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Introduction

All children of God have been given a promise of victory over Satan.

Isaiah 54:17

No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord.

Malachi 4:3

"And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."¹

Luke 10:19 "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."¹

Tremendous results were seen as the disciples ministered in the name of Jesus, and with his authority. They were glad for the victory they had witnessed, and Jesus shared in their enthusiasm. In getting their priorities right, reminded them that the most important victory was that their names were written in heaven. This honor was more important than any of their other accomplishments.

Nothing is able to separate us from the love of God.

Romans 8:38-39 "For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers ... nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."¹

“Here is found one of the most comforting promises in the Bible. All Christians have had to face hardships in many forms.

His death for us is proof of his love. Nothing can stop Christ presents to constantly be with us. God tells us how great his love is so that we will feel totally secure in him. If we can believe, we will not be afraid or separated from his love.

The unseen powers of evil in the universe, such as Satan and his fallen angels cannot separate us from God and his protection. For the love of God sustains all.”²

The importance of resisting the Devil:

James 4:7

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

From “Life Application Notes” we are encouraged.

“Although God and the devil are at war, we don’t have to wait until the end to see who will win. God has already defeated Satan (Rev. 12:10-12), and when Christ returns, the devil and all he stands for will be eliminated forever (Rev. 20:10-15). Satan is here now, however, and he is trying to win us over to his evil cause. With the Holy Spirit’s power, we can resist the devil, and he will flee from us.

How can you come near to God? James gives five ways: (1) Submit to God (James 4:7). Yield to his authority and will, commit your life to him and his control, and be willing to follow him. (2) Resist the devil (James 4:7). Don’t allow Satan to entice and tempt you. (3) Wash your hands . . . and purify your hearts (that is, lead a pure life) (James 4:8). Be cleansed from sin, replacing your desire to sin with your desire to experience God’s purity. Don’t be afraid to express deep heartfelt sorrow for what you have done. (5) Humble yourself before the Lord, and he will lift you up (James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6”²

Throughout this study, we will discover various aspects of evil forces. We will see how evil spirits respond to an individual, how to overcome them and how Jesus dealt with them.

Life is like a flowing stream. When unhindered, it produces life within and upon the banks. When the water is blocked or flooded, new avenues must become available before the water can continue to flow.

² Life application notes

² ibid

Satan, in his devices will at times seek to stop or defer your life flow. To overcome these hindrances, you use the names of Jesus, or apply the blood of Jesus to the situation. Satan cannot stand against the name of Jesus, or the blood of Jesus.”

2 Tim. 4:3

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

When I was a lad on the family ranch, the state government took some of our land to make a great dam to block the creek and make a resort area. Soon after the dam was finished, a big rain came, and washed the dam out. It began to overflow around the side and kept cutting into the dam until it was no longer able to stop the water. It needed cement, metal or rocks to stop the warring away.

Even today, people sometimes try to fight their own battles when confronted by evil forces. It will not work. A believer’s life must be reinforced with the provisions that Jesus made through the atonement.

Chapter 1

What is Spiritual Warfare?

Modern culture is engaged in the midst of a spiritual battle with the souls of all humanity hanging in the balance.

“Christianity is not about merely securing a place in heaven after death, but redeeming this lifetime by yielding our lives to the work of Jesus Christ continued in us and through us in our generation. Our enemy, the devil, fights against us every moment.”³

But you have carefully followed my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, love, perseverance, persecutions, afflictions... what persecutions I endured. And out of them all, the Lord delivered me. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived. But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:10-17 NKJV)

“Besieged by false teachers and the inevitable pressures of a growing ministry, Timothy could easily have abandoned his faith or modified his doctrine. Once again Paul counseled Timothy to look to his past, and to hold to the basic teachings about Jesus that are eternally true. Like Timothy, we are surrounded by false teachings. But we must not allow our society to distort or crowd out God’s eternal truth. Spend time every day reflecting on the foundation of your Christian faith found in God’s Word, the great truths that build up your life.”¹

³ the-propheticwebsite.com

¹ *ibid*

Chapter 2

Scriptures dealing with Spiritual Warfare

Overcome evil with good

Romans 12:21

Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

The battle is won

1 Samuel 17:47

And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hands.

Sow good seed

Matthew 13:37-39

He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man; [38] The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one; [39] The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

Jesus came to bring life

John 10:10

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.

First, count the cost

Luke 14:31-33

Or what king, going to make war against another king, sitteth not down first, and consulteth whether he be able with ten thousand to meet him that cometh against him with twenty thousand? [32] Or else, while the other is yet a great way off, he sendeth an ambassage, and desireth conditions of peace. [33] So likewise, whosoever he of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.

Gather seed for the Lord

Matthew 12:30

He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad.

War a good warfare

1 Tim. 1:18-19

This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; [19] Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

Be strong in the grace of Jesus Christ

2 Tim. 2:1-4

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. [2] And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. [3] Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. [4] No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier.

Do not war after the flesh

2 Cor. 10:3-5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

Watch and be sober

1 Thes. 5:5-8

Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. [6] Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober. [7] For they that sleep, sleep in the night; and they that are drunken

are drunken in the night. [8] But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

Give no offence in anything

2 Cor. 6:3-7

Giving no offence in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed: [4] But in all things approving ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distresses, [5] In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labours, in watchings, in fastings; [6] By pureness, by knowledge, by longsuffering, by kindness, by the Holy Ghost, by love unfeigned, [7] By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left,

Be strong in the Lord

Ephes. 6:10-20

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. [11] Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. [12] For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. [13] Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. [14] Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; [15] And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; [16] Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. [17] And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: [18] Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; [19] And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel, [20] For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

They cried and God intreated them

1 Chron. 5:20

And they were helped against them, and the Hagarites were delivered into their hand, and all that *were* with them: for they cried to God in the battle, and he was intreated of them; because they put their trust in him.

The entire enemy host cried and fled

Judges 7:20-21

And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon. [21] And they stood every man in his place round about the camp: and the entire host ran, and cried, and fled.

Deliverance in life situation

Hebrews 11:34-35

Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens. [35] Women received their dead raised to life again: and others were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection:

He is born of God

1 John 3:8-9

He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. [9] Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Cast off the work of Darkness

Romans 13:11-14

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. [12] 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. [13] Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. [14]

But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof.

