubt in the minds of believers. This was part of the first temptation of man in the Garden of Eden (see Genesis 3:1-5).

Satan incites persecution of believers by the world. Satan tries to prevent the believer from effective Christian service.

Satan uses the appeal of the world to entice believers to sin. He tempts through the worldly atmosphere, environment, and system around you. He encourages a love of the world in your heart.

Satan wars against the mind, the tongue, the spirit, the body, and the spiritual walls of believers. He attacks through family and associates, finances, and circumstances.

### **SATAN WORKS THROUGH THE FLESH**

The body, soul, and spirit of man are closely related. Because of this, Satan accesses the soul and spirit through the flesh.

This strategy is evident in the first temptation of man. Eve "SAW the tree was good for food (TASTE), and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be DESIRED to make one wise" she took of it and gave it to her husband also (Genesis 3:6).

Satan used fleshly senses and desires to gain access to Eve's soul and spirit.

If Satan cannot "blind your mind" and keep you from accepting the truth of the Gospel, then he tries to keep you in bondage to the flesh after you receive the Gospel. Fleshly lusts war against the soul.

Satan uses the flesh to affect the mind.

Satan uses the flesh to cause you to reap corruption (rottenness, perversion) in your life. Lust is using a God given desire at the wrong time, wrong place and with the wrong person.

### **HOW THEY WORK TOGETHER**

The world, the lust of the flesh, and the Devil with his demons combine their evil forces to war against believers. Each force can operate independently against the believer, but these forces of evil are most often combined in their attack upon believers. Satan uses the world, with its illusions, charms, philosophies, and ungodly systems, to gain access to the flesh. He uses physical needs to gain access to the soul mind, and spirit. Then he tries to conform you to the world.

### **OVERCOMING THE FLESH**

The world, the lust of the flesh, and the devil certainly create a threatening combat zone! But here are some powerful scriptural counter

strategies for overcoming these forces:

### **PRESENT YOUR BODY AS A SACRIFICE**

In the military forces of the natural world, a man who enlists for service comes under the complete control of his superiors. They give him instructions on how to conduct himself, how to dress, and how to combat the enemy. To be effective in spiritual warfare the same type of control must be put into action

You must present yourself to God as an act of your own will. In the Old Testament when a sacrifice was given to God, the person who offered it had no further control over it. It was given totally to the Lord. Instead of conforming to the world and the flesh, you must be transformed (changed) by the renewing of your mind.

### **ARM YOURSELF WITH THE MIND OF CHRIST**

The renewing of your mind is done by "arming" yourself with the same mind as Jesus. Ask Jesus to manifest Himself in you, to take control of you. Crucify yourself – be transformed by the Holy Spirit.

### **DEVELOP THE PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARDS YOUR FLESH**

We are told that we should "hate even the garment spotted by the flesh" (Jude 23). You should understand that the lust of the flesh is not of the Father but of the world.

You should have no confidence in the flesh because it is working against your spirit. You must understand that life in the flesh brings death (eternal death), while life in the spirit brings life (eternal life).

### **TRAIN YOUR FLESH TO OBEY**

In the military world, the soldier must obey all orders. He goes through basic training to learn the rules of warfare. He is given trial situations where he must put these strategies into action, and he learns through failure and success. He is in training for war.

This is also true in the spiritual world. You must train your flesh to obey. You must learn God's rules. Through trials God permits in your life you will have opportunity to put these rules into action. This is the fast we must do – fast from abstaining from the world and our fleshly desires.

In the natural world, a soldier learns the right and wrong responses in military strategy through repeated troop exercises. You can train through study of your warfare manual, the Bible. As you exercise or train your spiritual senses, you will learn to discern between good and evil.

You must train your flesh to obey God's Word. You do not conquer your flesh by giving in to it. As God reveals fleshly areas of your life, you must act.

Note that YOU must act. YOU must abstain from fleshly lusts. YOU must cleanse yourself of filthiness of the flesh. YOU must not make provisions for the flesh.

## **THE OLD MAN**

The "old man" refers to the fleshly nature. The part that belonged to the devil.

## **PUT YOUR FLESH TO DEATH**

The flesh must be crucified. It will not die a natural death. You must crucify it by refusing to be controlled by it. Crucify it daily.

We must hand control over to Christ. No person can nail themselves to a cross, but we must make a deliberate commitment to identify what we do with our time, where we go, in whose company we are. How do we lose control over commitment? We get angry driving on the roads, loafing at work, using bad language, sharing obscene stories and jokes. We must evaluate the who, where, why, what, when and how. How does sewerage seep into our minds and our mouths?

## **WALK IN THE SPIRIT**

Your daily walk (how you live) can be controlled by Satan working through your flesh, the world, or demon powers if you permit it. You do not have to be controlled by the world, the flesh, or the Devil. You can learn to walk in the Spirit. To walk in the Spirit means to let God's Holy Spirit control your conduct and life. The flesh is not more powerful than the spirit.

If you let the Holy Spirit manifest His power in you, He will quicken your mortal body of flesh. To "quicken" means to endue with life. You do not

have to live in the death of sin. God can quicken your spirit to new life. Do not allow Satan to manifest himself in you.

To be led by the Spirit you must have the Holy Spirit within you. You must be born again by the Spirit. You must also be filled with the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit who gives you power to walk in the spirit rather than the flesh. Get rid of the unclean spirit you were born with, expel it in Jesus name.

#### **LET YOUR SPIRIT SPEAK BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

God communicates to your soul by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, in you, can also communicate directly to God from you.

When you pray in an unknown language, which is the physical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2), your spirit is communicating directly to God. When this happens, one of the important functions of the Holy Spirit is to pray according to the will of God. You must however be extremely careful when praying in tongues. Demons can put words in your mind and because you do not know what you pray, you might pray incorrect prayers.

#### **DEVELOP THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

In contrast to the works of the flesh, allow the Holy Spirit to work through you and thereby revealing the fruit of the Holy Spirit which includes: "...love,

*joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness,  
faith. Meekness, temperance...” (Galatians 5:22-23).*

## **DO NOT LIVE IN CONDEMNATION**

God never condemns, the Holy Spirit convicts. Satan condemns, he uses the weaknesses of the flesh to make you live in condemnation.

If you fail and engage in fleshly conduct, do not remain in condemnation. Identify the break in the pipe that caused the leak or the short in the electric wire. Do not swim in the sewer. Repent and ask forgiveness. **Never run away from God, run back to God as soon as possible (immediately).**

## **DEVELOP AN APPROPRIATE ATTITUDE TOWARD THE WORLD**

- Recognize you are not of the world. You are an Alien from Heaven.
- Understand that you will experience tribulation in the world.
- Realize that gaining the world is not worth losing your soul.
- Recognize the temporal nature of the world.
- As a believer, you do not have to be in bondage to the world system. Although in the past you were governed by the present world (Ephesians 2:2), you are no longer in this bondage.
- You are no longer under the power of the world (Satan) you can overcome evil. He that is in you is far greater than Satan.

## **GUARD AGAINST THE WORLD**

Now that you are free from the world, set a guard

against its influence in your life. Do not pattern your life after the fundamentals or basic principles of the world.

- Do not love the world
- Do not let yourself be spoiled by the philosophies of the world
- Deny worldly lusts
- Keep yourself unspotted from the world
- Crucify the power of the world

Crucifixion is an unnatural death. Like the flesh, the power of the world in your life will not die a natural death. You must forcibly crucify it.

### **YOU CAN OVERCOME EVIL**

You are not to be overcome by evil. Do not let the cares of the world destroy the work of the Word in your life (Matthew 13:22; Mark 4:19). This "*wearing away*" with the cares of the world is one of the strategies of the antichrist spirit (Daniel 7:25).

- You can overcome the world because the Holy Spirit dwells within you and Jesus gave you the authority to overcome evil.
- You can escape the corruption of the world
- You overcome the world because you are born-again, a child of God.
- You overcome the world by the blood of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

### **UNDERSTAND YOUR MISSION**

You are not to be affected by the world, but you are to affect the world. The believer should be a

light in a world of darkness, reflecting the glory of God and sharing the good news of the Gospel. The impact of the early believers on the world was so great that it was said of them that they “*turned the world upside down*” (Acts 17:6).

As soldiers in an army sent on a mission in a foreign nation, believers are on a special mission of God in the world. They have been instructed to overcome evil and to destroy the works of the devil.

### **SATAN ATTACKS THE MIND**

The greatest commandment includes loving God with all your mind. This is one of the main reasons why Satan battles for your mind. “*Jesus said unto him, you shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all your soul, and with all your MIND; This is the first and great commandment.*” (Matthew 22:37-38)

Satan battles for your mind because it is closely tied spiritually to your heart and mouth: “*But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts...*” (Matthew 15:18)

Satan battles for the mind because the way you think affects the way you act “*For as he thinks in his heart, so is he...*” (Proverbs 23:7)

Satan knows if he can control your mind, he can control your body, your actions, and, if left

unchallenged, he will possess you.

### **FIERY DARTS FROM THE ENEMY**

In Old Testament times, fiery darts were used as weapons of warfare. They were hollow reeds filled with material which would burn easily. They were set on fire and then shot from bows. They were excellent weapons against the walled cities of the time because they could be shot over the walls to ignite the thatched roofs of the houses within.

In Ephesians 6:11-17 Paul discusses the spiritual battle with Satan. He speaks of "the fiery arts of the wicked." The enemy continuously hurls "fiery darts" at you in the spirit world. Most of these "darts" are aimed at the mind.

The Apostle Paul warns that you should not be "shaken in mind" (II Thessalonians 2:2). In the Greek translation, "shake" means to "agitate, disturb, topple, (by implied) to destroy. "If you can take hold of something and shake it, you have control over it. Satan wants to "shake" or exert control over your mind.

### **THE BATTLE IS IN THE MIND**

The mind is one of the most complex and least understood parts of the human body. Because it is so complex, Satan has many subtle methods of attacking the mind. Though it would be impossible to list them all, the following is some of the main strategies of attack Satan uses in the battle for the

mind

### **QUESTIONING THE AUTHORITY OF GOD**

The first temptation of man started in the mind. It started with this strategy: Questioning the authority of God. Satan said to Eve, *"Did God really say that you could not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil?"* Questioning God and His Word leads to doubt, unbelief, and scepticism.

### **DECEPTION AND SEDUCTION**

Deception was also part of the enemy's strategy. When Satan confronted Eve, he was disguised as a beautiful serpent. Satan uses lies, cults, and "religious spirits" to deceive millions in our world today. **Some of the deceptions Satan advances include the following appeals:**

- "The devil cannot control a Christian (but what about Churchians)."
- "You can know the future."
- "Your future, including eternity, is predestined. There is nothing you can do about it."
- "Everyone is a child of God."
- "You do not have to repent; all your sins are automatically forgiven."
- "There are more ways to Heaven than by Jesus."
- "God is too good to send anyone to Hell."
- "All God expects you to do is live a good life and do the best you can."
- "The Bible should not be taken literally."

- "The Bible contains many errors."

Seducing spirits of Satan attack the mind to distort the truth of God's Word

### **THE FLESH**

Satan uses the flesh to war against the mind. Satan uses your own mouth, your eyes, ears, and even your senses of touch and smell to foster wicked thoughts in your mind. Satan also uses pain and sickness to influence your mind.

### **BLINDING MINDS**

Satan works in the minds of people to blind them to the truth of the Gospel. Satan puts thoughts and ideas in peoples minds without them knowing it.

### **DEPRESSION**

To be depressed is to be downcast, sad, discouraged, or in low spirit. It includes feelings of despair, despondency, and dejection. Depression can lead to suicidal thoughts or actual suicide because of the hopeless feelings which produces uncontrollable mental grief, sorrow, heartache, and crying.

Sometimes Satan uses circumstances of life to lead to depression. For examples, a great loss or fear of loss, suppressed anger, a low self-esteem, unfulfilled expectations, and a negative attitude

can all be used to cause depression. In Proverbs 24:10 we are warned about "*fainting in the day of adversity*" (troubled or distressed circumstances).

Sometimes depression is caused by the negative attitudes of those around us through which Satan works. In Deuteronomy 1:28 God's people admitted, "*our brethren have discouraged our hearts.*"

If you do not conquer depression it can also lead to oppression by Satanic spirits. This is a deeper form of depression where Satan gains more restrictive power over the mind. If you allow the thoughts of depression to control you, you open a door for a demon to enter and to oppress you. Satan copies what God does. He also knocks at the door and if you allow him in he will turn your life upside down.

### **DISCOURAGEMENT**

Discouragement means to be "without courage." Satan wants to discourage you because if you are "without courage," you are ineffective in warfare.

### **WITHDRAWAL**

Another way Satan attacks the mind is through withdrawal. The purpose of this strategy is to isolate you from the rest of the Body of Christ. Since believers function together in ministry as a body, withdrawal makes you non-functional. Examples of men of God who were attacked

mentally by Satan and withdrew are Elijah (I Kings 19) and Jonah (Jonah 4:5-11).

### **WRONG MOTIVES**

A motive is your reason for doing something. Motives are important because although man looks on the outward appearance (actions), God looks on the heart. Many people enter Christian ministry for the wrong reasons. God is more concerned with motive than ministry. This is where you should place your concern also, for when motives are proper then ministry will naturally follow. Your motives for ministry must be right: *“Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for financial gain, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.”* (I Peter 5:2-3)

You must enter the ministry willingly, not because of the advantages and benefits of the office, not as a dictator but as an example. Satan will try to create wrong motives for Christian service by putting them subtly in your mind. Satan causes wrong motives for desiring God's power. You can find an example of this in Acts 8:18-23 in the story of a man named Simon.

You can have vindictive motives for your actions. (Vindictive means that you want to get even with someone who has done you wrong or who you do not like). Biblical examples include the disciples

wanting to call down fire from heaven (Luke 9:54) and Jonah wanting Nineveh destroyed (Jonah 4). David also had a wrong motive in the numbering of the people: Satan (an adversary) stood up against Israel and stirred up David to number Israel. (I Chronicles 21:1)

### **ATTITUDES AND EMOTIONS**

Satan causes wrong attitudes towards others. He inserts fiery darts of envy, jealousy, suspicion, unforgiveness, distrust, anger, hatred, intolerance, prejudice, competition, impatience, judging, criticism, covetousness, and selfishness.

He also tries to cause wrong attitudes of greed, discontent, pride, vanity, ego, importance, arrogance, intellectualism, and self-righteousness. Wrong attitudes lead to wrong emotions and both stem from your thoughts.

These attitudes and emotions render you ineffective in spiritual warfare. For example, James 4:6 indicates that "*God resists the proud.*" When you are filled with pride, you are arrayed in battle against God.

### **REBELLION**

Satan also inserts rebellious thoughts into your mind. Rebellion is wilful disobedience against God's authority. Rebellion includes self-will, stubbornness, and disobedience. Remember that rebellion was the original sin of Satan. His five

statements of "I will" demonstrated his rebellion (Isaiah 14:12-14). The "I will" spirit is a way to recognize the operation of Satan through rebellion.

