

Session Eight: Resisting the Enemy

Review

† Internalized/Powerful Error

Subtle Authority Structures
Intuitive Responses

Doubt/Unbelief

Anger

Fear

Obsessions

Pride

Control

† The Work of the Enemy

PERSON	98% PROBLEMS	2% ENEMY
Confusion	Spiritual	Subtle
Limitation	Mental	Hidden
Bondage	Emotional	Powerful
	Volitional	
	Physical	
	Social	

† Some Problems Are

KNOWN -- Z45
+++++
HIDDEN -- A1

† Two Suggestions Regarding the Control of the Enemy
(Conditioning)

Conditioning:

A built-in hidden-powerful pattern of response.

Activated by “triggers” resulting in bondage.

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 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 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 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 sin we have committed, or some relationship we have had with a person that may be questionable. Or the ground may be a certain way of thinking ("*It's hopeless.*" "*I'm condemned.*") or 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" (2 Cor 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 be honest, and then start with your first memory and 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 Jn 1:19

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 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 had an influence in your life, and in particular those who have been sinfully involved. Use the affirmation, and break such relationships each day until you are free. It is very important to do so.

† Giving Ground to the Enemy

- ☐ The Lies We've Accepted, Believed and Practiced
- ☐ The Sins We Have Committed

(Thoughts, Attitudes, Relationships,
Obsessions, Demands, Submissions,
Way of Life, Values, Priorities)

† Take the Ground Back

- ☐ Confess the Error/Sin to God
- ☐ Renounce/Repudiate the Error/Sin

- ❑ Helpful to Confess/Receive Prayer

GROUND: Areas given to the enemy

Worship of Satan
Superstition
Appeals/Trust in Satan
Idolatry as Persons, Sex
Money, Possessions
Obsessions

TAKE IT BACK

Confession to God
Repudiate the Act/Enemy

† Learning to monitor ourselves

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, wrong attitudes, and rationalizations deeply embedded 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 pleasure, 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 (1 Jn 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 eyes to what is hidden within us and in our past. We must also ask Him to help us to 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's made me so vulnerable?
8. What kind of a pattern has this produced in my life?
9. What is causing me to continue 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 a sin? When?

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 they really are. 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 think in negative ways, ask yourself whether you believe 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.