

Satan's Defeat

Overcoming Satan's Wiles and Demons

By Rev. Randy C. Brodhagen

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SATAN'S DEFEAT

INTRODUCTION:

It is my intention to give God the glory for His deliverance from the power of Satan of this mother and countless others since that time. I thank the Lord for what He is doing throughout the world awakening His Church concerning the victory that is ours in Jesus Christ and the power and authority that is ours in the Name of Jesus to overcome all the power of Satan.

I praise God for the fact that we are able to understand the wiles and devices of Satan that he might be defeated at every turn. I believe that God is calling up a mighty army of believers to go forward in the Name of Jesus to set the captives free that they might receive the life of God in Jesus Christ.

Praise God for His Word! The Holy Spirit is teaching and equipping us for God's purpose ahead. I know that I still have so much to learn. I praise God for the fact that you and I are not only willing to learn, but that we are also willing to fulfill our calling, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to be ambassadors for Christ. I thank the Lord for my wife Diana and all those of Glory To God Ministries who continue to faithfully support God's Work.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord."
(Luke 4:18-29)

Together with you in Jesus' love,

Randy C. Brodhagen

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EARLY.....	5
THE ENCOUNTER.....	13
UNDERSTANDING THE ENEMY.....	28
AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER.....	41
THE WARFARE.....	54
OUR RESPONSIBILITY.....	67
THE DEMONS RETURN.....	77
FILLING THE HOUSE.....	83

(The account, which you are about to read, is exactly as recollected to me. It is the account of the incident in which the Holy Spirit first taught me concerning the power of God to deliver. Names have been changed.)

“EARLY REFLECTIONS & EXPERIENCES” PART 1

When I was a child, my parents clearly taught my sisters, brother, and me that there existed two forces in this life. “There are forces of God which are for our good and there are forces of Satan which are for evil against us,” they would tell us. Whenever I would have a nightmare and call out, they would come to me and tell me, *“Don’t be afraid! Satan is walking around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour who resist steadfast in the faith, but God is with you and God is greater than Satan.”* (1st Peter 5:8-10, 1st John 4:4)

We were brought up to be aware of God as being our Lord, personal friend, and protector. Satan is our personal enemy because he opposes God and us since we are God’s children. We knew the importance of loving God and hating evil. We were constantly made aware of the presence of the powers of the spiritual realm that these powers of God and Satan are the real powers, not what we see in the world. However, knowing *to be aware of these powers was not enough as we later found out. We all need to be aware but also know how to deal with these powers!*

In my sister’s room hung a picture, which had been my mother’s as a girl. This picture meant very much to me. It depicted two young children, a boy and a girl, walking across a bridge that was in disrepair and had a broken railing. It was dark and gloomy outside. Between the boy and the girl was a large angel whose radiance lit the path. The angel was taking the children’s hand and guiding them along the bridge preventing any harm from coming to them.

We knew that God had given to us angels to guard and protect and help us. *“The angel of the Lord encampeth Round about them that fear [reverence] Him [the Lord], and delivereth them.”* (Psalm 34:7) *“For He [the Lord] shall give His angels charge over thee. To keep thee in all thy ways. They*

shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.”
(Psalm 91:11-12) *“Are they [angels] not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”* (Hebrews 1:1-14)

Many times parents do not share with their children concerning the reality of the presence of God and the presence of Satan. The mother in the account we are now about to share believed in and taught her children about both realities. Children need to be taught the realities of the spirit realm. We need to be aware of both forces of God and Satan. Her children would ask about who Satan was and she would tell them, “He is an angel that disobeyed God and wanted to take God’s place. He wars against God and against us.”

In the Word of God it is explained, *“How art thou are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cast down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascent into heaven. I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, ‘Is this the man that made the earth tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; That opened not the house of his prisoners?’ “* (Isaiah 14:12-17)

The Lord speaking about Satan:

“Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of the tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou was created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the mist of the stones of fire. Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of the brightness: I

will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more.”
(Ezekiel 28:13-19)

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Revelation 12:7-9)

Jesus says, “...He [Satan] 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)

The reality of the supernatural realm was constantly before her children. The mother would share concerning her grandfather and how each night he would walk past a graveyard on his way home from work. Each evening there would be a cat sitting there by the road, which he would reach down and pet on the head. One evening he reached down to pet the cat and a “human” hand reached from the cat towards him. He took off running, never to go that road again.

The children would hear about when the mother’s uncle had died, she had seen a vision of the heavens parting and the sign of the cross appearing between the clouds. A voice told her that her uncle had gone to be with the Lord. She rushed down to tell her mom about this vision. Later, her mom called the hospital and was informed that her brother had died.

The most vivid account which the mother shared with us about her childhood and which pertains directly to what later happened in her life was that one night she was lying in bed waiting for her dad to come up the stairs to say goodnight. She heard the footsteps coming up the stairway. Hiding herself under the covers, she pretended like she was asleep. The door opened. She peeked over the covers to see a tremendous orange red bright

light coming toward her. A hideous face and hands and hollow burning eyes appeared as it came to the foot of her bed. She froze. It extended its hand in a beckoning motion. She was being drawn towards the creature. All of a sudden, two radiant pillars of light flashed up on both sides of her bed. Their faces were too bright to look at. The creature appeared to fall back, writhe in agony and slink away down the stairs. The door shut. She could move her body again.

Years later, during one of the mother's pregnancies, this same incident occurred. While they were living in this house in the northwest, many such incidents occurred.

In the still of the day, doors upstairs would close. If that were not enough, the doors would open back up. They would hear footsteps during the daytime and at night. Her aunt used to come and visit quite often. One day as the mother was vacuuming the rug; she looked into the family room and saw her aunt sitting at the table with a scrabble board in front of her. She smiled. Then she recalled that her aunt had been dead for a few months. She looked again. This time she saw the same hideous face with the burning eyes that she had seen twice before. It beckoned her again with the hideous hand. She felt strongly that if she ever would go toward it, she would die. She screamed at it to go away. It disappeared.

During the early high school years of her eldest children, things really started happening. After a Ouija board had predicted that her niece would be killed in a serious car wreck (and she was killed two days later), the girl's mother gave the family the board to get rid of it. The family began to play around with the Ouija board and levitation. They would blindfold themselves and ask the board, "*Who is controlling the board?*" Someone else would write down the letters the marker stopped on. In reply, the board said, "Satan. No one must touch Satan or he will die – God will kill him." Many other things were predicted which occurred. Later they burned the board. (Read Deuteronomy 18 and Matthew 10:28)

When I used to work in a garden shop and toy department, we sold Ouija boards as a child and adult's toy. Beware! Such "interesting" things as Ouija boards are not toys, but in actuality, tools of the devil to get us started into stronger things. If we believe what they tell us, Satan can make things happen in our lives so we become dependent upon him rather than God for our life's direction.

The Word of God says, *“The thief [Satan] cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill and to destroy: I [Jesus Christ] am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”* (John 10:10)

If we follow after the things of Satan, we will eventually destroy ourselves because that is Satan’s goal – that we be destroyed as he will be when God’s final judgment comes. God does not desire us to be destroyed but that we have abundant life with Him now as well as for eternity. As we renounce Satan and receive Jesus as our Lord, Satan’s lordship over us is broken! At the cross, Jesus defeated Satan that we might have victory! Jesus is Lord! We who believe on Jesus as our Lord become joint heirs with Him.

Many other events began to occur in rapid succession. One evening the mother was painting. (She was beginning her career as a professional artist.) She was working on a landscape of a fisherman casting into a pool beneath a waterfall. When they went to bed, the painting did not appear to be shaping up too well.

As she painted late into the night, a thought came to her concerning a fellow named Ole. Ole was a vagabond who her dad had given a painting job for a few weeks. Ole had told her that if she ever needed help in her painting she was to just call him.

The thought of seeking Ole’s assistance in painting increased in her mind. She called on “Ole” (a demon) to help her. The dog’s tail pointed and its hair and body froze. Her body froze before the easel. A voice inside said, “I am here to help you paint. I could not help you before, but now I will help you.” (It went on to say that Ole had died and had not finished the work it wanted to do in this world and it would paint through her.) (Note: at this point in time, the mother knew nothing about fishing or fisherman. She was also inexperienced in her art skills.) The demon talked and she followed. She learned things about painting that she had never dreamed of before. At 2 A.M., the voice told her the lesson was over, but if she ever wanted him again, she was to look at the picture and call on him. Her body relaxed. She screamed for her husband. He ran in and did not believe what he saw. In a few hours, the painting had been transformed into a masterpiece.

For a period of time after this event, each midnight the dog would yip and growl and run up the stairs from the basement when the mother was

painting. The dog appeared to be frightened. This continued for several weeks. (Note: This was not Ole's spirit but a demon that had lived in Ole.)

Now the mother realized the horror that was involved in inviting and calling on the powers of darkness (of Satan) to help her. She began innocently to get involved; however, she grew to be much more involved as we will now share with you.

During this time, the mother began to be associated with more and more strange people. Some professed to be witches. On several occasions these people had given her different things. One time she was given a piece of chicken to eat. She nearly died when a bone lodged in her throat. When the doctors took out the bone, it was not a bone from a chicken. On another occasion she was given a flower to take home. One of the children became terribly sick from "unknown" causes during this time. When the flower was removed from the home, the child was well.

Sickness increased in the home during those years. The mother was sick constantly. Everyone noted changes that began to happen to her. At times she would be beautiful, congenial and loving. In the next breath, she would become vengeful, bitter, antagonistic, and vicious with her tongue. Her eyes would change from having a warmth and tenderness about them to becoming as steel balls with a penetrating fierceness about them. She appeared to be very strong, yet she was fearful and worried all the time.

At the time, the family left her alone and cleared out of the house. There was no peace in the home. When the mother and dad would be together the children could sense the tension in the air like a lit fuse heading towards a keg of dynamite. It would be just a matter of moments before the eruption would occur.

The mother grew in reputation in the art world. Her painting ability was increasing day by day. Her work began to be more and more in demand. One time she was led to paint a picture of an old Indian. After she completed the work, within a week an individual came to her and said, "I've known that you were painting this picture and I've come to buy it from you." The mother had never seen or known this person before. Several of the people whose portraits were done died. Another nearly died, but was spared by God's intervention through prayer. This individual, once recovered, put away the painting. The entire family was allowed to see a supernatural

revelation of this person having been healed. People were begging to buy the work.

One day a fellow brought the mother a present. It was an old twisted stick with a carving at one end. The individual told her that it was supposed to have been an African witch doctor's stick. Apparently, it had been stolen by a white man who had been treated wrongly by the witch doctor. The belief is that the witch doctor's stick must be buried with him when he dies so he can have peace. (We know, by God's Word, that once we die we do not float around. We are awaiting judgment. What is at unrest is the demon spirit that was moving through the man and his stick.) She was told the stick had strange powers.

The mother accepted the "witching" stick. She said that she felt power from the stick when holding it. At various points from curiosity, I believe, she tried the stick out. The children were aware of three times she used it. She spoke over the stick and directed it at the homes of three people with whom she was having problems. A man had a heart attack. (She had problems with the man.) A dog was destroyed. (She fought with the neighbors over the dog's barking) A car was destroyed. (The car had been disturbing the neighborhood with its loud noise.) She became scared after these three events and put the stick away.

Later, a man came to the door who was sensitive to the things of the spirit realm. Upon entering their house he asked her if there was something new in the house. He sensed an evil presence. She replied, "Yes, there is a stick that I had received." The man examined the stick and explained again exactly what the stick was used for. He said to burn and destroy the stick. They did!

Before her oldest boy went away to college, they moved to a new home. It was a very large and beautiful home. It was in this house that the daughter awoke to see what she thought was her sister standing in the room in a flowing robe. She had her back to her. As she said, "Good morning," this other thing turned around. The daughter screamed and ran down the stairs. As she recounted the story to her mother, her mom shared with her that this was the same face and hands she had seen as a young girl. The mother then said that she felt in some way that it was a premonition about her.

After the oldest boy had gone away to college, the mother divorced. She remarried, continuing with the behavior which had destroyed her former marriage. There was no peace in her marriage. Jealousy, depression, fear, manipulation and strife pervaded it. She still attempted to control her ex-husband by using the children against him.

THE ENCOUNTER PART II

As the strife and discord continued, unrest and discontent were prevalent in the mother's life. The family moved five times in one year. Whatever it was that was driving her on became stronger and stronger. Her husband was growing more and more tired each day.

One day as the mother was walking around a corner of her home, she saw a dark shadowy person following her. (I have dealt with this dark shadowy form many times. In many situations, it has always been evidence of demonic presence.) The mother had seen this presence in her younger years, but had not seen it for a long time. She was terrified to be in the house alone.

The mother began to have dreams in which her dad (really an angel of God), was trying to talk to her. (Spiritism teaches that you can communicate with the dead. God's Word does not teach such communication.) He was very upset about something. She would call to him, trying to find out what he was concerned about. However, his words were faint as if they were being said from a long distance. The Mother would wake up, saying, "*I hear you Daddy – talk louder.*" She told her daughter about this because she was deeply concerned that her dad was trying to warn her against something. This dream occurred several times.

During the next several weeks, the mother was becoming more and more unbearable to be around. At various times she would start crying. She would say, "All I want is to live my life in peace and be happy, and raise babies. Instead all I have is real hell on earth."

On Wednesday, the mother prayed that God would deliver her.

On a Thursday in April, 1978, the crisis began to reveal itself. Her husband took her to the studio to teach her art students. He returned home and began to drink. He did not call her at 11AM like he usually did. The mother became concerned. She called her daughter. The daughter went to the house to see if he was alright, but he was not home. She called the other daughter who then came with a key. They went into the house and found

beer bottles and a note saying, “I am leaving this marriage with what I came into it – nothing.” (Apparently during the past previous weeks what was driving the mother had made her indifferent and cruel towards him driving him to leave.)

The mother called while they were reading the note. They told her what had happened. She became upset but insisted she would finish teaching that day. Later the daughters found his car at the airport. He had gone to California. They did not know where to locate him.

The next day, Friday, the mother appeared to be stronger, taking care of arrangements that she felt had to be done. She appeared to be driven by worry and fear. In the afternoon, she fell into depression during which she stated that she no longer wanted to live.