### **ACCUSATION AND CONDEMNATION**

Satan is called "the accuser " (Revelation 12:10). He sends fiery darts of accusation into your mind, makes you feel inferior, and condemns you. He will give you guilty feelings of shame, unworthiness, and embarrassment.

One good way to tell the difference between the conviction of the Holy Spirit and the condemnation of Satan is to remember that Satan always generalizes. For example, he speaks into your mind like these: "You are no good," "You can never live a Christian life, "God couldn't love you because you are too great of a sinner."

When the Holy Spirit is convicting you, it is specific. For example, He brings to your attention that you have a problem with anger or dishonesty.

### **SEXUAL IMPURITY**

Satan will insert thoughts of sexual impurity, lust, and mental sexual fantasies. Jesus said: *"But I say unto you, that whosoever looks on a woman to lust after her has committed adultery with her already in his heart."* (Matthew 5:28)

### **CONFUSION**

Satan also causes indecision, confusion, and

frustration in your mind. When you are confused, indecisive, and frustrated, you obviously cannot be a good Christian soldier.

### **DISTURBING THOUGHTS**

There is a whole category of disturbing thoughts Satan sends into your mind including worry, anxiety, dread, apprehension, and nervousness. Mental torment can also come through an over active mind that will not "shut off" or an under active mind that cannot function properly.

Tormenting thoughts also include fear. Paul speaks of the "spirit of fear" in II Timothy 1:7 and the "fear of death" in Hebrews 2:15. Tormenting thoughts also include bitter memories of events that should be forgiven and forgotten.

### **COMPROMISE**

To "compromise" is to settle conflicting principles by adjustment. The principles of God and Satan are in opposition. Satan tries to get you to compromise and lower your spiritual principles. For example, he will tell you it is not necessary to be so holy, to believe the Bible literally.

### **MENTAL FOCUS**

Satan will constantly try to get your focus on things of the world rather than things of eternal nature:" *Do not love or cherish the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him.*" (I John

2:15)

The cares of the world can cause the Word of God to be ineffective in your life. Cares of the world can make you unaware of the short time before the return of Jesus.

Satan will occupy your thoughts with materialism rather than with eternal values. *“For the love of money is the root of all evil; which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.* (I Timothy 6:10).

Paul warns there are many who "*mind worldly things*" (Philippians 3:18-19).

### **MENTAL CONDITIONS**

If you allow Satan to persist with thoughts of depression, suicide, torment, accusation, etc., it can lead to mental illness. This could include a nervous or mental breakdown and various medically recognized mental conditions. Satan can possess the mind of people including backsliders; those who have once known God, then turned away from Him.

## **SPIRITUAL COUNTER STRATEGIES**

### **VICTORY IN THE MIND**

What an arsenal of weapons Satan has targeted for the mind! Left unconquered, these thoughts lead to sinful actions. For example, hatred can lead to murder. Adulterous thoughts can lead to the act of adultery. Divorce starts in the mind. Covetousness can lead to stealing. There is no doubt...the greatest arena of spiritual warfare is the mind. But do not fear! God has given some tremendous counter strategies for overcoming attacks of Satan on the mind.

### **LET THE HOLY SPIRIT SEARCH YOUR MIND**

First, ask God to search your mind and reveal to you any wrong attitudes, motives, and thinking which has been inserted by the enemy: *“Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. (Psalms 139:23-24)*

As the Holy Spirit reveals things to you, act upon the revelation. Repent and ask forgiveness for wrong thought patterns and use the Word of God to develop new thought patterns.

### **USE YOUR SPIRITUAL ARMOUR**

Spiritual armour that defends you from attacks in the mind are listed in Ephesians 6:16-17. One piece of armour is the helmet of salvation. A

helmet is worn on the head and implies protection to the mind.

Paul is not only speaking of your present salvation in Jesus Christ which can cleanse your mind, he is speaking of the future salvation.

Salvation is also your hope for the future. The believer who has the "helmet of salvation" in place understands God is working out His eternal purpose of salvation. He is not disturbed by the attacks of the enemy. He has hope not only for the present, but for the future.

The other piece of armour for mental protection is the shield of faith. As you learned when you studied about your weapons, a shield was a piece of heavy material which a soldier held in front of himself to keep arrows from hitting him. The arrows bounced off the shield and fell harmlessly to the ground. The shield for the Christian soldier is called the "shield of faith." The word "faith" not only refers to the basic truths of the Christian Gospel but to your confidence in God. Faith in God the Father, in Jesus the Son and in the Holy Spirit.

Another piece of spiritual armour is the belt of truth (Ephesians 6:14). The truth of God's Word will defeat any false accusations the enemy brings to your mind.

## **USE GOD'S WORD**

In the temptation of Jesus when Satan misused God's Word, Jesus met the attack with the Word of God. When Satan comes with accusations of guilt, use this Scripture: *“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”* (Romans 8:1)

When Satan comes with tormenting feelings such as fear, use these Scriptures: *“For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”* (II Timothy 1:7).

When Satan tries to discourage you, use this verse: *“Have not I commanded you? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed: for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”* (Joshua 1:9)

When Satan brings false guilt to your mind, remember: *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* (I John 1:9).

## **CLAIM A SOUND MIND**

Claim a sound mind as God's will for you. To eliminate tormenting thoughts, claim the peace that is rightfully yours.

These are examples of how you can develop a whole "arsenal" of Scriptures applicable to the

various mental attacks of Satan. As you study God's Word, continue to identify specific verses to defend your mind against the invasion of the enemy.

### **LET CHRIST'S MIND BE IN YOU**

Paul wrote under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit: *“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 2:5)

The word "let" means to permit or embrace. You are to let your mind become like the mind of Jesus. What was the mind of Jesus like? It is possible to achieve this, because Paul wrote:” *But we have the mind of Christ.*” (II Corinthians 2:16) Allow Jesus to work through you by way of the Holy Spirit.

### **GIRD UP THE LOINS OF YOUR MIND**

In the natural body, the loins are the central portion of the body below the waist. The loins are the strongest parts of the body. Peter is saying you should prepare your mind to be strong. Again, it is something YOU do.

### **TAKE WRONG THOUGHTS CAPTIVE**

We are told to bring "into captivity every thought to the obedience to Christ" (II Corinthians 10:5). If thoughts were not enemies, then there would be no need to take them captive. Think about how a soldier takes an enemy captive in the natural world. Apply these ideas spiritually as you "take

captive" every thought.

### **CAST DOWN WRONG THOUGHTS**

One of the main defensive counter strategies to protect the mind is that of casting down. To cast something means to hurl it with great force. Paul said: *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ. (II Corinthians 10:3-5)*

You are to cast down evil imaginations Satan puts into your mind. You are to cast down thoughts that exalt themselves against God. You are to bring every thought into captivity and obedience to the Lord. Do not allow your mind to run wild. Control your mind and your thoughts.

You "cast down" by consciously taking control of your mind and refusing to dwell on the thoughts Satan inserts. Note that YOU are told to cast down...It is not something God does for you.

### **THINK ON THESE THINGS**

One way to "gird" up the loins of your mind is to think on proper subject matter. Paul said: *"Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are*

*lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.* (Philippians 4:8)

### **RENEW YOUR MIND**

*“And be renewed in the spirit of your mind.”* (Ephesians 4:23). *“And be not conformed to this world; but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.”* (Romans 12:2). You renew your mind by prayer and reflection on God's Word. The more time you spend with God the more your mind will be renewed.

### **ENCOURAGE YOURSELF IN THE LORD**

David encouraged himself in the Lord: *“And David was greatly distressed; ...but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.”* (I Samuel 30:6). Again, YOU must take action. You must encourage/ reassure yourself in God. Do not wait for others to do it. Do it yourself with God's help!

### **KNOW THE SOURCE OF CONFUSION**

Recognize that confusion is not of God: *“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace.”* (I Corinthians 14:33) Since confusion is not of God, refuse to accept the spirit of confusion in your mind, it is from Satan. Rebuke it and bind it. Ask God to deliver you from the spirit of confusion in the name of Jesus.

### **CONTROL THE GATES**

In Old Testament times cities were surrounded by

walls for defence against enemy forces. The walls had gates where guards controlled the entrance. Whoever controlled the gates of the city controlled the city.

A similar situation exists in terms of controlling the mind. The "gates" to your innermost being are the five senses. It is important that you do not allow anything to enter that has the ability to destroy from within. This means you must control your fleshly nature.

Avoid things that would open the gates to your mind. These include things like drugs and alcohol which reduce your ability to think and respond.

Pornography inspires sinful relationships and sex crimes. Certain kinds of music, witchcraft, cultist activity, and mind control all open the "gates" to your mind.

Put off all the works of the flesh and let God develop in you the fruit of the Holy Spirit (See Galatians 5:19-26). NEVER GIVE IN to the mental attacks of the enemy. If you give in, evil will overcome you. Ask Jesus to help you. Let Him exert this control over your spiritual "gates." never get into the boxing ring with Satan, ask Jesus to get in on your behalf.

### **KEEP YOUR MIND FOCUSSED ON GOD**

Keep your mind "stayed" or centred on God: "*You*

*will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You; because he trusts in You.” (Isaiah 26:3).* This is a great promise! If you keep your mind centred on God, you can have peace despite every attack of the enemy.

### **WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE TONGUE**

Before you examine Satan's strategies for control of the tongue, read what the Bible says about the tongue in James 3:1-13. These verses reveal that although the tongue is a little member of your body, it is very powerful. Through the tongue the whole body can be defiled. The tongue can never be tamed by man.

Only when you yield your tongue to God can control be maintained over it. But even then, it will never be tamed. You can never relax your guard over the tongue believing you have totally conquered it. The Bible compares the tongue to:

- A fire: James 3:5
- A burning fire: Proverbs 16:27
- A world of iniquity: James 3:6
- A beast that needs taming: James 3:7-8
- A fountain of either fresh or bitter water: James 3:11
- A tree bearing either good or evil fruit: James 3:12
- An unruly evil: James 3:8
- Deadly poison: James 3:8
- A sharp razor: Psalms 52:2

- A sharp sword: Psalms 57:4; 59:7
- A poisonous serpent: Psalms 140:3
- A deep pit: Proverbs 22:14

The Bible says the tongue is powerful because of the effect it has on others. The tongue has the power to bring death or life: *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”* (Proverbs 18:21). The tongue is powerful because of the effect it has on you. You can snare yourself with your own words: (Proverbs 6:2). The tongue is powerful because your words can separate you from God:(Psalms 12:4)

### **THE BATTLE FOR THE TONGUE**

Your tongue is closely related to your heart, body, soul, and spirit. For example, if Satan has control of your heart, he has control of your tongue: *“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies; These are the things which defile a man.”* (Matthew 15:18)

*“A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth that which is evil; for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.”* (Luke 6:45). Listen to what a man says and you can determine who controls him. You will be known by the fruit that you bear.

Satan uses the things you say to cause a breach (opening) into your spirit: “*A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.*” (Proverbs 15:4)

By evil communication you create a breach through which Satan enters to war against your spirit. Satan also uses your lips to affect your soul: “*A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.*” (Proverbs 18:7)

“*Whoever controls his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles.*” (Proverbs 21:23).

Through the tongue, Satan affects your whole body: “*And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity; so is the tongue among our members, that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of Hell.*” (James 3:6).

Satan sets that tongue on fire. Your tongue affects your whole life: “*He that controls his mouth controls his life; but he that opens wide his lips shall have destruction.*” (Proverbs 13:3)

### **SATAN SEEKS CONTROL OF YOUR TONGUE**

**COVETOUS WORDS:** “*Let your conversation be without covetousness.*” (Hebrews 13:5)

**IDLE WORDS:** “*But I say to you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgement.*” (Matthew 12:36)

**FOOLISH WORDS:** *“The heart of him that has understanding seeks knowledge; but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.”* (Proverbs 15:14)

**UNPROFITABLE WORDS:** *“Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers.”* (II Timothy 2:14)

**FABLES AND COMMANDMENTS OF MEN:** *“Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.”* (Titus 1:14)

**EVIL ABOUT THINGS YOU DO NOT KNOW:** *“But these speak evil of those things which they know not.”* (Jude 10). *But these, as natural brute beasts, made to be taken and destroyed, speak evil of the things that they understand not; and shall utterly perish in their own corruption.* (II Peter 2:12).

**FLATTERING WORDS:** *“For neither at any time use flattering words”* (I Thessalonians 2:5)

**ENTICING WORDS:** *“And this I say, let no man captivate you with enticing words.”* (Colossians 2:4)

**MURMURING, COMPLAINING, AND BOASTING WORDS:** *“These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaks great swelling words, having men's persons*

*in admiration because of advantage.” (Jude 16)*

*“For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean, escaped from them who live in error.” (II Peter 2:18)*

**BOASTFUL WORDS:** *“How long shall they utter and speak hard things? And all the workers of iniquity boast themselves”. (Psalms 94:4).*

**LIES:** *“The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.” (Psalms 58:3).*

**MALICIOUS WORDS AGAINST OTHERS:**

*“Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deed which he did, prating against us with malicious words.” (III John 10)*

**WHISPERING WORDS (GOSSIP):** *“and a whisperer separates friends.” (Proverbs 16:28)*

**SILENCE:** Yes, the devil wants you to be silent when it comes to issues that matters. Issues that must be spoken. There are events that happen daily where we can use our tongues to rebuke the devil and the demons, but we keep quiet. Next time you see people argue or if someone argue with you try the following and see what happens. Pray out loud – I rebuke all evil spirits that are causing this argument in the name of Jesus, I bind all evil spirits, you may no longer operate in their lives.

Wait a few minutes and see the results.

If you come across anybody that point blankly refuse to listen to the truth especially refusing to hear about Jesus. Pray this prayer out loud- Jesus came to set the captives free and I am a servant of God, and Jesus gave me the authority over Satan and all his demons. In the authority given to me by Jesus and in the power given to me by the Holy Spirit, I bind all demons and evil spirits that are preventing this person from receiving the truth, that are blinding this person, and I cast them out, no evil spirit or demon will stop this person from receiving the truth. In Jesus name, Amen. Leave the person for a while to get back to their senses. Remember the person's senses was controlled by an evil spirit, they must get back to their own senses. After a while the person will not object to hearing the truth. The tongue is literally a two-edged sword.

Parents can even use this to stop their children from a lot of unnecessary fighting.

Rebuking devils and demons can be done in cases where people are attacked or abused. Bind the demon and the attack or abuse shall stop. God shall stop them. Once the demon has left, the person will calm down.

### **VICTORY OVER THE TONGUE**

The only way to win the battle with the tongue is

by application of spiritual counter strategies given in God's Word. You can overcome all evil with your tongue.

