

S.W.A.T.

Spiritual Warfare Advanced Training



MAIN STREET BAPTIST CHURCH
57 S. Main St., Doylestown, PA 18901

2014

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Spiritual Warfare Advanced Training

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MEMORY VERSES

1 OLD TESTAMENT

1. Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

2 LIFE OF JESUS

2. Luke 10:18-19 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

3 GADARENES DEMONIAIC

3. 1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

4 ACTS

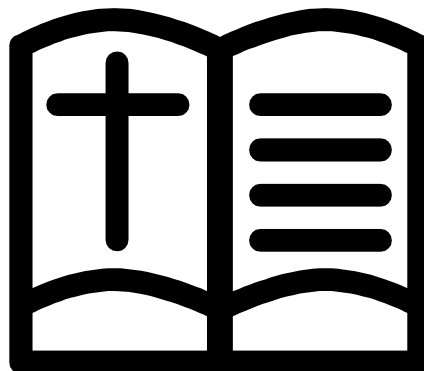
4. 1 Peter 5:8-9 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.

5 EPISTLES

5. Ephesians 6:10-12 Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

7 JOSHUA

6. Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."



EXTRA MEMORY VERSES

6 SUPERNATURAL TODAY

2 Corinthians 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

8 CULTS & RELIGIONS

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

9 SATAN'S WAYS

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

10 IN CHRIST

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.



MEMORY VERSES

Cut apart and use as flash cards

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Luke 10:18-19 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

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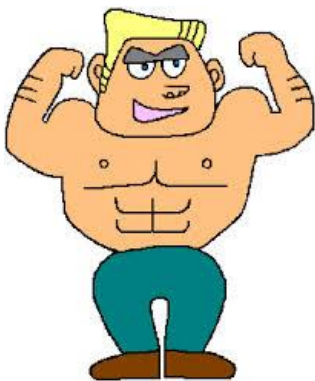
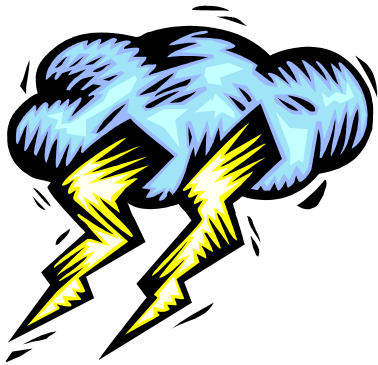
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EXTRA MEMORY VERSES

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2 Corinthians 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

EXTRA MEMORY VERESES

Cut apart and use as flash cards



CONFESSION OF SIN

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Psalm 139:23-24
READ the Scripture, prayerfully ASK yourself the questions. Confess any sin God brings to mind.



1. MATTHEW 6:12,14

Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge?
Is there anyone you hate? Is there anyone you do not love?
Are there any misunderstandings you are unwilling to forget?
Is there any person against whom you are harboring bitterness, resentment, or jealousy?
Is there anyone you dislike to hear praised or spoken well of?
Do you justify a wrong attitude toward another?

2. MATTHEW 6:33

Is there anything in which you have failed to put God first?
Do you make your choices by what you want instead of by seeking and following God's will?
Do any of the following in any way interfere with your surrender and service to God: ambition, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desire for recognition, money, plans?

3. MARK 16:15

Have you failed to seek the lost for Christ?
Have you failed to witness consistently with your mouth for the Lord Jesus Christ?
Has your life shown to the lost the Lord Jesus?

4. JOHN 13:35

Are you secretly pleased over the misfortunes of another?
Are you secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancements of another?
Are you guilty of any contention, division or strife?
Do you quarrel, argue, or engage in heated discussions?
Are there people whom you deliberately slight?

5. ACTS 20:35

Have you robbed God by withholding His due of time, talents, or treasure?
Have you given less than He wants you to give to God's work?
Have you failed to support mission work in prayer or offerings?



**The sacrifices of God
are a broken spirit,
a broken and a
contrite heart**

6. I CORINTHIANS 4:2

Are you undependable so that you cannot be trusted with responsibilities in God's work?
Are you allowing your emotions to be stirred for things of the Lord but not following through?

7. I CORINTHIANS 6:19-20

Are you in any way careless with your body?
Do you fail to care for it as the temple of the Holy Spirit?
Are you guilty of intemperance in eating or drinking?
Do you have any habits which are defiling to the body?

8. I CORINTHIANS 10:31

Do you take the slightest credit for anything good about you, rather than giving all the glory to God?
Do you talk of what you have done rather than of what Christ has done?
Are your statements mostly about "I"?
Are your feelings easily hurt?
Have you made a pretense of being something that you aren't?

9. EPHESIANS 3:20

Are you self-conscious rather than Christ-conscious?
Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting things you should do in serving God?

10. EPHESIANS 4:28

Do you do little in your work?
Have you been careless in the payment of debts?
Do you waste time? Do you waste other people's time?

11. EPHESIANS 4:32

Do you complain?
Do you find fault with others?
Do you have a critical attitude toward any person or things?
Are you irritable or cranky?
Do you get angry? Do you become impatient with others?
Are you ever unkind or harsh?

12. EPHESIANS 5:16

Do you listen to unedifying radio or TV programs?
Do you read unworthy material?
Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source?
Are you doing certain things that show you are not satisfied in the Lord Jesus Christ?

13. EPHESIANS 5:20

Have you neglected to thank Him for all things, the seemingly bad as well as the good?
Have you virtually called God a liar by doubting His Word?
Do you worry?
Is your spiritual temperature based on your feelings instead of on the facts of God's Word?



14. PHILIPPIANS 1:21

Are you taken up with the cares of this life?
Is your conversation or heart joy over things rather than the Lord and His work?
Does anything mean more to you than living for & pleasing God?

15. PHILIPPIANS 2:14

Do you ever, by word or deed, seek to hurt someone?
Do you gossip?
Do you speak unkindly concerning people not present?
Do you carry prejudice against true Christians because they are of some different group or church than yours?
Do you think less of people who do not see everything exactly like you?



16. PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Have you neglected to seek to be pleasing to Him in all things?
Do you carry any bitterness toward God?
Have you complained against God in any way?
Have you been dissatisfied with His provision for you?
Is there in your heart any unwillingness to obey God fully?
Do you have any reservations as to what you would or would not do concerning anything that might be His will?
Have you disobeyed some direct leading from God?

17. COLOSSIANS 3:9

Do you engage in empty and unprofitable conversation?
Do you ever lie? Do you ever exaggerate?
Do you ever cheat? Do you ever steal?

18. II TIMOTHY 2:22

Do you have any personal habits that are not pure?
Do you allow impure thoughts to stay in your mind?
Do you read that which is impure or suggest unholy things?

19. HEBREWS 10:25

Do you think about other things while God's Word is taught?
Are you as faithful in your attendance as God wants you to be?
Have you neglected or slighted daily private times of worship?
Does your family have regular family worship together?
Are you neglecting studying the Bible as you should?

20. HEBREWS 13:17

Do you hesitate to submit to leaders in the church?
Are you lazy?
Do you in any way have a stubborn or unteachable spirit?

21. JAMES 1:27

Is your manner of dress pleasing to God?
Do you spend beyond what is pleasing to God on anything?
Do you neglect to pray about things that you buy?

22. JAMES 4:6

Do you feel that you are doing quite well as a Christian?
Do you feel that you are not so bad as others?
Do you feel you are good enough for God?
Are you stubborn? Do you insist on having your own way?
Do you insist on your "rights"?

23. JAMES 4:11

Have you dishonored Him and hindered His work by criticizing God's servants?
Have you failed to pray regularly for your pastor and leaders?
Do you find it hard to be corrected?



USE THE WORD OF GOD

Knowing and using God's Word, the sword of the Spirit, is key for victory in our daily struggles (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 77:12; I Chronicles 28:9; Matthew 22:37-38; I Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 4:8). That's how Jesus defeated Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). Satan tries to plant doubts about God's word in man's mind. That is how he got to Eve. She misquoted God's Word to Satan and when he added to God's Word (making God seem like He was keeping something good from her) she didn't pick it up. Satan was undermining God's Word, and he won! We must be skillful in the use of our sword for Satan can deceitfully twist and misquote God's truth so as to use it for his benefit.

THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

GOD'S TRUTH FREES "If you hold to my teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

SUBMIT TO GOD, RESIST SATAN God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. James 4:6-8

GOD IS GREATER THAN SATAN The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. I John 4:4

GOD WILL MEET ALL OUR NEEDS My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

RENEW YOUR MIND WITH CHRIST Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

POWER OF PRAYER The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

AUTHORITY OVER DEMONS Jesus replied: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." Luke 10:18-19

RESISTING SATAN Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Matthew 16:23

SIN AS OPENINGS TO DEMONIZING Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

CURSES Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Galatians 3:13

ANCESTRAL & CHILDHOOD OPENINGS Therefore if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! II Corinthians 5:17

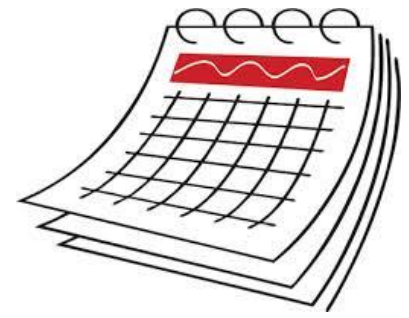
OCCULT OPENINGS Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:31

DELIVERANCE FROM DEMONIZING Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God ... This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. I John 4:1-2

DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK 1

Old Testament



Day 1 - Adam & Eve

Very shortly after Adam and Eve were created, their free will was tested as well. Satan twisted God's words and put doubt of God's goodness in Eve (Genesis 3:1). The battle started in their minds, and continues so today (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). He implied God was withholding something good from them, a lie he continues to use with good success even today.

Adam chose to believe Satan's lie and act on it, and thus sin entered into the human race (Romans 5:12). Humans, too, used their God-given free will choice to opt for sin. Immediately there were consequences: shame (Genesis 3:7) replaces innocence (Genesis 2:25), guilt and separation from God (Genesis 3:8, 22-24), deception and lies (Genesis 3:10), blaming each other (Genesis 3:12) and continuing consequences of sin in daily life (Genesis 3:16-24).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Having gotten her to dialogue with him and having planted doubts about God's goodness in Eve's mind, Satan then denies the truth of God's Word (Genesis 3:4). Eve misquoted God, saying they couldn't even touch the fruit, when all God said was that they could not eat it (Genesis 3:3). Satan took advantage of her lack of correct understanding of the Word of God. From this we learn that knowing and believing God's Word is totally essential for our victorious living today. We must know it completely and totally (Ephesians 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). Also, we must believe it, especially the part about God's holiness and hatred of sin. Mistaking patience and grace for approval of sin is very wrong. God will judge sin. Sin does bring death. Satan is a liar and deceiver (John 8:44). Unless a thought lines up with God's Word it is wrong.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Sin, and demonizing, all start in the mind, in our thoughts. Actions result from mental choices we make. The majority of demonizing consists of demons putting thoughts into a person's mind or snatching thoughts out of a person's mind. While they don't have access to our minds and thoughts to the same extent that God does, the Bible makes it clear that there is some access. Jesus said this in the Parable of the Sower and the Seed: "Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown." (Mark 4:15). David's thought to take a census was demonic (I Chronicles 21:1ff; II Samuel 24:1ff). So was Ananias & Sapphira's greed (Acts 5:3) and Saul's jealousy/anger (I Samuel 16:14-23). That's why, when talking about spiritual warfare, Paul says we are to "bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:4-5). Not only can Satan's forces put wrong thoughts into our minds, they can snatch right them out (Mark 4:15).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Eve was deceived by Satan because she acted according to her feelings and emotions, putting them over the truth of what God had clearly said (Titus 2:13-15; 2 Corinthians 11:3). Feelings and emotions are fine, important and necessary. They are icing on the cake of life, adding color and enjoyment, and indeed God created them for this purpose, but He didn't create them to be the source of our decision-making. Our feelings should depend on our rational thought. When our feelings get ahead of it or away from it then trouble comes. You know in your mind that you are an OK person, yet fear you will be a failure and rejected. When feelings aren't founded on truth they go wrong. The truth is that you are who you are because God created you that way (Psalm 139), but your emotions reject that truth and try to do the 'thinking' themselves. We must let our mind explain reality to our emotions. When we place feelings over fact, we are wrong.

Day 2 - Job

Satan not only attacked God's kingdom on a world-wide scale, but he opposed individuals who were part of that kingdom as well. Job is a prime example of this. He lived around the same time as Abraham, but not much is known about where he fits in historically or geographically. He is a picture of a righteous man, following God, facing his own warfare because he is faithful to God (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7).

One of the ways Satan attacks God's kingdom and people is by bringing accusations of sin against believers (Zechariah 3:1-4; Revelation 12:10). Because God is holy and must judge sin, Satan tries to point out the sins of believers in order to bring God's wrath upon them. However we are safe from condemnation because Jesus paid the price for our sins on the cross (Romans 8:1). Still, Satan is forever tattling on us to God.

We don't know how Satan is allowed in God's presence, but in some way or form this must happen for he accuses Job to God (Job 1:1-6; 2:1-7). God allows Satan to attack Job, but with certain limits which God imposes (Job 1:12; 2:6).

LESSON FOR TODAY: All Satan's attacks against us are 'Father filtered,' allowed by God for His glory and our good (Romans 8:28). This painful suffering of Job's served as an example of faithfulness to all heavenly beings, and to the millions who have read of Job in the Bible.

One other item of interest in this account is the way Satan was able to attack Job and his family. He used evil men (Job 1:13-15), nature (lightning, Job 1:16), hostile men (take animals, kill servants, Job 1:17), natural disaster (wind to destroy a house and kill Job's children, Job 1:18-19), and sickness and pain against Job himself (Job 2:6). While we aren't to fear Satan or give him credit for more power than he has, still he clearly has more ability to use nature, people and sickness than we often recognize. He has many weapons in his warfare against us.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Why does God allow people to suffer and struggle? How can a God of love allow so much evil to continue? God doesn't defend Himself or explain what He allows. He gives us a free will choice as to whose kingdom we will pursue. Sin and the resulting evil are the natural consequences of turning from Him.

The fact of pain in the world is not a reason to see God as less than loving. Still, innocent people suffer. We can't try to evaluate God's person and character by these things for He has proven His character and love by leaving heaven, becoming a man, living on earth, then going to the cross to take on the punishment for every sin we would ever commit. That proves His love for us beyond a shadow of a doubt. If it weren't for that we would all spend eternity in hell. So anything less than hell from now on is because of His grace and mercy. Why He seems to show more love and mercy to some than others is not up to us to judge. God isn't accountable to us. We cannot stand in judgment of Him until we know all the facts as He knows them and see everything as He sees it. Many things seem unfair to little children but they must trust their parents. Getting an injection from a doctor, having a pretty shiny knife taken away, things like these seem to a child that a parent doesn't love them. But a child doesn't have the perspective to truly understand all that is involved and we don't either. We do know that facing things we don't understand gives us an opportunity to trust. Our faith is stretched and we grow. God is glorified as we see Him deliver and as others watch us continually trust Him no matter what happens. Spiritual warfare itself is often very painful. It is just one of many forms of suffering God uses for our good and for His glory. Often deliverance isn't a sudden, complete act. God allows the struggle to go on for it teaches us to fight and to trust Him.



Day 3 - Moses

The whole conflict between Moses and Pharaoh, Israel and Egypt, is one of spiritual warfare. The battle with Satan's magicians, Jambres and Jambrees, the victory of God over the gods of Egypt through the plagues and the miraculous deliverance at the Red Sea all show God's great power over Satan and His forces. He led them by the cloud of fire, by His very Shekinah Presence.



LESSON FOR TODAY: God protected and provided, but the Jews had to learn to fight their battles in His strength. God delivered them, but after deliverance (salvation) they had to learn to fight, as must we. God does not prevent the battles we have with Satan, but He does give us victory through them. We are not exempt from warfare and never will be, but we have His promises of ultimate victory when we trust Him and follow Him. Don't waste energy and prayer time asking for the battle to be milder so you can manage, instead ask for greater strength so you can fight and win. Don't try avoiding the battle, face it right on. And most of all, don't compromise or give in. Being taken captive by your enemies will NOT make your life any easier!

In their travel from Egypt to Mount Sinai the Jews had to travel near the land of the Amalekites. The Amalekites followed them, picking off the weak and sickly who weren't part of the main body of Israel (Deuteronomy 25:17-18).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Satan as a roaring lion looks for weak and sick sheep, those who aren't with the main body, and easily picks them off (1 Peter 5:8). We can't fight alone; we must be close to the main army. Be part of a sound Bible-believing church. Be involved in its ministry. Surround yourself with good Christian friends. When you notice one of them drifting do all you can to bring them back to the fellowship. When you are being attacked let others know what they can do to help you. Stragglers and the weak are easy targets for the enemy. Support those who are struggling and ask for help when you need it.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Amalek is a picture of the flesh. The flesh is always here to battle us. Demons don't always attack directly, they use our flesh (sin nature, natural tendency of self-centeredness and sin) as well. In fact, many times they don't have to do anything, they just let our sin nature defeat us. We, like the Jews, must learn to have victory over the flesh by prayer and fighting. Sins of the flesh include such things as lust, greed, laziness, self-indulgence, etc. – anything outside of God's will for us, anything that keeps us from us from being more like Jesus.

God allowed Amalek to continually attack so the Jews would stop and fight. They had to learn to fight. They were armed by God after the Egyptian army drowned (Exodus 14:30) but had to learn to use their weapons.

The Jews experienced victory when Moses prayed and the army fought behind Joshua (Exodus 17:8-15). Both were necessary for victory. Victory over Amalek was only temporary, for there were many future encounters to come.

LESSON FOR TODAY: For us to have victory means we must pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17) for it is part of the weaponry God gives us (Ephesians 6:18). We must also fight using the armor He has provided (Ephesians 6:10-17). Prayer without doing our best in life's battles isn't enough; neither is doing our best but neglecting to pray. It takes both faith and works for victory. Our warfare with the flesh will never end. Like the Jews with the Amalekites, battles will continue as long as we are on this earth. Don't ask God to remove the battle but to give you strength to endure.

What do you need to do today to have victory over Satan and his forces? The battle won't go away, so prepare for it. That's the only way to victory.

Day 4 - "Third & Fourth Generation"

We usually don't associate the Ten Commandments with spiritual warfare, but there is a close connection (Exodus 20:4-5). After the commandment to not make any idols God gives the reason: He is a jealous God "punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me" (Exodus 20:4-5). God does not hold us accountable for the sins of our ancestors (Deuteronomy 24:16) but the consequences of their sins does pass on from generation to generation (Ezekiel 18:2). There is a big difference between 'sins' (individual acts of sin) and 'sin' (general term for the culmination of all sin together).

One of the main ways sin passes from generation to generation is through demonic control. When a person opens themselves to demonizing, that demon claims them and all they have. When they have children the demon then claims the child as well (Exodus 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 5:8-9). There are many examples of this in Scripture (Nehemiah 1:4-9; Jeremiah 14:20; Daniel 1:1-19). This goes on from generation to generation until broken by prayer in Jesus' name. As believers we have authority to break this in Jesus' name (1 Corinthians 7:14).

LESSON FOR TODAY: When one person opens themselves up to demonic influence, that person's descendants are also at risk of demonizing. When a demon has access to a person, he also claims right to all that person has, including their children. The Bible says these sins pass on down to the third and fourth generation (Exodus 20:4-5; Deuteronomy 5:8-9; Exodus 34:6-7). Ancestral, or generational access is one of the most common reasons people are demonized. This is especially true of first born males, for Satan seeks to claim them just as God does (Exodus 34:20).

This is especially true of first born males, but certainly not limited to them. Satan seeks to claim them because God says they belong to Him (Exodus 34:20). This is by no means limited to firstborn males, or even to males. Any child is open to this. If you notice some of the same problems in your life as in your siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, or grandparents it could very well be ancestral demonizing. The same demons have access to those in the family and do the same work in various members (not all members, that would be too obvious). They claim the blood line or family name and use that as access. If you see some patterns in the symptoms or characteristics of demonizing that were covered previously in others in your family that could show ancestral access. That is why so often a boy who hates his father for beating his mother grows up to beat his own wife, or a child of an alcoholic becomes an alcoholic themselves. It is not uncommon to observe generations of abuse, addiction, hatred, superstition and fear, pride, control and manipulation, rejection, sexual sins and perversions etc.

Generational bondage can be broken by personally repenting of and confessing the sins of past generations. Claim the blood of Christ as stronger than your blood line and put that access under the blood of Jesus (Romans 5:15). Claim that you are a "new creation, old things have passed away, all things have become new" (II Corinthians 5:17). State that you are "born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God" (John 1:13). Then ask God to turn that curse into a blessing (Deuteronomy 23:5).

LESSON FOR TODAY: When talking to someone who you feel may be demonized be sure to start by asking questions about similar sins and problems in other members of the family. This is especially true if the person struggled with the issue since they were quite young. Generational bondage can be broken by putting the sins of past generations under the blood of Jesus and forbid any of Satan's forces to make any claim against you through them. Claim the blood of Christ as stronger than your blood line and put any demonic access under the blood of Jesus (Romans 5:15). Ask God to turn curses into blessing (Deuteronomy 23:5).

Day 5 - Saul, Stages of Demonizing 1

Saul was the first king over Israel. He was the choice of the people for he was tall and good looking (1 Samuel 10:23-24) – external traits being all the Jews cared about. He didn't follow God nor did he lead the people to victory in their battles. Pride and insecurity turned him from a shy, humble man to a self-centered tyrant. His insecurity and fear opened him up to demonic oppression.



Stage 1 demonizing The first stage of his demonic oppression was mild. When he was tormented David's music brought relief (1 Samuel 16:14-23). He opened himself to the influence of demons by his sin. When he allowed his fear to manifest itself in anger and rage, demons fed on his hate and injected more fear and anger into him (1 Samuel 18:10-22; 19:9-10; 20:30-33). He only found relief when David played and sang to him.

LESSON FOR TODAY: God assigns angels to protect us, and He does it in an organized way, not haphazardly. So, too, Satan is methodical in assigning demons to attack us as well. Certain ones are assigned

to focus on defeating us, perhaps also to other family members as well. They get to know us and our weaknesses so that they are better able to find chinks in our armor and attack us either head on or in new subtle ways, which often are more successful. They have had thousands of years of experience doing this so we are no match for them. God alone knows us better than they do and only He can help us have victory.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Sin opens the door to demons. Sinful desire is like a prayer, a request which demons are more than willing to fill. Anger especially leads to demonizing (Ephesians 4:26-27; Matthew 18:34; II Corinthians 2:10-11). We voluntarily lose self-control and the anger becomes like a prayer, a seeking for something ungodly to empower us. Confess any anger as sin and take back any access you have given to Satan through it.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Christian music is a good way to have victory over demonic oppression today as well (Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16). Not only does it reset our mind and thoughts with God's truth, but demons hate hearing Jesus praised and avoid places where that is happening. Playing music that lifts up Jesus when you are attacked is a good way to help win the battle. It is also a profitable practice at night for those who have thoughts and dreams that aren't from God. Letting Christian music play quietly in your room can help with that. If a certain part of your home or property seems to be especially under attack leave some music playing there all day and night. Leaving a light on can have the same affect for demons love darkness and hate the light.

Day 6 – Saul, Stages of Demonizing 2

Saul allowed himself to be demonized when he opened himself to the influence of demons by the sin in his life, especially his anger and jealousy of David. That was like a ‘prayer’ which demons gladly ‘answered’ by feeding more anger and jealousy into his mind. It didn’t end there, though. Their power and influence over him continued to grow.

Stage 2 Demonizing The second stage then followed. Saul became more violent, even trying to kill David while he played music (1 Samuel 18:10-11; 19:7-17; 20:30-33). This shows how demons hate music that praises God and will do anything to silence it if possible. As the demons gather more control over Saul by his continual sin they are able to incite him to seek to kill David. Those in this stage start acting out in their sin area – in violence, greed, lust or whatever area they have opened in their life.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Violence and rage are common effects of demonic presence. That is not to say that Saul, or anyone who has rages, is not responsible for their actions - they are. But at this point it takes more than just “trying harder” to have victory; it takes confessing the sin and rebuking the work of the demons in your life. Then ask God to fill that void. The battle will then begin for they will seek to retake the property in your life they have gained. Using God’s word by quoting His promises is the only way to have sustained victory.

Third Stage Demonizing The third and final stage of demonizing is then evident in Saul’s life. Deeply destructive and totally ungodly behavior begins as Saul goes to a witch at Endor for advice (1 Samuel 28:8-15). Despite the fact that he knows God forbids this (Deuteronomy 18:9-13) he wants the witch to call up the spirit of Samuel so he can find out information about the future. Assuming a demonic manifestation would appear counterfeiting Samuel, they were both shocked when God allowed Samuel himself to manifest to them. Samuel foretold his future as he wanted, but it was one of death for disobedience.

LESSON FOR TODAY: While God has a plan for our lives that includes life, joy and peace, Satan also has a plan but it includes misery, destruction and death. He can only do what God allows. If he had his own way all Christians would be cruelly killed. He can only do what God allows (Job). Demons seem to bring that which is good for us, but like Satan’s deception in Eden it is really for our destruction (John 8:44). Therefore there can be no compromise in our warfare with Satan and his forces. We cannot give one inch of ground but must tirelessly battle for total freedom.



Day 7 - Daniel

For 70 years the Jews were in captivity to other nations who took them from their homeland. Daniel was one of those taken to Babylon as a young boy. He spent his life there in service to God and his new country. Throughout all of his life he was involved in spiritual warfare. We gain valuable insight into the battle in the heavenlies from an event in his life (Daniel 10:2-14). Towards the end of his life he was fasting and praying for wisdom from God. After 24 days without an answer an angel appeared to him and told him that the first day he started praying God sent a messenger to answer Daniel's prayer. However for 3 weeks the demon who was the territorial ruler of Persia fought against this messenger angel to keep him from getting to Daniel. Michael came to join in the battle so the heavenly courier from God was able to defeat the demonic oppression. He was then able to come to Daniel and complete his mission. While this sounds like a strange event, it sheds much light on the spiritual battles we fight. These kinds of things probably happen around us all the time but we aren't aware of them.

LESSON FOR TODAY: There are several lessons for us in this account. First, we gain insight into the organization of Satan's forces. Satan arranges his demons in the same manner God has angels organized - in a military-like structure. These are similar to soldiers in an army: generals, colonels, majors, lieutenants, sergeants, corporals, privates, etc. (Ephesians 6:12). Usually a "strong man" (or ruler) is assigned to a task, and he has lesser demons under his command to help in the work (Matthew 12:25-29; Daniel 10:2-6, 12-14). The names of these demons usually refer to what they do: "Fear," "Anger," "Lust," "Pride," "Deception," etc.. Satan assigns powerful demons as leaders to oversee the work against various people groups and geographical areas as well. Persia was controlled by demons who were organized under the command of a very powerful demon who took the role as the "prince of Persia". We can be assured that all countries, people groups and major movements among mankind have a structure of demons assigned to defeat and control them. So do churches, Christian ministries, families and of course individuals as well. No one gets overlooked, and those doing the Lord's work receive special attention! Understanding these things is important for us to know what we are fighting against and how to pray for God's power and protection.



Daniel prayed to God three times a day after he had been told not to worship God.

LESSON FOR TODAY: We also see the importance of prayer, and that God answers it. Even if it seems to take a while, persevere and await God's answer. It has been correctly said that prayer is not preliminary to the battle, prayer is the battle. So persevere in your prayer and warfare. The warfare we go through here is just a small reflection of what is taking place in the heavenlies. You are not alone in your battles. All God's people are attacked, and angels and demons are constantly in conflict in the unseen world around us. If it seems you are alone, or something must be wrong because you face these things more than others remember that all who seek to serve and advance God's kingdom will be attacked.

1. THE BATTLE BEGINS (Old Testament)

Rev. Dr. Jerry Schroyer – jerry@schroyer.net - © 2013

MEMORY VERSE Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."

IF GOD IS SOVEREIGN, WHY DO WE NEED TO FIGHT SATAN?

If God is sovereign, why do we need to witness, pray, believe, work for our money, drive carefully, go to a doctor, or any of those things? If we trust in God, why lock doors at night? There are some things God expects us to do, in His strength. By doing these we learn to trust Him more.

1. _____
"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against principalities, etc." Ephesians 6:10-12
"We are not ignorant of Satan's devices" II Cor. 2:11

2. _____
Jesus talked about Satan & demons more than anyone in Bible.

3. _____
DANIEL prayed spiritual warfare prayer for three weeks (Daniel 10:2-6,12-14).
PAUL was twice involved in casting out demons (Acts 13:6-12; 16:16-18) and writes much about spiritual warfare (Ephesians 4:26-27; 6:10-13; Galatians 2:10, 13; etc.)
MOSES was challenged by Satanic forces (Jannes & Jambres, Exodus 7:1-11, etc.).
Many examples in church history show the involvement of God's people in spiritual warfare.

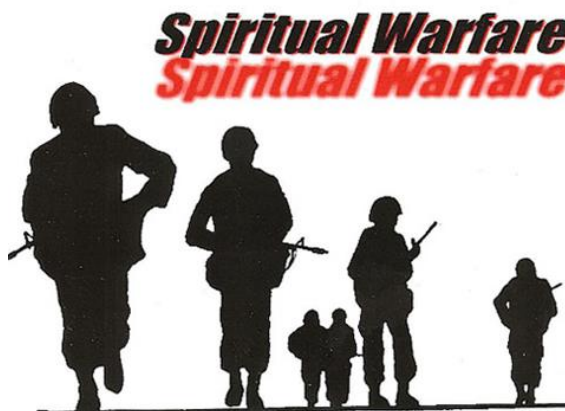
4. _____ personal experience

5. _____
As end grows near see direction USA, world is going

A. CREATED BEINGS Creation of angels, people

ANGELS (Job 38:6-7) innumerable"
_____ (Heb 12:22; Rev 5:11) (no more/ less)

CAN ANGELS HELP US WHEN IN NEED?



SATAN, DEMONS

FREE WILL choice for man, angels
One time free will choice, follow God or reject
Lucifer led rebellion – pride Isa 14:12-15; Ezek 28:15-17
1/3 fell (Rev 12:4)
Lost the fight, cast out of heaven (Isaiah 14:12; Ezekiel 28:15-17; Luke 10:18)

SATAN & DEMONS WORK TODAY

Satan Thwart purpose of God Dan 10:10,14 Rev 16:13-16
Demons Do Satan's bidding Eph 6:11-12
Blinds their minds II Cor 4:4
Snatches the Word from their heart Lk 8:12
Tempt to lie Acts 5:3
Accuses & slanders before God Rev 12:10
Hinders their work I Thes 2:18
Uses demons to defeat them Eph 6:11-12
Tempt to immorality I Cor 7:5
Incites persecution against Rev 2:10
Inflict disease Mt 9:33 Lk 13:11,16
Possess men Mt 4:24 & animals Mk 5:13
Oppose spiritual growth of believers Eph 6:12
Spread false doctrine I Tim 4:1

B. SIN ENTERS Sin of angels, people

1. SIN ENTERS THE HUMAN RACE (Genesis 3:1-7)

Satan denies _____ *(Gen 3:4)*

*Eve misled - went by feelings/emotions over God's truth
(Titus 2:13-15; 2 Cor 11:3)*

*Sin starts in mind, thoughts (Mk 4:15; 1 Chron 21:1ff;
Acts 5:3; 1 Sam 16:14-23)*

Consequences: shame (3:7), fear (3:10), guilt & separation (3:8,22-24),

Don't debate Satan, just quote Scripture (Jesus - Mt 4:10)(sword – Eph 6:17)

Satan uses deception against believers

2. THE BATTLE BEGINS (Gen 3:8-15) **WAR STARTS**

MEMORY VERSE Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."



C. ADAM TO ABRAHAM War spreads to all

Once battle started it never stopped, spread to each person, each generation

Strategy and focus of the enemy changed from time to time, but always warfare

1. CAIN & ABLE (Genesis 4:1-8)

2. TIME OF NOAH (Genesis 6:1-8) 1700 years after creation



Unbiblical sex tool of Satan to defeat/destroy us (sex picture of us & God Eph 5:23)

Sex major tool of Satan, even today, behind adultery, homosexuality, pornography

*Sex opening for demonizing (1 Cor 6:16) transfer demons, **spiritual AIDS***

Multidimensional sin war going on – battle with sin going full strength

3. JOB (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7) **SATAN ATTACKS PHYSICALLY**

Satan attacked God's Kingdom wherever whenever, individuals or whole groups

Job righteous, holy

GROUP ASSIGNMENT:

Read Job 1:5-12. When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom. ... 10
"Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

What did Job do?

Why did he do it?

Did it make any difference?

What are we to do today?

LESSONS FROM JOB:

Satan slandered, brought accusation of serving for selfish motives

Satan has access to God's presence to bring accusations against believers

Satan used many means to attack Job:

evil men (Job 1:13-15)

nature (lightning, Job 1:16)

hostile men (take animals, kill servants, Job 1:17)

natural disaster (wind to destroy a house and kill Job's children, Job 1:18-19)

sickness and pain against Job himself (Job 2:6)

God allows limited attacks on Job to show all Job serves God out of love, not greed

All our attacks by Satan/demons are 'Father filtered' – used for good (Rom 8:28)

God uses Satan's attacks for His purpose (1 Ki 22:19-23; Gen 50:20)

“The Lord gives/ Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord” 1:21

“Shall we accept good from God and not trouble.” 2:10

“Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him.” 13:15

We are not to fear Satan for God is greater (1 Jn 4:4)

Recognize Satan's attacks so can properly fight against them

Why allow Satan to attack?

Opportunity to grow

Learn to fight – Jews into Palestine

D. FORMATION OF ISRAEL

1. ABRAHAM (Genesis 11 – 24) 400 years after Babel, time of Job

2. ISAAC, JACOB, JOSEPH (Gen 25 - 50)
300 years after call of Ab



3. MOSES (Exodus - Deut) 400 in Egypt **GOD VERSUS SATAN IN EGYPT**

DELIVERANCE FROM EGYPT

*Heavenly battle of God and Satan reflected in ripples felt in warfare here
God does not prevent the battles but to give us victory through them*

AT MT SINAI

God's new born people need His truth/Word to live, serve

Occult involvement specifically forbidden, death penalty for it Dt 18:9-13 Ex 22:18

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT:

Read Deuteronomy 18:9-13 When you enter the land the Lord your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. 10 Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, 11 or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. 12 Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord, and because of these detestable practices the Lord your God will drive out those nations before you. 13 You must be blameless before the Lord your God.

Write a list of forbidden occult activities. Leave room in back of each to write a description:

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

No idols (Ex 20:4-5) not accountable gen sins (Dt 24:16), consequences continue
ANCESTRAL/GENERATIONAL ACCESS common (Dt 5:8-9 Ex 20:4-5; 34:6-7)
First born males especially susceptible(Ex 34:20)
Break - blood stronger (Jn 1:13; Rom 5:15), new creation (2 Cor 5:17)

OPENINGS IN CHILDREN

YOUNGER CHILDREN (Before Accountability)

1. REJECTION

How to deal with past rejections:

- a. Free will decision to forgive the person/parent
- b. In Jesus' name break anything said/felt against you (curses)
- c. Freely accept love of God to fill, heal
- d. Cast out any demons of rejection
- e. Take every thought captive

2. ABUSE

3. TOYS AND GAMES, SAT. AM CARTOONS

4. TV, MOVIES, COMICS

5. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

6. YOGA, KARATE, etc



OLDER CHILDREN (After Accountability)

1. REJECTION :

2. ABUSE

3. WORLDLY AMUSEMENTS & DISTRACTIONS (EVIL)

4. YOGA, KARATE etc

5. SEXUAL IMMORALITY

6. MENTAL ATTITUDE SINS

7. SATANISM, OCCULT

8. REBELLION



CURE FOR CHILDHOOD OPENINGS & ANY & ALL SIN

Confess the sin – I John 1:9

Put under blood of Jesus

Take back any access demons use

Fill with Holy Spirit

Claim appropriate promises to fill the void

2 Cor 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!



COMMON OPENINGS TO DEMONIZING

a. **Sins** that _____ – quantity or quality of the sin
Occult, witchcraft, drugs, alcohol, immorality

Demons are like rats that feed on garbage: Remove the garbage and the rats will be easier to get rid of

b. Sin in **family line** _____ (Ex 20:4-5; Dt 5:8-9; Ex 34:6-7)

c. Where we **live** – what happened on _____, who dedicated to, evil possession

d. **Curses** – _____ or _____, by others or self
(Prov 6:2; Ps 109:17)

Galatians 3:13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree."

Oaths person has taken, bound themselves to
Soul ties or sexual involvement with another

e. **Following Jesus** enemy, in battle, knock us out,



4. JOSHUA (Joshua) 40 years after the Exodus **PHYSICAL EXAMPLES OF SW**

E. UNITED KINGDOM 120 years (40 each for Saul, David, Solomon)

1. SAUL (1 Samuel 1-15) 40 years **EXAMPLE OF DEMONIZED KING**



1 DEMONIZING -----

Sin opens the door to demonizing

Satan assigns demons to attack us, get to know and follow us

Anger is a sin that often opens the door to demons (1 Samuel 18:10-22; 19:9-10; 20:30-33, Ephesians 4:26-27; Matthew 18:34; II Corinthians 2:10-11).

David's praise music brought relief from torment, peace over fear

Christian music playing helps have victory over demons (Eph 5:19; Col 3:16) They hate to hear Jesus praised

2 DEMONIZING -----

Tried to kill David while playing (1 Samuel 18:10-11; 19:7-17; 20:30-33)

Violence, rage, destructive impulses sign of demonic work

Demons attack, try to silence believers ministering deliverance

3 DEMONIZING -----

Goes to witch at Endor for advice (1 Sam 28:8-15), sin (Deut 18:9-13)

God has a plan for our lives, so does Satan (misery, pain, destruction, death)

2. DAVID (1 Kings 16-2 Kings 2) 40 years **Satan sets trap years ahead**

Man after God's own heart (1 Sam 13:13-14)

David's sins – fear, cover-up, lust, etc

Demons work for years to build small sins into large, destructive sins

Incited by Satan to take census (pride) (1 Chron 21:1-7), punished (v. 8-29)

Pride major sin behind most sins, started with Satan, subtle tool of his

3. SOLOMON (2 Kings) 40 years **Family sins passed down**

Copied father's sins, generational demonizing

F. DIVIDED KINGDOM

1. ISRAEL & JUDAH (1 Ki 12 – 2 Ki 24) 350 years **BATTLE ACCOUNTS**

ELIJAH AND THE PRIESTS OF BAAL

Satan, demons love pain, blood, suffering, death – priests cut selves
Today still behind cutting, suicide, self-destructiveness
Love to cause cutting (Mark 5:5) and pain (Mt 17:15)

CHILD SACRIFICE

BY JEWS

Children and people sacrificed to demonic gods common (Jer 32:35; 2 Ki 16:3; 17:17; 21:6; Ezekiel 20:31)

*Child sacrifice today: Satanism, cults, **abortion***

BY GENTILES

Must know and practice spiritual warfare or will be defeated (2 Cor 2:5-11)
Satan and demons love blood, darkness, suffering – horror movies, etc

ANGELS PROTECT BELIEVERS

Often God used angels to protect believers, bring victory (2 Kings 6:15-17; 19:35; 2:11; Psalm 34:7; 68:17; 91:11; Zechariah 1:8; 6:1-7; Revelation 19:11).

God uses angels to protect us today, we don't see them (Hebrews 1:14; Matthew 26:53; Hebrews 13:2)

PROPHETS FORTELL SATAN'S DEFEAT

Satan's kingdom seemed to prosper, win, grow, but judgment coming

- Cast from heaven to earth by God's power (Ezek 28:11-19)
- Satan to be brought down to pit (Isa 14:12-20)
- Bound in dungeon many days (during Millennium) (Isa 24:21-23)
- Satan defeated by sword of God's Word (Isa 27:1; Rev 12:7-12; 19:15)

2. CAPTIVITY (2 Kings 25, Jeremiah, Daniel) lasted 70 years **Defeat**

ISRAEL & JUDAH TAKEN INTO CAPTIVITY

Consequence of sin, reap what sow

Holy God cannot allow sin in His people (1 Peter 4:17)

Daniel taken captive, much spiritual warfare in his life

Prince of Persia fought messenger angel 21 days (Dan 10:2-14)

Satan's forces organized, well led, military structure

Daniel prayed often, great man of prayer

Importance of prayer!

Prayer not preliminary to battle, prayer is the battle!



3. RESTORATION (Ezra, Nehemiah) after 70 years

Some few returned Zerubbable, Ezra, Nehemiah

Battles continued: Physical (in land) and spiritual – never end!

4. SILENT YEARS 400 years

In land, but in spiritual darkness



CASE STUDY: BRIAN got a taste of alcohol when he was quite young.

His parents didn't drink, but some of his other relatives did and his

cousins were allowed to drink a little now and then. They always offered some to him and, because he was curious and also because he didn't want to be made fun of by his cousins, he tried it. At first it tasted awful but it also did something special inside of him that made him want more. He makes sure his parents don't know about his drinking, for it always makes him feel very guilty and he promises to never drink again. But he does. But after all, even his parents drink wine sometimes, so what's the big deal? No one else seems to feel guilty for it. He looks forward to when he can move out and live on his own and not have to hide what he is doing. However he is sort of afraid that then he may drink too much, like his grandfather and some of his uncles. He tries to pray but lately he doesn't feel very close to God. Out of curiosity he has started to read his horoscope, thinking he may find some help. There's a lady that tells your future in a little house nearby and he's tempted to ask her what his future will be like. If he gets a good report he'll be able to go ahead and drink without worrying about it affecting his future. What would you do or say to help Brian? How could you use spiritual warfare to help him?

How does it make you feel to think there are angels in your room but you don't see them?

What opens the door to demons to work in our lives? List as many as you can.

CASE STUDY: CINDY's parents always seem upset about something. It seems no matter what she does it isn't good enough. Being the oldest, there is a lot of pressure on her to perform well in school and life and she feels that she is letting them down no matter how hard she tries. When they are really upset her father will tell her she is a failure and will never amount to anything. This hurts her very badly and she cries when in her room. Someone at school laughed at her and said she was fat, although everyone else says she looks fine. To make sure she isn't fat Cindy has started making herself throw up after she eats so she doesn't gain weight. When she was younger she had a close relationship with Jesus, but now she feels like she isn't good enough for Him, either. She tries to be perfect but just can't. One of her teachers tried talking to her about her perfectionism and how she was OK without having to try to be perfect all the time, but she just took that as criticism and more rejection. What would you do or say to help Cindy? How could you use spiritual warfare to help her?

WHO MAY BE DEMONIZED?

1. If you were conceived in fornication or adultery.
2. If you were not wanted at the moment of conception or while your mother was pregnant with you.
3. If your mother had a difficult pregnancy.
4. If your mother had a long or hard delivery.
5. If your mother was depressed a lot throughout her pregnancy with you.
6. If your mother died giving birth to you or if your father or mother died in the first few years of your life.
7. If you severely lacked oxygen or were delivered with forceps on the head.
8. If your parents separated or divorced before you were an adult.
9. If you have some childhood handicap or infirmity.
10. If you are an orphan or your father and mother left you.
11. If you were treated cruelly or were molested, raped or fondled.
12. If you have a very painful memory.
13. If you wish that you had never been born.
14. If you wish that you were dead.
15. is a history of sickness in your blood line, such as cancer, diabetes, learning disability or mental illness.
16. If you have been cursed or have curses in your blood-line.
17. If you have an uncontrollable habit and you have tried prayers, fasting and a firm effort of your will but with little success.
18. If you have a persistent or uncontrollable fear of any kind.
19. If you have rejection, depression, loneliness, despair, hopelessness, thoughts of suicide, etc.
20. If you have a constant desire to be held.
21. If you don't want to be touched.
22. If you're obsessed with sexual desire or are abnormally frigid.
23. If you dislike the opposite sex or your own sex.
24. If you have guilt or condemnation for another person or yourself.
25. If you find it very difficult to forgive a certain person.
26. If you have resentment against God, for example, blaming Him : "God, why did you let this happen?"
27. If you lived in a war zone or were in combat.
28. If someone very close to you died, especially a sudden, tragic death.
29. If you saw someone killed or murdered, watched an accident occur, or were in an accident.
30. If you are constantly angry, or shy, or embarrassed, or timid.
31. If you are afraid of demons or of deliverance.
32. If you are a homosexual, lesbian, transsexual or transvestite, etc., have been one, or are tempted to be one.
33. If you are or have been engaged in an adulterous relationship.
34. If you or your family were ever involved with the occult: Satan worship, playing with a ouija board, tarot cards, witchcraft, mind control, seances, out of body experiences, spirit guides, astrology, etc.

