

Two suggestions regarding the control of the enemy.

There are two ways that the enemy works in the life of the believer that 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 will remember studying a psychological form of this in psych 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 make 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 Eph. 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." "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 Cor. 2:11) in our life and through such ground – 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. I 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. Eph. 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. Eph. 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.