In the evening, the mother asked to be taken to her house. Upon their return to her daughter’s home, the mother had to be physically carried into the house. She had gone into a form of trance. She sat in the armchair and would not speak to anyone. When she did speak, she was cruel. She acted as if they were not present in the room. She became hysterical. They could not make any sense out of what she was saying concerning two different people and childhood experiences.

One daughter called the doctor and he prescribed some medication. She then called the other daughter and asked her to come over. Their pastor was also contacted. He came over immediately. He sat down on her right side and proceeded to talk with her and share God’s Word. The mother grew to be more and more hostile. (She responded this way towards whoever sat on her right side). She would not listen to him. She sharply told him to go away. She did not want him around. She almost threw him out. During this entire time she was clutching her cross.

One daughter remained in the room while everyone else went into the other room to discuss what had happened. The mother would talk and then she would say, “Please don’t talk anymore, I’ve got to keep quiet and concentrate. You see if I’m good and keep holding on to my cross, God will take me home and then I can be with Him. There I won’t feel any more wrong things.” Then she said, “You know that man came in and sat on the other side. That’s the evil one. She’s the evil one of darkness. She treated him really bad and hates him. But I don’t hate him. I like him, but I

couldn't say anything." She then continued, "You know, I have a son somewhere and I think he is a minister." The daughter replied, "Yes, that's right. Your son is a minister. Do you want him to come?" The mother said, "I think he could help me if... The right side of her face turned towards the daughter staring with an ugly bitter glare. She said, "Don't you get him. I don't want him. I hate him. I'll kill him if he tries to come near." Then she turned her face back and both were silent as she stared straight ahead.

The daughter returned to the other room where the pastor and the rest of the family were gathered. She told them all that had occurred. The pastor returned to the mother's room. This time he sat on her left side. She told him, "I must be good and hold on to my cross so I can go to heaven. I must get rid of the evil side of me before I can go." The she began to cry and said, "Why won't Jesus help me get rid of her?"

The pastor asked her if she wanted to pray about it. She said, "Yes." He prayed and the mother closed her eyes. He asked her, "Do you know the 23rd Psalm and do you want to say it with me?" She said, "Yes, yes, I know it." They said the psalm together. The pastor then went back into the living room with the rest of the family.

The daughter returned to the room and asked her, "Do you want to eat something?" (she had not eaten since her husband had left two days earlier.) She said, "I can't eat. I'm not hungry. Someone told me that if I do not eat or drink anything, then I will be able to die and go to heaven quicker." She grabbed the daughter's hand, "Those people in the other room think I'm crazy and they are going to send me to that crazy house again. Please don't let them take me there. I don't belong there. I'm not crazy," she pleaded. (Apparently she had overheard the discussion in the next room about taking her to a mental ward.)

Returning again to the living room, the daughter told the pastor and the rest of the family that she believed that her mother was demon possessed. The rest thought that she was having a nervous breakdown due to all the sudden traumatic occurrences in her life. The other daughter also knew that there was something more wrong. She had been with her mother through several "so called" nervous breakdowns and this was altogether different.

Later that evening, one daughter called me and described the mother's situation, asking what they should do with her. We sought the Lord's

wisdom and direction in prayer. We bound the enemy off of her in Jesus' name. However, there was no note of urgency in my spirit concerning her.

After everyone else had gone home, one daughter remained awake watching her mother as she slept in the chair. About 3PM she awoke. She asked the daughter, "Why are you still awake?" She recognized her daughter and was herself again. The daughter helped her go to bed. The mother told her that she had a terrific headache. The mother thought that she must have been in a car accident because the right side of her face was numb. She expressed to the daughter that "someone" had told her that if she would take the bottle of equanil pills she would get to heaven quicker. They both went to sleep.

The next morning was Saturday. The daughters conversed as to how the mother was doing. The one daughter explained to the other concerning our conversation the night before. She listened and then said that she thought she was just putting on some kind of an act because she now knew who the daughter was and called her by name. The daughter hung up the phone and went over to the other's house. The mother appeared to be fine. She told them that there was no need for me to come.

One daughter brought her baby with her and the mother was playing with him on the bed. She smiled a little, but she had a terrific headache that made her close her eyes quite often. She was still holding tightly to her cross.

The next thing they knew, she was talking as if the one daughter was her nurse, the baby was her youngest son, and she was living in the past on the street where all the strange occurrences had occurred.

She started asking for people from her past to come over. The daughter tried to call them, but none were able to come. The mother began to talk about Mary (good) and Beth (bad). Mary was glad that her son might come. Beth did not want her son to come.

Since she would not eat unless her ex-husband came over and made breakfast as he used to do, he was contacted and came over. Also, the pastor, faithful to his duty, called.

The mother, daughter and ex-husband were present in the bedroom when everything began to happen. Her former husband came into the room with a plate of food that the other daughter had prepared. The mother began to try

to tell him about “Beth.” She said, “Beth is not letting me eat or drink anything because she wants Mary to die.” She was quite talkative. She said, “I’ve got to talk as quickly as I can and tell you that I need help before she (Beth) will come out and make me go to sleep.”

He started to feed her and she said, “I’m just starving.” Then the Mother said, “She is coming. Please don’t let her! I can’t stop her from coming out!” Then her eyes faintly closed, while she resisted and then out came “Beth.” (Beth is what the demon called itself.) She threw the cross, which the Mother had been holding, across the room. She glared at the former husband and said, “Oh you do-goody, do-goody. I’ve caused you so much trouble. You never knew that I came out each morning when you drugged Mary with Equinil pills. Oh, that Mary is a weak person. She is afraid of her own shadow. I had to paint through her.” The daughter asked, “Where do you come from?” She replied, “Names mean nothing to me. One name is the same as another. I’ve passed from one person to another.” She recounted various other people whom the mother had known who were possessed by demon spirits. The former husband said, “She doesn’t need you, Satan. I command you in the name of the Lord Jesus to leave her body.” Beth backed off. He held up the cross and said it again. Then he said, “Take the cross, Mary, and hold on to it.” He was desperately trying to deal with something he knew nothing about!

Beth said, “Mary thinks she is such a religious person – or tries to be – but I let things happen to her. Right now I have her trapped in the 1960’s. She still thinks she is home raising babies. That is all that she ever wanted to do – to be married and raise babies. But I ruined that for her. I came out every chance that I could and made trouble with you, goody-goody. I had the divorce with you. Half of the time she did not know what was going on.”

He stood up and left the room. Tears filled his eyes. The daughter attempted to comfort him. After a few minutes they returned to the room and found the mother asleep. They sat down and she awoke. The pastor arrived and stood in the doorway as the mother began to speak. “You’ve got to help me! It’s getting harder and harder for me to exist anymore,” she said. “She is now becoming the stronger of the two of us.” She asked for her cross and tightly clutched it in her hands. The mother closed her eyes and then said “Daddy and Jesus just told me to have all sharp objects taken away from the room.”

The daughter began to move some things out of the room. The mother became very upset asking, "Why are you taking all the pretty things out?" Her former husband said, "Only take the sharp cross out of her hands."

As the pastor stood there, he watched as the mother resisted "Beth," the demon, from coming out again. Then there was Beth again. She threw the cross across the room again. Laughing hysterically and then crying, she said, "I am now the one who is going to completely take over. I am going to have one of the finest art schools and paint, paint, paint. I'm not going to be stuck anymore with kids."

The former husband stood up over her. She said, "You hate me, don't you?" The daughter replied, "Yes, we hate you for what you are and where you are from." He said, "Mary is stronger than you, and she is the one who will survive because God is on her side! You are a loser! You are through!"

It faded away and the mother came back. She was so tired. They all went into the other room and sat in the living room discussing what they had just seen. The pastor said, "I think the family should decide what to do with her. Maybe she should be taken to the mental ward." It was obvious that she knew nothing about the year 1978.

The family was divided as to what should be done. One daughter believed that it would probably be good for her to go to the hospital for a couple of days until she calmed down. The other insisted, "That's not Mom with whom we are dealing! How can psychiatrists take care of demons!" She almost began to cry as she said, "Dad knows what we were in the room with all day." The other daughter had not been present when all these things had happened. The Dad agreed that he felt two distinct persons were involved.

The daughter began to cry, as no solution was forthcoming from the group. They were desperate and confused. They called me.

As they shared the events that were occurring, my spirit was quickened by the Lord. The Lord wanted her delivered. The Lord wanted me to leave immediately. One daughter reminded me again that the demon spirit did not want me to come and would try to harm me if I did come.

According to God's Word, I knew that there was no power of the enemy that could harm me. (Luke 10:19) A tremendous boldness and assurance

swelled up within me that the Lord was going to do a tremendous work to His glory. I thanked God for the privilege to be a vessel for His use on this mission. I did not know what to do, but He did know!

The events preceding my departure were set in order by the Lord. Within a matter of minutes a flight reservation was secured. Since it was Saturday, I also had to have a pastor replacement come to do services for me on Sunday. At first, I called various pastors and none were home. After agreeing in prayer with my wife and some Christian friends, the Lord called to attention a fellow to contact. He immediately agreed. (It is always better to go to the Lord first for direction,. He knows what to do.) My bags were packed. My wife, Diana, little girl, Erin, and our friend, Barbara, accompanied me to the airport.

After kissing them and saying goodbye, I boarded the plane. Within a matter of minutes, I discovered that the Lord had seated me next to another brother in the Lord. The Lord is so good!

As we were sharing the Lord Jesus with each other, several fire trucks with their sirens screaming and lights flashing suddenly rushed up to the plane. The pilot spoke over the intercom, "There is no cause for alarm, please remain seated." Apparently, there had been a gas spill under the plane. We smiled because we knew that no power of the enemy could harm us or prevent God's purposes from being accomplished. The plan took off for our destination.

Praise the Lord! A wonderful time of praise, fellowship, and prayer flowed during the entire trip. The Lord was being honored and exalted. The boldness and confidence of the Lord continued to get stronger and stronger within me. God's Word kept coming from our mouths, "*If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*" (Mark 9:23) "*Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father and whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.*" (John 14:12-14)

"*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and love, and of a sound mind.*" (2nd Timothy 1:7) As the joy of the Lord began to fill me, I remembered, "*...the joy of the Lord is your strength.*" (Nehemiah 8:10)

The Lord provided us with opportunity to share Him with others. The people around us were receptive to God's Word. A stewardess stopped and told us, "You know the Lord Jesus, don't you?" We said, "Yes, praise the Lord." We shared the Lord for a few minutes. Before long we arrived.

The old saying, "How time flies when you're having fun" is certainly true. I can't think of a better way to spend time than praising the Lord with others. Praising the Lord builds up our faith and awareness in God, and people are blessed by what they hear. We do not need to hear negative things that produce fear and doubt. We need to hear that God is greater than any impossible, hopeless situation. Why? Because God is greater! God is pleased with faith in Him. God will reward them that diligently seek Him. *"But without faith it is impossible to please him [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."* (Hebrews 11:6)

The family was waiting at the airport as we arrived. I found myself not being too talkative at this point, but more contemplative as we drove closer and closer to our destination. I had no idea as to how God was going to perform the work, but I knew that the mother was going to be delivered by the Lord.

As we parked the car in the driveway, I jumped out and went immediately into the house. The awareness of the mission was increasing within me. Without even acknowledging those present in the room. I asked, "Where is the mother?" They replied, "She's in the back bedroom on the left." Immediately I went to the back bedroom. The mother was resting peacefully on the bed. She greeted me and told me that she was glad that I had come. She began to tell me about "Beth" and how she was tired. She found it quite humorous that "Beth" had fallen asleep this time when she was given the medication. (Normally the mother would fall asleep.)

She related to me how she had prayed to be delivered on Wednesday. She could not carry on any longer. She said, "Last night (Friday) dad (an angel)

appeared to me in a vision. He told me that the Lord wanted me to be with Him, but I could not go the way I was. He was going to free me. She said to me, "I thank the Lord; that is why He sent you."

She shared with me about her fear of "Beth" and how she was losing her will to survive. She said, "Beth has been keeping me in the 60's." She also kept speaking about a headache on the right side of her forehead, which kept getting worse.

Everything appeared to be very tranquil so I told her, "I'm going to pray a blessing over you. Then you will sleep peacefully."

Knowing what the mother was saying about her right side of her face and head and what the daughters had told me, I deliberately laid my hands over the right side of her head. As I began to pray a prayer of peace and evoke the name of Jesus, her head and body began to violently jerk, contort, twist, and wretch around. It was all that I could do to keep my hands on her head.

She turned towards me. I knew that it was no longer the mother with whom I was dealing. A fierceness and coldness appeared in her eyes. A snarl was on her lips. A sharpness was in her voice. The demon had manifested itself again!

It began to speak to me saying, "I hate you. I know who you are and I know why you have come. But I will not leave. You cannot make me leave. I am taking her over. I have never done her any harm. I am the one who gives her strength. I am the one who protects her. I am the one who turned that dog aside that was attacking her. (There was an event in the mother's life where she was attacked by a ferocious dog. When it drew near to her, she held out her hand and the dog turned, whimpered, and ran off.) She is so weak and timid. I am the one who made her a success. I am the one who makes her strong. Without me she can not live," it told me.

I said to it, “You are a liar. You are present for no good, but to destroy her. In the name of Jesus Christ come out of her. You have no right to be in her.” (The demon was trying to get me to believe a lie. God’s purpose was certain. It must go!)

I asked the demon what it called itself. It said, “Beth” and that it was from the 14th century. (You can’t believe a demon. But I knew its name.) It shared other things, “She thinks she’s so religious, but I just let her have a form of godliness. She could go to church and be involved in groups, but I would not let her delight in the Lord or His Word. It did not mean anything to her,” it said.

I began to pray in the Spirit using the new tongue (language) which the Lord had given to me. My voice grew stronger and bolder as I praised the Lord.

The demon began to laugh very loudly. Then it began to cry. It shouted out, “Alright, if I leave I am going to take her with me!” (The demon was trying to move me into fear and guilt. God’s purpose was certain. It must go!)

The Spirit of the Lord arose within me. I said, “You are defeated! Your hold is broken! She does not desire you any longer. You cannot hurt her or any of us. In the name of Jesus Christ, come out of her!”