35. If you ever had an abortion or were a party to one.
36. If you were ever in any religious or para-religious cult or false religion.
37. If you have watched movies or TV which opened you to fears, lust or the occult.
38. If you compulsively indulge in fleshly sins that you detest but cannot live in freedom from sexual sins, lying, desire to curse God, alcoholism or drug addiction, smoking, desire to tear up Bibles, intense overwhelming anger or rage, rock music, desire to commit suicide.
39. If you are unable to progress beyond a certain point of spirituality, have trouble reading your Bible, or often fall asleep during spiritual meetings or events.
40. If your life has been much worse since becoming a Christian.
41. If you resist or have constant distractions while trying to read the Word or pray, even when there is a desire to do so, or if Scripture seems to always condemn you as you read it.
42. If you ever feel the presence of evil around you.
43. If you sometimes feel there is some force of power controlling you from within, or if you sometimes feel you are a different (strange) person.
44. If you ever hear voices speaking to your mind.
45. If you have repeated unwanted thoughts you don't seem able to get rid of permanently.
46. If you have ever observed yourself from some vantage point somewhere outside your own body (an out-of-body experience).
47. If someone has ever laid hands on you or prayed for you to receive a certain spiritual gift.
48. If you have recurring dreams or nightmares that are of a horrible nature, or if you have clairvoyant dreams.
49. If you have a compulsive desire to curse the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit.
50. If you have compulsive murderous or suicidal thoughts or sudden surges of violent rage, uncontrollable anger, or seething feelings of hostility.
51. If you have deep feeling of bitterness and hatred toward a person or group of people for no logical reason (Jews, church, strong Christian leaders).
52. If you experience compulsive temptations which seek to force you to thoughts or behavior which you truly do not want to think or do.
53. If you have compulsive desires to tear other people down even if it means lying to do so, or if you speak with a vicious cutting tongue.
54. If you experience overwhelming feelings of guilt and worthlessness, even after honestly confessing your sin and failure to the Lord.
55. If certain physical symptoms suddenly appear and pass quickly for which there can be found no medical reason (choking sensations, unexpected pains which seem to move around, feelings of tightness about the head or eyes, dizziness, blackouts, fainting spells, ringing in the ears, etc).
56. If you are frequently in deep depression and despondency.
57. If you have terrifying seizures of panic or abnormal fears.
58. If you have persistent doubt of your salvation even though you once knew the joy of your salvation.
59. If you get thoughts like "Grab that knife and kill that person/yourself," " Jump over the edge" (when up high), etc.

THE OCCULT AND DEMONIZING

While sins of the flesh give opening to Satan's forces, involvement in the occult gives MUCH more access. That is direct involvement with demons, and free will asking for them to work in your life. Sins of these kinds MUST be admitted, confessed, renounced, and all access taken back from Satan. Then any demons who are working through these areas must be cast out in Jesus' name. Prayerfully and honestly read the following list and check anything you have ever been involved in, then confess, renounce, and take back all access. Command the demons to be gone, too!

Accupuncture * (*= depends on person)	Necromancy (talk to the dead)
Amulets (good luck charms)	Numerology (numbers foretell things)
Apparitions (things move untouched)	Occult Healing
Automatic Writing (hand writes while person sleeps or is in a trance)	Occult Games (Dungeons & Dragons, I Ching, Kreskin, etc.)
Astrology (not astronomy)	Omens (occurrence to tell future)
Astral Projection (out-of-body travel)	Ouija Board
Black or White Magic	Pendulum
Clairvoyance (discerning things beyond the 5 senses)	Palm Reading
Coffee Grounds reading	Pyramidology*
Color Therapy (threads or light used to heal or get information)	Psychadelic Lights or Music
Charming (spells, healing, etc.)	Psychometry (personal objects tell into)
Candles burning to invite spirits	Reflexology*
Crystal ball readings	Ring or Needle on a Thread (find info)
Divination (to foretell the future, find something lost, etc.)	Rock Music
Drugs, especially illegal	Scientology
Extra Sensory Perception	Seances
Eye Diagnosis (Irodology) (reading spots in the eye to tell info.)	Sorcery
Fetishes and related paraphenelia	Screening (Protection from a 'hex')
Fire Walking	Satanism
Fortune Telling	Soothsaying (to tell future)
Graphology* (handwriting studied)	Speaking in a Trance
Herbology*	Spells (give or receive) & Curses
Horoscopes	Spiritistic Visions
Hypnotism	Table Tapping or Raising
Letters of Protection	Tarot Cards
Levitation (raising objects, tables)	Tea Leaves - reading
Magic of any kind	Telepathy (communication by unusual ways)
Materializations (things appear or disappear without being touched)	Tongues, esp. if you sought the gift
Mind Reading	Transcendental Meditation (Eastern Rel.)
	Vitagenics (health appeal)
	Water witching
	Wizardry
	Yoga of any form
	Zodiac signs, going by them

SINS WHICH ESPECIALLY LEAD TO DEMONIZING

The following sins are examples of those which can allow Satan and his demons to have access to "demonize" you. If you are now doing these you must confess them and take back any access you gave Satan through them. If you no longer do them, still make sure they are confessed and then renounce them. If a close relative does or has done them seek God's guidance as to if Satan has used that to attack you through them. This list is not complete, but will give you an idea of things:

SEXUAL SINS -

Fornication
Adultery
Pornography
Bestiality
Incest
Lust (fantasies)
Masturbation
Homosexuality
Rape
Exhibitionism

DRUGS -

Illegal name the drug:
Legal (name the drug):
Alcohol
Nicotine

IDOLATRY -

Eastern religions (name which
Meditation - Chanting,
Mantras, Invocations
Cults (name them
Catholicism
Secret Orders (name
Material things (name
People (name

OCCULT PRACTICES -

Astrology
Fortunetelling
Ouija Board
ESP
Seances
Hypnotism
Pow Wows
Witchcraft
MagiMind Control
Psychic healing

Dungeons and Dragons

Other (name

FEAR -

Worry
Anxiety
Depression
Hopelessness

UNBELIEF -

Doubts
Lack of trust

ANGER -

Towards God
Towards Self
Towards others (name
Bitterness
Hatred
Revenge
Unforgiveness

ENVY -

Covetousness
Jealousy

REBELLION -

towards authority

PRIDE -

Self-centeredness
Poor self-image
Self-sufficiency

LIES -

Believing Satan't lies
Lack of honesty
Deceitfulness

STEALING -

Gambling

CURSING -

Blasphemy
Slader
Gossip

VIOLENT ACTS -

Attempted suicide
Murder
Abortion
Rape
Fighting
Beating others up
Planning how to harm others

UNSCRIPTURAL SEEKING OF GIFTS & EXPERIENCES -

Tongues
Visions
Healing
Other (name

SATANISM -

Bargain with Satan
Worship of Satan

MUSIC -

Occultic
Satanic
Drug-oriented, sensual,
Suggestive, Hard Rock)

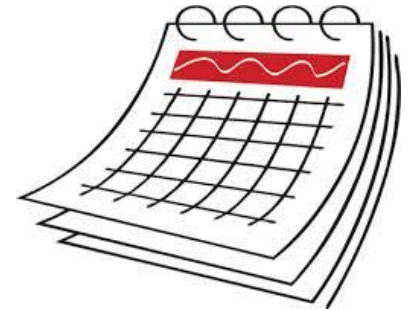
SPELLS & CURSES -

Anything else that came to mind as you went through this list.

DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK 2

Life of Jesus



Day 1 - Jesus Enters the Battle

The coming of Jesus Christ was the invasion of the kingdom of Satan by the kingdom of God in the person of the true King. His incarnation was an infiltration, a landing behind enemy lines. The enemy mustered all the opposition it could to stop Him. He came to rescue mankind which had been held captive in sin since the time of Adam and Eve. He provided the only way man could get out of bondage. Jesus came to end Satan's undisputed rule (Matthew 12:28-29). Darkness fought against the Light, but praise God the light was greater (John 1:5; 3:19; 8:12)!

Jesus' birth was truly an infiltration of enemy-occupied territory, a landing behind the lines of a baby who would change everything. While the accounts of Jesus' birth speak of a quiet, peaceful event, reading between the lines shows there was much conflict involved both in heaven and on earth. The news of Mary's pregnancy before the consummation of her marriage with Joseph clearly led to community rejection. Strong opposition to Jesus' coming is seen in the fact that there was no comfortable place to stay in Bethlehem, the religious leaders failed to come see the baby even though they knew when and where He was born (Matthew 2:1-7), and Herod's attempted to kill Him (Matthew 2:16).

There were others who were very willing to recognize this baby as God Himself come to earth. God affirmed Jesus' deity through the words of Gabriel to Mary, Joseph and the shepherds. Each of them believed. Simeon and Anna in the temple knew who He was, and the Magi from the east were clear confirmations that God had come to earth in the form of a baby (Matthew 1:18-2:12).

However most people, including the religious rulers, rejected Him. Some of those who did follow Him traveled with Him to watch and learn each day. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John record these events. They are not just history lessons; they are practical examples of how we are to win the battles in our lives.

We, too, fight behind enemy lines. Jesus may be gone, but we remain to infiltrate enemy territory. We draw their fire. We face their attacks. That's why God gave us the Bible as our training manual and the life of Jesus as our practical example. The following series of blogs will draw lessons in spiritual warfare from the life of Jesus.

"All the battles of Israel, if they could have seen it, were not their battles, they were the battles of the Lord. They were involved because they were His people. This is God's battle, we are given the privilege of being in it and of fighting as individual soldiers, but God's honor is involved in it all. He cannot allow this to fall because His character, His glory, and His honor are involved at every point. Be strong in the Lord, remember that He is there, and that it is His battle." D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Day 2 - Jesus Frees A Captive 1

While Satan continued to harass Jesus after the wilderness temptations, especially through his demons, no direct overt attack is recorded until Jesus is half way through His ministry, about a year and a half after Jesus' baptism and temptation.

Jesus had proclaimed Himself as the Messiah ('Christ') for two years. Some responded but most turned away, following the lead of the religious rulers who completely rejected Jesus and His claims. He did miracles to authenticate His authority and to show His power. If He can heal a body then He can certainly heal a soul as well.

One day Jesus went to Capernaum (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37), His new home and the home of several of His disciples. While teaching in the synagogue on the Sabbath a demonized man cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who You are – the Holy One of God!" (Mark 1:24) Jesus commanded the demon to be quiet and leave the man, which he did after shaking the man and causing a loud shriek to be heard. Naturally, everyone was amazed and word of this soon spread throughout the whole area. With this event the battle between Satan and Jesus moved to a new level.

*LESSON FOR TODAY: The Greek word **δοιμονιζομαι** ("demonizing") refers to one who is heavily impacted by demons. It is used 15 times in the New Testament. The term "demonizing" does not differentiate between possession (demons within) or influence (demons without). God doesn't make that clarification or distinction, and we shouldn't try to make it, either. We don't need to know the exact extent of demonizing, just that it is taking place. The cause is the same, as are the symptoms and so is the cure. In the spiritual realm there are no clear-cut divisions like we try to make (demons 'within' or 'without', etc.). There are, of course, degrees of demonizing depending on the person, the demons involved, the access, and other factors, but it isn't always possible or necessary to pinpoint what is 'without' and what is 'within'.*

Other words the Bible uses for 'demonizing' are "entered in" (as when Satan entered into Judas - John 13:27) and "filled" (Acts 5:5 about Ananias and Saphira, the same word that is used of believers being filled with the Holy Spirit). The common denominator is that the person being demonized usually doesn't separate his own consciousness from the demonic influence. He assumes that the thoughts and feelings the demon feeds him are his own. A person always has a free will to turn to God for help, but when followed these demonic impulses bring one deeper and deeper into bondage. Perhaps demonizing can be better understood by thinking of it as a kind of spiritual hypnotism from within. Hypnotism of any kind is something for God's people to avoid (Psalm 54:4-5; Joshua 1:8; Philippians 4:8).

LESSON FOR TODAY: How many demons were involved in this incident? "What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who You are – the Holy One of God!" Usually there is more than one demon involved when someone is demonized, there is a structured organization. Satan organizes his demons in the same manner God has angels organized - in a military-like structure. These are similar to generals, colonels, majors, lieutenants, sergeants, corporals, privates, etc. (Ephesians 6:12). Usually a "strong man" (or ruler) is assigned to a task, and he has lesser demons under his command to help in the work (Matthew 12:25-29; Daniel 10:2-6, 12-14). The names of these demons usually refer to their work ("Fear," "Anger," "Lust," "Pride," "Deception," etc.). In this case the ruling demon is the one speaking ("I") for the others who are part of the group working against this man ("us").



Day 3 - Jesus Frees A Captive 2

Since Jesus is our great example in all we do, especially in spiritual warfare, what lessons can we learn from how He delivered the man in the Capernaum synagogue (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37).

LESSON FOR TODAY: It is not coincidental that it was Jesus' presence and teaching that caused the demon to react (see also Mark 5:39). When Jesus is lifted up and His Word communicated, demons who are present will be affected for they can't stand to hear these things. Correct teaching of God's Word is essential for a church or individual to grow spiritually. Don't be surprised when it stirs up opposition against a person, family or church. Satan will do what he can to silence it, to keep the light from shining in his kingdom of darkness.

LESSON FOR TODAY: The first occasion of an act or event in the Bible often sets the prototype for others to come, and that is true of this first deliverance in the Caernaum synagogue. The exact methods used by Jesus to cast out spirits are mentioned in only five specific cases and in only one generalized case (which appears first on the following list):

Matt 8:16: "he cast out the spirits with a word."

Matt 15:28: "Then Jesus answered her, 'O woman, great is your faith! Be it done for you as you desire.' And her daughter was healed instantly."

Mark 1:25: "But Jesus rebuked him, saying, 'Be silent, and come out of him!'"

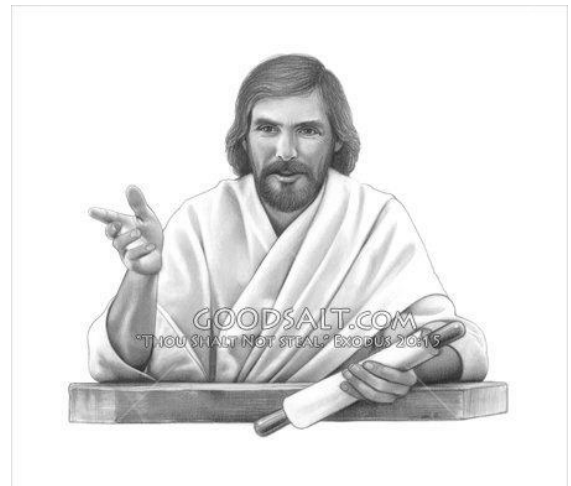
Mark 5:8: "For he had said to him, 'Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!'"

Mark 9:25: "He rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, 'You dumb and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again.'"

Luke 13:12-13: "He called her and said to her, 'Woman, you are freed from your infirmity.' And he laid his hands upon her"

So generally speaking, it is true to say that Jesus cast out the spirits "with a word." This refers to a short sentence or phrase according to the five examples given above, and not to some singular word. And what was that "phrase?" According to the above examples it was: "Be it done," "Come out (3 times)" and "You are freed." Jesus cast out spirits by a verbal command. In three of these cases, the command was, "Come out" (exerchomai ek), which is an adjuration. In the remaining case[s] it was, "Be it done," [and "You are freed,"] which are decrees of accomplishment. In two of these cases, He accompanied the verbal command with a verbal "rebuke." This rebuke was once stated as being, "Be silent." Hence, the commands used by Jesus contained variety, being tailored to fit the occasion or the subject. He used no rigid formula, no incantations, no rituals, no charms, etc. as did Hebrew exorcists. There are no special prayers, no 'magic' words or phrases to use or pray, no set way of "doing deliverance." Each situation is different, but all include the believer using Jesus' power and authority to stop the demons' work and to command them to be gone. Be sensitive to God's Spirit when dealing with such things and proceed as you feel Him leading you. Don't expect Him to lead the same as He does others, nor will He always lead you the same way. It's not our words or actions that bring deliverance, it's always and only His power. Just tap into it!

LESSON FOR TODAY: Always forbid the demons to return when you cast them out (Mark 9:25). It's good to forbid any others to replace the ones driven out. Also forbid them to enter anyone else but to go where Jesus sends them. All this must be done in Jesus' name and power. Ask God for wisdom and be sensitive as to how He leads.



Day 4 - Christians Can Be Demonized

Quite often the question comes up concerning believers being demonized. If God is greater and He is in us, how can Satan have any foothold? How wonderful it would be if we were exempt, but while salvation adds a new dimension to us (a new nature) God does not eradicate our old sin nature. Jesus' first recorded encounter with a demonized person was in the Capernaum synagogue (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Demons can impact believers as they do unbelievers. Note that the demonized man was not a pagan who worshipped Satan. He was a faithful Jew who regularly attended synagogue, someone familiar to the people there and whom no one previously had suspected of being demonized. Probably he wasn't aware that the struggles he had in life were caused by demons. This happened at other times as well (Mark 5:39). While we don't know this man's exact spiritual state, this still brings up the question of believers being demonized. While there is general agreement that unbelievers can be demonized, some don't believe that can happen to believers because believers belong to Jesus. That is true, but demonizing doesn't imply ownership, just influence.

As long as we are in this body we still have a sin nature, a capacity to sin just the same as we did before salvation. Salvation creates a new spiritual nature within us. But the old capacity to sin still remains. It is in this area, this sin nature, this capacity to sin, that demons work. Salvation does not remove our capacity to sin (sin nature) but gives us a new nature so we don't have to sin but can live in obedience to God. Believers can still sin after salvation as they did before. It is in this area of our 'flesh' or sin nature that demons work. Our new nature is greater but doesn't take away our free will choice to still function in our sin nature. Paul's struggle as recorded in Romans 7 describes this well.

The Bible makes no distinction between believers and unbelievers as far as demonizing is concerned. In fact, the Bible refers to many believers who were demonized: Paul's thorn in the flesh was a demon (II Corinthians 12:7), King Saul was a believer (I Samuel 11:6) and was obviously demonized (I Samuel 16:14-23), David was motivated by Satan to take a census of the people (I Chronicles 21:1ff; II Samuel 24:1ff), Ananias and Saphira were believers (Acts 4:32-35) but allowed Satan to "fill" them (Acts 5:3), and Peter was Satan's spokesman in tempting Jesus to not go to the cross (Matthew 16:23). Paul warns believers to not give Satan a "foothold" in their life (Ephesians 4:26-27), showing such a thing is possible. Jesus Himself called deliverance "the children's bread" (Matthew 15:22-28), meaning it was for His children. A Christian can receive another spirit (II Corinthians 11:2-4) and there are other examples of believers being demonized (Luke 13:10-16; I Corinthians 5:4-5). Christians are warned to guard against this (I Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 6:10-18).



A believer belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan cannot own him as he did before salvation (I John 4:4), but he can still influence him, "demonize" him. When the words 'possessed' or 'oppressed' are used, then the question is asked if a believer can be 'possessed.' To answer that then 'possessed' must be defined. The Bible simply does not define it, nor does it even talk about 'possession' – just 'demonizing' which means being influenced by a demon.

A Christian has every right and resource to be free from this demonizing, however. Property which you own can be trespassed on by another person, but you have every right and resource to put him off your property. You just need to learn how to do it. That's what spiritual warfare is all about.

Day 5 - How to Be Free From Demonizing

When Jesus delivered people from demonic influence or control, He always did it verbally. Only once did He ever allow a demon to speak. The only time Jesus ever talked to a demon was before He delivered the demonized men in the graveyard at Gadarenes (Mark 5:1-20; Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-37). He asked him his name, which was 'Legion' meaning about 5,000 or 6,000 soldiers, signifying the number of demons influencing this man. Jesus wanted everyone to see how great His power was by how many demons He could defeat at one time. The only other thing they said was a request to go into the pigs. Jesus had commanded them to leave and, while they stalled as long as they could, they knew they couldn't resist His command.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Jesus had to command the demons to come out over and over (Mark 5:8, continual present tense in the Greek, "kept saying over and over").. They were very resistant to leaving, even when Jesus commanded them. This is the only time that happened for every other time they left immediately (Matthew 8:16). Some demons have such a strong hold on their host that it takes persistent warfare to remove them (Mark 9:29).

The end of the story has a happy ending: "When they came to Jesus they saw the man who had been demonized by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind" (Mark 5:15). Today we talk about chemical imbalances, emotional disorders and bipolar tendencies. We prescribe various kinds of medicines. When Jesus faced people with these symptoms, He cast out the demons and immediately they were total freed and completely normal and mentally healthy



LESSON FOR TODAY: When Jesus cast demons out of someone or forgave them He, in some manner or way, told them to not sin any more (John 8:11). It was sin that led to the bondage and demonizing in the first place. The sin must be confessed (admitted to as sin, I John 1:9) in order for the demons to no longer be able to claim it and stay.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Here is a prayer you can use if you sense any demonic activity against yourself. You can change the words and use them for others. It is only an example. There is no one right way to pray or say things. Adapt and use this however you would like:

"Dear Jesus, I thank you for the salvation you give me in Jesus. I know You are greater than Satan and His demons. I know You have power and authority over them. I know You have given us that power & authority in Jesus' name. In Jesus name I forbid any demons to work against me or my family or my church. In Jesus name I close the door to any reason they think they can work against me. If I have committed any sin that they use to work against me I put it under the blood of Jesus. In Jesus' name I forbid them to work and command them to be gone. In Jesus' name I break any claim that comes down through my family line. I am a new creation in God's family. I forbid any claim against me through my name or family line. In Jesus' name I dedicate the land where my home and church are to God. In Jesus' name I break any claim demons may make through those places. I ask for Your presence only to fill and use those places. In Jesus' name I break any curses any one has made against me, my family or my church. Jesus has taken all my curse on the cross. His power has broken any power of the enemy against me. So in Jesus' name I forbid any demons to work against me or my family or my church. I commit myself and my family and my church to God only. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Surround me with Your angels. Use me for Your glory. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen"

Day 6 – When Deliverance Fails

Shortly after the event with the Gentile girl there was a situation with a Jewish boy that is also recorded (Matthew 17:14-19; Luke 9:37-45; Mark 9:14-29). A young boy was demonized to the extent he would have a seizure, foam at the mouth, gnash his teeth and then become rigid. This has been happening since childhood. The demons also caused him to try to kill himself by throwing himself into fire or water. Evidently the boy was deaf and mute as well – all work of the demons influencing him. We saw previously how demons bring death and destruction, and this is another example of that (see Mark 5:5; 1 Kings 18:28). Jesus was disappointed that the Jews didn't have enough faith in God to have victory over these demons. Even his own disciples were unable to drive them out. Jesus said it would have been possible for them to have driven the demons out if they believed. Jesus commanded the demons to leave and never return and they obeyed! They had no choice but to obey Him. When the disciples asked why they weren't able to drive the demons out Jesus said "this kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29).

LESSON FOR TODAY: It takes faith in God, that He is greater and able to deliver, to have successful prayer for deliverance. Satan and his demons use fear as a big weapon to undermine our faith. If we don't firmly believe that God is greater than they and totally able to defeat them we will never see victory through our prayers. Only prayer brings deliverance, no other rituals, public ceremonies, emotional activities or anything else – only prayer in faith. That is because prayer taps into God's power and that is what brings victory. It's not the prayer that does it, but the God to Whom we pray!

LESSON FOR TODAY: Learn from your failures, for you will have them. The disciples had been living and traveling with Jesus all day every day for over a year and had been trained by Him to do this. They had great success in spiritual warfare in the past (Luke 10:1, 17-18) but not now. Jesus uses this to teach them. Don't fear failure – try your best and learn from any mistakes you may make. Trying and failing is not nearly as bad as not trying at all.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Jesus explained their failure to use their authority and power to command the demons to be gone by saying "This kind can come out only by prayer" (Mark 9:29). "This kind" clearly implies there are various kinds of demonic strongholds and some are easier to break than others. The demons who controlled this boy, causing him to be mute and deaf, have seizures and try to kill himself, were strongly entrenched and took 'prayer' to remove them. Jesus didn't elaborate, but evidently the disciples understood. Perhaps they were trying to have victory in their own strength instead of God's strength, trying to command the demons on their own instead of through God's power and authority.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Epilepsy, in fact any kind of seizures, cannot always be proven to be demonic, but that possibility should always be considered when praying for them. When Jesus confronted someone having seizures He always cast out demons and they were healed (Matthew 4:24; 17:15; Luke 9:38; 22:54; Mark 9:18). As we see in this account, demons who work in this way usually have a strong foothold and aren't easily removed, but with God's power and authority we can defeat them in Jesus' name.

LESSON FOR TODAY: What about when deliverance is slow or not at all? Remember sometimes God has a greater purpose than casting out every demon as soon as we pray. Sometimes there is delay. Even Jesus had times when He had to persevere for awhile (Luke 8:31 Greek). Usually deliverance is a process. It's like peeling the layers off an onion. As new sin is revealed and removed, more ground is taken back from Satan's forces. This gradual process allows the person to better fill the ground which has been reclaimed with God's Holy Spirit and gives him time to grow spiritually (Psalm 59:11; 119:50,67,71) before the next 'layer' is removed.

That's why the Jews under Joshua only conquered the Promised Land bit by bit instead of all at once. If they would have driven out all the Canaanites immediately then lions and other wild animals would have increased and done harm to the people. In addition, there is a learning process involved that can be used to help others (II Corinthians 1:3-4).

Other times complete deliverance never comes. Paul's thorn in the flesh is an example (II Corinthians 12:7). Paul testifies God then provides the grace needed to withstand. God wants us to learn to depend on Him (Psalm 119:59,92). Of course if the opening is allowed to continue then the demonizing will continue, too (Psalm 94:12-16; 81:11-14).

Day 7 - Lessons from Jesus

Jesus is our **example** in how to have victory over Satan and his demons. At the start of His ministry He cast out many demons (Matthew 4:23-24; Mark 1:39,34). In the Gadarenes He cast demons out of two men (Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-17; Luke 8:20). He cast demons out of the daughter of a Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21 Mark 7:20), and cured a demonized man (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-36). He healed a boy with seizures and demons (Matthew 17:14-20). He cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene as well as out of other women followers (Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9).



LESSON FOR TODAY: Jesus is our example in delivering people from demonizing. Before casting them out He rebuked them (took their power away) (Matthew 17:18; Luke 9:42). Then He "drove" them out (Mark 1:39). He did it verbally (Matthew 8:16), not by a certain ritualistic procedure. He didn't let the demons speak (Mark 1:34; Luke 4:41), except Legion, and that was just to give his name so others would know what was happening (Mark 5:9). He never let them say who He was (Mark 1:25; Luke 4:35; Mark 3:11-12). He told them to "be quiet and come out" (Luke 4:35; Mark 1:25). Other times He told them to "go" (Matthew 8:32). Sometimes He was quite far from the person whom He was delivering (Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30). When He cast them out He forbid them to ever return again (Mark 9:25).

During a time of ministry the disciples happened upon someone driving out demons in Jesus' name but not doing it the way they did. Jesus said to not stop them because anyone who is not against them is for them (Mark 9:38-40; Luke 9:49-50).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Deliverance is done many different ways today. We are to seek God's wisdom and will in how we are to approach this ministry, patterning what we do after Jesus and the disciples as revealed in His Word. Yet when confronted with someone who doesn't share our practices we aren't to judge or withdraw fellowship from those whose methods differ from ours. We don't have to agree or support them, but neither are we to criticize or try to oppose them. Make sure they know Jesus as Savior for it is possible to be able to drive out demons in Jesus name without being a believer (Matthew 7:22).

The King of Kings and Lord of Lords invaded the kingdom of Satan, but He did it in the form of a man. His first coming brought out all the opposition the enemy could muster against Him. He came to rescue mankind from the consequences of sin. The darkness opposed Him but He was victorious (John 1:5; 3:19; 8:12).

Satan and his demons are defeated, and Jesus shares that victory with us. However until Jesus comes for the second time and Satan and all demons are removed, the battle continues. Satan can no longer attack Jesus directly, so he takes his fury out on God's people – Jews (because they are God's chosen people) and Christians (because we are children of God). However we can have victory because we fight a defeated foe! But we must learn spiritual warfare to do so.

2. INVISION! **(Life of Jesus)**

Rev. Dr. Jerry Schmoyer – jerry@schmoyer.net - © 2013

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 10:18-19 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

A. BIRTH OF JESUS Jesus arrives

1. 400 SILENT YEARS



2. JESUS' BIRTH (Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2)

43

B. JESUS GOES PUBLIC

1. JESUS' BAPTISM (Matthew 3:1-17) Public Commitment

Called '_____ of God 2x by John (Jn 1:29, 36)

2. JESUS' TEMPTATION (Matthew 4:1-11) TEMPTATION

So important sought God's direction and guidance

GROUP ASSIGNMENT:

Read Matthew 4:1-11

4 Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.'" 7 Jesus answered him, "It is also written: 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 "All this I will give you," he said, "if you will bow down and worship me." 10 Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

List some lessons about temptation and how to overcome it:

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6



FIRST TEMPTATION – _____ needs,
 stones to bread to eat
Sin is using an illegitimate way to meet a legitimate need
Beware of entitlement mentality, assuming every need you have must be met
Victory only comes by quoting Scripture (Eph 6:17; Ps 119:9-11; Heb 4:12)

SECOND TEMPTATION – appeal to _____, public recognition, throw self down
Pride is behind Satan’s sin (Isa 14:13-14) and most of ours (1 Tim 3:6)
Humility brings blessing (James 4:10; 1 Pt 5:6)

THIRD TEMPTATION – final desperation, offered _____ of world if bow to Satan
Satan offers people everything they want with condition, follow his system

After third failure, Satan left until another ‘_____ time’ (Lk 4:13)
Lull in demonic attack, await good opportunity, comes in cycles
Angels came and ministered to Jesus (Mt 4:11) Angels present to minister to us as well

	LUST OF THE FLESH	LUST OF THE EYES	PRIDE OF LIFE
	Body	Soul	Spirit
	Physical (lust) Flesh	Material (see) Things	Ego (self-centered) Pride
Eve Gen 3:6	The woman saw that it was good for food 3:6a	And that it was a delight to the eyes Gen. 3:6b	And was desirable to make one wise Gen. 3:6c
Jesus Mt 4:1-11	Jesus tempted to turn stones into bread	Jesus tempted to throw Himself off temple	Jesus shown all the kingdoms of the world
Us I John 2:15-17	Animal appetites, cravings, passions	Selfishness, self-interest	Self-promotion, self-exaltation
Examples	Eating too much or wrong food, sex outside marriage	Doubt, try to get God to prove He will keep His word	Run own life, New Age
Sin	Try to meet legitimate phy need by acting independent of God	Desire what world has to offer above our relationship with God	Not trust God to be god in our life.
Draws us away from	WILL of God Gal 5:16f	WORD of God Mt 16:24f	WORSHIP of God I Pt 5:5-11
Destroys our	Dependence upon God Jn. 15:5	Confidence in God Jn. 15:7	Obedience to God Jn. 15:8-10

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

1. 100% _____
2. Pray for _____
3. Filled with _____
4. Know, Quote _____

LESSONS

When Jesus was tempted He quoted Scripture to have victory over Satan's temptations.

Being tempted to sin does not mean we are out of God's will or not following

Satan attacks immediately after commitment made, esp public commitment

Battle part of God's perfect will for Jesus, led there by Holy Spirit (Mt 4:1)

Sometimes God leads us into desert places, where Satan's strongholds are Mt 4:1

We can have victory through God's power, just like Jesus did

Fasting is a useful tool in spiritual warfare



FASTING

I. WHAT IS FASTING? Voluntary abstinence from any legitimate pursuit for _____ reasons

II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF FASTING? NOT legalism, spiritual pride

A. WE FAST TO GROW CLOSER TO GOD He is #1 desire

1. Fasting increases our sense of _____ and dependence upon God
2. Fasting increases the amount of time we spend in _____
3. Fasting reminds us that we must put Christ _____ in everything.
4. Fasting is a good exercise in _____. (if give in to lusts, etc)
5. Fasting raises the level of our spiritual _____.

B. WE FAST TO STRENGTHEN OUR PRAYERS. It humbles us (Ezra 8:21-23)

C. WE FAST TO EXPRESS GRIEF AND REPENTANCE. Esth 3:8-11; 4:3 Jonah 3:5-10,

D. WE FAST TO ENHANCE WORSHIP God focus Anna (Lk 2:37) Antioch (Acts 13:2)

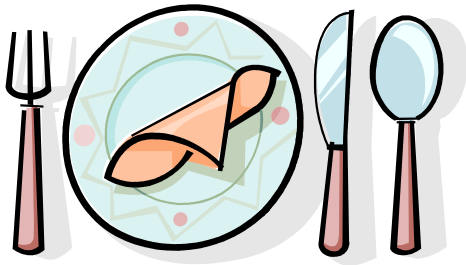
E. WE FAST TO SEEK GOD'S GUIDANCE. Jesus in wilderness,
Paul after conversion Act6s 9:6-9; Nehemiah 1, Antioch @ 1MJ Acts 13:1-3

F. WE FAST TO RECEIVE DELIVERANCE IN CRISIS 2Chron 20 Dan 9 Neh 1

III. WHAT FASTING DOESN'T DO?

1. Fasting does not inspire or provoke _____ to love you. (He can't Mal 3:17)
2. Fasting doesn't make God _____ you any more. (He can't Zeph 3:17)
3. Fasting isn't a get rich quick scheme to _____. – already holy
4. We don't fast so that God would _____ us – not punish self
5. Fasting is not a substitute for _____.

IV. WHAT ARE THE INSTRUCTIONS FOR FASTING?



A. TYPES OF FASTS

1. Food.
2. Sexual relations. (1 Cor 7:5)
3. Media (TV, music, newspapers)
4. Certain forms of entertainment (internet, video games, movies)
5. Opposite sex (if not married)
6. Anything hindering your walk with God (Heb 12:1)

B. HOW OFTEN? “_____” you fast... Mt 6:16 Mt 9:15

C. HOW LONG?

1. Partial fast.
 - a) Water Only Fast – Jonathan 1 Sam 20:34 (always drink a lot with fast)
 - b) Partial - Daniel 10:3 no meat or wine, no lotion
 - c) Juice Fast
 - d) Sundown fast
2. Absolute fast.
3. Corporate fasts. Day of Atonement (Lev 23:37), national crisis (2Chron 20:1-4)

FASTING: WHAT IS IT?

This will be a fast blog. That doesn't mean it will be short, but that it is about fasting. I know this isn't the most popular subject around today, but it is something God has put on my heart about which to blog so here goes.

As we begin it's important to define what we are talking about. Fasting usually makes us think of going without food, but fasting is a voluntary abstinence from any legitimate pursuit for spiritual reasons. Notice it must be voluntary, not induced by health constraints. It must be from a legitimate pursuit, not something sinful or out of bounds for a Christian anyway. And it must be given up for spiritual reasons, not dietary or medical reasons.

While fasting usually refers to abstinence from food, it isn't limited to that. I Corinthians 7:5 refers to abstinence from sex in marriage for a short period of time in order to focus more exclusively on prayer. It must be done with the agreement of both husband and wife.

Today we can often benefit from voluntary abstinence from other 'lusts' as well. For example, fasting from shopping (except grocery shopping) for a time can help focus our spiritual lives and teach self control.

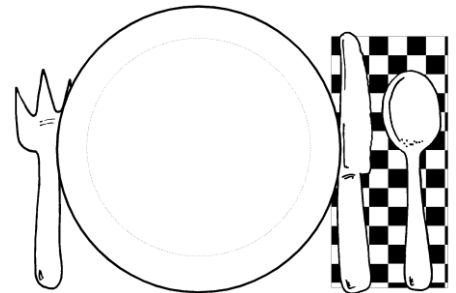
Fasting from the media (TV, cable, radio, magazines, newspapers, etc.) can give us more time to use for spiritual pursuits like Bible study and prayer. When I am in India for a month I lose all contact with the western world and its news media. The first time there I couldn't even find out who won the Super Bowl! I found, though, that life goes on the same if I read about it or not. There is nothing wrong with keeping up with the news, but when we want to find extra time and focus for spiritual things then a media fast might be just the thing.

The same effect can be found by fasting from forms of entertainment like the internet, video games or movies. Anything that seems to have too high a place in life, anything that competes with

God for your time or love can be the object of a fast. Hebrews 12:1 “ Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles...”

In her book, "A Closer Walk", Catherine Marshall writes: "One morning last week He gave me an assignment: for one day I was to go on a fast from criticism. I was not to criticize anybody about anything. "For the first half of the day, I simply felt a void, almost as if I had been wiped out as a person. This was especially true at lunch...I listened to the others and kept silent...In our talkative family no one seemed to notice. Bemused, I noticed that my comments were not missed. The federal government, the judicial system, and the institutional church could apparently get along fine without my penetrating observations. But still I didn't see what this fast on criticism was accomplishing - until mid-afternoon. "That afternoon, a specific, positive vision for this life was dropped into my mind with God's unmistakable hallmark on it - joy! Ideas began to flow in a way I had not experienced in years. Now it was apparent what the Lord wanted me to see. My critical nature had not corrected a single one of the multitudinous things I found fault with. What it had done was to stifle my own creativity."

Fasting isn't just about food. What would God have you take a temporary break from in order to grow spiritually? What legitimate pursuit should you have a temporary abstinence from in order to grow spiritually?



FASTING: WHY DO IT? 1

Many years ago we went camping at a gospel concert. I wanted to put up a tarp over the door of our VW pop-up camper. I had the tarp, poles, tent pegs and rope. What I didn't have was a hammer to secure the pegs into the hard ground. I tried using my shoe but have very limited success. A kindly neighbor saw my predicament and gave me his hammer to use. How much different it is when we have the right tool to do a job!

Likewise God gives us spiritual tools to help us through our journey of life on this earth. They are only good for earth, but they are absolutely essential to obtain all God has for us in this life. If we don't have a full tool box we won't be able to be and do all He wants. Our tools include such things as prayer, praise, fellowship with others, Bible study and memory, confession of sin and fasting. Each tool has its own function and must be used just for that purpose.

So what is the purpose of fasting? Lets start by looking at what fasting is NOT. It is not a means to draw attention to ourselves. Matthew 6:16-18 "When you fast, do not look somber as the hypocrites do, for they disfigure their faces to show men they are fasting. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. 17 But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, 18 so that it will not be obvious to men that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen; and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Neither is it a way to earn approval from God. God isn't impressed by what we do but why we do it. Isaiah 58:3-4 'Why have we fasted,' they say, 'and you have not seen it? Why have we humbled ourselves, and you have not noticed?' "Yet on the day of your fasting, you do as you please and exploit all your workers. Your fasting ends in quarreling and strife, and in striking each other with wicked fists. You cannot fast as you do today and expect your voice to be heard on high.

The biggest dangers in fasting are legalism and pride. They are to be avoided at all costs. Instead fasting is to be seen as something that "hoists the sails of the soul in the hopes of experiencing the gracious wind of God's Spirit." It doesn't guarantee spiritual blessing, but it often puts us in position to experience it as God moves.

One important reason to use the tool of fasting is to draw closer to God. Fasting enables the believer to feast on God. You “eat the Lord” – CRAVING, desiring him, wanting him, receiving him, enjoying him. God is the most desirable being in the whole universe. He is good, merciful, compassionate, forgiving, saving, restoring, healing, providing, strengthening, rebuilding, renewing, reversing our fortune from horrible to the best, fun, creative, wonderful, incredibly amazing, awesome, great to be with, life, joy, peace. Every time your stomach growls, you are reminded how hungry you are for God. Every time food-thoughts attack your mind; you are reminded of God-thoughts. I am hungry, but I am hungrier for you. I love the taste of food; but your love taste better. I prefer you Lord over anything . - we sometimes settle for “a bit of God.”

If you desire to draw closer to God but have been having a hard time doing so, get out the tool of fasting and apply it to the situation. You’ll be amazed how well the right tool can get the job done!



FASTING: WHY DO IT? 2

Fasting has often been used by God’s people when there is a special urgency about the concerns they lift to the Father.

This was Ezra’s motivation as he was about to lead a group of exiles back to Jerusalem. The result was that God heard and granted his requests and brought success to his mission. Ezra 8:21-23 There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions.” ... So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.

Of course, this is not to say that if we fast God is required to do as we ask. Fasting is not and never has been a way of pressuring God into giving us something. It is a way of giving ourselves fully to God so that we can say with confidence: “Thy will be done.”

For others, fasting can be a way to express to God the depth of what we’re feeling. You may remember that when Haman convinced King Xerxes to permit him to eliminate the Jews in the book of Esther, this was the response of God’s people to the news (See Esther 3:8-11; 4:3). They even went so far as to cover themselves with sackcloth and ashes, a sign of great lamentation.

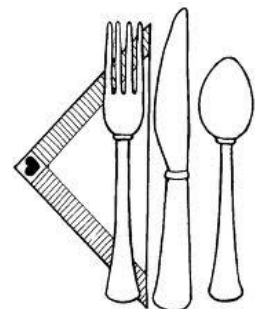
For others, fasting is a way to demonstrate just how serious we are about repenting of our sin. This is what the Jews sometimes did when they repented and turned back to God (see 1 Samuel 7:3-6). Nineveh, too, fasted to show repentance for sin (Jonah 3:5-10). So did Paul after seeing Jesus on the road to Damascus (Acts 9).

Still another reason for fasting can be to enhance worship. The prophetess Anna never left the temple we are told (See Luke 2:37) but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. The church at Antioch saw a unique relationship between the two as well (See Acts 13:2).

J. I Packer provides additional insight...“When friends need to be together,” he says, “they will cancel all other activities in order to make that possible. There’s nothing magical about fasting. It’s just one way of telling God that your priority at that moment is to be alone with him...”

Fasting is not just an exercise in self-denial but rather a re-investment of time and energy into time spent with the Lord in either prayer or Bible Study. The bottom line is that fasting ENRICHES our time spent with the Lord. If you find your worship experience to be somewhat hollow and empty, perhaps you need to fast as the saints in Antioch did.

Some fast to help them find guidance and direction from God. Paul did that after his salvation experience (Acts 9). Later in his ministry, Paul (and Barnabas) did not dare to appoint elders without praying and fasting over



the matter. Nehemiah fasted to receive God's direction and wisdom about the situation in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 1). The early church fasted before sending out missionaries (Acts 13:1-3; 14:23).

Also, we can fast to help receive deliverance in times of crisis. Jehoshaphat proclaimed a fast when the Moabites and Ammonites attacked (2 Chronicles 20). Our own Declaration of Independence came about after a day of fasting and prayer was observed. During the Civil War Abraham Lincoln proclaimed times of prayer and fasting.

FASTING: WHAT DOES IT ACCOMPLISH?

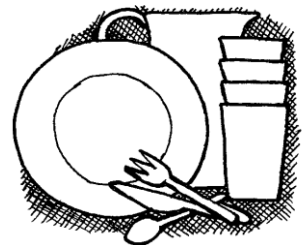
In a culture where the landscape is dotted with shrines to the Golden Arches and an assortment of Pizza Temples, fasting seems out of place and out of step with the times. It doesn't get much attention among Christians today, but it is an important tool in our tool-box of weapons which God provides to enable us to live a victorious and abundant Christian life. Because we don't use this tool we miss many benefits which it can bring. Using the right tool for the right job is crucial. Fasting is a tool we must better learn to use.

First lets eliminate some things fasting DOESN'T do. It doesn't inspire or provoke God to love us more – He can't possibly love us any more than He does (Malachi 3:17) and it is unconditional love which has nothing to do with what we do or don't do. Neither does fasting make God enjoy us more for He already totally delights in us (Zeph. 3:17).

Remember that fasting isn't a get rich quick scheme to become instantly holy. God has already made us holy and blameless through Christ's finished work on the Cross. We don't fast to get more of God but that we would experience, in a more profound way, the reality of God's presence in our lives. Likewise, we don't fast for God to forgive us. That comes with confession and isn't based on anything we do or don't do.

Also, fasting is not a substitute for forgiveness. Some people fast as penance... as though their fasting will somehow balance out their disobedience. Sometimes, when a believer isn't walking closely with the Lord, when the inward reality of their faith has begun to fade, they will retreat to the outward forms of the faith such as fasting. I suppose this makes sense... there is nothing on the inside, so they attempt to adorn their outside with religious garb. It doesn't work. The bottom-line in all of this is that whenever we embrace a spiritual discipline in order to get God to love, enjoy, or forgive us, we have gotten ourselves into legalism.

Do you get the picture? We don't fast to get God to set His heart towards us... but rather because God has already set His heart toward us and we are so secure in our weakness and the grace of God that we want to experience His grace more deeply. Because He is so indescribably lovely, we want to give ourselves over to Him more fully.



So what benefits do come from fasting? For one thing, fasting increases our sense of humility and dependence on God. It accomplishes this by showing us just how little strength we actually possess and how much we need the Lord (See Philippians 4:13). It helps us be broken in His presence so He can fill and use us for His glory.

In a practical way, fasting increases the amount of time we spend in prayer. Instead of eating or being involved in whatever activity it is we are turning from we have extra time to devote to prayer and Bible study. Try combining prayer and Bible study by praying through Bible passages as you read them. Make a list of others you can pray for. God's Spirit will put names in your mind and prompt you as to how to pray for them.

Another result of fasting is that it reminds us that we must put Christ first in everything. Additionally, it is a good exercise in self-discipline. It strengthens us to be able to refrain from other things such as sinful temptations as we learn to control our appetites and lusts. Food is our greatest legitimate need after breathing, so learning to deny that drive helps us have victory over other drives which are sinful. This is especially true of learning to gain victory over lust for food, immorality or things. As athletes train their bodies for physical contests, fasting trains our spirits for spiritual battles.

