



# SPIRITUAL WARFARE

A BIBLICAL & BALANCED VIEW

Victor M. Matthews



# SEMINAR FOCUS

The Lord Jesus came into the world to destroy the devil's works (I John 3:8), and to set captives free (Luke 4:18). One important characteristic of Kingdom ministry is the process of leading people out of bondage into freedom from the enemy (Luke 11:20).

The Bible clearly teaches that the Christian has an enemy—Satan and wicked spirits. Our enemy is described as wicked, subtle, powerful, and determined to hinder us in every way possible so that the testimony and reputation of the Lord Jesus will come under suspicion.

The purpose of this seminar is to present the Bible's teaching in the following areas:

- The glory of the Lord Jesus and his victory over Satan, wicked spirits, and the Kingdom of Darkness;
- The vulnerability of the believer to demonic attack, through sin, error, and the wickedness of mankind;
- The methods utilized by Satan and wicked spirits to hinder and attack the believer;
- The provision of the Lord Jesus for the believer's protection from demonic attack, and the freedom to live and serve for the glory of God.

To accept the authority of the Bible means that we may not minimize the seriousness or power of sin, error, or the enemy. And, we must maintain a biblical world-view in spite of the religious naturalism of our day, as well as the false spirituality presented by adherents of the New Age.

Spiritual warfare is only a very small part of the Christian life. However, to dismiss this area of divine revelation as irrelevant today, is an act of disobedience to God that makes one vulnerable to deception and some measure of demonic control.

# CONTENTS

EVIDENCE OF THE DEMONIC IN BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY .....	1
SATAN AND THE SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN LIFE .....	7
FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH.....	11
THE BELIEVER'S VICTORY IN JESUS CHRIST .....	15
IMPORTANT STEPS TOWARD FREEDOM .....	19
TWO SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE CONTROL OF THE ENEMY .....	23
RECONCILING THE PAST .....	27
TAKING CHARGE OF OUR THINKING .....	31
THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS SELF-WORTH .....	35
LEARNING TO MONITOR OURSELVES .....	39
SUGGESTIONS REGARDING RESISTING THE ENEMY .....	41
SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SPIRITUAL PROTECTION .....	44
THE MARRIAGE AFFIRMATION .....	48
THE DAILY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH .....	49

---



WARFARE PRAYER .....	53
APPENDIX .....	56
THE MEANING OF CHRISTIANITY .....	57
THE ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY .....	58
NECESSITY OF RESPONSE .....	59
DENIAL—PRETENDING—PASSIVITY .....	60
THE CHRISTIAN WORLD & LIFE VIEW .....	61
IMPORTANT PROPOSITIONS .....	62
NECESSARY UNDERSTANDING BEFORE SERIOUS COUNSELING .....	63
INSTRUCTIVE TITLES .....	64
SERIOUS HARASSMENT OF BELIEVERS.....	65
GIVING THE DEVIL A FOOTHOLD— (EPHESIANS 4:27) .....	66
SOURCES OF PROBLEMS .....	67
DISCERNING OPPRESSION.....	68
SIN .....	69
OUR FORMER STATE (REGARDING THE ENEMY) .....	70
THE VICTORY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (REGARDING THE ENEMY) .....	71
OUR REDEMPTION IN JESUS CHRIST (REGARDING THE ENEMY) .....	72
THE BELIEVER’S VICTORY .....	73
NECESSITY OF DAILY CHOICES .....	74
FREEDOM .....	75
FALSE STANDARDS.....	76
ERRORS, PATTERNS, DISTORTIONS .....	77
THE FALL .....	78
THE “FLESH” IN THE BELIEVER.....	79
THE WORLD .....	80
THE EFFECTS OF WORLDLINESS .....	81
EXAMINATION .....	82
THE WORK OF THE ENEMY .....	83
WAGES OF SIN IN THE EMOTIONAL LIFE .....	84
HOW TO RESIST .....	85
BARRIERS .....	86

---

SELF-CENTEREDNESS .....	87
THE METHOD OF DELIVERANCE .....	88
THE PROMISE OF POWER .....	89
STRONGHOLDS .....	90
PERFORMATIVE COMMANDS .....	91
ESSENTIALS FOR FREEDOM .....	92
THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLICAL AFFIRMATIONS .....	93
THE COUNSELOR .....	94
SUGGESTIONS REGARDING OUR CHILDREN .....	95
SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	96

---

# EVIDENCE OF THE DEMONIC IN BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

## INTRODUCTION

### 1. The First Announcement of Redemption —Genesis 3:15

Walter Kaiser in *Toward an Old Testament Theology*, (p. 36-37), states we have here a “Divinely implanted hostility...an enmity between the serpent and the woman [and] between your [serpent’s] seed and her seed.” He goes on to show that “seed” is a “collective” concept so that we have each representing a group—those who belong to the seed of the woman [the Lord Jesus] and those who belong to the seed of the serpent [Satan]. He said, “History was not a contest between mere mortals, it was simultaneously a supernatural battle for dominion, and Satan had his own succession of tyrants corresponding to God’s Davidic line as well as his climactic person, the tyrant of all tyrants” (p. 240).

In this important passage we have an explanation of the pattern history will always reflect. It will be a contest between God and His own (represented by the seed of the woman) and Satan and his own (represented by his seed). Notice how clearly this is further explained in Ephesians 2:1,2; 6:12; II Thessalonians 2:3-14; and Revelation 12.

We also have presented in this passage a description of what the redeeming work of Jesus Christ (the seed of the woman) is all about. He was born into the world and died on the Cross in an act of substitution whereby Satan (the serpent and his seed) were defeated. Notice how this is summarized in 1 John 3:8.

### 2. The Instructive Disclosure of a Larger Context to a Believer’s Suffering —Job

From the book of Job we are led to understand that the battlefield between God and Satan is found in the life of Christians. While we cannot say that the dimension found in Job is true for all our trials, we must say all our trials reflect in some way the “contest” spoken of by Kaiser.

In considering these passages we must always keep in mind that Satan, while allowed by God some freedom to exercise his power, is but a fallen angel. In reality he, with all his demons, is being used by God to carry out a divine purpose.

---

3. The Description of Destructive Power behind Double-Minded Rulers  
—King Saul

In I Samuel 15 we have a reminder of the serious nature of disobedience (v. 22, 23). King Saul, undoubtedly a believer, chose more and more to do his own will instead of the will of God. The shocking result is presented in 16:14; 18:10; 19:9; I Samuel 28; and I Chronicles 10:13,14.

When Satan sees an opportunity to infiltrate a person, a family, a church, or a nation, deception is always used to hide his work. This was undoubtedly true for King Saul. How different the end of his life was from its beginning (see I Samuel 10:6-11; 11:6; 15:17). Who, in their right mind, would have made such foolish and self-destructive choices, when the issues were so obvious? How horrified he must have been after death when he realized what he had done—and how wonderfully he could have lived and served!

4. The Description of the Evil Power behind Wicked Kings  
—Isaiah 14:4-23; Ezekiel 28:11-19

When a person is serious about rebelling against God there is always help for them—Satanic help. The Devil will use anyone he can to strike a blow against the Lord Jesus, the believer, and the truth.

5. The Reminder: The Kingdom on Earth and the War in Heaven are Related  
—Daniel 10

There are spiritual facets of the Church and our daily life that go beyond the observable. Through grace the believer is a part of a plan to glorify God.

6. The Prophetic Assurance of Redemptive Triumph  
—Zechariah 3:1-10

Joshua the High Priest is assured that in the One he represents (the Branch, v. 8) there will be deliverance from both the effects of sin and the power of Satan.

7. The Cultural Pattern of the World is Influenced by Satan  
—Ephesians 2:1,2; I John 3:8

8. The Temptation, Commission, and Ministry of Jesus Christ was to defeat Satan  
—Luke 4

9. The Disciples were Commissioned and given Authority over the Enemy  
—Luke 9:1

---

10. The Seventy were also Commissioned to Deliver People from Satan  
—Luke 10:1-24
  11. The Kingdom of God is a Victorious Invasion into Enemy Territory  
—Luke 11:20
  12. The Church is the Spearhead of Christ's Invasion into Enemy Territory  
—Matthew 16:18-19
  13. In His Redemptive Work the Lord Jesus Defeated Satan  
—Hebrews 2:14,15; I John 3:8
  14. In Salvation the Believer is Delivered from the Kingdom of Satan  
—Colossians 1:13; 2:10-15
  15. Paul was Commissioned to "turn [people] from the power of Satan."  
—Acts 26:18
  16. Philip the Evangelist's Ministry had to do, in part, with Confronting Demons  
—Acts 8:6,7
  17. The Believer's Struggles are Related to the Enemy's Oppression  
—Ephesians 6:12
  18. The Believer is Described as a Warrior, given Weapons, and told to Fight  
—Ephesians 6:10-18
  19. The Believer is Instructed in How to Fight  
—Ephesians 6:10-18; I Peter 5:8,9; Revelation 12:11
  20. The Believer is *commanded* to Fight  
—Ephesians 5:11; I Peter 5:8,9
  21. The Believer is Warned of His Vulnerability to the Enemy and given Illustrations:
    - Individuals
      - Eve: Genesis 3:1-6; II Corinthians 11:3
      - King Saul: I Samuel 16:14; 18:10; 19:9
      - Job: chapters 1&2
      - Peter: Matthew 16:22,23; Luke 22:31
      - Paul: II Corinthians 12:7; I Thessalonians 2:18
-

- Church Members

Acts 5:1-11; I Corinthians 5:11-13; II Corinthians 2:6-11; II Timothy 2:25,26

- Pastors

I Timothy 3:6,7

- Churches

II Corinthians 2:6-11; Revelation 2:10,13,24

- Children

Mark 7:24-30; 9:14-29

## CONCLUSION—

While the works of Satan have only a small place in the plan of God and the life of the believer, *we may not disobey God and ignore these truths*. We are commanded to be vigilant and to resist Satan. We are all under his attack in some way!

---



## NOTES

---

## NOTES

# SATAN AND THE SUCCESSFUL CHRISTIAN LIFE

## INTRODUCTION

For most believers, the truths regarding Satan are nothing more than hazy and impractical theories. This is largely due to the work of the Devil himself.

Satan seeks to hinder the Christian because he hates the Lord Jesus. Since he cannot attack the Savior directly, he does so indirectly, by keeping the believer from spiritual maturity and fruitfulness. Our failure to enjoy the Lord and live a fruitful life defiles the Savior's reputation.

### I. The Believer's Need for Deliverance and Freedom

#### A. The Basis of Satan's Work—The Fall of Man

In the Fall we accepted the lies of Satan and put his suggestions into practice. By choosing to disobey God the relationship with Him (one of freedom) was broken; and by obeying Satan, a relationship with him (one of slavery) was established (John 8:44).

The seriousness of this act cannot be overemphasized. Through that event, dimensions of sin, lust, depravity, slavery, ignorance, death and every form of evil were introduced into the human race. Satan now has a hold on us through error and sin.

#### B. The Description of Satanic Control (never possession, because of salvation)

##### 1. The Titles given to Satan indicate his Activity.

He is called Tempter (Matthew 4:3), Deceiver (Revelation 12:9), Accuser (Revelation 12:10), Adversary (I Peter 5:8), Murderer (John 8:44), Liar (John 8:44), the god of this world (II Corinthians 4:4), and the Prince of the Power of the Air (Ephesians 2:2).

##### 2. The Bible indicates that the Christian can give a "place" (foothold) to the Devil (Ephesians 4:27).

Satan can fill the heart of the believer (Acts 5:3), he can control the believer so that he will lie (Acts 5:3), he can be physically, spiritually, and materially attacked by Satan (Job 1,2; II Corinthians 12:7), he can be hindered (I Thessalonians 2:18), deceived (Revela-

tion 12:9,10; II Corinthians 11:3), tempted (I Corinthians 7:5; I Thessalonians 3:5), ensnared (II Timothy 2:25,26), devoured (I Peter 5:8,9), “sifted as wheat” (Luke 22:31), made proud (I Timothy 3:6), brought into condemnation (I Timothy 3:6) and under reproach (I Timothy 3:7), corrupted in mind (II Corinthians 11:3), accused (Revelation 12:10), made hypocritical (Acts 5:1-11), led into religious fanaticism (II Corinthians 2:1-11), and be made the object of fiery darts (Ephesians 6:16).

3. The endeavor of Satan is to keep the Christian from growing, from maturing in Christ, and from developing the Fruit of the Spirit.

All Christians are under the attack of Satan and wicked spirits in some manner. The clear evidence is not only the verses of the Bible—but even more so, our lethargy and weakness in spiritual matters. Satan has worked slowly, subtly, and indirectly on each of us through his demons, not only to keep us from spiritual growth, but to weaken us in the areas of our strength so that joyful and powerful participation in prayer, worship, obedience, and witnessing is nearly impossible.

## II. The Divine Provision for Deliverance and Freedom

- A. In the Crucifixion and Resurrection Jesus Christ Defeated Satan.

*And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it [His atonement] (Colossians 2:15).*

*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the Devil (I John 3:8).*

- B. In the Ascension the Lord Jesus was Seated in Triumph over Satan.

*And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principalities and power and might... (Ephesians 1:19-21).*

This victory over Satan and wicked spirits has been given to every believer. We, too, are seated in the heavenlies (Ephesians 2:5,6), we have been given the use of the name of the Lord Jesus (Luke 10:17-

20), given an armor (Ephesians 6:11-18), and a weapon of great power in the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). We must learn to use God's provision.

### III. The Biblical Instruction for Deliverance and Freedom

#### A. We Must Honestly Confess and Repudiate our Past and Present Sins.

*Neither give place to the Devil* (Ephesians 4:27).

#### B. We Must Honestly Practice Truth in Faith and Love.

*Stand therefore ... with truth ... righteousness ... love ... faith ... salvation ... the Word of God ... and prayer* (Ephesians 6:10-18).

#### C. We Must Honestly and Aggressively Resist the Work of Satan.

*Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the Devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith...* (I Peter 5:8, 9).