We are delivered from the power of darkness

Col. 1:13-14

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: [14] In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:

Salvation and strength are now come

Rev. 12:10-11

And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. [11] And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Jesus is always with us

Matthew 28:19-20

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you I, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

The gates of hell shall not prevail

Matthew 16:18

And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

We are more than conquerors

Romans 8:37-39

Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. [38] For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, [39] Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Fight a good fight

2 Tim. 4:6-7

For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. [7] I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, to which you were also called and have confessed the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I urge you in the sight of God who gives life to all things, and before Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate, that you keep this commandment without spot, blameless until our Lord Jesus Christ's appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen.

Chapter 3

Satan is Cast Out of Heaven

Isaiah 14:12-20

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! [13] For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend 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: [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. [15] Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. [16] They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; [17] That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners? All the kings of the nations, even all of them, lie in glory, every one in his own house. [19] But thou art cast out of thy grave like an abominable branch, and as the raiment of those that are slain, thrust through with a sword, that go down to the stones of the pit; as a carcass trodden under feet. [20] Thou shalt not be joined with them in burial, because thou hast destroyed thy land, and slain thy people: the seed of evildoers shall never be renowned.

The fallen one is Satan. He is too powerful to be any human king. Pride was Satan's sin. Pride willfully opposes God and will result in judgment. Israel made the mistake of being too proud to depend on God, and we are vulnerable to that same mistake if we allow pride to enter our lives.

Other great Scriptures describing the fall of Satan is found in Ezekiel:

Ezekiel 28:1-19

The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying, [2] Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord God; Because thine heart is lifted up, and thou hast said, I am a God, I sit in the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou art a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: [3] Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: [4] With thy

wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: [5] By thy great wisdom and by thy traffic hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: [6] Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because thou hast set thine heart as the heart of God; [7] Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. [8] They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas. [9] Wilt thou yet say before him that slayeth thee, I am God? But thou shalt be a man, and no God, in the hand of him that slayeth thee. [10] Thou shalt die the deaths of the uncircumcised by the hand of strangers: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God. [11] Moreover the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, [12] Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. [13] 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 thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. [14] 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.

[15] Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. [16] 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 midst of the stones of fire. [17] Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. [18] Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffic; 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. [19] 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.

The Apostle John who was given a vision of the end time records additional information on the fall of Satan.

Rev. 12:7-9 (KJV)

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, [8] And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. [9] 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.

The devil is not a symbol or legend; he is very real. Originally Satan was an angel of God, but through his own pride, he became corrupt and filled with iniquity. The devil is God's enemy, and he constantly tries to hinder God's work, but he is limited by God's power and can do only what he is permitted to do (Job 1:6-2:8). The name *Satan* means "accuser" (Rev. 12:10). He actively looks for people to attack (1 Peter 5:8-9). Satan likes to pursue believers who are vulnerable in their faith, who are spiritually weak, or who are isolated from other believers.

"Even though God permits the devil to do his work in this world, God is still in control. And Jesus has complete power over Satan—he defeated Satan when he died and rose again for the sins of mankind. One day Satan will be bound forever, never again to do his evil work (see Rev. 20:10)." ¹

Iniquity entered into the heart of Satan, and he sought to overthrow the God of heaven. When this happened, he with one third of the angels was cast out of heaven. He did not slowly descend to the earth, but was cast out as lightning. With unimaginable speed he descended to the earth.

When Adam and Eve were placed in the beautiful garden, Satan was laying plans to destroy them. In no way could this happy couple be deprived of their happiness if they obeyed God. Satan could not exercise his power upon them unless they should first disobey God, and forfeit his favor. He must devise some plan to lead them to disobedience that they might incur God's frown and be brought under the more direct influence of Satan and his angels. Satan assumed the form of a serpent. He must insinuate a plan against God's truthfulness, create doubt as to whether God did mean as he said. Satan questioned Eve concerning God's restriction in regard to the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Chapter 4

The Appearance of Evil Spirits

“Evil spirits affirm the reality of the presence of an evil leader. Evil spirits, also called demons or devils, prey upon the weaknesses and evil desires of human beings.

We never refer to the devil as powerful, for he is not a powerful leader. When Jesus went into hell following his death on the cross, he took all power away from the devil. God is all-powerful. When we receive the Spirit of God, that is the Holy Spirit, we are given power to overcome the devil. That power is greater than any other power. It is the power of God dwelling in his believers.

Demons are depraved spirits that are familiar with human weakness and fleshly desires. They attack people in many different ways.”⁴

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world -- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life -- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever"

(1 John 2:15-17)

The devil’s greatest weapon is deception. He has no power. Evil spirits assist the devil in his pursuit to attack the people and convince them to allow him to use them for satanic purposes.

Demons feared Jesus because he had the power of casting them out, and to sentence them to the abyss.

In Luke 8:30-31, when Jesus was casting the evil spirits out of the man called Legion; they begged him not to cast them into the abyss.

The abyss is often referred to as a bottomless pit where evil spirits reside.

There are many evil spirits operating in the world today. I wish to discuss names that have been given to these spirits, and how Jesus taught us how to deal with such spirits. Being harassed or attacked by an evil spirit is not the same as demon possession.

⁴ **Evil Spirits - Christ-Centered Mall**

God will not force anyone to obey His will -- we are creatures with free moral agency -- we can reject all that God has done for us and judge ourselves "unworthy of everlasting life" (Acts 13:46).

Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

Selfish pride brings destruction. "when pride comes, then comes shame" (Prov. 11:2), and "by pride comes nothing but strife" (Prov. 13:10), and warns us that "pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall" (Prov. 16:18).

Many years ago Matthew Henry wrote: "The things of the world quickly fade and die away; desire itself will ere long fail and cease, but holy affection is not like the lust that passes away. The love of God shall never fail. Many vain efforts have been made to evade the force of this passage by limitations, distinctions, or exceptions. Many have tried to show how far we may be carnally minded, and love the world; but the plain meaning of these verses cannot easily be mistaken. Unless this victory over the world is begun in the heart, a man has no root in himself, but will fall away, or at most remain unfruitful.

These vanities are so alluring to the corruption in our hearts, that without constant watching and prayer, we cannot escape the world, or obtain victory over the god and prince of it."

Without repentance, a sin can never be forgiven, but that sin will be accounted for at the judgment.

Chapter 5

“Names Given to Evil Spirits”⁵

1. Lying Spirits

2 Chron. 18:19-22

And the Lord said, who will entice Ahab king of Israel that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said after this manner, and another saying after that manner. [20] Then there came out a spirit, and stood before the Lord, and said, I will entice him. And the Lord said unto him, wherewith? [21] And he said, “I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets”. And the Lord said, Thou shalt entice him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so. [22] Now therefore, behold, the Lord hath put a lying spirit in the mouth of these thy prophets, and the Lord hath spoken evil against thee.