### **GET YOUR HEART RIGHT WITH GOD**

The first step in gaining victory over the tongue is to get your heart right with God: *“But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies; These are the things which defile a man...”*

(Matthew 15:18-20). Your mouth will speak what is in your heart. If your heart is not right, your tongue will reveal it. Use your tongue to get your heart right with God: *“that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.”* (Romans 10:9-10)

### **RECOGNIZE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY**

Recognize you will be held responsible for the words that come out of your mouth: *“But I say unto you, that every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof”* (Matthew 12:36-37)

### **REALIZE YOUR WORDS REFLECT ON THE GOSPEL**

As long as you believe your tongue is not important, you will not gain control of it. You must

realize your conversation reflects on the Gospel of Jesus. What comes out of your mouth is noted by the heathen. You can win others to the Lord Jesus Christ by your conversation.

### **KEEP YOUR WORDS FEW AND SIMPLE**

The more one speaks the greater the possibility to sin.

### **THINK BEFORE YOU SPEAK**

*“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear; slow to speak, slow to wrath.”* (James 1:19)

### **SEPARATE YOURSELF**

Separate yourself from those who cannot control their tongue. (Proverbs 14:7)

### **LEARN THE POWER OF PEACEFUL WORDS**

Peaceful words are more powerful than words of anger (Proverbs 25:15)

### **RECOGNIZE YOUR TONGUE IS A WEAPON**

Your tongue is a weapon you can use to overcome the enemy instead of being defeated by him.

(Revelation 12:11). *“If you control your tongue, it will put to shame those who falsely accuse you”* (I Peter 3:16)

### **TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR TONGUE**

With God's help, you can control the tongue. But YOU must act to control your own tongue. *(I Peter 3:10)*

## **USE YOUR TONGUE FOR GOOD**

Speak words of wisdom and kindness.(Prov. 31)

### **BEFORE YOU SPEAK, ASK THESE QUESTIONS**

1. Will what I am about to say bring glory to God?
2. Is it the truth?
3. Is it fair to all concerned?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
5. Will it edify others (result in good will and better friendships)?
6. If you are talking about another person, will you say the same thing to him or her?
7. Do you know that what you are saying is a fact or have you arrived at your own conclusions after hearing rumours?
8. If you have something against your brother or sister, have you attempted to be reconciled to them before discussing it with others?
9. Is it absolutely necessary that you say this?

### **PRAY THESE PRAYERS**

*“Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.” (Psalms 141:3) “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.” (Psalms 19:14)*

## **THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM**

Nehemiah chapters 1 and 2 describe the condition of the walls around Jerusalem. They were in ruin, destroyed by enemy invasion, and the gates had been burned with fire. Without walls and gates, a city was open to invasion on every side from enemy forces. We are now the Temple of God. The temple is no longer in Jerusalem. If our spiritual walls are destroyed, we too are open to attack by the enemy.

## **THE REASON FOR THE PROBLEM**

Nehemiah recognized the walls had been destroyed and the city was in its present condition because of sin. (Nehemiah 1:5-7) When your spiritual walls are in ruin it is also because of sin. Nehemiah felt an intense burden from God to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem to provide protection for the inhabitants. His preparation and plan are described in chapters 1 and 2. He, and his workers were determined to "*arise and build*" the walls (Nehemiah 2:18).

## **THE BATTLE OVER THE WALLS**

When Nehemiah determined to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem, he met powerful opposition from his enemies. When you determine to rebuild spiritual walls, you will face similar opposition from your enemy, Satan. The strategies of the enemies of Nehemiah are identical to the strategies Satan uses to attack spiritual walls. The attacks are divided into two main categories: External attacks and internal attacks.

## **EXTERNAL ATTACKS**

These are attacks, the enemy launches from without through others who are not part of the body of Christ. Such attacks include:

1. Direct criticism: Nehemiah 2:19

The enemies criticized, "*What do you think you are doing?*" They were against the reconstruction project and tried in every way to prevent it.

2. Mocking and scorn: Nehemiah 4:1-3

Nehemiah became a "target for tongues." The enemy tried to defeat him through the mocking and scorn of others. Satan will use the tongue of others to discourage and defeat you.

3. False accusations: Nehemiah 6:5-7

The enemy attacked Nehemiah personally with false accusations. They accused him of being a rebel. Satan is called "the accuser of the brethren." He will use others to accuse you as well as putting accusing thoughts in your mind.

4. Diversion: Nehemiah 6:2

The enemy tried to get Nehemiah to join them for a meeting. This meeting was a diversion tactic to call Nehemiah away from the work of rebuilding the wall. Diversion from the things of God and the work He has given you to do is

still a chief strategy of Satan.

5. Popular influence: Nehemiah 6:2

The enemy said let "us" meet, trying to influence Nehemiah with popular opinion. Popular opinion said Nehemiah was a rebel and the wall could not be built. Trying to get believers to conform to popular opinion, majority rule, and the principles of the world is a key strategy of Satan. A false prophet claiming to be of God was even used by the enemy to attack Nehemiah (Nehemiah 6:10-13). Popular opinion would say to listen to a "prophet of God." We are warned of false prophets who would divert us from God.

6. Compromise: Nehemiah 5:14-19

Nehemiah refused to compromise. He did not conform to wrong life styles and principles around him. His motto was, "*So did not I, because of the fear of God*" (Nehemiah 5:15). Satan promotes compromise. He tries to convince believers that something is all right because others are doing it or that such things really are not wrong.

7. Threats and fear: Nehemiah 6:5-9

The enemy made fearful threats against Nehemiah and his workers. Satan knows that fear paralyzes but faith energises believers to be effective for God. When Nehemiah was offered a way to escape from the enemy, he

refused to be fearful and retreat (Nehemiah 6:10-13). He did not take the easy way out. Satan tries to make believers flee in the face of opposition. When you are running you are retreating, and when you retreat you do not gain or hold spiritual ground. When you walk by faith you will encounter opposition of those who walk by sight.

8. Fighting and hindering: Nehemiah 4:8  
Open tactics of fighting and hindering were also used. The enemy is not always subtle in his attacks. Sometimes he comes right out in the open to fight and hinder. When people fight against you, recognise evil behind it.

9. Conspiracy: Nehemiah 4:8; 6:2

A conspiracy or plot was made against Nehemiah by the enemy. The enemy plots against your life also: *“The thief came not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...”* (John 10:10)

10. Attacks at vulnerable times: Nehemiah 4:6  
The greatest attack of the enemy came when the wall was half finished because this was a strategic (important) time. The enemy invades at strategic times when you are vulnerable (most open and affected by his attacks).

The Prophet Jonah became despondent after the greatest revival ever experienced (Jonah 3).

David fell into sin at a time of great victory in his life. Up until that time he had not known military defeat.

Samson fell into sin when he "began" to deliver Israel from the hands of the Philistines.

When you are being effective for God, you are vulnerable to enemy attack. Satan is attacking those who are advancing in the spirit world.

### **INTERNAL ATTACKS**

Internal attacks of Satan are those made from within the Body of Christ. They include:

1. Discouragement: Nehemiah 4:10-11

The workers became discouraged which resulted in:

- Loss of strength.
- Loss of vision because of "too much rubbish."
- Loss of confidence

2. Dissension: Nehemiah 5

Nehemiah 5 opens with dissension among God's people. If Satan divides the Body of Christ, he makes us ineffective. We are busy battling each other instead of building. Wrong motives are always behind dissension. In Nehemiah chapter 5 the wrong motive was greed.

3. Weak believers: Nehemiah 4:12

The enemy used weak workers (symbolic of weak believers in the Body of Christ) to try to defeat the

construction project.

## **SPIRITUAL COUNTER STRATEGIES**

### **VICTORY AT THE WALL**

The following strategies were used by Nehemiah to rebuild the wall of Jerusalem. You can use the same strategies to assure victory at your spiritual walls:

#### **EXAMINE THE WALLS:**

As Nehemiah did in the natural world, examine the walls of your spiritual life. Has the enemy crept into your personal life, your home, church fellowship, business, etc.? *“But let a man examine himself.”* (I Corinthians 11:28)

Examine yourselves, whether you be in the faith; prove your own selves... (II Corinthians 13:5). Remember that self-examination is one of the symbolic gates of your wall in the spirit world.

Satan will try to prevent you from self-examination because it will result in recognition of areas in your life where you have let him destroy the walls and invade.

#### **CONFESS YOUR SIN:**

As Nehemiah, recognize that the reason walls are destroyed is because of sin. Then like he did (Nehemiah 1:5-7), confess your sin and ask forgiveness: Repent *“If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to*

*forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*" (I John 1:8-9)

**RECOGNIZE THAT YOU CANNOT BUILD ALONE:**

When Nehemiah's workers said, "*We ourselves are unable to build the wall,*" it was a true statement. By themselves they were unable. They needed the power of God to equip them for the task...So will you!

**ARISE AND BUILD:**

As Nehemiah, determine to rise and rebuild your spiritual walls (Nehemiah 2:20)  
Be prepared...You will face opposition from the enemy.

**DO NOT BE DIVERTED:**

Nehemiah refused to be diverted by enemy tactics (Nehemiah 6:2-3). Do not let the enemy divert or distract you from rebuilding your spiritual walls.

**DO NOT BE SWAYED BY POPULAR OPINION:**

Popular opinion was that Nehemiah was a rebel (Nehemiah 2:19). Popular opinion held that the walls could not be properly rebuilt (Nehemiah 4:3).

Nehemiah was not swayed by popular opinion. Rather than conform to popular opinion, Nehemiah set an example. He said, "So did not I, because of the fear of God" (Nehemiah 5:14-19). Become an example in spiritual warfare. Do not become part of the crowd that says victory is

impossible.

**IDENTIFY THE ENEMY AND HIS STRATEGIES:**

Nehemiah identified the enemy and his strategies. He discovered that the enemy planned a surprise attack (Nehemiah 4:8 and 11). You must identify your spiritual enemy and his strategies in order to be effective in spiritual warfare. This will help you be prepared for surprise attacks. Recognize that the enemy has conspired against you to kill, steal, and destroy but realize God has greater power and wants to give your life more abundantly (John 10).

**DEVELOP SPIRITUAL COUNTER STRATEGIES:**

Nehemiah developed a counter strategy when he heard the enemy planned to attack. He set some workers as a guard to watch for the enemy. Every worker built the wall but also had his sword and was prepared to fight (Nehemiah 4:13-18). A signal was arranged (a trumpet blast) to alert the warriors of an invasion. Because they were prepared to fight and knew the strategy of the enemy, they prevented an invasion. They knew if they had to war with the enemy, God would fight for them: “...our God shall fight for us.” (Nehemiah 4:20)

If you develop proper spiritual counter strategies, you can prevent many invasions of the enemy into your life. When Satan does break through and invade, be assured that God will fight for you! All

you must do is to immediately repent and ask God for help. Sound the trumpet.

**FACE THE ENEMY:**

When Nehemiah was offered refuge from the enemy, he refused. He said, "*Should such a man as I flee?*" (Nehemiah 6:11). Nehemiah faced the enemy in God's power. When the enemy threatens you, do not flee or take the easy way out or your spiritual walls will never be secure. When internal dissension and discouragement arose and the enemy worked through weak believers, Nehemiah did not ignore the attacks. He confronted and conquered them.

**PROTECT YOUR WALL AT VULNERABLE TIMES:**

In the story of Nehemiah, the greatest attack of the enemy came when the wall was half-finished.

When you start building in the spirit world, when you enter the arena of effective spiritual warfare, be prepared. It is a vulnerable time. You are a target for an attacks of Satan.

**BUILD THE WALL:**

Nehemiah's response to direct criticism, mocking, scorn, false accusations, threats, and fear, was simply to continue building the wall:(Nehemiah 4:21). Nehemiah stayed with the task. He did not stop building (Nehemiah 6:15). Nehemiah did in a short time what the enemy said could not be done.

If the walls are down around your life, the enemy may tell you the task is hopeless. But, with God's help, you can rebuild the wall. With His strength you do not have to take a long time to do so (Philippians 4:13) When the enemy attacks your spiritual reconstruction project do not quit! Just keep building your spiritual walls.

**SET A WATCH:**

When Nehemiah completed rebuilding the walls around Jerusalem, he set a guard to watch over the walls and gates of the city (Nehemiah 7:1-3). Set a watch over your spiritual walls. Always be alert for attacks of the enemy.

## **PHYSICAL ATTACKS**

Your body is the temple of God (I Corinthians 3:16-17) and because your body is the temple of God's Spirit, it will be attacked by Satan through:

### **SICKNESS**

Sickness is in the world because of the original sin of Adam and Eve. Although all sickness is in the world because of sin, it does not mean everyone who is suffering is sick because of their own sin.

The Bible reveals various reasons for sickness. The first, and perhaps most obvious, is illness caused by Satan. Satan attempts to afflict the body just as he attempts to afflict the soul and spirit. Your body is no more immune to his attacks than your spirit is to discouragement, condemnation, etc. But illness can also be used as chastisement to deal with sin. For an example see the story of Miriam in Numbers 12.

In one healing Jesus performed during His earthly ministry He said to the recipient: “. *sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.*” (John 5:14). The illness of this man was apparently a result of sin. In another case, Jesus made it clear that the illness was not the result of sin but for the glory of God (John 9:1-3)

An illness for the glory of God is one caused by Satan, but which God uses for His glory when physical healing comes through prayer. This type

of illness is a direct physical attack by Satan.

When counter strategies for victory are applied, this physical attack can bring glory to God.

All illness is not caused by sin or Satan or as chastisement. Illness may result from the breaking of natural laws. For example, you may become ill because you do not eat properly, or you probably will break your leg if you jump from the top of a coconut tree. Tempting you to break natural laws is an indirect attack of Satan on your body. He tempts you to eat improperly and not take care of your body because he knows that it can result in an illness which will hinder your effectiveness for God.

### **EXHAUSTION**

Satan also attacks the body through exhaustion which results from being too busy or working too hard. When you are extremely tired physically, Satan takes advantage and launches spiritual attacks. Satan came to Jesus when He was exhausted from 40 days of fasting (Matthew 4:2). When Elijah was tired from great spiritual exploits, he became so discouraged that he wanted to die (I Kings 19:4).

### **DEATH**

Although physical death must come to all men until the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, Satan attempts to cause premature death. He will tempt

people to commit suicide. He will also create conditions for accidents which could result in death. Satan can cause a distraction while you are driving your car and at the same time cause another person to break or swerve in front of you. If you allow yourself to be distracted, you can end up in an accident.

### **ABUSE**

Satan also tempts people to abuse their physical bodies by putting toxic substances into them such as drugs and alcoholic beverages. He knows such toxic substances can result in illness, mental damage, and death.

### **VICTORY OVER PHYSICAL ATTACKS**

When you are ill, seek the Lord to determine the cause of your illness. Have you violated natural law which resulted in your illness? For example, have you been eating improperly or drinking bad water? Have you been abusing your body by putting toxic substances such as cigarette smoke into your system?

