

Important Steps Toward Freedom

Introduction

- A. 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.
 - B. 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.
 - C. 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 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; I John 3:8; and Ephesians 1:15-2:6; I Peter 5:8,9; Revelation 12:10,11; in that order. 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 -- I Samuel 16:14; 18:10; 19:9
 - Job -- Job 1,2
 - Peter -- Matthew 16:22,23; Luke 22:31
 - Paul -- II Cor 12:7; I Thessalonians 2:18
 - B. As church members -- Acts 5:1-11; I Cor. 5:11-13; II Cor. 2:6-11; II Tim. 2:25,26
 - C. As pastors -- I Timothy 3:16,7
 - 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 handouts carefully.

Satan and the Successful Christian Life

Suggestions Regarding Resisting the Enemy

- 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 making 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 given up, give in to the enemy, and be a passive Christian.

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