“God used the seductive influence of false prophets to judge Ahab. They were determined to tell Ahab what he wanted to hear. God confirmed their plans to lie as a means to remove Ahab from the throne. These prophets, supported by Ahab, snared him in his sin. Because he listened to them instead of God, he was killed in battle. The lying spirit is a picture of the prophets’ entire way of life—telling the king only what he wanted to hear, not what he needed to hear. Leaders will only find trouble if they surround themselves with advisers whose only thought is to please them.”¹

2. Foul Spirit

Mark 9:20-25 (KJV)

And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tore him; and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming. [21] And he asked his father, “How long is it ago since this came unto him”? And he said, of a child.

[22] And often times it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us. [23] Jesus

⁵ http://www.christcenteredmall.com/teachings/evil_spirits.htm

said unto him, If thou canst believe, all things are possible to him that believeth. [24] And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief. [25] When Jesus saw that the people came running together, he rebuked the foul spirit, saying unto him, Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him, and enter no more into him.

Foul spirit is a general term for all “Demonic spirits” “Jesus’ words do not mean that we can automatically obtain anything we want if we just think positively. Jesus meant that anything is *possible* if we believe, because nothing is too difficult for God but with faith, we can have everything we need to serve him..”¹

3. Perverse Spirit:

Isaiah 19:14

The Lord hath mingled a perverse spirit in the midst thereof: and they have caused Egypt to err in every work thereof, as a drunken man staggers in his vomit.

In his article on perversion, Don Koenig said “Those who are obsessed with unnatural practices by definition are perverted”.³

Romans 1:17-32

For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, the just shall live by faith. [18] For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; [19] Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. [20] For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

[21] Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. [22] Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, [23] And changed the glory of God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four footed beasts, and creeping things.

4. The Spirit of Death

1 Cor. 10:7-10

Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. [8] Neither let us commit fornication, as some of them committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. [9] Neither let us tempt Christ, as some of them also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. [10] Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer”

“The incident referred to in 1 Cor. 10:7 is when the Israelites made a golden calf and worshiped it in the desert (Exodus 32). The incident in 1 Cor. 10:8 is recorded in Numbers 25:1-9 when the Israelites worshiped Baal of Peor and engaged in sexual immorality with Moabite women. The reference in 1 Cor. 10:9 is to the Israelites’ complaint about their food (Numbers 21:5-6). They put the Lord to the test by seeing how far they could go. In 1 Cor. 10:10, Paul refers to when the people complained against Moses and Aaron, and the plague that resulted (Numbers 14:2, 36; Numbers 16:41-50). The destroying angel is referred to in Exodus 12:23.”¹

1 Cor. 15:26

The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

Paul’s point is that the resurrected Christ will conquer all evil, including death. See Rev. 20:14 for words about the final destruction of death.

Although God the Father and God the Son are equal, each has a special work to do and an area of sovereign control (1 Cor. 15:28). Christ is not inferior to the Father, but his work is to defeat all evil on earth. First he defeated sin and death on the cross, and in the final days, he will defeat Satan and all evil. World events may seem out of control and justice may seem scarce. But God is in control, allowing evil to remain for a time until he sends Jesus to earth again. Then Christ will present to God a perfect new world.

5. The Spirit of Divination

Acts 16:16

And it came to pass, as we went to prayer, a certain damsel possessed with a spirit of divination met us, which brought her masters much gain by soothsaying:

The slave girl's statement was true, although the source of her knowledge was a demon. Why did a demon announce the truth about Paul, and why did this annoy Paul? If Paul accepted the demon's words, he would appear to be linking the gospel with demon-related activities. This would damage his message about Christ. Truth and evil do not mix.

An attempt to foretell the future or discover occult knowledge by interpreting omens, or by using paranormal or supernatural powers is known as divination. The practice was widely known in the ancient Middle East because it unlocks the door into a world of demonic deception.

Leviticus 19:31

Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the Lord your God.

Leviticus 20:6

And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

1 Samuel 15:23

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the Lord, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

It is clearly seen that the spirit of divination is witchcraft.

King Saul lost his kingdom because he consulted a woman who used witchcraft. To seek information from a fortune-teller is a great sin.

[24] Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: [25] Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. [26] For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: [27] And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. [28] And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; [29] Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, [30] Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, [31] Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: [32] Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.

“Paul clearly portrays the inevitable downward spiral into sin. First, people reject God; next, they make up their own ideas of what a god should be and do; then they fall into sin—sexual sin, greed, hatred, envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice, gossip. Finally, they grow to hate God and encourage others to do so. God does not cause this steady progression toward evil. Rather, when people reject him, he allows them to live as they choose. God gives them over or permits them to experience the natural consequences of their sin. Once caught in the downward spiral, no one can pull himself or herself out. Sinners must trust Christ alone to put them on the path of escape.”¹

Chapter 6

Names Given to Evil Spirits

Part 2

6. Spirit of an Unclean Devil

Luke 4:33

And in the synagogue there was a man, which had a spirit of an unclean devil, and cried out with a loud voice,

“A man possessed by a demon was in the synagogue where Jesus was teaching. This man made his way into the place of worship and verbally abused Jesus. It is naive to think that we will be sheltered from evil in the church. Satan is happy to invade our presence wherever and whenever he can. But Jesus’ authority is much greater than Satan’s; and where Jesus is present, demons cannot stay for long.”¹

Unclean spirits were one of the most common problems that Jesus and the encountered. They are still one of the most common problems we have to deal with today. Unclean spirits are the seed-bed of most of the other problems in the church and in our sin-sick world.

An unclean spirit is simply what the word says, “unclean.” The word means foul, dirty, filthy, defiled. It also means morally lewd and filthy. Someone with an unclean spirit is someone who is morally lewd and filthy. They may be spewing forth filth and lewdness with their mouth, or they may appear to be clean on the outside but foul and dirty on the inside. It is someone who is unclean in their thoughts and language. It has become such a part of their life and personality that they seemingly can’t help it. They can’t talk without using filth. They can’t think without thinking filthy thoughts. No matter the topic they always end up in lewdness and foul, dirty conversation, and they enjoy and prefer the company of unclean people”.⁴

7. Familiar Spirit

1 Samuel 28:7

Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

“Saul was overwhelmed at the sight of the Philistine army, and so he turned to the occult. Let life’s difficulties and obstacles push you in God’s direction and make you depend upon him. As we see from Saul’s story, turning to anything or anyone else leads only to disaster.