If you have violated natural laws, God can still heal you. But you should use more wisdom in the future. Remember that your body is the temple of God's Holy Spirit. Stop breaking natural laws and take better care of your body. This is also important to remember in case of exhaustion. Jesus called His disciples to rest when they were exhausted from their busy ministry (Mark 6:31).

When Elijah was tired and depressed, he rested under a tree and God sent an angel to him with physical food. Elijah waited until he received a new touch from God and his physical strength had been renewed before going on to new challenges of ministry (I Kings 19:4-8).

When illness results as chastisement for sin it is not caused by Satan and binding the power of the enemy will do no good. Only repentance and return to God will bring relief:(Hosea 6:1) (Jeremiah 30:17) (Exodus 15:26)

Regarding physical attacks caused by Satan, it is important to remember that as a believer, God is in control of your life. Satan cannot touch you physically nor take your life without the knowledge of God. Read Job chapters one and two which verify these facts. The power of God is greater than that of Satan. The God who made the human body has the power to heal that body. Claim these promises for healing when you experience physical attacks from Satan (Malachi 4:2) (I Peter 2:24)

When Satan attacks you physically, call for the prayers of other believers, including elders in the church and those with the spiritual gift of healing: (I Corinthians 12:9) (I Corinthians 12:28) (James 5:14-15)

Physical death is part of the process of life until the end of time as we know it. It should not be

feared by believers, for we have the promise of eternal life:(I Corinthians 15:55 )

Satan cannot take the life of a believer before the set time for his death, as illustrated by the story of Job. God does not overrule the human will, however, if a person is tempted by Satan to commit suicide and yields to that temptation, God will not overrule the act of his will. God will provide a way out, but you must still choose to follow the way out. Many a child of God are saved or rescued, seconds before they commit suicide.

### **ATTACKS THROUGH HUMAN PERSONALITIES**

Another way Satan attacks you are through human personalities. Satan can use people around you to attack you spiritually. The attack may come from family, friends, enemies, business associates, or even strangers. Human personalities can be disguised as "angels of light, "apostles, and ministers of righteousness. But Satan is working through them:(II Corinthians 11:13-16)

Satan also has other ways of using human personalities. Satan will use people to give you wrong counsel. Read the book of Job and note the wrong counsel given by his friends and his wife.

Prophecy is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but Satan also has his prophets. Personal prophecies through human personalities are not always God-inspired. Study the tragic example of this in I

Kings 13. Attacks of Satan will come through trusted friends as well as enemies or unbelievers: (Psalms 55:12-14)

Satan uses human personalities to exalt you and tempt you to take God's glory for yourself:(Acts 12:22-23).

People are used by Satan to get you to stray from the plan of God for your life. Read how Peter was used of Satan to attack Jesus in this way (Mark 8:31-33). Satan will try to get your eyes on others instead of God. Peter was distracted from God's plan by concern with what He had planned for John (John 21:20-23).

Satan will tempt you to "emulation" which is a work of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) Emulations is trying to imitate, equal, or excel others, to copy, rival, or compete with them. As long as you are busy doing this, you will not follow the pattern of ministry God has for your own life.

Satan will use people to deceive you. Read how this happened to Joshua (Joshua 9).

People will desert you (II Timothy 4:16-17; Acts 15:37- 38; John 6:66). Satan will try to hinder your spiritual objectives in relation to others (I Thessalonians 2:18) and will cause confusion and disharmony (I Corinthians 14:33; James 3:16). Satan also will use others to affect the

circumstances in your life.

### **VICTORY OVER HUMAN PERSONALITIES**

This is an important counter strategy in gaining victory over attacks of Satan launched through others. Choosing close associates carefully will eliminate much deception, desertion, disagreement, wrong counsel, and hindering of spiritual progress. But two other important counter strategies bring victory over human personalities.

First: Obey God not man. (Acts 5:29)

Second: Follow others only as they follow God. (I Corinthians 1:1)

Do not accept counsel or prophecies from anyone when they do not agree with God's written Word. Do not admire or follow the leadership of those whose lives do not line up with God's Word. Recognize you will only be successful if you follow God's plan for your life.

You will not be successful in emulating others. You must not be sidetracked by those around you. You must rely on revelation, not imitation. Although those around you may manipulate circumstances that affect you, remember that God is still in control. Although Joseph experienced such an attack through human personalities, God turned it for his good:(Genesis 45:8)

## **ATTACKS ON THE FAMILY**

The family is the basic unit of society established by God in the beginning of the world when He first created man. God has always emphasized the family. He raised up a nation of chosen people from the family of one man, Abraham. He selected the physical union of a man and his wife to describe the spiritual union between Christ and the church. Throughout the Scriptures, God stressed the importance of the family in His plan of the ages.

The family is the basic structure from which all other structures stem. Government and religious leaders are raised in families. Communities and nations consist of many families grouped together. Because of the importance of this basic unit of society, the family is a target for attack by Satan.

Satan attacks the union between a man and his wife. He tries to cause improper sexual relationships which will result in sin (I Corinthians 7:5). He leads men and women into the sin of adultery (Galatians 5:19). He tries to get one partner to influence the other to turn away from God (Job 2). Satan promotes division in the home. This can range from arguments through divorce. Satan tries to bring division because he knows....” *Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand.*” (Matthew 12:25).

If Satan can bring division and destroy the homes of a nation, he can eventually destroy the nation itself.

God established a chain of command in the home. The man is to be the head of the home and love his wife. The wife is to follow his leadership and the children are to be in submission to their parents (I Corinthians 7; Ephesians 5:1-6:1). Satan targets the man of the home and tempts him to act in unloving ways. This results in a loss of respect and obedience from the wife and children. Satan tempts the wife to act in rebellion against the husband. Satan targets the children in a home. He creates an atmosphere of lack of discipline which results in rebellion. Read the story of Eli's sons in I Samuel 2 and of David's son, Absalom, in II Samuel 13-19.

Jesus warned of the attacks of the enemy in the home:(Luke 12:52-53)

### **VICTORY IN THE FAMILY**

Many problems in the family unit can be avoided if believers choose their mate properly. The Bible warns that believers are not to marry unbelievers: (Amos 3:3) (II Corinthians 6:14)

When a family unit is composed of believers and unbelievers, spiritual division exists. This division is not a conflict between flesh and blood. It is a spiritual conflict. It cannot be won by harsh words

or through debate and argument.

Satan fights the unity of the family because it is a natural parallel of the unity between Christ and the church. Believers must recognize this and declare: "*but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*" (Joshua 24:15)

As heir of the promise of Abraham, you can also claim the promise "*In thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed*" (Genesis 12:3). Because you are a spiritual heir of Abraham, your family will be blessed.

To protect against attacks of Satan, the family must grow together spiritually. Prayer and study of God's Word will bind the family together: (Deuteronomy 6:6-9). The family must be in proper order before you assume leadership in ministry. New Testament requirements for leadership are that the home of leaders be in order. (See Titus and I Timothy 3). Wrong emphasis on ministry has resulted in division in many Christian homes. To defeat Satan's strategy in this area, the home must be in scriptural order before a believer engages in ministry leadership positions.

Parents have a responsibility to discipline their children. The home problems of Eli and David resulted because of lack of discipline. The Bible instructs believers regarding this responsibility: (Proverbs 22:6) ;(Proverbs 13:24)

## **FINANCIAL ATTACKS**

Finances and material possessions of believers are another area Satan targets for attack. His attacks are launched in two major areas:

One: Financial loss through no fault of the believer. This is a direct attack of Satan on the finances or material possessions of believers.

Two: Attacks on finances or material possessions through violation of Scriptural guidelines.

The first type of attack is illustrated by the example of Job in chapters 1 and 2. Satan attacked Job's finances by destroying his herds (which was his business) and his home. The roof literally fell in! The Bible declares Job was a righteous man, so we know he was not in violation of Scriptural principles.

The second type of attack is illustrated by any violation of Scriptural guidelines. Satan knows if he can lead believers to violate Biblical principles, their finances will not be blessed. Without material possessions and finances, they will not be able to support the spread of the Gospel to the nations of the world.

Study the following references to discover how Satan attacks in our finances:

- Improper business partnerships with unbelievers: II Corinthians 6:14-18
- Debt: Romans 13:8
- Co-signing for debts of others: Proverbs 6:1
- Withholding payment when funds are readily available: Proverbs 3:27-28
- Withholding tithes and offerings: Malachi 3:1-12; Proverbs 11:24
- Dishonesty: Proverbs 16:8; Acts 5:3-4
- Fraud: James 5:3-4
- Unfair wages: Jeremiah 22:13
- Greed: Proverbs 28:22
- Intemperance: Proverbs 23:21
- Violation of government laws regarding money: Romans 13:6-7
- Laziness which results in poverty: Proverbs 20:13
- "Get-rich-quick" schemes: Proverbs 20:21; 28:22
- Love of money: I Timothy 6:10
- Business and financial situations creating "weights": II Timothy 2:4.
- Receiving inordinate funds for personal gain: I Samuel

### **VICTORY IN FINANCES**

Satan can attack the finances and material possessions of believers through no fault of their own. You read about this in the example of Job. But remember, Satan did not touch the finances or possessions of Job without the permission of God.

This was an attack permitted by God to try Job's faith. Because Job was faithful, God blessed him with more than he had in the beginning.

When you experience financial difficulties through no fault of your own, you can be assured it is an attack launched by the enemy. If faith in God is maintained and you continue to govern their financial affairs according to Scriptural principles, God's blessing of restoration will follow this temporary trial: (Job 42:12)'

If you are experiencing financial difficulties because of the violation of Scriptural principles, then you must repent and correct the violation. You must dissolve partnerships with unbelievers (II Corinthians 6:14-18). You must correct dishonesty (Proverbs 16:8, Acts 5:3-4) and violation of government laws (Romans 13:6-7). To counteract the strategies of Satan, you must refrain from fraud (James 5:3-4), unfair wages (Jeremiah 22:13), greed (Proverbs 28:22), intemperance (Proverbs 23:21), and laziness (Proverbs 20:13).

You should remove yourself from business and financial transactions which entangle and prevent you from being a good spiritual warrior (II Timothy 2:4). You should refuse "get-rich-quick" schemes (Proverbs 20:21; 28:22) which are motivated by the love of money (I Timothy 6:10). You must trust in God rather than wealth (Deuteronomy 8:18-19;

Psalms 49:6). You should refuse to co-sign debts for others (Proverbs 6:1-2) and get out of debt yourself (Romans 13:8; Proverbs 3:27-28). If you are withholding offerings and tithes, you must correct this omission (Proverbs 11:24; Malachi 3:1-12). If you are in positions where you receive offerings, you must not use them for personal gain or regard them lightly (I Samuel 2:29).

When you give to God, you must give your tithes and offerings:

- Willingly: Exodus 35:5; I Chronicles 29:9
- With A Perfect Heart: I Chronicles 29:9
- Freely: Matthew 6:38
- Secretly: Matthew 6:3
- Regularly: I Corinthians 16:2
- Cheerfully: II Corinthians 9:7
- With Simplicity: Romans 12:8
- According to Your ability
- According to Your Talents
- By Percentage Of your resources

It is only by correcting these Scriptural violations that you can overcome the attacks of Satan in the area of finances.

## **TRANSFERENCE OF SPIRITS**

**SCENARIO ONE:** Your youngest son was raised to be part of a closely-knit family with good communication. He respected your rules and you attended church together. Suddenly he does not want to be with the family or attend church. He becomes sullen, withdrawn, and rebellious. He defies your instructions and stays out late at night. You cannot understand the sudden change. You did not have this problem with your older son. You have given them both the same love and guidance. What caused this situation?

**SCENARIO TWO:** An assistant pastor, who was formerly a great spiritual blessing to the church, becomes discontent, critical, and refuses to submit to the leadership of the pastor. He gathers a group of people around him. They develop similar attitudes. The assistant pastor sows discord and splits the fellowship.

**SCENARIO THREE:** A young woman's mother died while she was holding her in her arms and the very next day the personality of the young woman changes completely. She changes so much that people cannot believe it is the same person.

### **WHAT IS THE PROBLEM?**

Examine the problem with the son and you will find the change came about after someone else came into his life who he respected and admired.

He began to associate closely with this person. He began to tell you what they thought or said and what their parents allowed, and he began to pattern himself after their style of behaviour and dress. This change in behaviour can also be picked up from watching certain television programs or playing certain computer games.

In the case of the associate pastor, you will find a similar situation. Because families in the church loved and respected him as a spiritual leader, they listened as he sowed the seeds of discord. His critical and rebellious spirit soon spread to others in the church. It can also be that God is using him to get the true believers away from a corrupt congregation.

The young women holding the dying mother is an example of what some would refer to as “reincarnation”. Human souls cannot reincarnate, but what happens is that the demonic spirit in the mother left the mother when she died, and it entered the young women. The demon reincarnated. It is also known as familiar spirits that are passed on from generation to generation.

These situations occurred because of a strategy of Satan called "transference of spirits." To "transfer" means to convey from one person to another. The word "spirit" in these examples can be refer to the "character, attitude, or motive behind an action, “But this “character and attitude comes from a

demonic source. We must remember that God gave each of His children a good spirit and God will not give any of His children a negative or bad spirit (unclean spirit). A person becomes bad or negative when the person has a demonic influence in his life that overpowers that person. This unclean spirit can then dominates the person's soul and the person's character change. It can also be a familiar spirit that is passed on from generation to generation. This normally happen when another family member pass away.

The actions of each person exhibit a certain "spirit." For example, a person can demonstrate, a gentle spirit, a boisterous spirit, or a rebellious spirit by his actions. A person's spirit can be influenced by the spiritual forces of good or evil and he can transfer his spirit to others on a personal or group basis. Demons are opportunistic. They will grab any and all opportunities to get into a person. In cases like this the demons even take on the name of the most dominant person in the group. For example the demon might have the pastors name. By doing this the demon remains undetected. The people in the group are convinced that they are all "soul mates" not knowing that are are actually "spirit mates". During some deliverance sessions demons manifest and the demons identify themselves and explain why they have the right to be there. In some cases the demon took on the name of the person where the demon originates from, from the

dominant person in the group.

### **IMPORTANCE OF THE SPIRIT**

Before you study some Biblical examples of transference of spirits, it is important to understand your own spirit and soul and why it is an important target of Satan's attack. God created humans each with a spirit, soul and a body. When God created Adam and Eve, God gave them each a clean spirit, the Holy Spirit to live in them. Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and to obey Satan and by doing so they opened the door for unclean spirits to enter them. From then on all humans are born in sin.

There are two schools of thought about our soul/spirit. Some say we have a spirit and some say we have a soul. It is the soul that gives life: *“For as the body without the soul is dead,”* (James 2:26). the soul is in our blood, without blood we are dead. The spirit or spirits that are in a person come from outside the person. It comes from God or from Belial and his demons.