#### D. We Must Honestly Wear the Armor and Live Accordingly.

*Put on the whole armor of God...* (Ephesians 6:11).

## CONCLUSION

How do we know we are under unusual Satanic attack? We must start out with the clear Biblical truth that Christianity works and then make a practical application. If one is honest, knows how to live for God and seeks to do so in daily obedience, has taken care of past hurts and emotional relationships, is physically up to par, and is still unable to live the way the Bible teaches—then look around for the enemy! Resist him in the area of his attack. Be aggressive. Use the power of Christ's victory. Bring His blood against what the enemy is doing.

Do not treat these suggestions lightly. Work hard at recognizing and confessing those areas where you have accepted error, been disobedient, and given ground to Satan. When you're made to feel guilty but don't know what you've done—reject it. When you're accused ("If you were a Christian, you wouldn't be thinking a thought like that"), refuse it. When your thoughts, emotions, and desires get out of hand, then take charge of them (II Corinthians 10:4,5). You have the authority in the name and Word of Jesus Christ to resist the Devil. Use your weapons as weapons!

## NOTES



## FOUNDATIONAL TRUTHS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

### INTRODUCTION

As Christians we cannot be content with a mere intellectual grasp on the doctrines of the Bible. We must learn how to practice the Word of God.

One of the evidences of our fallenness, personal sin, influence of the evil world about us, and demonic pressure is that we are so content to drift through life without a motivating concern regarding our lack of depth in worship, spiritual growth, believing prayer, awareness of the needs of those about us, and being able to help people with spiritual problems.

God has commanded us to be concerned people—concerned about knowing and doing His will. He has not given us His Word and His grace to hoard. He expects us to obey Him by ministering to those about us. Matthew 22:37-39; 28:18-20; Luke 10:25-37; Colossians 4:12; James 5:16-20.

None of us doubt the doctrinal content of the Bible. However, most of us do have a deeply-rooted and paralyzing doubt as to whether the gospel and prayer will work in most personal and practical situations. The evidence of this is extremely clear—we do not want to get involved because we do not believe our prayers and words will be effective—we do not believe God will “come through.” And, when we cannot escape involvement, our prayers are too often largely clichés or doctrinal platitudes; our efforts are too often spiritually superficial; and we are all the while trying to think of someone to whom we can send this needy person ... and usually it's the psychiatrist.

The following is what I consider to be a foundational list of that which must be accepted, believed, and practiced in order to minister to people in a practical way. By this, I am attempting to build on the doctrinal foundation of a biblical world and life view.

- I. Our Lord, as the Holy Trinity, is the Living God, infinitely great as the perfection of truth and therefore faithfulness; love and therefore lovingkindness; and holiness and therefore righteousness.

This means that God is good, and what He does is goodness (I Samuel 17:26-37; John 14:6; I John 4:8-10; Isaiah 6:8-10; Psalms 119:68).

---

- II. God is active in our history with the goal of fulfilling His great plan to exalt and glorify the Lord Jesus.

It is His plan that gives us the key to history, the meaning of our life, and the encouragement that He desires to meet our needs and the needs of those about us (Colossians 1:16-19; Luke 11:51; John 5:39; 14:13; Luke 10:25-37).

- III. God has created us in His image.

This means that we are persons of great and equal value, that the words '*spiritual*' and '*sacred*' would best describe the quality of our personhood, and that we are not simply the sum of, or to be confused with, our functions (Genesis 1:26,27; Isaiah 43:1,2,21; I Corinthians 9:27; II Corinthians 10:4,5).

- IV. The Word of God, our only authority, is life giving, powerful, and may be used as a weapon.

This means that God will work with us, and through His Word, to accomplish His will, if we will be concerned, be willing to express faith as 'risk,' share the truth with others, and pray with them and for them (Hebrews 4:12; John 6:63; Matthew 12:10-13; Acts 3:1-16; Matthew 28:18-20).

- V. Every believer has been given all spiritual benefits.

These have been given as certain gifts or abilities for ministry, we have been given the authority and right to represent God and His kingdom, given a prophetic function whereby the Word of God may be shared, a priestly function whereby the grace of God is dispensed, and a kingly function (largely future) whereby the will of God is discerned and implemented (Ephesians 1:3; Luke 10:19; II Corinthians 5:10; II Peter 1:3; Ephesians 4:7; I Peter 2:5,9; 4:10,11; Revelation 5:10).

- VI. Every believer has been given a vital part in the plan of the Father to exalt and glorify the Lord Jesus through involvement in the conflict between God and Satan.

We have been given the victory gained over Satan by our Savior in His redemptive work as well as great resources of power in the name of Jesus Christ, the Word of God, and in particular the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit. However, we are also vulnerable to serious demonic attack, largely but not entirely through error and sin, not only due to our own choices, but those in our ancestral lines as well as our contemporaries (Job 1,2; Colossians 1:13,14; Ephesians 1:3,19-22; Luke 10:17-20; Ephesians 6:10-18; Acts 1:8; I Peter 5:6-11; Exodus 20:5; Ephesians 4:27-31; I Peter 1:18; II Corinthians 2:6-11).

- VII. Every believer has the wondrous privilege as well as the profound responsibility to choose to what degree he or she desires to be involved in the exalting of Jesus Christ and thereby being involved in His war with Satan.

To be passive in this regard is a terrible sin. God expects us to surrender to Him, unite with Him in His battle against Satan and his demons as a full-time warrior, learn how the enemy attacks and how to resist him, bear the trials and pressures of a soldier with perseverance and patience, and be constantly available to witness to the truths of the Gospel as well as ministering to other soldiers (Joshua 24:15; Romans 12:1,2; II Corinthians 10:4,5; Ephesians 6:10-18; I Timothy 1:18; II Timothy 2:1-7; I Peter 5:6-11).

- VIII. The battleground for this warfare between God and Satan is within the life of every believer.

Many of us, sad to say, almost immediately, in the beginning of our Christian life, surrendered to the enemy through the wounds, deception, and temptation presented in the evil of the world and the constant recitation of error within our own thoughts and emotions. While it may have been done in ignorance, the control of the enemy over us is clearly seen in our irrational passivity toward spiritual things and our resistance to the truths related to the enemy. These amply testify to our state of capitulation. We must confess and renounce what we have done, renounce the enemy, take back the ground we have given him, and unite with our Father and His people in His plan and warfare (Job 1,2; Romans 13:11-14; I Corinthians 15:34; Ephesians 5:11-21; I John 1:9).

## CONCLUSION

God expects you to learn how to be a soldier and to join with Him and His people in the battle!

---



## THE BELIEVER'S VICTORY IN JESUS CHRIST

### INTRODUCTION

The freedom to live the Christian life is only found in Jesus Christ and in the practice of the truths related to His person, His work, and His Word.

One truth that must be understood and practiced has to do with Satan our enemy.

#### I. Our Former State Regarding the Enemy

##### A. We were once owned by Satan

Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own, for he is a liar and the father of it (John 8:44; also Matthew 13:38; 1 John 3:10).

##### B. We were once in bondage to the Enemy

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same, that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage (Hebrews 2:14,15).

##### C. We were once deceived by the Enemy

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them (II Corinthians 4:4).

##### D. We were once controlled by the Enemy

Wherein in time past ye walked [lived] according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience, among whom also we all had our conversation [daily life] in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others (Ephesians 2:2,3).

---

E. We were once vulnerable to the Enemy

Wherein in time past ye walked [lived] ... according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience... (Ephesians 2:2).

II. The Victory of the Lord Jesus Christ

A. The Prophecy regarding His Victory

And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed. It [He] shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel (Genesis 3:15).

B. The Basis of our Savior's Victory

Hereafter I will not talk much with you, for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me (John 14:30).

C. The Demonstration of our Savior's Victory

But if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come unto you (Luke 11:20).

D. The Explanation of our Savior's Victory

And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it (Colossians 2:15).

E. The Triumph of our Savior's Victory

Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God, angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him (I Peter 3:22).

F. The Celebration of our Savior's Victory

Wherefore he saith, "When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men" (Ephesians 4:8).

G. The Delegation of our Savior's victory

That ye may know ... according to the working of his mighty power, which he wrought in Christ when he ... set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come, and hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church (Ephesians 1:18-22; also 2:5,6).

---



### III. Our Redemption in the Lord Jesus Christ

#### A. Our Ownership has been Transferred to the Lord Jesus

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son (Colossians 1:13).

#### B. We have been Released from Bondage

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me ... to preach deliverance to the captives... (Luke 4:18).

#### C. We have had Illumination of our Deception

I [will] ... make thee a minister ... to open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God... (Acts 26:16-18).

#### D. We have had the Enemy's Control over us Broken

... and from the power of Satan unto God... (Acts 26:18).

#### E. We have been Given Permanent Protection from our Enemy

For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers ... shall be able to separate us from the love of God... (Romans 8:38,39).

### CONCLUSION

Give thanks for your deliverance every day. Obey God by resisting the enemy.

---



## IMPORTANT STEPS TOWARD FREEDOM

### INTRODUCTION

When you are quite sure that you are under oppression and that the enemy is working in your life in some way, then make careful use of the following suggestions.

Keep in mind that there is no magic formula nor quick solution when one is working against the enemy. However, Satan and all his wicked spirits have been defeated by the Lord Jesus (Colossians 2:15), and all believers have been given that victory as delegated authority. We are expected and commanded to use our authority (Luke 10:1,16-22; I Peter 5:8,9; Revelation 12:10,11).

Please read the following suggestions carefully. Look up the verses, even though you may have memorized them, and meditate on them.

- I. Select a time when you can think and pray without interruption.

Be honest before God as to why you want His help. Ask the Holy Spirit to come to you and give you clarity as to the meaning of the following passages. Read the following in dependence upon Him to teach you the truth and protect you from error.

- II. Reflect on the following verses in this order:

Genesis 3:15; Exodus 12:12; Job 1,2; Luke 4:16-18; Matthew 16:18,19; Luke 11:20; Hebrews 2:14,15; Colossians 2:15; 1 John 3:8; and Ephesians 1:15-2:6; 1 Peter 5:8,9; Revelation 12:10,11. Think deeply into what it meant for the Lord Jesus to defeat His enemies and ours.

- III. Consider the various ways in which the enemy can become involved in the life of the believer. Ask yourself why our enemy could do this. Is there always a clear or sinful reason?

- A. As Individuals:

—King Saul: 1 Samuel 16:14; 18:10; 19:9

—Job: Job 1,2

—Peter: Matthew 16:22,23; Luke 22:31

—Paul: II Corinthians 12:7; I Thessalonians 2:18

---

## B. As Church Members:

Acts 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:11-13; II Corinthians 2:6-11; II Timothy 2:25,26

## C. As Pastors:

1 Timothy 3:6,7

## D. As a Church:

II Corinthians 2:6-11; Revelation 2:10,13,24

## E. As Children:

Mark 7:24-30; 9:14-29 (It is not clear if these children were believers.)

## IV. Consider the significance of the above passages.

Think also of how the enemy could influence Eve before she became a sinner and how he could even speak to the Lord Jesus when He was here on earth. These passages remind us of how vulnerable all of us are—even though we may be living in the light! Consider how the enemy always works in subtle and deceptive ways. Almost always a person is brought into bondage *before* they are able to recognize that something is wrong.

## V. Read Ephesians 1:15—2:6 again.

Consider what it means for the Lord Jesus to have a position of total and final authority over the enemy and his kingdom. Apply these verses to your own life and meditate on what it means for you, as a believer, to be given that victory won for you by the Savior. *You have all of His triumph as delegated authority.* God expects you to use your authority. Keep in mind that the power and authority given to us is not based on who we are but solely on the Lord Jesus. Reflect on Revelation 12:10,11. In this passage we are told how to overcome the enemy. Apply these verses to your own life and problem. There are three things we are told that are helpful. What are they and how do they apply to you?

## VI. Isolate the problem that you believe may be due to the work of the enemy.

*Write it out.* Is it deception of some kind, a hindrance, immorality, bad thoughts, disunity, false teaching, hard feelings, criticism, bondage, passivity, gossip, deep wounds from the past, unbelief, fear, grudges, bitterness, physical problems for which no solution has been found, addiction, habits that seemingly cannot be broken, compulsive actions, anger? Pray and think until you are clear about the problem.

---

VII. Read the following carefully.

- A. *Satan and the Successful Christian Life* (see page 7)
- B. *Suggestions Regarding Resisting the Enemy* (see page 38)

VIII. When you have clarity regarding the above and have an opportunity to be alone for an extended time then follow these suggestions.

- A. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 and cover yourself with the armor.
- B. Take a position of authority over the problem and *the work of the enemy behind the problem*. Be aggressive and authoritative in stating something like the following:

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I take a position of authority over this \_\_\_\_\_ . I command that all the working of wicked spirits in regard to \_\_\_\_\_ must stop and stop now. In the power of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ I smash down all demonic control through \_\_\_\_\_ . In the power of the name above every name I command that all demonic activity regarding \_\_\_\_\_ must leave.*

- C. Such a statement may need to be said a number of times.

Do not confine yourself to my words. Be creative and use strong words like 'destroy,' 'smash,' 'remove,' and 'command to go.' It would help to follow the suggestions in the second handout mentioned above.

- D. Work hard at this.

God is worth fighting for. Whatever you do—*do not give up*, do not give in to the enemy, and do not be a passive Christian.

## CONCLUSION

God is worth fighting for!

## NOTES



## TWO SUGGESTIONS REGARDING THE CONTROL OF THE ENEMY

### INTRODUCTION

Two ways that the enemy works in the life of the believer are very confusing to us. These are designed to be that way so he can have a measure of inner influence over us. Both can be very powerful. The first has to do with a way the enemy establishes a form of control in our life. It is called “conditioning.” You may remember studying a psychological form of this in a psychology class. Something similar is done by the enemy—but it is a very powerful form of control. When he wants a pattern of behavior or thinking established in our life he will develop a type of conditioning that will lead a believer into a form of slavery in the area in question.