God had strictly forbidden the Israelites to have anything to do with divination, sorcery, witchcraft, mediums, spiritists, or anyone who consults the dead (Deut. 18:9-14). In fact, sorcerers were to be put to death (Exodus 22:18). Occult practices were carried on in the name of pagan gods, and people turned to the occult for answers that God would not give.

Practitioners of the occult have Satan and demons as the source of their information; God does not reveal his will to them. Instead he speaks through his own channels: the Bible, his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit.”¹

Seducing Spirit

1 Tim. 4:1-2 (KJV)

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; [2] Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

“The danger that Timothy faced in Ephesus seems to have come from certain people in the church who were following some Greek philosophers who taught that the body was evil and that only the soul mattered. The false teachers refused to believe that the God of creation was good, because his very contact with the physical world would have soiled him. Though these Greek-influenced church members honored Jesus, they could not believe he was truly human. Paul knew that their teachings, if left unchecked, would greatly distort Christian truth.

It is not enough that a teacher appears to know what he is talking about, is disciplined and moral, or says that he is speaking for God. If his words contradict the Bible, his teaching is false. Like Timothy, we must guard against any teaching

that causes believers to dilute or reject any aspect of their faith. Such false teaching can be very direct or extremely subtle.

Paul said the false teachers were hypocritical liars who encouraged people to follow “deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.” Satan deceives people by offering a clever imitation of the real thing. The false teachers gave stringent rules (such as forbidding people to marry or to eat certain foods). This made them appear self-disciplined and righteous. Their strict disciplines for the body, however, could not remove sin (see Col. 2:20-23).

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In opposition to the false teachers, Paul affirmed that everything God created is good (see Genesis 1). We should ask for God’s blessing on his created gifts that give us pleasure and thank him for them. This doesn’t mean that we should abuse what God has made (for example, gluttony abuses God’s gift of good food, lust abuses God’s gift of love, and murder abuses God’s gift of life.¹

Chapter 7

Names Given to Evil Spirits Part 3

7. Spirit of the Antichrist

1 John 4:3

And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.

The antichrist will be a person who epitomizes all that is evil, and he will be readily received by an evil world. He is more fully described in 2 Thes. 2:3-12 and in Rev. 13. The “spirit of the antichrist” is already here.

“The spirit of Antichrist is that of man making himself his own god, that is, man following his own will. Satan’s original sin was disobedience. The sin of Adam and Eve was disobedience.

In the day in which we are living the Holy Spirit is emphasizing stern obedience to the Father. As long as we are following our own will instead of the will of God, there is a door in our personality through which Satan can enter.”⁵

8. Spirit of Bondage

Romans 8:15

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

“Paul uses adoption or “sonship” to illustrate the believer’s new relationship with God.

In Roman culture, the adopted person lost all rights in his old family and gained all the rights of a legitimate child in his new family. He became a full heir to his new father’s estate.

When a person becomes a Christian, he or she gains all the privileges and responsibilities of a child in God's family. The Spirit is leading one of these outstanding privileges.

The state of being spiritually bound is spiritual bondage.. You cannot function or live the way you were designed to function and live. The bonds are spiritual, i.e. there are spirits of bondage and or spirits of error and others involved. The root cause of the spiritual problem is idolatry in one form or another.

We are no longer cringing and fearful slaves; instead, we are the Master's children. What a privilege! Because we are God's children, we share in great treasures as co-heirs. God has already given us his best gifts: his Son, forgiveness, and eternal life; and he encourages us to ask him for whatever we need."1

8. Spirit of Error

1 John 4:1-6

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. [2] Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: [3] And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. [4] Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. [5] They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. [6] We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.

False teachers are popular with the world because, like the false prophets of the Old Testament, they tell people what they want to hear. John warns that Christians who faithfully teach God's Word will not win any popularity contests in the world. People don't want to hear their sins denounced; they don't want to listen to demands that they change their behavior. A false teacher will be well received by non-Christians1.

John is concerned about Christians being deceived. He wrote with urgency to warn them about anti-Christ in chapter two. In that context the writer said, "no lie

is of the truth," and he said, "who is a liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Christ?" In chapter three, verse seven he said: "Let no one deceive you." John knew the spirit of error as opposed to the spirit of truth. If we do not know the difference, we are in trouble today. “

Chapter 8

Names Given to Evil Spirits

Part 4

9. Spirit of Fear

2 Tim. 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

“Timothy was experiencing great opposition to his message and to himself as a leader. His youth, his association with Paul, and his leadership had come under fire from believers and nonbelievers alike. Paul urged him to be bold. When we allow people to intimidate us, we neutralize our effectiveness for God. The power of the Holy Spirit can help us overcome our fear of what some might say or do to us, so that we can continue to do God’s work.

Paul mentions three characteristics of the effective Christian leader: power, love, and self-discipline. These are available to us because the Holy Spirit lives in us. Follow his leading each day so that your life will more fully exhibit these characteristics.”¹

Jesus gave his disciples authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every disease and every affliction. If the disciples operated in fear, there is no way they could have used the authority they had been given. Matthew 10:1

The devil will try to use fear to strip us of our authority. We may become so preoccupied with a sense of failure, false humility, worthlessness and everything else we say about ourselves that we can’t accept the authority that has been “freely given”. God wants us free from fear and operating in the spirit of power. This is our inheritance.

10. Spirit of Haughtiness

Proverbs 16:18-19

[18] Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. [19] Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

People who are proud take little account of their weaknesses and do not anticipate stumbling blocks. They think they are above the frailties of common people. In this state of mind they are easily tripped up. Ironically, proud people seldom realize that pride is their problem, although everyone around them is well aware of it.

Haughtiness and pride will keep us from becoming the new creations in Christ that the Lord intended us to be. We must submit ourselves to the Lord in order for Him to be able to make us into the person that He intended us to be.

Those who follow the Lord Jesus Christ must not do things their way in a proud, self-made. Once we receive the Lord as our Saviour we must submit ourselves to him everyday. When we concentrate on “I” then that would leave us depending on ourselves rather than depending on the Lord.

Do not be deceived by the appearance of success of a person. A Christian must know that our own righteousness is as filthy rags. Additionally we must know that we can do nothing unless we are strengthened and anointed by the Spirit of the Living God. Jesus said in the Word of God that He was meek and lowly of heart. Those words did not mean that He was weak. Jesus knew how to drive the moneychangers out of the temple and He never lost in any of His discussions with the Pharisees.