The spirit that is in a person, constantly work in that person to try and change the soul of the person to be in-line with the spirit. Our soul is our mind, feelings and emotions. It is our soul that will eventually go to either heaven or hell.

At death, the spirit that God gave to His children returns to God: *“and the spirit shall return unto God*

*who gave it.*” (Ecclesiastes 12:7). The unclean spirits, who are not from God, will remain amongst the demons till the end of time, and it will try and find a new host – familiar spirits go the family members.

*As God children, God is the Lord of your spirit: “shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?”* (Hebrews 12:9)

God wants to put His Spirit (the Holy Spirit) within you, so you will be able to live for Him. Therefore, Satan attacks your spirit: *“And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgements, and do them.”* (Ezekiel 36:27). The fruit that we bear indicates which spirit is in us.

God wants to preserve your soul in holiness until the return of Jesus Christ: *“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit, and soul, and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ”.* (I Thessalonians 5:23).

One important reason Satan attacks the spirit of man is because it is the spirit in us that bears witness with the Holy Spirit and gives assurance of salvation: *“The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.”* (Romans 8:16). The Holy Spirit in us enable us to have fellowship with God the Holy Spirit.

Another reason is that God uses your spirit to guide your life. In the natural world a candle gives light so that one has guidance. This is the function of the Holy Spirit in the spiritual world: *“The spirit of man (Holy Spirit) is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly*” (Proverbs 20:27). God puts His light inside of us and by doing so He knows what we think and what our motives are.

Satan also attacks the soul because the soul can open a door for Satan to come in and once he is in he can manipulate the soul to reject the Holy Spirit because he knows it is a man of right spirit that God uses for His Kingdom: *“...but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembles at my word.”* (Isaiah 66:2).

Satan attacks us because God dwells with a man of right spirit. He also sends revival through and to a man of right spirit: *“I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.”* (Isaiah 57:15)

When Satan and his demons infiltrates the church and releases opposing spirits in a church fellowship, he can prevent revival. Satan combines his attacks on your soul with his attack on your tongue. As you previously learned, the tongue is set on fire by Satan to cause a separation between

our spirit and our soul that will allow an unclean spirit to enter. A breach is an open door, a hole that provides entrance for the enemy.

When Satan causes you to sin with your tongue, he has created a breach which provides access to your soul.

### **BIBLICAL TRANSFERENCE OF SPIRITS**

It is possible to receive "another spirit". Paul mentions transference of "another spirit": *"For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, **or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted...**"* (II Corinthians 11:4)

Biblical examples also support the concept of transference of spirits. An example of the transference of a good spirit is found in Numbers 11:16-17: *"And I will come down and talk with you : And I will take of the spirit which is upon you (the Holy Spirit), and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with you,"*(Numbers 11:16-17). The powerful anointing of God upon Moses was transferred from him to these selected elders. They came under the influence of Moses. Their spirits were in unity with and submission to his. The same can happen with evil spirits. The evil spirit in one person (leader of a group) can influence the entire group that is close to the leader. That is why it is so important for

people to make sure they are in the right environment and that they support Godly people.

### **TRANSFERENCE OF AN EVIL SPIRIT**

Satan is an imitator, not an originator. He uses the pattern established by God for transferring a good spirit to transfer wrong spirits between men.

This powerful strategy of transference of spirits accounts for many of the spiritual battles fought by believers today. It accounts for the abrupt changes from positive to negative behaviour which we witness in those around us. It explains why two children, raised in the same home, who receive the same Christian training, can turn out so differently. It is the reason behind divisions in homes, friendships, and church fellowships. When you maintain close association with or come under the influence of a person with a spirit more powerful than yours, you are open to the transference of that spirit to your own spirit. You are influenced by that spirit and it is transferred to you. That is why children and young adults are warned against the “wrong friends”, because they have the wrong spirit in them, and it can be transferred. Being in the wrong relationships for the wrong reason is also dangerous. Unclean spirits are transferred from one person to the next simply because they have a intimate relationship. Soul ties are open doors that allow evil to come in and control a person.

God has given spiritual counter strategies to

prevent the transference of an evil spirit:

**CONTROL YOUR THE DOORWAYS AND WALLS:**

Do not open doors that can allow unclean spirits to enter and control you and in succession you transfer unclean spirits to those around you.

(Proverbs 25:28)

**GUARD YOUR TONGUE:**

As you have learned, the tongue can be used to create a breach/open door and provide access to the enemy. Watch what you say!

**GUARD YOUR AFFECTIONS:**

Guard your affections. Do not give your respect and love to just everyone. You open yourself up emotionally to those you love and respect and this makes you receptive to their spirit. (Proverbs 4:23)

**CAREFULLY SELECT YOUR ASSOCIATES:**

The book of Proverbs warns repeatedly of the danger of association with those who have wrong spirits. For examples read Proverbs 1:10-19 and 2:11-22. We are warned: (Proverbs 22:24-25). If you walk with wise men their spirits will be transferred to you:(Proverbs 13:20) and the opposite applies as well.

Choose your close associates carefully. If you are a parent, carefully monitor the associates of your children. Parents should teach children from young how to not allow unclean spirits into their

lives. By the time a child has chosen a friend it is too late to try and stop it. The child will rebel because the unclean spirit has already entered the child. Prevention is the key word. It is very unfortunate that most parents do very little and in most cases nothing to teach their children how to be "spirit wise". The reason being that the parents themselves were never taught by anybody and the saddest of all is that the church does absolute nothing to help their members. They are too concerned about upsetting people and loosing members and finances.

### **GUARD YOUR PHYSICAL SENSES:**

You will remember from the study of the flesh that your physical senses are important. We have eye gates, ear gates and mouth gates as well as pride and lust that can create open doors. Protect your hearing from reports of gossip, accusations, slander, and criticism. They can cause you to develop a wrong spirit. Guard your eyes from violent and pornographic movies or reading materials which can transfer spirits of adultery, lust, and violence. Hear no evil, see no evil, speak no evil and rebuke any lust that wants to control you.

### **USE CAUTION IN LAYING ON OF HANDS:**

The "laying on of hands" is one of the foundations of the Christian faith spoken of by Paul in Hebrews 6:1-3. What is important to recognize here is that, as demonstrated in the story of Moses and the

seventy elders, a spirit can be transferred by the "laying on of hands." If a good spirit can be transferred by the laying on of hands, it is likely that an evil spirit can be also. Be careful about who you allow to "lay hands" on you for the purpose of spiritual impartation. *"Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins"* 1 Timothy 5:22. The flow of evil spirits works both ways. Someone can give it, or someone can receive it.

## HIGH PLACES

It seems to be inherent in human nature to think of God as dwelling somewhere in the heights. From earliest times men have chosen high places for worship, both true God or false gods and idols invented by man. In Old Testament times these high places became the scenes of evil orgies and human sacrifice connected with the worship of false gods.

God told Israel when they entered the Promised Land to drive out all the inhabitants of the land and destroy their high places: (Numbers 33:52)

In the book of Judges, we read of Israel's failure to drive the people out of the land. As a result, they fell into idolatrous worship in the high places. After the period of the judges, some of the good kings of Israel destroyed the high places. Others rebuilt them and worshipped false gods.

King Manasseh was one who rebuilt the high places. After he had been punished and repented for this sin, he was restored to his throne and resumed worship of the true God. The people still sacrificed in the high places, but "*only unto their God*" (II Chronicles 33).

When Gideon was called of God to be a mighty warrior, the Lord told him to destroy the altar and cut down the wooden image. Then Gideon was to build an altar to God. A burnt offering could be

made only after the high places were torn down. It was then that deliverance came!

God still calls today for the "spiritual wickedness in high places" to be torn down by the mighty warriors of God.

The same principle applies to each one of us. Our bodies are the Temple of God. We must destroy the idol worship in us, the spiritual adultery, remove the wooden and all other images from our minds, forgive all our debtors, cleanse ourselves by the blood of Jesus and only then can we bring sacrifices and praise and worship God in spirit and in truth.

### **SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES**

When Paul speaks of "spiritual wickedness in high places", he is referring to wicked spirits who have infiltrated the religious systems of the world. They have even crept into the congregations of the righteous. Satan has organized his evil forces to imitate the organization of the true church of God. In some cases, he actually has congregations known as "The Church of Satan" or "Spiritualists." He has set up a form of worship in the spiritual high places. Even organisations that call themselves "the church of Christ" are run in the back ground by Satanist. The majority of all churches have plunged into a quagmire where Satan keeps them captive. Congregations remain infants and they never mature as Christians, they

are never set free from evil bondage and they die having never reached the good soil where they can grow and bear fruit.

Satan has also prompted the organization of many cults. The word "occult" means to "hide or conceal a thing." Cults are those who are part of the occult, those who hide and conceal evil behind the cloak of religion.

But even more dangerous, Satan has set up his system right in the true church through evil people who have "crept in unaware" (Jude 4). Well known churches and denominations.

Through "spiritual wickedness in high places" Satan aims for the total allegiance of man. He uses false cults, his own church of Satan, and infiltration into the Body of Christ to accomplish this purpose. This is what the Bible teaches about Satan's religious organization:

### **SATAN HAS HIS OWN TRINITY**

You previously studied about the Trinity of God, the Father, the Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. Satan also has a trinity. It includes Satan himself, the beast and a false prophet. In the book of Revelation, John describes the final destiny of this unholy trio: *"And the Devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be*

*tormented day and night for ever and ever.”*  
(Revelation 20:10)

### **SATAN HAS HIS OWN CHURCH**

God established the true church which is known as the "Body of Christ" of which Jesus is the head: *“Now you are the Body of Christ, and members in particular.”* (I Corinthians 12:27). Satan has his own church which is called *“a synagogue of Satan”*: *“...I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Christians, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.”* (Revelation 2:9).

The name "synagogue of Satan" is not always openly used but his synagogue includes churches established anywhere, where the true Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is not preached. The true gospel includes all aspects of the true gospel, nothing less and nothing more.

### **SATAN HAS A DOCTRINE**

The Bible is filled with the true doctrines of God revealed by the Holy Spirit: *“All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine.”* (II Timothy 3:16). The doctrine of Satan is called the *“doctrine of demons”*: *“Now the Spirit speaks expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons.”* (I Timothy 4:1)

One category of demons is called *“seducing spirits.”* Their specific job is to seduce men into doctrinal

error. The "doctrine of demons" is any teaching presented as "truth" which does not agree with the written Word of God.

One such example is that of Pastors linked to Free Masonry up to ten generations. These Pastors preach the word and pray to god. (god is deliberately spelled with a lower case "g") because it is not the real God. They call Lucifer their god. They even call him "our father". Normal church going people will never realise that they are worshipping Lucifer. The evil spirit of these Pastors have dulled their minds. It is alarming that as much as 90% of church leaders, word wide, belong to secret organisations that are evil. This has been confirmed by a high ranking Freemason from Germany.

### **SATAN HAS A SYSTEM OF SACRIFICE**

In Romans 12:1, we are told to present ourselves to God as a living sacrifice. This means we are to surrender in total allegiance to God. Satan demands sacrifices also: *"But I say, that the things which the Gentiles (non-Christians) sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils."*(I Corinthians 10:20). Most so called Christian music is evil. Our sacrifices are "praise and thanks giving" and we are to worship God in spirit and in truth. How many churches do that? Are there any churches that worship God in spirit and in truth? How many churches preach the true gospel? How

many churches allow the Holy Spirit free reign in the church? How many churches bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

Satan demands total allegiance of body, soul, and spirit. There are services of sacrifice carried out where men and women dedicate themselves to the service of Satan. The blood sacrifice of humans and animals is also practiced.

### **SATAN HAS HIS OWN COMMUNION SERVICE**

The sharing of the communion bread and wine was started by Jesus as a way of remembering His sacrifice for the sins of all mankind on the cross (I Corinthians 11:23-34). Satan counterfeits this by his own communion: *“You cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils; you cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.”* (I Corinthians 10:20).

### **SATAN HAS MINISTERS**

God has called some believers to serve as pastors and minister to His church and proclaim the Gospel (I Corinthians 12:28). Satan also has ministers: *“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”* (II Corinthians 11:14-15)

### **SATAN'S GOSPEL**

The "gospel" of Satan is contrary to the Gospel of

the Lord Jesus Christ. As with the Free Masons and Jehovah witnesses, churches worshipping the devil have their own book similar to the Bible where the Bible has been adopted/changed to suit their needs. When they refer to god, they mean Lucifer. They confuse people by showing them pictures of a man, which they call “Jesus” and these people then worship this person in the picture. This is Idolatry. Idolatry is devil worship.

### **SATAN HAS HIS THRONE**

God has a throne in Heaven. Satan also has a throne, although we are not told its exact location: *“And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon (Satan)gave him his power, and HIS SEAT, and great authority.”* (Revelation 13:2)

### **SATAN HAS WORSHIPPERS**

There are many who worship the true God. Satan also has worshippers: *“...and they worshipped the beast, saying, who is like unto the beast?”* (Revelation 13:4). Those that attend the Satanic churches as well as those who attend false churches worship Satan every week.

Some worshippers of Satan pretend to be followers of Jesus: *“The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest the end of the world;*

*and the reapers are the angels.”* (Matthew 13:38-39). This passage describes the seed that fell in the good soil. Satan plants his seed in the good soil as well and it is only by the fruit that they bear that we can see the difference. Any fruit that is not the fruit of the Holy Spirit is the fruit of Satan. Any church that does not bear the fruit of the Holy Spirit is not God’s church. Jesus said’ “I will build my church in the fear of God and the comfort of the Holy Spirit.”

Satan mixes the bad "seed" in with the good "seed" (believers). The sad part is that many people are misled to believe they worship God while they actually worshipping Satan.

### **SATAN HAS PROPHETS**

God has set in the Church prophets, men who are especially anointed to bring a direct message from Him to the Church (I Corinthians 12:28). Satan has false prophets who deliver false messages: *“And many false prophets shall rise and shall deceive many.”* (Matthew 24:11). Sad to say that church going people prophesy falsely for their own gain or because they are children of Satan.

### **SATAN HAS TEACHERS**

God has anointed some people as teachers to share and explain His Word to others (I Corinthians 12:28). But all teachers are not from God. Satan has false teachers to spread his evil doctrine: *“But there were false prophets also among*

*the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you.” (II Peter 2:1-3).*

Satan's teachers bring in "damnable heresies," teachings which are false. They speak lies and are experts at mixing truth and error in a way that makes error acceptable. Many such false teachings have resulted in the growth of cults. A cult is any system of religion or worship that is not in complete harmony with the written Word of God. It is a "damnable heresy."

The names, doctrines, and organization of cults vary from nation to nation. There are so many cults that it is not possible to mention them all. But remember, any religious system not in harmony with God's Word is a cult.