The Spirit of the Lord was filling the entire room. The room grew cloudy. My voice grew louder and louder as I praised the Lord in the Spirit. Exultant praise was now coming forth from my mouth. In my heart, there was no question but that God was delivering the mother from the bondage of the forces of Satan.

The demon again began to shriek and cry out, “Alright, alright, I’ll leave. I’ll leave. Open the window!”

At this point, I did not know what to do. From my mouth by the Holy Spirit came the words, “Beth, demon spirit, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, come out of her and go to the dry place.” Exultant praise continued from my mouth.

I watched her face and body again contort and shake and wretch around. Her eyes rolled back into her head and then closed.

Everything was still. In the room was a peace and the glory of the Lord. I looked again at her face. It was glowing with a radiance and warmth I had never seen before. It was as if the “*glory of the Lord shown roundabout her.*”

As I continued to thank and praise the Lord, the tears were flowing from my eyes. Glory to God! Thank you, Father, in Jesus’ name. She again opened her eyes. Warmth and gentleness now appeared in her countenance.

She asked, “Why are you crying? What is wrong?” She did not know what had happened. “God has delivered you! You are free!” She said, “My headache is gone!”

She was hungry, thirsty, and sleepy all at once. The hold of the enemy was broken.

I went into the other room to praise and thank the Lord. She went to the bathroom. From her system flowed out a dark green matter, which turned

deep black in the toilet. Later, mucous substances flowed out of her. God was cleansing her body. Whereas before the mother had been plagued with many illnesses, her body is now totally healed by the Lord. In the medical test she took following the deliverance, the report was that her body function was that of a lady much younger than her age.

For years I had prayed that the life of the Spirit of God would flow into the entire family. Now for the first time that evening, I was able to share about the presence, power, and love of the Lord. Everyone was receptive. For years the mother used to say to everyone, “Don’t preach to me! I know those things. I’m the one who is responsible for you being where you are and knowing what you know.” I know now that was not the mother speaking, but a demon spirit, which was hindering her from having true life with the Lord. Many people think that they have life with the Lord, but they will find themselves mistaken when Jesus returns.

“Not everyone that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven.”
(Matthew 7:21)

“Thou believest that there is one God: thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?” (James 2:19-20)

“Then said they unto him (Jesus), What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them, ‘This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent’.” (John 6:28-29) We are to believe on Jesus whom the Father sent. Jesus said, *“Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.”* (John 3:5-7)

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him (Jesus Christ) is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:16-18)

“That if you shalt confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shall be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness (right standing with God); and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him (Jesus Christ) shall not be ashamed.” (Romans 10:9-11) “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” (Romans 10:13)

That night I shared these truths of God with the family. We then prayed to the Father in Jesus’ name to send the husband back safely and that the Father would put angels around him to protect him and return him. The Lord taught them through me that in His Word He says, *“...Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, what things soever you desire, when ye pray, believe that ye received them, and ye shall have them.” (Mark 11:22-24)* I told them, “This is God’s Word. It is true! He will be returned to us safely. Do not express doubt. Believe what God says and we will see him. God is faithful to perform His Word.”

During the next couple of days, we were all involved in moving their belongings from their home into the grandma’s garage. As we were cleaning out the house, we discovered several books about witchcraft. These were advanced manuals on being a witch and calling on the forces of Satan. We burned the books.

When I asked the mother about the books, she said that during the past few months she had been having an increased desire to learn about the things of Satan. This made sense because she was possessed by a spirit of Satan. When one is “filled” or possessed by the Holy Spirit of God, we desire the things of God. The only difference is that demon spirits will attempt to violate our free will and force us to do things we do not want to do. God will never violate our free will and force us to do things we do not choose to do.

The mother had lost all that she had in this world. Her husband was gone. Her house was gone. Her car was gone. Her savings were gone. Yet as she called on the Lord she was saved from spiritual death. She was saved from Satan’s hands and delivered into God’s hands. The Word of the Lord for her that kept coming to me again and again was “*Be still, and know that I am God.*” (Psalm 46:10)

For three days, on the basis of God’s Word, we continued to praise and thank the Lord for the husband’s safe return. “...*God, who quickeneth the dead, and calleth those things which be not as though they were.*” (Romans 4:17) Although he had not returned, I was fully convinced that the work God had sent me to do was fully completed and that he would arrive before I was to leave on Wednesday afternoon at 1:00 P.M.

Wednesday morning at 2:00 A.M., we received a call from him. He was in San Francisco. He said that he was coming home. He arrived at 10:00AM, just as I was preparing to leave for the airport. We all prayed together and laid hands on him to receive total healing for his injured head. (He had a brain lesion, which caused him to think he was going crazy and caused him to lose his memory. In the natural sense, he took off on Thursday morning to escape. However, we know that God’s deliverance for both of them had begun only one week before on Wednesday night when the wife called upon the Lord for deliverance.) “...*Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*” (Romans 10:11)

Later on something she said kept coming to my remembrance “Why for so many years did no one know what was happening with me, and why couldn’t they do something about it to free me?”

UNDERSTANDING THE ENEMY

PART III

“...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” (Mark 1:15)

Jesus says, *“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” (John 10:10)*

In our day and age, especially in “scientifically advanced” cultures such as ours in America, people do not often understand when we speak about demons and the forces of Satan and darkness. Often in the same way they cannot conceive of the powers of God and His angels. To many people these powers are non-existent because they cannot see them or understand them with their minds. People today, even many Christians, are not aware of the power and influence which the powers of God and the powers of Satan can play in their lives.

In other countries these things are called superstitions, but quite prevalent is the battle between Satan and his spirits vs. the people of God. In America, it would seem that even the Christian Church and its pastors, in many cases, have little if any belief in the forces of Satan or how to deal against Satan. Consequently, the Church has been slow to equip and teach God’s people concerning these things and how to overcome them in Jesus’ name. We need not be blinded nor deluded by Satan and his forces any longer.

People today, even in the churches, do not even want to hear Satan’s name. It scares them. Why? Ignorance! Satan has been defeated! Jesus Christ is Lord! Yet many believers appear to be ignorant of this fact of God, or we just are not exercising our knowledge and authority. Satan would keep us ignorant if he had his way. Jesus Christ is Lord! And we have Jesus Christ’s authority in His name.

Satan does not want us to identify him as the problem nor teach by the Spirit of God about him because he will be revealed for what he really is, and his works will be revealed according to God’s Word. Satan would have us to believe that God is the problem, or we are the problem, or others are the

problem, or the world is the problem. God says that Satan and his forces are the problem! Satan is a liar – God is Truth!

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6:10-12)

“Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.” (1st Peter 5:8-9)

“How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.” (Acts 10:38)

Jesus says, *“the thief (Satan) comes to steal, and to kill, and to destroy...”* (John 10:10) Satan desires to steal from us the life and promises of God that we may be destroyed with him when the final judgment comes.

Since God tells us Satan is our enemy, we cannot afford not to learn about Satan and how he will attempt to work for our downfall that we might be ready to stand against his attacks.

“Wherefore take unto yourself the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand” overcome. (Ephesians 6:13)

Here is some information for your study concerning who is Satan.

Origin – Isaiah 14:12-17, Ezekiel 28:13-19, Luke 10:18

Afflict body, mind – Job 1:6-12, Job 2:3-6, Matthew 17:14-16, Luke 13:16, 2nd Corinthians 4:4, Acts 10:38

Interferes with our prayers and plans – Daniel 10:12-13, 1st Thessalonians 2:18

Murderer and liar – John 8:44, Acts 5:3

Deceiver and accuser of brethren – Revelation 12:9-10, 10:10

Jesus Christ defeated him – Colossians 1:13, 2:15, Hebrews 2:14, 1st John 3:8, 4:4

His power is controlled by God – Job 1:12, 2:6, Daniel 4:35, Matthew 28:28, Revelations 13:5, 7, 14, and 15

His doom – Revelation 20:10

For our purposes, we are concerned about how Satan operates and how demons are able to take over people. Many people believe that Satan and his fallen followers or demons have awesome power to make people do whatever they say and can come into people anytime they want to do so. This is not true. Man was created by God with a free will. Man was free to choose God or Satan.

Satan knows that no one is going to choose him, especially if they know anything at all about God's Word and plan. So, Satan tries to make God look bad and make God's Word to be a lie. Satan deceptively attempts to get our attention on other things instead of God and His Word. Satan would, if he could, try to make God not even a choice in our lives.

How does Satan attempt to remove God as our choice? Let's look at God's Word!

Read Genesis 3:1-13.

We see that the serpent (Satan) comes with the question (verse 1), "Did God really say *that you cannot eat from every tree in the garden?* (Satan is having Eve question God's Word.)

Eve responded with what God said in verse 2-3 that they can eat of all the trees but one tree. In verse 4-5 Satan contradicted God's Word, telling Eve she would not die from the tree's fruit but, rather, her eyes would be opened and they would be as God knowing good and evil. (Satan played on the desire for power and pride, attempting to get Eve to believe God was not looking out for their best interest and presenting God as a liar. Satan often attempts to "puff up" people by baiting their pride in themselves.) Proverbs says to avoid the flattering tongue because they are laying a snare for you. (Proverbs 20:19, 26, 28) "*Pride cometh before the fall.*" (Proverbs 16:18)

Eve had the choice at this point (in verse 6), (We always have a choice!) and she looked at the fruit. It looked good. It was pleasant to her eyes (senses) –

It would give them greater wisdom (so she reasoned). She took and ate, and gave to her husband and he ate also. They both willfully chose to disobey God.

“Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust has conceived, it brings forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.” (James 1:13-15)

They found themselves naked in the garden, and they hid from God. They were separated from God by their choice to give in to the temptation of the devil and to disobey God. Satan did not and could not make them sin or separate themselves from God. By their choice to separate themselves from God, they gave over to Satan the right to themselves and the rule of this world that God had given to them.

Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed Satan. “The devil made me do it.” Have you heard that before? Nothing but excuses for our siding with Satan rather than with God!

What does this have to do with what we are discussing? Satan’s goal is to alienate us from God and each other. He tempts our minds and our sense, not with garbage but with things that look good or will benefit us. He attempts to lead us to doubt God’s Word and disobey God. Once we have fallen, he then accuses us of a vengeful God, which produces fear of God. Adam and Eve hid from God. We become alienated from God, others and ourselves. We need help. Where are we going to turn? Satan is there to say, “I’ll help you,” never telling the consequences of us becoming his servant.

Jesus Christ tells us, *“Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.”* (Matthew 26:41)

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.” (1st Corinthians 10:13) We note that every temptation from Satan is intended to take us away from God. God is greater!

Satan has no new temptations today that he has not used from the first temptation with Adam and Eve. We can know his ways of attack and be

ready to deal against him. We are not ignorant of his devices or ways. (2nd Corinthians 2:11)

Read Mark 4:1-11. Here we find Jesus' parable of the sower and the seed. Since the Word of God produces faith in God, Satan must take away God's Word from us or detour and distract us from it. Jesus clearly shows us how Satan attempts to steal God's Word from us.

- 1) Mark 4:15 – *“And these are they by the wayside, where the Word is sown; but when they have heard [and do not understand], Satan comes immediately, and takes away the Word that was sown in their hearts.”* Remember the goal of Satan is to blind people's minds from receiving God's life and blessings. (2nd Corinthians 4:4) It is important that we ask questions to clarify God's Word and pray for divine understanding by the Holy Spirit.

- 2) Mark 4:16 – *“And these are they that are sown on strong ground; who when they have heard the Word, immediately receive it with gladness: and have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time; afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the Word's sake, immediately they are offended.”* The second method of Satan to steal God's Word is affliction or persecution for the Word's sake. This does not mean sickness. We do not suffer sickness for God's sake. This is talking about being ridiculed, outcast, imprisoned, suffering physical and mental attack because a person is not ashamed to stand up for what he believes in Jesus Christ. Satan attempts to get us to *compromise* and forsake what we know is true and initially, gladly received from God. It is important that we root ourselves firmly in God's Word so that we understand why this persecution is occurring and so we may have direction and resources to overcome. Expect persecution but also expect to overcome it! *“Yea, all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.”* (2nd Timothy 3:12) See Matthew 5:10-12, John 15:18-16:4, 2nd Timothy 1:7-8, 1st John 4:4, 2nd Corinthians 4:16-18, 1st Peter 4:12-19, Matthew 10:16-42, 2nd Timothy 3:11-12.

3) Mark 4:18, 19 – *“And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the Word, and the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the Word and it becomes unfruitful.”* The Amplified Bible breaks down these temptations and distractions of Satan as *“cares and anxieties for the world (what we eat, drink and wear etc.), distractions of the age (wars, gas shortage, inflation, etc.), pleasure, delight, and false glamour (glitter of the world’s best fame, fortune, cars, personalities, homes), deceitfulness of riches (striving to acquire and maintain wealth), cravings and passionate desire for things (other than God), which is idolatry.”*

This is the third method that Satan uses to steal God’s word from us. God’s word says that as we focus on and get distracted and side tracked by these things, the Word of God in us actually becomes unfruitful to us because we are not acting on God’s words, enabling the power of God to match God’s promise in our behalf. We can only focus on God’s Word or on this world and the lusts of our flesh. If God’s Word is to work for us, it is one or the other! – God or the world and our lusts! *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity (being at war) with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”* (James 4:4)

Many believers are unfaithful and have been pulled into these temptations of Satan which are subtly focusing believers’ time, energy, attention off of God’s Word on to the things of this world. *“And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they (runners in a race) do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we are incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth air: but I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be cast away.”* (1st Corinthians 9:25-27)

“Blessed is the man that endureth (patient in trials and stands up under) temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord has promised to them that love him. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and

cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness (change), neither shadow of turning. (James 1:12-17)

Satan knows that he cannot violate the will of the believer, unless we let him. He will attempt to entice us into separating ourselves from God by disobedience to, ignorance of, or lack of attention to God's Word. If Satan cannot entice us to sin and separate ourselves from God, he will attempt to make our Christian walk and witness unfruitful by focusing us on other things than God and His Word so we have defeated lives instead of the abundance with Jesus Christ has promised. Satan can try what he wants; however, it is our choice as believers in Jesus Christ what we let him do.