We must say like Jesus said in John 5:30: that “I can of myself do nothing.. I seek not my own will but the will of the Father that sent me”.

11. Spirit of Heaviness

Isaiah 61:3

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he might be glorified.

The spirit of heaviness is like a chain binding us, but the spirit of praise breaks the chain and sets the spirit free.

“Those who feel the burden of the spirit of heaviness, yet trust in the LORD, are promised deliverance by putting on the garment of praise.”²

A spirit of heaviness sometimes comes when our foundation of self-esteem has been shaken in some area. We may feel the need to emotionally and mentally retreat because the pain is too much, or when we have struggled with an issue that has weighed us down.

Believers base life on truth, not feelings. Philippians 4:1 commands us to rejoice. James 1:2 asks us to “Consider it all joy when we fall into various trials.” Notice that James doesn't tell us to feel joyful; he tells us to reckon, to choose to think about our situation as a spot where you can have joy.

The joy of the Lord is our strength.

² **ibid**

Chapter 9

Names Given to Evil Spirits

Part 5

12. Spirit of Infirmity

Luke 13:11-13

And, behold, there was a woman that had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. [12] And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. [13] And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

13. Spirit of Jealously

Genesis 4:5

But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

“The Bible does not say why God rejected Cain’s sacrifice. Perhaps Cain’s attitude was improper, or perhaps his offering was not up to God’s standards. Proverbs 21:27 says, “The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable—how much more so when brought with evil intent!” God evaluates both our motives and the quality of what we offer him. When we give to God and others, we should have a joyful heart because of what we are able to give. We should not worry about how much we are giving up, for all things are God’s in the first place. Instead, we should joyfully give to God our best in time, money, possessions, and talents.”²

Numbers 5:14

And the spirit of jealousy came upon him, and he be jealous of his wife, and she be defiled: or if the spirit of jealousy come upon him, and he be jealous of his wife, and she be not defiled:

² *ibid*

14. Unclean Spirit

Mark 6:7

And he called unto him the twelve, and began to send them forth by two and two; and he gave them power over unclean spirits;

“The disciples were sent out in pairs. Individually they could have reached more areas of the country, but this was not Christ’s plan. One advantage in going out by twos was that they could strengthen and encourage each other, especially when they faced rejection. Our strength comes from God, but he meets many of our needs through our teamwork with others. As you serve Christ, don’t try to go it alone.”²

Luke 11:24

When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walks through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out.

“You can’t have both God and an unclean spirit abiding in you. The HOLY spirit will not dwell in the same place with an unclean spirit.

Like Isaiah, we dwell among a people of unclean lips. Our world is unclean. Therefore, whatever is of the world and under its control is going to be unclean. What you watch on TV will be unclean. What you listen to on the radio will be unclean. What you read in newspapers and magazines will be unclean. The billboards along the highway will be unclean. You **MUST** determine to obey Phil. 4:8:

Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

² **ibid**

An unclean spirit looks for an unclean place to dwell. When Jesus commanded the unclean spirits to leave the maniac in Mark 5 they requested that He allow them to go into the herd of swine – unclean animals¹

15. Spirit of Whoredoms

Hosea 4:12

My people ask counsel at their stocks, and their staff declared unto them: for the spirit of whoredoms hath caused them to err, and they have gone a whoring from under their God.

“The chief Canaanite gods, Baal and Asherah, represented the power of fertility and sexual reproduction. Not surprisingly, their worship included rituals with vile sexual practices. Male worshipers had sex with female temple prostitutes, or priestesses, and young women wishing to bear children had sex with male priests. But God said their efforts to increase fertility would not succeed.”²

The “stick of wood.” or divining rod, was a way of attempting to tell the future. By divorcing themselves from God’s authoritative religion centered in Jerusalem, inhabitants of the northern kingdom had effectively cut themselves off from God’s word and from his way of forgiveness. The drive to be free from all restrictions can move us completely out of God’s will..ii

Hosea 5:4

They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God: for the spirit of whoredoms is in the midst of them, and they have not known the Lord.

“Persistent sin hardens a person’s heart, making it difficult to repent. Deliberately choosing to disobey God can sear the conscience; each sin makes the next one easier to commit. Don’t allow sin to groove a hard path deep within you. Steer as far away from sinful practices as possible.”²

² **ibid**

16. Spirit of the World

1 Cor. 2:12

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit that is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Worldliness is more than cosmetics. Worldliness is focusing on the things of time rather than things eternal.

In his book on Evangelicalism, James Davison Hunter wrote:

”Worldliness is departing from God. It is a man-centred way of thinking; it proposes objectives which demand no radical breach with man's fallen nature; it judges the importance of things by the present and material results; it weighs success by numbers; it covets human esteem and wants no unpopularity; it knows no truth for which it is worth suffering; it declines to be a 'fool for Christ's sake'.”²

It is of believers that it is said, 'the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary one to another' (Galatians 5:17). It is professing Christians who are asked, 'Do you not know that the friendship of the world is enmity with God?' (James 4:4) and are commanded, 'Do not love the world', and 'keep yourselves from idols' (1 John 2:15, 5:21).

17. Spirit of Slumber

Romans 11:8

(According as it is written, God hath given them the spirit of slumber, eyes that they should not see, and ears that they should not hea unto this day.

These verses describe the punishment for hardened hearts predicted by the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 6:9-13). If people refuse to hear God's Good News, they eventually will be unable to understand it. Paul saw this happening in the Jewish congregations he visited on his missionary journeys. (Romans 11:8 is based on

² *ibid*

Deut. 29:4 and Isaiah 29:10. Romans 11:9 and Romans 11:10 are from Psalm 69:22-23.)

“The slumbering spirit is one of the most powerful and incisive keys given to believers. This spirit reveals a primary cause for the sin and powerlessness we see in the Body of Christ today.

A slumbering spirit is a condition in which the personal spirit has not been fully awakened, so that certain facets of the person's life simply lie dormant.

It is time to awaken out of our sleep, for our salvation is near.”⁶

Spirit of Bitterness

Hebrews 12:15

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

“Bitterness is known in the Bible as spiritual poison and a means by which many are defiled. It is the source of countless spiritual and physical problems in millions of lives today. The Bible tells us that MANY are defiled by the means of bitterness. Bitterness can be tricky to recognize because it's not a symptom or visible on the surface like anger usually is. Many claim that they aren't an angry or hateful person, but that's not what bitterness is all about. Bitterness is an underlying problem that doesn't always manifest on the outside, but dwells in that person's system.