As in psychological conditioning, there are ‘triggers’ which introduce the control. Once the pattern gets started (by a thought, etc.) it is difficult not to yield. What we must do is recognize it as demonic and work against it by affirmations of faith in dependence on God. When a problem doesn’t change as we pray and take the Biblical steps as we are instructed in the Bible—then it may be due to ‘conditioning.’

Therefore, let me make the following suggestion. When you get up in the morning and several times during the day (particularly when you are tempted), make the following affirmation—as an expression of your trust in God. **Be aggressive and specific.**

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I bind all the triggers and conditioning related to \_\_\_\_\_. I break down the conditioning with its power in my life and command it has to leave me. I take charge of my mind, will, emotions, and body and give myself totally to the Lord Jesus Christ to do His will.*

It would be good to watch for other areas in which there may be such conditioning. Bad experiences of the past are often used as a basis for such work. As we are reminded of the incident there can be an interpretation given to the event, or an accusation, which simply exaggerates what happened and will be used to ‘teach’ us how bad we are, how hopeless our condition is, and we will be led to become more angry, bitter, and passive.

Be sure you pray about this, ask God for wisdom and discernment to see what the enemy has done, and be aggressive in breaking down the conditioning as you see it. It may be necessary to repeat the command a number of times and to do so “sharply.” We must never forget that we are dealing with the enemy and his work—not just a psychological

---

thought. It will take some time to be free—so continue with this each day until you are sure you are no longer controlled.

My second suggestion has to do with “ground.” By this term, I refer to what Paul had in mind in Ephesians 4:27 when he said, “Neither give place to the devil.” The word “place” is *topos*—a foothold or handhold—or some way the enemy can control us.

Often such ground is established in our life by a sin we have committed, or by some relationship we have had or do have with a person that may be questionable. Or the ground may be a certain way of thinking (“It’s hopeless” or “I’m condemned”) or a certain way of living, such as being very passive about one’s problems and the will of God. (This is usually very serious.) Pride, or dogmatism, hypocrisy, covetousness, etc., are all ways whereby Satan can get an “advantage” (II Corinthians 2:11) in our life—through such ground, he can have a measure of control in our life.

It is important that we not only *confess* our sin to God, but that we “*take back*” the ground from Satan. Ask God to help you to see the areas you need to reclaim, ask Him to help you to be honest, and then *start with your first memory and thoroughly clean up your life*. The following affirmation may be of help to you.

*Heavenly Father, I confess to You that I have sinned in \_\_\_\_\_. I apologize to You and receive Your cleansing and forgiveness (1 John 1:9).*

*Satan, I announce to you in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that I take back from you all the ground I have given to you in \_\_\_\_\_. I reject you out of my life and cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:27—Speak sharply.)*

If you believe there is ground in your life because of some relationship you have had with another person, then break that spiritual (demonic) relationship by the following statement:

*In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I cancel and break all relationships established by Satan and wicked spirits between \_\_\_\_\_ and myself. I smash all such relationships in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 5:11).*

It would be good to make a list of your close living relatives, friends that have been influential in your life, and in particular those with whom you have been involved sinfully. Use the affirmation, and break such relationships each day until you are free. It is very important to do so.

## CONCLUSION

God has given you the victory. However, you must claim it and practice it!

---

## NOTES

---

## NOTES

---

## RECONCILING THE PAST

### INTRODUCTION

The Bible exhorts the believer to live according to the truth. When we fail to do so we suffer spiritual loss. We are told to confess and reject all sinful patterns of past behavior and not allow these to influence us today (Titus 2:12; 1 Peter 1:14,18). All neglect of such responsibility will cause repercussions in other areas of life—emotional, mental, physical, and spiritual. The apostle Paul could say ‘forgetting those things which are behind’ (Philippians 3:13) only because he had reconciled his past (v. 4-12).

We have all been taught error. For most of us we were taught in how we were treated in those early years of our life. It is vitally important that we find and reconcile these errors *because sin, with its bondage, almost always finds its source and power in error*. Because of this relationship of sin to error, many believers seek to confess their sin, according to 1 John 1:9, only to find that nothing really happens. The reason such confession does not work is that we are only confessing the fruit of our sin (the act with its bondage) and not its root (the error that produced it).

Some of the patterns of thought and action we may have received from our past may be due to errors about <sup>1</sup>God, <sup>2</sup>ourselves, or <sup>3</sup>about some event in our life. Or, perhaps we were <sup>4</sup>given responsibilities beyond our ability or <sup>5</sup>taught wrong values. Many of us have adopted patterns of life that made us passive, or defensive, or negative. Some of us have <sup>6</sup>developed incorrect relationships, or self-defeating ways of responding to people or life itself. *One of the most serious errors is to accept injustice, false guilt, and hurts without putting the blame where it belongs and dealing with it.*

It is helpful to go back into one’s life and deal with the past on the basis of the truth. When we do so we are seeking to honor God and obey His Word. Follow these suggestions carefully.

Ask the Lord to turn His searchlight on you and on your past. Trust Him to bring to your remembrance all those times which you need to reconcile. Make a choice—before God—to be honest.

#### I. Start with your earliest memories as a child.

*Write out* (reject the temptation to just think about it or talk it out) every time you accepted error, sinned, or were hurt. Be complete, name the people involved, state what happened, be truthful and honest, do not protect yourself or other people, and do not fantasize.

II. *Evaluate* the past event on the basis of truth.

If you sinned, then confess it to God truthfully and receive His forgiveness and cleansing (1 John 1:9). If you were incorrectly taught or hurt by someone, and it was their fault, then write at the end of your account, "... *they should not have done that to me.*"

III. For those times in which injustice was involved, *it is right, even necessary, to become angry about it.*

God commands us to be angry at such times (Ephesians 4:26). Find some way of expressing your anger without striking out impulsively and hurting someone or yourself. Perhaps you need to become emotional in 'telling someone off' as you describe the injustice and pound something with a club. Don't look upon yourself as though you are 'above' such activity. You may need to do so—if you are going to be free. This may take a good deal of time.

IV. When you have finished writing out the event, and have been able to express yourself emotionally so you are 'cleaned out,' make certain you can look back on the event without deep stirrings within, *then stop and completely forgive the person* (Mark 11:25,26).

If you were at fault in some way then confess that to God. This again will take time. Keep at it even though you may not feel any different toward the person who hurt you. Forgiveness is an act of the will—not of the emotions.

V. When you have finished each event, understood the error you have accepted, and know how to deal with it, have confessed your own sins, and forgiven those who have sinned against you—then carefully do two things:

- A. Make an affirmation that Satan, the Accuser, may no longer use what you have written out against you. State audibly with firmness, "*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I take this event away from Satan and declare that he may not use it against me anymore*" (Ephesians 4:27; 5:11; 6:14).
- B. Choose to receive the healing the Lord Jesus died to provide for those who believe in Him and live according to His Word (Isaiah 53:5).

State audibly the following: "*Now that I have made this right with You, Heavenly Father, I receive the healing You have provided for me.*"

VI. When you have finished your work (do not overlook the grudges you may have against God), then count it finished.

When you think of a bad event in your past, then state, "*I have dealt with that truthfully, and it is settled.*" When you sin today—confess, forgive, and make the affirmations.

- <sup>1</sup> Errors that God is not good, or faithful, or that He is like our parents, or that He is not wise, loving, and powerful enough to understand and care for us and our problems.
- <sup>2</sup> Errors that indicate we are inferior, or worthless, or ugly, or always guilty, or a loser, or have been abandoned by God.
- <sup>3</sup> Errors that we were guilty about some event when we were not, or that something happened when it didn't.
- <sup>4</sup> Errors that caused one to have obligations too soon, and caused a loss of childhood, or deep scars between family members.
- <sup>5</sup> Errors that made one into a workaholic, or a rageaholic, or a drug addict, or an alcoholic, or a recluse, or a legalist, or frigid.
- <sup>6</sup> Errors related to retreating from life, or manipulating people, or allowing people to manipulate us, or protecting ourselves, or becoming overly aggressive and dominant.

## CONCLUSION

---





## TAKING CHARGE OF OUR THINKING

### INTRODUCTION

Our thought life has a direct bearing on all our other functions. What we think on causes a reaction of our will (choices), our body (desires), and our emotions (feelings). Our thinking will also begin a process that will lead to other thoughts.

To understand how to live successfully we must learn how our mind is related to our other functions and how to “take charge” of our thinking.

- I. Your Thoughts are Not You—They Are Simply a Manifestation of One of Your Functions
  - A. Because of the Fall of man and our sin we have lost control of our functions. Now our functions often control us—as in the alcoholic.
  - B. Most if not all of us have two levels of thinking. The second level is almost always negative and condemning. It is extremely important to recognize this and take charge of it. See the work of David Burns in *Feeling Good*, and Aaron Beck in *Cognitive Therapy*.
- II. Your Thoughts May Not Be Caused by You.
  - A. They may be caused by the “Old Nature.”
 

*For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries ... and these defile the man.* Mark 7:21,22.
  - B. They may be caused by the “World.”
 

*For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.* 1 John 2:16
  - C. They may be caused by “Satan and Wicked Spirits.”
    1. Satan could talk to Eve before she became a sinner.
 

*Yea, hath God said, ye shall not eat of every tree....* Genesis 3:1-5
    2. Satan could talk to the Lord Jesus.
 

*And when the tempter came to him, he said, “If thou be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread.”* Matthew 4:3

### III. Your Thoughts Are Not Authoritative.

- A. Simply having a thought does not mean it indicates who or what you are. To accept your thoughts as authoritative opens one up to profound error.
- B. The presence of thought in our mind does not mean we must obey it.
- C. The presence of a thought does not mean it has come to pass or will come to pass. We do not create reality by our thought life.
- D. The presence of a wrong thought, as in temptation, does not make us sinful or guilty. The Lord Jesus did not become guilty in His temptation.

### IV. We Must Learn to Reject Wrong Thoughts.

- A. When a thought is not in harmony with the Bible, and is not what you desire or believe, then you have not originated that thought—it has come from some other source.
  - 1. If we blame ourselves for such a wrong thought, then we give that thought some control over us. When we do that it produces guilt or fear or some desire. If Satan put that thought in our mind in some way, and we accept it and give way to it, then he has some control over us. He is the Deceiver, Accuser, and Father of Lies.
  - 2. It is important to reject wrong thoughts. Make use of the following suggestion: *In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I take charge of my thinking and reject that thought of \_\_\_\_\_ . I bring all my thinking into subjection to the Lord Jesus Christ and choose to believe the truth as revealed in the Scriptures.*

- B. Learn to monitor your thought life.

If you have any question as to the origin of a thought, ask yourself what effect the thought has on you. Does it edify you or upset you? Does it make it easier to pray or harder? Does it make you fearful or bring peace? If the effect is disturbing, then it is not from God or from yourself (unless you are living out of the will of God). If it were from God, then you would know that.

---

## V. We Must Learn to Think on Correct Thoughts

- A. The Scripture—*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true...honest...pure...lovely...of good report...think on these things.*  
Philippians 4:8.

We must use the Bible as a sword. When we do, then the Holy Spirit can get involved in the process and help us (Ephesians 6:17).

- B. Make a list of your negative thinking, and dare to correct it from the Bible. Learn to reject and correct your thinking moment by moment.

Stop being afraid of your thought life. The whole process is simply one of your functions, and you can take charge of it—like you take charge of your body. Make some choices as to what you are going to think on. Memorize scripture, and meditate on the verses. Sing worship hymns, and think about the words. Listen to good tapes, and concentrate on the teaching. And in doing all this, reject the wrong thoughts that come to you—correct them with truth—and then believe and live that truth.

## CONCLUSION

We are very vulnerable to the enemy in our thought life. Choose to think your own thoughts.

---

## NOTES

1. The term "spiritual warfare" is used in a variety of ways. Some use it to refer to the spiritual battle between good and evil, while others use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world. In this paper, I will use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world.
2. The term "spiritual warfare" is used in a variety of ways. Some use it to refer to the spiritual battle between good and evil, while others use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world. In this paper, I will use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world.
3. The term "spiritual warfare" is used in a variety of ways. Some use it to refer to the spiritual battle between good and evil, while others use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world. In this paper, I will use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world.
4. The term "spiritual warfare" is used in a variety of ways. Some use it to refer to the spiritual battle between good and evil, while others use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world. In this paper, I will use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world.
5. The term "spiritual warfare" is used in a variety of ways. Some use it to refer to the spiritual battle between good and evil, while others use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world. In this paper, I will use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world.
6. The term "spiritual warfare" is used in a variety of ways. Some use it to refer to the spiritual battle between good and evil, while others use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world. In this paper, I will use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world.
7. The term "spiritual warfare" is used in a variety of ways. Some use it to refer to the spiritual battle between good and evil, while others use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world. In this paper, I will use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world.
8. The term "spiritual warfare" is used in a variety of ways. Some use it to refer to the spiritual battle between good and evil, while others use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world. In this paper, I will use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world.
9. The term "spiritual warfare" is used in a variety of ways. Some use it to refer to the spiritual battle between good and evil, while others use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world. In this paper, I will use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world.
10. The term "spiritual warfare" is used in a variety of ways. Some use it to refer to the spiritual battle between good and evil, while others use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world. In this paper, I will use it to refer to the spiritual battle between the Christian and the world.

Copyright © 2000 by Victor M. Matthews  
All rights reserved.

## THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS SELF-WORTH

### INTRODUCTION

- A. We know from the Bible, as well as from science, the power of truth and error.
- B. One of the more important truths that we must know, if we are to be successful Christians—is to understand the truth about our selves.
- C. Many of our problems, failures, and sins are largely due to our misunderstanding of the kind of a person we are. One profound result of this is our lack of self-worth. We have accepted serious errors about our worth and these limit us.
- D. We cannot solve this problem by comparing ourselves with one another nor by attempting to generate good feelings about our selves. Only through accepting what the Bible says and responding by faith can we be helped.
- I. The Christian has been created in the Image and Likeness of God.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him male and female created he them (Genesis 1:16,17).