We know [absolutely] that anyone born of God does not [deliberately and knowingly] practice committing sin, but the one who was begotten of God carefully watches over and protects him [Christ's divine presence within him preserves him against the evil], and the wicked one does not lay hold (get a grip) on him or touch [him]. (1st John 5:18, Amplified Bible)

We have covered the various ways that Satan attempts to hinder and destroy our walk with God by enticing our pride and lusts of the flesh and world. We will note that all temptations to evil are caused by satanic influence, which will take on different manifestations. We need to be sensitive to the working of Satan against us so we may be able to stand against him. God's Word tells us, "*Neither give place to the devil*" or "*Do not give the devil opportunity.*" (Ephesians 4:27) The term "place" in the Greek means "a home." We need to be aware of his working in order to shut the door in his face.

"Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge amongst you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

From whence come wars and fightings among you? Come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members?

Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war; yet ye have not because ye ask not.

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, the spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy?

But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” (James 3:13-4:6)

Not only does Satan want us to be at war with God, he also wants us at war with each other. Hatred, strife and unforgiveness stand in direct violation of God’s standards of love, peace and harmony, and forgiveness. Satan knows no love, except of that for himself. Satan will attempt to tempt us by our lust into looking out for ourselves at other’s expense, causing strife. He knows that if he can get us to be bitter, angry, and unforgiving towards each other, he is actually getting us to side with him against God and hindering God’s blessings from coming to us. We need to realize, when we allow ourselves to get into strife with others, we are warring against God!

“He therefore that despiseth, despiseth not man, but God, who hath also given unto us his Holy Spirit.” (1st Thessalonians 4:8)

“If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom

he hath not seen? And this commandment have we for him (God), That he who loveth God love his brother also.” (1st John 4:20-21)

“Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them (wives) according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered.

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous:

not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye shall inherit a blessing.

For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:

Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensure it.

For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.” (1st Peter 3:7-12)

Satan knows God’s Word! He knows that if he can get us to be unforgiving, we cannot receive God’s forgiveness, and we are out of fellowship with God, allowing Satan to have his way with us. Satan will attempt to make us justify and rationalize our stance being self-righteously right rather than God-righteously right. Unforgiveness is unforgiveness – strife is strife – sin is sin!! Jesus says, *“Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”* (Matthew 5:48)

“For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.” (Matthew 6:14-15) We are to now give Satan the opportunity by forgiving as Christ has forgiven us. We cannot afford to allow ourselves to get into strife!

Attention: Husbands and Wives!

“The husband should give to his wife her conjugal rights (good will, kindness and what is due her as his wife), and likewise the wife to her husband. For the wife does not have [exclusive] authority and control over

her own body, but the husband [has his rights]; likewise also the husband does not have [exclusive] authority and control over his body, but the wife [has her rights]. Do not refuse and deprive and defraud each other [of your due marital rights], except perhaps by mutual consent for a time, so that you may devote yourselves unhindered to prayer. But afterwards resume marital relations, lest Satan tempt you [to sin] through your lack of restraint of sexual desire. But I am saying this more as a matter of permission and concession, not as a command or regulation.” (1st Corinthians 7:3-6 Amplified Bible)

Satan will attempt to cause strife between husband and wife and sinful responses and outlets to the sexual desires of the husband and wife. He will encourage one to desire to have relations and the other to “*have a headache.*” Then he will encourage one to think, “*I’m being rejected!*” and the other, “*I’m being used!*” Strife is being set up.

Satan and demons always work from the outside of us attempting to get inside. Temptations always come from the outside. If we allow them to take hold by giving in to them, then we are giving in to the wrong spirits that bring the temptations. We give them opportunity to come in to control us – believer and non-believer alike. They cannot come in unless we let them in. However, if we entertain their temptations, then the demon is free to enter our thought process. Once in our minds, the demon can create obsessions, disorientation, confusion, depression, etc., attempting to break down our will so that it can get into our spirit and possess us completely.

The goal of demon spirits is to inhabit a body in which the demons can express themselves more freely in this world. Man being created in the image of God with a spirit, soul and body allows the greatest expression. Since demons are pre-Adamic, fallen, disembodied angels (not spirits of people who have died), they need a body, whether human (preferably) or animal to express themselves.

The spirits inhabiting the man of Gadara asked Jesus to send them into the pigs if they could not stay in the man. The demon’s qualities will be expressed through the person who is possessed. The person will no longer be in control, but the demon will be controlling his life, until it is cast out. In which case, the demon will seek to get back into the person it was cast out of or move on to someone else. The same demons that were in Jesus’ time (and before Adam) are still in the world today. The cycle will continue until the close of this Age.

Many people ask us, “*How can a believer have a demon in his body or mind?*” They do not understand the threefold makeup of a man – spirit, mind (soul) and body. God’s Word does make a distinction.

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” (Hebrews 4:12)

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul (mind) and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1st Thessalonians 5:23)

When we were “born again” our spirit was made alive to God. I believe it is impossible for born again believers who are obedient to God’s Word to have a demon in their spirits. However, according to God’s Word there still remains the mind which needs to be renewed. (Romans 12:3), and the body which needs to be brought under subjection. (1st Corinthians 9:27) The mind and the body are areas where believers can still be attacked by demon spirits. It is possible for these spirits to get into believers’ minds and emotions and bodies. If believers do not renew their minds with God’s Word, they are opening the door.

Speaking to believers, James says, “*Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.*” (James 1:21) Apparently, according to God’s Word, our minds are not disciplined and transformed to God. If I do not read, receive, and obey God’s Word, my mind will not be transformed, leaving me fair game for enemy deception.

Remember, “*...Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.*” (2nd Corinthians 11:14) Believers must be able to tell the difference between God’s truth and Satan’s lies or half-truths about God’s Word, and then be obedient to God’s truth.

Some evidences which may be of demonic operation upon our minds, emotions, and bodies include: pressure, tension, confusion, sickness, fear, worry, doubt, rejection, feelings of worthlessness, perverted and inordinate sexual thoughts and activities, guilt after asking forgiveness, depression, hostility, disorientation, obsessions, strife, inability to fellowship with

believers or to worship and study God's Word, evil fantasies, focusing on "puffing up" oneself, bitterness, resentment, unforgiveness, desires which focus us to disobey or tempt God, over-indulgence, use of anything that takes our dependency off of God (drugs, horoscope, alcohol, etc.) and involvement in occult practices (lower order).

The purpose of these things is to oppress us and to break our will down to enable the demon spirits to come in to us in order to possess us. Oppression is from outside. Possession is from within body, mind, and spirit.

Oppression can lead to possession. These evidences we have listed do not necessarily mean a person is possessed, but that they are under attack, being oppressed and possibly possessed by demon spirits and need to resist in Jesus' name and by using God's Word.

It may be a good idea to have another believer agree with you because the enemy often tries to isolate us from other believers when we are being attacked. The Bible calls it "*opposing oneself*." What is actually happening is that people can oppose themselves, not being aware that they are actually in the snare of the devil, taken captive by him to do his will and not willing to repent and turn to the truth.

"And the servant of the Lord must not be quarrelsome (fighting and contending). Instead, he must be kindly to everyone and mild-tempered [preserving the bond of peace]; he must be a skilled and suitable teacher, patient and forbearing and willing to suffer wrong.

"He must correct his opponents with courtesy and gentleness, in the hope that God may grant that they will repent and come to know the Truth [that they will perceive and recognize and become accurately acquainted with and acknowledge it],

"And that they may come to their senses [and] escape out of the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him [henceforth] to do His [God's] will." (2nd Timothy 2:24-26, Amplified Bible)

Another person can often see what is happening and bring it to our attention so we desire God's help and be delivered from Satan's bondage.

"[My] brethren, if any one among you strays from the Truth and falls into error and another [person] brings him back [to God],

“Let the [latter] one be sure that whoever turns a sinner from his evil course will save [that one’s] soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins [procure the pardon of the many sins committed by the convert.]” (James 5:19-20, Amplified Bible)

I praise God for believers who care about each other and provoke one another to love and good works. (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Unless a person wants to be delivered, there can be no deliverance. If a person enjoys their disobedience of God (and what they are doing), they cannot be freed. However, our prayer by the Spirit of God can enable them to desire to be free. Praying by the Spirit of God is a powerful tool to enable people to desire to be free.

Just because a person sins does not mean he is possessed. However, continued, willful disobedience of God without repentance indicates and opens the door for demonic possession.

AUTHORITY OF THE BELIEVER

PART IV

All of what we have just presented deals with the person who is opening himself to demonic operation. We have presented this, as well as how demon spirits come in, so that you may be aware, to be on guard, and to be sober and vigilant, for your adversary the devil walks around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. (1st Peter 5:8) We do not intend for one moment that you be fearful of Satan or his demons, but rather that you are aware of his operation so you are able to deal with him in Jesus' name and have victory.

I have found in many encounters that God's Word is always true, not only because of experiences but because God says so and He is true. In the name of Jesus, every knee in heaven and earth must bow because Jesus Christ is Lord of all. Praise God! There is no Satan or any demon that can stand against God or His people. They must flee as in terror, whimpering as they run when we resist them in Jesus' name. (James 4:7)

There are many believers who are not aware of the authority over Satan and his forces that we have already been given by God in Jesus' name. This is what God has intended for us.

The enemy has deceived believers into thinking that they have no authority or right to speak against Satan. They quote, "*Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed the body of Moses, durst [dared] not bring against him a railing accusation but said, 'The Lord rebuke thee'.*" (Jude 9)

This occurred between Michael the archangel and Satan. However, this does not apply to us as believers in Jesus Christ. We must remember that in the angelic order Lucifer or Satan was the "...*anointed cherub that covereth.*" (Ezekiel 28:14) As such, Satan was the highest of the angelic beings. God is the only greater power. Michael had to rely on God's authority over Satan because Michael, even though an archangel, had no authority on his own over Satan in the angelic realm.

“In many separate revelations [each of which set forth a portion of the truth] and in different ways God spoke of old to [our] forefathers in and by the prophets. (Hebrews 1:1)

[but] in the last of these days He has spoken to us in [the person of] a Son, whom He appointed Heir and lawful Owner of all things, also by and through Whom he created the worlds and the reaches of space and the ages of time [He made, produced, built, operated and arranged them in order]. (verse 2)

He is the sole expression of the glory of God [the Light-being, the out-raying of the divine] and He is the perfect imprint and image of [God’s] nature, upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power. When He had by offering Himself accomplished our cleansing of sins and riddance of guilt, He sat down at the right hand of the divine Majesty on high, (verse 3)

[Taking a place and rank by which] He Himself became as much superior to angels as the glorious Name (title) which He has inherited is different from and more excellent than theirs. (verse 4)

For to which of the angels did [God] ever say, “You are My Son, today I have begotten You [established You in an official Sonship relation, with kingly dignity]? And again, I will be to Him a Father, and He will be to Me a Son?” (verse 5)

Referring to the angels He says, “[God] Who makes His angels winds, and His ministering servants, flames of fire;” (Hebrews 1:7)

But as to the Son, He says to Him Your throne, O God, is forever and ever [to the ages of the ages], and the scepter of Your kingdom is a scepter of absolute righteousness – of justice and straightforwardness. (verse 8)

You have loved righteousness [You have delighted in integrity, virtue and uprightness in purpose, thought and action] and You have hated lawlessness (injustice and iniquity). Therefore God, [even] Your God (God-head), has anointed You with the oil of exultant joy and gladness above and beyond Your companions. (verse 9)

And [further], You, Lord did lay the foundation of the earth in the beginning, and the heavens are the works of Your hands. (verse 10)

They will perish, but You remain and continue permanently; they will all grow old and wear out like a garment. (verse 11)

Like a mantle [thrown about one's self] You will roll them up, and they will be changed and replaced by others. But You remain the same and your years will never end nor come to failure. (verse 12)

Besides, to which of the angels has He ever said, Sit at My right hand [associated with Me in My royal dignity] till I make your enemies a stool for your feet? (verse 13)

Are not the angels all ministering spirits (servants), sent out in the service [of God for the assistance] of those who are to inherit salvation?" (Hebrews 1:1-14, Amplified Bible)

Do you not know that the saints (the Christians) will [one day] judge and govern the world? And if the world [itself] is to be judged and ruled by you, are you unworthy and incompetent to try [such petty matters] of the smallest courts of justice? (1st Corinthians 6:2 Amplified Bible)

Do you not know also that we [Christians] are to judge the [very] angels and pronounce opinion between right and wrong [for them]? How much more then [as to] matters pertaining to this world and of this life only!" (1st Corinthians 6:3, Amplified Bible)

According to God's Word, Jesus Christ the Son of God, has been given a place above all angels and all creation.

Jesus Christ is the "express image of His [God] person, and upholds all things by the Word of His power..." (Hebrews 1:3) "Being made so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they." (Hebrews 1:4) Jesus Christ is God come in the flesh to save God's people.

"In the beginning was the Word [Jesus Christ] and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life; and the life was the light of men." (John 1:1-4)
"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and Truth." (John 1:14)

“...for that which is conceived in her [Mary] is of (from out of) the Holy Spirit. She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior], for He will save His people from their sins [that is, prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God]. All this took place that it might be fulfilled which the Lord had spoken through the prophet, Behold, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a Son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel— which, when translated, means, God with us.” (Matthew 1:20-23, Amplified bible)

The Word of God clearly teaches that Jesus Christ is given authority and power over all things – spiritual and physical. During Jesus’ life in this world, He rebuked Satan and unclean spirits or demons, healed the sick, had authority over nature, and raised the dead. Again and again Jesus said, *“Believest, thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? the words that I speak unto you, I speak not of Myself; but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works.” (John 14:10)*

The life and authority of God lived within Jesus Christ because the Father was within Him. Jesus accredited all His words and workings to His Father [God]. However, when rebuking Satan, demons, sickness, hunger, and the realm of nature, He never said, *“The Lord rebuke you.”* The archangel Michael said that to Satan. Why did Jesus not say, *“The Lord rebuke you?”* Jesus simply rebuked the demons to come out because Jesus was born of God and had been given the authority to do the works. Jesus says, *“All power [authority] is given unto me in heaven and in earth.” (Matthew 28:18)*

Oh, but that was Jesus Christ that you’re talking about. God does not say that about us, you might be thinking. Let’s look at God’s Word.