Bitterness is a root!

A root is a source that is lying under the surface. Roots do not directly manifest or make themselves known, but are a source of nutrition or fuel for other elements that are on the surface. You don't usually see a plant showing off its root system, but if the plant didn't have a root system it wouldn't survive. A root's job is not to manifest on the surface, but to brew under the surface and fuel things that are on the surface”.

⁶ <http://elishasmantle.freeyellow.com/slumberingspirit.htm>

“Like a small root that grows into a great tree, bitterness springs up in our hearts and overshadows even our deepest Christian relationships. A “bitter root” comes when we allow disappointment to grow into resentment, or when we nurse grudges over past hurts. Bitterness brings with it jealousy, dissension, and immorality. When the Holy Spirit fills us, however, he can heal the hurt that causes bitterness.”⁷

⁷ <http://www.greatbiblestudy.com/bitterness.php>

Chapter 10

Jesus Deals With Evil Spirits

“Where Jesus met examples of demons oppressing people, he cast the demons out. Notice how the demons obey his commands and submit to his authority, proving that Jesus is superior to them and has the right to judge them.

The man in the graveyard

Matthew 8 v 28-34, Mark 5 v 1-20, Luke 8 v 26-39 It is with a word of command, "Go!", that Jesus heals the man of his oppression. The demons obey. Many people are told and come from town and country to see the man sitting **in his right mind**. Afterwards Jesus send him to go and "tell how much God had done for you".

The dumb man

Matthew 9 v 32-33 The demon prevented the man from speaking. Jesus dealt with the demon and restored the man's speech. The crowd (many people) was amazed and said, "**Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel.**"

The man blind and dumb

Matthew 12 v 22 Luke 11 v 14 The demon is driven out by Jesus, the man's faculties are restored, the crowd is amazed.

A foreign woman's daughter

Matthew 15 v 21-28 Mark 7 v 24-30 Jesus heals the woman's daughter - and the demon left her.

The blind, mute son

Matthew 17 v 14-18 Mark 9 v 14-27 Luke 9 v 37-42 "Everything is possible for him who believes" - Jesus tells the father. Like the father we don't always find believing easy, we also want to say "I do believe - help my unbelief". The father showed his faith by doing what Jesus suggested - "Bring him here to me".

Jesus still invites us to bring our problems to him - believe him, he can deal with it.

The man in the Synagogue at Capernaum

Mark 1 v 23-28 Luke 4 v 33-37 Notice how the evil spirit not only obeys Jesus, but recognizes who he is "The holy one of God". The people are amazed because "he speaks with authority". **Jesus still does.**"³

Chapter 11

Works of the Flesh

“As offsprings of Adam we inherit the flesh nature, but as sons of God we are given a new life (and nature) which is subject to the Holy Spirit. It is the inborn flesh nature that urges us to give in to evil deeds. By way of contrast, it is the Spirit living within who produces good fruit. The Christian conflict is described in Galatians 5:16-18. “This I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.”

The flesh nature (the sin nature with which we were born), controlled us before we were saved. When we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and met the conditions of salvation the Holy Spirit imparted to us a new nature (the nature of God), and now we have two natures. The old nature has not been eliminated, nor has it been changed. Both natures (the old and the new) dwell side by side within us, and so we need to deliberately walk in the Spirit (verse 16) that we don't “fulfill the lust of the flesh”⁴

The works of the flesh are described in Galatians 5:19-21. “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**”⁹

Harold S Martin, in a Bible Helps Booklet No. 380 identifies and defines Each of the listed works of the flesh:

“Paul gives us a list of the works of the flesh. No person can be better outwardly than he is inwardly. He may be able to hide his evil desires for a season, but eventually they will become manifest or evident (verse 19).

“We note too that Paul's list of fleshly works is not complete. The list is rather comprehensive, but it is concluded with the words “and such like” (verse

⁹ http://www.frontiernet.net/~rzimm3/tcc/index_files/WorksFlesh.htm

21a). The list of fleshly works includes deeds of *impurity*, sins of idolatry, sins of hostility, and sins of intemperance - but there are other “works of the flesh.”⁹

1. Sins of Impurity

The sins of impurity include adultery, fornication, uncleanness, and lewdness. These are works of the flesh. There is no room for compromise. Immorality shall have no place in the Christian life. William Barclay says” “Every imaginable form of immorality was commonly and openly practiced in New Testament times by rulers, philosophers, poets, priests, and many common people with no sense of shame or remorse. It was the accepted way of life in the ancient world”.

Adultery speaks of illicit sex relations on the part of those who are married. Leviticus 18:20 spells it out plainly: “Thou shalt not lie carnally with thy neighbor's wife, to defile thyself with her.” Hebrews 13:4b declares that God will judge “whoremongers and adulterers.”

There are various forms of adultery. These include:

Physical adultery (described in Leviticus 18:20), the adultery (which involves fantasizing, or saturating the mind with illicit thoughts), and legalized adultery (which includes the remarriage of one who is divorced, when the original partner is still living). And then there is a plan which can be called communal adultery (where men and women live in a community arrangement that allows freedom for anyone to sleep with any other person).

When God established the home He designed that one man should live with one woman, and the two should become one flesh. The sin of adultery is not a trivial matter.

Fornication speaks of illicit sexual relations among the unmarried. A recent issue of U. S. News & World Report indicates that ten percent of all girls in the United States have had sexual intercourse by the age of 13. Couples that live together like husband and wife before marriage are living in fornication. As a result of the rampant sexual impurity, hundreds of teenage youth are being infected with venereal diseases every day.

Uncleanness describes those who may not necessarily commit outward acts of immorality, but whose thoughts and desires are unclean. Uncleanness is stimulated by reading pornographic literature, dwelling on obscene pictures, and

⁹ *ibid*

telling smutty suggestive stories. It is aggravated further by the present-day emphasis on wearing less and less and exposing more and more.

Lasciviousness speaks of uncontrolled lust. Individuals can be guilty of uncleanness, but when they become lascivious, they become so immoral that they shock public decency by their conduct. One who becomes lascivious has gone so far into impurity that he no longer cares what God or what man thinks about his actions.

These have been sins of impurity. Satan is a vicious liar. He has been trying over the years to stir wrong sexual desires by implying that secret adulterous love is more exciting than true married love. The moral depravity that is sweeping the world is a cause for concern. Sexual misconduct deeply grieves the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

2. Sins of Idolatry

The “works of the flesh” include a second category which we have labeled sins of idolatry. These include one evil called “idolatry” and another called “witchcraft” [sorcery].