Such a fast is called for in situations where you or I face a sin that constantly ensnares us. If we are willing to pay the price of fasting and praying, we can know deliverance from that sin, and the joy that follows! A decision to fast in such a situation demonstrates to God that we are truly serious about our repentance, that we sincerely long for new life in that area, and that we are willing to pay any price to have victory over the sin.

FASTING: HOW DO I DO IT?

Did you know that there is more in the Bible about fasting than repentance and confession? Jesus taught more about fasting than He did about baptism or the observance of the Lord's Supper. He fasted, as did Moses, David, Elijah, Esther, Daniel, Paul and many others.



Fasting is expected by Christ. In Matthew 6:16 He says, "When you fast..." not "if you fast," implying that it is something He expects us to do. Similarly, in Matthew 9:15, Jesus told the disciples of John that it was not necessary to fast while the bridegroom was with them. Rather, the time to fast was when he was no longer around. Obviously, Jesus was referring to Himself as the bridegroom and the historical record shows that when He ascended to the Father, the church embraced the discipline of fasting (See Acts 13:2; 14:23).

Here's a simple rule that I hope will serve us well. **WE SHOULD FAST AS OFTEN AS WE FEEL IT IS NECESSARY (TO STRENGTHEN OUR PRAYER, EXPRESS GRIEF AND REPENTANCE, TO ENHANCE OUR WORSHIP OR TO SEEK GOD'S GUIDANCE).**

Then how long should we fast? A fast can last for a portion of a day or it can last for weeks. That is really up to you and how you believe the Lord is leading in the matter. My advice is that you don't jump into a prolonged fast from food, but gradually increase the duration allowing your body to adjust to a lack of nourishment. You can begin with a partial fast. For example, for 3 weeks Daniel fasted by eating no meat or drinking any wine (Daniel 10:3). He also refrained from the comfort of applying lotion to his body.

When you do fast from all foods, it is advisable to drink fruit juices if you are going on a fast of more than a few days. Dr. Bill Bright, co-chair of Fasting & Prayer '98, personally practices and recommends water and juice fasting, especially if you are going to fast for an extended period of time. This type of fast will provide you with more energy than absolute or water only fasts and still lead you into the humbling experience of denying your desire for solid food that you can chew. This is the type of fast the will be encouraged at Fasting & Prayer '98.

Or you can fast for a certain period of a day, like sunrise to sunset. Remember, though, when you do fast for a certain portion of a day that when you do eat you eat no more than you normally would. Don't try to make up for food missed.

The best way to learn the spiritual benefits of fasting as well as how to fast is to fast. Is there something God wants to do in your life that you have yet to see happen? Perhaps fasting is the missing element.

C. SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN JESUS' MINISTRY

1. JESUS' FIRST DELIVERANCE (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37)

_____ yrs after temptation after baptism **DEMONIZING, HOW TO DELIVER**
Satan/demons are patient, set up things over time – didn't attack Jesus for 1 ½ yrs

Miracles authenticate His _____ – if can heal body can heal soul

Capernaum synagogue demon cried out through man

“What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who You are – the Holy One of God!” (Mark 1:24)

Jesus commanded demon to be silent and leave, shook man, shrieked, left



'Demonizing' (doimonizomai) *δοιμονιζομαι*
= one who is heavily _____ by demons

(used 15x)

No distinction between _____ (within) and
_____ (without)

CAN A BELIEVER BE DOMONIZED! _____!

Demons can impact believers as they do unbelievers (man was synagogue member)

Demons work in sin nature, new nature separate, free, (Paul in Rom 7)

Paul's thorn in the flesh was a demon (II Corinthians 12:7)

King Saul was a believer (I Samuel 11:6) and demonized (I Samuel 16:14-23), David motivated by Satan to take census (I Chronicles 21:1ff; II Samuel 24:1ff),

Ananias & Saphira believers (Acts 4:32-35) allowed Satan to "fill" them (Acts 5:3), Peter was Satan's spokesman tempting Jesus to not go to cross (Matthew 16:23). Paul warns believers to not give Satan a "foothold" in life (Ephesians 4:26-27), Jesus Himself called deliverance "the children's bread" (Matthew 15:22-28), Christian can receive another spirit (II Corinthians 11:2-4)

other examples of believers being demonized (Luke 13:10-16; I Corinthians 5:4-5).

Christians are warned to guard against this (I Peter 5:8-9; Ephesians 6:10-18).

The demon said **“what do you want with US?”**

more than _____ demon involved - *military like system (Eph 6:12)*

“strong man” or ruler leads demons under him (Mt 12:25-29; Dan 10:2-6, 12-14

Names refer to work ("Fear," "Anger," "Lust," "Pride," "Deception," etc)

NEVER COMMUNICATE WITH DEMONS!

Demons tried to get Jesus into dialogue with them, He _____, **wouldn't talk** to them
Jesus never spoke to demons ('Legion' was to let others know how many there)
Communicating with them makes one a medium (Dt 18:9-13)
They are liars and deceivers (Jn 8:44), can't believe them
Put faith in God only (Dt 4:24), they love to take attention from God
Listen to Holy Spirit (Jn 8:31-32; 1 Cor 12:7-11)
Don't need their info – walk by faith, not sight (2 Cor 5:7)

2. FILLING THE HOUSE (Matthew 12:43-45)

Replace Demons with _____

When demon cast out will return with _____ power if not filled with Spirit (Mt 12:43-45)

Be filled with God's Spirit when demons case out (Gal 5:22-25)

Ask God to fill person with Holy Spirit when He cases demons out

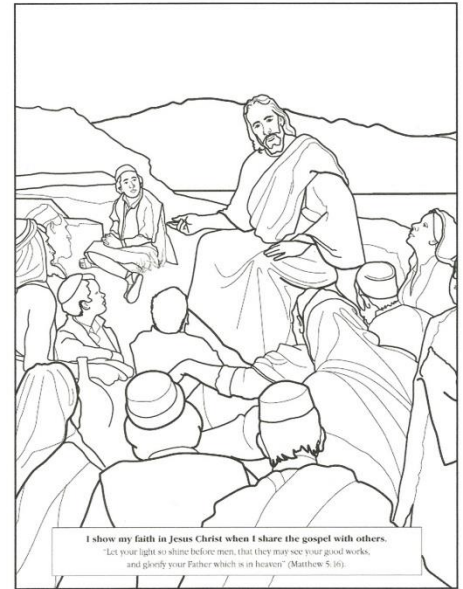
"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it." (Mt12:43)

Demons will return if they can, they certainly will try to do so

Deliverance is more a process than a one-time event

God uses all of it to teach us about Him,

Often like peeling onion – layer at a time



3. SNATCHING TRUTH AWAY (Mk 4:3-34; Mt 13:1-15; Lk 8:4-13)

Jesus _____ through 3 ½ year ministry

Demons snatch truth

Shown Himself as Messiah God by words, miracles, etc. – most reject

Switch in focus – not evangelize all but disciple believers

_____ replace _____ (Mt 13:10-17)

KINGDOM OF HEAVEN PARABLES

God's kingdom start slow, gradually grow until fills all

Parable of sower and seed – "Satan takes away word sown" (Mk 4:15)

Demons can put thoughts into person's mind, snatch thoughts out (Mk 4:15)

David's thought to take census was demonic (I Chron 21:1ff; II Sam 24:1ff).

Ananias & Saphira's greed (Acts 5:3)

Saul's jealousy/anger (I Samuel 16:14-23).

"Bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." II Cor 10:4-5

4. GADARENES DEMONIAK (Mk 5:1-20; Mt 8:28-34; Lk 8:26-37)

6 mo after first deliverance – man in Capernaum synagogue **SYMPTOMS, OPENINGS**

5. POWER & AUTHORITY GIVEN (Lk 9:1; 10:1,17-19)

“power & authority to drive out demons” Lk 9:1 **POWER, AUTHORITY TO US**

“I have given you authority to trample on snakes & scorpions...” Lk 10:1,17-19

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 10:18-19 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.



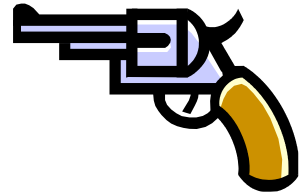
“AUTHORITY” (exousia Gk) 108x in NT, right to use power

Jesus has given us that same authority to use today (Jn 14:12; Mt 28:18-20)

“POWER” (dunamis Gk) 118x NT, power, might, strength, force

Jesus has given us that same power to use today

(Acts 1:8; Lk 10:17, Jn 14:12)



5. DEMONIZING of CHILDREN (Mt 15:21-28; Mk 7:24-30) CHILDREN

Gentile woman asked Jesus to drive demons out of her _____,

strong faith to pursue

Children can be demonized (“daughter” = very young daughter)

Adopted children often readily demonized – generational from parents, rejection

Unwanted pregnancy rejection also allows demons to make claim

Parents are authority figures and can use this to pray for deliverance for children



6. DELIVERANCE FAILURE (Mt 17:14-19; Lk 9:37-45; Mk 9:14-29)

SLOW OR NO DELIVERANCE

Jewish demonized boy seizure, foam, gnash teeth, rigid, self in fire/water, deaf, dumb
Disciples unable to drive demons out – “this kind come out only by prayer” (Mk 9:29)

Takes faith in God for deliverance, pray in faith

Learn from your failures

Forbid demons to return

Some demonic strongholds harder to break than others

Epilepsy, seizures usually demonic – whenever Jesus encountered He cast out demons and person OK (Matthew 4:24; 17:15; Luke 9:38; 22:54; Mark 9:18)

Sometimes deliverance slow

Jesus had to persevere in prayer some times (Lk 8:31)

God concerned about process more than product

Purpose is for us to grow more like Jesus, not quick easy life

*Learn and grow through it – **like peeling layers of onion***

Sometimes deliverance never comes

Paul’s thorn in flesh (2 Cor 12:7) humble Paul, teach God’s grace sufficient

Teach dependence on Him (Psalm 119:59,92)

If God doesn’t remove, He will provide grace to endure – guaranteed!

7. LAYING ON OF HANDS (Luke 13:10-17)

HEALING, LAY ON HANDS

Woman crippled by demon 18 years healed in synagogue when
Jesus laid hands on her

Jesus often lay hands on people when _____ for them
(Luke 4:29; 13:11-23; Mt 8:15)

Early church did this as well

(I Cor 1:14f; 12:4; II Cor 1:21f; James 5:13-16)

*Touch can be a way of bestowing God’s power, presence, identify
with the person*

*Demons hate being touched, painful to them – it breaks down their
power*

*Use touch carefully, make sure you are trusting in God and sensitive
to His leading*

*Be very careful whom you allow to lay hands on you or demons can
transfer thru it*

Anointing with oil pictures Holy Spirit coming to minister (Mark 6:13)



D. SPIRITUAL WARFARE IN JESUS' FINAL WEEK

1. JUDAS IS SATAN-INDWELT (Luke 22:3-4)

Antichrist only other recorded person Satan-indwelt (Rev 13:2, 14-15)

2. DECREES AGAINST SATAN (Jn 12:31; 16:7-11) SATAN DEFEATED



“Now the prince of this world will be driven out”

(John 12:31) – Tearful Entry

Crucifixion and defeat of Satan near, as good as done

“Driven out” (esballoee Gk) same as used of casting demons out of people

“The prince of this world now stands condemned” (John 16:11)

Jesus winning back what Adam lost (Romans 5:12-21)

Satan is a defeated foe!!!

cast out of position in heaven for pride (Ezekiel 28:16; Luke 10:18; Isaiah 14:12).

judgment was pronounced in Eden (Genesis 3:14-15).

defeated by the cross (John 12:31).

cast to the earth in the tribulation (Revelation 9:1; 12:7-12),

bound during the Millennium (Revelation 20:1-3)

into lake of burning sulfur forever (Rev 20:7-10; Isa 27:1; 40:23-24; 2 Thes 2:8).

ASSIGNMENT:

Read Revelation 20:7-10 fill in the blanks

7 When the thousand years are over, _____ will be released from his _____ 8 and will go out to deceive the _____ in the four corners of the _____ — Gog and Magog — to gather them for _____. In number they are like the _____ on the _____. 9 They marched across the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of _____ people, the city He _____. But _____ came down from heaven and _____ them. 10 And the _____, who _____ them, was thrown into the lake of _____, where the _____ and the _____ had been thrown. They will be tormented _____ and _____ for _____ and _____.

3. SATAN DEFEATED ON THE CROSS

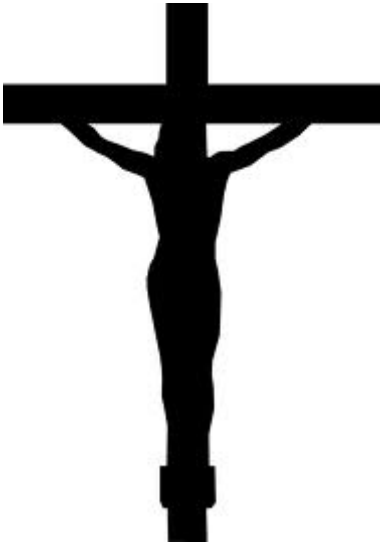
(Heb 2:14-15) VICTORY

“It is finished” (Jn 19:30) – took all Satan/demons could do and won

MEMORY VERSE: Genesis 3:15 I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Battle between god & Satan started in Eden, won on cross
(Heb 2:14-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22)

*Satan and demons defeated foes, final destiny enforced with Jesus
Not still free to work because God allows free will for all
Prophesied in Gen 3:15, now fulfilled- CRUSHED for all eternity!*



4. SATAN DEFEATED BY THE RESURRECTION (Ephesians 4:8)

Freed us from sin & gave us eternal life (Eph 4:8)



CONCLUSION TO THE LIFE OF JESUS JESUS OUR EXAMPLE

Jesus is our example in victory over demonic by casting out demons

start of His ministry He cast out many demons (Matthew 4:23-24; Mark 1:39,34).

In Gadarenes He cast demons out of two men (Mt 8:28-34; Mk 5:1-17; Lk 8:20).

cast demons out of the dau of Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21 Mark 7:20),

cured a demonized man (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-36).

healed a boy with seizures and demons (Matthew 17:14-20).

cast 7 demons out of Mary Magdalene & other women (Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9).

How He did deliverance

Before casting out He rebuked them (took their power away) (Mt 17:18; Lk 9:42).

Then He "drove" them out (Mark 1:39).

He did it verbally (Matthew 8:16), not by a certain ritualistic procedure.

He didn't let the demons speak (Mark 1:34; Luke 4:41),

He never let them say who He was (Mark 1:25; Luke 4:35; Mark 3:11-12).

He told them to "be quiet and come out" (Luke 4:35; Mark 1:25).

Other times He told them to "go" (Matthew 8:32).

Sometimes far from person whom He was delivering (Mt 15:21-28; Mk 7:24-30). When

He cast them out He forbid them to ever return again (Mark 9:25).

CASE STUDY AMY has been called a flirt by several of the girls at school, and that hurts her. She doesn't want to be a flirt, she just wants boys to like her. Is that so wrong? Although she was adopted as a baby, Cindy was named after an aunt who was pretty when she was young. Cindy doesn't want to be like her, though, for she has been married many times because she just can't seem to stay faithful to one husband. Sometimes she wonders why it is so important to her to have others, especially boys, like her. She's afraid to have them get to know her for herself so she feels she has to act a certain way to get their attention. It's like a drive inside of her that she can't resist. Is it a sin or a natural desire? Cindy doesn't know. What would you do or say to help Cindy? How could you use spiritual warfare to help her?

What lessons about temptation and resisting it stand out to you as very important?

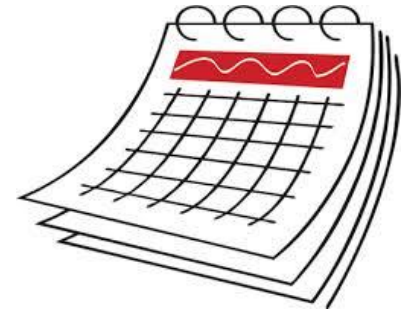
What are some of the benefits of fasting? If anyone has fasted they can share how it impacted them personally.

CASE STUDY MOLLY seems to have been on one diet or another her whole life, but nothing seems to work. When she loses a few pounds she starts feeling stressed about something and can't resist the compulsion to eat sugary treats. Her family doesn't seem to notice or mind – actually her mother and father are all much heavier than her, and her younger sister is starting to catch up as well. The house is always full of snacks, chips and sweets. Seldom do they eat a healthy meal. What scares Molly is that her overweight grandmother and aunt now have diabetes and can hardly walk. It seems all her relatives die quite young. The thought of that happening to her causes more anxiety and it seems eating is the only thing that can make her feel better at the moment, even though she feels awful afterwards. No matter how much she prays and reads the Bible it just doesn't seem God gives her the self discipline to overcome her eating problem. It's as if some other force wants her miserable and dead – and that scares her more. She talked to her youth pastor a couple times but he just says she should try harder to eat less. He gets more impatient each time she brings it up so she stopped talking to him about it. What would you do or say to help Molly? How could you use spiritual warfare to help her?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK 3

Gadarenes Demoniac



Day 1 - Symptoms of Demonizing 1

About six months after Jesus' first recorded deliverance, casting demons out of the man in the synagogue (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37), one of His major confrontations with demons occurred. He was about half way through His three year public ministry. Unlike most of the other occasions, when the demonized person came to Jesus, this time He went to them.

Jesus left the crowds He was ministering to in order to take a boat across the Sea of Galilee. He wanted to go help a man who couldn't come to Him. Satan didn't want Him to go free that man so he sent a storm to sink the boat. Jesus spoke to the storm and got safely to the other side.

When Jesus got there He was met by a man with an evil spirit, actually many demons afflicted this man. Matthew 8:28 says there were two demonized men present, but Mark and Luke only refer to the one who was the spokesman. By looking at the lives these men were living we can see some of the symptoms of demonizing.

Symptom 1: Darkness and death. These men lived in a graveyard, probably in caves in the limestone cliffs by the lake. Dead bodies were placed in these caves to decay, so it was a very unnatural way to live (Mark 5:3, 5; Luke 8:29). God is light and life, but Satan and his demons are all about death and darkness. They are attracted to death and darkness, and bring death and darkness wherever they go.

Symptom 2: Anger and violence. Demons fuel violence and anger, and that characterized these men (Mark 5:3-4; Luke 8:29; Matthew 8:28). They attacked whomever came nearby. Demons love pain and destruction, and they enjoy using humans to bring suffering and misery to others. This can be physical, mental or emotional abuse of any form.

Symptom 3: Out of control. These men didn't have control of their actions (Mark 5:5). They would cry out and continually did evil. Demonizing takes control away from a person and motivates them to do what the demons want them to do.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Demons can never take 100% control of a person's free will, but over time they can build so much influence over a person that the person seems to be unable to resist. No matter what, no matter how strongly a person is controlled by demons, he or she still has a free will to reach out to Jesus. Demons can never take away their free will. That is the key to deliverance, especially for those who are greatly controlled. The demonized person MUST want to be free. If they don't, no one can force deliverance on them against their will. Pray not that they would be delivered, for God won't force their free will, but pray they would see the facts clearly and make a decision for God, however small it may seem. Deliverance is not done by the one ministering to the demonized, but by Jesus responding to the free will of the demonized person. Jesus chooses to use us as His vessel to bring this about, but it all depends on the will of the demonized.

Day 2 - Symptoms of Demonizing 2

One of the most detailed accounts of a demonized person is in the passage about the 2 men who lived in the graveyard at Gadarenes (Mark 5:1-20; Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-37). From the information given about them we can learn symptoms to look for which are signs of demonizing. We already saw that a preoccupation with death and darkness, a lack of control over anger and violence, and not being in control of actions all can be symptoms of demonizing. Here are some other signs.

Symptom 4: Pain and self-destruction. Another characteristic of demonic activity which is also unnatural is inflicting pain on themselves by cutting themselves (Mark 5:5). The only other time this is seen in the Bible is when the prophets of Baal slashed themselves so they bled in order to have Baal hear their cries and send fire to consume their altar (I Kings 18:28). Both cases are clearly demonic.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Demons are behind self-destructive desires. It is unnatural for a person to want to harm themselves. Everything normal in us pushes for self-protection. When a person inflicts pain on themselves by cutting, tattoos (Leviticus 19:28) or taking their life we can be sure something has caused them to go against what is normal and natural, and usually that is demonic influence (Mark 9:20).

Suicidal thoughts should always be assumed to be motivated by demons (Matthew 17:14-19; Luke 9:37-45; Mark 9:14-29). This is also the case with Judas who was indwelt by Satan (Luke 22:3; John 13:27) and then committed suicide (Acts 1:18-19). If you or someone you know has these thoughts, pray against them. The person with the thoughts must confess them and take back any ground they have given to demons. These kinds of thoughts are like 'prayers.' All kinds and types of thoughts are like prayers. The difference in suicidal thoughts is that one dwells deeply in them and that gives them more power. Thoughts of hate, death, fear, lust, etc., also have power. The greater the thought given it the greater the power. The power is in the thought which empowers demons to help bring this about in a person's life. It is always with the person's free will choice never forced on them against their free will.

Symptom 5: Ungodly sensuality and sexual perversion. These men did not wear clothes (Luke 8:27). Their natural inhibitions and modesty were affected by the demons influencing them. Demons are often behind the sexual sins and perversion so common today.

Symptom 6: Thoughts into their mind. These sinful actions start with sinful thoughts. Demons are able to put a thought into a person's mind, then keep bringing it back again and again. It's not always a thought that the person wants, and certainly isn't a thought God would give them. Therefore the only other source must be demonic. The thoughts lead to actions that bring bondage and destruction. They could be thoughts of anger, fear, violence, lust or greed. The thoughts could be sexual, self-destructive, vengeful or blasphemous. They can even be thoughts that cause a person to feel unforgiven or unloved by God, that a person has lost their salvation, or are too evil to ever be in heaven. Thoughts of fear, insecurity, unworthiness, failure, being alone, rejection and revenge are some of the many that demons strive to instill in a person's mind.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Not all evil thoughts are from demons, so how can we tell if our thoughts are from a demon or from our sin nature? When the source is our sin nature we can have victory by confessing the sin and growing spiritually. It may take time, but there will be progress being made as we become more like Jesus. If the source is demonic then trying harder will have no lasting effect. These men in the graveyard were unable to change their own behavior because they had allowed the demons to have a powerful hold over them.

Day 3 - When Demons Leave, Where Do They Go?



Jesus trained His disciples in spiritual warfare. He taught them many lessons that apply to us today as well. One was about what happens when demons are commanded to leave the person they indwell.

"When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked

generation" (Matthew 12:43-45).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Where do demons go when cast out of a person? Where should we command them to go? Here Jesus says they go to "arid places" (Matthew 12:43-45; Job 30:3-8). Other times they are said to be "sent away" (Mark 5:12-13), go to "destruction" (Mark 1:24), or go to "torment" (Matthew 8:29). Eventually they will all be sent to the lake of fire for all eternity (Revelation 20:10 – 21:8). Whatever term you use, God will decree where they are to go. You can command them to "go to the place where Jesus sends you." It is important to forbid them to return, forbid them to go into any other family members, and forbid any new demons to come to take their place. Don't just send them out, leaving them free to continue their evil work wherever they choose. Command where they are to go, at least commanding them to go where Jesus would send them.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Jesus' words also show the extreme importance of being filled with God's Spirit when the demons are sent away. If one does not turn to God's Word and live a life of holiness to God, the door that was closed will be immediately open again and more and worse demons will enter to work against the person. When praying to have demons removed also pray for God's Spirit to fill the person and remove all the work of the enemy. Pray for them to be filled with the fruit of the Spirit, mentioning each fruit one by one (Galatians 5:22-25). Ask God to remove all the work and effects of the demons in the person's life and to heal them from it. Ask God to send angels and/or His Spirit through their life to remove every work of the demons and anything any demon might try to leave behind to continue their work. Ask God to fill each and every part of the person with His light and glory, His Spirit and presence. Then dedicate the person to God as a new creation in Him (2 Corinthians 5:17).

LESSON FOR TODAY: The purpose of deliverance from demonizing is so a person can grow spiritually. Often that comes slowly and by stages because all growth comes that way. It is often more of a process than a one-time event. Each lesson we learn and step of progress we make must become part of us as we fill that part of our lives with His presence and bring it under His control. Freedom from demonizing is not a one-time event where God does everything for us, but a series of steps whereby we grow in faith and become more like Jesus. It is very important to stay close to Jesus and grow spiritually when seeking to be delivered from demonizing. This includes prompt repentance from any and all sin (Ephesians 4:26-27; Genesis 4:7), doing all we do out of a motive of love (1 Corinthians 13:5), living a life of disciplined thoughts and actions (Philippains 4:8), and implementing God's principles into daily family life (Ephesians 5:22 – 6:4).

Day 4 - Causes of Demonizing 1

We've been considering the account of Jesus' confrontation with the demons indwelling the men in the Gadarenes (Mark 5:1-20; Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-37). This is one of the most detailed accounts of demonizing and deliverance in the Bible and has many important lessons for us. It is natural to wonder how these men ever got to such a state. Why are some people so greatly demonized and others seemingly unaffected? The Bible doesn't tell us what allowed this in these men but does give us information as to the most common causes of demonizing. While any sin can open the door to allow demons in, there are some sins that are particularly effective in allowing this. Some of the more common openings to demonizing include:

*Opening 1: **Sins that allow another power to control us.** If we turn to another power other than God, if we open our lives to influences that aren't from God, if we indulge in sins that allow us to be vulnerable to spiritual influences from demons, then we are opening the door for demons to enter and impact us. Idolatry, for example, opens the worshipper to demonizing because they allow the demon behind the idol to have access to themselves (1 Corinthians 10:20). Drug or alcohol abuse can do the same thing. Involvement in false religions also opens a door. Sexual sin is also a way demons enter a person's life (1 Corinthians 6:15-16). Pride, anger and fear also make us vulnerable, for they become a prayer for these things to grow in our lives, and only Satan's forces would answer such a prayer.*

*Opening 2: **Sin in our family line.** The sin that opened the door for demons to enter doesn't have to have been committed by us. It could have been committed by an ancestor of ours. When a demon has access to a person, he also claims right to all that person has, including their children. The Bible says God "punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation" (Exodus 20:4-5; Deuteronomy 5:8-9; Exodus 34:6-7). The Bible says that children are affected by their parents sins (Ezekiel 18;2) and this is one of the ways. Children are not accountable for them, but are impacted by their consequences. The same is true of positive, godly influences from our parents which also are passed on. This is often called "generational openings" or "ancestral openings" and is one of the most common reasons people are demonized. (For more information see under Old Testament, Moses (Exodus – Deuteronomy).)*



Day 5 - Causes of Demonizing 2

The demonized men in the graveyard at Gadarenes were greatly controlled (Mark 5:1-20; Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-37). What allows this to happen to a person? We've looked at two possible openings for demonizing: sin that allows another power to control us and sin in our family line. Another is the location where we live:

*Opening 3: **Where we live.** Some event may have happened on the land or in the home or room where you live. It could be a violent act, an occult activity, a curse, a dedicating of the property to the powers of darkness or similar acts. Sometimes when we go into a certain neighborhood or home there is a 'sense' of evil, a discomfort in our spirit. In a store that sells New Age materials you may 'feel' different in your spirit, a discomfort. This is the explanation for supernatural apparitions that happen in 'haunted' homes – demonic activity may be present. Some countries and even continents are in extra deep darkness and bondage. Often this can be sensed by mature, sensitive believers. The message we get is from God's Holy Spirit Who is warning us against the evil around us. Pray against it. Rebuke it. Leave unless you have a reason God wants you there.*

If it is your home or church property then cleanse it. Pray, taking back any access the enemy may claim to the property and asserting your right as a child of God to claim and use it. Put any other claims under the blood of Jesus and dedicate it to Him for His honor and glory. A sign, picture or cross on the wall can be a good visual reminder to all of the ownership of the property by the Lord Jesus Christ.

If God wants you to do so, you can anoint the house and property while praying. Walk around your' boundaries praying out loud, claiming your property for God and forbidding any demons to have any access to it. Dedicate it to God and invite His presence throughout all of it. Take back any access any demons may claim to the property and put the access under the blood of Jesus. Break it in Jesus' name. Ask God to put an angelic hedge of protection around it. Do the same in all the rooms of the house, especially the basement (if you have one). Anoint each room with oil by dipping your finger in oil. Any kind will do, it is not the oil but the symbolism of God's Spirit being present that matters. With your finger then draw a cross on the door, walls, whatever seems appropriate. Pray as you would when you're walking around the property.



There is no power in the ritual or symbol, but in your heart attitude as you make a statement about whose side you are on. You are showing them you are ready to battle in God's strength. The cross announces to the spirit world whose side you are standing on and that you will battle rather than give in. The cross shows you are challenging their claim to that area.

If there is one particular part of the house that seems worse put a night light there so there is always light in to the room. You could do that to all the rooms. Demons turn from light because it shows truth and reality, which they don't want to see. They live in the realm of lies and deceptions. Demons hate light, and they hate hearing Jesus praised, so you can play praise music in various places 24 hours a day. It can be real soft – they will hear it! It's a constant reminder or Who is your Lord and Savior. It reminds them of the truth which counters their lies. Playing recordings of the Bible being read is even more powerful.

Day 6 - Causes of Demonizing 3

The men in the graveyard at Gadarenes were indwelt by thousands of demons (Mark 5:1-20; Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-37). What causes this? How can demons gain entry into a person? We've seen that it could be sin that allows another power to control us or sin in our family line. It can also be because we live on ground they claim. Curses is a fourth reason.

*Opening 4: **Curses.** It may be someone has put a curse on you or your family by asking that something bad happen to you. That is really a prayer that Satan loves to answer! That desire empowers demons to try to carry out the person's desire. Parents can curse their children by saying they wish they hadn't had them, they hate them, don't want them, they are no good and will never amount to anything, and so forth. Finally, we can curse ourselves (Proverbs 6:2) by saying we hope we die, that we aren't good enough, that we'll never be happy, we'll fail in what we try or any of many such things about ourselves(Proverbs 6:2).*

The area of curses is a less common but still a strong opening to demonic access. To curse someone is to ask for evil to happen to them. Those requests (really prayers) are heard by Satan and his forces and 'answered' when possible. Cursing thoughts are like prayers. The more a person thinks of them and focus on them, the more power will go to the curse, or the blessing, whichever the case. This includes everything from occult and witchcraft curses to one individual 'wishing' harm on another. Balaam was paid to curse Israel, but God wouldn't allow it (Deuteronomy 23:4; Numbers 22 - 24). Curses can also be passed on from generation to generation. The Bible says that speaking evil of someone is the same as cursing them (Romans 12:14). Curses can be thinking or saying things like: "I hope you die..." "Since he/she won't love me I wish they'd" "You're no good, you'll never amount to anything..." "I hope she gets some of her own medicine..." "I hope your children" You can even curse yourself by what you say (Proverbs 6:2). Our words are powerful and important. They aren't something to be taken lightly. Using profanity ("curse" words) also falls into this category. When someone "damns" someone to "hell" that is an awful, awful thing to say! Demons love to hear it. They use the power of the hate in the speaker and will latch onto any authority or justification to do their evil!

It's not the verbal sounds that make the difference but our thoughts and feelings inside as we express them verbally. Rote chanting of words does nothing, but heartfelt desires communicated to God mean a lot. God reads our mind and thoughts even when we pray silently, but demons do not have access to our thoughts so praying or expressing ourselves out loud makes them aware of how we feel and where we stand. If it is inappropriate to pray out loud then do so in thoughts and let God take care of the rest, but when it is possible to express yourself out loud it is best to do so. It's important to realize that our thoughts are breathing and living and so are our feelings and, therefore, so is prayer.

The Bible says we can curse others (Ps 109:17). Demons use this as an excuse to work against the person, as a 'prayer' to gain access. Old Testament men (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc. Gen 27:23, 38) would bless or curse their children (Genesis 48:20). Sometimes they even put a curse on them, as Abraham did with Ishmael and when Isaac cursed Esau. The Levites were used to pronounce blessings (Deuteronomy 10:8; 21:5). When Naomi came back to Israel she said she was to be called 'mara' because things had turned 'bitter' for her. A father is to bless his children by his words and send them into life with his and God's blessing. What you have done is the opposite.

If you feel this may have happened to you remember to "Bless them that curse you" (Matthew 5:44). Treat the person with love and kindness, for when you return good for evil the "undeserved curse does not come to rest" (Proverbs 6:2). Break that curse against you in Jesus' name, claiming Galatians 3:10,13 which says "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for

us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'" Ask God to turn the curse to a blessing (Deuteronomy 23:5).

Good is stronger than bad, so when you speak good into a situation where previously bad was spoken then the good is stronger and purer and it stops the curse. You can throw it back at the person who threw it at you, but turn it into a blessing – bless those who curse you (Luke 6:28). Love the person who hates you and God will use that stronger love to overcome the hate (Luke 6:27).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Curses can and must be broken in Jesus' name for the truth is that they can't prosper against God's people (Isaiah 54:17). 1) Break any and all of them in Jesus' name (Galatians 3:13) and 2) ask God to surround you and protect you with His presence and angels instead (Job 1:5).

Day 7 - Where Demons Live

When Jesus cast the demons out of the men in the Gadarenes graveyard, the demons made an unusual request – to indwell the pigs which were nearby since they could no longer indwell the men (Mark 5:1-20; Matthew 8:28-34; Luke 8:26-37). Jesus allowed this, again probably to show those watching the power and destruction of the demons He had so easily defeated.

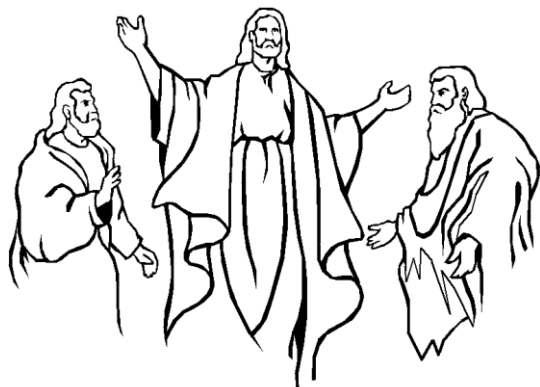
Where do demons really live? Where did, and didn't, they want Jesus to send them?

LESSON FOR TODAY: Demons want to indwell something, if they lose their host they will immediately seek another. Often they share several hosts at one time, moving from one person to another. That's why demonic oppression often seems to go in cycles.

If demons can't indwell people they will indwell animals. Perhaps this is why sometimes whales, the animals with the greatest intelligence and the closest to humans in many ways, beach themselves. I've often wondered if what happened to these pigs doesn't still happen sometimes today. That could be an explanation of why these great sea creatures some times beach and kill themselves. This shows that demons seek to bring death and destruction, and self-destructive tendencies come from demonic influence. Why else would pigs suddenly commit suicide?

LESSON FOR TODAY: The demons didn't want to be sent "out of the area" (Mark 5:10). This was the territory they were assigned to and they didn't want to leave it. It was their 'home' area. Demons are assigned to different geographical locations, families, groups, world movements, religious or secular groups, etc. They stay with them for generations and want to continue working in those areas. They become very good at what they do.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Neither did they want to be sent "into the abyss" (Luke 8:31). The Greek word, 'tartarus,' is used as a place of confinement for demons who are awaiting their expulsion into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:1-3). They didn't want to go there because they would then be inactive and not able to cause harm to God's kingdom.



LESSON FOR TODAY: The demons knew they would one day be tormented, but it was not time for that yet (Matthew 8:29). They fear the coming judgment. We can have courage and confidence that they fear us when we are ministering in Jesus' power.

3. JESUS WINS (Mark 5)

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MEMORY VERSE 1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

D.L. Moody - "I believe Satan to exist for two reasons: first, the Bible says so; and second, I've done business with him."

"Missionaries in many parts of the world can tell graphic, incredible accounts of the stories of the powers of demons. In the last 10 to 15 years, more of these characteristics are showing up in America than in all our history before. Wherever there is a strong presence of the Word of God, demons do not prevail. In a pagan orientation, these characteristics, appear." [Howard Hendricks]

I. JESUS MEETS THE MAN (Mark 5:1-5) (BACKGROUND)

A. THE PLACE (where) 1 Gerasenes

1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes.

across the lake - storm almost _____ boat, drown Jesus and others (Mark 4:35-41)
Satan trying to stop Jesus from coming

to the region of the Gerasenes - Gentile area across _____ of _____ from Galilee



B. THE PEOPLE (who) 2 Jesus and the man

2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him.

Luke 8:27 When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town.

Matt 8:28 When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him

1. JESUS

Son of God, left _____ to take our place
To be man like us to free us from Satan's control

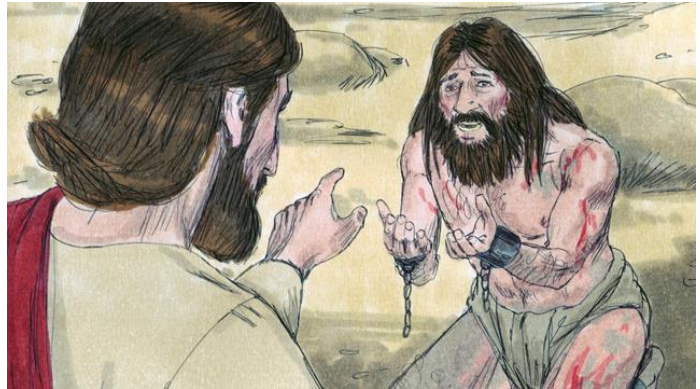
GADARENES: left Jewish state to go _____ enemy lines to bring deliverance to bond
EARTH: left _____ to go behind enemy lines to bring deliverance to bond here

2. THE MAN (MEN)

Mk 5:1 a man with an evil spirit

Lk 8:27 a demon-possessed man

Mt 8:28 two demon-possessed men



demon-possessed = 'demonized'

δοιμονιζομαι ("demonizing")

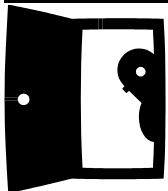
inside or outside, all the same
believers and unbelievers both

controls old ____ nature, even if believer has a ____ nature

C. THE PROBLEM (what) 3-5 man is demonized

Mark 5:3-5 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

OPEN DOOR



Satan, demons look for a weak moment and/or a weak place

Matthew 12:43-45 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. 44 Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. 45 Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

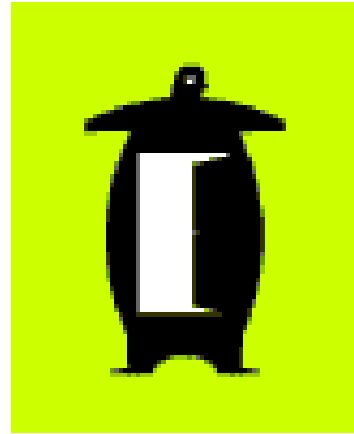
Triggers:

H = hungry

A = angry

L = lonely

T = tired



GATE-KEEPING DEMONS Open door for others

-self-pity (anger turned _____)

-resentment (anger turned _____)

Also use “besetting sin” each one struggles with

CLOSE THE DOOR

1. Confession

2. whatever you said/did to leave demons in, say/do opposite

Peter denied Jesus 3x, Jesus asked him 3x “do you love me?”

DEMONIZING, SIGNS OF

“Spirit” = “wind” can’t see it but can see _____

Used of Holy Spirit, also of demons

GROUP ASSIGNMENT:

Read Mark 5:3-5 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

List as many symptoms/signs as you can that this man was demonized:

1

2

3

4

5

6

1. DARKNESS & DEATH

*Mark 1:3 This man lived in the tombs,
Mark 1:5 Night and day among the tombs and in
the hills
Luke 8:29b he had been driven by the demons
into
solitary places.*



2. ANGER & VIOLENCE

Mark 5:3b-4 and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him.

Luke 8:29b Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains

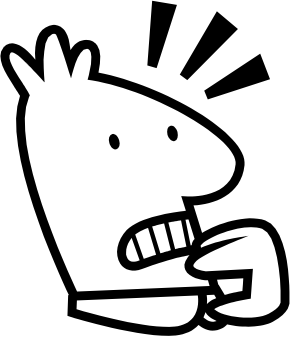
Matt 8:28b They were so violent that no one could pass that way.



3. OUT OF CONTROL

Mark 1:5b he would cry out

FEAR



Today fear is still one of Satan's greatest weapons, something that keeps many believers from growing to maturity and attaining spiritual victory.

Worry, concern, anxiety, nervousness, fretfulness, apprehension or some similar term.

Fear draws demons like a magnet

Demons of fear always open the door to demons of torment who enter in as soon as fear gets a foothold.

Demons instill fear in those they attack and use it to control the person (Romans 8:15).

Anything not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23).

God does not give us fear (II Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15),

Fear takes root when we choose to focus on circumstances instead of God. Peter walking on water is a good example.

Trust is the antidote to fear. How can we understand trust, what it means and how it works?

Believe God's promises and move forward in faith, not fear (Proverbs 3:25; Isaiah 14:3; Psalm 34:4; Joshua 1:9; 10:8; 23:9-11; Leviticus 26:8; Exodus 14:13; I Samuel 17:45-47; II Samuel 22:33-35, 40-41; Philippians 4:6-7; 4:13; 2 Timothy 1:7 Exodus 14:13). Write some of these down, memorize them, and quote them whenever your faith struggles.

4. PAIN & SELF-DESTRUCTION

Mark 5:5c and cut himself with stones.

*Also done by prophets of Baal challenging Elijah
Demonized boy throw self into fire, water to drown*



Lev 19:28 "Do not cut your bodies for the dead or put tattoo marks on yourselves. I am the Lord

5. SENSUALITY, SEXUAL PERVERSION

Luke 8:27 For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house,



DEMONIC SYMPTOMS

Mark 5:1-15

- 1. incapacity for normal living** (Mk 5:1-5) Extremes, passive, etc – can't live normal life
- 2. extreme behavior** (Mk 5:4) Violence, uncontrollable anger, etc
- 3. personality changes** (Mk 5:9, 12) Multiple personalities (most, but not all, demonic)
- 4. restlessness & insomnia** (Mk 5:5) Crying night and day, not sleep
God blesses His children with sleep (Ps 127:2)
- 5. a terrible inner anguish** (Mk 5:5) Deeply tormented in mind & heart
Grief/anguish normal emotions for all, yet persistent, unresolved grief is demonic
- 6. self-inflicted injury and suicide** (Mk 5:5) Cutting self (throws self into fire Mark 9:14-29)
- 7. unexplained illness with no obvious medical cause**
Some psy causes for illness, counseling can help
Mostly it is demonic, esp if doctors can't help - Lk 13:11-16
- 8. addictive behavior** – alcohol, drugs, sex, food, gambling, etc
Can do with without demonizing, but when loose control = demonic
- 9 abnormal sexual behavior** - Sexual sin opens door to demonizing
“spirit of prostitution” (Hosea 5:4) - 2 Ki 9:22; Ezek 16:49-50; Hos 4:12; Nahum 3:4)
- 10 defeat, failure and depression in life**
Satan takes advantage even of believers, esp of unforgiveness 2 Cor 2:10-14
Symptom = inability to praise and worship (Ps 91:1-4 = power of praise)
- 11. occult involvement & behavior** - Deut 18:9-12 list
- 12. speech difficulties** - Mt 9:32-33 Jesus rebuked demon who left, man could speak
Extreme language and cursing = demonically inspired
- 13. doctrinal error** - 1 Tim 4:1 last days deceiving spirits teach doctrines of demons
- 14 religious legalism** - Bondage to tradition, manmade rules, outward appearances

6. SIGNS OF DEMONIZING

uncontrollable habits, fear, anger, lust

obsession, compulsion (lying, stealing, wrong eating, eating disorders, etc.

unforgiveness

compulsive sexual sin, homosexuality, etc.

can't read Bible, understand spiritual things, extreme sleepiness around spiritual things

hear voices, get awful thoughts in mind regularly

out-of-body experience

recurring dreams/nightmares

blasphemous thoughts in mind

extreme unfounded doubts about God and His love for you

persistently doubt your salvation

suicidal thoughts

overwhelming guilt even though sin confessed

unexplained physical problems, Doctors can't pinpoint, remove seizures (not all)

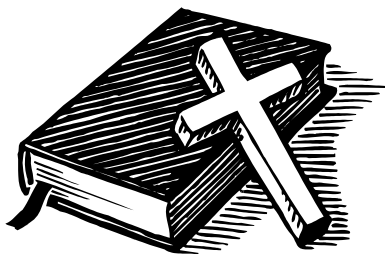
strange things happen: things disappear, reappear, etc.

schizophrenia in family (not all)

problem with children, especial one child, no matter what you do or pray

child seems to lack self control, brings problems to whole family, drains parents, hurts other children, nothing works for long

persistent husband-wife problem not resolved with time, prayer, counsel – give up and settle for far less than expected in marriage



Breaking these

Revelation 12:11 They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

BLOOD cancels Satan's claims against us

WORD OF TESTIMONY is using God's word as our testimony, truth, basis of faith

DID NOT LOVE THEIR LIVES =surrendered life, every thought captive, every opening closed

**THE NEXT TIME SATAN
REMINDS YOU OF YOUR
PAST, REMIND HIM OF HIS
FUTURE.**

CHECK YOURSELF....

Below is a list of evidences of demonic activity. Check which ones apply to you more than you think should (more than is 'normal' or than most other people experience).