“But to as many as did receive and welcome Him [Jesus], He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God [sons of God], that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name — Who owe their birth neither to bloods, nor to the will of the flesh [that of physical impulse], nor to the will of man [that of natural father], but to God. [They are born of God!]” (John 1:12-13, Amplified Bible)

“You have been regenerated (born again), not from a mortal origin [seed, sperm], but from one that is immortal by the ever living and lasting Word of God.” (1st Peter 1:23, Amplified Bible)

*“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.” (1st John 5:1)
“For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?”
(1st John 5:4-5)*

Jesus says, *“...If a man love me, he will keep My words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.” (John 14:23)*

Apparently, according to God’s Word, we who have received Jesus Christ are born of God and are sons of God, having God’s presence and life within us. Unlike the angels, we are born of God as Jesus was born of God. Very interesting! Praise the Lord! The angels of God are to be *“...ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?”* (Hebrews 1:14) As heirs of God through Jesus Christ, God has raised us up together and made us to sit together in heavenly places in Jesus Christ. (Ephesians 2:6)

The Lord Jesus now says to us, *“...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:18-20)*

Jesus says that all power belongs to Him. He is sending us out. What will we do? The same works that Jesus did. *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.” (Luke 4:18-19)*

And Jesus goes on, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. And whatsoever you shall ask in my*

name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask anything in my name, I will do it.” (John 14:12-14)

Jesus is giving authority in His name to us who believe to do the works He did and even greater works. We know the works He did. The greater works He refers to are that people will be born again of God, receiving God’s life, by us preaching the Gospel of Jesus. By believers laying hands on those who are born again, people will also receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit wherein the power of God comes to them to work the works Jesus accomplished. Jesus did neither of these things in His ministry, but *we* will in Jesus’ name.

Jesus says to us, *“Verily I say to you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 18:18)*

Jesus is giving believers authority to act and take power over all things. We are the ones to be doing the binding and the loosing, and God will agree in heaven with what we say and do in Jesus’ name. We are God’s ambassadors in the world. (2nd Corinthians 5:20) God will honor our words as His own and will back what we do with His power and authority.

In Matthew 12:25-30 we find more background about the implications of us binding and loosing in Jesus’ name. Jesus had just cast out a demon out of an individual which was causing the person to be blind and dumb. The Pharisees trying to cover up the incident, *“This fellow does not cast out devils but by Beelzebub (Satan), the prince of the devils.”*

Jesus replies,

“And knowing their thoughts, He said to them, Any kingdom that is divided against itself is being brought to desolation and laid waste, and no city or house divided against itself will last or continue to stand.

And if Satan drives out Satan, he has become divided against himself and disunified; how then will his kingdom last or continue to stand?

And if I drive out the demons by [help of] Beelzebub, by whose [help] do your sons drive them out? For this reason they shall be your judges.

But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out the demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you [before you expected it].

Or how can a person go into a strong man's house and carry off his goods (the entire equipment of his house) without binding the strong man? Then indeed he may plunder his house.

He who is not with Me [definitely on My side], is against Me, and he who does not [definitely] gather with Me and for My side, scatters."
(Matthew 12:25-30, Amplified bible)

The disciples were to announce the coming of the kingdom of God. (Luke 9:1-5; Matthew 10:7-8) Where the kingdom of God moves in – Satan's kingdom must move out! Both kingdoms have a mutual agreement. They are agreed – they have nothing to do with each other. What is God's is God's. What is Satan's is Satan's. Not exactly!

Satan received his kingdom by deceit. It was originally given by God to mankind. Man surrendered it by obeying Satan rather than God. When Jesus gave His life on the cross, Satan became a murderer, forfeiting all rights to the kingdom, which now legally belongs to believers in Jesus Christ. As sons of God, we have the right to take back from Satan what belongs to our Heavenly Father and to us as His children.

Jesus says, *"But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house."* (Matthew 12:28-29)

The strongman is Satan. He is squatting on what belongs to us. He knows it isn't his anymore; however, he will not just turn it over to us. Satan does not play fair. We must go in and bind him (tie him up) and take what is ours in Jesus' name. *"...and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it [the believers of God – church]."* (See Matthew 16:18-19) We are going to march through the gates of hell and take back what Satan has bound, oppressed, and stolen. Glory to God!

This will not happen unless we recognize the authority that God has given to us in Jesus' name and act in faith upon God's Word. Jesus said to His disciples, *"And as ye go, preach, saying, the kingdom of heaven is at hand. Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils: freely ye have received, freely give."* (Matthew 10:7-8) The disciples went out and did these works and joyfully returned.

A few months later a father brought his son to these same disciples who had done these works in Jesus' name. (See Matthew 17:14-21) The boy was possessed by a demon spirit. The disciples were not able to cast it out. He brought the boy to Jesus saying, "Your disciples are not able to cure him." Jesus replied, "*O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I suffer [put up with] you? Bring him to Me.*" And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour.

("To rebuke" in the Greek language, actually means a physical attacking or throttling of the evil force. We note that the demons are often afraid of those who are coming to rebuke in Jesus' name. In Mark 1:24, we see the demons asking Jesus, "*Have you come to destroy us?*")

The disciples then asked Jesus "...*Why could we not cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.*" (Matthew 17:19-21)

Why were the disciples not able to cast out the demon spirit? They had been able to do it before. Had the power or authority been taken away from them? No! Jesus clearly states the reason they were not able to work the work of God – UNBELIEF! – UNBELIEF! In other words, if they believed the demon had to leave when they rebuked it, the demon would have had to go! However, they did not believe.

Oh, that was not very tactful, nor about their being offended, nor about their pride being hurt. Jesus was concerned about the truth and equipping God's people to be sons of God, doing the works of God. If the disciples' unbelief was the problem, Jesus realized the importance of telling them, so they might believe God and do and receive the working of God.

Many Christian people today are letting their pride and feelings hinder them from receiving God's promises. They have the audacity to say God does not work that way today or maybe it is not for them. (In so many words, "*God is a liar!*") when all the time they need to hear what Jesus told his disciples – "*You do not have because of your 'UNBELIEF'!*" God will not work through someone who is not believing God to use him.

Jesus says, “...*Have faith in [of] God. For verily, I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.*” (Mark 11:22-24)

Jesus was talking to His disciples, which includes us today. The only thing that will hinder God’s power from flowing through our words is “doubt in our heart” or unbelief. If we are forgiving others and walking in faith and obedience to God’s Word, there is nothing to hinder God’s power from flowing through us to heal the sick, remove demons, restore marriages, change nature, etc. We also learn the importance of fasting and prayer [discipline] in our lives. If we are to work the works of God, we must recognize that our lives are God’s lives. We are to be solely dedicated to Him, being clean, holy vessels for His power to flow through. Certain demons will not leave except by believer’s fasting and prayer.

It is exciting today that many believers are responding in faith and seeing their place in God’s plan. As a result, they are the ones who are seeing the movement of God in their lives.

I love the response of the father who brought his son to Jesus to be delivered. Jesus had just told him, “...*If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth.*” And straightaway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, “...*Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*” (Mark 9:23-24)

This father recognized his doubt, yet he was convinced that the power of God would deliver his boy. He knew that if there was any doubt on his part it would not happen, so he humbled himself and sought the doubt to be removed. If believers today would be honest, like this man, asking God to forgive us for our doubt and then removing doubt by taking hold of God’s Word as 100 percent true and expecting God’s miracle 100 percent of the time, we would see a move of the Spirit of God like this world has never known.

“*God is not a man that He should lie; neither the Son of man, that He should repent [change His mind]: hath He said, and shall He not do it? Or hath He spoken, and shall He not make it good?*” (Numbers 23:19)

If God has given us authority over Satan, will He change His mind? No. Has God given us authority over Satan? If there are any of you who still have any question about this, let's look at some more of God's Word! God wants us to know for a fact what we can do.

“And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name. And He [Jesus] said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:17-20)

All power over Satan and demons has been given to us who believe in Jesus to be applied in Jesus' name. Neither Satan nor any demon can harm us as we go in Jesus' name.

In several cases, we have found that the demons were not actually aware of our presence, but they saw and were speaking to Jesus. Praise God! In Jesus' name we are Christ's ambassadors representing our Savior and the kingdom of God. As we go in Jesus' name, the demons do not see us. They see and bow to Jesus.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4:7)

The first step is to be yielded to God. We are to be submitted to God, not proud in ourselves, but recognizing that we are Sons of God because of what God has done for us. We daily need to confess any known or unknown sin in our lives. (Psalm 139:23-24) Thank God for forgiveness. Because of our right standing with God in Jesus Christ, we can then resist the devil and he will flee from us (as in terror). Note: We, not God, are the ones who are to resist the devil. Unless we resist, the devil will stay around to harass us. God has given us authority to resist in Jesus' name.

In temptations, tell Satan, *“Satan and all foul spirits, I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ and by the blood of Jesus to get away from me!”* Then use God's Word. Jesus is our example. He said to Satan, *“Get thee hence, Satan.”* Then he used God's Word. (Matthew 4:10) We take authority in Jesus' name against Satan and demons. According to God's Word, *“Satan must flee [as in terror]!”* (James 5:7)

In situations where people are possessed or oppressed by Satan, we can say, “Satan and foul spirits, I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ come out of _____, or, you are bound from influencing _____.” According to God’s Word, demon spirits must come out or they must stop influencing the person.

What about those fellows in the book of Acts who tried to remove the demons, but it did not work, and they were beaten up by the possessed man?

As we look at the account in Acts 19:13-18, we see that these men were vagabond Jews and exorcists. They took on themselves to use Jesus’ name to cast out evil spirits saying, “...*We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth*” (verse 13) The difference between them and us is that Jesus has given to us who believe in Him the authority to use His name. They had no right to use Jesus’ name as is indicated by the evil spirit’s reply. “...*Jesus I know, and Paul [any believer] I know; but who are ye?*” (verse 15) The spirits in the man then caused him to leap on these men and beat them up. (verse 16)

According to God’s Word, this will not and cannot happen to a believer who is acting in Jesus’ name. The demons must come out and the demons cannot harm the believer who is casting them out nor the person who was possessed or oppressed. “*Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*” (Luke 10:19)

Faith is what moves and pleases God. Faith in God is what moves Satan and demons from their stronghold. This is not to say that Satan and demons want to go. It is saying they must go whether they want to or not. If the person wants to be delivered, the evil spirits must go.

In several cases, we have seen where the demons did not appear to leave immediately when we rebuked them in Jesus’ name. Jesus’ incident with the man at Gadara gives us some insight into what to do in such cases. (See Mark 5:1-9) In verse 8 Jesus commands the foul spirit to leave. It does not go. Jesus asks, “*What is your name?*” (verse 9) The spirits replied, “*My name is legion: for we are many.*” They plead to go into the swine. In verse 13, Jesus gives them leave to go. They go!

If the spirits do not appear to go when you charge them in Jesus' name, ask what the name of the spirit is and how many there are. Then charge them, "(Name) and (number of spirits), in Jesus' name, come out!" They must go.

Once you speak the word in Jesus' name, do not doubt that they must go. If you doubt, they will not go. This is what happened to Jesus' disciples. The demon did not appear to go, so they thought it would not go. It must go in Jesus' name. Relax and praise the Lord once you have commanded it to go because God says it must go.

"...Have faith in God. For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith." (Mark 11:22-23)

We are to be *"Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet [qualified] to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath [has] delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins: who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: for by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by Him all things consist."* (Colossians 1:12-17)

We who believe are already delivered from Satan's power!!! This same Jesus has given us authority to use His name against Satan and all his power.

"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." (Mark 16:15-18)

Many Christian people, even pastors, have told me this ability and authority is only given to a few people. Please note, again – verse 17 – *"And these signs shall follow them that believe."* Also, John 14:12 *"Verily, verily, I say*

unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also...” It is clearly taught that any believer has this authority in Jesus’ name! Praise God! We are not to fear, reverence, or cower before Satan, but we are to take authority over him in Jesus’ name.

THE WARFARE PART V

In these days of “seeking a blessing” Christianity, believers need to stand up and take a note that we are not on some kind of luxury vacation. We are in a battle! We cannot afford to let down our guard or not keep our armor and weapons ready for action.

In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through you union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].

Put on God’s whole armor [the armor of a heavy-armed soldier which God supplies] that you may be able successfully to stand up against [all] the strategies and the deceits of the devil.

For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents] but against the despotism, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.

Therefore put on God’s complete armor, that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day [of danger], and having done all [the crisis demands], to stand [firmly in your place].

Stand therefore [hold your ground] having tightened the belt of truth around your loins and having put on the breast plate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God:

And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness, and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.

Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].

And take the helmet of salvation and the sword that the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.

Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) in the Spirit, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people)." (Ephesians 6:10-18, Amplified Bible)

Four things are clear from God's Word:

- 1) We are in a battle.
- 2) Our enemy is not flesh and blood, but evil, spiritual powers.
- 3) God has equipped us for the battle.
- 4) We must put on and use the armor and weapons God has provided for us.

From the battle between God and Satan in which Satan was cast out from heaven, the two spiritual forces have been enemies. Neither force can be seen with the natural eye, unless they reveal themselves by taking some physical manifestation. As believers in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit of God lives in us. Thus we have become Satan's enemy and the world's enemy because the whole world lies in darkness under Satan's control. Satan and his power were defeated and broken by Jesus Christ at the cross and the resurrection from the dead. The spiritual battle had taken physical dimensions (Christ Jesus came in the flesh) that we, who are in the flesh, might be freed to have life in and by the Spirit of God.

"And He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor [no one to intervene on behalf of truth and right]; therefore His own arm brought Him victory, and His righteousness [having the Spirit without measure] sustained Him.

For [the Lord] put on righteousness as a breastplate or coat of mail, and salvation as a helmet upon His head; He put on garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal [and furious divine jealousy] as a cloak.

According as their deeds deserve, so will He repay, wrath to His adversaries, recompense to His enemies; on the foreign islands and coastlands He will make compensation.

So [as the result of the Messiah's intervention] they shall [reverently] fear the name of the Lord from the west, and His glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him and put him to flight [for He will come like a

rushing stream which the breath of the Lord drives/].” (Isaiah 59:16-19, Amplified Bible)

As believers, our real life is in the Spirit, which is born of God. Before we received Jesus, our spirit was dead to God and alive to Satan who was our father. But now, God is our Father.