Idolatry is the act of giving something other than the true and living God, the principal place in our affections. Most people in our society do not worship gods of wood and stone, but it is easy for us to set our affections on gods of chrome and steel and glass. Some worship the gods of pleasure and fashion and material things.

Multitudes plan and scheme for the future like the man in the parable that Jesus told in Luke 12:16-21. The man was prospering financially more and more each year. His barns were full. He was a good man; he was an outstanding farmer; but he was preoccupied with material things. While he was still in the midst of his plans for the future, a Breath out of eternity spoke to him and said, “Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?” (Luke 12:20).

Witchcraft is translated from the Greek word pharmakeia, which refers to “the use of drugs.” Today, the word “witchcraft” (or “sorcery”) refers to those who claim to have superhuman powers, abilities to cause spells, to use magic, and to attain secret knowledge gleaned from evil spirits. These practices were widespread in the pagan cultures, but Israel was prohibited from allowing sorcerers, spiritists, mediums, necromancers, and the like in their midst. In ancient times drugs were used for a variety of purposes, but especially for abortion.

Many colleges are now offering courses on witchcraft. Superstition is closely related to witchcraft. Some carry a rabbit's foot, hang a horseshoe above the barn door, cross their fingers when making a decision, or spit when a black cat crosses their path.

3. Sins of Hostility

There is a third category of works of the flesh. Which we have labeled “sins of hostility.” Many of the sins of hostility are closely related, and so there will be only a brief description of each expression of animosity.

Hatred is a strong dislike (a feeling of ill-will) toward another person. The apostle John declares, “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer, and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him” (I John 3:15). For some, hatred is a way of life. Such persons are essentially murderers even though they may never have committed the overt act of murder. We must always be careful to use the word “hatred” only for hating *a wrong cause* (like intolerance and injustice), not for hating individual persons.

Variance speaks of disputes and quarrels that cause discord among brethren. There are too many church members who are simply not easy to get along with. Many are dreadfully touchy and easily offended. Some are stubborn and bull-headed, and just plain contrary. May the Lord deliver all of us from these carnal and wicked characteristics!

Emulations is a term that speaks of those who desire to surpass others. The Greek word, *zelos*, can denote both good and bad qualities. It is used sometimes to mean zeal and enthusiasm in pursuing a noble task, but here it speaks primarily of a begrudging resentment, which envies the good fortune of others.

Wrath speaks of violent forms of anger. It represents storms of uncontrolled temper. It pictures the person who loses control when the car won't start or the fish won't bite or the calf won't drink or the meals aren't ready on time. The husband who steps out of the room and slams the door behind him because something doesn't suit him is displaying such fits of temper. Such conduct indicates that he is still under the grip of the lower nature.

Strife is translated from a Greek word that means “office seeking” or “canvassing for an office.” It describes those who would like to be elevated to a place of responsibility in the church, not so much for the service they can render, as for the prestige it might bring. The woman described as “the mother of Zebedee's children” (Matthew 20.20), manifested this spirit when she requested

that her sons would be granted a position on either side of the Lord in His kingdom. Some will even manipulate events for their own personal gain.

Seditious speak of divisions. The Greek word refers to any kind of commotion within the church that causes what is commonly known as “church splits.” There may be times when separation from an apostate group has a place, but in most cases, the primary duty of every Christian is to witness faithfully right where he is. The most deplorable splits are those resulting from personality conflicts within the church. When there are seditions, the unity and fellowship of the local body of Christ is fractured, and the testimony of the congregation in the community is marred. The divisive tendency (evident in many congregations) is the result of choosing to walk in the way of envy and bickering, rather than in the royal road of love, forgiveness, and magnanimity.

Heresies are ideas (schools of thought) that are contrary to the accepted fundamental historic doctrines of the Christian faith. It seems like some theologians are always trying to dream up something new. All Christians, when listening to teaching and preaching, need to take a lesson from the Bereans, who “searched the Scriptures daily [to find out] whether those things were so” (Acts 17: 11).

Envyings speaks of a resentful desire for another's possessions or advantages. It is closely related to the word emulations named earlier in the text (verse 20). One major difference between the two words is that envy is always bad, whereas emulations are not. The word translated “envyings” (used here in verse 21) is a totally evil concept and has no possibilities for good. The earlier word (emulations) may resent the good fortune of others, but the (envy) being considered here is so resentful that it may plot to destroy the other person.

Murders is a reminder that snuffing out a human life involves more than sticking a knife into another person. It is possible to cast looks that are filled with murder, and *to* speak words that are intended to slay. Many a husband has brought his wife to an early death by his lack of love, his mean unappreciative spirit toward her, and his unfaithfulness to her.

4. Sins of Intemperance

The final category in the list of the “works of the flesh” is what we choose to call sins of intemperance. The two terms in this category have obvious meanings.

Drunkeness is a condition caused by drinking alcoholic beverages. The reference is to being intoxicated with strong drink. In the United States of America there are more than tell million confirmed alcoholics. Nearly four out of five high

school seniors have drunk alcohol within any given month. Drunkenness is not a disease; it is, instead, a devastating sin.

The drunkard is listed in Scripture along with thieves, extortioners, and sodomites as those who will not inherit the kingdom of God (I Corinthians 6:9-10).

Drunkenness has killed more persons than all the wars of history put together. During the Vietnam War, 50,000 American soldiers were killed. During that same period, five times that number (250,000 people) were killed in our own country - by automobile accidents caused by drunken drivers. Drinking alcohol has drained more blood, broken more homes and brought more misery than any other scourge that has ever cursed the human race. Drunkenness is a shameful and degrading work of the flesh, and obviously has no place in the life of a Christian.

Revellings is a term associated with carousing and debauchery. The Greek word also indicates “wild parties” and “horsing around.” Revellings refers to disorderly merrymaking, including celebrations that are typical at wild parties. The term speaks of engaging in loose, loud, frivolous, and boisterous behavior.

Paul concludes the list with the words “and such like.” This is an indication that the list is not exhaustive. There are many other works of the flesh similar to those given in verses 19-21 that are just as nefarious as the seventeen sins listed in the text. God surely would include evils such as lying, slander, flattery, murmuring, complaining, covetousness, suspicion, , impatience, rebellion, and injustice.