I. COMPULSIVE THOUGHTS

- Extremely low self image (unworthy, worthless, etc) Lk. 8:2
- Constant confusion in thinking (especially about spiritual things)
- Inability to believe spiritual truths which you hear or read
- Mocking and blasphemous thoughts (esp. when hearing spiritual truths)
- Perceptual distortions (thinking others are angry at you when they are not)
- Repetitious dreams or nightmares (sexual, horror-filled, fearful, etc)
- Continuous violent thoughts (of suicide, rape, murder, self-abuse, etc.)

II. COMPULSIVE FEELINGS

- Hatred and bitterness toward others for no justifiable reason
- Tremendous hostility, fear, restlessness when challenged about demonizing
- Deep depression and despondence (frequent and long)
- Irrational fears, panic, and phobias (Rom. 8:15 Lk. 9:39)
- Irrational anger or rage (Mt. 8:28)
- Irrational guilt and extreme self-condemnation, unforgiveness of self

III. COMPULSIVE BEHAVIOR

- Desire to do right but inability to carry it out
- Sudden personality & attitude changes (like, then hate someone)
- Strong aversion to Scripture reading & prayer
- Dark countenance (steely or hollow look in the eyes, dilation or contraction of pupil, facial features may contort or change, can't look a person directly in the eyes, etc.)
- Lying compulsively, then often wondering why (Acts 5:3)
- Stealing compulsively, if you need the thing or not
- Drinking compulsively, if really desire to or not
- Using drugs (prescription or non-prescription) compulsively
- Eating compulsively (or reverse, bulimia or anorexia nervosa)
- Sexual sins that are compulsive (especially perversions) Mt. 15:5 Lk. 8:27
- Irrational, inappropriate laughter
- Irrational violence (compulsion to hurt self or someone else) Mt. 17:15; Mk. 5:5; Lk. 9:39
- Sudden speaking of a language not previously known
- Reactions to the name and blood of Jesus (uncomfortable, move away, say or do something to show you are uncomfortable about it) Acts 13:10)
- Extreme restlessness
- Uncontrollable cutting and mocking tongue and language
- Vulgar language and actions (Lk. 4:33-34)
- Uncontrollable greed, which drives you on (Acts 5:3)

IV. CONSCIOUSNESS PROBLEMS

- Loss of time (little or a lot, not knowing how you got someplace or remembering something you did)
- Extreme sleepiness around spiritual things (Bible study, prayer,. etc.)
- Demonstration of extraordinary abilities (ESP, telekinesis, etc. Mk. 5:7)

- _____ Voices heard in the mind (mock, intimidate, accuse, threaten, bargain Mt. 28:29, Lk. 4:33-34)
- _____ A voice speaking from you refers to you in the third person ("he" "she")
- _____ Supernatural experiences (haunting, movement or disappearance of objects, other strange manifestations)

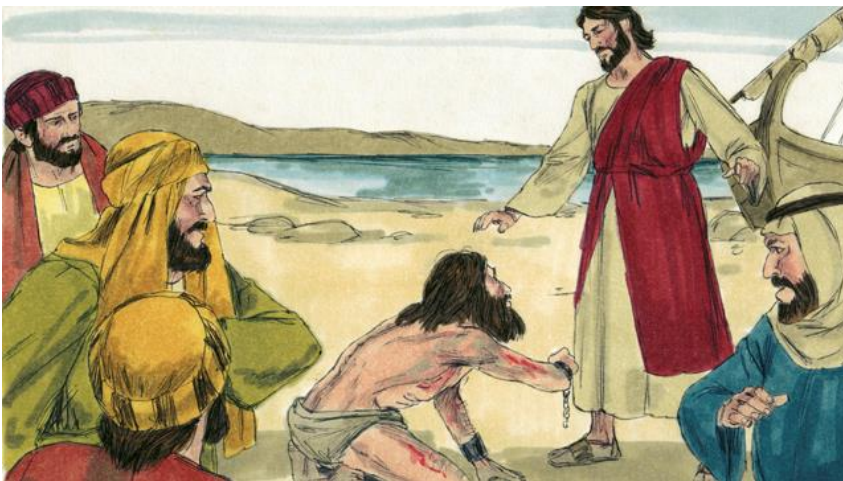
V. ABNORMAL MEDICAL PROBLEMS

- _____ Seizures (Mk. 1:26 Mk. 7:24-30 Mk. 17:15) It can't be said for sure they are all demonic, but they should be checked out to make sure.)
- _____ Pain without justifiable explanation, especially in the head or stomach (ANY medical problems which doctors can't understand or cure, Lk. 9:39)
- _____ Blackouts (Mt. 17:15, Mk. 1:26; 7:24-30, Lk. 4:35)
- _____ Physical ailments alleviated by a spiritual command immediately (epileptic seizure, asthma attack, headache, nausea, etc., which stops when commanded in Jesus' name to be gone)
- _____ Sudden interference with bodily functions (buzzing in ears, irritability to speak or hear, increased hypersensitivity in hearing or touch, sudden chills or overheating of body, dryness in mouth, numbness in arms or legs, sleepiness, coma, etc.)

II. JESUS DEFEATS THE DEMONS 6-13 (TO KNOW)

A. THE MAN COMES TO JESUS 6

6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ran and fell on his knees



1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

GROUP ASSIGNMENT:

Read Mark 5:7-13 He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"

9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"

"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." 13 He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

What does this show about demons and Jesus?

How do they respond to Him?

B. THE DEMONS LEAVE THE MAN 7-13a

7 He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" 9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. 11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." 13 He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs.

My name is Legion = 4,000 to 6,000+

Only time Jesus ever _____ to a demon – to show us
how many were in man

**Never talk with demons when challenging and fighting
them**

he begged Jesus= the one _____, leader
(military organization)



1. DEMONS FEAR JESUS

Demons use _____ to control others – number # weapon

Here they experience fear themselves – taste own medicine for first time.

#1. "Swear to God that you won't torture me..."

OK to cause pain in man, but don't want it themselves

Afraid – so plead for mercy (none given) – ask for it but won't give it = NEVER!

#2. "They begged him repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss."

The Abyss ("bottomless pit") is the abode of the lost dead. Same as 'hell'

God prepared this for Satan & demons, not for people! But people go there

Demons aware of ultimate destination, do anything to avoid it

Fear judgment but not saved!

James 2:19 You believe that there is one God. Good! Even the demons believe that — and shudder.

He gave them permission = couldn't have done it without permission

JOB: Satan has to have permission to attack believers

God allows it because we have free will and break spiritual laws,

He uses it to get our attention and bring us back to Him

C. THE PIGS DROWN IN THE LAKE 13b

The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.



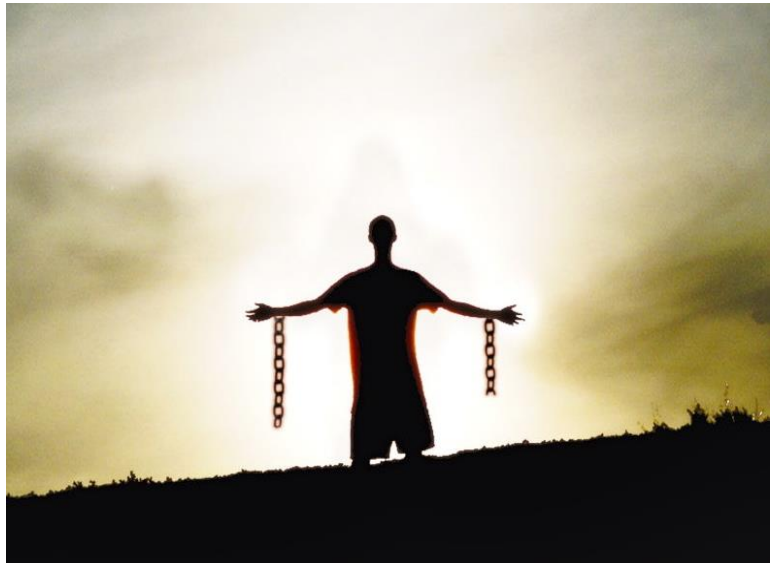
III. JESUS GREETES THE PEOPLE 14-20

A. REJECTION BY THE PEOPLE 14-17

14 Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. 15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man — and told about the pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

B. RECEPTION BY THE EX DEMONIZED MAN 18-20

18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.



God's chosen missionary to the area – not educated leader but ex demonized man
God uses us today for His glory no matter our past, often because of it!
Gives Him the glory!

CASE STUDY: BRUCE has a problem with anger, just like his father and grandmother. It seems as if the smallest, the strangest thing can set him off. People say he gets a strange look in his eyes like something is taking him over and he loses control of himself. People stay away from him because that change can take place quickly and when it does he hurts anyone nearby with his words and sometimes with his fists as well. He's destroyed furniture and ruined many things. But that's just the way he was made – everyone says he's just like his dad. Although sometimes his dad really hurts him as well, and he's afraid he will do that to his children as well. If this anger is in the family then what can he do about it? Hopefully it doesn't land him in jail like his uncle. When the flash of anger is over he always feels really bad for what's he's done, but it's not like he can stop it so why should anyone blame him for it? What would you do or say to help Bruce? How could you use spiritual warfare to help him?

How can you tell if someone is demonized? List as many signs or symptoms as you can.

Why is fear such an effective, useful tool of Satan's?

What forms does fear take against Christian teens?

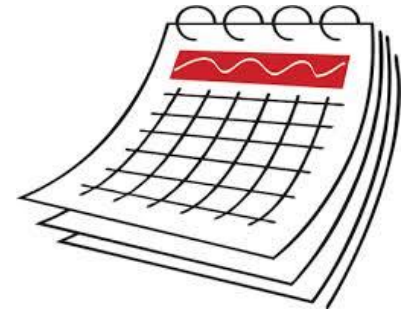
What works in your life to help you have victory over fear?

CASE STUDY: GLENN has spells which no one knows about. Sometimes his mind just goes blank and he loses track of time for seconds or even minutes. He just seems to fade into a dark place from which he can't escape. It wasn't always this way, though. In fact, it didn't start until his family moved to their new home, a funeral home that was converted into a house when the funeral business moved to a larger building on the edge of town. He'd heard some talk about his room having been the morgue where the dead bodies were kept, but he didn't pay any attention to superstitious talk like that. He's starting to notice he's getting more and more attracted to the color black and to music groups that just wear black. In fact, his eyes seem to be getting more sensitive to light for he doesn't like going out in the sunshine but prefers staying in his room with the blinds closed. Still, it's the increasing blackout times that are starting to concern him, really scare him. What would you do or say to help Glenn? How could you use spiritual warfare to help him?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK 4

Acts & Early Church



Day 1 - Spiritual Warfare in Acts

Jesus' first coming was God's invasion of enemy occupied territory. He landed behind enemy lines to begin the work of setting the captives free (Isaiah 42:7; 49:9; Luke 4:18-21). He provided freedom from bondage by His work on the cross (Luke 13:12; Romans 6:18, 22). He showed the way to have victory through the light that overcame the darkness (John 1:5; 3:19; 8:12). When His mission was completed He ascended to heaven.

However, the fact that He left didn't mean the war ended. Although defeated and awaiting his ultimate doom, Satan is still free to attack God through His people. Because he knows his end is near he works all the harder to wreak havoc on God's people and work. God allows Satan freedom to attack because that is part of allowing mankind a free will. Also, God uses Satan's evil to show mankind their need of Him and for His people to grow in faith as we trust Him and learn to fight.

Now it is Christians who are the ones in enemy-occupied territory. Jesus has called us to be the light of the world. It is up to us to spread His message of deliverance. But the darkness tries to put out our light so none will be attracted to it (John 1:5; 3:19; 8:12). Satan and his demons try to get us back into bondage and misery. It is their entire focus, day and night, and all their skill and energy are focused on bringing this about. We know that God is greater (1 John 4:4) and His kingdom will prevail (Revelation 19-22), but still the battle rages.

So the Christian life is a life of warfare. As the book of Acts shows, that has always been the case. We are at war: war with our sin nature and war with Satan and his forces. That was true for the Christians who were left when Jesus returned to heaven as well. As the early church grew we see the battles continuing. We live in a Satan-controlled world (1 John 5:19). We must fight. God has given us the equipment we need (2 Corinthians 10:4; Ephesians 6:10-20). We can learn how to have victory in our battles by studying the victories, and failures, of those who have gone before. The book of Acts shows examples of those who have already fought their spiritual battles. The writings of Luke, Paul, Peter, John and others help us learn how to apply Jesus' victory to our own life.

The book of Acts records the growth of the early church. This comes about through evangelism. The Christians are young believers with much to learn, including spiritual warfare. Satan continued to do all he could to stop and destroy the young church before it grew large and strong. There are about 150 references to the spirit world in the Gospels (many of these are from parallel accounts found in more than one gospel) but about 178 additional such references in the rest of the New Testament, so spiritual warfare by no means ended with the ascension. If there is any change in Satan's tactics between the Gospels and Acts it would be that he attacked Jesus directly and overtly when He was on earth.

However, in Acts we see more deceptive, subtle ways of working to bring about their destruction. That doesn't make him any less dangerous for us, but actually more dangerous. He works harder to cover his trail and make what he does appear like it is something else (emotional disorder, chemical imbalance, etc.). He attacks more from within instead of just from without. He still uses persecution, but has become adept at dividing families, churches and even nations from within.

The battle continues, it just changes a bit. If anything, it is more difficult to fight a subtle, hidden foe than one who is obvious and easily seen.

Spiritual warfare has not decreased. Rather it has increased through the centuries. God tells us it will continue to get worse and worse until Jesus returns. The book of Revelation has the most references to Satan and evil spirits – about 86 references. We know that the nearer to the end times we come, the more active Satan and his forces will be. God has given us His Word to teach us how to live for Him in these days of increased warfare. There is much instruction for us in Acts and the Epistles.

Day 2 - Our Turn to Fight

The book of Acts opens with **Jesus returning to heaven** after His victory over sin and Satan while on earth (Acts 1:1-11). Then after choosing Matthias to replace Judas (Acts 1:12-26) the believers waited for Jesus' promised gift, the Holy Spirit. When He came they had God's power and presence to help them in their life and ministry (Acts 2:1-13). The difference the Spirit makes is immediately seen in Peter's change from a coward who denied Jesus (Mark 14:66-72) to courageous spokesman (Acts 2:14-40). Three thousand responded by putting their faith in Jesus (Acts 2:41).



LESSON FOR TODAY: God's Spirit is essential for us to have victory in our battle against sin and Satan. Without His wisdom, guidance, power, peace and protection we wouldn't be able to stand against all that comes against us. It is essential to learn to listen to Him, be sensitive to His guidance, follow His leading and know how to tap into His power.

Satan had failed to stop Jesus from sealing his doom by His crucifixion and resurrection. Satan was not able to stop Jesus from defeating him at the cross and the empty tomb. But if he could keep the gospel message from spreading, he could still rule the vast majority of humanity. His goal at this point became to limit the power of the brand new Christian church, intending to keep it weak, keep it from growing. So he put all his energy into defeating the early Christians, hoping to extinguish the spark before it grew and spread, and keep mankind in darkness and bondage. However, as we follow the growth of the early church, we will see how his attempts worked against him!

His first approach was to bring **physical opposition**. The early Christians experienced rejection, suffering, persecution, and imprisonment (Acts 4:1-4). However, this opposition actually worked against Satan! The disciples responded to their trials with increased faithfulness and commitment (Acts 4:5-22). God used even the efforts of the enemy to make them stronger as they trusted in Him and saw His provision (Romans 8:28).

LESSON FOR TODAY: While Satan still attacks the church today, God often uses persecution to make the church stronger and increases their witness. He uses Satan's attacks for His purpose. All things may not be good in themselves, but God does use them for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28). It has been said that the church can stand anything but success. Where the church has not faced opposition but has been popularly accepted, there has often been a compromising that leads to weakness among God's people. While we never like to experience pain of any kind, God still uses it for His glory and our growth. This is a key way that we can defeat Satan's efforts in our lives. We must respond to trials with increased faithfulness and commitment, as the early disciples did. In that way, we can actually turn Satan's efforts against himself and take ground for God's kingdom.

Day 3 - Causalities in the War With Satan 1

When external persecution didn't stop the church's growth (Acts 4:4) Satan tried **attacking from within**. He wanted to contaminate the spiritual life of the church members, as seen in the case of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10). God revealed to Peter that Satan had filled their heart so that they lied to the Holy Spirit by not being honest about the amount of money for which they sold their land (Acts 5:3).

The sin was not in keeping some of the money for themselves, that would have been fine. The sin was lying and saying they gave all the money to the church in order to impress their fellow believers. They did this despite the Holy Spirit convicting them that such a statement was wrong. To set an example of the importance of holiness, God took the lives of these two carnal believers (Acts 5:3-11). They still went to heaven, but lost opportunity to serve and grow in this life. Again, God took the work of Satan and used it instead for His own glory. The Christians were taught vividly of the importance of holiness, and as a consequence, unbelievers were attracted to Jesus (Acts 5:42 – 6:1).



LESSON FOR TODAY: Our pride often keeps us from sharing with others the areas in life where we are struggling. As a result they stay hidden in the dark and we don't have encouragement and support. If Ananias or Sapphira would have shared their struggle with greed with someone it would have brought the work of the enemy against them into the light and weakened it. Prayer support and accountability would also have occurred. We play into the enemies' hands when we allow our pride to keep us from sharing our struggles with others.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Satan still uses this strategy today. He causes more damage to the church from within than he does through attacks from without. Christians hurting other Christians, churches hurting Christians, Christians hurting churches - this is a very common and successful approach of Satan even today. It can be more dangerous because when we are attacked from without we recognize the hand of the enemy and pull together in unity. When it is from within, though, we often fail to recognize it for the attack that it is. Instead of joining together against it we allow divisions to come among God's people. And again it is our pride that feeds this, wanting to be first and be right. It is our pride that keeps us from humbling ourselves and confessing our sins to God and others (when the sins have hurt others). Keeping our sin in the darkness allows it to grow, bringing it into the light exposes it and weakens it.

LESSON FOR TODAY: "Satan filled your heart" (Acts 5:3) is Peter's appraisal of what happened to Ananias and Sapphira. "Fill" (Greek 'piero') means "to fill to the full" and is the same word used for the filling of the Holy Spirit in Ephesians 5:18. There is no way of knowing to what extent they were demonized or exactly what Satan did. Surely he helped them go in the direction they themselves chose and gave them opportunity to believe his lies so as to deceive themselves as to what they were really doing. He may have fed their greed or even encouraged fearful thoughts of not having enough money. He did this to counter the conviction of sin in them by the Holy Spirit. We do know they always had a free will to resist and are totally responsible for their thoughts and actions. We don't know today, either, where human responsibility ends and demonic influence takes over, but we know both are often present. Whatever the balance, the cause, symptoms, results and cure are the same. Don't waste time trying to figure out details about what demons do and how they do it. Focus on the solution, not the problem! And the solution starts with the person who is demonized admitting and confessing the sin in his life that has allowed the demons to work. They don't cause a sin, they enhance a sin that is already there, so it must be removed and stopped so the demons stop as well. As it has been said, if you want to keep the rats away, get rid of the garbage!

Day 4 - Causalities in the War With Satan 2

We have been looking at the account of Ananias and Sapphira and the example God made of them for others in the early church (Acts 5:1-10). Satan “filled” their heart and they lied about how much they were giving, saying they gave all they received for the sale of their property when in fact they only gave part of it. The sin wasn’t in the amount they gave but in the lie and deception about it.



LESSON FOR TODAY: Peter states that Satan enticed them to lie to the Holy Spirit. Whether this was literally Satan or one of his demons we don’t know. Often we say that ‘Satan did _____’ when we know it wasn’t personally him, but done by his forces. Perhaps it was Satan himself since this was a direct, frontal attack on the young church. If the flame could be distinguished before it took root and spread, then the church could be severely crippled. If it was a demon assigned to destroy them, saying ‘Satan’ did it is still applicable for they are all his forces working with him for the same effect. It would be most unlikely that Satan would personally attack any of us today. He has far greater places to exert his influence and has plenty of demons to work against us. It doesn’t take Satan to help us sin, the weakest demon, along with our sin nature, can bring about plenty of sin in us because we freely go along with it.

LESSON FOR TODAY: The specific sins that Ananias and Sapphira were guilty of were greed, pride, lies and deception to cover the lies. They were also guilty of jealousy (of Barnabas Acts 4:32-37), and that is greed and pride combined. Their attitude to material things was idolatry, for they put something before God. Idolatry is really spiritual adultery (Jeremiah 3:8-10; Ezekiel 16:23-43; 23:24-30; Revelation 17:1-5). It is clearly forbidden by God (Exodus 20:3,4,23; 23:224). Pride is also seen in wanting to impress everyone with their generosity and have the affirmation which Barnabas had just received (Acts 4:32-37).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Fear of not having enough money for themselves in the future probably entered in as well. Seldom is there a sin that doesn’t have fear as part of it somewhere! As do all sins, it starts in the mind (Judges 2:10-13; Ezekiel 14:7) and then becomes an action. When anything is more important to us than God there are demons who receive that adoration and ‘worship’ that we bestow on the object (Zechariah 10:2; 1 Corinthians 10:19-21).

LESSONS FOR TODAY: When a demon has access to one person that demon can also claim anyone that person becomes attached to, emotionally or physically (1 Corinthians 6:16). Emotional soul ties or physical sexual activity open a person to the demonizing of another.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Peter was made aware of what was happening so he could deal with the sin. As the leader he was responsible for those under him. God gives insights into the workings of demons so their work can be defeated to those with a need to know. When dealing with something demonic always pray for supernatural insight, wisdom and protection so you will be able to defeat the plans of the enemy. Some have the gift of distinguishing between spirits as part of their spiritual gift mix (1 Corinthians 12:10; Acts 13:6-12). If so, it must be used wisely and with maturity, always in total dependence on God so the person isn’t misled or deceived.

LESSON FOR TODAY: God is a holy God and does not allow sin. He uses this first clear rebellion as an example to show how He feels about sin, but in His mercy He doesn’t deal with every sin among His believers in this way. God did the same when He first formed the Jewish nation (Exodus 32:1-35). In each case, starting the Jewish nation or the church, He showed His holiness by bringing strict judgment at the first sin. He doesn’t enforce the same penalty of death on subsequent sinners, not because He shouldn’t but because He chooses to show mercy. His failure to judge our every sin today is not weakness, but mercy, certainly not something we should take advantage of. Every sin of lying, greed, jealousy, fear, etc., like Ananias and Sapphira also deserves death.

Day 5 - Delivered by a Shadow

To validate the **authenticity of the message** the disciples were bringing, God did the same kinds of miracles through them that He did through Jesus. “As a result, people brought the sick into the streets and laid them on beds and mats so that at least Peter's shadow might fall on some of them as he passed by. Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by evil spirits, and all of them were healed” (Acts 5:15-16).

LESSON FOR TODAY: These special manifestations of spiritual power through healing and deliverance have not been seen since the first days of the early church, nor should they have been (1 Corinthians 13:8). At the start of the church, with Satan's attacks, God made sure the spark took hold and grew. He validated and authenticated His servants when it was needed, where the church had not been established before, but as it took root these manifestations faded. Do not think these should regularly occur everywhere today or something is wrong with the church. These are necessary to open a new area of darkness to God's truth, but not what a growing Christian builds his faith on. God is always able, and will do these kinds of miracles again in the Tribulation (Revelation 11:1-6). These signs had, and still have their place. But that place is not as part of everyday life in areas where the church has been established. So, when we see signs like this, we should be careful how we interpret them. Satan can and does counterfeit these things as well (Matthew 7:22-23; 24:44; Mark 13:20-22; Revelation 16:24). We live by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7).

Satan continues to stir up problems within the church today as he did then. Tension, jealousy and competition took root not just in Ananias and Sapphira but in others as well. What was given by those who sold their land was intended to help the poor among them, yet some felt they weren't getting their fair **share of food and clothing** (Acts 6:1). The church responded by ordaining deacons to make a fair distribution of the resources to those in need (Acts 6:1-7).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Satan's strategy is still to bring division. Jesus says our distinguishing mark as Christians is to be love (John 18:35). Satan has many subtle but effective ways of dividing friends, couples, families and churches. Many times these things happen and he or his demons aren't even involved for our sin nature brings these about without his influence. Even so, his demons are always there to provide whatever 'help' they can to bring division among believers. Pray regularly against that. Encourage others to do the same. Be alert to small things that can easily grow into big problems. Pray, give counsel, encourage and show love to all.

As the early church grew Satan continued to attack from within and without. He continued to stir up the political and religious leaders to bring more persecution by having **James killed** (Acts 12:1-2) and **Peter arrested** awaiting death (Acts 12:3-4).

How did the disciples counter this strategy? Or rather we should ask how God's Spirit led them to counter Satan's persecution without and division within. They did exactly as they saw Jesus do when attacked. They faithfully persevered in their mission. They weren't discouraged or swayed into changing their focus. They went out by twos and spread His Word wherever they went. Large numbers turned to Jesus for salvation. That, of course, brought up much demonic opposition but it also brought many people freedom from demonizing (Acts 8:5-13). Everything they accomplished was done in Jesus' name (Acts 4:7).



Day 6 - Sorcerers and Magicians

As word of the Christians' power in the name of Jesus spread, a man named Simon who practiced 'sorcery' heard of it (Acts 8:9). He had been using local traditions and pagan religions to remove demonic influence but with limited success. The powers he contacted to overcome the demons were demonic themselves, and therefore all of this was forbidden by God (Leviticus 19:26; Deuteronomy 18:10; 2 Kings 16:5; 17:17).



The word translated 'sorcerer' in the Bible is the Greek word 'magos.' Our word 'magic' comes from this but the real meaning does not refer to sleight of hand tricks which we associate with magicians today. It refers to those with supernatural abilities. It can be translated magician, sorcerer, wizard, enchanter, astrologer or even wise men ('Magi' in Matthew 2). Actually, the word started with the 'wise men' of the east, especially Babylon. These were men with learning and education that far exceeded anyone in their culture. This superior knowledge caused others to look up to them as something 'supernatural'. Daniel was one of these learned men who had great wisdom and insight (Daniel 2:12-48; 4:6, 18; 5:7-8, 15). As Greek culture spread into this area they picked up this word and applied it to anyone who did special acts or had special powers.

Simon used his demonic connections to impress the people around him (Acts 8:10) but when Philip came with his greater powers many came to Jesus and were baptized, including Simon himself who followed Philip everywhere because this new power was greater than anything he had seen (Acts 8:13). Simon, acting from his sin nature, tried to buy the power Philip had (Acts 8:18-19). Peter, who had come up from Jerusalem to help with the great working of God's Spirit that had broken out in Samaria, sternly rebuked Simon who immediately repented (Acts 8:20-24). God was teaching His followers that He bestows His powers freely and not to the highest bidder.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Unfortunately there are still many like Simon in the church today, those who want to use God and His power for their own benefit. Many are overly impressed with works of power, sign gifts and the like. They want the most and the best for themselves. They focus on the supernatural instead of the God behind the supernatural. Pride lures them in dangerous directions like it did Simon. God's message is the same as it was then – repent and stop trying to use God for your own glory!

Today it is easy to find those who are impressed with the power behind spiritual warfare and bringing deliverance to those who are demonized. They are in awe of demonic powers and spend way too much time and energy focusing on them. Instead our focus must go to God and His glory. Don't let demons, or those who are gifted to fight them, impress you or distract you from giving your attention and glory to Jesus alone. Don't make a god of spiritual warfare. It is a means to an end, not an end in itself!

Day 7 – Look Them Right In The Eye

The next clear incident of spiritual warfare recorded in Acts happened about a dozen years after the incident with Simon, about fifteen years after Jesus' resurrection. Paul had come to salvation and started his training (Acts 9), and Peter had begun taking the Gospel to the Gentiles (Acts 10-11). Persecution continued as James was killed, and Peter was imprisoned and awaiting death (Acts 12:1-4) until God supernaturally intervened and released Peter (Acts 12:5-19). Then Paul and Barnabas left on their first missionary journey (Acts 13:1-3). When they reached Cyprus they met strong Satanic opposition (Acts 13:4-12). Since Jesus Himself had found Himself in numerous power encounters with Satan and demons, it is no surprise that His followers would experience the same opposition as they continued His mission and ministry.

Bar-Jesus, a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet who had a lot of influence with the local official, opposed Paul and Barnabas when they tried to present the gospel to him (Acts 13:4-12). Bar-Jesus is also called Elymas, meaning "sorcerer". The same word, 'magos,' is used of him as was used of Simon Magus (Acts 8). That man was a Gentile but Bar-Jesus was a Jew and was demonized (Acts 13:10). He was Satan's



pawn against God and His work in the continuing battle of Satan to defeat God's Kingdom (Genesis 3:15). The results of who won this power encounter between Satan (through Bar-Jesus) and God (through Paul) would determine who would have the most influence on the leaders and people of Cyprus. The kingdom of darkness was again challenging the kingdom of light (John 1:5; 3:19; 8:12).

Paul was not intimidated but gave Bar-Jesus direct eye contact (Acts 13:9) and gave him the strongest recorded rebuke he ever gave anyone: "Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, 'You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun.' Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand." (Acts 13:9-11).

How did Paul know this man was a pawn of Satan and seeking to undermine God's ministry there? God's Spirit must have shown Him, as He did Peter about Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5; 1 Corinthians 12:10).

LESSON FOR TODAY: When encountering a demon in someone who is demonized do not let them intimidate you or cause any fear. God is greater (1 John 4:4) and we have nothing to fear (2 Timothy 1:7). Looking them in the eye is important, for this contact establishes your authority in Jesus over them and puts them under Jesus' authority. Our eyes show truth, along with who we are and the words we speak. This truth is greater than anything that lives in lies and deception. Be sensitive to God's Spirit as He shows you what you need to know to have victory against these demonic forces.

God's judgment on Bar-Jesus was very appropriate – physical blindness to illustrate the spiritual blindness he already had (Acts 13:11-12). Everyone present saw God's power defeat Satan's power and that opened the way for the gospel to spread in that area. Hopefully his time in darkness brought Bar-Jesus to a realization of the truth and he found the true light in Jesus.

4. POWER ENCOUNTERS (Acts)

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MEMORY VERSE 1 Peter 5:8-9 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.

Gospels 150 references to spirit world (many parallel accounts)

Rest of NT 178 additional references

Satan, demons know time short, fight more

Revelation 86 references of Satan and evil spirits



chapter	1-7	8-12	13-28							
area	JERUSALEM	JUDEA - SAMARIA	ENDS OF EARTH							
people	JEWS	SAMARITANS	GENTILES							
men	PETER	PHILIP (Peter/Paul)	PAUL							
church	ESTABLISHMENT	EXTENSION	EXPANSION							
time	2 YRS (33-35)	13 YRS (35-48)	14 YRS (48-62)							
Paul's travels		Missionary Jour	1MJ	2MJ	3MJ	Ro me1	Tri p	Ro me	...	
			Chapters	13-14	16-18	19-20	21-28			
			Years	1 ½	2 ½	4	5	5	1	...
New Test. Books		James	Mark Gal.	IThes IIThes	I Cor II Cor Rom	Eph Col Phile Philippi Acts	ITi m Titu Mt Lk I Pt II Pt	II Tim Heb Jud	Jn I Jn II Jn III Jn Rev	

A. EVENTS (Acts)

1. PENTECOST AND AFTER (Acts 1-4) HOLY SPIRIT, Persecution without

Acts starts with _____ – victory of Jesus celebrated

Holy Spirit came on _____ (Acts 2:1-13) – told to wait, not do anything until HS came
Peter, others, completely changed by HS (Mk 14:66-72 cp with Acts 2:14-40)
God's Spirit is essential for us to have victory in our battle against sin and Satan

Satan failed to stop Jesus, attacks Jesus' _____ to stop victory message from spread
PHYSICAL OPPOSITION first approach – suffering, persecution, prison (Acts 4:1-4)
Caused followers to increase faithfulness and grow (Acts 4:5-22)
God uses persecution to make the church stronger (Rom 8:28)

2. ANANIAS & SAPPHIRA (Acts 5) 1 year after res Persecution within

ATTACK WITHIN was Satan's second & more successful approach against church
Satan causes more damage to the church from within than from without

Ananias & Sapphira _____, lied, pride (want glory for selves) (Acts 5:1-10)
Greed, pride, jealousy, lies and deception common tools of Satan today
Pride keeps us from sharing with others, also greed
Fear of not having enough for self, not trusting God to supply

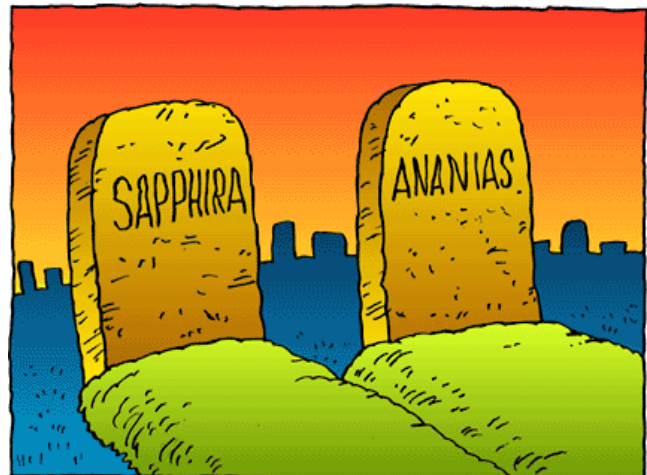
MEMORY VERSE. 1 Peter 5:8-9 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.

Holy Spirit revealed to Peter that Satan filled their heart so they lied (Acts 5:3)
"Fill" (piero Gk) "fill to the full", used of filling of HS Eph 5:18, filled with 1, not both
Satan literally did it, or through a demon???? Satan only one place at a time

Peter had gift of distinguishing between spirits (1 Cor 12:10; Acts 13:6-12)
God gifts some with this today to minister deliverance for others

Sapphira responsible, too, not just husband Ananias

When access to one can enter those close through sex or emotions (1 Cor 6:16)



3. PETER'S SHADOW DELIVERS (Acts 5) Persecution within & without

People healed as Peter's _____ fell on them

Miracles = validate the authenticity of the messenger and message

Special manifestations of spiritual power thru healing & deliverance authenticate

Seen in India, etc – healing, dreams,

Will take place in tribulation (Rev 11:1-6)

Satan counterfeit miracles to deceive (Mt 7:22-23; 24:44; Mk 13:20-22; Rev 16:24)

Don't depend on signs – live by faith, not sight (2 Cor 5:7)

ATTACK WITHIN - Some people felt not getting fair share of free _____ (Acts 6:1)

Satan's strategy is to bring division, Christians are to show love (Jn 18:35)

PHYSICAL PERSECUTION continued, _____ killed, Christians scattered

God used this to get them to take gospel outside Jerusalem (Acts 1:8)

God uses for good what Satan plans for evil (Joseph to Egypt Gen 50:20)

God limits what Satan can do (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6)



4. MANY HEALED & DELIVERED (Acts 8:1-8)

Philip won hearing by non-Jewish by victory over spirit world & healing (Acts 8:6-8)

When minister outside West be open to greater overt spiritual manifestations

By /God (healing, dreams, deliverance) as well as Satan (fear)

5. SIMON MAGUS (Acts 8) 2 years after resurrection - **Can't buy Holy Spirit**

'Sorcerer' – (magos Gk –magic) – supernatural abilities, sorcerer, wizard, enchanter, etc

Magi from Babylon (Mt 2) well educated kingmakers with much knowledge

Daniel one of these (Daniel 2:12-48; 4:6, 18; 5:7-8, 15)

Simon a _____, wanted to buy Holy Spirit to use power for own prestige

Danger: using God's power for own benefit, pride, prestige, impress others

GROUP ASSIGNMENT:

Read Acts 13:6-12 They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus, 7 who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God. 8 But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith. 9 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, 10 "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? 11 Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand. 12 When the proconsul saw what had happened, he believed, for he was amazed at the teaching about the Lord.

What lessons can you learn from Paul's actions in this passage?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

6. BAR-JESUS (ELYMAS) (Acts 13) 15 yrs after res - **PAUL REBUKES DEM.**

PHYSICAL PERSECUTION _____ killed (Acts 12:1-2) Peter arrested (Acts 12:3-4).

Paul persecuting, killing believers, then converted (Acts 9)

Paul looked Elymas in the eye unintimidated, no fear (Acts 13:9)

Demons use fear, intimidation to win, have faith, no fear (2 Tim 1:7)

Look demonized person right in the eye to make contact, establish authority over God showed Paul he was demonized, like Peter about Ananias & Sapphira





WHAT DOES GOD'S VOICE SOUND LIKE?

A. Gentle _____ (still, small voice)

1 Kings 19:11-13 The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind.

After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave. Then a voice said to him, "What are you doing here, Elijah?"

B. Rich & Enlightened _____

John 2:22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples recalled what he had said. Then they believed the Scripture and the words that Jesus had spoken.

John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

C. Warm, Burning _____

Luke 24:32 They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

Ps 39:1-3 I said, "I will watch my ways and keep my tongue from sin; I will put a muzzle on my mouth as long as the wicked are in my presence." 2 But when I was silent and still, not even saying anything good, my anguish increased. 3 My heart grew hot within me, and as I meditated, the fire burned; then I spoke with my tongue:

HOW CAN I TELL THE VOICE IS GOD'S AND NOT SATAN'S?

A. GOD CONVICTS – SATAN

God – feel guilty and sinful but loved anyway

Satan – feel guilty and sinful, also rejected by God

JESUS FORGIVES (focus on restoration)

John 8:10-11 Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."



SATAN ACCUSES (focus on the guilt)

Revelation 12:10 Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his God. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down."

B. GOD CLARIFIES – SATAN

God – clearly see sin in its true, deadly light

Takes away the deception and 'pleasure' of it

Reveals deadliness, awfulness of the sin itself

1 Corinthians 13:11 When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me.

Satan – perplex us with worldly logic and explanations

Wrong, but justifiable, not all that wrong, good reason for it...

James 3:15 Such "wisdom" does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil.

C. GOD CONFIRMS – SATAN

God – 'agree' with what God telling us inside, Spirit agrees, what others have said agrees,

Agrees with word of God

Phil 4:8-9 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable-if anything is excellent or praiseworthy-think about such things. ... And the God of peace will be with you.

Satan – doesn't agree with Bible, advice of others, etc.

Blinded to it by own wanting it to happen

Feel convinced we are an exception, can break God's law for 'spiritual' reason

D. GOD CHOOSES – SATAN

God – brings us into freedom, no strings attached
You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.

Satan – brings bondage, captures us, can't let go, end up in bondage
2 Timothy 2:26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.



E. GOD CONSTRAINS – SATAN

God – draws us for positive reason, love, etc
2 Corinthians 5:14 For God's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

Satan – constricts, limits, makes feel hopeless and ineffective, discourages

The seven questions

- 1 - **Is it consistent with the word of God?** Does this solution fit the principles that are in the Bible? Does it violate anything in the Bible?
- 2 - **Is it a wise decision?** In your own heart and mind is it the type of solution that Jesus God himself would agree with? Would Jesus implement this solution himself?
- 3 - **Are you confident in asking God to enable you to achieve this solution?** Can you look upon this solution as one that God would send into your life?
- 4 - **Do you feel that it is a God given solution?** Deep within your heart do you feel or sense that this solution is the will of God?
- 5 - **Does this solution fit a child of God?** From all that you know about God, does this solution or this answer fit a person that truly loves, believes, and trusts God?
- 6 - **Does the solution fit God's overall plan for your life?** Does this solution fit in with God's guidance and direction of your life?
- 7 - **Does this solution honor God?** Does it bring glory praise to Almighty God?



and

HOW TO TELL GOD'S VOICE FROM SATAN'S VOICE



Impersonators make good money entertaining and impressing audiences with their ability to look and/or sound like someone famous. They can make good money cashing in on someone else's fame and good name.

Satan does the same thing. He pretends to be God speaking to man – but not just for entertainment and amusement. The results are deadly if we listen to the wrong voice.

In World War II the Japanese found ways to broadcast on American airwaves to soldiers, giving commands and orders to deceive and defeat our troops. Soldiers had to make sure they were taking orders from the right source. As God's soldiers in a deadly war with Satan, we must make sure that we are hearing from Him and not our enemy. Sometimes that isn't so easy.

We're finishing a series of messages on listening to God speak. We've talked about how He speaks in a still, quiet voice so we must take time to be still and listen to Him. We've seen how through the Spirit He speaks rich and thoughts to our minds and/or puts a warm burning in our hearts. He convicts of sin, gives guidance or information, encourages or gives peace, helps us to carry out ministries He assigns us, and reveals Himself to us so we can respond in worship.

As with a friend or loved one, we must take time to listen. As we learn to identify His voice and commit to responding to what He says, we will find we hear from Him quite often. Our relationship with Him will grow and we'll be much better servants of His.

However sometimes it's hard to know if it is really God who is speaking to us or another voice which is counterfeiting and confusing us.

I. WHAT VOICES DO I HEAR?

There are actually three counterfeit 'voices' that can confuse or mislead us. The first is the voice of the flesh. As Paul says in Romans 8:5-8, the flesh is, in essence, the part of us that tends to sin. It is in opposition to the Spirit in us and leads us to disobedience of God (James 1:13-14). The desires of the flesh can be strong, especially if they have been given free reign in the past.

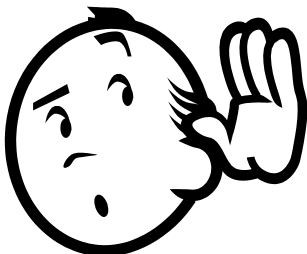
By knowing what God's Word says and by listening to the convicting voice of the Spirit within, we can learn to recognize this voice for the self-centered temptation it is.

A second 'voice' is the voice of the world. The world system, with its values and goals, can have a strong appeal to our sin nature (flesh). John warns us not to the system around us that is not based on love of God and His Word (I John 2:15-17). Its 'voice' comes to us through what we see, hear and read in our daily lives. It can come through others, the media, or our own envy of those who seem better off than we are. Inputs from the world around us can be very persuasive, effecting how we think and therefore behave. They can sound very appealing, so we need to carefully study God's will as revealed in the Bible and be sensitive to the Spirit's promptings and warnings. When the voice of the world lines up with the voice of the flesh, the temptation can be very strong.

The most dangerous voice, however, because it is most subtle, is the voice of Satan. Ananias obviously listened to Satan's voice instead of God's when saying he was donating all he received for the sale of his land when it was, in fact, only part of the amount (Acts 5:3).

Satan does communicate with man. He did so with Jesus when He was tempted after forty days in the wilderness (Matthew 4). Paul says Satan sows deception in the hearts of people (2 Corinthians 11:3).

Jesus says that everything Satan says is a lie, for that is his nature. "You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature; for he is a liar, and the father of lies" John 8:44.



The Bible doesn't give details about just how Satan does this, but we do know he can put thoughts into a person's mind. "But turning around and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter, and said, "Get behind Me, Satan; for you are not setting your mind on God's interests, but man's" Mark 8:33.

In addition, Satan can take thoughts out of a mind. "When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road" Matthew 13:19.

As with Adam and Eve, Satan's communication with man is always deceitful and destructive. He can make suggestions about how we may meet a legitimate need on our own without waiting for God's provision. He can put thoughts of guilt and failure into our minds. He can provide excuses to justify a sinful course we are taking. He can undermine God's goodness and the Bible's authority.

Satan is willing to speak as much as a man is willing to listen. He uses various forms of the occult to communicate with man, such as tarot cards, Ouija boards, séances, and other means. He can and will speak directly to a person much as the Holy Spirit does. "Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour" (1 Peter 5:8). Because Satan is the most dangerous of the counterfeit voices we hear, we will focus on him for this message.

Satan is a counterfeiter. He tries to counterfeit all God does for His people. Judas heard Satan's voice and betrayed Jesus (Matthew 26:14-16). Peter heard Satan's voice and did not believe the voice of Jesus (Mark 8:31-33). A leper was healed by Jesus and told not to tell anyone who did it but he heard Satan's voice and disobeyed (Mark 1:40-45).

While we know Satan is limited to one place at a time, we must recognize that he does his work thorough demons. It is highly unlikely that Satan will ever speak to us directly, but by assigning certain demons to harass and impact us the result is the same. Thus when we say that 'Satan speaks to us' we are really recognizing that all demonic forces work together for Satan.

David's thought to take a census of the people was demon-inspired (1 Chronicles 21:1ff; 2 Samuel 24:1ff). Saul's jealousy and anger at David was as well (1 Samuel 16:14-23). Ananias and Sapphira's greed was demon stimulated as well (Acts 5:3). When God didn't speak to Saul, he went to a medium to connect with a supernatural power (1 Samuel 28:4-7). For this reason John warns, "Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

Therefore it is essential to make sure you can tell Satan's voice from God's voice. Let's look at how to do that.

II. HOW CAN I TELL THE VOICE IS GOD'S AND NOT SATAN'S?

The first way we can tell the difference between God's voice and Satan's voice is that God convicts while Satan condemns. When God speaks to us about sin we feel guilty and sinful but still loved. When it is Satan condemning us we don't feel loved but rejected and hopeless.

Jesus forgives and restores, as with the woman taken in adultery. Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?" "No one, sir," she said. "Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin" (John 8:10-11).

By contrast Satan accuses and focuses on our guilt. That's why he's called the 'accuser of our brothers' (Revelation 12:10).