“For though we walk [live] in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons.

For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds.

[Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).” (2nd Corinthians 10:3-5, Amplified Bible)

God has equipped us with His own armor and weapons to deal against every power of the enemy intended to deceive, distract, disrupt, confuse, harm, kill and destroy God’s people. Those who have been born again by receiving Jesus, and are filled with the Holy Spirit have the power of the Holy Spirit available in them.

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.” (Isaiah 59:19)

The Holy Spirit of God in us will reveal to us the thoughts of God. We have God’s armor provided by us appropriating God’s Word to ourselves. The Holy Spirit also has supernatural gifts (See 1st Corinthians 12:11) which He imparts when the Holy Spirit wills it to believers for special workings against the enemy. Some of these gifts of the Holy Spirit that are often evident in dealing with discerning and removing demon spirits are the “word of knowledge,” discerning of spirits” and the “gift of faith.”

In the case with the mother, the word of knowledge revealed what the problem was – demons. The gift of faith (not the measure of faith that every believer has been given (Romans 12:3), but supernatural faith given for a

specific time and a specific working) is what the Holy Spirit used to cast out the demon. The gift of faith is a power gift. The gift of knowledge and discerning of spirits are revelation gifts. These gifts are operational when the Holy Spirit wills, not when we want.

In another situation, while praying in tongues by the Holy Spirit, deep concern arose for an individual and the Lord gave me scriptures revealing the situation and what I was to share. The next evening as I was sleeping, the Lord showed me in the spirit realm this individual lying on a bed. I saw a demon spirit on the outside clutching this person and then it went inside of the person. The person was getting weaker and the will to live was leaving. I saw myself coming to the person. I asked the question, *Do you want to be freed? God loves you and wants to deliver you!*” The person responded, *“Yes!”* I spoke against the spirit and I saw the spirit leave the person’s body.

The next day I went to where the person was staying and walked to the bedside. I was totally confident God was going to do a work. The person was there just like I had seen. I asked, *“Do you want to be freed? God loves you and wants to deliver you!”* The person responded *“Yes!”* I spoke against the spirit. *“Foul spirits, I charge you in Jesus’ name to come out!”* Immediately there was a release in the spirit. We praised the Lord. Then I shared the words of scripture that God told me to share to warn the individual not to again practice the things which allowed the demon to come in (immorality, drugs, drunkenness, etc., opens the door for the devil).

Through the discerning of spirits we can see into the spirit realm. Before we sleep, we always praise the Lord and thank Him that His angels stand around us, that no evil or any plague can come against us or live in our bodies. (Psalm 91:10-11) One evening as I was sleeping, I awoke and felt an intense chill around me. I looked up to see a large shadowy figure, like a shroud, trying to hover over me. Suddenly countless brilliant white flashes were shooting into the shadowy form lifting it from the room. Peace filled me and I thanked God. God and His forces are greater than the powers of darkness.

In another situation, a man was in a hospital a hundred miles away. At 2:00 A.M., the Spirit of God awoke me to pray. I prayed in tongues until 4:00 A.M. During this time it became clear who I was praying for and what to do. *“Renounce the enemy! Renounce the enemy! Renounce the enemy!”*

kept going through my head. I did! When God directs us to do something, we need to learn to be obedient that God might do the work and receive glory and His people might have life. Thank God we are learning to do this.

The next day I had a strong leading to go visit the man. I asked him, *“Did anything happen last night around 2:00 A.M.?”* He replied, *“Yes, there was a shadowy presence in my room which was trying to grab hold of my foot and leg”* (where the problem had been). *“Inside of me kept coming the thought, Renounce the enemy! Renounce the enemy! So I took authority in Jesus’ name.”* I asked, *“When was it totally peaceful again?”* He replied, *“Around 4:00 A.M.”* He then began to ask questions about the Holy Spirit and desired to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I lay hands on him in Jesus’ name, and he received the Holy Spirit, praising God in other tongues. Bless the Lord. People of God, we are able by the power of the Holy Spirit, to defeat the enemy in Jesus’ name.

We are sharing just a few accounts with you that you might be even more aware of the battle we are in and that our enemy is not flesh and blood, but powers of darkness. God has equipped us supernaturally by the Holy Spirit in Jesus’ name to deal with and overcome all power of the enemy.

We want to note that we are not to be running around looking for demons under every bush, nor trying to force an issue where there is no issue. The problem is not always demons. It may be that people need to control their flesh. (Galatians 5:16-26) Having a little knowledge, many fine Christian people are misguided in their attempts to combat demons and have caused much harm to people because of the zeal of their own flesh which was not directed by the Holy Spirit. It is better to be a little slow than to jump in too fast. As we are listening to God, the Holy Spirit will reveal what to do and how to do it. Do not hesitate then when you are to act.

“As we were on our way to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who was possessed by a spirit of divination [claiming to foretell future events and to discover hidden knowledge], and she brought her owners much gain by her fortunetelling.

She kept following Paul and [the rest of] us, shouting loudly, “These men are the servants of the Most High God! They announce to you the way of salvation!”

And she did this for many days. Then Paul, being sorely annoyed and worn out, turned and said to the spirit within her, I charge you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her! And it came out that very moment. (Acts 16:16-18, Amplified Bible)

For many days Paul did not recognize the demon until the Lord revealed it to him. Then he took authority in Jesus' name, the demon left, and the girl was free. Note: Paul did not say, "*The Lord rebuke you*" either.

The chief evil spirits we are contending with in this world are those listed in Ephesians 6:12 "*as the rulers of darkness of this world.*" They are the powerful, intelligent spirits who actually possess people and then bring in the lesser "*principalities and powers*" with them. Evil spirits can actually control regions and cities of the world.

"Then said he [an angel of God] unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia." (Daniel 10:12-13)

"Then said he [the angel], Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now I will return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come. But I will shew thee, that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince. (Daniel 10:20-21)

The princes of Persia and Grecia are demon rulers of darkness in this world. The angel was delayed in bringing the interpretation until Michael [the archangel] aided him. Daniel was told that the prince of Grecia would come after the angel left, but he would have the truth. Like feudal princes, these spirits control regions and cities of the world, hindering the working of God if given the opportunity. In Jesus' name we must first bind the strong man before we can steal his goods. (Matthew 12:28-29)

Here is where the battle comes. The enemy is not just going to lie down and give up his goods without a fight. Even though Satan and his powers are defeated by Christ Jesus' death and resurrection, Christians need to understand that we are in a battle if we are going to take a stand for Christ

and fulfill our calling to be ministers of reconciliation to reconcile this world to God in the name of Jesus.

Satan and his powers will seek to resist the coming of God's kingdom. Satan knows that his time is short so he is going to do what he can do. (Revelations 12:12) He is going to fight back. This is clearly taught in God's Word. In Matthew 13:18-30, Satan sows weeds where God sowed good seed. In Luke 11:24-26, the demonic powers which have been cast out attempt to come back, making the situation worse than before. In Matthew 11:11-15, violent ones (powers of evil) are opposing God's kingdom. Judas Iscariot was used by Satan to accomplish his purposes. (Luke 22:3) Many others before him and even today, many "*wolves in sheep's clothing*" (Matthew 7:15) are being used by Satan to oppose God's kingdom and people, and they themselves are then cast off once they have been used.

"Behold, I am sending you out like sheep in the midst of wolves; be wary and wise as serpents, and be innocent (harmless, guileless, and without falsity) as doves.

Be on guard against the men [whose way or nature is to act in opposition to God]; for they will deliver you up to councils and flog you in their synagogues,

And you will be brought before governors and kings for My sake, as a witness to bear testimony before them and to the Gentiles [the nations].

But when they deliver you up, do not be anxious about how or what you are to speak: for what you are to say will be given you in that very hour and moment.

For it is not you who are speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Brother will deliver up brother to death, and the father his child; and children will take a stand against their parents and will have them put to death.

And you will be hated by all for My name's sake, but he who preserves and endures to the end will be saved [from spiritual disease and death in the world to come].

When they persecute you in one town [that is, pursue you in a manner to injure you and cause you to suffer because of your belief], flee to another town; for truly I tell you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of man comes.

A disciple is not above his teacher, nor is a servant or slave above his master.

It is sufficient for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant or slave like his master. If they have called the Master of the house Beelzebub [master of the dwelling], how much more will they speak evil of those of His household.

So have no fear of them; for nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, or kept secret that will not become known.

What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light; and what you hear whispered in the ear, proclaim upon the housetops.

And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; but rather be afraid of Him who can destroy both soul and body in hell [Gehenna].

Are not two little sparrows sold for a penny? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's leave (consent) and notice.

But even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.

Fear not, then; you are of more value than many sparrows.

Therefore, every one who acknowledges Me before men and confesses Me [out of a state of oneness with Me] I will also acknowledge him, before My Father Who is in heaven, and confess that I am [abiding in] him.

But whoever denies and disowns Me before men, I also will deny and disown before My Father Who is in heaven.

Do not think that I have come to bring peace upon the earth; I have not come to bring peace, but a sword.

For I have come to part asunder a man from his father, and a daughter from her mother, and a newly married wife from her mother-in-law—

And a man's foes will be they of his own household.

He who loves [and takes more pleasure in] father or mother than [in] Me is not worthy of Me; and he who loves and takes more pleasure in son or daughter than [in] Me is not worthy of Me;

And he who does not take up his cross and follow me [cleave steadfastly to Me, conforming wholly to My example in living and, if need be, in dying also] is not worthy of Me;

Whoever finds his [lower] life will lose it [the higher life], and whoever loses his [lower] life on My account will find it [the higher life].

He who receives and welcomes and accepts you receives and welcomes and accepts Me; and he who receives and welcomes and accepts Me, receives and welcomes and accepts Him Who sent Me. (Matthew 10:16-40, Amplified Bible)

If the world hates you, ye know that it hated Me before it hated you. (John 15:18)

But I have told you these things now, so that when they occur you will remember that I told you of them. I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. (John 16:4, Amplified Bible)

I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have [perfect] peace and confidence. In the world you have tribulation and trials and distress and frustration; but be of good cheer [take courage; be confident, certain, undaunted] for I have overcome the world, [I have deprived it of power to harm, have conquered it for you.] (John 16:33, Amplified Bible)

For whatever is born of God is victorious over the world; and this is the victory that conquers the world, even our faith.

Who is it that is victorious over [that conquers] the world but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God [who adheres to, trusts in and relies on that fact]? (1st John 5:4-5, Amplified Bible)

Now you have closely observed and diligently followed my teaching, conduct, purpose in life, faith, patience, love, steadfastness,

Persecutions, sufferings — such as occurred to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra, persecution I endured, but out of them all the Lord delivered me.

Indeed all who delight in piety and are determined to live a devoted and godly life in Christ Jesus will meet with persecution [will be made to suffer because of their religious stand].

But wicked men and imposters will go on from bad to worse, deceiving and leading astray others and being deceived and led astray themselves.

But as for you, continue to hold to the things that you have learned and of which you are convinced, knowing from whom you learned [them].

And how from your childhood you have had a knowledge of and been acquainted with the sacred Writings which are able to instruct you and give you the understanding for salvation which comes through faith in Christ Jesus [through the leaning of the entire human personality on God in Christ Jesus in absolute trust and confidence in His power, wisdom and goodness].

Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose and action),

So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well-fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2nd Timothy 3:10-17, Amplified Bible)

Anytime someone stands up and makes a quality decision for Christ Jesus, they can expect attack, but also victory. Satan will attempt to steal God's blessing.

We had an incident where the Word of God was being put forth and was received. One individual afterward, bursting with joy, proclaimed, "I have decided I will be obedient and do what God says! I will be baptized." A decision for God was made in the heart.

During the same day, several remarks and "*rebuffs*" from others came, which prompted doubt. Then disillusionment disorientation, pressure, and confusion set in, which were all definite signs of demonic attack. The Spirit of God quickened us to make a visit.

We shared awhile. As I prayed in tongues silently, it was clear what was the problem. I asked the person, "*What are you thinking now?*" The person replied, "*I want you to leave.*" I said, "*No, I can't do that yet. In the name of Jesus I'm going to pray over you and God will deliver you.*" I walked over to the person and rebuked the demon spirits, "*Foul spirits that are oppressing and influencing ____, in the name of Jesus Christ I bind your power and influence from _____. You can not hinder or confuse any longer!*"

Release in the person was evident. Tears were flowing as the person thanked Jesus, and the decision and commitment for God grew stronger and stronger. Praise God! Afterwards, I asked, "*Did you know that you told me to leave?*" The person replied, "*Something told me to tell you that.*" That something was a demon influence. However God is greater!

Many people do things which they do not remember or know why they have done them because of demonic influence. People of the world may call it "*temporary insanity*," but we know differently. People can be "used" and abused by the devil for the moment and not necessarily be possessed. Herein is the importance of standing firm in God's Word and being obedient to God. Because of his desires and ignorance concerning God's will, Peter was used of Satan when he told Jesus he did not have to die on the cross. Jesus, looking at Peter, rebuked Satan. (Matthew 16:22-28)

It is clear that Jesus did not come to bring peace but a sword. (See Matthew 10:34) When the kingdom of God is moving in, the demon forces must move. They will not go without giving resistance, but they must move. Why? God is greater. God's division comes when the kingdom of God comes in. Satan stirs up trouble against God and His people. Satan accuses

God as being the disrupter, saying “Jesus and God’s people work by Satan’s power. The Holy Spirit, tongues, and healing are divisive and fanatical.” It is true that Jesus and God’s people are disrupting Satan’s kingdom, but by the Spirit of God!

We must decide whose side we are on – God’s or Satan’s. We can only be on one side. Jesus says, “*Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father which is in heaven.* (Matthew 10:32-33, see again Matthew 10:16-40 and 12:25-35)

God wants us to know today that Jesus Christ did not get His life stolen by the devil. Jesus Christ gave up His life when He was ready to give His life for us. Remember that they (Satan and his powers) could not touch him “*for His time was not yet come.*” When Jesus’ time was come He presented Himself. Praise the Lord! We are redeemed by His blood!

The Lord would also have us to know,

“Blessed and happy and enviably fortunate and spiritually prosperous (in the state in which the born-again child of God enjoys and finds satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of his outward conditions) are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake (for being and doing right), for theirs is the kingdom of heaven!”