### **SATAN HAS APOSTLES**

An apostle is a person who spreads the Gospel and establishes churches (I Corinthians 12:28). Satan also has apostles doing his work throughout the world. They deceive people by imitating the true apostles: *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.”* (II Corinthians 11:13). Satan's apostles become leaders of false cults and infiltrate churches in leadership capacities.

### **SATAN IMITATES JESUS**

Satan has even imitated the Lord Jesus Christ by raising up false Christs. Jesus warned: *“. Take*

*heed, that no man deceives you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many.”* (Matthew 24:4-5). Any Christ that is taught, that is not in all aspects the Christ as given to us in the Bible, is a false Christ. This includes pictures and drawings and paintings of a man depicting Christ – it is a false Christ.

### **SATAN HAS A SYSTEM OF COMMUNICATION**

The Bible is a record of how God spoke to man. God continues to speak to men today.

Satan also speaks to man. His first words to humans resulted in their fall into sin in the Garden of Eden (Genesis chapter 3).

Believers pray to God regarding their needs and God responds to the prayer of the righteous (James 5:16). Satan's followers pray to him and communicate with evil spirits. Sometimes Satan responds with supernatural events such as voices, the moving of objects, noises, etc.

God has communicated to man through His written Word, the Bible. Satan's message is also being communicated through the written word and by evil magazines, books, motion pictures, and music. God's communication through His written and spoken Word provides guidance For man in the affairs of life. Satan has a system of false guidance accomplished through methods such as the following:

**Astrology and horoscope:** Which use stars to predict events and give guidance.

**Reading** of tea leaves, cards, pictures, bumps on the head, palms of the hand and crystal balls: The formation of the tea leaves, cards, lines in the human hand, crystal balls, and pictures are claimed to give guidance.

**Witchcraft:** Using spells, potions, charms, magic, rituals, séances, divinations, methods of chance, divining rods, visions, drawings, and similar unscriptural methods to receive guidance.

### **SATAN HAS SUPERNATURAL POWER**

Jesus promised supernatural power to His followers after they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

Satan also gives super-natural power and authority (Revelation 13:2). His demons can provide supernatural strength and energy. Satan can perform many supernatural signs and miracles: *“For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles...”* (Revelation 16:14). Jesus said: *“Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, you that work iniquity.”* (Matthew 7:22-23)

All sickness comes from Satan. If Satan make someone sick he can also remove the sickness and the person will be healed. So many people has been mislead by this where they think the healing came from God while it was just a trick of Satan to get people to believe in a false prophet or false teacher. So many people in churches and in the occult are victims of this evil device.

These are just a few examples that proof that some, so called “churches” are misleading people and they worship demons and devils thinking that they are worshipping God.

We must work out our own salvation in fear and trembling and make sure we are not being mislead by evil.

### **WAR AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS**

Here are specific counter strategies for overcoming spiritual wickedness in high places.

### **RECOGNIZE SATAN IS AN IMITATOR**

Satan is an imitator. “Imitation” means to copy or counterfeit something. The first step in overcoming wickedness in high places is to recognize that Satan imitates every part of God's religious structure. Be on the lookout for imitations! Check the fruit of the Spirit.

## **USE DISCERNMENT**

There is a special gift of the Holy Spirit called "discerning of spirits." It is an unusual ability given by God to discern another person's spirit and know if they are good or evil. If you have this spiritual gift, use it in dealing with spiritual wickedness in high places.

If you do not have this gift, God has provided other methods of detection. In II Peter 2 and the book of Jude He has listed the characteristics of these men with seducing spirits. All believers are encouraged to "test the spirits" (I John 4:1) If you test the spirits it does not mean you are operating in unbelief. If the spirits are of God, they will pass the test!

There are also books available that can help such as "The Screwtape Files" by C S Lewis. The Bible says that we must know enough about Satan and the way he operates for us to recognise him so that we will not perish due to lack of knowledge.

We must also take each and every thought into captivity and discern whether it is from God or from Satan or just our own thoughts. Very few people are aware that most of their thoughts are planted by Satan. Most unpure, evil, and negative thoughts comes from Satan.

## **STUDY THE WORD OF GOD**

In order to recognize the false doctrines of Satan's

teachers, apostles, prophets, and ministers, you must know what is taught in the Word of God. (II Timothy 2:15). Even though Paul was a great spiritual leader in the early Church, the believers at the city of Berea checked everything he said by God's written Word:(Acts 17:11). Nobody is infallible and arrogance can cause a person to make mistakes.

To avoid being deceived by spiritual wickedness in high places, examine everything that is taught considering God's Word.

### **CAREFULLY STUDY THE BEHAVIOUR AND HABITS OF THE PASTOR**

The first step is to ensure that you know the Pastor/Minister very well. His history. His family history. What does he do when he is at home? What does he do when he is alone? His hobbies, his likes and dislikes.

Free Mason influence is very difficult to identify. They hide it very well. People under estimate the intelligence of the devil. Many people, especially church going people are very gullible. They believe anything the Pastor/Minister says. They are the proverbial sheep being led astray to be slaughtered. Their minds are controlled by evil.

There are certain behaviours that can be linked to demonic presence. Avoiding conflict. Some Pastors will avoid any situation that might result in

conflict. They do that because they themselves cannot control their temper. The devil will try to not be exposed. The devil does not want people to know that he is at work in a person. Refusing to discuss certain subjects, especially issues relating to demonic activities. The devil and demons hate being criticized. If you criticise a demonic activity in a person, the demon will immediately react and that will expose the demon.

In many cases, where people get very angry and out of control, it is in fact the demon that takes control of that person. You are arguing with the demon and not with the person. Remember, several demons spoke to Jesus. Jesus could recognise when it was the demon that spoke to Him and not the person. It is not that easy for us, because we cannot see into the spirit world. However, discernment can help us.

### **REJECT ANYTHING NOT IN THE BIBLE**

Satan establishes much spiritual wickedness in high places through so-called "special revelation of new truth." People will claim special dreams, appearances by angels, visions, voices, or other supernatural events. But Paul warned: *"...but there be some that trouble you and would pervert the Gospel of Christ. But though we or an angel from Heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed."* (Galatians 1:7-8).

Reject any teaching, doctrine, manifestation, or revelation that is not in harmony with God's Word. Do not accept any so-called prophecy that is not in right relation to the faith (Romans 12:6) and which does not come to pass (Deuteronomy 18:22).

Many so called "prophets" are not prophets, they have the spirit of divination (a demon) in them.

Do not accept any revelation that leads you away from God and the truth of His Word (Deuteronomy 13:1-5) :(Proverbs 21:16)

### **EVALUATE THE SPIRITUAL FRUIT**

Because Satan imitates the power of God through supernatural manifestations of miracles, signs, and wonders, God has provided a special method of evaluating ministries. You are to evaluate the supernatural based on spiritual fruit. Modern day Sorcerers (Magicians and Enchanters) can also perform signs and even miracles. Levitation is a clear sign of demonic power.

Jesus compared men to fruit trees. He said you would know both the real and the imitators by their spiritual fruit: *"A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them."* (Matthew 7:18, 20).

Satan can imitate spiritual gifts and God's power, but he has no imitation for a holy life exhibiting

the fruit of the Holy Spirit which includes true. *“...love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance; against such there is no law”.* (Galatians 5:22-23)

Evaluate ministries by spiritual fruit, not by supernatural manifestations of power.

### **AVOID SATANIC INFLUENCES**

God warned Israel to avoid every type of Satanic influence: *“...destroy all their pictures, and destroy all their molten images, and pluck down all their high places.”* (Numbers 33:52).

In Deuteronomy 18:9-14. Israel was to have no contact with the work of Satan in any form. You should destroy anything you own that has to do with witchcraft or the work of the devil. This would include idols, "lucky charms", potions, amulets, crystal balls, games, divining devices, and other similar items including pictures of "Jesus". No one knows what Jesus looked like. The men (there are many different pictures) in these pictures are not Jesus. Using these pictures can lead to idolatry. This is what people did in the New Testament when they became believers: *“Many of them also which used curious arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men”* (Acts 19:19).

Destroy any evil literature and music that does not glorify God. Do not spend time in places where

there is evil influence. The Bible records that God manifested Himself in special places such as the Old Testament temple and the upper room of a house on the Day of Pentecost.

It is equally true that Satanic power can be manifested in special places dedicated to evil. This would include places where evil pictures are shown, drinking and riotous behaviour is occurring, séances are being held, worship of Satan is occurring.... anywhere sinful practices are going on.

Avoid such environments, because Satan's power is especially strong there. You cannot pray the Lord's prayer, "*Lead us not into temptation*" and then put yourself in such a place. Paul warns us: "*...and do not have fellowship with devils.*" (I Corinthians 10:20)

Do not associate with false leaders, teachers, prophets, ministers or apostles: "*Abstain from all appearance of evil.*" (I Thessalonians 5:22).

A wise man once said: "if in doubt, get out." It means that we must rather avoid anything that might be wrong. Why take a chance.

### **EXPOSE THE WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES**

Believers must not ignore this spiritual wickedness in high places. Pastors must preach the whole counsel of God in face of deception (II Timothy 4:1-

4). False Preachers and teachings of the occult and doctrines of demons must be identified. Believers are not to participate in the "*unfruitful works of darkness*" but rather should expose them (Ephesians 5:11).

## **THE POWER OF GOD**

### **EXERCISE THE MINISTRY OF DELIVERANCE**

God's organization, the true Church, is more powerful than that of Satan. You learned that Jesus is the head of the church, and that believers are the body.

If all things (including Satan and his religious structure) are under the feet of Jesus, then they are also under our feet because we are the body. "Under the feet" means they are under the power and authority which God has delegated to us. Jesus said He has given us power over "*all the power of the enemy*" (Luke 10:19). This includes spiritual wickedness in high places.

The church is to demonstrate His power to these principalities and powers! We must exercise the ministry of deliverance to those in bondage to "*spiritual wickedness in high places.*" We must turn men from darkness to light and from the power of Satan to the Kingdom of God (Acts 26:18).

### **JESUS AND DEMONS**

The teaching and ministry of Jesus demonstrated that demonic spirits are a real force of evil. What Jesus taught about demons and how He dealt with them yields valuable information about the strategies of Satan.

Jesus accepted the fact that Satan is the ruler of a

host of demons. He taught of the reality and power of demons. He said that the casting out of demonic powers was one of the signs that the Kingdom of God had come. Read Matthew 12:22-30, Mark 3:22-27, and Luke 11:14-23

A large portion of the ministry of Jesus involved dealing with demons. It is the example of Jesus and the authority of His name that provides the Scriptural basis for dealing with demonic powers. Jesus ministered to "all" who came with demonic problems. Peter said of Jesus: "... *God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power: who went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed of the devil.*" (Acts 10:38)

### **HOW DEMONS OPERATE**

As you have learned, demons are used by Satan to oppose God, His plan and purposes, and His people. They also war against unbelievers to keep them from the truth of the Gospel. Demons control specific territories (principalities) such as the prince of Persia mentioned in Daniel 10:12-13. Demons also work through personalities, through men and women, to accomplish Satanic objectives in the world.

Opposition to God's will is Satan's main objective. The word "Satan" means "adversary." Satan is primarily God's adversary (Job 1:6; Matthew 13). He is secondarily, man's adversary (Zechariah 3:1;

I Peter 5:8).

As you learned, demons have different natures. Remember that one demon identified himself in I Kings 22:23 as a "lying spirit." A "deaf and dumb" spirit is identified in Mark 9:25. Demons of various natures operate as spirits of infirmity, seducing spirits, and unclean spirits. Satan uses them to war against man in body, soul, and spirit.

### **SPIRITS OF INFIRMITY**

These are spirits that can afflict the bodies of believers as well as unbelievers. Read Luke 13:10-17. This woman was afflicted with a spirit of infirmity. She was present in the Sabbath services and Jesus called her "*a daughter of Abraham.*" Both facts indicate she probably was a follower of God, yet her body had been afflicted by Satan for eighteen years.

### **SEDUCING SPIRITS**

These spirits afflict the spirit of man, seducing him to believe doctrinal lies and be condemned to eternal punishment. They are the spirits of false doctrine, cults, false Christs, and false teachers: "*giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of demons*". (I Timothy 4:1) "*These seducing spirits are deceptive. They actually work miracles which led some to believe they are of God: For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God*

*Almighty.*" (Revelation 16:14)

Seducing spirits include the "spirit of divination" mentioned in Acts: "*And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying.*" (Acts 16:16). Such spirits of divination or "familiar spirits" operate in fortune tellers, witches, and palm, crystal ball, and tea leaf readers. Through unscriptural methods the spirits of divination foretell the future or discover knowledge which is naturally unknown. Warnings against familiar spirits are given in Leviticus 19:31; 20:6; Deuteronomy 5:9; 18:10; Leviticus 20:27; and I Samuel 28:3. these spirits do not know the future, they simply tell people what they as demons have planned for the person and the demons then make sure that it happens. The fact that the person went to them opened a door allowing the demons to control the persons life. Demons can predict future accidents and illnesses and then make them happen.

Seducing spirits sear the conscience, seduce, entice, tempt, allure, interest, fascinate, excite, arouse, attract, and deceive. Seducing spirits are active in causing "spiritual wickedness in high places." They are present and operative in every cult and wherever doctrinal error exists.

Remember that Satan craves worship and he will

take it any way he can get it. Seducing spirits entice men and women to worship idols and even Satan himself. Doing whatever Satan or his demons want is worshipping Satan.

### **UNCLEAN SPIRITS**

These demonic powers afflict the soulish nature of man. They are responsible for immoral acts, unclean thoughts, temptations and other strategies of Satan used to bind men and women. When Satan controls individuals with unclean spirits, he can also operate in homes, churches, and entire nations as these groups are composed of individuals. This is how Satan works in the various levels of structure in society. (Matthew 10:1; 12:43; and Mark 1:23-26.)

### **OPPRESSION, OBSESSION, POSSESSION**

Evil spirits can oppress people. To oppress means to bear down, come against, or bind from the outside. This oppression is accomplished by evil spirits in various ways. They cause depression, create negative circumstances, and insert wrong thoughts into the mind such as thoughts of suicide, immorality, unbelief, fear, etc. Demons create Satanic circumstances and situations which tempt men to sin: “...and healing all that were *OPPRESSED of the Devil; for God was with Him.*” (Acts 10:38)

Demons can also possess human beings. Demon possession is a condition in which one or more evil

spirits (demons) inhabit the body of a human being and take complete control of their victim at will. Some people prefer using the word "demonised" rather than possession, but regardless of the term, the possessed person is host to resident demons.

"Possession" does not mean a person is not responsible for his own sin. His responsibility rests with the factors that led to his condition.

Possession can happen willingly. A person may desire to be taken over by spirit powers in order to conduct séances, pronounce curses, become a witch, or secure some other supernatural power.