We must begin with our creation because only here can we begin to understand ourselves. Since God is a Person of infinite perfection—to be created in His image means we are persons—of great potential and value. To be a person means not only self-consciousness but self-determination. We have the ability to make profound far-reaching decisions. As a person we have many rights: to know, to be heard, to feel, to have an opinion, to be honored, to develop potential, to assume responsibility, to enjoy life. God treats us as persons. We may not treat ourselves as less.

The term “spiritual” would designate the kind of person we are. We are not basically body, mind, emotion, or will. God created us to know Him, to understand spiritual truth, and perform spiritual functions. We are by created a sacred person. We commit a profound sin when we do not develop our potential and live as though life and fulfillment were sensual.

Once we accept error about ourselves, and we all have due to the Fall, then we almost always will use that error to interpret (misinterpret) the events, relationships, and opportunities of life—as well as our own functions.

---

Without realizing it we bring confusion and failure into many if not all the areas of our life.

One of the clearest evidences that we do not know, accept and practice the Biblical truth of our self-worth is seen in our response to the Word of God. Too often we read the promises and say, "I can't be like that." Or we read the commandments and say, "I can't do that." When we live with such unbelief and error in our life the result is often that of confusion, discouragement, and criticism.

II. The Christian has been and is Loved by God.

As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you, continue ye in my love (John 15:9).

...That the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou has loved me (John 17:23).

To be loved by God means that He recognizes us as persons, gives us our rightful place in His life, and will do what is right by us, in seeking our good, even though it involves suffering. We must accept this truth.

III. The Christian has been called to Live in Fellowship with God.

God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord (I Corinthians 1:9).

No greater honor could be bestowed upon us than to be invited to fellowship with God. As we do, the door is open so He can minister to us and lead us into the knowledge and practice of His will.

IV. The Christian has been given Divine Revelation.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the world (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Divine revelation is the greatest possession that one could ever receive. There is nothing more powerful than the truth about God and His plan for our daily life. What profound sin we commit when we neglect and disobey the Word of God.

V. The Christian has been made the Object of Divine Redemption.

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him (Romans 5:8,9).

---

The great evidence of divine love and our worth—is seen in redemption. The Christian can say with Paul, "...I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

VI. The Christian has been made the Temple of the Holy Spirit.

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's (I Corinthians 6:19,20).

We have all read of the Old Testament tabernacle and tried to imagine what it meant when it was filled with the glory of God. Today, every believer is God's temple. He wants to manifest Himself to us and then through us.

## CONCLUSION

The only way we will know true self-worth is to accept what the Bible says about us and respond by faith and love to its message.

---

\_\_\_\_\_



## LEARNING TO MONITOR OURSELVES

### INTRODUCTION

Because of the fall of man, our ancestral lines, the teaching from our past, the pressures from the world, the hidden and not so hidden working of Satan, and our own sin, we all have a subtle and powerful network of error, excuses, defense mechanisms, lies, protective devices, wrong conceptions of life, deceptions, wrong attitudes, and rationalizations deeply imbedded within us. This maze of sin and error produces powerful pressures and needs that often structure our thinking and life, even though we may be largely unaware of what is happening.

Most of our sins and failures can be traced to this hidden network. When we have an area of life in which we find pressure, or in which we are often characterized by sin and failure—the problem needs to be traced back to its root. It is not enough to simply confess the behavioral sin—confession also applies to what caused the sin (I John 1:9). And that cause will almost always have to do with *the way we have accepted error in our thinking*.

One way of approaching this problem is to ask the Holy Spirit to open our spiritual eyes to what is hidden within us and in our past. We must also ask Him to help us be honest. And then when we sin or fail—ask ourselves the following questions:

1. What exactly am I doing? (It will help to write it out fully.)
  2. Why am I doing this? (What emotion, desire, or pressure is behind it?)
  3. What needs do I have that I am trying to satisfy?
  4. To whom or what am I responding?
  5. Where did the pressure to do this first begin?
  6. What triggered this recent pressure and action?
  7. What error(s) have I accepted that has made me so vulnerable?
  8. What kind of pattern has this produced in my life?
  9. What is causing me to continue practicing this pattern?
  10. What is my emotional response when I think of praying about this pattern?
-

11. What commandments apply to my attitude and action?
12. What promises apply to my attitude and action?
13. Why have I not made a full confession of this pattern?
14. Am I willing to confess this pattern as sin? When?

## CONCLUSION

Be honest with God and with yourself. Be specific. Try to understand the error that was the root of the practice. Make a full confession. Renounce the error and the behavior as the sin it really is. Ask God to teach you the truth—and how to think on that which is truthful.

It may help to cure the problem of erroneous thinking by making a list of the negative thoughts that run through your mind when you read the Bible, listen to a sermon, or when you think about Biblical truth or the Christian life. Do more than just think about it—write out the list. As you look at how you think in negative ways, ask yourself whether you are believing the error you have written out. Most of us, without realizing what we are doing, often interpret the Bible, ourselves, and life itself on the basis of our negative and erroneous thinking—instead of on the basis of the truth. Do not permit yourself to continue this practice.

---

## SUGGESTIONS REGARDING RESISTING THE ENEMY

### INTRODUCTION

Here are a couple of suggestions that may be of help to you. These are a development and application of what it means to “resist the Devil” (James 4:7; 1 Pet 5:6-9). My thought here is that we must resist in the area of what wicked spirits are doing to us—resisting in the area of their workings. To a large degree, the following would also apply to those areas in which we have accepted error. When you are aware of oppression then work against it in a number of ways.

#### I. Pray against it

*Heavenly Father, I turn your searchlight on this \_\_\_\_\_, and I pray You would show me what to do with it. If this is a trial from You, then I accept it—but if it is of the enemy in some way, I refuse it. I claim Your will and Your protection regarding it. I repudiate everything in my life that is not Your will for me and bring Your grace and Your power against it. (Maintain this in attitude and occasional statement.)*

#### II. Work against it

- A. If it’s something like depression that makes it hard to be optimistic, then work against it.

Take time to praise God (use the hymnbook) and by reciting verses on hope, peace, etc., and make them personal. Perseverance in doing this is very important—keep at it.

- B. Whatever it is, use statements like the following.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I bring the power of His blood against \_\_\_\_\_. I use that power to smash it all down. I cut it into pieces. I repudiate it. I turn the searchlight of God on it. I will not accept this \_\_\_\_\_. I command it has to leave me. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I bring the power and cleansing of the Crucifixion against \_\_\_\_\_. ... the Resurrection ... the Ascension ... the Day of Pentecost ... the power of the Word of God ... the power of the will of God. I command all \_\_\_\_\_ and the wicked spirits related to it to leave me.

III. Try to go back to the source of the problem.

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I repudiate everything that has come to me from the ancestral line of my father \_\_\_\_\_ and my mother \_\_\_\_\_. I break down all that has been transferred to me from them. I repudiate all workings of wicked spirits in my ancestral lines. Enlarge on each of these as you sense the need. If you start to do this and it becomes harder to do, you are on the right track. This is difficult work—keep at it.*

IV. When you have some form of oppression like fear, or anger, or a craving—whatever it is—try to find a corresponding virtue.

As an example, for fear it would be courage, and for anger it would be something like gentleness. Look up a verse that would teach the virtue—read it out loud, memorize it, repeat it—and receive that virtue from God. As an example: *Heavenly Father, I refuse this fear and now receive the courage you have for me. I believe You have not given me the spirit of fear but of courage (II Tim 1:7), so I now receive that courage from You and choose to practice it in spite of how afraid I feel.*

## CONCLUSION

The enemy has been defeated—but you must resist his workings and use your weapons against him.

---

## NOTES

## SUGGESTIONS REGARDING SPIRITUAL PROTECTION

- I. Cover yourself with the armor at the beginning of the day and again if you face a difficult situation.

This is not an act of incantation. The words themselves do not have a “magic value.” It is not necessary to do this as a constant activity. It is important to recognize in the armor the redemptive provision the Lord Jesus has made for us and also a pattern as to how we are to live our daily life.

- II. Learn to worship, praise, and thank God regularly through the day.

In particular do so in regard to Who He is and in reference to all of His great work. Do so for each member of the Trinity.

- III. A simple and easy way to implement worship and emphasize truth is to utilize the better hymns and worship choruses.

Memorize them and sing them whenever you have opportunity. Some examples: *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name; Holy, Holy, Holy; I Will Praise Him; Worthy Is the Lamb; All Hail King Jesus; We Are Standing on Holy Ground; Be Exalted O God; Let There Be Glory and Honor and Praises; etc.*

- IV. Memorize passages of the Bible that summarize the victory of the Lord Jesus over the enemy.

Recite these passages regularly, meditate on the message they contain, and express your thanksgiving and worship to God.

- V. Utilize the Warfare Prayer and the Daily Affirmation of Faith as a pattern for prayer and devotions.

At first, use them once a day for a week, and then only once a month.

- VI. When aware of a condemning, accusing, erroneous, or tempting thought, respond to such activity with the truth.

Consider the thought as a threat and meet it with the sword of the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). It is very helpful to “take charge” of your thinking, emotions, bodily desires, will, and life itself by the use of some statement. Be very firm and bold in refusing the feelings of depression, despair, hopelessness, etc. *In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I take charge of my thought life (emotions, bodily desires, will, family, finances, job, etc). I choose, in dependence on You, to bring all my thoughts (etc.) into subjection to Jesus Christ. I refuse that thought (etc.) of \_\_\_\_\_.*

- VII. When you have something in your life and you're not sure of its origin (or whether it is right or wrong), the following prayer and affirmation reflecting James 4:7 may be helpful.

*Heavenly Father, if this \_\_\_\_\_ (headache, sickness, responsibility, relationship, feeling, etc.) is of You, if it is a way of the cross for me, if it is the ministry of the Holy Spirit, then I accept it and thank you for it. However, if this \_\_\_\_\_ is not from you, but is from the enemy, then I reject it and will not have it in my life. I pray that You will guide me in this matter so I may have the freedom to live for Your glory.*

- VIII. In order to limit what the enemy can do through other people, it is often helpful to break the spiritual relationships that the enemy may have set up. (Note—These are spiritual relationships. I am not saying that one should stop talking to a relative, etc.)

- A. Make a list of the names of parents and grandparents (if living), close relatives who are influential in your life, individuals who lived in your home when you were growing up, pastors, people with whom you have (or have had) a hurtful relationship, etc., and by use of the following statement, cancel all relationships set up by the enemy.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I cancel and break all relationships set up by Satan and wicked spirits between \_\_\_\_\_ and me. I smash down all those relationships and all the effects those relationships have had upon me.

- B. If you are going through a very tense time spiritually and do not know where the pressure is coming from, then use the above every day until things are better. In normal times, do this once a week.
- C. This is not a prayer, so you need not do it during prayer. I would advise you to use it when you are doing something you must do each day and which can serve to remind you of its necessity (like shaving or washing dishes).
- IX. The recitation of the truth as an affirmation is always very helpful as a form of protection.

When you have a negative thought or emotion then respond to it with an appropriate statement of truth. For example, if you have a thought that you are not a Christian, then respond, "I affirm that I am a true believer because I have, by the grace of God, received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior." Then quote a verse like John 1:12.

---

- X. It may be necessary, if you have some contact with a person or organization in which you are aware the enemy is working in a very strong way, to distance yourself from that person or organization.

It is not unusual for a very fine person to be a channel of Satanic pressure and to be quite unaware of it. If you cannot resist the pressure successfully, then it may be necessary to put some distance between you and that person.

- XI. If the enemy is specifically invited into a house or organization, as in some occult ceremony, and then you move into that house or join that organization, you may become aware of demonic problems in your life that you cannot pinpoint.

If it is your house, then after prayer and putting on the armor, go from room to room, command the enemy to leave, cancel all permission and invitations that were given, and command they may not return. Then cover all the house and possessions with the redeeming blood of the Lord Jesus. Make sure you do not have in your house some artifact, picture, or books that have been used in an occult practice or that advocate doing such.

- XII. After you counsel with someone regarding the enemy, or have been in some place where you sensed pressure, refuse any burden placed upon you by the enemy and command all wicked spirits to go back where they came from.

## CONCLUSION

Make sure you put on the armor every day and live in harmony with each piece. Do it by faith.

---



## NOTES

## THE MARRIAGE AFFIRMATION

### INTRODUCTION

The husband and wife relationship is always a prime target for demonic attack. If you and your spouse are honest, understand how to live the Christ-life and are working hard on it—then don't overlook the enemy. Use the following at least twice a day for one week and then as needed.

After you have read the Bible and prayed, put on the armor as described in Ephesians 6 or the Warfare Prayer. Follow the directions as given in Ephesians 4 & 5:

- Put off the old man (all you were as an unsaved person with its error and sin)—Ephesians 4:22.
- Choose to think according to the Bible—Ephesians 4:23.
- Put on the new man (all you are in Jesus Christ)—Ephesians 4:24.
- Choose to resist the Devil (with all his influence in your life and marriage)—Ephesians 4:27.
- Ask the Holy spirit to fill you with Himself and to teach you—Ephesians 5:18.

Then in a firm and authoritative voice (speaking aloud, this is not a prayer, but a spiritual declaration, a way of resisting the Devil), state the following:

*In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, I smash down all the workings of Satan and wicked spirits upon me, upon my wife/husband, \_\_\_\_\_, upon our children, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and upon our marriage.*

*With the power of the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of the Lord Jesus, I break Satan's hold upon us and the control he has developed in our marriage. I break down all the ways he has tried to divide us. I smash down all the effects of the angry words we have said to one another. I choose to forgive my wife/husband, \_\_\_\_\_, and declare I choose to be to her/him the kind of wife/husband that would glorify God.*

*I command, in the name of Jesus Christ, that every facet of Satan's hold upon our marriage must be broken, and I repudiate every demonic gift and control that has come to me from my ancestral lines. I cover my wife/husband, \_\_\_\_\_, our children, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and myself with the cleansing blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## THE DAILY AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

### INTRODUCTION

Today I deliberately choose to submit myself fully to God as He has made Himself known to me through the Holy Scriptures which I honestly accept as the only inspired, infallible, authoritative standard for all of life and practice. In this day I will not judge God, His work, myself, or others on the basis of feelings of circumstances.