Blessed (happy, to be envied, and spiritually prosperous — with life-joy and satisfaction in God’s favor and salvation, regardless of your outward conditions) are you when people revile you and persecute you and say all kinds of evil things against you falsely on My account.

Be glad and supremely joyful, for your reward in heaven is great (strong and intense), for in this same way people persecuted the prophets who were before you.” (Matthew 5:10-12, Amplified Bible)

As Jesus did not lie down and take defeat, neither do we have to take defeat. Jesus had victory and so will we through faith in Jesus Christ.

“Then I heard a strong (loud) voice in heaven, saying, Now it has come — the salvation and the power and the kingdom (the dominion, the reign) of our God, and the power (the sovereignty, the authority) of His

Christ (the Messiah); for the accuser of our brethren, he who keeps bringing before our God charges against them day and night, has been cast out!

And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, for they did not love and cling to life even when faced with death [holding their lives cheap till they had to die for their witnessing].” (Revelations 12:10-11, Amplified Bible)

OUR RESPONSIBILITY PART VI

I believe intensely that if the Body of Christ is to grow to maturity and be prepared for Christ's return, we will have to line up with God's Word and start taking our place, acting like God has declared us to be – sons of God. (John 1:12) God has done His part. It is our responsibility to receive and act upon what God has given to us in Jesus Christ.

I praise God for the fact that the victory of God and His people is being taught so that we can grow into maturity in Jesus Christ. I praise God for the enlightenment of His Holy Spirit to teach us concerning all spiritual truths. (See 1st Corinthians 2:7-16)

It is our responsibility now to take this revealed knowledge and act upon it.

If someone would come to you and ask you, "*How do I resist the devil?*" – What would you tell them? If all temptations and evil is rooted in Satan, it is pretty important that we can answer this question. We note – It is OUR responsibility to resist Satan.

How to resist the devil: (James 4:7)

1. Become aware of the enemy. (Matthew 26:41; 1st Peter 5:8) – Is there pressure, confusion, sickness, fear, worry, depression, obsession, condemnation, strife, etc., present? Are you being led to violate God's principles or compromise God's Word?
2. Submit yourself to God. Ask forgiveness for any known or unknown sin or wrong attitude. (Psalm 139:23-24); 1st John 1:9) Thank God that you are His child and have right standing by the blood of Jesus.
3. Resist and bind Satan. (Mark 11:22-24; Matthew 12:24-30; James 4:7) "*Have faith in God. Speak to the mountain, 'Satan and foul spirits, I command you, in the name of Jesus Christ, get away from me.'*" Say it like you mean business. To "*rebuke*" means "*to physically throttle,*" or "*cast down.*" Get tough with Satan. You have the authority in Jesus' name – use it! Cast down his lies. (2nd Corinthians 10:3-5)
4. Speak God's Word out loud to the devil. Speak the promise of God. Let Satan know that you will not be moved by his lies or deception.

- Let him know that you know your rights as a Son of God. To do this you must know who you are in Jesus Christ – Search God’s word.
5. Pray for God’s blessing. It is especially important that after a demon has been cast out or after temptation has been overcome that we fill the void with God’s presence and Holy Spirit.
 6. Recognize that *“Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you [God], than he that is in the world (Satan and host).”* (1st John 4:4)

“Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, Even the most High, thy habitation; There shall no evil befall thee, Neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling. For he shall give His angels charge over thee, To keep thee in all thy ways.” (Psalm 91:9-11) See entire Psalm.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.” (2nd Timothy 1:7)

“Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:19-20)
We note: It is our responsibility to keep ourselves submitted to God by obedience to His Word.

“We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; [doesn’t make a practice of willfully disobeying God] but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given to us an understanding, that we may know Him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” (1st John 5:18-21)

“Neither give place to the devil.” (Ephesians 4:27) We give place or opportunity to the devil by disobeying God’s Word.

“..., neither be partaker of other men’s sins: keep thyself pure.” (1st Timothy 5:22)

“Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.” (James 1:27)

“Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering [sexual immorality] and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.” (Romans 13:13-14)

We have a choice as to whether we will serve God or Satan. We are a servant to whom we serve. As believers we cannot afford to open the door to Satan by being disobedient to God’s Word by following the ways of the world and our old flesh.

God has a hedge of protection around His righteous ones. Satan cannot touch us as we are obedient to God (keeping ourselves). Jesus is our advocate. (1st John 2:1) Satan or the god of this world is the accuser. As we obey God, walking in faith, Satan cannot touch us or bring accusation against us, or harm us.

Satan said to God about Job, *“Hast not thou made a hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.”* (Job 1:10) Praise God! Satan himself said, “I cannot do anything to a person who is under God’s protection.”

People think that God then took down Job’s hedge so Satan could attack him. But let’s look again. It says, *“And the Lord said to Satan, Behold, all that he has is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand.”* (Job 1:12)

God did not take down the hedge. Yes, He permitted Satan’s attack. Why?

Job said, *“For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me.”* (Job 3:25) Fear is sin! It is unbelief in God. It is the opposite of faith. Job, himself, took down God’s hedge because of his fear, allowing Satan’s attacks. Job chose to open himself to Satan’s attacks by choosing to fear (or not trusting in God). His fear about his children took down God’s hedge and opened Job up to demonic activity. (Job 1:5)

In Job 42:1-6, Job confessed faith in God and repented of his sin, and God healed him, restored twice as much as he had before (42-10), and he lived for 140 more years. Praise God!

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is the propitiation [payment] for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep His commandments.” (1st John 2:1-3)

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1st John 1:9)

If we should disobey God, we have a way to stay in right standing with God by confessing our sin and letting the blood of Jesus cover and cleanse our sin. The hedge of God will go back up, and Satan cannot touch us. When we choose God, God will give power to stop practicing the sin.

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye become the servants of righteousness.” (Romans 6:16-18)

We note: It is our responsibility to put on the armor of God.

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil...” (Ephesians 6:10-11) *“Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all [overcome], to stand.”* (Ephesians 6:13)

“And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.” (Romans 13:11-12) *“...But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ...”* (Romans 13:14)

God's Word is quite clear that it is our responsibility to put on God's armor that we might be protected and have victory, overcoming Satan's attacks. As we noted earlier (Isaiah 59:16-19), God has actually provided for us the armor Jesus Christ wore.

“Stand therefore [hold your ground], having tightened the belt of truth around your loins, and having put on the breastplate of integrity and of moral rectitude and right standing with God;

And having shod your feet in preparation [to face the enemy with the firm-footed stability, the promptness and the readiness produced by the good news] of the Gospel of peace.

Lift up over all the [covering] shield of saving faith, upon which you can quench all the flaming missiles of the wicked [one].

And take the helmet of salvation and the sword the Spirit wields, which is the Word of God.” (Ephesians 6:14-17, Amplified Bible)

Our armour now includes Truth (God's Word), breastplate of righteousness (right standing with God), gospel of peace, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, and sword of the Spirit. As Jesus Christ had victory wearing this armor, likewise we have victory wearing His armor.

It is not enough to have the armor in our person. If we are not wearing the armor we are vulnerable to be attacked and defeated by Satan. We must put on God's armor. How do we put on His armor?

Putting on God's Armor

1. Recognize all the armor of God is based around God's Word – Jesus Christ (the Word made flesh).
2. Read and meditate in God's Word every day. Fill your thoughts with God's Word.
3. Find out what God says about you and what is yours in Jesus Christ – salvation, righteousness (right standing with God), power over Satan, divine health, protection, prosperity, right to ask in Jesus' name, and expect to receive, etc.
4. Be obedient to what God's Word says.
5. Apply God's Word and promises to situations of life – do not listen to Satan, others, or your own understanding.
6. Speak God's Word to Satan, to God, to yourself, and to others.
7. Praise the Lord!

We note: It is our responsibility to be prayer warriors!

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”
(Ephesians 6:18)

God will not pray for us. God is looking for people to pray that His power might flow to deliver His people. If we do not pray, nothing will get done. God has equipped us to pray by filling us with the Holy Spirit and giving us a new tongue. We have God’s promises that He will do what we ask in Jesus’ name. The power is there to change the world, but if we do not pray – nothing will happen.

We need to be interceding for each other. Let me show you what happened when Jesus interceded for Peter: *“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.”* (Luke 22:31-32)

Jesus prayed for Peter that his faith not fail. Jesus knew what was coming. Peter denied Jesus, yes – But Satan was not able to defeat Peter like Judas was defeated. Later, Peter was made the rock Jesus used to begin His Church.

Today Satan is desiring to stop the Gospel, to defeat God’s people, to steal God’s blessings, to murder and destroy. He desires to keep people in ignorance of God’s blessings and plan of abundant life. HOWEVER! – All it takes to defeat Satan and for the power of God to move is someone moving in faith, committing himself to pray, expecting God’s power and love to move in this world! Just imagine what would happen if every believer would be praying for each other around the world and for the furtherance of the Gospel. The Body of Christ would become a strong militant army against the forces of Satan, able to stand in the evil day, prepared for Jesus’ return.

I would challenge you to examine your personal prayer life. If you pray in your natural language, examine the content of your prayers. Is it for you and those you are involved with or is it for the entire Body of Christ? Paul, speaking by the Holy Spirit, would also encourage us to pray in the Spirit in our new tongues. (Ephesians 6:18; Jude 20) The Holy Spirit knows the

needs of the Body of Christ more than anyone. As we pray in the Spirit, God is able to meet those needs. We have no record that Jesus or anyone before Him prayed in tongues. However, after Pentecost it is clear that believers did pray in tongues by the Holy Spirit. We live in this new age, using the same equipment of the Holy Spirit until Jesus' return, at which time there will be no more need to preach Jesus or use the gifts of the Spirit. (1st Corinthians 13:8-10) The work will be finished.

Let us note again: It is clearly taught by Jesus that prayer and fasting are to be used in dealing against some types of demons. (Matthew 17:21)
Spiritual warfare involves discipline on our part, that the Spirit of God might not be hindered by our flesh.

“Watch, and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” (Matthew 26:41)

We can keep others and ourselves from temptation and falling to Satan's wiles by our intercessory prayer. In quite a few cases, it has been by people being open to pray in the Spirit (tongues) for extended periods of time that God revealed Satan's working and victory was provided. We can actually head off things before they get to others or us because of someone praying.

“Continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak of the mystery Christ,...” (Colossians 4:2-3)

We note: It is our responsibility to preach the Gospel and do the works Jesus did.

Jesus said in reference to Himself, *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.”* (Luke 4:18-19)

“I assure you, most solemnly I tell you, if any one steadfastly believes in Me, he will himself be able to do the things that I do; and he will do even greater things than these, because I go to the Father.

And I will do [I Myself will do for you] whatever you may ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM], so that the Father may be glorified and

extolled in (through) the Son. [Yes] I will grant [I Myself will do for you] whatever you shall ask in My Name [as presenting all that I AM]” (John 14:12-14, Amplified Bible)

“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!” (Romans 10:13-15)

Who are the “preachers?” – ALL BELIEVERS!!!!

Jesus has sent us, saying, “...All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach [make disciples or Christians] all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus says, “...Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” “ And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.” (Mark 16:15-18, 20)

Jesus Christ has sent us to preach the love, victory, and deliverance of our God in this world. Jesus has promised that He will work with us confirming the Word of God when we speak in His name, and signs and wonders will follow as we act in faith, laying hands on the sick, casting out demons, speaking in new tongues, etc.

If we do not preach the Word of God, (specifically the Gospel) (John 3:16-18, Romans 10:9-10, Ephesians 2:4-10), no one will be saved. If we do not lay hands on the sick, people will not be healed. If we do not cast out the

demons in Jesus' name, people will not be delivered. God is searching out people through whom He can show Himself strong. (2nd Chronicles 16:9)

We need to realize that *"...God hath not given us the spirit of fear [timidity]; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God; who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,"* (2nd Timothy 1:7-9)

"But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth." (Acts 1:8, Amplified Bible)

We need not be discouraged, afraid, or ashamed to speak the words and do the works of God. We need to realize that people do not see a need to receive the Lord Jesus (and as a result, God's life because Satan is their father and they do not even realize it. Their minds have been blinded.

"But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world (Satan) 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." (2nd Corinthians 4:3-4)

As we are sharing the good news of God's love in Jesus, it is important that we first bind Satan from blinding the people's minds from receiving God's Word. This frees them to receive God's gift of life. Expect that the word of God, which you sowed, will bring forth fruit in the hearts of the hearers. (Isaiah 55:10-12)

Some attitudes for us to consider as we share the gospel are found in 2nd Timothy 2:24-26.

"And the servant of the Lord must not strive [quarrel]; but be gentle unto all men, apt [ready and able] to teach, patient [forbearing], in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; and that they may recover

[awake] *themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.*” (2nd Timothy 2:24-26)

Praise God! The desire of our hearts is to be about our Father’s business to His glory in Jesus’ name.

“that we should be to the praise of His glory, who first trusted in Christ.” (Ephesians 1:12) *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained [prepared] that we should walk in them.”* (Ephesians 2:10)

If our heart is set on serving God, can anything keep us from the love of Christ or doing our purpose as sons of God?

“Who shall ever separate us from Christ’s love? Shall suffering and affliction and tribulation? Or calamity and distress? Or persecution or hunger, or destitution or peril or sword?

Even as it is written, For Thy sake we are put to death all the day long, we are regarded and counted as sheep for the slaughter.

Yet amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him Who loved us.

For I am persuaded beyond doubt (am sure) that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities, nor things impending and threatening nor things to come, nor powers, Nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8:35-39, Amplified Bible)

“Therefore [because He stooped so low], God has highly exalted Him and has freely bestowed on Him the name that is above every name,

That in (at) the name of Jesus every knee should (must) bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth.