Possession can also occur unwillingly. An individual does not ask to be possessed, but through sinful thoughts, actions, or contact with the occult possession results.

Demonic powers operating in parents and the sins of the parents can affect the next generation. (Exodus 20:5; 34:7; and Deuteronomy 5:9.) This accounts for demon possession or oppression of children such as recorded in Mark 7:24-30 and 9:17-21.

There is also such a thing as demon obsession. This is a condition where one becomes obsessed by an interest in or preoccupation with demons. It is an unusual interest in the occult, demons, and Satan which controls interests and pursuits in a dictating manner. Such obsession with demon

powers can lead to possession by them.

## HOW DEMONS GAIN CONTROL

Demons gain control in several ways:

**1. Through generations:** Demons may oppress or possess a person because of previous possession or oppression of the parents. This accounts for demonic influence over children (Exodus 20:5; 34:7; Deuteronomy 5:9). Familiar spirits can also be transferred because of ancestral involvement in freemasonry, witchcraft and other satanic practices.

**2. Through the mind:** The mind is one of the major battlefields of Satan. If Satan can control your thoughts, he will eventually control your actions. Lack of mental control eventually results in lack of use of the will. This leads to sinful actions. Continuing in sinful thoughts and actions can lead from oppression to possession and finally to a perverted mind such as is described in Romans 1. This is a mind totally controlled by evil thoughts.

Demons also gain access through mind-altering drugs which reduce the ability to resist demons and grant increasing access. "Brain washing" or "mind control" teaching also provides an entrance point.

**3. Through sinful actions:** Sinful thoughts are soon fulfilled by sinful actions. For example, the thought of adultery is fulfilled in the actual act of

adultery. Sin is rebellion, and rebellious thoughts and actions provides an entry point for demonic activity.

When a believer continues in sinful thoughts or actions, they "give place" to the Devil (Ephesians 4:27). More spiritual room is given for the operation of the enemy. Sins of involvement with the occult, including objects, literature, séances, etc., are actions which are especially dangerous and attract demonic powers.

An unbeliever who lives in sin is open not only to oppression of demonic powers, but also possession. As you have learned, there is no neutral ground in spiritual warfare. You are either on the side of good or on the side of evil. You belong either to God or Satan. If you belong to Satan and have not experienced the new birth in Jesus Christ, then you are his to use, oppress, or possess as he wills.

**4. Through desire:** Some people desire and request of Satan to be under the control of demonic powers. They do this for purposes of having supernatural power or performing supernatural acts.

**5. Through an empty "house":** Demons consider the body of the person they inhabit as their house (Matthew 12:44). When a person who has been delivered from demonic powers does not fill his

spiritual house with the new birth experience and the infilling of the Holy Spirit, re-entry may occur. Astral travel can also result in an empty house.

**6. Through permission:** Sometimes God grants permission for activities of demonic powers to accomplish special purposes. This can be allowed as a trial of believers as in the case of Job. It can also be judgement for sin as in the case of King Saul.

**7. Hypnosis:** It is very dangerous to allow someone else to hypnotise you. Spiritual churches and Occult practitioners can use hypnotism to allow demons entry into people. They also wrongfully convince people that they had lived previous lives and that they have reincarnated. Only the demons can “reincarnate” by moving from person to person. The human spirit cannot reincarnate.

## **WHO IS TO DEAL WITH DEMONIC POWERS?**

Dealing with demonic powers is not something to be left to church ministers only. Jesus said all believers would have the ability to overcome demonic powers: *‘And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils...’* (Mark 16:17)

Jesus has given His followers the ability to deal with demonic powers. He first delegated such power to the disciples:(Matthew 10:1). He delegated this same power to all believers: *“And these signs shall follow them that believe: In my name shall they cast out devils...”* (Mark 16:17) *“Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely you have received, freely give.”* (Matthew 10:8)

There is no Biblical basis for believing God intended this important ministry to be restricted to a particular group of people. A layman named Philip was used by God to cast out evil spirits in Samaria (Acts 8). But this does not mean believers should rush into encounters with demonic powers without proper preparation (Acts 19).

It is also important that believers do not become overly demon conscious. We are not called to major in demons. There is no spiritual gift of "casting out demons." But you are not to fear demonic powers. When confronted with those affected by demons, you do have the power to bring deliverance from

God.

Self-deliverance is also possible as long as you know what you do. Stay away from self-deliverance unless you first find out exactly what to do. Do not perish because of lack of knowledge. Irresponsible deliverance can result in a person being worse off than what he was. The Bible is clear. If a demon leaves a person, he will come back to see if his house is empty (no Holy Spirit in the person) and if he finds it empty, he will go and get seven other demons and come back to live there with him. The person will be worse off.

### **DETECTING DEMONIC PRESENCE**

To overcome demonic powers, it is important to be able to recognize their presence and tactics. The Holy Spirit has provided a special spiritual gift for this purpose. This gift is called "discerning of spirits" (I Corinthians 12:10).

To discern means "to discover, evaluate, and make a distinction between." The gift of discerning of spirits enables a believer to discern the spirits operating in others. It permits him to discover, evaluate, and identify evil spirits.

The gift of discerning of spirits is very important when dealing with demonic powers. It enables you to immediately discern whether or not a person has an evil spirit operating through or against him. It prevents deception by seducing or lying spirits.

One with this gift can recognize the evil tactics and motives of demonic powers.

For example, some deafness and dumbness (according to the Biblical record) is caused by a spirit. Other deafness and dumbness might be the result of an accident or illness.

Discernment would enable you to determine the cause behind the condition which would enable specific ministry. Discernment itself can become a ministry if the person doing the discernment is so gifted that the evil spirit actually manifests in the person doing the discernment. You must however be careful to not become a medium for the evil spirits.

Not all believers have this special spiritual gift of discerning of spirits. If you do not have this gift, then be on the lookout for signs of demonic presence which can be observed. This includes abnormal or strange behaviour. By their fruit you will know them. The challenge is to spot the fake trees.

Fake trees are trees where the fruit is different from the stem of the tree. Lemon tree stems can bare oranges if you implant oranges onto the Lemon tree stem. The devil is an expert planter. You might see nice oranges on the branches but the stem is pure evil.

When the Syrophenician woman came to Jesus

with an appeal that He cast out an unclean spirit from her daughter, she said "*My daughter is grievously vexed with a devil*" (Matthew 15:22).

How did she know this? She knew it by the symptoms. Detection is simply observing what demonic spirits do to a person.

Here are some symptoms of demonic activity:

**Demonic obsession** is recognized by an uncontrollable and unusual preoccupation with demons, Satan, or the occult. Such a person may dabble in occult practices, constantly credit everything to Satan or demons, or be preoccupied with the study of demons and Satan.

**Demonic oppression** can be recognized by the following signs:

A physical binding: The "daughter of Abraham" who Jesus relieved of a spirit of infirmity was bound physically. See Luke 13:10-17. Chronic sickness may be demonic oppression. All illness is not caused by demonic powers. Some illness is caused by a violation of natural laws, such as not eating properly or drinking bad water. Some illness is also chastisement. One King in the Bible who did not give glory to God was stricken with intestinal worms and died!

A mental oppression: Disturbances in the mind or thought life such as mental torment, confusion, doubt, loss of memory, etc. Restlessness, inability

to reason or listen to others, abnormal talkativeness or reserve may be exhibited. All mental problems are not caused by Satan.

Discouragement, depression, and disorientation can be caused by allergies to certain foods or a wrong chemical imbalance in the brain. God can heal mental problems and illnesses not caused by demonic powers as well as bring deliverance in cases caused by demons. But caution should be taken not to class all illness or mental problems as being caused by demonic spirits. Sometimes a simple change in diet or lifestyle will eliminate a problem if it is caused by physical causes.

Emotional problems: Disturbances in the emotions which persist or recur, including resentment, hatred, anger, fear, rejection, self-pity, jealousy, depression, worry, insecurity, inferiority, etc.

Spiritual problems: Extreme difficulties in overcoming sin, including sinful habits. Rejection of spiritual solutions to problems. Any type of doctrinal error or deception, including bondage to objects and literature of the cults.

Circumstances: Demons can create difficult circumstances which are oppressive. Such circumstances usually involve confusion and can immediately be identified as demonic because God is not the author of confusion (I Corinthians 14:33; James 3:16).

Some asthmatic attacks and epileptic seizures may be as a result of demonic oppression.

**Demonic possession** can be recognized by the following signs:

Indwelling of an unclean spirit: This is demonstrated by a basic moral uncleanness and filthiness. It might include the desire to go without clothing. For examples see Mark 5:2 and Luke 8:27.

Unusual physical strength: A person shows strength beyond normal capabilities. For examples see Mark 5:3 and Luke 8:29.

Fits of rage: These fits may be accompanied by foaming at the mouth. See Mark 9:14-29 and Luke 8:26-39.

Resistance to spiritual things: In the accounts in Mark 6:7 and 1:21-28, the demons knew Jesus immediately and asked Him to leave them alone.

Fear of the name of Jesus, prayer, and the Word and blasphemy of that which is spiritual are all symptoms of demon possession. Excessive blasphemy may be noted or contorted physical features and abrupt behaviour changes when spiritual things are mentioned.

Changes in personality and/or voice: A person who is normally shy may become aggressive or violent. Actions as well as appearance may be affected. Moral character and intelligence may change. See Mark 5:9.

Accompanying physical afflictions: In cases of demon possession, these appear most commonly to be afflictions of the mental and nervous system. (See Matthew 9:33; 12:22; Mark 5:4-5). They can also include a general "pining" or wasting away physically. (See Mark 9:14-29).

Self-inflicted physical injury: In Matthew 17:14-21 there is the story of a man's son who would cast himself in the fire. In Luke 8:26-39 this demon possessed man cut himself with stones to inflict physical injury.

Terrible anguish: Luke 8:28 relates that this man went about crying because of the terrible inner torments caused by his possession.

Incapacity for normal living: This man could not live in society but lived in the tombs of the cemetery. See Luke 8:27.

Through unscriptural methods, the ability to foretell the future or discover that which is unknown: The woman in Acts 16:16 is said to be "possessed" by a spirit of divination.

The following also may indicate demonic

oppression, possession, or obsession:

Obsessive immorality such as involvement with pornography, adultery, fornication, masturbation, homosexuality, and other sex sins.

Strong compulsions toward eating disorders, suicide, self-mutilation, maiming, and murder.

Addiction to drugs or alcohol.

Trances, visions, and meditation which are not focused on or from the one true God.

Bondage to emotions such as fear, anxiety, depression, hatred, rage, jealousy, back biting, envy, pride, bitterness, negativism, and criticism.

### **STRATEGIES: FOR DEALING WITH DEMONS**

If you identify or suspect any demonic activities, consult someone that has adequate knowledge to be able to help you. Most Pastors and church ministers do not have experience or knowledge in dealing with demons. Do not accept an answer or explanation that you feel is incorrect or is not in line with the Bible. Do not allow people to convince you that you are confused or that there is no such thing as demons. Search until you find someone that can help you.

## **SIGNS OF DELIVERANCE**

In cases of demonic possession, sometimes the demons come out with a struggle, such as crying out or throwing the person on the floor. When demons have departed (whether in possession or oppression), there will be a sense of release, joy, like the lifting of a weight.

## **PROTECTION FROM DEMONIC POWERS**

There are specific ways to protect yourself from the activities of demonic powers. The most important protection is to receive Jesus Christ as Saviour because demons cannot possess a true born-again believer. Keep yourself from sin, for through sin you "open doors to the Devil." You provide opportunity for him to use demonic activities of oppression against you.

Be filled with the Holy Spirit. If you are filled with the Holy Spirit and has no open door then demons cannot come in unless God allows Satan to torment you for a reason – Job. In the book of Revelation we are warned that we will be put in prison by Satan for a while to be tested.

Avoid an obsessive interest in demons. It is not wrong to study what God's Word says about them, or books such as this one which are based on God's Word. But do not read secular books, attend séances, etc., to learn more about demons. Avoid any contact with the occult. Do not consult witches, shaman, astrologers, horoscopes, card,

palm, or tea leaf readers. Do not serve false gods or allow idols to come into your home: *“The graven images of their gods you shall burn with fire; you shall not desire the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourself, lest you be ensnared by it; for IT IS AN ABOMINATION TO THE LORD YOUR GOD. Neither shall you bring an abomination (an idol) into your house, lest you become an accursed thing like it; but you shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.”* (Deuteronomy 7:25-26)

It is important to control your mind, your tongue, and select your associates carefully. It is also important to gain victory over the world and the flesh.

You must also wage both defensive and offensive warfare against demonic powers. Use the weapons and strategies you have learned about.

## **THE SOURCE OF SUFFERING**

God did not create suffering. It originally entered the world through the sin of man which was instigated by Satan (Genesis 3). When man yielded to Satan's temptation and sinned, suffering entered the world. Therefore, sin which resulted in all suffering can be traced to its originator, Satan. Although there are different reasons why suffering enters your life, all suffering can be traced back to this original source. But happily, in the life of a Christian soldier, God can take suffering, which Satan intends for evil, and turn it for good to accomplish His purposes. He can make a victim become a victor. We are quick to pray for suffering to end we must also pray that God will reveal to us why we are suffering.

## **THE REASONS FOR SUFFERING**

The Bible has much to say concerning suffering, problems, and afflictions. In summarizing its teaching, we discover five ways that suffering can come into the life of a believer. Suffering can be an attack because of an open door or God can allow suffering to get the person's attention. We should always seek to reason behind the suffering. Some people suffer many years because they never found the reason for their suffering. If no reason can be found, it can be that God is using the suffering to further His kingdom and the person must accept it and rejoice knowing that God has a reason.

All suffering you face in life will come through one

of these ways:

### **OTHERS AROUND YOU**

Suffering and difficult circumstances of life may come through others around you. Joseph is an example of this type of suffering. Through no fault of his own, Joseph was sold into Egypt by his brothers, was imprisoned falsely by Potiphar's wife, and was forgotten by those he helped in prison.

One-way suffering comes to the Christian soldier from others around him is by what the Bible calls an "evil report" or gossip. Much suffering comes because of what you say about others, and what they say about you. The tongue is the most powerful of weapons, and can create many casualties of war by the words it speaks.

### **CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE**

The second way suffering comes to you is through the circumstances of life. This is illustrated by the experiences of Naomi recorded in the book of Ruth in the Bible. She was bitter with sorrow because of the death of her husband and sons.

When Naomi experienced these difficult circumstances of life, she said, "No longer call me Naomi (which means blessed) but call me Mara." The name Mara means "bitter." Naomi was facing bitter waters. Like Naomi we are very quick to also become bitter forgetting the bigger picture. We must always keep God's bigger picture in mind

and not allow things to make us bitter.