In particular, I recognize by faith the following:

1. The triune God is worthy of all honor, praise, and worship as the Creator, Sustainer, and End of all things. As my Creator I confess that God made me for Himself. In this day I therefore choose to live for Him (Revelation 5:9,10; Isaiah 43:1,7,21; Revelation 4:11).
  2. God loved me and chose me in Christ before time began (Ephesians 1:1-17).
  3. God has proven His love to me in sending His Son to die in my place, whereby every provision has already been made for my past, present, and future needs through His representative work whereby I have been quickened, raised, seated with Christ in the heavenlies, and annointed with the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:6-11, 8:28-39; Philippians 1:6, 4:6,7,13,19; Ephesians 1:3, 2:5,6; Acts 1:1-4, 33).
  4. Since I have received Christ as my Lord and Savior, I believe God's Word that He has received me (John 1:12; Ephesians 1:6); forgiven me (Ephesians 1:7); adopted me into His family, whereby He has assumed every responsibility for me (John 17:11,17,21,24; Ephesians 1:5; Philippians 1:6); given to me eternal life (John 3:36; 1 John 5:9-13); applied Christ's perfect righteousness to me whereby I am justified (Romans 5:1); has made me complete in Christ (Colossians 2:10); that He offers Himself to me as my daily sufficiency through prayer and the decisions of faith (1 Corinthians 1:30; Colossians 1:27; Galatians 2:20; John 14:13,14; Matthew 21:22; Romans 6:1-19; Hebrews 4:1-3,11); and that the Holy Spirit Himself has baptized me into the Body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:13); sealed me (Ephesians 1:13,14); annointed me for life and service (Acts 1:8; John 7:37-39); seeks to lead me into a deeper walk with Christ (John 14:16-18; 15:26; 16:13-15; Romans 8:11-16), and to fill my life with Himself (Ephesians 5:18). I accept these truths as realities in my life today.
-

5. Only God can deal with sin and only God can produce holiness of life. I confess that in my salvation my part was only to receive Him, and that He dealt with my sin and saved me. Now I confess that in order to live a holy life, I can only surrender to His will and receive Him as my sanctification, trusting Him to do that glorious work within whereby I may be enabled to live today in purity, freedom, rest, and power for His glory (John 1:12; 1 Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 9:8; Galatians 2:20; Hebrews 4:9; 1 John 5:4; Jude 24).

Having confessed that God is worthy of all praise, that the Scriptures are the only authoritative standard, that only God can deal with sin and produce holiness of life, I again recognize my total dependence upon Him and submission to Him. I accept the truth that praying in faith is absolutely necessary for the realization of the will and grace of God in my daily life of sanctification (1 John 5:14; James 2:6, 4:2,3, 5:16-18; Philippians 4:6,7; Hebrews 4:1-3, 11:6,24-28).



Recognizing that faith is a total response to God whereby the daily provisions which the Lord has provided in Himself are appropriated, I therefore make the following decisions of faith:

1. For this day (Hebrews 3:7,13,15; 4:7) I make the decision of faith to wholly surrender to the authority of God as He has revealed Himself in the Scriptures—to obey Him. I hereby confess my sin, face the sinful reality of my old nature, and deliberately choose to walk in the light, in step with Christ, throughout the hours of this day (Romans 6:16-20; Philippians 2:12-13; 1 John 1:7,9).
  2. For this day I make the decision of faith to wholly surrender to the authority of God as revealed in the Scriptures—to believe him. I accept only His Word as final authority. I now believe that since I have confessed my sin, He has forgiven and cleansed me (1 John 1:9). I accept His Word of promise (to be my sufficiency and rest) at full value and will conduct myself accordingly (Exodus 33:14; 1 Corinthians 1:30; II Corinthians 9:8; Philippians 4:19).
  3. For this day I make the decision of faith to recognize that God has made every necessary provision so that I may fulfill His will and calling. Therefore I will not make any excuse for my sin and failure (I Thessalonians 5:24).
  4. For this day I make the decision of faith to deliberately receive from God the provision which He has made for me. I hereby
-

renounce all self-effort to live the Christian life and to perform God's service; renounce all sinful activity which only weeps over sin and failure; renounce all sinful praying which asks God to change circumstances and people so that I may be more spiritual; renounce all drawing back from the work of the Holy Spirit within and the call of God without; and renounce all non-Biblical motives, goals, and activities which serve my sinful pride.

- a. I sincerely receive Christ as my sanctification, particularly now as my cleansing from the fleshly deeds of the old man, and ask the Holy Spirit to apply to me the work Christ accomplished for me on the Cross. In cooperation with and dependence upon Him, I obey the command to "put off the old man" (Romans 6:1-14; I Corinthians 1:30; Galatians 6:14; Ephesians 4:22).
  - b. I sincerely receive Christ as my sanctification, particularly now as my enablement moment by moment to live above sin, and ask the Holy Spirit to apply to me the work of the Resurrection so that I may walk in newness of life. I confess that only God can deal with my sin and only God can produce holiness and the fruit of the Spirit in my life. In cooperation with and dependence upon Him, I obey the command to "put on the new man" (Romans 6:1-14; Ephesians 4:24).
  - c. I sincerely receive Christ as my deliverance from Satan and take my position with Him in the heavenlies, asking the Holy Spirit to apply to me the work of the Ascension. In His Name I submit myself to God and stand against all Satanic influence and subtlety. In cooperation and dependence upon God, I obey the command to "resist the Devil" (Ephesians 1:20-23; 2:5,6; 4:27; 6:10-18; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 2:14-15; James 4:7; I Peter 5:8,9).
  - d. I sincerely receive the Holy Spirit as my anointing for every aspect of life and service today. I fully open my life to Him to fill me afresh in obedience to the command to "be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18; John 7:37-39; 14:17,26; 15:26,27; 16:7-15; Acts 1:8).
-

## CONCLUSION

Having made this confession and these decisions of faith, I now receive God's promised rest for this day (Hebrews 4:1-13). Having sincerely attempted to do my part, I now assume the rest of faith that God will do his part. Therefore, I relax in the trust of faith knowing that in the moment of temptation, trial, or need, the Lord will be there as my strength and sufficiency (I Corinthians 10:13).

---

## WARFARE PRAYER

### INTRODUCTION

Heavenly Father, I bow in worship and praise before You. I cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ as my protection. I surrender myself completely and unreservedly in every area of my life to You. I take a stand against all the workings of Satan that would hinder me in my prayer life. I address myself only to the True and Living God and refuse any involvement of Satan in my prayer.

Satan, I command you, in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to leave my presence with all of your demons. I bring the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ between us.

Heavenly Father, I worship You and give You praise. I recognize that You are worthy to receive all glory and honor and praise. I renew my allegiance to You and pray that the Blessed Holy Spirit would enable me in this time of prayer. I am thankful, Heavenly Father, that You have loved me from past eternity and that You sent the Lord Jesus Christ into the world to die as my substitute. I am thankful that the Lord Jesus Christ came as my representative and that through Him You have completely forgiven me; You have adopted me into Your family; You have assumed all responsibility for me; You have given me eternal life; You have given me the perfect righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ so I am now justified. I am thankful that in Him You have made me complete, and that You have offered Yourself to me to be my daily help and strength.

Heavenly Father, open my eyes that I might see how great You are and how complete Your provision is for this day. I am thankful that the victory the Lord Jesus Christ won for me on the Cross and in His Resurrection has been given to me and that I am seated with the Lord Jesus Christ in the heavenlies. I take my place with Him in the heavenlies and recognize by faith that all wicked spirits and Satan himself are under my feet. I declare, therefore, that Satan and his wicked spirits are subject to me in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I am thankful for the Armor You have provided. I put on the Girdle of Truth, the Breastplate of Righteousness, the Sandals of Peace, and the Helmet of Salvation. I lift up the Shield of Faith against all the fiery darts of the enemy; and I take in my hand the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. I choose to use Your Word against all the forces of evil in my life. I put on this Armor and live and pray in complete dependence upon You, Blessed Holy Spirit.

I am grateful, Heavenly Father, that the Lord Jesus Christ spoiled all principalities and powers and made a show of them openly and tri-

---

umphed over them in Himself. I claim all that victory for my life today. I reject all the insinuations, the accusations, and the temptations of Satan. I affirm that the Word of God is true, and I choose to live today in the light of God's Word. I choose, Heavenly Father, to live in obedience to You and in fellowship with Yourself. Open my eyes and show me the areas of my life that do not please you. Work in me to cleanse me from all ground that would give Satan a foothold against me. I do in every way stand into all that it means to be Your adopted child, and I welcome all the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

By faith and in dependence upon You I put off the old man and stand into all the victory of the Crucifixion where the Lord Jesus Christ provided cleansing from the old nature. I put on the new man and stand into all the victory of the Resurrection and the provision He has made to live above sin.

Therefore, today I put off the old nature with its selfishness, and I put on the new nature with its love. I put off the old nature with its fear, and I put on the new nature with its courage. I put off the old nature with its weakness, and I put on the new nature with its strength. I put off the old nature with all its deceitful lusts, and I put on the new nature with its righteousness, purity, and honesty.

In every way I stand into the victory of the Ascension and Glorification of the Lord Jesus Christ, whereby all the principalities and powers were made subject to Him. I claim my place in Christ as victorious with Him over all the enemies of my soul. Blessed Holy Spirit, I pray that You would fill me. Come into my life, break down every idol, and cast out every foe.

I am thankful, Heavenly Father, for the expression of Your will for my daily life as You have shown me in Your Word. I therefore claim all the will of God for today. I am thankful that You have blessed me with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. I am thankful that You have begotten me unto a living Hope by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. I am thankful that You have made a provision so that today I can live filled with the Spirit of God with love and joy and peace, with longsuffering, gentleness, and goodness, with meekness, faithfulness, and self-control in my life. I recognize that this is your will for me, and I therefore reject and resist all endeavors of Satan and his wicked spirits to rob me of the will of God. I refuse in this day to believe my feelings, and I hold up the Shield of Faith against all the accusations and distortion and insinuations that Satan would put into my mind. I claim the fullness of the will of God for my life today.

In the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ I completely surrender myself to You, Heavenly Father, as a living sacrifice. I choose not to be conformed

---



to this world, I choose to be transformed by the renewing of my mind, and I pray that You would show me Your will and enable me to walk in all the fullness of Your will today.

I am thankful, Heavenly Father, that the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, to the casting down of imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought into obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, in my own life today I tear down the strongholds of Satan and smash the plans of Satan that have been formed against me. I tear down the strongholds of Satan against my mind, and I surrender my mind to You, Blessed Holy Spirit. I affirm, Heavenly Father, that You have not given me the spirit of fear but of power and of love and of a sound mind. I break and smash the strongholds of Satan formed against my emotions today—I give my emotions to You. I smash the strongholds of Satan formed against my will today—I give my will to You and choose to make the right decisions of faith. I smash the strongholds of Satan formed against my body today—I give my body to You, recognizing that I am Your temple. I rejoice in Your mercy and goodness.

Heavenly Father, I pray that now and through this day You would strengthen me and enlighten me. Show me the way Satan is hindering and tempting and lying and distorting the truth in my life. Enable me to be the kind of person that would please You. Enable me to be aggressive in prayer and faith. Enable me to be aggressive mentally, to think about and practice Your Word, and to give You Your rightful place in my life.

Again, I would cover myself with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and pray that You, Blessed Holy Spirit, would bring all the work of the Crucifixion, all the work of the Resurrection, all the work of the ascension, and all the work of the Pentecost into my life today. I surrender myself to You. I refuse to be discouraged. You are the God of all hope. You have proven Your power by resurrecting Jesus Christ from the dead, and I claim in every way this victory over all Satanic forces in my life. I pray in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ with thanksgiving. Amen.

---

## APPENDIX

The following are transparencies that have been included in this manual for your convenience.

The Meaning of Christianity  
The Essential Truths of Biblical Christianity  
Necessity of Response  
Denial—Pretending—Passivity  
The Christian World & Life View  
Important Propositions  
Necessary Understanding Before Serious Counselling  
Instructive Titles  
Serious Harassment of Believers  
Giving the Devil a Foothold  
Source of Problems  
Discerning Oppression  
Sin  
Our Former State  
The Victory of the Lord Jesus  
Our Redemption in Jesus Christ  
The Believer's Victory  
Necessity of Daily Choices  
Freedom  
False Standards  
The Fall  
Errors, Patterns, Distortions  
The Flesh in the Believer  
The World  
The Effects of Worldliness  
Examination  
The Work of the Enemy  
Wages of Sin in the Emotional Life  
How to Resist  
Barriers  
Self-Centeredness  
The Method of Deliverance  
The Promise of Power  
Strongholds  
Performative Commands  
Essentials for Freedom  
The Importance of Biblical Affirmations  
The Counselor  
Suggestions Regarding our Children

---

## **THE MEANING OF CHRISTIANITY**

**CHRISTIANITY IS A PERSON**

(Therefore a Relationship)

**CHRISTIANITY IS A REVELATION**

(Therefore an Authority)

**CHRISTIANITY IS A REDEMPTION**

(Therefore a Dynamic)