And every tongue [frankly and openly] confess and acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11, Amplified Bible)

THE DEMONS RETURN...
but NOT FOR LONG!
PART VII

“When a strong man armed keepeth his palace, his goods are in peace: but when a stronger than he shall come upon him, and overcome him, he taketh from him all his armour wherein he trusted, and divideth his spoils. He that is not with me is against me: and he that gathereth not with me scattereth. When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first.” (Luke 11:21-26)

During the months that followed the mother’s deliverance by the Lord, the Lord continued to take care of all her needs. The doctor found her physically to have the health of a woman much younger than her years. The Lord’s healing of her husband’s head was confirmed by doctors who found nothing wrong. The Lord arranged a good job for him. The Lord arranged a situation where they could manage a condominium complex, so they had a place to live. Spiritually the mother was feeding continually on faith material and God’s word. Excitement was mounting within her as the Lord opened up opportunities for her to share God’s love with others.

Angels of God were constantly ministering to her. One day a voice spoke to her saying, *“Mary, Tagygiwy.”* The voice repeated this three times, *“Mary, Tagygiwy.”* The mother spoke back. *“I do not understand. Explain!”* The voice responded, *“Mary, the angels are with you – God is with you!”*

During this time, the Lord was calling me into the ministry that He had for me. I left the church at which I was pastoring and the church body in which I had been raised. She did not understand as we talked on the phone about these things. In fact, she became quite upset and confused. Sometimes when people get upset, it is better not to say anything more, so I listened and then we said, *“Goodbye.”* After putting the phone down, I prayed in the Spirit that God would reveal to her what He had confirmed to me.

A few days later, I received a phone call from her. She was excited. She said, "Yesterday morning a voice spoke to me, saying, 'Mary, Mary.' I was in a hurry to get to work, so I did not think much of it. As I was walking on the way home, the voice spoke to me again. 'Mary, Mary.' This time I answered. The voice said to me, 'Wherever two or three are gathered in my Name, there am I in the midst of them?'" Praise the Lord! He is good! He loves us so much!! God confirmed to her that we were doing what God had called us to do.

At one point for three consecutive evenings, she had a dream in which a spirit, which called itself Annie, was telling her it also was in her. Frightened, she called me. I had no witness that anything else was in her. However, we discussed the fact that the spirits would attempt to get back into her by causing her to fear and get out of faith in God and His Word.

A year later, while a Christian sister was praying, I came into her prayers. She wrote to me confirming some things that were in my spirit. We were just preparing to go on vacation in the area where this family lived. In the past, we had always arranged our flights through a travel agency and had good results. This time, however, although we had begun arrangements over a month before we were to leave, we had no arrangements confirmed. All we received in response were excuses. As we prayed, it became clear that Satan was trying to hinder us as he had hindered Paul. (1st Thessalonians 2:18) On the basis of God's Word, in Jesus' name, we bound Satan that he could not hinder our trip. That very day, arrangements were confirmed.

Following a few days at their house, I began to sense something was wrong. The mother did not really care to talk about the Lord and had become quite bitter and spiteful, severely attempting to gossip and stir up strife. This is not how she had been after she was delivered. At other times, she was as loving as before and desired to discuss the Word of God. It was evident she desired to grow in the Lord. It was during these times she stated that people around her had noted a change about her for about three weeks before our arrival. I also found out during this period she had put away all of her faith materials.

A definite sign of oppression is a person not desiring to pray and grow in God's Word. I realized the importance of her continued seeking of God and being filled with the Holy Spirit.

During those weeks, the rest of the family received the infilling of the Holy Spirit and God worked other miracles amongst some of the people with whom she had been sharing the Lord.

On the day of our departure, the Lord began to put things together. A young man, whom the mother and I had been praying, for came over to the house and decided to recommit his life to the Lord. Since neither he nor his wife had been baptized, we were going to do the baptism that evening. The morning was spent in wonderful fellowship in the Lord. She then went to the hairdresser. When she returned, I sensed a change. She no longer wanted to discuss the Lord and there was a tension present, which mounted through lunch.

In the afternoon, the explosion occurred. She began to speak to the effect that there was nothing wrong with having a “*split personality*” and began to challenge me concerning certain areas of scripture. The Spirit of God arose within me in boldness and I began to take God’s Word and go through the Scriptures. She did not want to listen. Her eyes looked the same as when the demon was present. I addressed the spirit that had previously called itself Annie, “*Annie, foul spirit, in the name of Jesus come out of her!*” She rebuked me right back. (Later I learned from the Lord in another experience what was happening. I will share this with you in a moment).

She left the room and called another pastor. I went upstairs to pray. I knew that God was greater than the appearance of things and I praised Him. It was intense prayer in the Spirit and I was on my knees, face to the ground.

I went downstairs and the tension was still present and appeared to remain unresolved, although we knew God was working!

She had talked to another pastor who confirmed her beliefs. Satan will always supply someone to agree with his lies. I am still learning, but it amazes me how people of such authority actually have little understanding concerning the spiritual truth and workings of God. I asked her whether it was these “*doctrines*” that had set her free or was it the power of God? God had confirmed the word we had spoken. (We need to encourage one another to be open to all that God’s Word says even if God’s word contradicts our thoughts and doctrines). Are you aware that there are doctrines of demons, which deny the power of God? (1st Timothy 4:1-2, 2nd Timothy 3:4-9; Matthew 12:22-32)

Praise God we walk by faith and not by sight or circumstances. All the rest of the family came over to “see us off” to the airplane. The Lord touched the family who had recommitted themselves to God, and they were baptized.

Upon arrival home, I found out that one of God’s prayer warriors was praying in tongues by the Holy Spirit that last week of our stay, and it came to her that she was praying for me. She asked for understanding. The next evening she had a dream in which she saw me before the Lord on my knees with my face to the ground. Twelve hundred miles away she saw me doing exactly what I was going to do! She knew something must be wrong because she remembered what the Lord had told me once and I had shared with the people, “*Lift your hands and head high, My son, and praise Me!*” She brought this to the attention of one of the prayer groups and they all interceded in the Spirit for me. God knew I needed prayer support!

When I heard this, tears came to my eyes and joy about the love of God for us. We are not alone in the ministry. God is with us and His people are becoming more and more sensitive to the Spirit of God to stand together and pray and look out for each other. This is what God’s Word tells us to do. (Ephesians 6:18) I don’t know about you, but I get excited when I see God’s people actually doing what God says to do. I know God is pleased and He is able to get things done through us.

The next week the Lord gave me the understanding I had been seeking. In another parallel situation, an individual had several hundred demons removed earlier. As we were praying in the Spirit, I was led to go and see this person. As I went into the room, I saw the same fear and sarcastic expressions that had been present in the previous encounter. The influencing demons were trying to take hold again. The demons deceived the person into thinking that there had been no demons or deliverance, but that it was all the result of drug withdrawal, and hallucination, etc. (There had been another witness present with me who knew differently.) Obscenities, fear, condemnation, and threats were coming at me out of the person’s mouth. I rebuked the demons, “*Foul spirits, in Jesus’ name, out!*” The person rebuked me back saying that I was of Satan. The person then called the police on a fellow servant of God and me. However, God gave us favor with the police.

At this point, the Lord showed me that in the mother's and this person's cases they had both ignorantly set their will in agreement with the influencing demons. That is why nothing appeared to happen. God will not violate a person's will. We have authority over demons, but not over a person's will.

However, I knew they would have to go! A few days later this person called us and apologized. It came to me that another witness to this person's deliverance and I would come and explain to the person what had happened at the deliverance. The person was eager and arranged a time. We met and explained what had happened. God had arranged the person's son and daughter-in-law to witness and as a result they were both filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of tongues.

The demons in both cases had attempted to use the ignorance of the victims to cover their tracks and to enable them to attempt to come back in. I also learned that it is important to share with the person exactly what transpired in their deliverance, so they will not be deceived, since they had no knowledge of the demons influence at that point. Praise God! We are all learning from Him.

I knew if the mother could hear an account of what had happened in her deliverance, she would be freed. But how? She would not listen to my tapes or even talk to me.

My wife and I came into agreement with other family members concerning her deliverance from the second assault. The Lord told one daughter, "*Be still and know that I am God!*" Interestingly, this is the same passage the Lord had me share with the mother after her deliverance.

A few weeks went by. We all need to learn to "*Be still and know that I am God.*" Stop stewing and fretting over things, and start believing and trusting God. Then we see results.

One morning she called me. Needless to say I was excited, even more so, when I heard what she had to say. She said, "*Randy, I just had to call you. Strange things have been happening. I awoke this morning early. Downstairs it sounded like there were hundreds of 'somethings' making all kinds of noises. I then heard a voice calling to me, 'Mary, Mary.' It sounded like Fred's (one of her sons-in-law) voice, but it wasn't. The*

curtains were blowing around but there was no breeze outside. I called my daughter to see if there was something wrong. She said that there was all kinds of commotion going on in the room where I had stayed at her house when the demon was removed.”

I explained to her that God was revealing to her the awareness of these spirits, which had attempted to come back to her. I then explained the importance of listening to the tape of the account of her deliverance, that she be filled with the Holy Spirit, and continue daily in God’s Word and faith. She prayed to receive the Holy Spirit. (Luke 11:13) Praise God! He is good! We as God’s people are able to overcome Satan in the name of Jesus. To God be the Glory for the great things He has done, is doing, and will do in behalf of them that believe.

“And he said unto them, I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” (Luke 10:18-20)
Jesus Christ is Lord!

FILLING THE HOUSE PART VIII

In many other demonic encounters, I saw the power of God in Jesus' mighty name set multitudes free from their captivity, and the question kept coming to me, *"How can we keep them free?"* Our desire is to see people set free and continuing to experience the abundant life which Jesus has promised.

As I approached the Lord, I presented my need, *"Lord, what is the key to people staying free once they are delivered?"* A few days later as I was worshipping in the Spirit, speaking in tongues, the Lord began to speak to me concerning the value and importance of applying the blood of Jesus and being covered by the blood of Jesus in order to stay free. After He had finished teaching me about the blood, He said, *"Now, My son, I have given you the key which you were seeking."*

The Lord showed me that the demons would seek to come back to where they were living. If the person has not filled the house (themselves) with Jesus and the Holy Spirit and is not living in obedience to God's Word, the demons will come in again. The Lord revealed that the only one who can be responsible for filling the house and keeping himself free is the person himself, as he remains in Jesus under His blood. If people want to stay free, they must learn to walk in God's ways and use God's protection and weapons for themselves. No one can do it for us. God will help us to desire and enable us to do it as we love Him first. (Philippians 2:12-16) A deliverance is only as good as what people do with it afterwards in their daily lives. If we continue in Jesus and His Word, we will stay free indeed. (John 8:31-32, 36) God will enable us to keep from falling. (Jude 20:25)

How to Fill the House and Stay Free from Demonic Bondage:

- A. Ask Jesus to come into your life to be your Lord and Savior. God loves you and wants to protect, care for, and give you abundant life.
- B. Be filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:1-4, 8:14-17, 10:44-46, 19:1-6) Demons do not want people to be filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues, and operating in the gifts of the Spirit (See 1st Corinthians 12:1-22, and 14:1)

because the power of God is now in their lives to render ineffective the work of the devil, and to expose Satan's work for what it really is.

- C. Use the *'prayer language'* or new tongue. (Jude 20, Ephesians 6:18)
This will help you to stay in the Spirit (in tune with God's will), avoid temptation, and deal with activity in the spiritual realm of which you have no mental knowledge. (See 1st Corinthians 14:14, Romans 8:26-28, Matthew 26:41)

- D. Be watchful and alert. (1st Peter 5:8-9, Matthew 26:41) Put on the whole armor of God by reading, thinking upon, and doing God's Word. (Ephesians 6:10-18) Obedience to God's Word will not allow the devil to have an opportunity or a home in our lives. (Ephesians 4:27) The product of living attached to Jesus and doing His Word is that the fruit of the Spirit will be produced in our lives which will bring glory to God and produce God's work around us rather than us being tools for the devil. (See John 15:1-12, Galatians 5:16-26) *"...If you continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you [and keep] you free."* (John 8:31-32)

- E. Cast down the lies of the devil which come into your thoughts which are contrary to what God's Word says. (You are weak, miserable, unworthy, cannot be forgiven, fearful, etc.) These are lies of the devil. God's Word is the basis for Truth about us, not how we feel. (2nd Corinthians 10:3-5) When a thought comes that is not God, say, *"In the name of Jesus, I cast that lie down. God says this is the Truth."* Then quote the promise.

- F. *Stay in an attitude of submission to God. Walk in love toward others. Be quick to seek and give forgiveness when wrongs are committed.* (See Psalm 139:23-24, 1st John 1:5-2:11, Matthew 6:14-15) Thank God daily that you are covered by the blood of Jesus. When pressure comes from Satan, command it to leave, *"In Jesus' name, get away from me!"* It must leave. (James 4:7; see also 1st John 5:18)

- G. *Testify to others concerning your deliverance by the power and to the glory of God.* (Mark 5:19-20) Do not let Satan hide the work God did. He will attempt to cover the fact that he was there so he can come back again. You will keep your deliverance as you tell others, giving God the glory. (Psalm 107:1-2, John 8:36)

“But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit; Guard and keep yourselves in the love of God; expect and patiently wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ (the Messiah)—[which will bring you] unto life eternal. And refute [so as to] convict some who dispute with you, and on some have mercy who waver and doubt. [Strive to] save others, snatching [them] out of [the] fire; on others take pity [but] with fear, loathing even the garment spotted by the flesh and polluted by their sensuality. Now to Him Who is able to keep you without stumbling or slipping or falling, and to present [you] unblemished (blameless and faultless) before the presence of His glory in triumphant joy and exultation [with unspeakable ecstatic delight]—To the one only God, our Savior through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, (splendor), majesty, might and dominion, and power and authority, before all time and now and forever (unto all the ages of eternity). Amen (so be it).” (Jude 20:25, Amplified Bible)

Together we are all looking forward to our Lord Jesus’ return when Satan’s defeat will be sealed forever. At that time, we will all reign forever with our God. (Revelation 20:7-22:21)

We of Glory to God Ministries want you to know that God loves you. Would you consider receiving God’s love? You can have His life and deliverance right now by praying, *“Father, in Jesus’ name, I recognize that I am a sinner who is separated from You and need Your life and deliverance. Forgive me by the blood of Jesus. I ask Jesus to come into my heart to be my Lord and Savior. I confess Jesus as my Lord. Thank You, Father, for making me Your child and saving and delivering me from Satan. Help me to live for You.”* (Romans 10:9-10, 2nd Corinthians 5:17, Colossians 1:9-14)