God will expose the sin and focus on it, but only for the purpose of us confessing and removing it. He offers hope of restoration. He doesn't emphasize our guilt, failure and unworthiness in that area and as a person in general, but Satan does.

When Jesus convicts we know specifically what He is talking about and what to do about it. When it comes from Satan we just have a nagging sense of unspecified guilt and failure to discourage and defeat us. Or Satan will point to past sins which have been confessed and forgiven and try to get us to feel miserable about them, ignoring the fact that God has forgotten them.

So God convicts but Satan condemns.

A second way of telling the difference is to remember that God clarifies but Satan confuses. When God speaks to us it is to clearly show us sin in its true, deadly light. The 'pleasure' and deception is removed and the awful deadliness is revealed. Satan, however, tries to perplex us with worldly logic and explanations. He feeds us excuses, justifications, thoughts of how it is another's fault and general confusion over it (James 3:15). When God speaks there is a sense that everything is under control (1 Corinthians 14:32). Satan's purpose is to ensnare and take captive (2 Timothy 2:24-26).

God's voice brings peace (Philippians 4:7) but Satan's voice brings uncertainty for what he tells us conflicts with what the Spirit is also telling us. Thus we feel perplexed.

If the voice you are hearing brings a nagging, gnawing feeling of frustration in your spirit, it's not from God. God brings a deep calmness in your spirit.

Thus God convicts while Satan condemns. God clarifies while Satan confuses. There's another way to tell the difference: God confirms while Satan contradicts. When its God's voice speaking to us we know it lines up with the Bible and advice Godly believers would give us. It passes Paul's of making sure everything is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable (Philippians 9). However when Satan speaks his words don't agree with the Bible or advice of mature Christians. When we desire it so much we ignore the warnings in our spirit are headed to sin.

So God convicts while Satan condemns, God clarifies while Satan confuses, God confirms while Satan contradicts.

Further, God chooses while Satan captures. God's voice brings us freedom, there are no strings attached. "You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." Following Satan's voice brings bondage, we are trapped and taken prisoner (2 Timothy 2:26).



test
4:8-
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and

Satan says, "Do your own thing, do what you want to do." God says, "Consider the effects of your behavior on others. Live a selfless, self-giving life." Satan says, "Live for the moment." God says, "Live with an eye on eternity." Satan says "Don't concern yourself with what others say." God says, "Receive godly counsel." Satan says, "You're as mature as you ever need to be. You're grown up." God says, "Continue to grow and mature and to become more and more like Jesus." In all these Satan's advice, while appealing to our flesh, leads to bondage and defeat. God's will, instead, brings freedom and life.

God convicts while Satan condemns, God clarifies while Satan confuses, and God confirms while Satan contradicts. God chooses while Satan captures.

In addition, God constrains but Satan constricts. God draws us by His love and gives us a desire to want to live for Him. "For Christ's love compels us" (2 Corinthians 5:14). Moving from sin to following God is like taking a shower when we are really dirty because we know how good we'll feel afterwards. Satan's communication does not bring that. It constricts, limits, makes us feel dirtier and ineffective. We feel discouraged and hopeless.

Satan is like the salesman trying to force us to make a decision we aren't quite sure of, telling us if we don't buy now it'll be too late. God respects our free will and doesn't force us. He gives us time to think the alternatives through. When we feel forced, pushed or in a hurry we can know Satan is speaking, not God. God is never in a hurry/

So in summary we see that God convicts while Satan condemns, God clarifies while Satan confuses, and God confirms while Satan contradicts. God chooses while Satan captures. God constrains but Satan constricts.

GROUP ASSIGNMENT:

Read Acts 16:16-18 Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a slave girl who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. 17 This girl followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved." 18 She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so troubled that he turned around and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her.

What lessons can you learn from Paul's actions in this passage?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6

7. PHILIPPI MEDIUM (Acts 16:16-18) 17 yrs after res

"spirit ... predicted the future" = 'python' (indwelt by spirit from Apollo who gave oracles)

Gk god Apollo spoke through her by the demon (spoke with male voice)

(Counterfeit, fake, speaking on 'tongues' 1 Cor 11-13, ???) **PSYCHIC**

Girl was a medium for the demon speaks (Isa 8:19; Lev 19:31; 20:27; Deut 18:9-13)

Looked her in the eyes:

Look the person in the eye. If they can't hold eye contact it is because the demon(s) can't stand the light of Jesus in us and turn from it.

"In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her! At that moment the spirit left her." (Acts 16:18)



8. IDOLATRY ATHENS, CORINTH (Acts 17) 18 years after resurrection

Problem with sacrifices made in pagan worship accepted by demons (1 Cor 10:20-21)
Demons behind idols today, take praise for themselves, empowered by it
God jealous, forbids all idols (Ex 20:5; 34:14; Deut 4:24; 5:9; Josh 24:19)

9. PAUL AT EPHESUS (Acts 19) 20 yrs after res **POWER ENCOUNTERS**

3MJ - Ephesus key city in Asia Minor (future center of Church, Mary & John, etc.)
Paul visited at least twice (Acts 18:19-21; 19:1 – 20:1).
Key city, so Satan worked hard to control it, stop church here
Artemis worshipped in Ephesus (people animists who worshipped demons)

POWER ENCOUNTERS – crisis point in on-going sp warfare battle

Paul did “signs and wonders” to show God’s power (2 Cor 12:12; rom 15:19)
In pagan cultures today power encounters still common
God uses miracles, healing, deliverance, dreams, etc.



POWER ENCOUNTER 1: _____ healing

Merchants made money selling amulets, charms with demonic power to heal
Satan can cause illness

Satan can cause illness (Job2:7-8), even death (Job 1:19).

Paul's thorn in the flesh (eye disease? - II Corinthians 12:7),

crippled limbs (Luke 13:11),

muteness (dumbness, too - Mt 9:32-33; 12:22; Mk 9:17-18,24-25), blindness
(Matthew 12:22),

seizures (Mark 1:26; 9:17-18,20,22,25; Matthew 17:15,18; Luke 9:39),

deafness (Mark 9:17-18,20,25),

sores (skin cancer?) (Job 2:7),

boils & other painful afflictions (Ps 78:49 - plagues in Egypt demon-caused),

physical torments of all kinds (Revelation 9:5,10).

Since demons can cause illness, they can fake counterfeit healings as well

Examples: (Mt 7:22-23; 12:24; 24:24; 2 Thes 2:9; Rev 16:14).

Egyptian magicians Ex 7-8

Elymas, Simon Magus Acts 8, 13

God uses power encounters, miracles, to validate & spread His Word, but not often

POWER ENCOUNTER 2: sons of _____

Sceva self-proclaimed chief priest, used occult to do Jewish exorcisms

Used 'Jesus' as magic charm in deliverance, demon beat them up (Acts 19:13)

Demons work together, making it seem like demonic power brings deliverance

Often times demons oppose, fight each other – 'confusion' is them battling selves

Never use Jesus' name as a magic charm!

POWER ENCOUNTER 3: _____ sorcery books

Results of 1 & 2 = many fear, turn to God, burn occult things (Acts 19:17-20)

Any occult materials today must be destroyed, not kept in our possession

False religions, cults, Masonic, Native Am or African things, drugs, porno

Dedicate room/place to God again, play Christian music, anoint with oil

INDIA power encounters:



CASE STUDY: DIANNE has developed a strange obsession with pain. She has these overwhelming desires to stick herself with a needle or cut her arm, and when she does she gets this strange kind of high from the pain, like something inside her really likes it! She's even thinking about getting a tattoo because she heard that the pain from the needles really hurts a lot, and something in her finds that attractive. She hasn't always felt this way, in fact it only started after a sleep-over at a friend's house who showed her the scars from when she cut herself. They played with the Ouija board to find out what boys in school liked them, and that was it. But now Dianne just can't bring herself to read the Bible, and when others read it or talk about it, like the sermon in church, she finds herself falling right to sleep even though she didn't think she was tired. It all seems so strange, and she misses the good times she used to have reading and studying her Bible. But she doesn't know what to do about it. What would you say or do to help Dianne? How could you use spiritual warfare to help her?

Have you had any personal experience with anything supernatural. Especially the evil or dark side?

Share some principles of how we can listen to God?

How can we tell God's voice from Satan's counterfeit voice?

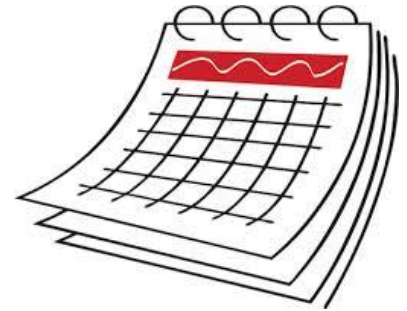
CASE STUDY: DANNY stumbled across some porn at a friend's house when they were looking in his older brother's room. Since then it seems to be all he thinks about. It's not just naked women, its weird, kinky kind of awful stuff that should disgust him but instead fascinates him. He feels really guilty and wants to talk to someone, but is afraid of admitting what goes on in his mind. Lately he's been thinking about how he can see more of this on his computer or cable TV, or even of places he can go to pay and see the real thing! He KNOWS that is wrong but just can't stop his thoughts from going in that direction. No one in his home or church talks about this kind of stuff so he things there must be something wrong with him, and that just makes him feel worse. He tries to pray but God seems far away and unconcerned. When he tells the thoughts to go away "in Jesus' name" it seems to help for awhile, but then they come back. What would you say or do to help Danny? How could you use spiritual warfare to help him?



DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK 5

Epistles



Day 1 - Putting on the Armor

Paul included his most complete account of how to win spiritual battles in his letter to the Ephesians (Ephesians 6:10-18). In light of all the warfare going on in Ephesus this is very appropriate. Writing from prison in Rome, chained to a Roman soldier who was guarding him, Paul must have looked for a way to convey what he wanted to say about spiritual warfare in terms the people would understand. While looking at his guard, he applied the pieces of equipment that Roman soldiers used to those that Christian soldiers use.

Paul knew that Roman soldiers didn't supply their own equipment, it was provided by their commander. Thus he starts by telling his audience that it is God's power and strength that gives us victory (Ephesians 6:10; Philippians 4:13; 1 John 4:4). We have the same power that raised Jesus from the grave (Ephesians 1:18-23; Hebrews 2:14-15). Our victory comes from God – He provides the equipment necessary to achieve it.

However just because equipment is provided doesn't mean Christian soldiers use theirs appropriately, or even use it at all. It is Satan's schemes (Ephesians 6:11; 2 Corinthians 2:11) that deceive and trap us, like a hunter seeking to trap an animal. Therefore it is up to us to use the power and equipment God provides – all of it ("full armor").

LESSON FOR TODAY: What makes this an even more difficult battle is that our enemy is not a physical soldier whom we can see and fight in our power, rather it is a spiritual enemy, a demonic power (Ephesians 6:12). "Rulers ... authorities ... powers ... spiritual forces" refer to various groups of demons in Satan's organization. Demons are organized according to their power like an army: generals, majors, captains, lieutenants, sergeants and privates. The generals and majors oversee large geographical areas or philosophical ideologies. Down it goes to the privates, demons with names like Lust, Greed, Pride, Fear or Self-Destruction. These are the ones we usually deal with in a personal way when we are involved in our spiritual warfare.

LESSON FOR TODAY: When a person is demonized there is a ruler (lieutenant or sergeant) who has a group of other demons (privates) under him. They set up their stronghold and each demon present is chosen for the particular focus of the work he does. Under the guidance of the ruler, they work together to accomplish the mission of the group which is always the destruction of the person they are attacking. The ultimate goal is the death of the person, but since they can't take a life they seek to make life so miserable that only death seems to hold hope of escape. Their goal is to cause the person to take their own life. Until they can get a person to that point they seek to make his witness for Jesus ineffective and his life as painful and empty as possible.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Paul says we are in a 'struggle' (Ephesians 6:12). This word refers to a fight to the death. Satan assigns demons to destroy each believer, their family and their church. We are in a life and death struggle, we don't realize how serious our enemy is about our destruction.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Not all problems and struggles are from Satan. While we want to know what he does so we can defeat him, we don't want to give him and his demons more credit than is due them. When he is bound man's sin nature will still lead him into sin without Satan's help (Revelation 20:1-3). That can assist u in knowing what is from demons and what is from our sin

nature. If the source is our sin nature without demonic influence, than confession, submission to God, prayer, Bible reading and memory and good Christian fellowship will bring immediate or progressive victory. If that does not happen then it is good to consider there might be something demonic involved as well.

Before listing the pieces of equipment available to us Paul wants to emphasize the importance of Christian soldiers standing firm against any attack the enemy launches at them. Three times he commands them to “stand” (Ephesians 13-14a).

LESSON FOR TODAY: We are to be alert and ready, not sitting or lying down sleeping. We shouldn't be caught off guard but must be alert. Nor should we retreat in fear or defeat. Yet the truth is that the stronger we stand the hotter the battle will get for the harder the demons will attack. The battle will never end until our Commander comes and takes us home. Our fight here will be over when we are promoted to heaven at death, or when Jesus returns, but not before.

Day 2 - The Helmet of Salvation

The helmet Roman soldiers wore was made of metal. An enemy would lift his heavy four foot long sword over his head with two hands and bring it straight down on the Roman soldier's head. The helmet was to protect his head from these attacks. Without proper protecting the damage done could be devastating!

LESSON FOR TODAY: Satan attacks our mind and thoughts whenever possible, for the damage done there can be tremendous. Demons seek to put thoughts of doubt, fear, confusion, lust, greed, pride or any other sin in our mind. We must know God's truth to have protection and victory. Our spiritual battles are won or lost in our minds first of all.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Often the thoughts that defeat us have been with us for many years, even since early childhood. Quite often they are thoughts others in our family struggle with as well – generational sins passed down through our ancestors (Exodus 20:4-5; 34:6-7; Deuteronomy 5:8-9). (For more information see under Old Testament, Moses (Exodus – Deuteronomy).)

LESSON FOR TODAY: The solution to victory over demonic thoughts placed into our minds is to 1) close the door that let them in by confessing as sin any thoughts you entertained that were not godly (1 John 1:9). Know in your mind that they can't defeat you. Don't let them put fear or confusion into your mind. God has given us the power and authority to command them to be gone in His name (Luke 9:1; 10:1, 17-19). Then 2) pray and take back any claim they make against you through your family line (2 Corinthians 5:17; John 1:12-13). Finally 3) whenever they knock on the door and try to return, quote Scripture to keep the truth of God's Word in your mind (Psalm 119:9-11) and to defeat them. Knowing and using God's Word, the sword of the Spirit, is key for victory (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 77:12; I Chronicles 28:9; Matthew 22:37-38; I Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 4:8). That's how Jesus defeated Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). Satan tries to plant doubts about God's word in man's mind. This is how he got Eve to sin. She misquoted God's Word to Satan and when he added to what God said (making God seem like He was keeping something good from her) she didn't recognize the error. Satan was undermining God's Word, and he won! We must be skillful in the use of our sword to win.

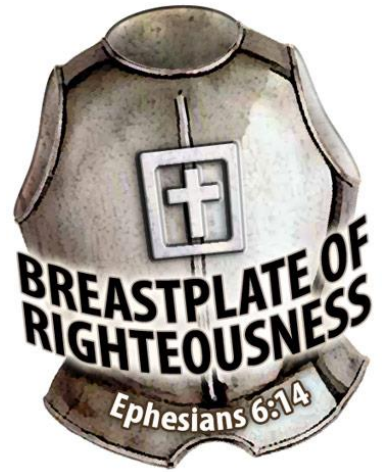
When Jesus was tempted He quoted Scripture to have victory over Satan's temptations. Paul says our only offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Psalm 119:9,11 tell us that it's through God's Word that we have victory. When you have these thoughts and attacks use Scripture to have victory. Ask God to give you some verses that will help against these things, write them down and memorize them. Say them over and over when these thoughts attack you. That is the only way to victory, and God guarantees it will work!



Day 3 - The Breastplate of Righteousness

The breastplate was made of small pieces of metal or leather fastened together so they would move and bend but so no arrow, spear or sword could go through them. It was important for it covered the heart and other vital organs. If an enemy soldier could inflict a serious wound to the upper body he would be victorious. In hand to hand combat the enemy would grab the Roman soldier's arm to pull him close and with his sword in try to stab him in the chest or stomach.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Suppose a soldier didn't bother putting on his breastplate some morning? Maybe it was too hot or too heavy, or maybe he was in a hurry or just lazy. What would happen? That's what happens to us when we don't put on our breastplate. Paul calls it the "breastplate of righteousness" because it refers to our holiness. We are holy because Jesus paid for our sins on the cross, but then we must strive to live a life free from personal sin as well. If we allow sin in our life our breastplate will have openings through which our enemy can attack and destroy us.



Demonizing happens because there is a sin that opens the door for demons to enter. The most common avenue to demonic entrance is through a family line. One person opens themselves to demonic influence and the demons claim them and all they have, including children. Then the same traits and influences pass on to the children and their children (for more information see Old Testament, 3. Moses (Exodus – Deuteronomy). Occult and Satanic involvement in demonic activities, drugs, acid rock music, Ouija boards, etc. is another opening. Cult involvement will also open the door for them. Involvement of a family member in a 'secret society' such as the Masons is an open invitation to demonizing. The Bible says that when two people have sex the two become one flesh and that allows demons to claim the other person. Abuse of any kind or any form of trauma, especially when young, open one to the demonic. Strong soul ties with someone who is demonized can cause an opening. Being unwanted when in the womb or young is a definite opening. These are some of the main avenues demons use to gain entrance and attack people.

LESSON FOR TODAY: If you have any of these openings in your life pray to have them removed. It's like opening a door and allowing someone to enter a room, then realize you shouldn't have done that. You need to close the door so no one else enters, but you also need to command those who already have entered to leave. Confessing the sin and taking back the access closes the door. Rebuking and commanding them to be gone cleans the room. The solution for sin openings is to 1) ask God to show you any sin in your life (Psalm 139:23-24), then 2) confess the sin and close the door that let the demon(s) in (1 John 1:9). You must also 3) command any demons working against you or your family to be gone, using the authority we have in Jesus' name and power ((John 14:12; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:1; 10:1, 17-19; Acts 1:8).

Then when you notice any kind of spiritual attack you defeat it by quoting scripture. When Jesus was tempted He quoted Scripture to have victory over Satan's temptations. Paul says our only offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. Psalm 119:9,11 tell us that it's through God's Word that we have victory. When you have these thoughts and attacks, use Scripture to have victory. Ask God to give you some verses that will help against these thing. Write them down and memorize them. Say them over and over when these thoughts attack you. That is the only way to victory, and God guarantees it will work!

Day 4 - The Belt of Truth

The belt a Roman soldier wore was an important piece of equipment for it held the weapons and equipment which he carried with him. It also held his clothing out of the way so he wouldn't stumble and fall when moving or fighting. In cool weather a heavy cloak was worn and it was easy to get tangled up in it if there wasn't a belt to hold it out of the way.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Paul equates this with knowing God's truth which keeps us from stumbling and falling spiritually. Satan would do anything he can to trip us up with his lies and deceptions (John 8:44). His demons put thoughts in our mind that we'll never have victory but will always be defeated, that God doesn't care about us because our sin is so great, that what we are going through is our own fault and we deserve to suffer, that Jesus isn't God, that we are inferior to others and a failure, or any lie that can trip us up. Whenever we get a thought that doesn't line up with God's truth as revealed in His Word, a thought that Jesus wouldn't have entertained, make sure you reject it as well.

LESSON FOR TODAY: The way to have victory over Satan's lies and deceptions is by knowing God's truth. 1) Ask God to show you any lies you believe, then 2) confess them as sin and replace them with the truth of God's Word. Find Scripture passages and write them down to carry with you and use them when attacked. Make sure 3) you take back any access any demons have claimed through these lies. Also 4) spend time each day reading and learning God's Word, including marking and memorizing passages which speak to you.

LESSON FOR TODAY: God's truth is the basis for all we are and have. We are God's people under His care and protection. Nothing can harm us. Not even curses that are knowingly or unknowingly placed against us.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Did the Ephesians use their armor and have victory in their spiritual warfare? Yes and no. Yes, for they didn't fall back into the sins that opened them to demonizing in the past. But also no, for Satan changed his tactics and attacked from within the church instead and this was much more successful. Deceptions and lies from false teachers brought confusion and often disunity among the believers. Satan still attacks from without and within today. It is the subtle attacks within we must be aware of for they often take us by surprise. That makes them more dangerous and deadly. We must know God's Word thoroughly and apply it to all things in life to avoid being deceived.



Day 5 - The Sandals of Peace

The Romans needed sturdy sandals on their feet for marching and fighting. They would walk in sand, on sharp rocks, and through streams of slippery stones. They could be attacked at any moment so they needed something that would help them stand firm no matter where they found themselves. Their enemy would pick a location to fight that was advantageous for them but not for the Romans. They would do anything to gain an unfair advantage!



LESSON FOR TODAY: Our enemy still does the same thing to us today. He does anything he can to gain even the slightest advantage over the Christian. He tries to choose the footing that will give him victory and take away our peace. When he gets us on his ground he presses the attack. We can be on his ground when something that happened at that place in the past opened the door to demonic control.

Some event may have happened on the land or in the home or room where you live. It could be a violent act, an occult activity, a curse, a dedicating of the property to the powers of darkness or similar acts. Sometimes when we go into a certain neighborhood or home there is a 'sense' of evil, a discomfort in our spirit. In a store that sells New Age materials you may 'feel' different in your spirit, a discomfort. This is the explanation for supernatural apparitions that happen in 'haunted' homes – demonic activity may be present. Some countries and even continents are in extra darkness and bondage and it can be sensed by believers. The message we get is from God's Holy Spirit Who is warning us against the evil around us.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Our solution is 1) to pray, taking back any access the enemy may claim to the property and asserting our right as children of God to claim and use it. Put any other claims under the blood of Jesus and dedicate it to Him for His honor and glory. Then 2) claim the place for Jesus and dedicate it to Him alone. A sign, picture or cross on the wall can be a good visual reminder to all of the ownership of the property by the Lord Jesus Christ.

Pray, even anoint your house and property, inside and out. Walk around your boundaries praying out loud, claiming your property for God and forbidding any demons to have any access to it. Dedicate it to God and invite His presence through all of it. Take back any access any demons may claim to the property and put that access under the blood of Jesus. Break it in Jesus' name. Ask God to put an angelic hedge of protection around it. Do the same in all the rooms of the house, especially the basement (if you have one). Anoint each room with oil by dipping your finger in the oil and putting a cross on the door, walls, etc. Pray as you did when you walked around the property. If there is one particular part of the house that seems to have demonic presence in a specially strong way, put a night light there so there is always light in to room. You could do that to all the rooms. Demons hate light, and they hate hearing Jesus praised, so you can play praise music in various places 24 hours a day. It can be real soft – they will hear it!

LESSON FOR TODAY: Another way we can find ourselves having poor footing and a harder time standing against Satan, is when we have something in our possession that gives demons access to the place where we are. When the Jews took possession of Canaan under Joshua they were told to not keep any of the objects they captured. Even animals and children were to be destroyed. They had been dedicated to Satan and were claimed by him. Those who used these things would be opening themselves up to the demonic powers to whom they had been dedicated. That's why Paul had the people in Ephesus burn all their occult books (Acts 19:17-20). Today we must watch for things like literature from other cults and religions, Ouija boards and other occult paraphernalia, pagan objects from primitive cultures, objects from Masonic or other secret societies,

some Native American artifacts or the like. Pornography, drug or alcoholic supplies, music with a black or evil dimension and similar items can also be used as points of entry by demons.

LESSON FOR TODAY: *The solution is 1) to remove and destroy such objects as God convicts you as being openings for demonic access. Ask for forgiveness for having them, cleanse the room from their presence, 2) take back any access the enemy may claim and dedicate the space as well as yourself to Jesus. Ask Him to reveal to you anything else that may need to be dealt with.*

When a room or object is under the control of an evil spirit for whatever reason they claim, painting crosses by dipping a finger in oil and making them on a wall claims the place for Jesus. Playing Christian music and leaving a small light on also are offensive to the forces of darkness. Of course praying and quoting scripture while making the crosses is important, too. I know I, as a Christian, have great power in blessing people, especially my own family and other Christians. 'God bless you' is more than a slang or shallow comment. There's real power in it when one means it that way. It's a privilege I use and repeat often to people. Distance doesn't seem to affect it at all. Of course there is something even more special about touching a person when I pray or ask God to bless them, but when far away from them God still answers the prayer. The power is in God who is everywhere (omnipresent). Satan and demons are limited to one place at a time so they are at a distinct disadvantage in this, too.

Day 6 - The Shield of Faith

The equipment mentioned so far (helmet, breastplate, belt, sandals) form an inner wall of defense. There is an outer wall of defense as well – a large shield every Roman soldier carried. He would hold this in front of him for outer protection. Other soldiers would stand or walk alongside him as they all held up their shields forming a wall in front of them, sometimes above them as well. When enemies would throw balls of burning tar at the Romans this outer wall of defense would provide much-needed protection for they would be severely wounded or killed if the hot tar hit them. At least they would be out of the battle for quite some time.



LESSON FOR TODAY: *Paul says this is like our faith – our outer wall of protection. Having faith in God's sovereign control no matter what is happening is key to our spiritual health. The greater your faith the larger your shield, the smaller your faith the smaller your shield. People with little faith get hit by whatever Satan throws at them: fear, guilt, greed, pride, anger, lust.*

LESSON FOR TODAY: *Satan attacks us through his demons even if don't open the door through sin. He attacks everyone in God's army, especially leaders like pastors and missionaries. They don't have to have done anything to open a door – just standing with Jesus will draw attacks because Satan is committed to opposing God's kingdom in any and every way he can. Satan can't attack Jesus directly so he takes his hate and anger out on God's children. That's why the Jews have experienced such persecution through the years. While we were in Satan's army, or even when we were neutral and ineffective for God, demons didn't need to waste time and effort on us. But when we become committed to serving Jesus and building His Kingdom we find we have spiritual enemies sworn to do anything they can to destroy us. Sometimes these attacks are direct, other times they take a more indirect approach. Our marriage, finances, children or health may be attacked to discourage us and cause us to cease to actively participate in the cause of Christ. This is what happened to Job. These attacks can also take the form of opposition from other people. There may be a person who does what he can to make life difficult for you. Satan attacked Job because he was effective in his faith and Satan wanted to stop that. That seems to be the cause of Paul's demonic 'thorn in the flesh' attack as well (2 Corinthians 12).*

LESSON FOR TODAY: How can we tell what is a normal problem of the flesh or life in a fallen world from what is an attack of the enemy? If it brings a long, ongoing battle, and especially if you are having trouble having victory over it, you should seek for deeper causes. Or if it is a very new, very sudden attack that threatens to overwhelm and defeat you that can be a sign of demonic attack. If it is something large that comes from nowhere, like a gigantic wave that threatens to wash you away, then suspect spiritual causes as well.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Pray for a hedge of protection around yourself, your property and your family, as Job did (Job 1:45, 10-11). Turn to God's Word for guidance: "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you" James 4:6-8. "All things work together for the good of those who love God" Romans 8:28. "There is no testing taken you but such as is common to man. God will not allow you to be tested beyond what you can bear, but with the testing will make a way of escape so you can bear it" I Corinthians 10:13).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Our defense against these attacks of Satan when sin isn't involved is for us to 1) keep our faith strong, keep our eyes on Jesus only (Matthew 14:28-31). Also, 2) pray for His protection for you, your family and your church (Job 1:4-5).

Day 7 – The Sword of the Spirit

So far all the equipment Paul has mentioned has been defensive. Its purpose is to protect the soldier from enemy attack. However none of it will bring victory, none will defeat an enemy. There is no defensive equipment to protect their backs so retreat was not possible. They could only move forward. They needed an offensive weapon to do that. For the Romans that was their short sword. It is with skillful use of it that the Romans conquered their world.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Paul saw this piece of equipment as so important that he makes sure we know what it stands for – he clearly identifies it as the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). God's Word is our only way to defeat Satan. Jesus quoted the Bible when attacked (Matthew 4:1-11). The Word is God's sword for us: "For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12-13) Make sure you know the Bible and memorize verses so you can quote them when you need them. Quoting Scripture resets our mind to the truth, lets our mind explain reality to our emotions and is God's authority to Satan and demons for it is much more powerful than our words! It is the truth that brings freedom (John 8:32).

PROMISES SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

Our Adversaries Will Be Defeated: Deuteronomy 32:43; Philippians 1:28; Deuteronomy 33:27

Victory is Promised: I Corinthians 15:57; I Chronicles 29:11; Proverbs 21:31; I John 5:4, 18; Rev. 12:11; 15:2; Romans 8:37; II Corinthians 2:14; John 16:33

God Promises To Fight For Us: I Samuel 14:47; Jeremiah 1:8

No Weapon Formed Against The Believer Can Prosper: Isaiah 54:17

Jesus Is Constantly Praying & Interceding On Our Behalf: I John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25

God Is Always With Us: Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 18:20; John 14:16, 21; Revelation 3:20

Confession Means Cleansing & Forgiveness: I John 1:8-9; Thessalonians 5:23-24; I Timothy 4:5; Luke 11:13; II Timothy 2:21; Jude 1; Romans 8:33-39; Titus 3:4-5



God Hears & Answers Prayer: Matthew 7:7; Luke 11:9; Jeremiah 33:3

We will never Be Separated From God: Romans 8:35-39; John 10:27-29; 3:36; 5:24

God Will Meet All Your Needs: Philippians 4:19; Psalm 84:11; Romans 8:32; I Samuel 12:24

There Is No Need To Worry: Matthew 6:25,34; I Peter 5:7; Isaiah 40:11; Mat 5:38-39; Psalm 37:1-9; Jude 24

God Promises His Care & Protection: Deuteronomy 33:27; Genesis 17:1; Jeremiah 23:24; 32:7

Everything Will Work Out Right In the End: Romans 8:28

You Won't Ever Face Anything You Can't Handle With God's Help: I Corinthians 10:13

Peace Is Available No Matter What: John 14:27; Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20; Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 11:28-30; II Timothy 1:7

Trials Are Allowed To Bring Spiritual Growth: Psalm 119:67,71,75; 94:12; Isa. 48:10; Rom. 5:3

The Believer Has Nothing To Fear: Proverbs 3:25; Isaiah 14:3; Psalm 34:4; Joshua 1:9; 10:8; 23:9-11; Leviticus 26:8; Exodus 14:13; I Samuel 17:45-47; II Samuel 22:33-35,40-41

We Are Assured Of Eventual Triumph Over Our Adversaries: Acts 2:39

Victory Is Guaranteed Us: I Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37; I Chronicles 29:11; I John 5:4, 18; II Chronicles 32:8; Revelation 3:5; 21:7

God Will Help Us Carry Our Burdens: Nehemiah 4:10; Matthew 11:30; Psalm 55:22

God Promises Comfort: Psalm 23:4; Lamentations 3:22-23; Matthew 5:4; 11:28-30; John 14:16, 18; John 14:16, 18; Romans 15:4; II Corinthians 1:3-4; II Thessalonians 2:16-17

God Will Give Us Courage: Proverbs 38:1; I Corinthians 16:13; II Timothy 1:7

Guidance Is Promised: Psalm 32:8; Isaiah 30:21; 58:11; Luke 1:79; John 15:13

God Will Help In Your Sorrow: Proverbs 10:22; Isaiah 53:4; John 16:22; II Corinthians 6:10; I Thessalonians 4:13; Revelation 21:4

Wisdom Is Promised Those Who Ask: James 1:5; 3:15-17; Luke 16:8; 21:15; I Cor. 2:5; 3:19

Rejecting Wrong Thoughts: II Corinthians 10:5; Psalm 139:23-24; 141:3-4; Isaiah 26:3-4; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 3:18-21

Power of the Word of God: Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 55:11; 59:21; Psalm 119:81, 105, 11-112; Proverbs 30:5; Lamentations 2:17; 3:37; Matthew 24:35; John 5:24; 8:51; 15:7; Rom. 10:17

God's Promise of Angelic Intervention: II Kings 6:17; Psalm 34:6-7; 91:11; Daniel 6:22; 10:5-14; Acts 12:15

Day 8 - Prayer

After having described the equipment God provides for His people, Paul talks about prayer. Any soldier must be in direct communication with those he serves in order to be of use to them. Paul connects the section about our armor with the section on prayer by the use of "and" showing they go together (Ephesians 6:18).

LESSON FOR TODAY: The importance of a good, solid prayer life cannot be overemphasized (Matthew 7:7; Luke 11:9; Jeremiah 33:3). Fasting can be an important part of prayer as well when God directs it.

LESSON FOR TODAY: God does promise ultimate victory for His people, not always immediately in this life but enough for now and the rest in the future (1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14; 1 John 5:5).



5. BEHIND ENEMY LINES **(New Testament)**

Rev. Dr. Jerry Schroyer – jerry@schroyer.net - © 2013

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 6:10-12 Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

SATAN _____ UNBELIEVERS SO THEY DON'T SEE TRUTH OF GOSPEL (4:3-4)

Satan fighting a battle on 3 levels:

1 Cosmic battle in the heavenlies (Dan 10:1-14)

2 Battle against believers on earth (Eph 6:10-12)

3 War against unbelievers to keep in bondage (Acts 26:18)

All unbelievers are children of Satan Matw 13:37-39; John 8:44; 1 John 3:3-10)

All are in Satan's kingdom (Colossians 1:12-14).

All are bound by Satan (Acts 26:18)

All are blinded by him (2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 3:14-15)

All are under Satan's power (1 John 5:19).

All belong to him (Matthew 12:22-29)

All enslaved in world system he controls (Jn 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 1 Jn 5:19).

All are in his system, but not all are demonized

Believers have deserted Satan's kingdom/army for God's, targets for revenge

(Daniel 10:10-21; Acts 13:6-12; 16:16-24; 19:11-18)

Satan does all possible to keep his people in darkness

It is only as His Spirit works in us to draw us to Him that we come (John 6:37-46;

15:16, 19; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11; Romans 9:23; Acts 16:13-15).

Man has a free will to choose or reject salvation (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Acts

2:21; John 3:14-16; Exodus 8:15, 32).

A. EVENTS (Acts)

B. PAUL'S WRITINGS (Epistles)

1. 1 THESSALONIANS (51 AD) **SATAN'S & DEMON'S WORK AGAINST ALL**

Satan opposed Paul, hindered his plan to visit again (2:18)

Satan uses whatever he can to oppose God's plans for us

God used it for good (Rom 8:28) – Paul wrote them and we have it in Bible

Satan called " _____ " (3:1) do whatever can to keep people from growing spiritually



2. 1 CORINTHIANS (53 AD)

_____ sin opens the sinning person to demonizing (1 Corinthians 6:13-20; Ephesians 5:3; Revelation 2:14, 20-21)

3. 2 CORINTHIANS (55 AD) **SATAN BLINDS UNBELIEVERS**

BEWARE OF SATAN'S _____ so not tricked, defeated 2:11

Disciplined for living with father's wife, repented, must forgive or Satan defeat all
Paul says "**we are not ignorant of Satan's** _____" (2:11)

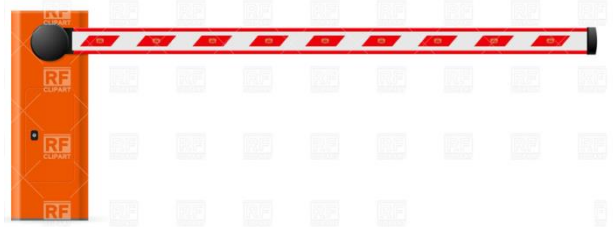
Don't be ignorant of spiritual warfare!!!

Satan will use anger, unforgiveness in big way (Eph 4:26-27; 2 Cor 2:10-11)

BARRIERS TO DELIVERANCE

1. failure to repent
2. failure to forgive

FORGIVENESS:



TAKE THOUGHTS CAPTIVE (10:3-6)

"Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown." (Mark 4:15).
David's thought to take census demonic (I Chron 21:1ff; II Sam 24:1ff).
Ananias & Saphira's greed (Acts 5:3)
Saul's jealousy/anger (I Samuel 16:14-23).



PAUL'S DEMONIZING (12:7-10) ' _____ of Satan' tormenting him, prayed 3x
*Sometimes God has greater purpose than deliverance, gives grace
Learn to depend on God (Psalm 119:59, 92)*

4. ROMANS (56 AD) **FEAR, SATAN DEFEATED**

FEAR – God doesn't give fear (8:15)

One of Satan's most effective weapons (8:15)

Demons put fear of David into Saul (I Samuel 18:10-15)

Demons put fear and terror into Eliaphaz by gliding by his face (Job 4:15).

Anything not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23).

God does not give us fear (II Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15),

Quote Scripture when attacked by fear, only way to victory: Prov 3:25; Isaiah 14:3; Psalm 34:4; Joshua 1:9; 10:8; 23:9-11; Leviticus 26:8; Exodus 14:13; I Sam 17:45-47; II Sam 22:33-35, 40-41; Phil 4:6-7; 4:13; 2 Tim 1:7 Ex 14:13;

SATAN DEFEATED BY GOD'S _____ (16:20)

Satan a defeated foe Hebrews 2:14-15; Colossians 2:15; Ephesians 4:8).

In the future he will be crushed and removed forever (Revelation 20:1-3, 10).

Now we have authority and power over him in Jesus' name (John 14:12; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:1; 10:1, 17-19; Acts 1:8).

5. EPHESIANS (60 AD) **SATAN, ARMOR**

Much spiritual warfare took place when Paul in Ephesus Acts 19

Ephesus: key city in Asia Minor

Satan's world system strong in Ephesus

– "ruler of the _____ of the _____" (2:2)

_____ AS A FOOTHOLD

One of Satan's most effective tools (Eph 4:26-27; 2 Cor 2:10-11)

Anger comes from mishandling hurt and pain, opens self to demonizing



GROUP ASSIGNMENT:

Read Ephesians 6:10-18 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. 11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. 12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. 14 Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, 15 and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. 16 In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.
NIV

List the pieces of equipment used by a Roman Soldier and what each piece was used for.



MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 6:10-12 Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

I. GOD'S PART – PROVIDE _____

"10 Be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.

"GREATER IS HE THAT IS IN YOU THAN HE THAT IS IN THE WORLD."

I JOHN 4:4



II. OUR PART - USE HIS _____

11 Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

(2 Corinthians 2:11 in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.)

God provides it but we must put it on – that's a command!

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Paul calls them Rulers ... authorities ... powers ... spiritual forces

Notice Paul calls this a struggle: = word which means a fight to the death
Satan assigns demons to destroy you, your family and your church

III. OUR PART - USE HIS _____

A. HELMET of SALVATION

The enemy would try to attack a soldier's _____ with his sword or spear to kill
The helmet had to be strong to protect their life.

*Satan attacks our mind and our thoughts first.
He puts doubt, fear, confusion, lust, greed etc in mind
We must know God's truth to have protection victory.
Our spiritual battles are won or lost in our minds first.*



B. BREASTPLATE of RIGHTEOUSNESS

The breastplate was made of small pieces of metal fastened together so it would bend and move but so no arrow, spear or sword could go through them.

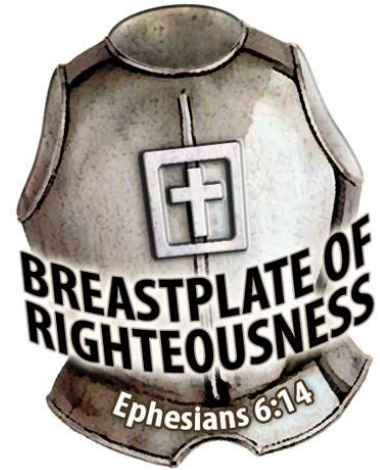
It was important for it covered the heart and organs necessary for life.

Paul calls it the “**breastplate of righteousness.**”

That means _____ and refers to living a life free from _____.

Demons attack us in our weak areas, that’s why we must be strong instead.

*Any sin in our life can be an opening for demons to work against us – Eph 4:26-27 “foothold”
Even if every other area of life is lived in obedience, one area can defeat the rest*



C. BELT of TRUTH

held his weapons & clothing out of the way

Paul sees this as knowing God’s _____
- keeps us from stumbling and falling spiritually.

Satan would seek to trip us up in his _____

LIES: We’ll never have victory, we’ll always be defeated.

God doesn’t care about us because our sin is so great.

It’s all our own fault and we deserve to suffer.

Whenever you get a thought that doesn’t line up with God’s truth in the Bible reject it.

Whenever you get a thought that Jesus wouldn’t have had reject it.

Remember the truth that God is greater than Satan and nothing can defeat God’s people.

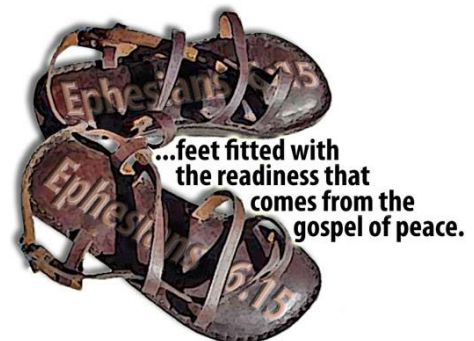
D. SANDALS of PEACE

The Romans needed sturdy sandals on their feet for marching and fighting.

They needed something that would help them _____ on any kind of footing,

The enemy would pick a location to fight that was advantageous for them but not Romans.

Our enemy does the same thing –attacks when he thinks has the best advantage over us.



E. SHIELD of FAITH

ALL DEFENSIVE, to _____ us

These – inner wall of defense

Next piece of equipment – outer wall of defense

Roman soldiers carried large shield to hold in front of them for protection.

Enemies would throw big balls of burning tar at them which would stick and burn.

Paul says this is like our FAITH – our outer wall of protection. Having faith in God's sovereign control no matter what is happening is important.

The greater your faith the larger your shield, the smaller your faith the smaller your shield

People with little faith get hit by whatever Satan throws at them: fear, guilt, pride, anger, lust



for



greed,

F. SWORD of the SPIRIT - WORD OF GOD

The sword was their only _____ weapon

They had to move ahead for victory, there was no protection on their back so they couldn't turn and run away. We have no protection when we back off and don't move ahead in faith.

Paul makes sure we know what this equipment is:

17 Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

God's Word is the only way to defeat Satan.

Jesus quoted the Bible (Deut) when tempted by Satan. (Matthew 4:1-11)

It is God's Word that has power, not our words (Hebrews 4:12-13)

Victory doesn't mean we won't be attacked or have problems or

temptations. But it does mean we'll be on the winning side even though continue to have battles.

God uses the battles to stretch our faith and help us grow stronger in Him.

So don't expect to have God remove all opposition, but He will give you victory over it.





USE THE WORD OF GOD

Knowing and using God's Word, the sword of the Spirit, is key for victory (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 77:12; I Chronicles 28:9; Matthew 22:37-38; I Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 4:8). That's how Jesus defeated Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). Satan tries to plant doubts about God's word in man's mind. This is how he got to Eve. She misquoted God's Word to Satan and when he added to God's Word (making God seem like He was keeping something good from her) she didn't pick it up. Satan was undermining God's Word, and he won! We must be skillful in the use of our sword to win.