## **THE ESSENTIAL TRUTHS OF BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY**

---

### **REGARDING GOD:**

Personal, Sovereign, Infinite, and Holy Love

### **REGARDING CREATION:**

Reality of Two Kinds, Finite and Purposeful

### **REGARDING THE FALL:**

Historical, All-encompassing and Irreparable

### **REGARDING JESUS CHRIST:**

Deity, Incarnate and Redeemer

### **REGARDING THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

Personal, Redemptive and Sanctifying

### **REGARDING REVELATION:**

General and Special, Inspired and Authoritative

### **REGARDING REDEMPTION:**

Historical, Covenantal and Personal

### **REGARDING ANGELS:**

Good and Bad, Personal and Powerful

---

## NECESSITY OF RESPONSE

### WRONG—ERROR

Denial

Pretense

Passivity

### RIGHT—TRUTH

Acceptance

Honesty

Responsibility

---

## DENIAL—PRETENDING—PASSIVITY

DISOBEDIENCE REGARDING GOD

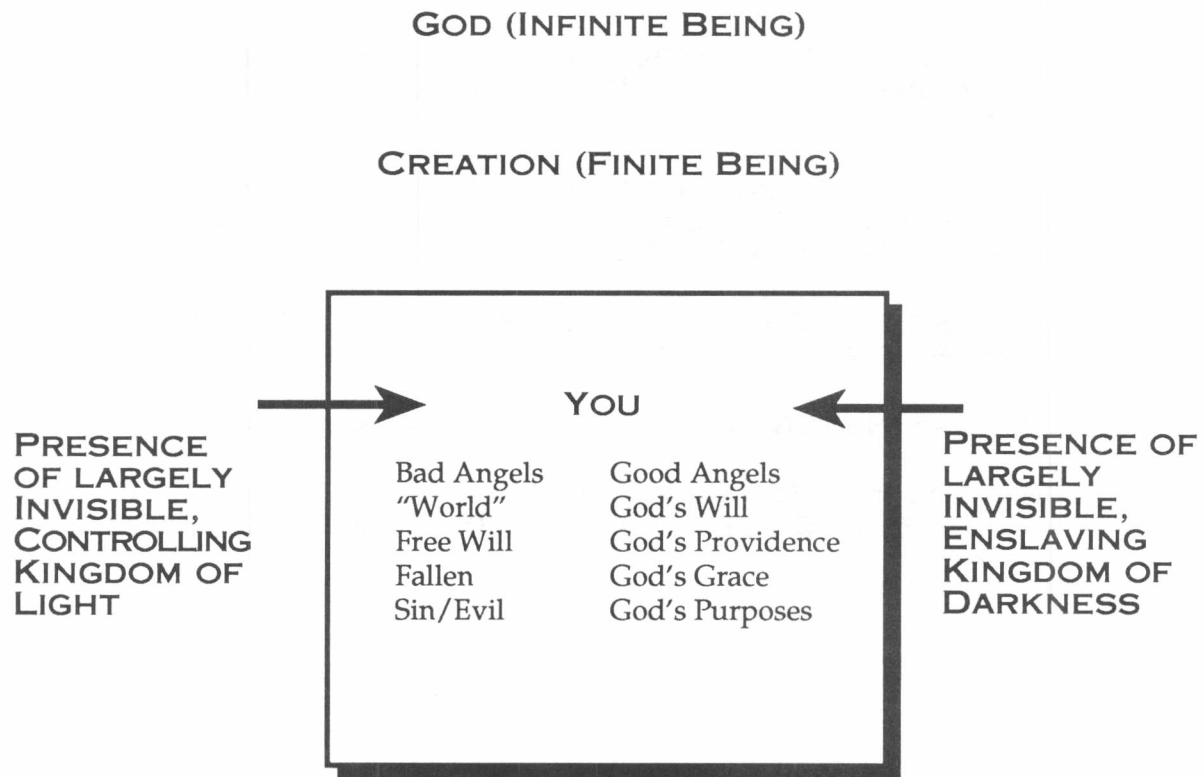
UNBELIEF REGARDING BIBLE

VULNERABILITY REGARDING ENEMY

COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE REGARDING SELF



## THE CHRISTIAN WORLD & LIFE VIEW



## IMPORTANT PROPOSITIONS

1. THE WARFARE IS ONLY A VERY SMALL PART OF THE CHRISTIAN LIFE.
  2. THE KEY TO THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT GETTING RID OF DEMONS—IT IS GIVING JESUS CHRIST HIS RIGHTFUL PLACE.
  3. A BELIEVER CANNOT BE POSSESSED BY DEMONS. HOWEVER, THERE CAN BE SOME INNER CONTROL PRODUCED BY WICKED SPIRITS.
  4. WICKED SPIRITS ARE FALLEN ANGELS. THEY ARE NOT OMNISCIENT, OMNIPOTENT, NOR OMNIPRESENT.
  5. WE CAN NEVER SAY, “THE DEVIL MADE ME DO IT.”
  6. WE ARE IN A SPIRITUAL BATTLE. THE BELIEVER IS A SOLDIER, HAS ARMOR, WEAPONS, AND IS EXPECTED TO FIGHT.
-



## **NECESSARY UNDERSTANDING BEFORE SERIOUS COUNSELING**

PERSON OF GOD AND HIS ATTRIBUTES

BIBLE AS FINAL AUTHORITY

SALVATION

UNDERSTANDING OF:

ASSURANCE & WORSHIP

FORGIVENESS & BIBLE STUDY

JUSTIFICATION & PRAYER

SANCTIFICATION & FAITH, LOVE, HOPE

HONESTY & RESPONSIBILITY

RELATIONSHIP OF FUNCTIONS/EMOTIONS TO TRUTH

AGGRESSIVE APPLICATION OF TRUTH

GOAL IN LIFE: GOD'S GLORY

WORLD AND LIFE VIEW

(SIN, WORLD, ERROR, ENEMY)

---

## INSTRUCTIVE TITLES

ADVERSARY

DECEIVER

MURDERER

LIAR

EVIL ONE

DESTROYER

GOD OF THIS WORLD (AGE)

PRINCE OF THE POWER OF THE AIR

---

## **SERIOUS HARASSMENT OF BELIEVERS**

### **1. AS INDIVIDUALS**

King Saul—I Samuel 16:14; 18:10; 19:9

Job—Job 1,2

Peter—Matthew 16:22,23; Luke 22:31

Paul—II Corinthians 12:7; I Thessalonians 2:18

### **2. AS CHURCH MEMBERS**

Acts 5:1-11; I Corinthians 5:11-13; II Corinthians 2:6-11;  
II Timothy 2:25,26

### **3. AS PASTORS**

I Timothy 3:16,17

### **4. AS A CHURCH**

II Corinthians 2:6-11; Revelation 2:10,13,24

### **5. AS CHILDREN (WE DO NOT KNOW IF THEY WERE BELIEVERS.)**

Mark 7:24-30; 9:14-29

---

## **GIVING THE DEVIL A FOOTHOLD— (EPHESIANS 4:27)**

LYING—JOHN 8:44; ACTS 5:3

UNFORGIVENESS—II CORINTHIANS 2:6-11

FALSE TEACHING—II CORINTHIANS 11:13-15

WORLDLINESS—EPHESIANS 2:2,3; I JOHN 2:15,16;  
(ALSO JAMES 4:4)

- LUST OF THE FLESH
- LUST OF THE EYES
- PRIDE OF LIFE

SINFUL ANGER—EPHESIANS 4:27

PRIDE—I TIMOTHY 3:6

DISHONESTY—I TIMOTHY 3:7

GOSSIP—I TIMOTHY 5:13-15

OPPOSING CHURCH LEADERS—II TIMOTHY 2:25,26

HABITUAL SIN—I JOHN 3:8

UNRIGHTEOUS, UNLOVING ACTIVITY—I JOHN 3:10

---

## SOURCES OF PROBLEMS

1. PERSONAL DISOBEDIENCE
  2. UNTAUGHT
  3. PASSIVE INDIFFERENCE
  4. DENIAL REGARDING PAST
  5. GRUDGES, NEGATIVISM
  6. MENTAL ABUSE
  7. EMOTIONAL ABUSE
  8. PHYSICAL ABUSE
  9. SEXUAL ABUSE
  10. RITUAL ABUSE
  11. IMPACT OF FALLEN WORLD
  12. CIRCUMSTANTIAL INFLUENCE
  13. DEMONIC OPPRESSION
  14. ANCESTRAL INFLUENCE
-

## DISCERNING OPPRESSION

KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH

KNOWLEDGE REGARDING DECISIONS

HONEST

WORKING AGGRESSIVELY

RECONCILED THE PAST

EMOTIONAL NEEDS UNDERSTOOD

PHYSICAL PROBLEMS UNDERSTOOD

RIGHT RELATIONSHIPS

AREAS OF CONTINUAL PRESSURE

...THEN LOOK FOR THE ENEMY



## SIN

### ACCEPTANCE OF ERROR

PSALM 19:12

ROMANS 4:15

II TIMOTHY 4:10

HEBREWS 3:10

### PRACTICE OF ERROR

JAMES 1:13-16

JAMES 5:20

I JOHN 3:4

---

## **OUR FORMER STATE (REGARDING THE ENEMY)**

---

**OWNERSHIP—JOHN 8:44**

**BONDAGE—HEBREWS 2:14**

**DECEPTION—II CORINTHIANS 4:4**

**CONTROL—EPHESIANS 2:1,2**

**VULNERABILITY—MATTHEW 12:43-45**

—LUKE 13:11-16

—EPHESIANS 2:1,2





## **THE VICTORY OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST (REGARDING THE ENEMY)**

---

THE PROPHECY—GENESIS 3:15

THE BASIS—JOHN 14:30

THE DEMONSTRATION—LUKE 11:20

THE EXPLANATION—COLOSSIANS 2:15

THE TRIUMPH—I PETER 3:22

THE CELEBRATION—EPHESIANS 4:7-10

THE DELEGATION—EPHESIANS 1:19-23; 2:5,6



## **OUR REDEMPTION IN JESUS CHRIST (REGARDING THE ENEMY)**

---

TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP—COLOSSIANS 1:13,14

RELEASE FROM BONDAGE—LUKE 4:18

ILLUMINATION OF DECEPTION—ACTS 26:18

BREAKING OF CONTROL—ACTS 26:18

PERMANENT PROTECTION—ROMANS 8:38

OUR REDEMPTION IN JESUS CHRIST

RELEASE FROM BONDAGE—LUKE 4:18

---

## THE BELIEVER'S VICTORY

1. SATAN HAS BEEN DEFEATED.
2. WE ARE NOW IN GOD'S KINGDOM.
3. WE ARE SEATED IN THE HEAVENLIES.
4. WE HAVE AN ARMOR AND WEAPONS.



## NECESSITY OF DAILY CHOICES

### KINGDOM OF LIGHT

HOLINESS

LOVE

TRUTH

JOHN 8:32

### KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

UNHOLINESS

SELF-CENTEREDNESS

ERROR

JOHN 8:34



## FREEDOM

1. TREAT SIN AS FOREIGN.
  2. TREAT TRUTH, LOVE & HOLINESS AS COMPATIBLE.
  3. BREAK THE OLD PATTERNS OF SIN.
  4. INITIATE THE NEW PATTERNS OF TRUTH, LOVE, & HOLINESS.
-

## FALSE STANDARDS

OUR WORK

OUR POSSESSIONS

OUR PHYSIQUE

OUR RELATIONSHIPS

OUR POSITION

OUR EDUCATION

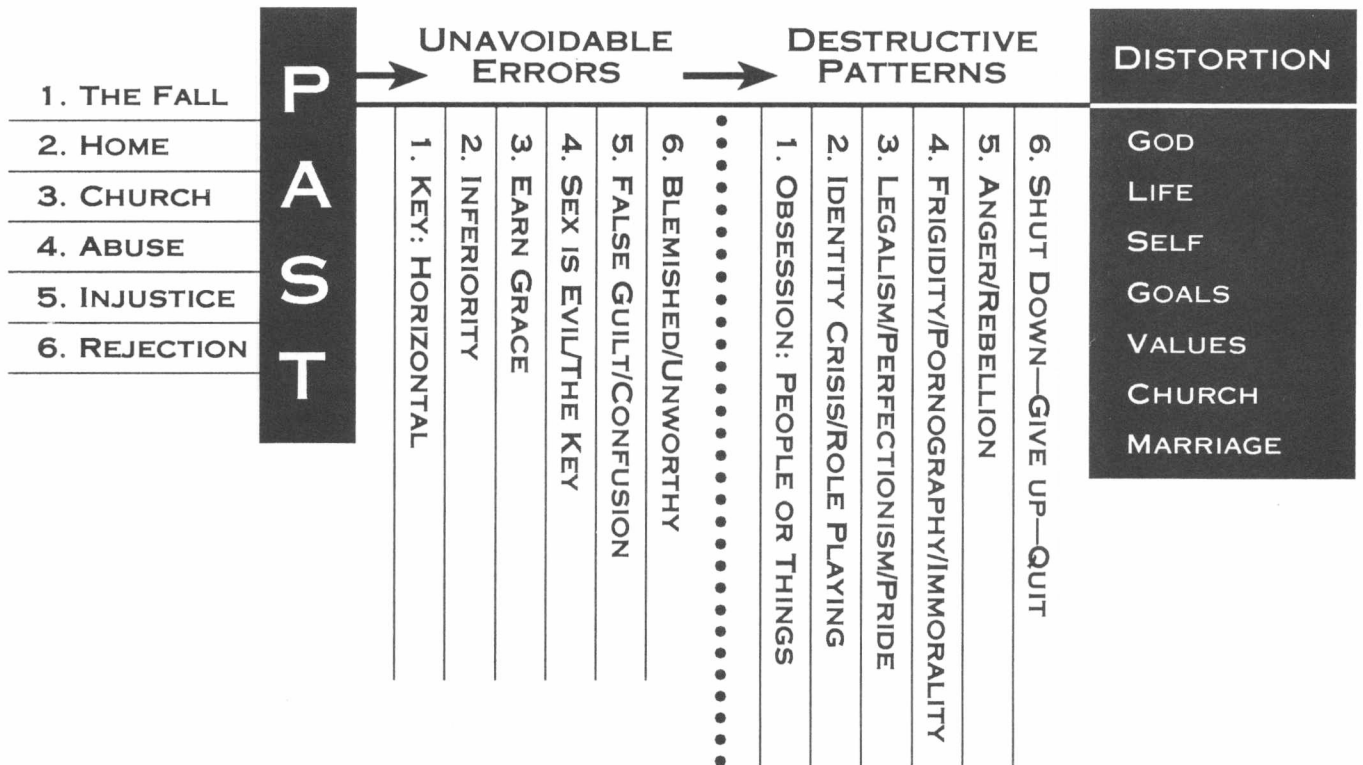
OUR ABILITY

---

## ERRORS, PATTERNS, DISTORTIONS

The Holy Spirit has come to bring healing to our distortions, help us break down our destructive patterns, and uncover our unavoidable errors. He has come to set us free. And, to enable us to glorify the Father and exalt the Lord Jesus. It is very rude and insulting to say to the Holy Spirit, "I'm OK, I don't need your help!" We must confess to Him our sinful attitudes regarding our error and bondage and ask Him for His help.