### **YOUR MINISTRY**

The third reason for suffering is because of your ministry for the Lord. The New Testament speaks of suffering for His name's sake (Acts 9:16), in behalf of Christ, (Philippians 1:29) for the Kingdom of God (II Thessalonians 1:5), for the Gospel (II Timothy 1:11-12), for well-doing (I Peter 2:19-20; 3:17), for righteousness sake (I Peter 3:14), as a Christian (I Peter 4:15-16), and according to the will of God ( I Peter 4:19).

The Apostle Paul is an example of suffering resulting from ministry. Some people view suffering as a sign of failure or lack of faith. If this is true, then the Apostle Paul had no faith and was the greatest failure in the history of the church. Paul said that while in Asia he was so utterly crushed that he despaired of life itself (II Corinthians 1:8). He presents a different image than that of the cheerful evangelist who promises believers nothing but peace and prosperity.

When Paul was first called of God to ministry he was told of "great things" he would suffer for the sake of the Lord (Acts 9:16). Paul's response to suffering was to endure "*the loss of all things to win some for Christ.*" He wrote to believers "*to you it is given not only to believe, but to suffer for Him*" (Philippians 1:29).

Paul was not alone in suffering for the ministry. The whole church suffered in New Testament times (Acts 8). Hebrews chapter 11 records the stories some of the cruel persecutions they endured. Many of these men and women of faith were delivered by the power of God. Prison doors were opened, and they walked out. They were sentenced to death in fiery furnaces but emerged unaffected by the flames.

But some of these believers, who are also called men and women "of faith," did not receive such deliverances. They were imprisoned, afflicted, tormented, and even martyred because of their testimony of the Gospel (Hebrews 11:36-40). We focus on living faith, but God also reveals His power in dying faith. This is a faith that stands true in the bad times, not just in good times when mighty deliverances are manifested.

### **DIRECT SATANIC ACTIVITY**

Suffering can also enter your life as a result of direct Satanic activity. This is evident in the story of Job. This book wrestles with the question, "Why do the righteous suffer?" "God's testimony of Job was that he was a righteous man (Job 1-2). Job did not suffer because he had sinned, as his friends claimed. They believed if Job repented, his circumstances would change. These friends tried to make a universal application based on individual experience. It would be similar to saying that because God delivered Peter from prison, He

will do the same for you. This is not true. Many have been martyred in prison despite their great faith and sinless lives.

We must be careful when we view the suffering of others that we do not accuse them of sin, faithlessness, or unbelief.

Job did not suffer because of anything he had done. Job was a righteous man. This was God's testimony of Job, Job's testimony of himself, and his reputation before man. Behind the scenes in the spiritual world was the true cause of Job's suffering. There was a spiritual battle going on over the heart, mind, and allegiance of Job.

There is a warfare going on in the spiritual world over you. That warfare is manifested in the difficult circumstances you experience in the natural world. An important truth evident in Job's suffering is that nothing can enter the life of a believer without the knowledge of God. God does not cause your suffering. It is inflicted by Satan, but its limits are set by God. God's power is greater than that of Satan, and you will experience victory if you continue to trust Him. Never blame God for your suffering.

### **YOUR OWN SIN**

Suffering enters your life because of your own sin. Jonah is an example of such suffering. In disobedience to God, Jonah headed the opposite

direction from Nineveh where he had been commanded to go and preach repentance. He experienced a terrible storm at sea and ended up in the belly of a great fish because of his own sin (Jonah 1-2).

Trouble should always be treated as a call to consider your ways and examine your heart before God. You may be suffering because of your own sin. The Bible reveals that God chastises those who are living in disobedience to His Word. Chastise means to discipline, reprove, and correct (Hebrews 12:11). God uses suffering to correct you and bring you back to His will for your life:(Psalms 119:67,71,75)

### **YOUR ATTITUDE TOWARDS SUFFERING**

Trouble is not necessarily a sign of being out of God's will. The Bible declares that "*many are the afflictions of the righteous*" (Psalms 34:19). When you suffer innocently and not because of your own sin, you should maintain a proper attitude towards suffering. The real test of your spirituality is how you respond in the day of distress.

The Bible describes the attitude you should have when you suffer as a believer within the will of God. You should not be ashamed:(I Peter 4:16) You should commit your soul (your suffering) to God, knowing He works all things for your good:(I Peter 4:19) You should be happy when you suffer according to the will of God:(Acts 5:41)

## **BENEFITS OF SUFFERING**

There are many positive benefits of suffering according to God's will. If you understand these, it will help you deal with your own suffering as well as minister to others who are "casualties of war":

### **YOUR FAITH IS TESTED**

Everything in the spiritual world is based on faith. This is why the strength of your faith must be tested (I Peter 1:7). It is a trial of faith when you pray as Jesus did, for God to let the cup of bitterness pass, and yet it does not pass. Instead, you are forced to drink deeply of its suffering. But faith will learn that our prayers are not unanswered just because they are not answered the way we want it to be answered.

### **YOU ARE EQUIPPED TO COMFORT OTHERS**

(II Corinthians 1:3-4) When you share God's comfort with others you...” ...*lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees; And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.*” (Hebrews 12:12-13)

### **LEARN NOT TO TRUST IN YOURSELF**

Paul spoke of the purpose of his sufferings in Asia: “*that we should not trust in ourselves but in God.*” (II Corinthians 1:8-9). You will come to recognize that:” ...*we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of*

*God, and not of us.” (II Corinthians 4:7)*

### **DEVELOP POSITIVE SPIRITUAL QUALITIES**

*“after you have suffered awhile, make you perfect,”* (I Peter 5:10). These qualities conform you to the image of Jesus, which is God's plan for you (Romans 8:28-29; Hebrews 2:10,18).

### **THE WORKS OF GOD ARE MANIFESTED**

When the disciples saw a man, who had been blind from birth, they asked who was responsible for his condition. Was it the sin of his parents or of the man himself? *Jesus answered: “but that the works of God should be made manifest in Him.”* (John 9:3)

### **THE POWER OF GOD IS PERFECTED**

*“9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”* (II Corinthians 12:9)

### **THAT WHICH IS UNSTABLE IS REMOVED**

Suffering results in all that is unstable being shaken out of your life. You cease to depend on people, programs, or material things as these all fail in your time of need.

During the storms of life, everything crumbles that is not built upon God and His Word (Psalm 119:89 and Matthew 7:24-27).

## **THE OLD SELF-NATURE IS CHANGED**

Because Moab had not experienced suffering, the nation did not change. Moab was at ease and settled in prosperity and because of this did not mature spiritually. Therefore, there was no change. His "own character" remained in him. Suffering rids you of the old self-nature. As you are stirred, troubled, and poured out, your spiritual character changes from carnal to spiritual.

## **YOU ARE PREPARED FOR MINISTRY**

You have asked to be used by God. You desire to be more like Jesus and prayed to be a chosen vessel for His use. The answer to your prayer may come through suffering. (Isaiah 48:10).

It is through affliction that you move beyond the calling as a child of God to become sent by God. Affliction according to the will of God refines you for His use just as metals are refined in a furnace in the natural world. God prepares you to wage warfare against the enemy by suffering!

## **REIGN WITH CHRIST**

*"If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him..."* (II Timothy 2:12). If we suffer for Christ we shall reign with Him.

## **RECEIVE SPIRITUAL BLESSINGS**

Jesus said: *"Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness sake; for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are you, when men shall revile*

*you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”* (Matthew 5:10-12)

### **LEARN OBEDIENCE**

*“learned He obedience by the things which He suffered...”* (Hebrews 5:8). We must remain obedient and faithful no matter what.

### **YOU ARE HUMBLD**

*“that He might humble you.”* (Deuteronomy 8:15-16). It is so easy to become arrogant. Many children of God will become arrogant if they never suffer.

### **YOU GROW SPIRITUALLY**

*“You have enlarged me when I was under pressure.”* (Psalms 4:1). Suffering helps us to grow spiritually.

### **YOU COME TO KNOW GOD INTIMATELY**

You come to know God on a more intimate basis through suffering. (Job 42:5-6)

### **THE STORMS OF LIFE**

Suffering is sometimes compared to a natural storm. When you suffer, you experience a storm spiritually speaking. This "storm" may affect you spiritually, mentally, physically, materially, or emotionally.

The Bible tells of a storm which the disciples of Jesus experienced. Read the story in your Bible in Mark 4:35-41. Jesus told the disciples to go to the other side and He joined them in the boat. The storm was an attack of Satan who was trying to prevent them from reaching the shore because of the miraculous works that were to be done in Gadarea (see Mark chapter 5). Immediately Jesus took authority over the storm. He rebuked the powers of the enemy. Calm returned to the sea and they continued their journey unhindered.

Difficulties of life can be compared to natural storms. A "storm" of Satan is anything that tries to hinder you from fulfilling the will of God for your life and being an effective Christian soldier. It is not suffering resulting from your own disobedience. Neither is this kind of suffering "*according to the will of God.*" God does not want anything to hinder His plan for you and your victory in spiritual warfare! When you face a storm caused by Satan, exercise authority over the enemy. Jesus has given you power over every power of Satan.

### **THE SUFFERING SOLDIER**

When you suffer according to the will of God, you should realize you are not alone. Many others in God's army are experiencing similar battles.

"Storms" of life are inevitable and uncontrollable,

as illustrated by the parable of the two houses in Matthew 7:24-27. Storms will come to those who have built their lives upon God's Word as well as those who have not. The foundation of a man's life is tested when he encounters a storm. Suffering is to be expected as part of the will of God:(II Timothy 3:12)

*“For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake”* (Philippians 1:29).

Now this does not mean that you make yourself suffer believing it would be pleasing to God. God is never pleased when people suffer. To purposefully make yourself suffer (an act called asceticism) is a sin. Many people try to do this to try to appease God's anger and/or make themselves appear holy or religious before men.

Part of the follow up plan in establishing early churches was to teach believers that they would experience suffering. This is missing in many churches today: (Acts 14:22). The call of Jesus to followers is one of denial and suffering:(Matthew 10:38).

Spiritual warfare is not a succession of great victories and celebrations of praise. As a soldier in God's army, you are called to endure suffering: *“Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus’* (II Timothy 2:3).

One of the principles of natural warfare also applies to the spiritual realm: "Do not stop fighting just because you are wounded!"

## **WINNING THE WAR**

Losing a battle is part of the learning process. As you engage in spiritual warfare, you too may experience a loss. But although you lose a battle with the enemy, does not mean you have lost the war. A war is made up of many battles.

It is possible to recover from the snare of the enemy when you lose a battle: *“And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive of him at his will.”* (II Timothy 2:26)

The word "recover" means to awake or arouse yourself. A snare is a hidden trap. "They may recover" indicates that YOU must take steps to recovery after losing a spiritual battle. Here are the steps to take to recover from the snare of the enemy.

## **RECOGNIZE YOUR FAILURE**

Joshua recognized and admitted the failure at Ai. He said: *“O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turned their backs before their enemies.”* (Joshua 7:8)

It was not hard for David to admit failure in the incident at Ziklag. The loss was apparent to the natural eye. The city was burned, and the women taken captive. But it was more difficult for David to admit failure in the incident with Bathsheba. No one knew of his sin except himself, Bathsheba, and the prophet of God. But David admitted, "I

*have sinned against the Lord" ( II Samuel 12:13).*

### **REPENT**

It is not just enough to admit your failure. You must also ask God to forgive you: *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (I John 1:9).

David repented of his sin with Bathsheba. Read his great prayer of repentance in Psalms 52. This is a good Psalm to use as a prayer when you have failed.

### **REBUILD YOUR SPIRITUAL STRENGTH**

In the natural world when an army has experienced a military loss, time is taken to rebuild combat forces before returning to the battlefield. Commanders analyse the problems, take corrective action, and strengthen and encourage the troops. This is an important principle in the spiritual world also. When you have experienced failure in spiritual warfare you must rebuild your spiritual strength.

### **RETURN TO THE BATTLEFIELD**

One of the main strategies of the enemy is to tempt you to give up when you have lost a spiritual battle. While it is true that the Holy Spirit will sometimes convict you when you fail, there is a difference between the condemnation of the enemy and the conviction of the Holy Spirit. **The Holy**

**Spirit always singles out a specific sin while the condemnation of Satan is generalized.**

### **LEARNING FROM FAILURE**

Paul explained that problems in Asia had taught him an important lesson. The lesson was that "we should not trust in ourselves, but in God." This is a great lesson to learn from failure. You cannot trust in yourself in spiritual warfare. Your power, your authority, your victory is assured only in Christ Jesus.

Paul looked beyond the natural world to see the spiritual benefits of problems, Paul had learned that even though the outward man perished, the inward man was being renewed. The light afflictions of battle were resulting in spiritual growth. It was not what was visible that was important, it was what was happening in the spirit world.

Instead of giving up the battle, Paul learned from failure and went on to victory. (II Corinthians 1:10)

## **ON TO VICTORY**

Despite all the perplexities, persecution, trouble, and despair, Paul was able to say in the closing days of his life: *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.”* (II Timothy 4:7)

If you learn how to win the war with the enemy despite temporary failure from a lost battle, you too will be able to echo... "I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT!"

## **VICTORY IN THE SPIRIT WORLD**

You will never stop studying and learning about this subject. Just as a soldier in the natural world, you will continue to develop your skills and strategies as you battle with the enemy.

You can be victorious over all the power of the enemy and in every battle of life. Just remember...

- Your victory in warfare is assured, because it is not dependent upon YOU...It is dependent upon God: *“Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.”* (Psalms 24:8)
- You are protected by God as you battle: *“O God the Lord, the strength of my salvation, thou hast covered my head in the day of battle.”* (Psalms 140:7)

- When you are discouraged, you are comforted by God in battle: “*Nevertheless God, that comforts those that are cast down, comforted us*” (II Corinthians 7:5-6)
- God will encourage you during your warfare: “*Fear not, nor be afraid, have I not told it to you from of old and declared it?*” (Isaiah 44:8)
- No weapon formed against you will succeed: “*No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper*” (Isaiah 54:17)
- Victory can be attained over the world: “*Who is he that overcomes the world, but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*” (I John 5:4-5)
- Victory can be attained over the flesh: “*And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.*” (Galatians 5:24)
- Victory has been attained over the Devil. Jesus came to destroy the work of the devil.
- Victory has been attained over death and the grave: “*O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*” (I Corinthians 15:26, 55)
- Victory can be attained over ALL that exalts itself against God: “*bringing into captivity every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God...*” (II Corinthians 10:5)

- Victory has been attained over ALL the powers of the enemy: *“Behold, I give unto you power...over all the power of the enemy.”* (Luke 10:19)

- Always remember to thank God for victory in battle through Jesus Christ: *“But thanks be to God which gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* (I Corinthians 15:57)

- And when the battle is over, you will stand victorious: *“So use every piece of God's armour to resist the enemy whenever he attacks, and when it is all over, you will still be standing up.”* (Ephesians 6:13, Living Bible)

*“Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God”* (1 John 5:5)

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*And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirst. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”*  
(Revelations 21: 6-7).

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