PROMISES SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

Our Adversaries Will Be Defeated: Deuteronomy 32:43; Philippians 1:28; Deuteronomy 33:27

Victory is Promised: I Corinthians 15:57; I Chronicles 29:11; Proverbs 21:31; I John 5:4, 18; Rev. 12:11; 15:2; Romans 8:37; II Corinthians 2:14; John 16:33

God Promises To Fight For Us: I Samuel 14:47; Jeremiah 1:8

No Weapon Formed Against The Believer Can Prosper: Isaiah 54:17

Jesus Is Constantly Praying & Interceding On Our Behalf: I John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25

God Is Always With Us: Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 18:20; John 14:16, 21; Revelations 3:20

Confession Means Cleansing & Forgiveness: I John 1:8-9; Thessalonians 5:23-24; I Timothy 4:5; Luke 11:13; II Timothy 2:21; Jude 1; Romans 8:33-39; Titus 3:4-5

God Hears & Answers Prayer: Matthew 7:7; Luke 11:9; Jeremiah 33:3

We will never Be Separated From God: Romans 8:35-39; John 10:27-29; 3:36; 5:24

God Will Meet All Your Needs: Philippians 4:19; Psalm 84:11; Romans 8:32; I Samuel 12:24

There Is No Need To Worry: Matthew 6:25,34; I Peter 5:7; Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 5:38-39; Psalm 37:1-9; Jude 24

God Promises His Care & Protection: Deuteronomy 33:27; Genesis 17:1; Jeremiah 23:24; 32:7

Everything Will Work Out Right In the End: Romans 8:28

You Won't Ever Face Anything You Can't Handle With God's Help: I Corinthians 10:13

Peace Is Available No Matter What: John 14:27; Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20; Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 11:28-30; II Timothy 1:7

Trials Are Allowed To Bring Spiritual Growth: Psalm 119:67,71,75; 94:12; Isa. 48:10; Rom. 5:3

The Believer Has Nothing To Fear: Proverbs 3:25; Isaiah 14:3; Psalm 34:4; Joshua 1:9; 10:8; 23:9-11; Leviticus 26:8; Exodus 14:13; I Samuel 17:45-47; II Samuel 22:33-35,40-41

We Are Assured Of Eventual Triumph Over Our Adversaries: Acts 2:39

Victory Is Guaranteed Us: I Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37; I Chronicles 29:11; I John 5:4, 18; II Chronicles 32:8; Revelation 3:5; 21:7

God Will Help Us Carry Our Burdens: Nehemiah 4:10; Matthew 11:30; Psalm 55:22

God Promises Comfort: Psalm 23:4; Lamentations 3:22-23; Matthew 5:4; 11:28-30; John 14:16, 18; John 14:16, 18; Romans 15:4; II Corinthians 1:3-4; II Thessalonians 2:16-17

God Will Give Us Courage: Proverbs 38:1; I Corinthians 16:13; II Timothy 1:7

Guidance Is Promised: Psalm 32:8; Isaiah 30:21; 58:11; Luke 1:79; John 15:13

God Will Help In Your Sorrow: Proverbs 10:22; Isaiah 53:4; John 16:22; II Corinthians 6:10; I Thessalonians 4:13; Revelation 21:4

Wisdom Is Promised Those Who Ask: James 1:5; 3:15-17; Luke 16:8; 21:15; I Cor. 2:5; 3:19

Rejecting Wrong Thoughts: II Corinthians 10:5; Psalm 139:23-24; 141:3-4; Isaiah 26:3-4; Romans

12:2; Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 3:18-21

Power of the Word of God: Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 55:11; 59:21; Psalm 119:81, 105, 11-112; Proverbs 30:5; Lamentations 2:17; 3:37; Matthew 24:35; John 5:24; 8:51; 15:7; Rom. 10:17

God's Promise of Angelic Intervention: II Kings 6:17; Psalm 34:6-7; Psalm 91:11; Daniel 6:22; 10:5-14; Acts 12:15



BIBLE MEMORY VERSES

THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

GOD'S TRUTH FREES "If you hold to my teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

SUBMIT TO GOD, RESIST SATAN God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. James 4:6-8

GOD IS GREATER THAN SATAN The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. I John 4:4

GOD WILL MEET ALL OUR NEEDS My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

RENEW YOUR MIND WITH CHRIST Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

POWER OF PRAYER The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

AUTHORITY OVER DEMONS Jesus replied: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." Luke 10:18-19

RESISTING SATAN Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Matthew 16:23

SIN AS OPENINGS TO DEMONIZING Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

CURSES Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Galatians 3:13

ANCESTRAL & CHILDHOOD OPENINGS Therefore if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! II Corinthians 5:17

OCCULT OPENINGS Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists, for you will be defiled by them. I am the LORD your God. Leviticus 19:31

NEW AGE OPENINGS Such men (who preach a Jesus other than the Jesus I preached) are false prophets, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. II Corinthians 11:13-15

DELIVERANCE FROM DEMONIZING Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God ... This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. I John 4:1-2

VERSES FOR VICTORY

Luke 10:19 *I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*

Hebrews 2:14-15 *Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.*

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 *The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5 We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

Romans 16:20 *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.*

2. Luke 10:18-19 He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.



G. PRAYER

_____ key for army victory
Same true for our victory, prayer key!!! (and fasting?)

CONFESS, RECOVERY FROM PERSONAL SIN

"Dear heavenly Father, You have told us to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts (Romans 13:14). I acknowledge that I have given in to fleshly lusts which wage war against my soul (I Peter 2:11). I thank You that in Christ my sins are forgiven, but I have transgressed Your holy law and given the enemy an opportunity to wage war in my members (Ephesians 4:27; James 4:1; I Peter 5:8). I come before Your presence to acknowledge these sins and to seek Your cleansing (I John 1:9) that I may be freed from the bondage of sin (Galatians 5:1). I now ask You to reveal to my mind the ways that I have transgressed Your moral law and grieved the Holy Spirit. ... (Then confess each sin that comes to mind one by one.) I now confess these sins to You and claim through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ my forgiveness and cleansing. I cancel all ground that evil spirits have gained through my willful involvement in sin. I take back any access I have given them and put it under the blood of Jesus. I command them to be gone from me and my family immediately and permanently in the name of Jesus. I ask this in the wonderful name of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen."

PRAYER TO FORGIVE OTHERS

Thank You, Jesus, for dying that I might be forgiven. By an act of my will I now choose to express the desire of my heart and forgive those who have hurt me. (name the people) I release each and every one of these people into the freedom of my forgiveness. In Jesus' name. Amen



PRAYER TO FORGIVE SELF

Thank You, Father, for forgiving me for the things I have done. I now choose to forgive myself for the things that I know You have already forgiven me for. In Jesus' name. Amen

PRAYER TO START THE DAY

"Gracious God, I acknowledge that You are worthy of all honor, glory and praise. I am thankful for the victorious work of Your Son, Jesus Christ at Calvary for me. I apply His victory to my life now as I willingly surrender every area of my life to Your will.

"Thank you for the forgiveness and righteousness that has been given to me as Your adopted child. I trust in Your protection and provision daily. I know that your love for me never ceases. I rejoice in Your victory, my Lord, over all the principalities and powers in the heavenlies. In faith I stand in Your victory and commit myself to live obediently for You my King.

"I desire that my fellowship with You become greater. Reveal to me those things that grieve You and enables the enemy to secure an advantage in my life. I need the Holy Spirit's powerful ministry in my life; bringing conviction of sin, repentance of heart, strengthening my faith and increasing perseverance in resisting temptation.

"Help me to die to self and walk in the victory of the new creation You have provided for me. Let the fruits of the Spirit flow out of my life so that You will be glorified through my life. Fill me with your love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control.

"Please place your hedge of protection around me, my possession, my family and all my descendants. Protect us from anything the enemy would try to do against us.

"I know that it is Your will that I should stand firm and resist all of the enemy's work against me. Help me to discern the attacks upon my thoughts and emotions. Enable me to stand upon Your Word and resist all the accusations, distortions and condemnations that are hurled against me.

"It is my desire to be transformed through the renewing of my mind, so that I will not compromise with the ways of the world, or yield to the enemy's attacks, but be obedient to Your will. So give me the mind of Christ in order that I may have His perspective, wisdom, compassion, holiness and truth.

"I draw upon those spiritual resources that You have provided me and I attack the strongholds and plans of the enemy that have been put in place against me. I command in the name of Jesus Christ that the enemy must release my mind, will, emotions and body completely. They have been yielded to the Lord and I belong to Him.

"Lord, enable me to become the person You created me to be. Help me as I pray to be strong in faith. Show me how to apply Your Word in my life each day. I know that I wear the full armor of God when I am committed to and stand firmly upon Your Word. I want You to have the supreme place in my life. Give me a hunger and thirst to know You better, to read Your Word more deeply, to pray more readily and to keep you first in all my thoughts all day long.

"I surrender myself completely to You, Lord. You are always faithful and You extend Your grace to me constantly, even when I do not realize it. I claim Your promise of forgiveness and cleansing in its fullness. In faith, I receive the victory today that you have already put in place for me. I do this in the name of Jesus Christ, my Savior with a grateful heart. AMEN"

BREAK OCCULT INVOLVEMENT

I put any and all sins of an occult nature that I may have committed under the blood of Jesus and ask for Your forgiveness for each of them (specifically name as many of them as you can). I take back any access I have given to any of Satan's forces through these sins. I pray this in the name of Jesus, who became curse for me on Calvary and died that I might be set free. Amen

BREAK GENERATIONAL ACCESS

"Gracious Father over all, I acknowledge before you the sins of my parents and ancestors. I know that they have sinned because all men and women are sinners. And so, I openly confess the sins of my parents and ancestors. I know I cannot do what only they could have done in attaining forgiveness of their sins, but I am

sorry for their sins against you and I ask that you cover their sins with the blood of Jesus and not hold their consequences against me or my descendants. I claim the finished work of Jesus Christ, Who bore all my sin upon Himself. In faith I accept that work on the basis of your holy Word. I reclaim any consent given to Satan's forces by my parents' sin. Dear Jesus, please set me free from all evil influences coming from my parents and ancestors in the name of Jesus. I know I am a new creation in Christ. Old things have gone and all things have become new. I here and now reject and disown all the sins of my ancestors. As one who has been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son, I cancel out all demonic working that has been passed on to me from my ancestors. As one who has been crucified and raised with Christ and who sits with him in heavenly places, I reject any and every way in which Satan may claim ownership of me. I declare myself and my descendants to be eternally and completely signed over and committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. I now command every evil spirit and every enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ that is in or around me to flee my presence and never to return. I now ask You, heavenly Father, to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I submit my body as an instrument of righteousness, a living sacrifice, that I may glorify You in my body. All this I do in the name & authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."



FOR SALVATION OF A FRIEND

Dear Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus I bring _____ to you in prayer. I know you have sovereign control over them and their life and that you have given them a free will which you won't force. In Jesus' name I break anything the enemy is doing to interfere with their choice. I put under the blood of Jesus any plans Satan has against _____. I break any confusion, darkness, deception or lies they are believing and I forbid any demons to anything to interfere in any way with their free will choice. I take back any ground they have given to Satan by sin in their or their ancestors' lives. I break any work against _____ in Jesus' name. Heavenly Father, I pray you would bind anything and everything working against them so they can clearly see and understand their need of salvation in Jesus. I ask that Your Holy Spirit convict them of their sin and the

sufficiency of Your blood to cover that sin. I thank You because I know you are fair and just. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE

Loving Heavenly Father, I thank You for Your perfect plan for our marriage. I know that You planned marriage to be beautiful and satisfying, a picture of our relationship with you. I ask that You would do what is needed in and through me to make our marriage all it should be.

Please forgive me for my sins of failure in my marriage. I confess my _____ (confess individually all the sins and shortcomings you are aware of). I ask You to forgive me. I put them under the blood of Jesus and take back any access I have given to any demons through them. Open my eyes to see all areas where I am deceived and help me to apply Your truth to those areas.

I pray for my mate as well and put their sins under the blood of Jesus as well. I intercede for them and ask for your mercy to cover their sins and shortcomings and to take back any access any of Satan's forces claim through them.

Father, I ask that You would fill each of us with Your Holy Spirit. Fill us with the fruit of Your Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, godness, kindness, gentleness, meekness, faithfulness and self-control. Heal us from the hurts we have caused ourselves and each other. Give us a spirit of forgiveness for each other. Put Your supernatural love in our hearts and help us to love each other as You love us.

Show me what I need to do to change to correct my hurts and errors from the past. Help me to apologize where necessary and to know what to do to restore our relationship. I submit myself to You to be used and changed as You see fit. I submit my marriage to You for You to do what is necessary to heal it and use it for Your honor and glory.

BREAK SEXUAL ADDICTION

Loving Heavenly Father, I thank you for the gift of human sexuality and the high and holy purpose for which you created it. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the power of His blood, I resist all strongholds of sexual pervertedness assigned to manipulate and rule over _____. I specifically resist demons and strongholds of _____ (name the areas of sexuality where they are being defeated), I command all of Satan's forces to cease all activity and leave _____ and go to where the Lord Jesus Christ sends them.

CLEANSING A ROOM

Remove and destroy all objects of false worship, then pray this aloud in every room. Using your finger to print small crosses of oil on the doors and walls is good to do. Also, leaving a light on (against darkness) and/or music praising Jesus playing in the room is also good. Demons don't like light or hearing Jesus praised. If you are doing this for a house or property walk around the outside and do it as well.

Heavenly Father, I acknowledge that You are the Lord of heaven and earth. In Your sovereign power and love, You have entrusted us with this place to live and we thank You for it. I dedicate this place to You for Your honor and glory. I pray this would be a place of spiritual, emotional and physical safety and blessing for me and my family and ask for Your protection from all the attacks of the enemy. As a child of God I command every evil spirit claiming ground in this place to be gone. We put under the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ any access you may claim. Any sin that has been committed here, any spirits invited here in any way and anything that may have happened on this location we put under the blood of Jesus and we forbid you to take any access to this place or do any work against us or anyone in this place.

VICTORY OVER FEARS

Dear Heavenly Father, I come to You as Your child. I voluntarily place myself under your protective care. I acknowledge that You are the only legitimate fear object in my life. I confess that I have been fearful and anxious because of my lack of trust, my unbelief and believing the lies of the enemy. I have not always trusted You. Too often I have lived in fear and relied on my own strength and resources. I confess that as sin and thank You for Your forgiveness.

I know that you have not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7). Therefore I renounce any fear in my life. I ask You to reveal to me all the areas where the sin of fear as affected me. Show me the lies I have believed and help me to believe Your truth instead. I desire to live in faith by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Fill me with Your presence and Your Spirit so I can follow You by faith. In Jesus' name. Amen.



SUICIDAL TENDENCIES

In Jesus' name I renounce all suicidal thoughts and any attempts I've made of take my own life or in any way injure myself. I renounce the lie that life is hopeless and that I can find peace and freedom by taking my own life. Satan is a thief and comes to steal, kill and destroy. I put any access any demons claim to my life or to my family under the blood of Jesus. In Jesus' name I cover all that with the blood of Jesus. I choose life in Christ Who came to give me life and give it abundantly. Thank You for Your forgiveness that allows me to forgive myself. I choose to believe that there is always hope in Christ. In Jesus name I pray. Amen

PRAYERS TO BREAK ANY CURSE ON YOUR LIFE

In the name of Jesus Christ, I cancel every hex, curse, spell, ungodly prayers, vortexes and Satanic assignments that have been made against me and my family. I break any curses associated with black magic, witchcraft, Voodoo, Santeria or any other form of evil. Heavenly Father, I ask that you would reverse any damage that has been caused in my life or my family's life as a result of the evil that was sent to me. I pray for your healing and restoration in our lives. Thank you, Father! I pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen."

PRAYER OF THE ARMOR OF GOD

Heavenly Father, I desire to be obedient by being strong in the Lord and the power of Your might. I see that this is Your will and purpose for me. I recognize that it is essential to put on the armor that You have provided, and I do so now with gratitude and praise that You have provided all I need to stand in victory against Satan and his kingdom. Grant me wisdom to discern the tactics and sneakiness of Satan's strategy against me. I delight to take the armor You have provided and by faith to put it on as effective spiritual protection against the spiritual forces of darkness present in the world today.

I confidently take the belt of truth that You offer me. I take Him who is the truth as my strength and protection. I reject Satan's lies and deceiving ways to gain advantage against me. Grant me discernment and wisdom to recognize the subtle and sneaky ways in which Satan seeks to cause me to accept his lies as truth. I desire to believe only the truth, to live the truth, to speak the truth, and to know the truth. I worship and praise You that You lead me only in the ways of truth. Thank You that Satan cannot stand against the truth.

Thank You for the breastplate of righteousness which you offer me. I eagerly accept it and put it on as my protection. Thank you for reminding me again that all of my righteousness comes from You. I embrace that righteousness which is mine by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ,. It is His righteousness that is mine through justification. I reject and repudiate all trust in my own righteousness which is as filthy rags. I ask You to cleanse me of all the times I have counted my own goodness as being acceptable before You. I bring the righteousness of my Lord directly against all of Satan's workings against me. I express my desire to walk in righteousness before God today. By faith I appropriate the righteousness of Christ and invite Him to walk in His holiness in my life today that I might experience His righteousness in total context of ordinary living. I count upon the righteousness of my Lord to be my protection. I know that Satan must retreat from before God's righteousness.

Thank You, Lord, for the sandals of peace You have provided. I desire that my feet should stand on the solid rock of the peace that You have provided. I claim the peace with God which is mine through justification. I desire the peace of God which touches my emotions and feelings through prayer and sanctification (Philippians 4:6). Thank You that as I walk in obedience to You the God of peace promises to walk with me (Philippians 4:9), I thank you that as the God of peace You are putting Satan under my feet (Romans 16:20). I will share this good news of peace with all others today that Your Spirit will bring into my life today. Thank you that You have not given me a spirit of fear but of love and power and a sound mind (II Timothy 1:7). Thank you that Satan cannot stand against Your peace.

Eagerly, Lord, I lift up the shield of faith against all the blazing darts that Satan and his hosts fire at me. I recognize that You are my shield and that in Your incarnation and crucifixion You took the arrows of Satan which I deserved. By faith I count upon You to shield me from above and beneath; on my right and my left; in front of me and behind me, that I might be protected, walled in, and encapsulated by You that Satan may gain no way to hurt me or keep me from fulfilling Your will today.

I am willing that any fiery darts of Satan You wish to touch me should do so, but I shall look upon them as refining fires permitted in Your providence and by Your love for my refining and Your glory. Thank You, Lord, that You are a complete and perfect shield and that Satan cannot touch me apart from Your sovereign purpose.

I recognize that my mind is a particular target of Satan's deceiving ways. I take from You the helmet of salvation. I cover my mind and my thoughts with Your salvation. I recognize that the Lord Jesus Christ is my salvation. I fill my head with Him. I invite His mind to be in me. Let me think His thoughts, feel His love and compassion, and discern His will and leading in all things. Let my mind be occupied with the continuing, daily, saving work of my Lord in and through my life. May of my Lord meet and defeat all Satanic thoughts in my mind.

With joy I take hold upon the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. I affirm that Your Word is the trustworthy, infallible Word of God. I choose to believe it and to live in its truth and power. Grant me the love for Your Word which comes from the Holy Spirit. Forgive and cleanse me from the sin of neglecting Your Word. Enable me to memorize it and to meditate upon its truth. Grant me proficient recall and skill in using Your Word against all of Satan's subtle attacks against me, even as my Lord Jesus Christ used the Word against Satan. Enable me to use Your Word not only to defend me from Satan, but also to claim its promises and to wield the sword strong against Satan to defeat him, to push him back, to take away from him ground he claims, and to win great victories God through Your Word. Thank You that Satan must retreat from Your Word applied against him.

Thank You, dear Lord, for prayer. Help me to keep this armor well oiled with prayer. I desire to pray at all times with depth and intensity as the Holy Spirit leads me. I trust the Holy Spirit to enable me and to intercede for me and through me. Grant me great supplication and burden for others in God's family of blood-washed saints. Enable me to see their needs and to assist them through prayer as the enemy attacks them. All of these petitions, intercessions, and words of praise I offer up before the true and living God in the name and worthy merit of my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.



CONFESSION OF SEXUAL SIN

Father, I confess that at various times in my life I have been powerless against the continuing attacks of the enemy on my sexuality. I have chosen to sin in various ways and ask You to forgive me for the following: (specifically confess each and every sin). I now agree with Your verdict on my sin. I renounce all pleasure associated with these sins. I ask You to cleanse my memories, heal the hurts and forgive me. In Jesus' name. Amen

TO BREAK UNGODLY SOUL TIES

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, I ask God to break all ungodly spirit, soul and body ties that have been established between me and (name person). I sever that linking supernaturally and ask God to remove from me all influence of the other person (name them) and draw back to myself every part that has been wrongfully tied in bondage to another person. I now speak directly to every evil spirit that has taken advantage of this ungodly soul tie. You no longer have any rights here and I order you to leave now without hurting or harming me or any other person and without going into any other member of the family. In Jesus' name. Amen

BEFORE GOING TO SLEEP

Thank You, Lord, that You have brought me into Your family and have blessed me with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Thank You for this time of physical, emotional and spiritual refreshment and renewal. I know restful sleep is a blessing and I ask you to provide it for us this night.

As I have thought about You and Your truth during the day, I choose to let those good thoughts continue in my mind while I am asleep. I commit myself to You for Your protection against every attempt of Satan and his demons to attack me during sleep. Guard our minds from nightmares. I renounce all fear and cast every anxiety upon You, Lord. I commit myself to You as my rock, my fortress and my strong tower. May Your peace be upon this place of rest. In the strong name of the Lord Jesus Christ I pray. Amen.

5. I PETER (63 AD)

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be self-controlled and _____. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith.

Satan tries to destroy our faith



6. JAMES (45 AD)

James 4:7-8 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

RESIST (continuous) command (as Jesus did in wilderness)

WILL FLEE promise

7. I JOHN (95 AD)

1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

3. 1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENT:

Read Revelation 20:1-3, 10 20 And I saw an angel coming down out of heaven, having the key to the Abyss and holding in his hand a great chain. 2 He seized the dragon, that ancient serpent, who is the devil, or Satan, and bound him for a thousand years. 3 He threw him into the Abyss, and locked and sealed it over him, to keep him from deceiving the nations anymore until the thousand years were ended. After that, he must be set free for a short time. . . . 10 And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulfur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever.

Rewrite this passage in your own words as if you were there watching it happen:

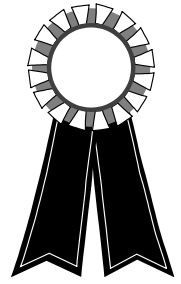


8. REVELATION (96 AD)

DEFEAT OF SATAN, DEMONS Culmination of battle started in Genesis 3:15

Satan's final, total defeat recorded, shown for all eternity

Prophesied in Gen 3:15, now fulfilled- CRUSHED for all eternity!



Satan defeated in heaven so ruled on earth (Eph 6:12; Jn 14:30; 16:11; 12:31)

Now defeated on earth, too (Rev 20:1-3,10)

Much about territorial spirits, high rank demons over geographical areas (2:9; 3:9; 18:2)

Demons influence and control the nations today (Dan 10:13, 20; Eph 6:12)

They can do nothing without God's permission (Job 1:6-12)

CASE STUDY: KAREN has a hard time not letting boys take advantage of her and touch her places where they shouldn't. They ask her to do things that seems very wrong to her, but she has a difficult time saying no and is afraid she will soon give in. She knows a Christian girl shouldn't be this way and wonders what is wrong with her. Ever since the man in church touched her in places she shouldn't have when he was babysitting her a few years ago, she can't stop having these strange fantasies. She never told anyone about the man, or about the things that go through her mind. It's like something has the power to put thoughts into her mind that aren't thoughts she would want, and she is powerless to stop them. She knows her reputation is getting very bad in school, and she has lost her Christian witness, and that bothers her a lot. But no matter what she does to stop she just can't seem to do so! She had a wonderful time at youth summer camp and thought God had completely changed her, but a week after getting back home she was doing the same wrong things with her boyfriend. The only way out seems to be if she were dead, and thoughts of suicide bring a strange kind of comfort to her mind. Perhaps that is her only solution to her misery. What would you say or do to help Karen? How could you use spiritual warfare to help her?

What does it mean when we say that unbelievers are 'blinded'?

Can you give some examples of how friends of yours are blinded to spiritual things?

List each piece of armor. Which do you think is most important for a Christian teenager today? Why?

CASE STUDY: TOM is struggling with cursing. He's a strong, committed believer and a leader in his youth group, even considering being a youth pastor, but curse words keep popping into his thoughts all the time. Up until now he's been able to control them but lately some have slipped out unaware. He tries to cover them up by making them sound like "darn" or "gosh" or some such 'acceptable' phrase. However he knows the thought in his heart whichever word he uses. And he knows it won't be long until the hard stuff starts coming out as well. His parents don't curse, but he has an uncle who uses a curse word every other word! When he was young he thought that was cool, but then as he grew spiritually he realized how wrong it is. After watching a movie or TV program with cursing in it he is hit especially hard. He's able to control his thoughts with other things, but in this area its like its under some control beyond his own. Maybe he needs to be baptized again or something, perhaps t4hat4 would help. What would you say or do to help Tom? How could you use spiritual warfare to help him?

DELIVERANCE FROM DEMONIZING

SOURCE OF DELIVERANCE

A. NOT OUR OWN STRENGTH

Seven sons of Sceva (Acts 19:13-20)

Disciples can't cast our demon (Mark 9:14-18)

B. ONLY IN JESUS' STRENGTH

Mission of the 70 (Luke 10:1, 17-20)

12 Commissioned & Anointed (Mt 10:1,5-8)

Deliverance: In the Atonement (Mt 8:16-17)



AS JESUS DID IT

Jesus is our **example** in casting out demons. At the start of His ministry He cast out many demons (Matthew 4:23-24 Mark 1:39,34). In the Gadarenes He cast demons out of two men (Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-17; Luke 8:20). He cast demons out of the daughter of a Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21 Mark 7:20), and cured a demonized man (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-36). He healed a boy with seizures and demons (Matthew 17:14-20). He cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene as well as out of other women followers (Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9).

How did Jesus cast demons out? Before casting them out He rebuked them (took their power away) (Matthew 17:18; Luke 9:42). Then He "drove" them out (Mark 1:39). He did it verbally (Matthew 8:16), not by a certain ritualistic procedure. He didn't let the demons speak (Mark 1:34; Luke 4:41), except Legion and that was just to give his name so others would know what was happening (Mark 5:9). He never let them say who He was (Mark 1:25; Luke 4:35; Mark 3:11-12). He told them to "be quiet and come out" (Luke 4:35; Mark 1:25). Other times He told them to "go" (Matthew 8:32). Sometimes He was quite far from the person whom He was delivering (Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30). When He cast them out He forbid them to ever return again (Mark 9:25).

AS THE DISCIPLES DID IT

We have many **examples** of the disciples casting out demons, too. Jesus gave them power and commanded them to use it (Matthew 10:1; Luke 10:17; Mark 6:7; 16:17). They cast out demons as a regular part of their ministry (Mark 9:38; Luke 10:17). Paul cast out demons (Acts 16:16-18; 19:12) and so did Philip (Acts 8:7). When trying to do it in their own strength (without dependence on God) they failed (Mark 9:18, 28-29).

How did the apostles cast demons out? Paul brought deliverance by a word, too (verbally). He said, "In the name of Jesus I command you to come out" (Acts 16:16-18). When God was showing that Paul was His spokesman there was a time when just touching a cloth that Paul had used brought deliverance (Acts 19:12). That was a special event, not a pattern to follow! When directed by God, Paul defeated the demons in Elymas (an unbeliever) by making him blind so he'd stop interfering with God's word (Acts 13:6-12).

AS WE ARE TO DO IT TODAY

CONFESS & DEAL WITH FLESH PROBLEMS

We, however, must be a clean vessel for Him to fill and use for deliverance (Revelation 12:10-11). First pray for God's protection around us, our families and our properties as we begin (Job 1:10; 3:23; Isaiah 5:5). Ask God to take their power and authority away, as Jesus did when He rebuked the demons (Matthew 17:18; Luke 9:42). Seeing God's power over Satan's forces today brings glory to God (Psalm 149:6-9). God promises victory, saying we will see Satan crushed under our feet (Romans 16:20). The very gates of hell cannot prevail against God's work on earth today (Matthew 16:18-19).

DO ALL IN JESUS' AUTHORITY AND POWER

When one is surrounded the best thing to do is to **attack**. That is what God wants us to do, too, when seemingly surrounded by Satan's forces. We are to **follow the example** of the apostles. They did what they did following Jesus' example and in His power (Matthew 10:1,8; Mark 3:15; 6:7; Luke 9:1). We, too, are given **power over the enemy** (Luke 10:19; Matthew 10:1; Zechariah 3:15). We have the authority and power to bind demons and loose oppressed believers (Matthew 16:18-19). This must all be done in the power of Jesus' name (Matthew 8:22; Luke 9:49) for that is the only thing demons will obey. Always refer to His full name: "The Lord Jesus Christ."



QUOTE SCRIPTURE

Quote Scripture as much as possible (Matthew 4:1-10). God's word is more powerful than and words we may use (Hebrews 4:12) and carry much more weight with Satan's forces. Our authority is God's Word (I Jn. 2:14). Our sword of the Word is our only offensive weapon.

Playing Christian music during deliverance or at other times in your home is often very helpful for demons don't like to hear Jesus praised (I Samuel 16:23). There is power in praise (Psalm 22:3), so use praise in your warfare praying. You can praise God in prayer or in song during deliverance or afterwards. Use this whenever attacked.

ACT IN FAITH AND HUMILITY

Do not converse with demons, either by having them give messages to a person's mind or to speak verbally through a person's vocal cords. The object in deliverance is not to get in contact with a demon but to remove them. Communication with them makes you a medium and God's words forbids that (Deuteronomy 18:9-13). There are good reasons to not communicate with them. Neither Jesus (Mark 1:25) nor Paul would (Acts 16:17). They are liars and deceivers (John 8:44) and you can't believe what they say. God wants you only to be in touch with Him (Deuteronomy 4:24). Through the Holy Spirit we have access to all truth and power (John 8:31-32; I Corinthians 12:7-11). By communicating with them you give them recognition, allow them to stall, make things much harder on all people involved, and open yourself up to pride.

STAY IN CLOSE FELLOWSHIP WITH JESUS

Remember the things covered earlier: we are safe in Jesus and aren't to run from the enemy. We are to use our power and authority. Make sure all openings are confessed and access taken back.

SEARCH FOR AND BIND THE RULER, THE 'ROOT'

Usually it is best to bind the main ruler first (Matthew 12:29), Search out the "root" spirits (the rulers) and pray against them. Remember, behind every demonic problem lies a flesh problem. By identifying the flesh problem that is at the root of everything the identity of the main ruler can be discovered. However that flesh problem must be completely confessed and renounced.

THEN BIND ANY AND ALL DEMONS INVOLVED

Then in Jesus name bind up any and all demons involved (Matthew 16:18-19). Demons never work alone.

SEND THEM TO THE ABYSS IN JESUS' NAME

Command the demons to be gone in Jesus name (Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:49; 10:17; Mark 8:22). Do it in faith in Jesus (Matthew 17:18-27; John 5:4), not fear (Joshua 1:9; 10:8; 23:9-11; Leviticus 26:8; Exodus 14:13; I Samuel 17:45-47; II Samuel 22:33-35,40-41). Be in an attitude of prayer (communication with and sensitive to God - Mark 9:29). Don't be proud, stay humble and submissive to Christ (Luke 10:10; II Peter 2:11; Acts 19:12-16). When cast out commit the demons to Jesus' authority in where He would have them go, that He would carry out His sentence against them (Psalm 149:6-9; Romans 16:20; Job 30:3-8). Remember the "house" must be filled with God's Holy Spirit when the demons are removed or things could be worse than before (Matthew 12:43-45).

ASK GOD TO FILL PERSON WITH HOLY SPIRIT

Sometimes God may lead you to lay hands on the person you are praying for, and on occasion Jesus Himself did this (Luke 4:29; 13:11-23; Matthew 8:15) as did the early church (I Corinthians 1:14f; 12:4; II Corinthians 1:21f; James 5:13-16). Be sensitive to God's leading in this area and do whichever it is He leads you to do. One way is not better than the other. Being obedient to what God would have you do is the determining factor.

1 Peter 5:8-9 Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

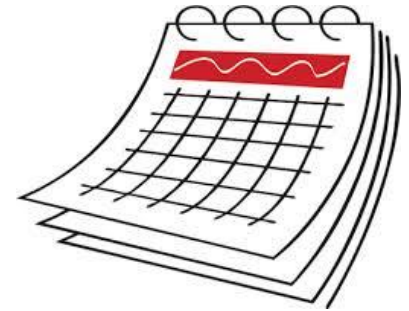
James 4:7-8 Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. 8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded



DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK 6

Supernatural Today



Day 1 - Deliverance & Healing 1

One of the first facts that becomes clear when one reads the accounts of Jesus casting out demons and healing is that very often they were both closely related. It is important to understand this more fully.

LESSON FOR TODAY: There is often a strong relationship between spiritual deliverance and physical healing. Often physical problems are also gone when the demons leave. That is because it was the demons who were causing the physical problems. Examples of these in the Bible include: crippled limbs (Luke 13:11), Paul's thorn in the flesh (eye disease? - II Corinthians 12:7), muteness (sometimes dumbness, too - Matthew 9:32-33; 12:22; Mark 9:17-18,24-25), blindness (Matthew 12:22), seizures (Mark 1:26; 9:17-18,20,22,25; Matthew 17:15,18; Luke 9:39), deafness (Mark 9:17-18,20,25), sores (skin cancer?) (Job 2:7), boils and other painful afflictions (Psalm 78:49 - the plagues in Egypt were demon-caused), and physical torments of all kinds (Revelation 9:5,10). The Bible states that Satan can cause illness (Job 2:7-8), even death (Job 1:19).

Physical healing can be a result of deliverance. If any of the demons who were removed were causing physical problems those problems will be resolved when the demons are removed. Generational spirits can cause the same ailments from generation to generation. Physical problems are usually not God's main concern, rather He is more concerned for the spiritual condition of the heart. We often pray for the symptom (physical problem) to be removed while God wants us to seek Him and what He is trying to teach us through it. Paul's thorn in the flesh is a clear example. It wasn't God's will for that demon to be removed, but for Paul to be spiritually strengthened through the experience.

If a physical problem is present it is helpful to find out when it first started and what else was going on at that time. Instead of focusing on removing the physical symptom, look for the root cause, be it demonic, spiritual or whatever else it may be.

Jesus often cast out demons and cured illness at the same time. Jesus said he would do this (Luke 13:32). He did this at the start of His ministry (Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16; Mark 1:34; Luke 4:41), around Tyre and Sidon (Mark 3:10-12; Luke 6:18-19), and in the middle of His ministry (Luke 7:21). Many female followers of Jesus were cured of both (Luke 8:2).

Even more precise are the accounts of when Jesus both cast out demons and healed illness in a person at the same time (Mark 6:13; Acts 5:16). Philip did this in Samaria (Acts 8:7) and Paul did it in Ephesus (Acts 19:12).

It must be noted that not all illness is demonic in origin. Jesus healed physical ills that weren't demonic (Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16-17 fulfilled Isaiah 53:4; Mark 1:34; Acts 10:34; etc.). The Bible clearly talks about illnesses that are not demonic: severe pain (Matthew 4:24), seizures (Matthew 4:24), paralysis (Matthew 4:24; Acts 8:7), leprosy (Matthew 10:8), blindness (Luke 7:21), crippled limbs (Acts 8:7) and many other various diseases (Matthew 4:24). The fact that some physical ailments are on both lists (like seizures) shows that many ailments may have demonic or natural causes. They could be from one source or the other.

Day 2 - Deliverance & Healing 2

We have been looking at the close connection between spiritual warfare and healing. Let's continue what we have been noticing.

It is obvious that some, but not all illness is demonic. There are no certain illness that are exclusively demonic, nor others that aren't. Any physical ill can be demonic, but it doesn't seem that any one physical illness is always demonic. In our day and age we err by seeing too few illnesses as being demonic. Thus we often miss the cure. How can we tell if an illness or physical problem is demonic or not? Some clues to look for are: medical doctors aren't able to bring relief or cure; there is a pattern of it running in the family; it seems strange or doesn't follow the regular pattern of symptoms (comes and goes for no particular reason, etc.); or you feel in your spirit that it should be prayed about and looked into as possibly being demonic.

Again, our pattern for bringing about this removal of physical ills by deliverance should follow Jesus' example. He rebuked a fever and it left immediately and strength instantly returned (Luke 4:39). On at least one occasion power came from within Jesus to heal (Luke 6:19). He often laid hands on a person to bring both deliverance and healing (Luke 4:40; 13:13; 4:29; Matthew 8:15; Luke 13:1-13).

Epilepsy, in fact any kind of seizures, cannot always be proven to be demonic, but that possibility should always be considered when praying for them. When Jesus confronted someone having seizures He always cast out demons and they were healed (Matthew 4:24; 17:15; Luke 9:38; 22:54; Mark 9:18). As we see in this account, demons who work in this way usually have a strong foothold and aren't easily removed, but with God's power and authority we can defeat them in Jesus' name.

As to us doing this today, again it must be done in God's strength and power. If He chooses to bring healing through deliverance that is His will. We must never demand it or make it dependent on having enough faith. No one today has a gift to heal anyone and everyone. It is right for us to pray for healing when doing deliverance and leave the results to God. It is also necessary to deal with any demons who may be causing the illness (physical or mental). Often demons affect our health in indirect ways, such as working in us so we eat or do things that are unhealthy for us in the long run and undermine our health. All of these, too, must be dealt with in Jesus' name (Matthew 10:1). Sometimes God may lead you to anoint with oil as a symbol of the Holy Spirit who does the healing (Mark 6:13). Do NOT put any faith in the oil or any ritual in using it, it is simply an audio-visual. For more on healing see under 13. LAYING ON OF HANDS (Luke 13:10-17).

In conclusion, be aware that illness is often demonic, especially when doctors are unable to bring a cure. Even diseases they can cure can still be demonic, especially if there are other signs of demonizing active in the person's life. Keep this in mind when praying and seeking wisdom. Don't accept any illness as "incurable." Always make sure it isn't demonic (by asking God for wisdom and commanding any demons involved in that ailment to be gone in Jesus' name). Remember, when dealing with emotional and spiritual ills in your warfare praying, don't let out physical ills! Never fear, demons can only cause illness with God's approval (Job 1:6-12).

One word of warning: since demons can cause illness, they can also bring counterfeit 'healings' by stopping the physical ills they themselves cause (Matthew 12:24; 24:24; 2 Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 16:14). This explains miraculous healings that aren't done in accordance with God's will and Word.

Day 3 - Should all be healed? 1

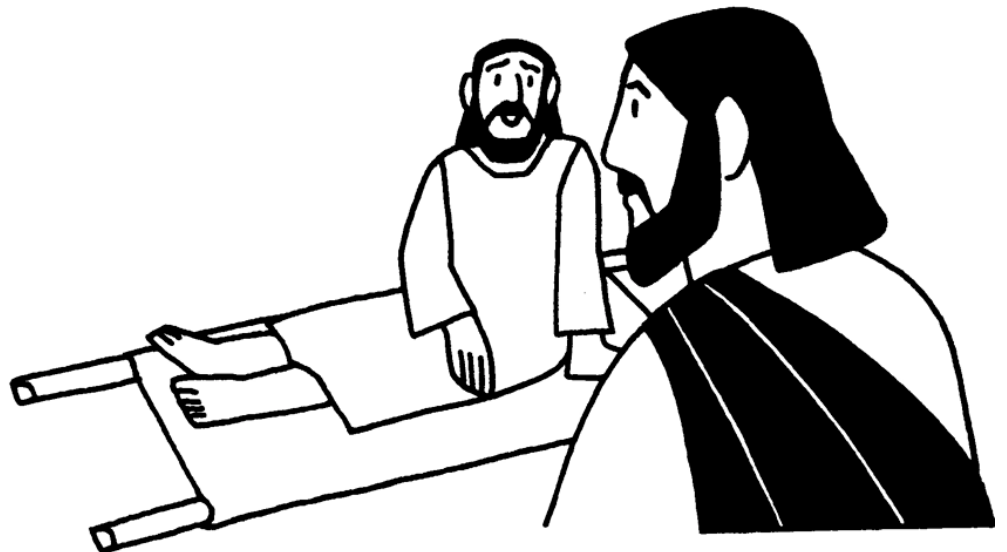
There are those today who believe that Jesus not only paid for sin on the cross, but that He also paid for our sickness. They say that each is received by faith, if you have enough faith to receive it. Loss of faith, then, causes the loss of these benefits of faith. They claim some are especially gifted in healing and can heal those who come to them. They say God did miracles in the Bible and he is still a miracle-working God today.

What about this? Is this true? This is not just one peripheral issue, but stands very central in our salvation and Christian life. Is God's sovereignty or man's free will the final and ultimate deciding factor? It must be God's sovereignty. The motive for living for Jesus should not be fear of losing our salvation. The goal of living for Jesus should not be a problem free life. Pain and suffering isn't to be faced by whipping up enough 'faith' so that God removes it (or living with the feelings of failure and guilt if it isn't removed and we believe that is our fault by not having enough faith). What about these claims of 'faith healers'? What does the Bible say?

Is the gift of healing for today? While it's true that Jesus and the Apostles healed, it was done as a sign to authenticate that they were from God (Matthew 12:39). This was God's way of having people listen to them instead of all the counterfeits around. When they were fully authenticated, there was no longer any reason for the sign. In AD 35 all were healed but by AD 60 some were not (Epaphroditus, Paul's thorn in the flesh). Then by AD 67 very few were being healed (Trophimus was left at Miletus sick, Timothy's stomach was unhealed, etc.). Jerusalem, the scene of many early miracles, had not one miracle done in it after Stephen was stoned. The people had the evidence but rejected it. James, the oldest book in the Bible, says that if someone is sick we are to pray for them (James 5:14).

Should we see miracles today like in bible times? Actually if you list all the miracles in the Bible you will find almost all of them fit three time periods. They aren't evenly spread out throughout history but cluster in the times of Moses/Joshua, Elijah/Elisha and Jesus/apostles. In each of these times a new mess had developed so God sent a new message through a new messenger whom He authenticated by miracles ("signs"). One more time of miracles is coming, called the Tribulation.

Is faith a prerequisite for healing? Jesus didn't make faith a requirement for healing. Many that He healed didn't have faith. The impotent man at the pool didn't even know who He was. The man with the withered hand and the man with dropsy were healed as a sign to religious leaders who were present, they didn't ask to be healed. The cripple that Peter and Paul healed outside the temple didn't exercise any faith. Of course the demoniacs who were delivered and those brought back from the dead didn't exercise faith. Then there are others who had strong faith but weren't healed: Stephen, Paul, Timothy, Job, David, Elisha, etc.



Day 4 - Should all be healed? 2



We have been looking at the issue of healing as it applies to us today. Let's conclude our discussion on this subject.

Is 'healing' today the same as in bible times?

Today's 'healers' must meet the same characteristics of Jesus and the apostles to claim they are doing what was done then. Jesus and the apostles healed with a word or touch wherever and whenever. There was no special place or time, no chants or music, no gimmicks, nothing. Do today's faith healers walk down the hall in a hospital and empty every room? That's how Jesus and Peter did it. Also, Bible miracles were done instantly, not gradually or slowly. There was no healing to 'claim' or lose. Healing was then done totally, not partially, and it was never lost. Everyone was healed. There was no screening done. 100% of every one, no matter the need, was healed. Organic diseases were healed: limbs grew back instantly, strong enough to walk on, eyes were open, leprosy instantly gone and healthy flesh grown. Then, too, the dead were raised. Today's faith healing

doesn't nearly meet these characteristics.

Does God not heal? Yes, a sovereign God can always heal. He is always able to heal, but He is not always willing. Healing isn't guaranteed. Healing isn't based on our having enough faith. Miracles by Jesus and the apostles were done as a sign to authenticate the One who could heal an unseen soul. God can and does heal, but He doesn't gift others to do it, nor does He say that is the recommended norm for His people.

What are we to do when sick? When we are sick its good to first make sure it isn't for sin or disobedience. If there is sin that God is using the sickness to point out, confess it and God will forgive and then use that illness for good (Romans 8:28). It's fine to pray, asking God to heal if that is His will. We are to submit to His will, not demand He do what we want. Ask Him to use the pain and suffering for His glory (that we and others can see His greatness through His provision and peace) and our growth(make us trust Him more and become more like Jesus). Use the best available resources: diet, rest, exercise and medical help. Realize that all healing does ultimately come from God. Leave the results to His will, though.

Granted, this whole subject of faith and healing can be a confusing and guilt-producing area. Specific verses can be found to seemingly support most any view. However an overview of the Bible and it's teaching about these things definitely seems to substantiate the above view of healing. Always remember, our faith must be in Jesus. HE is the object of our faith, never a human person or group. Put faith in Jesus, not faith in your faith! HE is the one we are to look to and glorify. Always keep your eyes on Him. Trust and serve Him no matter what.

Day 5 - Speaking in Tongues 1

Before salvation the Corinthian believers spoke in ecstatic utterances, prophecies, revelations, spells and curses through the 'power' of Artemis (Acts 19). This was a regular part of their pagan worship, and was still happening in their church services. They were unable to distinguish demonic utterances from their pagan past to the 'languages' the Holy Spirit gave them as believers (1 Corinthians 12:1-3). Without knowing it, some were saying things that were blasphemous to God, so of course that didn't come from the Holy Spirit. Paul writes 3 chapters (1 Corinthians 12-14) showing the place, purpose and limits of speaking in 'tongues.'