Use such a method as *Reconciling the Past* (page 27 of this manual), or the book *The Lies We Believe*, by Chris Thurman (Thomas Nelson Publishers), or *Love is a Choice* by Robert Hemfelt, Frank Minirth, and Paul Meier (Thomas Nelson Publishers).



## THE FALL

1. TRANSFERRED AUTHORITY FROM GOD TO OURSELVES
  2. TRANSFERRED THE *SOURCE* OF AUTHORITY FROM THE INTELLECT TO THE EMOTIONS.
  3. WE BECAME VULNERABLE TO EXTERNAL CONTROL.
-



## **THE “FLESH” IN THE BELIEVER**

1. DEFILEMENT
  2. ENSLAVEMENT
  3. RESISTANCE
  4. SPIRITUAL INFECTION
  5. SATANIC VULNERABILITY
-

## THE WORLD

1. A SELF-CENTERED WAY OF LIFE.
  2. THE DOMINATION OF SATAN.
  3. GOALS OF “FLESHLY” SATISFACTION.
  4. A LIFE UNDER THE JUDGMENT OF GOD.
-

## THE EFFECTS OF WORLDLINESS

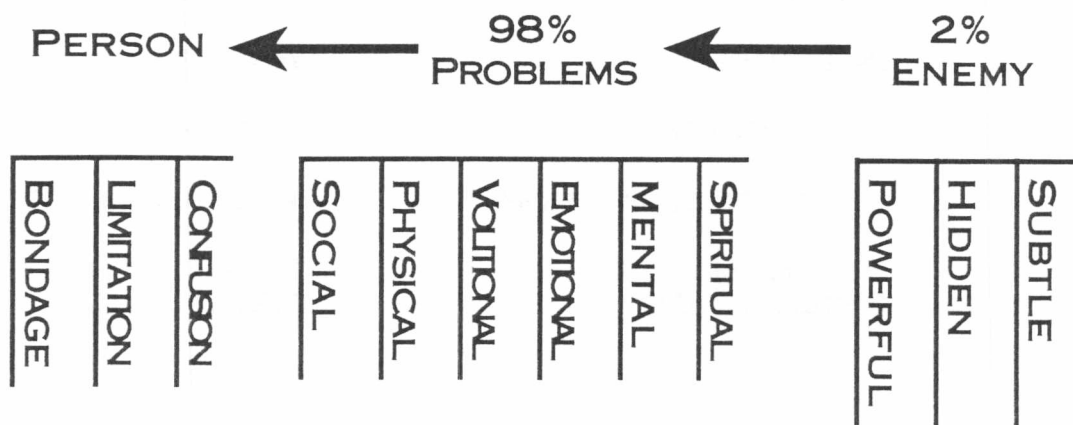
1. THE WORD OF GOD IS “CHOKED.”
2. WE BECOME AN ENEMY OF GOD.
3. WE GIVE CONTROL OVER TO SATAN.



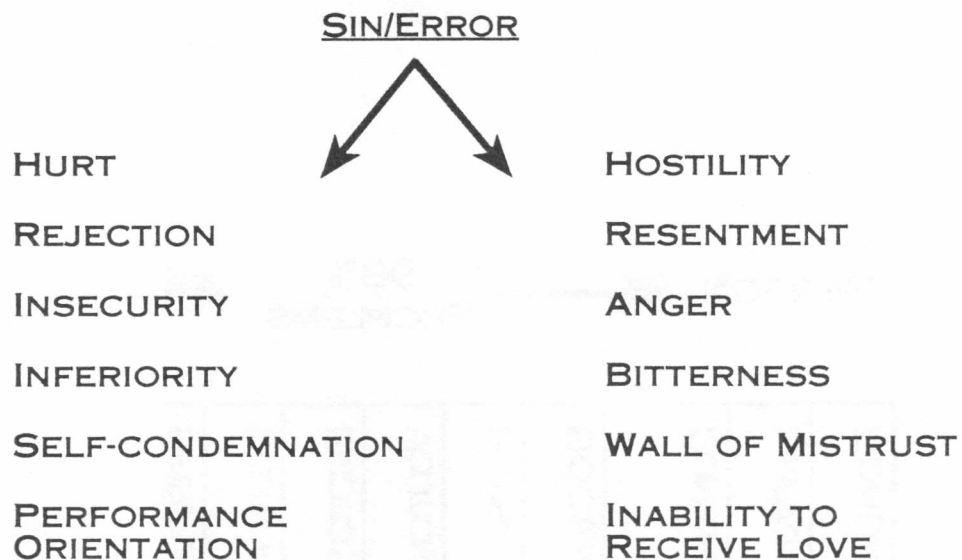
## EXAMINATION

1. ACCEPTED WORLDLY GOALS?
  2. ACCEPTED WORLDLY AUTHORITY?
  3. ACCEPTED WORLDLY SOLUTIONS?
  4. "SPIRITUALITY" ONLY EXTERNAL?
  5. WORLDLY RELATIONSHIP WITH PEOPLE?
  6. AFFECTED BY WORLDLINESS?
  7. ABLE TO LOVE & SERVE WITHOUT REWARD?
  8. IRRITATED WHEN NOT RECOGNIZED?
  9. DO I DESERVE BETTER TREATMENT?
-