The tense of the verb translated “do” means to habitually continue in the fleshly sins (verse 21b), rather than an isolated falling into the evil. Those who keep practicing such sins are not being led by God's Spirit, and are warned that they shall not inherit God's kingdom. There is a difference between falling into sin (through carelessness), and living in sin (as a settled choice of life). True children of God hate these sins and shrink from them and if they do yield to temptation, they are in misery until they have confessed the sin and cried to God for mercy.

The way to gain increasing victory over the works of the flesh is found in verses 16 and 18 of Galatians 5, where we are admonished to “walk in the Spirit,” and to be “led of the Spirit.” To be “led” of the spirit, means more than to be guided by Him; it means to be controlled by Him.”⁴

How, Then, are evil spirits related to the works of the flesh?

When the works of the flesh are continually manifested in a person, it opens the door for the entrance of evil spirits.

When we confess our faith in Jesus, the Holy Spirit will come and dwell within our spirits. We will begin to oppose the desires of our flesh
The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and pride of life are all devices used for Satan's strategy to distract our minds from God. (I John 2:16).

Staying connected to Jesus Christ, the vine, produces the fruit of the spirit.

When people sin, it doesn't mean they have an evil spirit, but continual sin can lead to an open door for the entrance of an evil spirit.

Chapter 13

Set Free From Evil Spirits

1 John 4:4-5

Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. [5] They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.

“We may be frightened by the wickedness we see all around us and overwhelmed by the problems we face. Evil is obviously much stronger than we are. John assures us, however, that God is ever stronger than evil. He will conquer all evil—and his Spirit and his Word live in our hearts!”²

We are set free through our faith in God and his word. 1 John 5:4-5

For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. [5] Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?

Our redemption from evil powers and deliverance from darkness is through the blood of Jesus.

Col. 1:13-14

Who hath 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:

“Sometimes we wonder how to pray for missionaries and other leaders we have never met. Paul had never met the Colossians, but he faithfully prayed for them. His prayers teach us how to pray for others, whether we know them or not. We can request that they (1) understand God’s will, (2) gain spiritual wisdom, (3) please and honor God, (4) bear good fruit, (5) grow in the knowledge of God, (6) be filled with God’s strength, (7) have great endurance and patience, (8) stay full of Christ’s joy, and (9) give thanks always. All believers have these same basic needs. When you don’t know how to pray for someone, use Paul’s prayer pattern for the Colossians.

² *ibid*

Paul lists five benefits God gives all believers through Christ: (1) he made us qualified to share his inheritance (see also 2 Cor. 5:21); (2) he rescued us from Satan's dominion of darkness and made us his children (see also Col. 2:15); (3) he brought us into his eternal kingdom (see also Ephes. 1:5-6); (4) he redeemed us—bought our freedom from sin and judgment (see also Hebrews 9:12); and (5) he forgave all our sins (see also Ephes. 1:7). Thank God for what you have received in Christ.

The Colossians feared the unseen forces of darkness, but Paul says that true believers have been transferred from darkness to light, from slavery to freedom, from guilt to forgiveness, and from the power of Satan to the power of God. We have been rescued from a rebel kingdom to serve the rightful King. Our conduct should reflect our new allegiance.”²

In Life Application notes, there is a chart taken from the book of Colossians on how to pray for other Christians:

“ CHART:HOW TO PRAY FOR OTHER CHRISTIANS

1. Be thankful for their faith and changed lives (Col. 1:3)
2. Ask God to help them know what he wants them to do (Col. 1:9)
3. Ask God to give them deep spiritual understanding (Col. 1:9)
4. Ask God to help them live for him (Col. 1:10)
5. Ask God to give them more knowledge of himself (Col. 1:10)
6. Ask God to give them strength for endurance (Col. 1:11)
7. Ask God to fill them with joy, strength, and thankfulness (Col. 1:11)”²

God gives the basic Gospel facts to new believer at Ephesus and everywhere.

Ephes. 1:7

In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;

“To speak of Jesus’ blood was an important first-century way of speaking of Christ’s death. His death points to two wonderful truths. These are redemption and forgiveness. *Redemption* was the price paid to gain freedom for a slave (Leviticus 25:47-54). Through his death, Jesus paid the price to release us from slavery to sin. *Forgiveness* was granted in Old Testament times on the basis of the shedding of animals’ blood (Leviticus 17:11). Now we are forgiven on the basis of the shedding of Jesus’ blood—he died as the perfect and final sacrifice. (See also Romans 5:9; Ephes. 2:13; Col. 1:20; Hebrews 9:22; 1 Peter 1:19.)

Grace is God’s voluntary and loving favor given to those he saves. We can’t earn salvation, nor do we deserve it. No religious, intellectual, or moral effort can gain it, because it comes only from God’s mercy and love. Without God’s grace, no person can be saved. To receive it, we must acknowledge that we cannot save ourselves, that only God can save us, and that our only way to receive this loving favor is through faith in Christ”²

Once delivered, Jesus gives us a warning:

John 5:14

Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.

Your authority in Christ

All believers have Christ’s authority over Satan and demons.

First, he gave authority to the 12 apostles:

Luke 9:1

Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases.

Then he gave authority to the 70 he sent out.

Luke 10:19

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.

² *ibid*

In the Great Commission, Christ gives the same authority to every believer.

Matthew 28:19-20

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] 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.

Christ has given authority to every believer to use his name to drive out devils and to heal the sick.

Mark 16:17-18

And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; [18] 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.

Satan and his evil spirits know that spirit-filled believers have the authority of Christ over them. Many today are unaware of their authority in Christ and do not effectively use this authority to bring complete victory.

We don't need to be afraid. Even as Christ and his disciples cast out evil spirits, so can we, and must to set people free and demonstrate the power of God.

Prayer for Deliverance

Chapter 14

In confronting evil spirits, I liked the manner Jesus used at times. He simply said, “GO”!

I have seen people attempting to deliver people from evil spirits who engaged in conversation with the evil spirit. They would say things like:
What is your name, and such statements as that.

The devil doesn't care what you call him if you acknowledge him. Do not Give place to the devil.

Here is an example of what one might say:

I plead the blood of Jesus Christ over my life to protect me from evil. I claim the power of the Holy Spirit that is in me for protection and deliverance. Greater is he that is in me, then he that is in the world. I break the power of darkness and every evil work in the Name of Jesus. I decree that through the blood of Jesus every evil work shall be abolished in the name of Jesus Christ. “GO”.

2 Cor. 2:14

Now thanks be unto God, which always causes us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

Ephes. 3:20

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

I choose to believe in you Lord. I confess and believe Lord, that all of your promises in Christ are for me now. In the name of Jesus, and through your shed blood, I accept your deliverance now.