LESSON FOR TODAY: *Does God want us to speak in tongues today? Are they from the Holy Spirit or from demons (or both)? A correct understanding of 'tongues' is important for those involved in spiritual warfare.*

*The Bible teaches that each believer is **filled with the Holy Spirit** at the moment of salvation (I Corinthians 10:1ff; 12:3; 6:19; Eph. 4:5; Rom. 5:5). One cannot be saved without the Holy Spirit indwelling them (John 7:37-39; 14:16-17; I Corinthians 6:19-20). From there on it is not a matter of getting more of the Holy Spirit but of the Holy Spirit getting more of us! Then what about Acts 2, 8, 10 and 19, when the Holy Spirit came on those who were already believers? **Acts 2** is a one-time, non-repeatable experience (not even repeated in Acts 8, 10 or 19). Just like the Second Person of the Trinity made a unique, one-time entrance into the world through a virgin in a stable, so the Third Person made His entrance in a unique, one-time way. When Jesus came back to earth after the resurrection to the apostles, Paul or John on Patmos, He never repeated the virgin-in-a-stable entrance. Acts 2, also, is non-repeatable.*

*Acts 2 is a transition, from Old Testament law when the Holy Spirit only indwelt some believers some times, to New Testament grace, when the Holy Spirit indwells all believers for their whole life. The apostles had already accepted Jesus' claims and were saved in the old dispensation, then when the new dispensation started and the Spirit came they naturally would be the first to receive Him in that way. That is non-repeatable, too. In **Acts 8** we see this same truth applied to half Jews and half Gentiles, in **Acts 10** to Gentiles in Palestine, and in **Acts 19** to Gentiles outside of Palestine. They were similar to Acts 2 to show that Jews and Gentiles were now equal in the same Body, that the same thing happened to each. Each one showed the changeover from Old Testament law to New Testament grace. There had to be a definite time of change, showing the transfer had been made and those believers accepted. Still, what happened was different enough to show that it wasn't Acts 2 repeated again. Those were the only times anything even resembling Acts 2 happened in Acts, and it only happened once for each new group as the gospel spread from Jerusalem. All others received the Holy Spirit immediately at salvation.*

Tongues is not proof of Spirit baptism. *Many received the Holy Spirit but not tongues: 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38-41), early church believers (Acts 4:31), Samaritans (Acts 8:14-17), Paul (Acts 9:17-18), John the Baptist (Luke 1:15-16), Jesus (Luke 3:21-22; 4:1,14,18,21) and many others (Acts 4:8,31; 6:5; 7:55; 11:24; 13:9,52). Speaking in tongues is never mentioned in the leadership qualities in Titus or I Timothy. The Bible makes it clear that obedience is the proof of the Holy Spirit's indwelling, not tongues (Ephesians 5:18f).*

Tongues in Acts and Corinth were the same. *The same Greek word ('glossa' meaning 'tongue, to speak, language') is always used of known foreign languages and is used in both Acts (2:6-11, etc.) and Corinth (I Co 14:21; 12:10). In Acts is it obvious that the listeners heard known languages spoken by those who had no previous knowledge of the language. There is no indication that what Corinth experienced was different. It is only the church at Corinth that is mentioned as using tongues, and then many corrections were needed in this carnal church (I Cor 3:1-3).*

Day 6 – Speaking in Tongues 2

The purpose of tongues was to show Jews that God’s judgment was on them. They were to spread God’s message to Gentiles but failed. God would show He was judging them for that by bringing His word to them by Gentiles in Gentile languages. This was prophesied in Isa. 28:9-12; 33:19f; Deuteronomy 28:49; and Jeremiah 5:15. Paul said tongues fulfilled those prophecies (I Corinthians 14:21-22). When the Jews didn’t heed this sign and repent, God’s judgment came upon them in 70 AD when Jerusalem was destroyed. After 70 AD there is no instance of tongues being used in the early church. Signs are placed before what they are to mark, not after! Paul said (I Corinthians. 13:8-12) that tongues “will be stilled.” The Greek word, ‘pauo,’ is in the middle voice; they will stop by themselves and not start again. History records only a very few, very isolated, very minor outbreak of tongues from Acts to the present. These groups were often heretical in some or all of their other beliefs. Obviously tongues did stop. There is nothing to indicate that they would ever begin again, for their purpose has been fulfilled. When Joel 2 talks about the Holy Spirit coming back after the Tribulation, there is no mention of tongues!

Then what about those with the gift of interpretation? First, the Greek word for this refers to someone who interprets known languages, like from Spanish to German. The use of foreign languages was to show God’s judgment to the Jews present. The content of the message was God’s good news, which the Jews should have been spreading. Since speaking in an unknown language would mean nothing to Gentiles present, Paul said there had to be an interpreter present when the gift was used (I Corinthians 14:26-28). This was necessary for the weak and immature Corinthian believers (14:20-22) who were ignorant of God’s truth (12:13). It was to be kept to a minimum (14:6-12) because it was an inferior gift (I Corinthians. 14:4). Paul himself only used his ability to speak in unknown languages in Jewish synagogues, not Jewish services (14:39).

Applying these criteria to tongues today (known foreign language, showing God’s judgment on the Jews, used only with Jews present, see as a lesser/minor gift whose use was to be kept to a minimum, etc.) shows that what is happening today is different from what happened back then.

Tongues are not a heavenly language. *The Greek word makes it clear they are a KNOWN language (Acts 2:6-11; I Corinthians 14:21; 12:10). This is different than the ‘groanings’ of Romans 8:26 for those are clearly said to be unutterable (not able to be spoken). The “tongues of angels” (I Corinthians. 13:1) is a hyperbole (overemphasis to make a point) like “faith to move mountains.” Besides, when angels spoke in the Bible, it was always in the known language of those to whom they were speaking.*

Tongues are not a private prayer language. *All spiritual gifts are given for the sake of others, not the one having the gift (I Corinthians 12:7, 12f; 14:19,27), that’s why an interpreter had to always be present in Corinth (I Corinthians 14:26-28). Every time the gift of tongues was given in the Bible it was given to a group, not an individual. It was always used in a group, too, with no instance of private use recorded. The tongue is to be controlled by the speaker, not beyond his control (I Corinthians. 14:28-33). Plus, tongues were to be a sign to unbelievers, not believers (I Corinthians 14:22). Jesus Himself warned about praying words we don’t understand (Mt 6:7). Paul said he always understood what he said when he prayed, even in tongues (I Corinthians 14:15). When asked how to pray Jesus gave the Lord’s Prayer, not tongues.*

Dangers of speaking in tongues today. *Paul warns about Satan’s ability to counterfeit this (I Corinthians 12:2-3) as he has in other religions and cults today. Tongues is said to be an inferior gift because it is self-centered (I Corinthians 14:4) and leads to emphasis being put on emotions which can lead people astray (II Corinthians 6:11-12; Rom 16:17-18). We are told to pray with understanding (I Corinthians 14:13-17) and control our spiritual gift (I Corinthians 14:28-40). God*

arbitrarily chooses which gifts to give to whom (1 Corinthians 12:7,11,18,28). We are told to not seek any particular gift (1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1-4). Tongues speaking can become a substitute for spirituality (1 Corinthians 14:26-28). Worst of all, it can produce a false security by those who put faith in it as proof that God loves and accepts them. Most who practice tongues-speaking do not believe in eternal security of salvation, so their speaking in tongues becomes their proof of acceptance by God. Our faith must be in Jesus' work on the cross, not in our ability to speak in 'tongues.' Those without the gift can feel pressured to fit in with the rest of the group.

Another danger of tongues, despite Paul saying it is the least of all gifts (1 Corinthians 14:1-25), is that it is often elevated to equal importance to what God says in the Bible. This happens with 'interpretations of tongues' and those with the 'gift of prophecy' as well. These people can be looked up to and their 'word' taken on the same par as, or even above Scripture. That is a deception from the enemy for NOTHING is to be seen as authoritative as Scripture (Revelation 22:18-19).

I have been told by those who are more experienced in dealing with tongues spirits than I am that these demons are often 'gatekeepers' and keep other demons in. They also call others in and keep them from exiting.

Day 7 - Never Communicate With Demons

There are some things Jesus didn't do with demons when He faced them, and neither should we. We can see this from the story of the demonized man in the Capernaum synagogue (Mark 1:21-28; Luke 4:31-37).

LESSON FOR TODAY: While the demon(s) in this man try to bait Jesus into communicating with them, He refuses to do so. Do not converse with demons, either by having them give messages to a person's mind or to speak verbally through a person's vocal cords. The object in deliverance is not to get in contact with demons but to remove them. It is not to get them to speak but to cause them to be silent! Communication with them makes you a medium and God's words forbids that (Deuteronomy 18:9-13).

There are good reasons God forbids communication with them. Neither Jesus (Mark 1:25) nor Paul would (Acts 16:17) encouraged them to speak. They are liars and deceivers (John 8:44) and you can't believe what they say. God wants you to be in touch with Him only (Deuteronomy 4:24). Through the Holy Spirit we have access to all truth and power (John 8:31-32; 1 Corinthians 12:7-11). By communicating with demons you give them recognition, allow them to stall and deceive, give them the focus and attention they crave, make things much harder on all people involved, and open yourself up to pride. Communicating with demons can be a temptation to pride and we can find ourselves drawn into working by the power of our own flesh. We don't need any information they might give us, we walk by faith, not by sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). The only time Jesus ever talked to a demon was for the purpose of showing those who were watching how many demons were involved and therefore how great His power was (Mark 5:9). Eve got into a dialogue with Satan and was deceived by him (Genesis 3:1-16 – for more about this see THE BATTLE BEGINS Genesis 3:8-15). If there is something you need to know, God will show it. Don't ever expect a demon to give information that will lead to his own defeat!

LESSON FOR TODAY: When the demons left this man they shook him and caused him to scream loudly. Sometimes demons will try to manifest in ways that are intended to bring fear to a person, but Jesus never allowed demonic manifestations to get out of hand and neither should we. In Jesus' name bind them, take away their power to resist, and command them to obey immediately and quietly when commanded in Jesus' name. We do not have to put up with their antics for they are only done to distract and to cause fear in us and recognition of their power. We know God is greater than they are (1 John 4:4).

6. SUPERNATURAL TODAY (Miracles, Tongues)

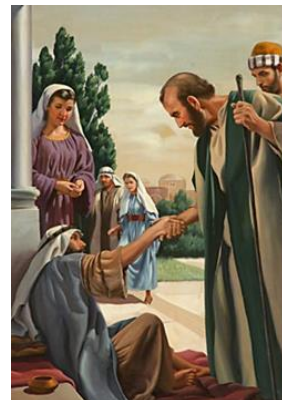
Rev. Dr. Jerry Schroyer – jerry@schroyer.net - © 2013

MEMORY VERSE 2 Cor 5:7 We live by faith, not by sight.

I. MIRACLES & HEALING

GOD DOES MIRACLES WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED

- not to impress, entertain, man show off, etc
- but to authenticate Gospel to unbeliever
to heal believer, esp when no other way



1. MOSES & JOSHUA
2. ELIJAH & ELISHA
3. JESUS & APOSTLES
4. TRIBULATION

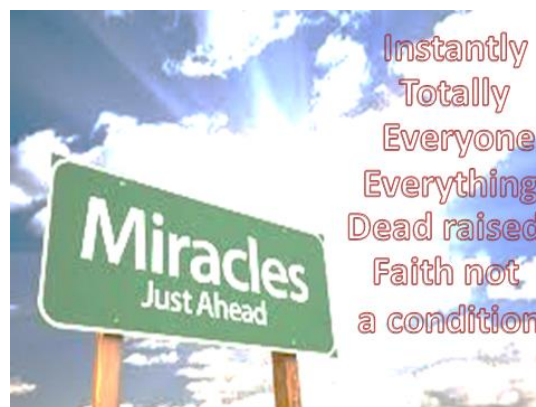
*new mess
new message
new messenger*

GREAT ERAS OF MIRACLES

	NEW MESS	NEW MESSAGE	NEW MESSENGER
MOSES JOSHUA	Captivity, slavery	Law on Sinai	Miracles authenticated
ELIJAH ELISHA	Turn to idolatry	Repent or captivity	Miracles authenticated
CHRIST APOSTLES	Apostate, hypocrites	Hypocrisy, far from God	Miracles authenticated
TRIBULATION	Antichrist, turn from God	Repent, end coming	Miracles authenticated

CHARACTERISTICS OF MIRACLES

- INSTANTLY – _____ or _____
- TOTALLY – _____ healed _____
- EVERYONE – _____ the problem
- EVERYTHING – organic disease, cripple, etc
- DEAD RAISED – back to _____
- FAITH NOT A CONDITION – often _____ even
faith



*Instantly
Totally
Everyone
Everything
Dead raised
Faith not
a condition*

have



GOD DOES MIRACLES WHERE NEEDED

When Bible available, took root, it because the authority, shown by changed lives

FADING OF MIRACLES

AD 35 _____ healed Acts 5:16

AD 60 _____ not healed – Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25-27), Paul's thorn in the flesh

AD67 _____ healed – Trophimus (2 Tim 4:20), Timothy stomach, etc

NOT AGE OF MIRACLES NOW

But sometimes God does them – for same reason (new message)

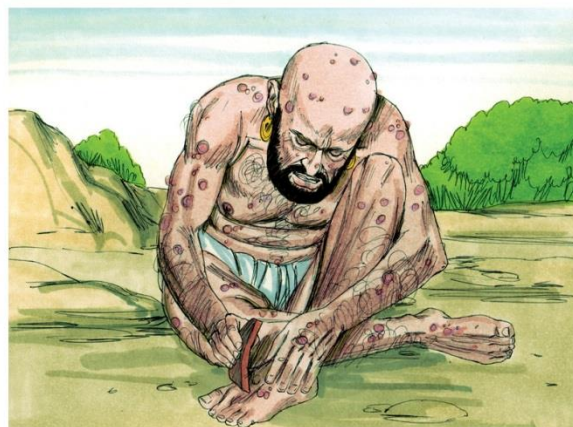
Some places don't have Word, testimony of believers'; lives – so He uses miracles

DELIVERANCE & HEALING

SATAN HAS POWER OVER ILLNESS AND DEATH

SATAN CAN CAUSE ILLNESS – JOB!

When a demon in a demonized person causes the _____, the person is _____ when the demonizing is _____.



When Jesus cast out the demon he/she was healed physically as well.

Done by Jesus Mark 6:13; Acts 5:16

Done by Philip in Samaria (Acts 8:7)

Done by Paul in Ephesus (Acts 19:12)

Jesus often case out demons and cured physical illness at the same time

Jesus said he would do this (Luke 13:32).

at the start of His ministry (Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16; Mark 1:34; Luke 4:41), around Tyre and Sidon (Mark 3:10-12; Luke 6:18-19),

in the middle of His ministry (Luke 7:21).

Many female followers of Jesus were cured of both (Luke 8:2).

Examples of physical healing with deliverance

crippled limbs (Luke 13:11),

Paul's thorn in the flesh (eye disease? - II Corinthians 12:7),

muteness (sometimes dumbness, too - Mt 9:32-33; 12:22; Mark 9:17-18,24-25), blindness (Matthew 12:22),

seizures (Mark 1:26; 9:17-18,20,22,25; Matthew 17:15,18; Luke 9:39),

deafness (Mark 9:17-18,20,25),

sores (skin cancer?) (Job 2:7),

boils & other painful afflictions (Ps 78:49 - plagues in Egypt demon-caused),

physical torments of all kinds (Revelation 9:5,10).

Not all illness is demonic caused.

severe pain (Matthew 4:24),

seizures (Matthew 4:24),

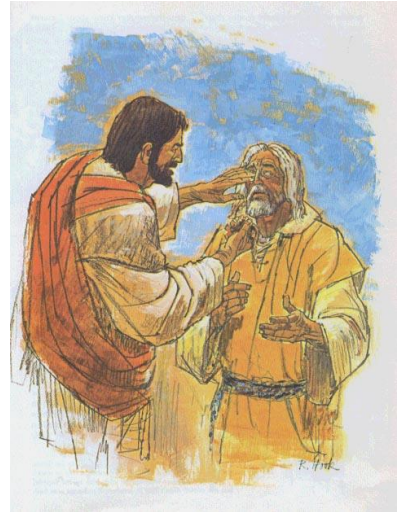
paralysis (Matthew 4:24; Acts 8:7),

leprosy (Matthew 10:8),

blindness (Luke 7:21),

crippled limbs (Acts 8:7)

many other various diseases (Matthew 4:24)



Since demons can cause illness, they can fake counterfeit healings as well

Examples: (Mt 7:22-23; 12:24; 24:24; 2 Thes 2:9; Rev 16:14).

Egyptian magicians Ex 7-8

Elymas, Simon Magus Acts 8, 13

WHERE DOES THAT LEAVE US AND MIRACLES TODAY?



Do miracles still happen?

_____ God still does miracles

Does anyone today have gift of miracles?

_____ no one heals instantly, totally, everything in every person every time, even death

Will God perform a miracle for you?

Can you name it and claim it? _____

Does God provide healing for _____ ?

Did Jesus provide for physical healing on cross? _____

Do miracles still happen?

_____ – God in His mercy directly performs

“There are many, many spiritualists today who are endowed with this remarkable gift of power from Satan, and I myself, having been used in this way, can testify to having witnessed miraculous healings taking place at ‘healing meetings’ in Spiritism.” -former Spiritist Raphael Gasson

Matthew 7:22-23 “Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!' “

Isn't expecting a miracle a sign of faith?

_____ - needing 'proof' by our senses is not faith

MEMORY VERSE 2 Cor 5:7 We live by _____, not by _____.

RESURRECTION OF JESUS greatest miracle for today

Will God heal today?

_____ if it is His will - Through doctors or Miraculously

Always _____, not always _____

Do you want to be healed if it is not His will?

Are you willing to let the decision up to Him?

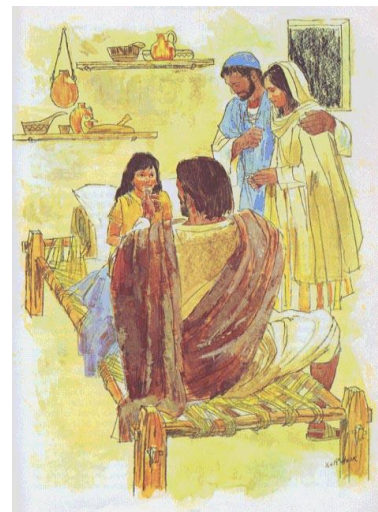
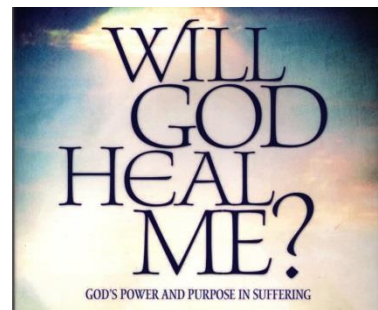
Why does God allow suffering?

- God's goodness, love, character proven by coming down to die for our sins
- God doesn't explain, we can't accuse or judge Him, He is not accountable to us
- must we don't know, understand
- God uses all suffering for our growth and His glory, to make us more like Him

Why does God allow people to struggle and suffer?

Don't evaluate God's character by His actions, evaluate His actions by character
God is sovereign (power) and love – must have both
Trust, like child of parent when taken to doctor
Opportunity to trust
For our growth and God's glory

GOD DOES MIRACLES WHERE THEY ARE NEEDED



APPLICATION

Walk by _____, not by _____
Don't depend on circumstances, sensationalism,
Emotional high, etc.

God did not promise to make things _____ in this life
Promised to make us like Jesus
#1 priority: our growth and His glory
Submit to His will, trust Him
Not insist, complain, withdraw

God is always _____, even if not always _____
Not a matter of His power
Or something wrong with us
But a matter of His perfect will for us

If God doesn't heal He will provide _____
Paul's thorn in flesh

Greatest miracle ever _____ – person destined for Hell to heaven!



II. DREAMS



Another way God spreads the gospel here, especially when there isn't a Christian nearby to talk to, is through **dreams**. It is not uncommon at all, in the most unreached areas especially, for someone to dream about a person talking to them about Jesus. This person shares the gospel with them. Dreams are highly respected and seen as a great privilege so they are accepted and followed by the receiver. It is not uncommon to hear in a testimony that a person's first or main exposure to the gospel was in a dream. (Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009)

III. BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT & TONGUES

A. THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 19:1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

PERSON (not "it" or "ghost") "Spirit" = pneuma = breath
Personal pronoun "he" used
Works show personality

DEITY : Called God Acts 5:14
Attributes of God

WORKS:

Author & means of insp & revelation
In OT 'Upon' some at some times
In Church Age

Restrains sin in general (II Thes 2:7)

Convicts unbelievers of sin, etc Jn 16

Sealing II Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30

Indwells all bel from moment of salvation

Jn 7:37-39; 14:16-17 I Cor 6:19-20

Produces good works (fruit) Gal 5

Guides, directs believers; teaches/reminds of God's Word

Gives spiritual gifts to believers

The Holy Spirit's Role in Salvation

Enlightens us so we can understand the gospel
Convicts us of sin
Enables us to repent and believe
Regenerates us when we yield to God
Sanctifies us



B. BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 19:3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"
"John's baptism," they replied.

4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus."

Needed to put faith in Jesus for _____, not John's _____
Judaism – do this to please God
Here – baptized to please God
Missed personal relationship with God

5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them,



BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

NOT necessary for _____
NOT necessary to receive _____
NOT something that brings a _____
NOT _____ salvation, but one of the things God gives us at the moment of salvation

ACTS history, not _____ book
Inspired, totally true in recording what happened
_____ – from law to grace (takes time)
From Jews to Gentiles
From Israel to Church

ALL BELIEVERS BAPTIZED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT AT THE MOMENT OF SALVATION

1 Corinthians 12:13 For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free — and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.

WHAT BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS:

Filling of Holy Spirit at moment of salvation (1 Cor 10:1ff; 12:13; 6:19; Eph 4:5; Rom 5:5)

1 Cor 6:19 Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

1 Cor 12:3 Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

HOLY SPIRIT COMES TO ALL AT SALVATION

Cannot be saved without having the Holy Spirit (if no HS then not saved)

Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard (Gentiles) the message.

C. SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Acts 10:44 and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Never _____, _____ or even _____ by God

THE PURPOSE OF TONGUES

1. SIGN TO ISRAEL of _____ coming . As prophesied (Isa 28:9-12; 33:19f; Deut 28:49, Jer 5:15), hearing God's Word in foreign language shows God's blessing taken from them and given to Gentiles. Paul says this in I Cor 14:21-22). Jews didn't turn and judgment came in 70

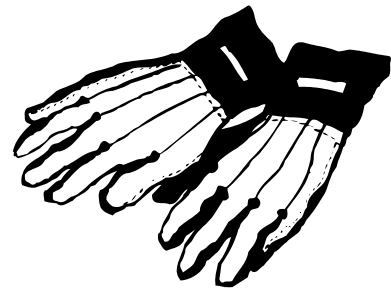
2. EDIFICATION of _____, when interpreter present (I Cor 14:26-28). This was necessary for weak & immature Cor bel (14:20-22) who were ignorant of God's truth (12:13). Use of tongues showed judgment on Jews who were present, while content of message used by God for immature bel to grow. This was to be kept to a minimum, though (14:6-12). Paul himself only used his tongue in Jewish synagogue, not Gentile services (14:39).

TONGUES IS NOT PROOF OF SPIRIT BAPTISM

All believers have Holy Spirit, but not all have same spiritual gift

MANY received Holy Spirit but not tongues

- 3,000 on Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38-41)
- Early Church (Acts 4:31)
- Samaritans (Acts 8:14-17)
- Paul (Acts 9:17-18)
- John the Baptist (Lk 1:15-16)
- Jesus (Lk 3:21-22; 4:1,14,18,21)
- many (Acts 4:8,31; 6:5; 7:55; 11:24; 13:9,52)



Never mentioned in leadership qualifications!

PROOF of Holy Spirit is living obedient life (Eph 5:18ff)

NOT to seek tongues

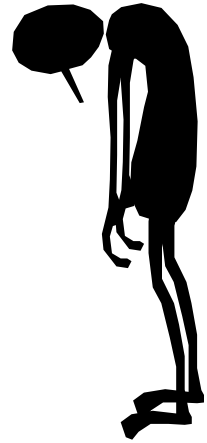
NOT for today – judgment on Israel in progress

Filling Eph 5:18

Grieve not Eph 4:30

Quench not I Thes 5:19

Walk By Gal 5:16, 25



TONGUES: speaking in a _____ which speaker didn't know

INTERPRETATION OF TONGUES: understanding unknown _____

PURPOSE:

- To advance _____ quickly (show who had God's approval)
- To show the person is from God and has His _____
- As a sign of _____ on the Jews (Isaiah & Jeremiah)

PENTECOST: tongues, fire, wind

JESUS came glory, stars, angels then stayed w/out it

HOLY SPIRIT came glory, fire, wind, then stayed w/out it Acts 2 START of church

= to have it today must have all 3 but don't

Then 3,000 saved, but no tongues, fire or wind for them

Only 4 places in Acts, 1 in 1 Corinthians

4 TIMES IN ACTS SPOKE IN TONGUES

Acts 2 on _____ first time

Acts 8 start of half Jews & half _____ church, same group

Acts 10 start of _____ Gentile church in the land, same group

Acts 19 Start of Gentile church _____ of the land, same group

All these were to show the same Spirit with all of them

They were all the same group, not Jewish or Gentile



CORINTH = only church where tongues is mentioned,
most carnal church in NT

*Paul tells them to not _____ tongues (I Cor 12:11)

*Paul tells them it is the _____ of all gifts (I Cor 14:1-5)

*it is _____ and will be stilled (I Cor 13:8)

Need for it as a sign of _____ ended in 70 AD Judgment came,

Not mentioned in rest of NT or by early church

Not mentioned as a qualification pastor or leader

Never used by Jesus

NOT A HEAVENLY LANGUAGE

Gk word = _____ language (Acts 2:6-11; 1

Cor 14:21; 12:10)

'groanings' of Rom 8:26 is something can't be
uttered

'language of _____ (1 Cor 13:1) hyperbole

(overemphasis) for emphasis (faith move mts)

Nothing like this ever mentioned in Bible

Angels always spoke to man in their language



NOT A _____ PRAYER LANGUAGE

All sp gifts for the sake of others, not self (I Corinthians 12:7, 12f; 14:19,27)

That's why interpreter always had to be present to use tongues! (1 Cor 14:26-28)

Tongues always given to a group, never individual

No private use of tongues or mention of private prayer language anywhere in Bible

Tongues is to be controlled by speaker, not our of his control (1 Cor 14:28-33)

Tongues is a sign for unbelievers, not believers (1 Cor 14:22)

Jesus warned against praying words we don't understand (Mt 6:7)

Paul always understood what he said, even in tongues (1 Cor 14:15)

When asked how to pray, Jesus gave Lord's Prayer, not tongues!

TONGUES CEASED

1 Cor 13:8-9 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

1. Tongues a miracle gift, age of miracles passed (Moses/Joshua, Elijah/Elisha, Jesus/Apostles (70 yrs) - Last miracle in Bible Acts 28:7-10 Publius' father AD 58
2. tongues sign of judgment, when J came 70 AD not needed 1 Cor 14:21-22 quot Isa 28:11-12
3. Tongues inferior to prophecy, Bible replaced it
4. Useless when NT complete, final revelation Rev 22:18; Hebrews 2:3-4
5. Only in earliest NT epistles, never later (only to worst church, Corinth, to correct misuse)
6. History records tongues ceased in Apostolic age
 - Apostolic fathers no mention, speak of it as from early days of church only
 - Some counterfeit tongues – Mormonism, etc.
 - Wesley Holiness, could attain perfectionism (loose salv), Asuza St revival, LA, 1901
 - 'proof' of salvation (no eternal security)
 - Many splits, differences among Pentecostal groups

DANGERS OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Satan's ability to counterfeit this (I Corinthians 12:2-3; 2 Thess 2:7-11; Isa 8:18-19; 1 Tim 4:1)

Common in pagan cults, today (Mormonism, etc.)

inferior gift because it is self-centered (I Corinthians 14:4)

emphasis on emotions lead astray (II Cor 6:11-12; Rom 16:17-18).

We are told to pray with understanding (I Corinthians 14:13-17)

Paul says to control our spiritual gift (I Corinthians 14:28-40).

God arbitrarily chooses which gifts to give to whom (I Cor 12:7,11,18,28).

Don't seek any particular gift (I Corinthians 12:31; 14:1-4).

can become a substitute for spirituality (I Cor 14:26-28).

False security by putting faith in it

What said elevated to Bible truth (1 Cor 14:1-25)

Demonic counterfeit thru person (in other cults, too)



Have you ever experienced a miracle in your life or family? Tell about it.

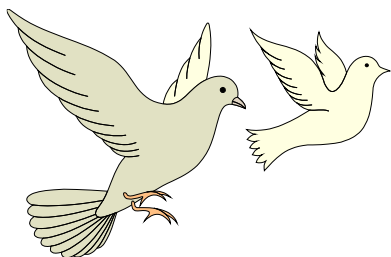
Do you know anyone who was supernaturally healed? Tell about it.

What would you tell someone who had been told that the reason they weren't healed was because they didn't have enough faith in God?

DOES GOD WANT US TO SPEAK IN TONGUES TODAY?

BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT, SECOND BLESSING, TONGUES & SUCH MATTERS What a land-mine this subject is! It gets so divisive. I'm sure God hates to see that among His children. I don't write this to be divisive, but God does require each of us to come to our own conclusions on this matter, based on the Bible. I don't try to explain how or why others feel led as they do, I don't in any way judge or condemn them, I only know how God is leading me from His Word. I have thoroughly studied this whole issue with as open a heart as possible, even wishing there were some higher form of spirituality and victory that would take me to a higher plane. Still, I feel totally convinced God is showing me through His Word that these things are not for me nor the people I shepherd. What is happening in Pentecostal and Charismatic circles I do not know. I only know how He leads me.

The Bible teaches that each believer is **filled with the Holy Spirit** at the moment of salvation (I Cor 10:1ff; 12:3; 6:19; Eph. 4:5; Rom. 5:5). One cannot be saved without the Holy Spirit indwelling them (John 7:37-39; 14:16-17; I Cor 6:19-20). From there on it is not a matter of getting more of the Holy Spirit but of the Holy Spirit getting more of us! As we totally submit and live a holy life He fills and works through us.



Then what about Acts 2, 8, 10 and 19, when the Holy Spirit came on those who were already believers? **Acts 2** is a one-time, non-repeatable experience (not even repeated in Acts 8, 10 or 19). Just like the Second Person of the Trinity made a unique, one-time entrance into the world through a virgin in a stable, so the Third Person made His entrance in a unique, one-time way. When Jesus

came back to earth after the resurrection to the apostles, Paul or John on Patmos, He never repeated the virgin-in-a-stable entrance. Acts 2, also, is non-repeatable.

Acts 2 is a transition, from Old Testament law when the Holy Spirit only indwelt some believers some times, to New Testament grace, when the Holy Spirit indwells all believers for their whole life. The apostles had already accepted Jesus' claims and were saved in the old dispensation, then when the new dispensation started and the Spirit came they naturally would be the first to receive Him in that way. That is non-repeatable, too. In **Acts 8** we see this same truth applied to half Jews and half Gentiles, in **Acts 10** to Gentiles in Palestine, and in **Acts 19** to Gentiles outside of Palestine. They were similar to Acts 2 to show that Jews and Gentiles were now equal in the same Body, that the same thing happened to each. Each one showed the changeover from Old Testament law to New Testament grace. There had to be a definite time of change, showing the transfer had been made and those believers accepted. Still, what happened was different enough to show that it wasn't Acts 2 repeated again. Those were the only times anything even resembling Acts 2 happened in Acts, and it only happened once for each new group as the gospel spread from Jerusalem. All others received the Holy Spirit immediately at salvation.

Tongues is not proof of Spirit baptism. Many received the Holy Spirit but not tongues: 3,000 on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:38-41), early church believers (Acts 4:31), Samaritans (Acts 8:14-17), Paul (Acts 9:17-18), John the Baptist (Luke 1:15-16), Jesus (Lk. 3:21-22; 4:1,14,18,21) and many others (Acts 4:8,31; 6:5; 7:55; 11:24; 13:9,52). Speaking in tongues is never mentioned in the leadership qualities in Titus or I Timothy. The Bible makes it clear that obedience is the proof of the Holy Spirit's indwelling, not tongues (Eph 5:18f).

Tongues in Acts and Corinth were the same. The same Greek word ('glossa' meaning 'tongue, to speak, language') is always used of known foreign languages and is used in both Acts (2:6-11, etc) and Corinth (I Cor 14:21; 12:10). In Acts is it obvious that the listeners heard known languages spoken by those who had no previous knowledge of the language. There is no indication that what Corinth experienced was different. It is only the church at Corinth that is mentioned as using tongues, and then many corrections were needed as it was a very carnal church (I Cor. 3:1-3).

The purpose of tongues was to show Jews that God's judgment was on them. They were to spread God's message to Gentiles but failed. God would show He was judging them for that by bringing His word to them by Gentiles in Gentile languages. This was prophesied in Isa. 28:9-12; 33:19f; Deut 28:49; and Jer 5:15. Paul said tongues fulfilled those prophecies (I Cor 14:21-22). When the Jews didn't heed this sign and repent, God's judgment came upon them in 70 AD when Jerusalem was destroyed. After 70 AD there is no instance of tongues being used in the early church. Signs are placed before what they are to mark, not after! Paul said (I Cor. 13:8-12) that tongues "will be stilled." The Greek word, 'pauo,' is in the middle voice; they will stop by themselves and not start again. History records only a very few, very isolated, very minor outbreak of tongues from Acts to the present. These groups were often heretical in some or all of their other beliefs. Obviously tongues did stop. There is nothing to indicate that they would ever begin again, for their purpose has been fulfilled. When Joel 2 talks about the Holy Spirit coming back after the Tribulation, there is no mention of tongues!

Then what about those with the gift of interpretation? First, the Greek word for this refers to someone who interprets known languages, like from Spanish to German. The use of foreign languages was to show God's judgment to the Jews present. The content of the message was God's good news, which the Jews should have been spreading. Since speaking in an unknown language would mean nothing to Gentiles present, Paul said there had to be an interpreter present when the gift was used (I Cor 14:26-28). This was necessary for the weak and immature Corinthian believers (14:20-22) who were ignorant of God's truth (12:13). It was to be kept to a minimum (14:6-12) because it was an inferior gift (I Cor. 14:4). Paul himself only used his ability to speak in unknown languages in Jewish synagogues, not Jewish services (14:39).

Applying these criteria to tongues today (known foreign language, showing God's judgment on the Jews, used only with Jews present, sees as a lesser/minor gift whose use was to be kept to a minimum, etc.) shows that what is happening today is different from what happened back then.

Tongues are not a heavenly language. The Greek word makes it clear they are a KNOWN language (Acts 2:6-11; I Cor 14:21; 12:10). This is different than the 'groanings' of Romans 8:26 for those are clearly said to be unutterable (not able to be spoken). The "tongues of angels" (I Cor. 13:1) is a hyperbole (overemphasis to make a point) like "faith to move mountains." Besides, when angels spoke in the Bible, it was always in the known language of those to whom they were speaking.

Tongues are not a private prayer language. All spiritual gifts are given for the sake of others, not the one having the gift (I Cor 12:7, 12f; 14:19,27), that's why an interpreter had to always be present in Corinth (I Cor 14:26-28). Every time the gift of tongues was given in the Bible it was given to a group, not an individual. It was always used in a group, too, no instance of private use is recorded. The tongue is to be controlled by the speaker, not beyond his control (I Cor. 14:28-33). Plus, tongues were to be a sign to unbelievers, not believers (I Cor 14:22). Jesus Himself warned about praying words we don't understand (Mt 6:7). Paul said he always understood what he said when he prayed, even in tongues (I Cor 14:15). When asked how to pray Jesus gave the Lord's Prayer, not tongues.

Dangers of speaking in tongues today. Paul warns about Satan's ability to counterfeit this (I Cor 12:2-3) as he has in other religions and cults today. Tongues is said to be an inferior gift because it is self-centered (I Cor 14:4) and leads to emphasis being put on emotions which can lead people astray (II Cor 6:11-12; Rom 16:17-18). We are told to pray with understanding (I Cor 14:13-17) and control our spiritual gift (I Cor 14:28-40). God arbitrarily chooses which gifts to give to whom (I Cor 12:7,11,18,28). We are told to not seek any particular gift (I Cor 12:31; 14:1-4). Tongues speaking can become a substitute for spirituality (I Cor 14:26-28). Worse of all, it can produce a false security by those who put faith in it as proof that God loves and accepts them. Most who practice tongues-speaking do not believe in eternal security of salvation, so their speaking in tongues becomes their proof of acceptance by God. Our faith must be in Jesus' work on the cross, not in our ability to speak in 'tongues.' Those without the gift can feel pressured to fit in with the

IS IT GOD'S WILL FOR EVERYONE TO BE HEALED TODAY?

There are those today who believe that Jesus not only paid for sin on the cross, but that He also paid for our sickness. They say that each is received by faith, if you have enough faith to receive it. Loss of faith, then, causes the loss of these benefits of faith. They claim some are especially gifted in healing and can heal those who come to them. They say God did miracles in the Bible and he is still a miracle-working God today.

What about this? Is this true? This is not just one peripheral issue, but stands very central in our salvation and Christian life. Is God's sovereignty or man's free will the final and ultimate deciding factor? It must be God's sovereignty. The motive for living for Jesus should not be fear of losing our salvation. The goal of living for Jesus should not be a problem free life. Pain and suffering isn't to be faced by whipping up enough 'faith' so that God removes it (or living with the feelings of failure and guilt if it isn't removed and we believe that is our fault by not having enough faith). What about these claims of 'faith healers'? What does the Bible say?

Rx

IS THE GIFT OF HEALING FOR TODAY? While it's true that Jesus and the Apostles healed, it was done as a sign to authenticate that they were from God (Mt 12:39). This was God's way having people listen to them instead of all the counterfeits around. When they were fully authenticated, there was no longer any reason for the sign. In AD 35 all were healed but by AD 60 some were not (Epaphroditus, Paul's thorn in the flesh). Then by AD 67 very few were being healed (Trophimus was left at Miletus sick, Timothy's stomach was unhealed, etc.). Jerusalem, the scene of many early miracles, had not one miracle done in it after Stephen was stoned. The people had the evidence but rejected it. James, the oldest book in the Bible, says that

if someone is sick we are to pray for them (James 5:14).

SHOULD WE SEE MIRACLES TODAY LIKE IN BIBLE TIMES? Actually if you list all the miracles in the Bible you will find almost all of them fit three time periods. They aren't evenly spread out throughout history but cluster in the times of Moses/Joshua, Elijah/Elisha and Jesus/apostles. In each of these times a new mess had developed so God sent a new message through a new messenger whom He authenticated by miracles ("signs"). One more time of miracles is coming, called the Tribulation.

IS FAITH A PREREQUISITE FOR HEALING? Jesus didn't make faith a requirement for healing. Many that He healed didn't have faith. The impotent man at the pool didn't even know who He was. The man with the withered hand and the man with dropsy were healed as a sign to religious leaders who were present, they didn't ask to be healed. The cripple that Peter and Paul healed outside the temple didn't exercise any faith. Of course the demoniacs who were delivered and those brought back from the dead didn't exercise faith. Then there are others who had strong faith but weren't healed: Stephen, Paul, Timothy, Job, David, Elisha, etc.

IS 'HEALING' TODAY THE SAME AS IN BIBLE TIMES? Today's 'healers' must meet the same characteristics of Jesus and the apostles to claim they are doing what was done then. Jesus and the apostles healed with a word or touch wherever and whenever. There was no special place or time, no chants or music, no gimmicks, nothing. Do today's faith healers

walk down the hall in a hospital and empty every room? That's how Jesus and Peter did it. Also, Bible miracles were done instantly, not gradually or slowly. There was no healing to 'claim' or lose. Healing was then done totally, not partially, and it was never lost. Everyone was healed. There was no screening done. 100% of every one, no matter the need, was healed. Organic diseases were healed: limbs grew back instantly, strong enough to walk on, eyes were open, leprosy instantly gone and healthy flesh grown. Then, too, the dead were raised. Today's faith healing doesn't nearly meet these characteristics.

DOES GOD NOT HEAL? Yes, a sovereign God can always heal. He is always able to heal, but He is not always willing. Healing isn't guaranteed. Healing isn't based on our having enough faith. Miracles by Jesus and the apostles were done as a sign to authenticate the One who could heal an unseen soul. God can and does heal, but He doesn't gift others to do it, nor does He say that is the recommended norm for His people.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO WHEN SICK? When we are sick it's good to first make sure it isn't for sin or disobedience. If there is sin that God is using the sickness to point out, confess it and God will forgive and then use that illness for good (Romans 8:28). It's fine to pray, asking God to heal if that is His will. We are to submit to His will, not demand He do what we want. Ask Him to use the pain and suffering for His glory (that we and others can see His greatness through His provision and peace) and our growth (make us trust Him more and become more like Jesus). Use the best available resources: diet, rest, exercise and medical help. Realize that all healing does ultimately come from God. Leave the results to His will, though.

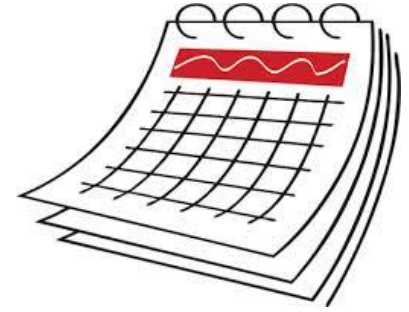
Granted, this whole subject of faith and healing can be a confusing and guilt-producing area. Specific verses can be found to seemingly support most any view. However an overview of the Bible and its teaching about these things definitely seems to substantiate the above view of healing. Always remember, our faith must be in Jesus. HE is the object of our faith, never a human person or group. Put faith in Jesus, not faith in your faith! HE is the one we are to look to and glorify. Always keep your eyes on Him. Trust and serve Him no matter what.



DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK 7

Joshua



Day 1 - Fighting Spiritual Battles

The book of Joshua is one of the most detailed books on spiritual warfare in the Bible. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 tells us that the things that happened to the Jews who left Egypt and eventually settled the Promised Land happened as examples for us. Physical events in the Old Testament teach spiritual truths in the New Testament. That is especially true of Joshua.

In Genesis we see the need of salvation – man is sinful. The book starts in Eden in God’s presence and ends with the Jews in captivity in Egypt. Exodus brings deliverance by innocent blood being shed (Passover) and by power (Red Sea open, close). Then in Leviticus instruction is given as to how to live for God now that they are delivered. In Numbers they start learning to apply what God has taught them about winning battles they face in life. Deuteronomy reviews lessons from the past about obeying God. God’s people must learn from the past so they can move ahead in the future. Then comes Joshua, entering the Promised Land (God’s perfect will for them) and conquering through warfare. That’s where we are in our Christian life: God has redeemed us and taught us in His Word and from past experiences. Now we pursue His perfect will for our lives but find we must fight to achieve what He has for us.

LESSON FOR TODAY: The same happens today – God freely gives us salvation and has peace, rest and victory available as we live in His perfect will, but there is a battle involved for us to experience and enjoy those blessings. We fight our sinful nature and we fight Satan’s demons who try to do all they can to keep us from experiencing all God has for us. It’s available, it’s ours, but we must battle to reach it. Some Christians believe that if they trust God enough then He will remove all obstacles and bless them with a simple, easy life. Others think that God owes them health, wealth and whatever they want. The truth is that we are in a lifelong battle if we want to remain faithful to God’s kingdom. If we give in or compromise, then the battle stops until we start living in faithfulness and obedience again. We are living in enemy-occupied territory seeking to overthrow the prince of this world and release as many of his prisoners as possible. Of course he will oppose all we do!

The generation of Jews who left Egypt died in unbelief, not attaining all the blessings God had for them in this life. They lacked faith and obedience. Their children took over – each generation must pick up where the last generation stopped or failed. They needed faith to face the giants their parents feared. They couldn’t do this in their own strength, only in God’s.

LESSON FOR US: The physical warfare of the Jews over their enemies in the Old Testament pictures our spiritual warfare against our enemies (the flesh and Satan) in the New Testament. We can learn many spiritual lessons from their physical battles. Numbers 32:18-22 gives the key for our victory in spiritual warfare. First of all, we must be totally committed to having victory (Numbers 32:18) and willing to pay whatever price is necessary (Matthew 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23). How badly do you want to experience all God has for you? How willing are you to fight for it no matter the cost?

Day 2 - Fighting for Victory

There once was a young man who thought it would be great to be a soldier. Everyone would respect him. He would be paid for traveling and seeing the world. What could be better? It wasn't long, though, before he found he was in a battle for his life. He had enemies who were trying to destroy him. He had to learn how to fight for his life. Many people become Christians thinking this will be the end of all their problems, God will take care of everything and now life will be smooth and perfect. Then they, too, find out they are in a battle with an enemy committed to destroying them. As Christians we, too, must learn to fight for the victory that is ours. Its always been that way for God's people.

Genesis begins with man in God's presence in Eden, but sin soon changes that and the book ends with the Jews in slavery in Egypt (a picture of the world). In Exodus we see God's redemption by the innocent blood of the lamb and His deliverance by power through the Red Sea. Leviticus contains God's directions for His newly-redeemed people. In Numbers we see redeemed mans first attempts (and failures) to walk by faith. Deuteronomy is a reminder of how God has always been faithful to His people. Then in Joshua the battles begin! Where as God provided salvation and did their first fighting for them, now His people are required to learn to fight for themselves.

Crossing the Jordan and entering the land of Promise didn't mark the end of the battle but the beginning! While we don't fight Canaanites and Philistines, we do have enemies trying to destroy us: the world, Satan and his forces and our sin nature. He has freely provided salvation and fought our first battles for us. But now He expects us to fight to gain the victory He has provided. Of course He helps us, as any parent would help their children learn to grow and mature. But also like a good parent, He doesn't do for us what He expects us to do for ourselves. So we shouldn't be surprised at the battles we face, but we do need to learn to fight as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. The book of Joshua is God's warfare manual for His warriors today. You have enemies trying to destroy you., so don't be surprised if life seems like one battle after another.



Do you ever feel like God is expecting the impossible of you? What is happening just doesn't make sense – God seems to be going about things all wrong. What are we to do? Well, what did Joshua do? He believed God's promises that He would be with Joshua (Joshua 1:1-9). God promised that He would give them the land (Joshua 1:2-6) but they would have to fight for it. Joshua was to lead the people in battle and God would give them the ultimate victory. Victory is assured, but the battle must be fought. God gave Joshua personal promises as well. He told Joshua that He would never leave or forsake him (Joshua 1:5). This promise is repeated for us in Hebrews 13:5. Three times God told Joshua to be strong and courageous and to not be afraid. Obviously Joshua struggled with this, as we do today. We, too, have God's promises to carry us through our times of fear. Acquaint yourself with the following verses, write them down, memorize them, and whenever you are attacked with fear fight back using your Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). Psalm 118:6; 23:4; Genesis 26:24; 15:1; Exodus 14:13; Joshua 1:9; Isaiah 41:10; Deuteronomy 31:6; Matthew 14:27; 2 Chronicles 32:7-8.