## THE WORK OF THE ENEMY



## WAGES OF SIN IN THE EMOTIONAL LIFE



## HOW TO RESIST

PRAY FOR WISDOM/HONESTY

PUT ON ARMOR

IDENTIFY PROBLEM

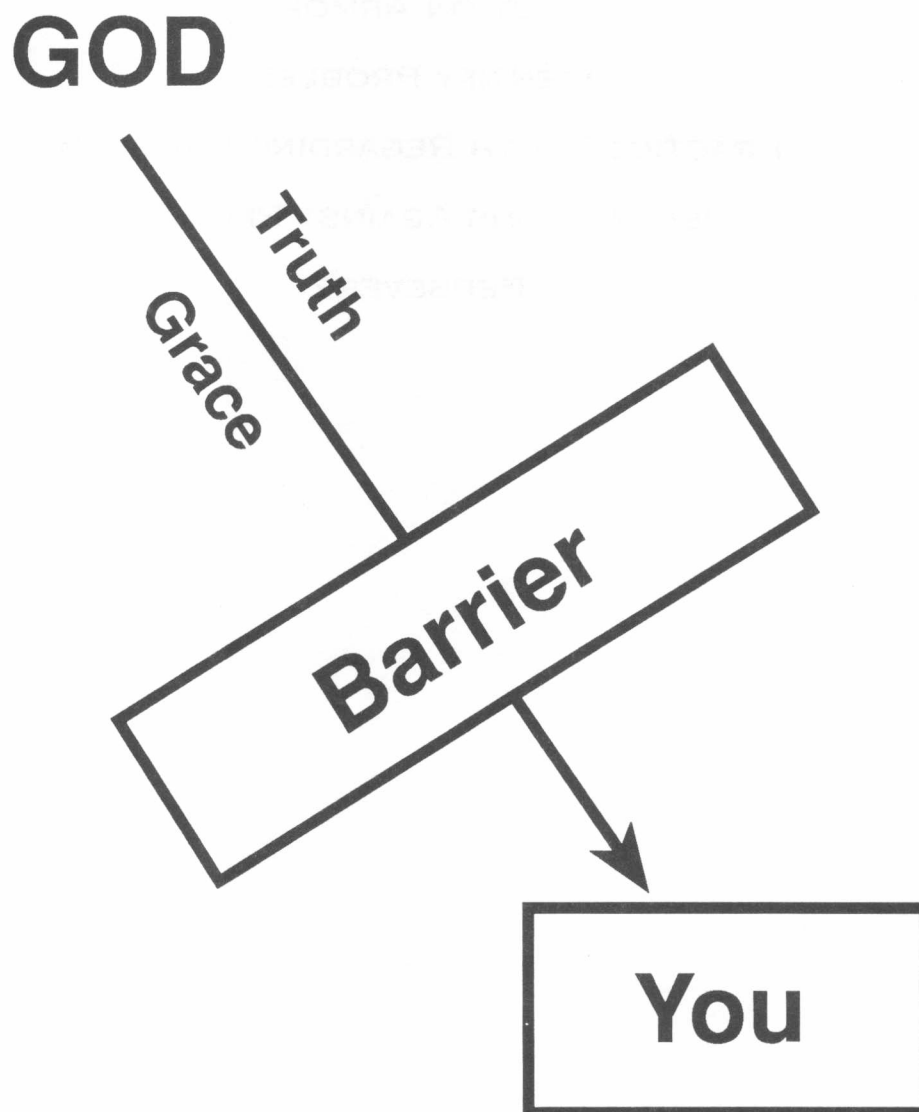
PRACTICE TRUTH REGARDING PROBLEM

USE WEAPONS AGAINST PROBLEM

PERSEVERE

---

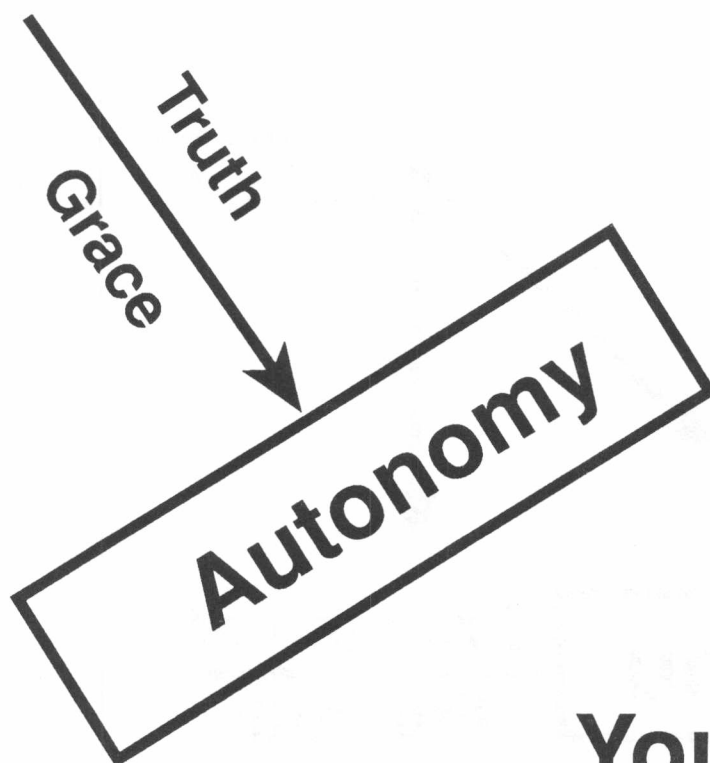
## BARRIERS





## SELF-CENTEREDNESS

**GOD**

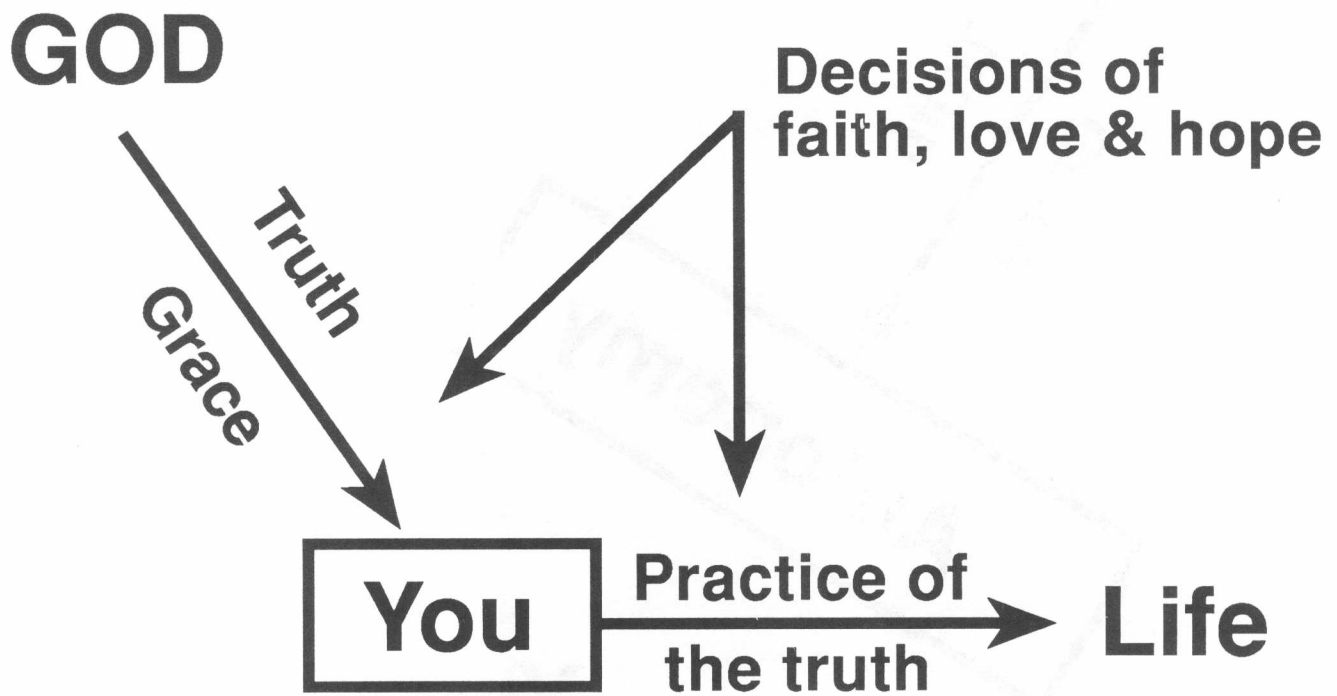


**You**

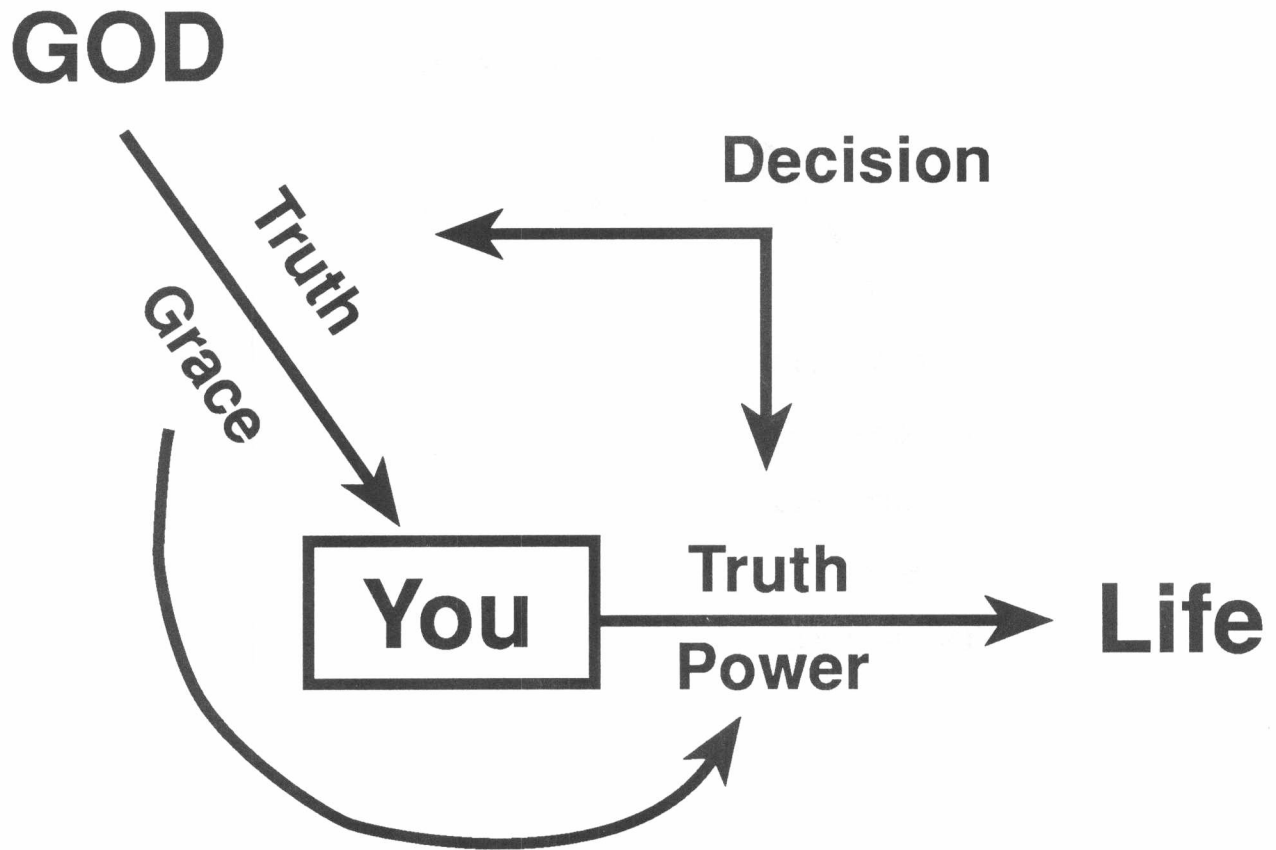
**Lack of Concern  
Lack of Honesty  
Lack of Obedience**

---

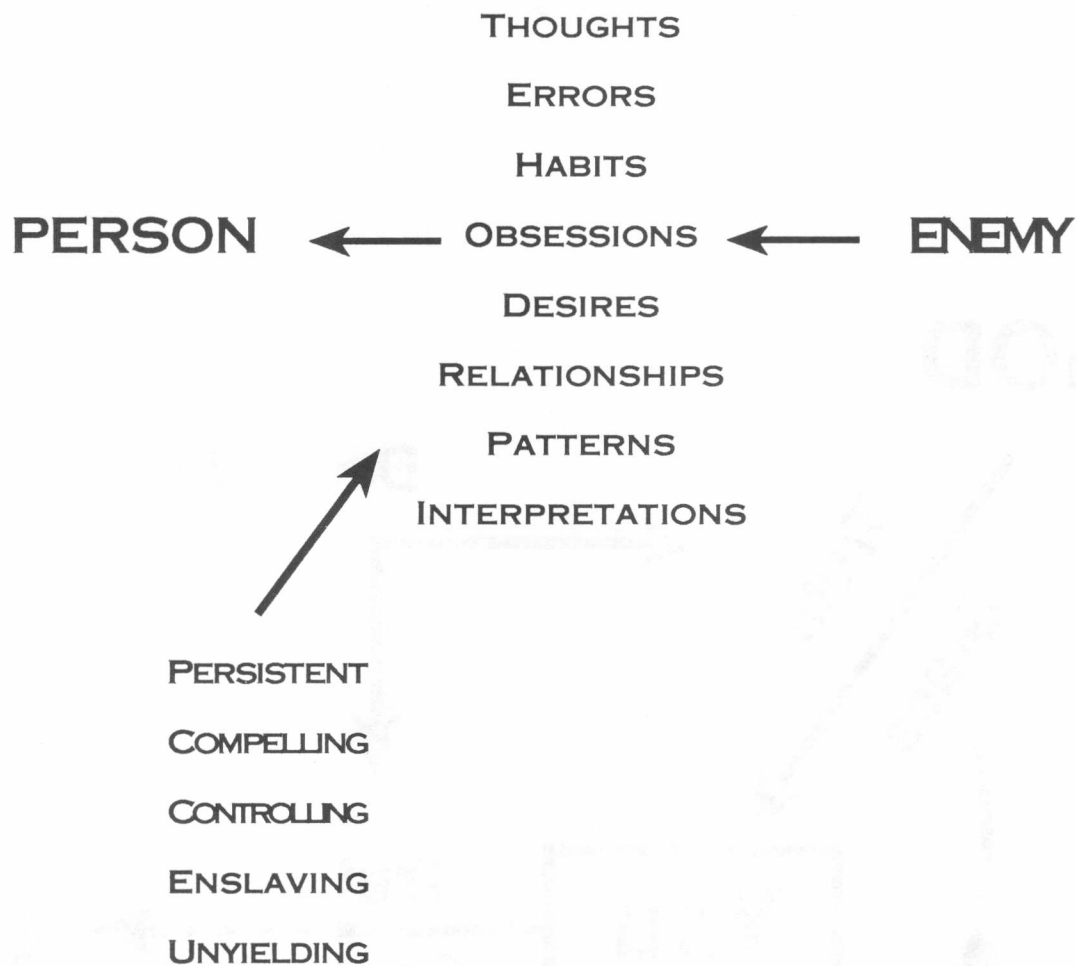
## THE METHOD OF DELIVERANCE



## THE PROMISE OF POWER



## STRONGHOLDS



## PERFORMATIVE COMMANDS

SPEAK  
THROUGH  
THE  
PERSON →  
AND  
STRONGHOLD  
TO THE  
ENEMY.

PERSON

ERROR  
PATTERN →  
EVENT

ENEMY

BASIS—EPHESIANS 6:12  
METHODOLOGY—II CORINTHIANS 10:4,5  
ILLUSTRATION—MATTHEW 16:22,23  
PROMISE—EPHESIANS 6:17

---

## ESSENTIALS FOR FREEDOM

WORSHIP

INFORMATIVE OBEDIENCE

AGGRESSIVE HEART OBEDIENCE

CONSISTENCY

BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

FELLOWSHIP WITH SPIRITUAL PEOPLE



## **THE IMPORTANCE OF BIBLICAL AFFIRMATIONS**

---

**DEFINITION—A BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE STATED AS A PRACTICAL  
AFFIRMATION OF TRUTH.**

**FOR WITNESS—ACTS 13:38,39**

**FOR EDIFICATION—PSALM 23**

**FOR WORSHIP—PSALM 100**

**FOR TESTIMONY—II TIMOTHY 1:12**

**FOR WARFARE—EPHESIANS 6:17**

**FOR PROTECTION—MATTHEW 4:4,7,10**

**FOR DECLARATION—ACTS 27:25**

**FOR GUIDANCE—JOSHUA 24:15**

**FOR THANKSGIVING—PSALM 107:8,15,21,31**



## THE COUNSELOR

**SPIRIT-FILLED**

**HONEST**

**INFORMED**

**COURAGEOUS**

**PERSEVERING**

**PATIENT**

---



## **SUGGESTIONS REGARDING OUR CHILDREN**

1. MODEL SPIRITUALITY IN WORSHIP, FELLOWSHIP, BIBLE STUDY, PRAYER.
  2. BE SPIRITUALLY AND EMOTIONALLY AVAILABLE.
  3. EXPLAIN AND TREAT THE CHILD AS CREATED IN GOD'S IMAGE AND SPIRIT.
  4. MODEL MORALITY—BUT NOT LEGALISM OR PERFECTIONISM.
  5. DEMONSTRATE DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE PERSON AND ACTIONS.
  6. TEACH THE VALUE OF TRUTH, LOVE, AND RIGHTEOUSNESS.
  7. EXPLAIN ERROR/SIN, INNER DAMAGE, FORGIVENESS, AND HEALING.
  8. EXPLAIN HOW WE ALWAYS INTERPRET EVENTS.
  9. EXPLAIN THE ENEMY, OUR VULNERABILITY, HIS DEFEAT, AND OUR PROTECTION.
-

## SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Allender, Dan B. *The Wounded Heart*. Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1990.
- Anderson, Neil. *The Bondage Breaker*. Harvest House, 1990.
- Anderson, Neil. *Victory over Darkness*. Regal Books, 1990.
- Backus, William. *Telling the Truth to Troubled People*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1985.
- Backus, William & Chapian, Marie. *Telling Yourself the Truth*. Minneapolis: Bethany House, 1980.
- Blue, Ken. *Authority to Heal*. InterVarsity Press, 1987.
- Bubeck, Mark I. *The Adversary*. Moody Press, 1975.
- Bubeck, Mark I. *Overcoming the Adversary*. Moody Press, 1984.
- Bufford, Rodger. *Counseling and the Demonic*. Word Books, 1988.
- Carson, D.A. *Showing the Spirit*. Baker, 1987.
- Crabb, Lawrence J. *Inside Out*. Colorado Springs: Navpress, 1988.
- Dickason, C. Fred. *Demon Possession and the Christian*. Moody Press, 1987.
- Elliot, Lynda D. & Tanner, Vicki L. *My Father's Child*. Brentwood: Wolgemuth & Hyatt, 1988.
- Frank, Jan. *A Door of Hope*. San Bernadino: Here's Life Publishers, 1987.
- Grudem, Wayne. *The Gift of Prophecy*. Crossway Books, 1988.
- Gillham, Bill. *Lifetime Guarantee*. Brentwood: Wolgemuth & Hyatt, 1987.
- Hemfelt, R; Minirth, F; Meier, P. *Love is a Choice*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989.
- Hemfelt, Robert & Warren, Paul. *Kids Who Carry Our Pain*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1990.
- Kraft, Charles. *Christianity with Power*. Vine Books, 1989.
- Lawrence, Roy. *Christian Healing Rediscovered*. InterVarsity Press, 1980.
- Lewis, David. *Healing: Fiction, Fantasy, or Fact?* Hodder and Stoughton, 1989.
-

- Packer, J.I. *Keep in Step with the Spirit*. Revell, 1984.
- Payne, Leanne. *The Broken Image*. Westchester: Crossway Books, 1981.
- Rockstad, Ernest. *Healing of the Mind*. Faith and Life Publications: 632 N. Prosperity Lane, Andover, KS 67002.
- Seamands, David A. *Healing for Damaged Emotions*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1982.
- Seamands, David A. *Healing Grace*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1989.
- Seamands, David A. *Healing of the Memories*. Wheaton: Victor Books, 1985.
- Smedes, Lewis B. *Forgive and Forget*. New York: Pocket Books, 1984.
- Solomon, Charles R. *Counseling with the Mind of Christ*. Old Tappan: Fleming H. Revell, 1977.
- Solomon, Charles R. *Handbook to Happiness*. Wheaton: Tyndale House, 1986.
- Solomon, Charles R. *The Ins and Outs of Rejection*. Littleton: Heritage House, 1976.
- Swindoll, Charles R. *Demonism*. Multnomah Press, 1981.
- Thurman, Chris. *The Lies We Believe*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1989.
- Unger, Merrill F. *Demons in the World Today*. Tyndale House, 1971.
- Unger, Merrill F. *What Demons Can Do to Saints*. Moody Press, 1977.
- Wagner, C. Peter. *How to Have a Healing Ministry Without Making Your Church Sick*. Regal Books, 1988.
- Warner, Timothy. *Spiritual Warfare*. Crossway Books, 1991.
- White, John. *When the Spirit Comes with Power*. InterVarsity Press, 1988.
- White, Thomas B. *The Believer's Guide to Spiritual Warfare*. Vine Books, 1990.
- Williams, Don. *Signs, Wonders, and the Kingdom of God*. Vine Books, 1989.
- Wimber, John. *Power Evangelism*. Harper & Row, 1986.
- Wimber, John. *Power Healing*. Harper & Row, 1987.
- Wimber, John. *Power Points*. Harper Collins, 1991.
-

PASTORS AND COUNSELORS WHO WORK DIRECTLY WITH THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED BY THE ENEMY WILL FIND POINTED AND PRACTICAL HELP IN A SMALL BOOKLET BY GERALD MCGRAW ENTITLED *WAR MANUAL—AGAINST THE POWERS OF DARKNESS*.

THIS HELPFUL MINISTRY TOOL CAN BE ORDERED BY WRITING TO:

SHAMAIM MINISTRIES  
RR #4, BOX 264  
WESTMINSTER, SC 29693

---