Day 3 - Each Battle is Different

The first battle was at Jericho (Joshua 5:13 – 6:27). It is important to note that no two battles, then or now, are exactly alike. At the Red Sea the Jews were to stand still and see God deliver (Exodus 14:3), but against Amalek the men were to take up weapons and fight (Exodus 17:9). Now at Jericho they were told to march around the walls in faith and God would take care of the walls (Joshua 6:1-3). The Jews followed the Ark of the Covenant which symbolized the seat of God's presence.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Each battle we fight will be different than the battles others fight, and even different than past battles we were involved in. We must follow God's lead each time. There is no one way or 'best' way – be sensitive and follow God. Don't look for a magic formula – obedience to God brings victory, disobedience brings defeat.

Despite victory over great Jericho, the Jews were soundly defeated in their next battle against a small outpost called Ai because there was sin in the camp (Joshua 6:18-19; 7:13). Achan tried to keep that which belonged to God. This sin was confessed and removed from the camp, and then there was victory at Ai. We, too, must make sure there is no sin in our lives or we won't have victory but will live in defeat.

LESSON FOR TODAY: An entirely new strategy was used for victory at Ai – an ambush from behind the town. There is no magic formula, no one human leader, and no ritual that guarantees victory. Sensitivity to God's leading and following His Spirit is the only sure way to win. Don't be judging the way God leads others, and don't limit Him in what He wants to do to bring victory in your situation.

After these victories the Jews paused to regroup and refocus. By this time the tribes in the north and south had started unifying to better stand against the Jews.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Satan's opposition grows stronger in time. The enemy does not give up and surrender. He often gathers more demons and even motivates unbelieving human beings in opposition against God's people. Big victories on our part often bring bigger opposition from Satan and his demons.

Day 4 - The Battles Get Harder and Harder

When the Jews who left Egypt found themselves trapped at the Red Sea, God miraculously parted the waters and let them walk through on dry ground. They were newly redeemed and didn't know how to face their enemies. Now the second generations finds themselves in the same situation, but God doesn't bail them out so quickly, They know more about Him and have grown in the faith, so more is required of their faith. That's how it is with us, too. That's why it seems our tests get harder and harder – because they do! God keeps stretching our faith and expecting more and more of us.

God's directions were for the priests to go first. Priests were the go-betweens representing God to man and man to God. Each believer today is a priest (1 Peter 2:5-9), so these priests picture us. They were expected to carry the Ark of the covenant, which was God's throne and represented His Presence with the people, into the Jordan River. Normally that would be no big deal for the Jordan River is usually about 2 to 3 feet deep and only 20 or so feet wide. But in flood stage, which was when the Jews were to cross, it became ½ mile wide and 12 feet deep. So walking across the bottom was no option for the priests!



In addition the walk into the water was no pleasant stroll where the water quietly lapped around your ankles and slowly got deeper. The water was raging and boiling as it rushed down to the Dead Sea. And the walk into the water was very, very steep. Once the priests started over the top there was no stopping or turning back until they got to the bottom. Carrying the heavy Ark didn't make it any easier! Now if God would have opened the waters while they watched it would have been easy for the priests to enter the water, but God told them the waters wouldn't separate until they put their foot into the Jordan (Joshua 3:13). That meant they had to trust God and commit to obeying Him before they saw His deliverance! Sound familiar to what God expects of you?

But guess what happened? Immediately the waters opened and God even thought to dry the river bed instantly so they had a dry surface to walk on (Joshua 3:14-17). They took the Ark into the middle and stood there while the people crossed. That symbolized God's Presence holding back the waters for them. The opening was quite wide in order to allow 2 ½ million people to cross. No doubt they remembered what God did for their parents. God was showing them He was the same and He would do the same for them – but He expected them to act in faith.

We, too, are required to live by faith, not sight (2 Corinthians 5:7). The story is told of a woman who was known for her faithful obedience to God no matter what obstacles were in her life. One day a friend asked her what she would do if God told her to run and jump into a wall. She replied that it was her job to run and jump and it was God's job to take care of the wall. Maybe you feel like you are running into a wall. Don't worry about the wall. Just make sure you do the running and let God take care of the wall!

Day 5 - Preparation for Victory

The Jews have just miraculously crossed the Jordan River because God separated the waters and dried up the ground. Jericho awaits nearby. Spies from Jericho have seen what happened to the Jordan and the people are scared to death. The Jews are strong in their faith having just seen what God has done. So now would be the perfect time to follow up their advantage and strike Jericho – right? Wrong! God just doesn't do things the way we would expect. Joshua 5 is no different. What God does weakens and incapacitates all the Jewish men for several days, making them totally vulnerable for a week or more.

Instead of attacking Jericho God has the Jewish men be circumcised. And that is no simple, easy matter for grown men! Why would God do this? Because He demands 100% obedience and commitment from His people in order for them to win their battles. To the Jews circumcision was the outward sign of inner submission and obedience to God. It showed they were God's special, set-apart ('holy') people. Clearly they had ignored this command and now, before they could fight their battles and have victory, this had to be corrected.

If we had to draw a parallel with our lives today we could say that baptism is similar in that it is the way God commands for us to outwardly show our submission and obedience to Him. Still, God clearly demands more than outer obedience but wants inner commitment from our heart. He doesn't want us to perform a ritual – He wants us! Before we can start to have victory in our spiritual battles we must make sure we are totally committed to God and living a life of holy obedience in all areas. If not we fight alone – and that's why we are often defeated.

Most battles are won or lost before they are fought. Those who are alert and prepared to fight will win. Those who aren't will not. Before God led the Jews to enter the land and fight for their rights, He told them to prepare themselves (Joshua 1:10-11). The Jews spent 3 days preparing themselves and their possessions to enter the land and fight. During this time 2 spies were sent into Jericho to gather information about it as well (Joshua 2). It's easy to wonder why they bothered doing this. If God is sovereign and He promised them the land, then why bother sending in spies and getting everything ready? It's because God expected Joshua (and us) to trust Him as if everything depended on Him but to prepare and fight as if everything depended on themselves. We must totally 100% trust in God while totally 100% doing our very best. As parents we will protect and rescue our children, but we expect them to do their part to the very best of their ability. The same is true of our heavenly Father. The Jews also had to renew their commitment to God (Joshua 3:5). It's important for us to make sure our commitment is continually renewed (Romans 12:1-2). The battle is won or lost in our mind before it is actually fought. That's why it's important to have a special time to connect with God by prayer and Bible reading each day.

Most of our battles are lost because of lack of preparation. We aren't ready when attacked. We haven't prepared. We don't know God's Word. We have sin in our life and our armor is faulty. We are spiritually weak. Then we wonder why we are defeated. We aren't prepared. Preparation means knowing when and where to expect attack. Do you know your weak areas, what leads you to sin? What are your plans and preparations to be ready when attacked? Jesus was ready when Satan attacked Him in the wilderness. He knew just what Bible verse to use to counter Satan's lies. Are you aware of what lies Satan uses to get you to sin? What verses do you have ready to battle his deception with truth? God told the Jews to not let His word depart from their mouth, to meditate on it day and night and to do everything written in it (Joshua 1:7-8). When that happens, God assures victory (Joshua 1:8b). Are you ready for the battle? It will come – prepare now for it, don't be surprised! "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith" (1 Peter 5:8-9)

Day 6 – In God’s Strength or Yours?

God clearly and repeatedly promised Joshua that the land of Palestine would be theirs for God was with them and was giving it to them. So then why did Joshua send spies into the land to check it out before they entered (Joshua 2:1)? Does this mean he didn’t trust God’s promises? Or was he just trying to help God out? Why didn’t he just march into the land in faith, trusting God to give it to them? Wouldn’t that have been an act of faith? It certainly would have been, but that isn’t what God wanted in this case. Sometimes He wants us to totally trust Him and move ahead in faith, but most of the time He wants us to use common sense and do our best while trusting Him. Clearly Joshua was not out of God’s will in this. It wasn’t lack of faith on Joshua’s part. His faith was just as strong for he knew that no matter what the spies found, they couldn’t win without God’s help.

Even though we depend on God 100%, we still have human responsibility to do our part, to do our best. Sitting back and letting God do it all usually isn’t an expression of faith but of being irresponsible. When Moses led the Jews to fight the Amalekites, he prayed depending 100% on God, but the people did their best fighting behind their leader Joshua. Nehemiah trusted God for His help in rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, but he set a guard and made sure all his workers were armed. We trust God – but we lock our doors, we buy insurance, we leave a light on when we aren’t home – we take common sense precautions all the while knowing God is in sovereign control over everything.

Any army must know its adversary and how they work. Paul tells us to not be ignorant of Satan’s devices. James 1 tells us to ask for wisdom and God will give it. God works in and through us, not instead of us. Jericho was a formidable opponent, and God will give Joshua the battle instructions (march around the city...). Still, God expects Joshua to use wisdom and common sense, to make good judgments and to be responsible to do their best. God works through our wise choices and best efforts, He doesn’t always override our irresponsibility and carelessness.

God didn’t need the spies and their help. Actually without His help they would have been captured and killed, but He led them to Rahab and safety. We expect our children to try their best even if we know they will fall short without our help. We teach them wisdom and common sense, but we know they will need our assistance. The same is true of God. It’s been said we are to work as if it all depended on us but also trust knowing it all depends on God. Faith is no excuse to keep us from doing our best. So trust God – but send out your spies as well!



Day 7 - The Battles Never End

During this time the northern tribes had time to unify and prepare (Joshua 11:1-5). Victory in the north did not come in one quick, short battle as we would often like to see happen, but was a slow and gradual process. The enemy just doesn't quit. Again the greatest problem the Jews faced is fear. The same is true today. God encouraged them in their faith (Joshua 11:6) and brought the victory as they fought (Joshua 11:8). We must fight but it is God who brings victory.

The last great battle to claim and settle the Promised Land, the place of God's blessing, was against the giants (Anakim, Numbers 13:28; Joshua 11:21). It was fear of them that kept the Jews out of the land in Moses' day.

LESSON FOR TODAY: This was a retest. When we are defeated God allows us to face the same enemy time and time again until we learn to have victory. This final series of battles were the hardest, for it was Satan's last great stand and he did all he could to hold on to his territory. Joshua and Caleb were old by this time, but they still battled and God gave victory. As long as we are alive we will face battles, we never grow too old to keep growing and serving.

LESSON FOR TODAY: God equips us with the weapon we will need to win our battles. The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, is our offensive weapon (Matthew 4:4; Ephesians 6:17). Read, study, memorize and use God's Word. The more proficient you are in God's Word the more powerful you will be in battle.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Another very important lesson to learn about warfare from the book of Joshua is that warfare never ends. God's principle was for the Jews to gradually win over the land, bit by bit (Exodus 22:27-30; Deuteronomy 7:21-22). While the last great battle was with the giants, there were always mop-up operations, pockets of resistance, and rebellion which would break out in various places. Were the Jews to conquer the whole land in Joshua's time they wouldn't have been able to settle and cultivate all of it, so some would return to a wild state. Instead God let them conquer some land and settle, then move ahead to conquer a little more. God's wanted them to conquer and settle the land before moving ahead. We, too, are to learn and grow from each conflict we face. This also was how God taught them to fight: by continual practice. They were to teach their children who would continue the battles, and pass it on to their children.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Fortunately, though, the warfare isn't continual. It comes in cycles. The Jews had times of intense warfare, then times of consolidating and applying their gains. There wasn't constant battle every minute of every day. God interspersed times of rest, times to grow and mature and times to solidify what was won in the previous battle before they had to move ahead again. God does that today as well. We have times of great stretching and challenge, then times of peace and rest during which we gather our strength and apply what we have learned. Then another battle comes. Don't expect the battles to ever end, but don't become discouraged thinking the current battle will last forever. Battles come and go in cycles. We grow spiritually in spurts just as plants, animals and even a child's body grows in spurts.



7. LESSONS IN WARFARE (Joshua)

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MEMORY VERSE: Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

FORCES ATTACKING GOD'S PEOPLE:

Satan - prince of this world, attacks God's kingdom
Flesh - sin nature, tendency to be selfish, prideful,
World - values and priorities of world system

Learn from OT example – _____ no matter what!

OT physical events to teach us spiritual truths I Cor 10:11; Romans 15:4

1 Cor 10:11-12 These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the fulfillment of the ages has come.

Rom 15:4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

NEED: MAN IN DEFEAT AND SIN Opposed God's plan throughout the ages:

Enticing Eve to lead Adam into _____

Cain killing Able

Mankind into sin and the flood in Noah's day

Demons mating with women

Babel – Nimrod picture of Antichrist, indwelt by _____

Start of battle culminating in Babylon of Rev 17-18

God called Abraham to make a nation from him

Temptation, conditions against him (famine 2x), etc.

Opposed Jews as grew through Isaac, Jacob, Joseph

God brought whole family into Egypt so not intermarry, etc.

Used Pharaoh (type of _____) in Egypt to try to destroy the nation

By slavery

By killing all males



SOLUTION: SALVATION PROVIDED BY GOD

Passover = salvation by _____ and _____
God provided it all, man just accepts it in faith (does what God says)
The battle is God's

CONTINUATION: SPIRITUAL WARFARE SO WILL GROW

Generation of Jews # 1

RED SEA

God _____ THE PATH, picked worst & longest of 2 ways into Canaan
To humble and test them, so they'd depend on Him Dt 8:2-3

God _____ THEIR WAY on this path He chose (Jews = cloud)
Not just show way, but go before us, too Jn 10:4 Isa 48:17
Prov 16:19; we must put him first Prov 3:6

ENEMIES FACED Ex 14:10

1. Egyptians without (Pharaoh picture of Satan, E of world)
2. Fear within

AMALEK (Flesh, sin nature) - showed up unexpectedly when things fine
Time for Jews to fight themselves

1. warfare _____ (**Jesus praying** for us, too)
2. warfare _____ (**following commander Jesus in front of us**)

CONTINUING PROBLEMS

No water, food (manna), meat (quail)
Failed: complained, blamed, wanted to go back

REVELATION OF GOD'S TRUTH

Mt Sinai law given - Jews build golden calf
Law, tabernacle, priesthood, etc., given

GIANTS - _____ POINT

_____ to enter Promised Land or _____ of giants (faith or fear)
Failed, complained, tried to kill Moses & Joshua



Generation of Jews # 2

NEW LEADER - _____

Man of _____:

Man of _____:

Man of _____:

Man of _____

(each generation must pick up where last generation stopped/failed)

Faith to go in defeat giants, for couldn't in own strength - they did

REVIEW SO FAR

GENESIS need of _____, man sinful (Eden to slavery in Egypt/world)

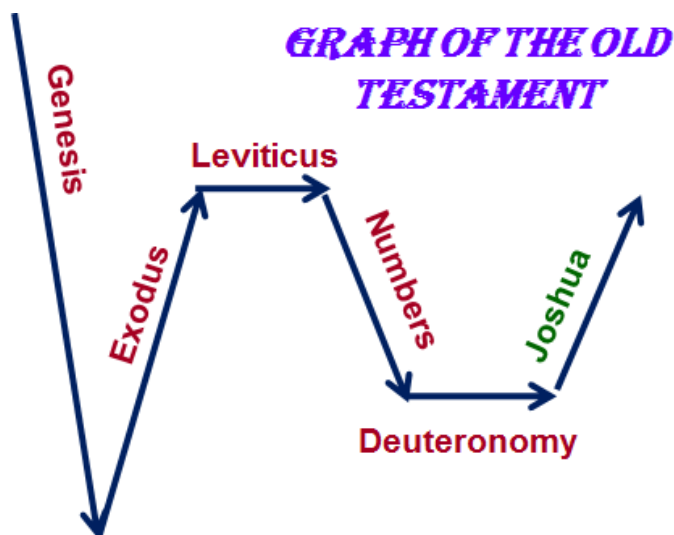
EXODUS deliverance by innocent Lamb _____ & _____ (Red Sea open)

LEVITICUS instructions for new bel _____ for God

NUMBERS apply what learned, _____ battles

DEUTERONOMY review & learn from past, _____ God

JOSHUA enter Promised Land (God's perfect will), conquer thru _____



I. INTO THE LAND 1-12

NEW LEADER - Joshua - _____ years old

SLAVE in Egypt; Joshua = Jehovah is _____ -Same as Jesus in Greek

SOLDIER perhaps in Egypt, where got to know Moses

SERVANT Moses' _____, helper, since in Egypt
1 or 12 spies into land – only he & Caleb faithful
Had been wandering last 40 wasted years!



GROUP ASSIGNMENT:

Read Joshua 1:3-9 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates — all the Hittite country — to the Great Sea on the west. 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

6 "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Underline all the promises God made in this passage.

Write all the commands God gave Joshua below:

PROMISES FROM GOD given Joshua

Joshua 1:3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.

Knowing, believing God's promises _____ to victory in battle - can't have victory on own, only in HIM

Joshua 1:5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

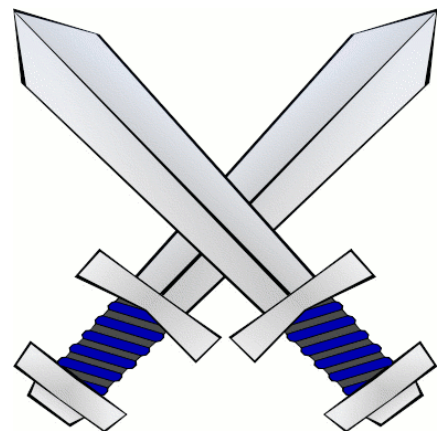
THE TASK _____ OF YOU IS NEVER AS GREAT AS THE POWER _____ YOU!

Joshua 1:6 "Be _____ and _____, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them.

Joshua 1:7 Be _____ and very _____. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be _____ and _____. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."



WARFARE LESSONS

1. _____ IS A MUST

True in football, basketball, etc

Don't be surprised when attacked – prepare ahead

PEOPLE 3 days to prepare selves, things to enter land
2 SPIES into Jericho to gather information, prepare army



2. STEP OUT IN _____

FLOOD STAGE, 12' DEEP UP TO ½ MILE WIDE
Follow ark through (Follow God's Presence into Pr Land)
RED SEA: God parted waters while people watched
JORDAN: step into water, as foot hits water opens cross

3. FOLLOW AFTER _____

ARK goes first, must follow His leading direction carefully



4. REMEMBER PAST _____

Pile of rocks on other side



5. _____ COMES FIRST
SET APART FOR God 100%

6. SEEK _____ BATTLE PLAN
Humanly impossible to defeat Jericho, only through God

7. FOLLOWING _____ BRINGS VICTORY

Walked 1x day for 7 days, on 7th day shouted, walls fell outward, all killed but no Jews died

3. 1 John 4:4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.

8. SMALL _____ BRING LARGE _____

Ai attacked next, small outpost

Joshua not seek God, people not pray, seemed like easy them on own

Defeated – 36 men killed!

Achan had kept some money & materials for self, hid in
– **no little sin to God**



for
tent

9. NEVER ACT IN YOUR OWN

Gibeonites came to make surrender as slaves so not killed
Deceived Joshua and Jews into thinking they came from far



10. GOD STOPS AT _____ TO BRING VICTORY

God sends hail down to kill and destroy southern nations –
Joshua prays for sun to stop in sky so can round up all

11. _____ UNTIL VICTORY IS COMPLETE

Other nations in south come together,
Giants that sacred them away 40 years earlier in this group

CALEB great example in patient endurance whole life

12. THE BATTLES NEVER _____

Warned there will be battles in future as long as in land
Jews today still battling enemies in land of Palestine
Battles go in cycles, time to refresh, grow, get stronger



II. IN THE LAND 13-24

Colonized and consecrated the land, settled down to live there

BATTLES AFTER CONQUERING THE LAND

JUDGES (7 Cycles of sin)

Turned to God when in _____, then _____ Him



SAMSON God allowed enemies to remain so next generation could learn to fight!

SAMUEL Put _____ in front (good-luck charm to win our battles); Lost ark, 40 years of bondage
Repented and fought in God's strength and won I Sam 7

SAUL - Battles from without and within

DAVID Killed bear with God's strength – lesson in FAITH; sin with _____

JEHOSOPHAT Knew he couldn't win, turned to God for help,
"stand still & see God's _____" II Chronicles 20:17

HEZEKIAH Gave Sennacherib all temple \$ to _____ (II Kings 18)



NEHEMIAH

Opposed _____ Ridicule, anger, criticism, mockery,
Opposed _____ Discouragement, wanting to quit,



“All the battles of Israel, if they could have seen it, were not their battles, they were the battles of the Lord. They were involved because they were His people. This is God’s battle, we are given the privilege of being in it and of fighting as individual soldiers, but God’s honor is involved in it all. He cannot allow this to fall because His character, His glory, and His honor are involved at every point. Be strong in the Lord, remember that He is there, and that it is His battle.” D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

CASE STUDY: JASON comes across as a nice but quiet kid. Only those who know him really well know how insecure and fearful he is. He’s always concerned about what can go wrong, what others will think of him, where he may fail and what problems might arise. He’s been this way as long as he can remember. He’s even afraid God won’t love him or he’ll lose his salvation – maybe he was never really saved in the first place? His father tells him to just trust the Lord and he tries to but it doesn’t seem that simple. His mother understands better, for she is the same way. She knows what it’s like to have constant thoughts of anxiety pop into her head. She doesn’t have any advice to help him, though. Like her, he tries to pretend and hide it but that’s getting harder and harder to do. Now he has choices about college and a career, and the fear is turning to panic. Sometimes he wishes he were never born. A friend said it might be something demonic, but the thought of demons made him so afraid he couldn’t even consider it. Every Sunday in Church he prays to accept Jesus as His Savior but that doesn’t seem to help. What would you say or do to help Jason? How could you use spiritual warfare to help him?

Why did God make it so Joshua and the Jews had to fight when He could have just removed everyone before they got there?

List some of the lessons we can learn from spiritual warfare from the book of Joshua.

Which ones mean the most to you? Why?

How can you use some of the other lessons to help friends who struggle?

CASE STUDY: LYNDA dresses in black. All her clothing is black. When she wanted to paint her room black her mother drew the line, but everything she gets is black. She had a good friend, Amanda, who was like a sister to her. They called themselves “soul sisters.” Lynda wanted to be just like Amanda. She even bought and started reading the book of Mormon because Amanda was a Mormon. Together they would watch the most awful, scary movies they could find. While they scared her, there was some kind of fascination that kept drawing Lynda back to the movies. She even has begun to fantasize about some of the things happening in the movies happening to her, and that brings a strange excitement which she knows isn’t right. In fact, she realizes this isn’t the way she wanted her life to go but she feels helpless to do anything to change it. She’s afraid to tell anyone about it because of what they would think of her. Her friends wouldn’t understand, they think she’s cool! What would you say to help Lynda? How could you use spiritual warfare to help her?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK 8

Cults & Religions

Day 1 – Satan’s Plan & Purpose

SATAN’S PURPOSE His goal is to rule the whole world instead of God. He was given authority over this world system by Adam when he sinned (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2) and controls our world system (1 John 5:19). He rules over it (Matthew 4:8-9; John 12:31; Luke 4:5-7; John 14:30; 16:11). He is behind its values and world view (James 3:15). Presently he works to deceive the nations (Daniel 10:13,20; Matthew 4:8; Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 20:3,7-8; 16:14; 1 Kings 22:6-7). He leads mankind into idolatry (Psalm 96:5; 106:36-38; Leviticus 17:7; Deuteronomy 32:17). He especially wants to destroy God’s special people: Israel (Revelation 12:13-17; 20:10; 2 Thessalonians 2:9) and the Church.

SATAN’S WORK AGAINST ALL PEOPLE He works against the gospel, hardening hearts to God’s truth (Matthew 13:19-22). He blinds their minds (2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:7-10; Luke 8:12; Colossians 2:18). When they hear the truth Satan tries to snatch it from their minds (Mark 4:15; Matthew 13:19). He denies the truth (Genesis 3:1; 2 Timothy 4:3-4) and promotes false teaching (1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2:9). As is true of any good counterfeiter, he tries to make his deceptions as close to the truth as possible so as to deceive more. The authority of the Scriptures, the person and work of Jesus and salvation by grace are areas he especially tries to obscure so make sure anything you believe has these at its heart and core. Satan brings oppression on all he can. He does this through sickness such as dumbness (Mark 9:17-29), blindness (Matthew 12:22), deformity (Luke 13:11-17), epilepsy (Luke 9:37-43) and other ways. He also uses the following to oppress: mental illness (Mark 5:1-20; 9:14-29; Luke 9:39), sin (Genesis 3:13-24; Ephesians 2:2), lawlessness (2 Corinthians 6:15) and death (Revelation 18:2; 9:13-18).

SATAN’S WORK AGAINST BELIEVERS A primary objective of Satan is to oppose God’s work and God’s people. He oppresses and leads the persecution against the Jews (Revelation 12:13-17; 20:10; 2 Thessalonians 2:9). He works especially hard against believers, for we are the light in his darkness, the only threat on this work against his kingdom. Since he can no longer attack Jesus directly he does so indirectly by attacking His children. He accuses us before God (Job 1:6-21; 2 Corinthians 2:11; Revelation 12:9-10; Zechariah 3:1-2) but Jesus is our defense attorney, our Advocate when accused (1 John 2:1). Satan does all he can to oppose and hinder our service to God (2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 2:18; 2 Corinthians 11:2-7; Zechariah 3:1; Matthew 13:19). He tries to infiltrate the church through false teaching (1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Thessalonians 2:9), false teachers (1 Timothy 4:1-3; 1 John 4:1; 2 Peter 2:1-2) and false ‘Christians’ (Matthew 13:38-40). While not all temptation comes from Satan and demons, he certainly does all he can to entice us into sin (2 Corinthians 2:11; 1 Timothy 3:7; 2 Timothy 2:26; 1 Corinthians 7:5) as he did when tempting Jesus. He will use our sin nature (James 1:14-15), the world system (1 John 2:15-16) or attack directly through demons (1 Corinthians 7:5). He can cause and use anger (Ephesians 4:27), pride (1 Timothy 3:6; 1 Chronicles 21:1; 1 Timothy 3:6), immorality (1 Corinthians 7:5), lies (Acts 5:1-3), doubting God’s Word and goodness (Genesis 3:1-5; Luke 4:9-12), ‘miracles’ to deceive (Mark 4:8-9; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 2 Thessalonians 2:3,9-11), hypocrisy (John 8:44; Acts 17:22), self-sufficiency (1 Chronicles 21:1-7), worry and fear (1 Peter 5:7-9; Hebrews 2:14; Psalm 23:4), lack of faith (Luke 22:31-32; 1 Peter 5:6-10), physical affliction (Job 1:6-22; 2:1-7; John 8:44; 1 Corinthians 5:5; 1 Timothy 1:20) and sin of any kind (1 Thessalonians 3:5; Matthew 4:3; 1 Corinthians 10:19-21; 2 Corinthians 11:3,13-15; 1 John 3:8).

DEMON’S WORK AGAINST ALL Demons carry out Satan’s commands and wishes. After enticing Adam and Eve to sin and getting authority over the world from them, Satan and his forces have continued trying to keep worship from God and getting it for themselves. They blind the minds of unbelievers (II Corinthians 4:4) and snatch the Word from their hearts (Luke 8:12). They do all they can to oppose God’s work (Revelation 2:13). Since they can’t attack God, they take their anger out on those who are God’s -- His people (Jews and

Christians today). Satan and his forces tempt Christians to lie (Acts 5:3), accuse and slander them before God (Revelation 12:10), hinder their work (1 Thessalonians 2:18), do anything possible to defeat them (Ephesians 6:11-12), tempt to immorality (1 Corinthians 7:5) and incite persecution against them (Revelation 2:10). They promote human wisdom (1 Corinthians 2:12; 2 Corinthians 11:4; 1 John 4:5-6). They influence and control the nations (Daniel 10:13,20; Ephesians 6:12) and mislead them so they can destroy them (Isaiah 9:14). It must always be kept in mind, however, that God is in sovereign control. They can do nothing without God's permission (Job 1:6-12).

Physically they can give superhuman strength (Mark 5:4); physically torment (Revelation 9:5,10), emotionally torment (1 Samuel 16:14-23); do miracles (Revelation 16:13-14; 13:12-15), inflict disease (Matthew 9:33; Luke 3:11,16), indwell people (Matthew 8:28-34) and indwell animals (Matthew 8:31-32).

Emotionally they torment (1 Samuel 16:14-23), cause fear (1 Samuel 18:12,15; 2 Corinthians 11:4; 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15; Job 4:14-15), cause anger (1 Samuel 18:10-11), cause jealousy (1 Samuel 18:10-15) and harden consciences (1 Timothy 4:2).

Sexually they cause immorality (Revelation 9:21-22; 2 Timothy 3:1-9; 1 Timothy 4:1-3) and cause all kinds of impurity (Zechariah 13:2).

Mentally they cause bondage (2 Corinthians 11:4), influence the mind (Genesis 3:15; Ephesians 6:10-20; 2 Corinthians 4:4; Colossians 1:13), control the mind (1 Corinthians 10:20; 2 Corinthians 4:4), and deceive, mislead and lie to people (1 Timothy 4:1,6; 1 Kings 22:22-23; 2 Chronicles 18:20-23).

Religiously they promote false doctrine (1 John 4:1-3; 1 Timothy 4:1; 1 Kings 22:22; Revelation 16:13), counterfeit the truth (2 Corinthians 10:20-21), promote hypocrisy (1 Timothy 4:2), promote legalism (1 Timothy 4:3), use false prophets and false teachers (1 John 4:1; 1 Kings 22:22-23; 2 Chronicles 18:20-23), use fortunetelling and occult practices (Acts 16:16-18) and promote idolatry while receiving the worship of idols (Leviticus 17:7; Deuteronomy 32:17; Psalm 106:37; Revelation 9:20; Hosea 4:10-12; 5:4; Acts 16:16; 1 Corinthians 10:20).

DEMON'S WORK AGAINST BELIEVERS They especially work against believers by frustrating and opposing God's perfect will (Acts 16:16-18), putting obstacles in the path of those following God (1 Thessalonians 2:18; Romans 15:22), influencing believers to mislead other believers (Matthew 16:22-23) and instigating things such as jealousy, pride and disunity (James 3:13-16). They seek to get believers to turn from God and living for Him (1 Timothy 4:1), they can cause physical torment (2 Corinthians 12:7), and they try to get us to operate by our own strength and ability (2 Timothy 3:5). All this work will intensify as the return of Jesus gets closer (1 Timothy 4:1).

Day 2 - Names of Satan

After writing to the Corinthians and Romans, Paul headed back to Jerusalem where he was falsely arrested and kept in prison for several years. Finally he was transferred to Rome for trial. In prison at Rome Paul wrote four very important letters, his prison epistles. They are Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians and Philemon. Ephesians was written about four years after Romans.

Much spiritual warfare had taken place when Paul was in Ephesus (see Acts 19 above). It's been about seven years since those power encounters, but the warfare is still going strong. So Paul writes to encourage and help them in their spiritual warfare.

Satan's world system. Unbelievers are not only misled by demons, but actually energized and used by them to promote Satan's ungodly world system (Ephesians 2:20). Satan is called "the ruler of the kingdom of the air" and "the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient" (Ephesians 2:2), two of numerous names for Satan.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Looking at the various names of Satan help us understand his character and work better.

Abaddon, Apollyon (Rev 9:11) Abaddon is the Greek form and Apollyon is the Hebrew equivalent. These words mean 'destroyer,' 'destruction.' This title stresses his work of destruction; he works to destroy the glory of God and God's purpose with man. He further works to destroy societies and mankind.

Accuser of the Brethren (Revelation 12:10) The Greek word for "accuser" is *kathgor*, which refers to one who brings condemning accusations against others. In view of Job 1 and 2, this is also an attempt to malign the character of God and His plan. 2).

Beelzebul (Matthew 12:24; Mark 3:22) Three possible spellings of this word each have a different meaning: (1) *Beelzebul* means "lord of the dung," a name of reproach. (2) *Beelzebub* means "lord of the flies." Either one of these are names of reproach and of uncleanness applied to Satan, the prince of the demons and uncleanness. (3) *Beelzeboul*, means, "the lord of the dwelling." This would identify Satan as the god of demon possession. This spelling has the best manuscript evidence behind it.

Belial (2 Corinthians 6:15) This name means "worthless" or "hopeless ruin." The personification of worthlessness, hopeless ruin and the source of all idolatry and religion which is also hopeless or futile.

Devil (Matthew 4:1, 5, 9; Ephesians 4:27; Revelation 12:9; 20:2) "Devil" is the Greek word *diabollos* which means "slanderer, defamer." This accentuates his goal and work to impugn the character of God.

Dragon (Revelation 12:7) The Greek word is *drakon* (as in *draconian*) and refers to a "hideous monster, a dragon, or large serpent." This word stresses the cruel, vicious, and blood thirsty character and power of Satan.

Evil One (John 17:15; 1 John 5:9) The Greek *poneros* means "wicked, evil, bad, base, worthless, vicious, degenerate." It points to Satan's character as active and malignant.

False Angel of Light (2 Corinthians 11:14) One of his purposes is to make men as much like God as he can, but always without God. So, he will copy as much of God and His plan as he can, but he will always either distort, pervert, substitute or leave out those key ingredients of truth that are vital to the plan of salvation and sanctification through Christ.

Father of Lies (John 8:44) Using his network of deception through demonic forces and duped people, he promotes false doctrines in the name of God.

God of This World or Age (2 Corinthians 4:4) The fact Satan is called the god of this world (Greek, *aionos*, "age, course") may emphasize Satan's rulership over this final period or economy which is so marked by a growing increase in apostasy, deception, and moral decay.

Lucifer (Isa. 14:12) The Hebrew word for Lucifer (KJV translation) is literally "the shining one." This name draws our attention to his pre-fall condition and to the nature of the cause of his fall - pride.

Prince or Ruler (John 12:31) The Greek literally means, "the ruler of this world system." This points to Satan as the head and energy behind the arrangements of things as they are in the world today.

Prince of the Power of the Air (Ephesians 2:2a) This points to Satan as the head of the demonic hosts which includes all the fallen angelic beings who operate night and day in our immediate spiritual atmosphere-an atmosphere of demonic influence controlled by Satan.

Satan (Job 1:6-9; Matthew 4:10) The title "Satan" occurs 53 times in 47 verses in the Bible. The primary idea is 'adversary, one who withstands.'

Serpent (Revelation 12:9) This name for Satan looks back to Genesis 3 and the temptation in the Garden.

Tempter (Matthew 4:3; 1 Thessalonians 3:5) This title reveals him in another of his primary activities as seen from the very beginning with Eve in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3).

Day 3 - Paul's Power Encounter 1

Paul ran into strong demonic opposition when he went to Ephesus (Acts 19). The pagan goddess Artemis was worshipped there. The people there were Asiatic and thus animists who were really worshipping demons. She was a widely worshipped deity whose temple in Ephesus was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. She was recognized by her followers as the greatest power in the universe. She was seen as savior, lord and queen and was worshipped by many long festivals. 'Missionaries' were sent out to spread her message. This cult was very influential and very rich.

Of course the power behind Artemis was demonic, and those who promoted her worship knew it. They used those powers to help her reputation, and therefore theirs as well, grow and expand. She was recognized as the goddess over the underworld and the one with authority over all demons. In fact, these demons who served her were given Jewish, Egyptian and Greek names. The 'magic' she had, the supernatural power over natural forces, was demonic.

Because of Artemis, Ephesus became the main center for pagan demonic worship in all Asia Minor. Because of its key place in Asia Minor, geographically as well as culturally, Paul visited Ephesus at least twice (Acts 18:19-21; 19:1 – 20:1). Eventually the center of early Christianity moved from Jerusalem to Ephesus, then later to Rome itself. John and Mary lived in Ephesus. Because of its importance, Satan and his forces did all they could to oppose this. That is why spiritual warfare came to a head at Ephesus, as can be seen in the book of Acts as well as the epistle to the Ephesians, which was a circular letter read in all the churches in the area.



Luke records several of these power encounters between God and Satan during Paul's first visit to Ephesus.

A power encounter is a crisis point occurring in the ongoing spiritual warfare between God and Satan. Paul was bringing the kingdom of light into Satan's kingdom of darkness. Satan was doing all he could to keep the area under his control. God gave Paul the ability to show God's greater power by doing "signs, wonders and miracles" (2 Corinthians 12:12; Romans 15:19). Towards the end of Paul's time there, God worked in a special way through Paul to show the people the power of Paul's God and message.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Again we see that in cultures today which don't have a Christian heritage or much of a gospel witness God still, many times, uses physical healing and, deliverance from demonic influence and even dreams to show His power and bring others to His truth.

LESSONS FOR TODAY: This is not a standard way to evangelize or to do deliverance. In fact, Paul probably wasn't aware of it when this began. Perhaps helpers or others took these cloths and gave them to needy friends. God honored their faith and used this to verify His power through His servant Paul. Of course it wasn't Paul who healed, only God. But this validated Paul's claims to have the best and right power with him. It was a necessary first step to gain a hearing so Paul could spread the good news of Jesus Christ. We must not get involved in objects that seem to have supernatural power for our full faith and attention must only be on God Himself. These things are counterfeit, even superstitions, good luck charms, etc., are to be totally avoided.

Day 4 - Paul's Power **Encounter 2**

Word of God's supremacy as shown by Paul spread through Ephesus (Acts 19). As a result there were those who saw Jesus' name as a magic charm they could use to their own advantage. "Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, 'In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out.' Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. One day the evil spirit answered them, 'Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?' Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding" (Acts 19:13).

Sceva, a Jew, was a self-proclaimed chief priest. He claimed to do Jewish exorcism but used occult ways to accomplish this. He thought he would try this new 'charm' so he could have better results in driving demons out, and therefore earning high fees for doing so. However using Jesus' name just brought him and his sons misery because they weren't believers. The people learned that Jesus isn't a magic word to use. Only a personal relationship with Him will bring victory.



LESSON FOR TODAY: Often demons work together in cooperation to make it seem like the human they used had the power to cast out demons. Really they were just working together to make it seem that way. One demon would attack a person, then another would indwell a false deliverer so that when the demon was commanded to be gone it would leave. It was all set up to make it look like the person had power to deliver. This deceived the person himself and those watching. But this time the demons from the demonized man overpowered the demonized deliverer and beat him up. Demons don't always work together, though. They are filled with hate and jealousy and often take it out on each other, as happened this time.

LESSON FOR TODAY: When we feel confusion in our minds it may be from demonic interference, trying to confuse and mislead us. Other times, though, what we sense as confusion is conflict among the demons themselves as they struggle with each other for authority and influence, especially the leader is gone working elsewhere. The distraction and/or confusion the demonized person senses could be conflict among the demons themselves, for their self-centeredness, pride and ego isn't just manifested against us but against each other also. They cooperate out of fear and being overpowered, not for any other reason.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Our power and authority are in Jesus and His name, but we are not to use His name as a magic charm. We must always make sure there is no sin in our life, that we are right with God, and, of course, that we are His child through faith in Jesus.

Day 5 - Paul's Power Encounter 3

As it became more and more obvious that God's power shown through Paul was much greater than that the Ephesian followers of Artemis claimed, many came to God for salvation (Acts 19). "When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honor. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed their evil deeds. A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas. In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power" (Acts 19:17-20).

LESSONS FOR TODAY: "Sorcery scrolls" refers to magic texts, adjurations, formulas, protection rituals, curses, incantations and similar things. Such things exist today as well and have an amount of power behind them – demonic power. Keep away from such things. If someone you minister to has them they must be destroyed – anything that can be used by demons to gain access to their lives or family must be destroyed.

When the Jews took possession of Canaan under Joshua they were told to not keep any of the objects they captured. Even animals and children were to be destroyed. They had been dedicated to Satan and were claimed by him. Those who used these things would be opening themselves up to the demonic powers to whom they had been dedicated. Today we must watch for things like literature and objects from other cults and religions, Ouija boards and other occult paraphernalia, pagan objects from primitive cultures, objects from Masonic or other secret societies, some Native American artifacts and the like. Pornography, drug or alcoholic supplies, music with a black or evil dimension, even certain movies or articles of clothing dedicated to darkness can allow access.

The solution is to remove and destroy such objects as being openings for demonic access. Ask for forgiveness for having them, cleanse the room from their presence, take back any access the enemy may claim and dedicate the space as well as yourself to Jesus. Ask Him to reveal to you anything else that may need to be dealt with.

When a room or object is under the control of an evil spirit for whatever reason they claim, dedicating it to God by painting crosses by dipping a finger in oil and making them on a wall is a good practice. Playing Christian music and leaving a small light on also are offensive to the forces of darkness. Of course praying and quoting scripture while making the crosses is important, too. We as a Christian have great power in blessing people, especially our own families. 'God bless you' is more than a slang or shallow comment. There's real power in it when one means it that way. It's a privilege to use and repeat it often to people. Distance doesn't seem to affect it at all. Of course there is something even more special about touching a person when we pray or ask God to bless them, but when at a distance it carries just as well. The power is in God Who is everywhere (omnipresent). Satan and demons are limited to one place at a time so they are at a distinct disadvantage in this, too.



Day 6 - Lessons from Paul's Power Encounters

Paul faced some of his stiffest spiritual opposition in Ephesus (Acts 19). Through a series of power encounters he showed God's strength is greater than Satan's might. Many left their false idols and turned to Jesus. We have already seen several lessons and principles from his time there, but there are two more important applications we should make.

Those who merchandized Artemis in Ephesus made a good profit by selling amulets and charms that claimed to have power to heal. Many of the illnesses were demonic, as were the 'cures.' Demons would be the cause of illnesses, then stop when the 'cures' were used making it seem like they worked, thus deceiving people into thinking the amulets and charms had power to heal.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Satan can cause illness: crippled limbs (Luke 13:11), Paul's thorn in the flesh (eye disease? - II Corinthians 12:7), muteness (sometimes dumbness, too - Matthew 9:32-33; 12:22; Mark 9:17-18,24-25), blindness (Matthew 12:22), seizures (Mark 1:26; 9:17-18,20,22,25; Matthew 17:15,18; Luke 9:39), deafness (Mark 9:17-18,20,25), sores (skin cancer?) (Job 2:7), boils and other painful afflictions (Psalm 78:49 - the plagues in Egypt were demon-caused), physical torments of all kinds (Revelation 9:5,10), painful illness (Job 2:7-8), and even death (Job 1:19). Since he can cause these things he can seem to 'heal' them by stopping what he did/does to cause them in the first place. Only God can heal, but Satan can counterfeit that by making it seem like he heals.



If the God Paul preached was greater than Satan and the demons who worked through Artemis, then everyone assumed He would be able to do what they did and heal people. "God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them" (Acts 19:11-12). These free articles of Paul's worked much, much better than Satan's counterfeits.

A final lesson concerns what happened when Paul left Ephesus. This extended time there turned out to be Paul's last freedom of movement for some time. From Ephesus he went to Jerusalem (Acts 21) where he was falsely charged and arrested (Acts 22). He spent the next several years in prison, finally being transferred to Rome (Acts 23-28) where the book of Acts ends. Paul was eventually released to travel some more, but his health had been broken and the brunt of the load of ministry which he had carried was now spread to many new evangelists and missionaries. Paul was again arrested and this time put to death in Rome. But during his travels and imprisonment he wrote letters to churches to stay in touch. We can learn much about spiritual warfare from these letters.

LESSON FOR TODAY: It must have been very frustrating for Paul to have to write letters to people and places he wanted to see in person. No doubt he wondered what purpose God would ever have in that. However that is what God used to form the majority of the New Testament and its teaching. Were Paul free to visit these places in person, millions of Christians for two thousand years would not have had these priceless letters and their teachings. God always has a purpose in what He does. When things don't seem to make sense to you trust that God knows what He is doing (Romans 8:28).

Day 7 - Overcoming Fear

Not long after writing to the Corinthians Paul wrote to the Romans. He had been wanting to minister in this great center of civilization for many years but God always has kept him from doing so. Eventually he arrived as a prisoner after a shipwreck, but for now he wants to let them know he won't be coming and why. Instead of speaking to them in person, again he is limited to sending a letter. But what a letter it has been for mankind! The book of Romans is a very key part of God's Word to us through the centuries. Paul's loss is our gain. As would be expected, Paul refers to demons and spiritual warfare in this great epistle several times.

Fear. Paul reminds his readers that God does not give us fear (Romans 8:15). Any fear we entertain comes from the flesh, our sin nature, the part of us that tends to sin. We had this before salvation and still have it after salvation.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Fear is one of Satan's biggest weapons. Demons are often behind it and use fear (Romans 8:15). If it takes the form of insecurity, anxiety, worry, preoccupation with problems, or whatever, it is still fear. Demons put fear of David into Saul (I Samuel 18:10-15) and put fear and terror into Eliaphaz by gliding by his face (Job 4:15). Anything not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23). God does not give us fear (II Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15), so if you experience fear realize it is not from God but from Satan. This doesn't mean it is always through demonizing, for you can be attacked with fear without being demonized.

Fear takes root when we choose to focus on circumstances instead of God. Peter walking on water is a good example. When his eyes were on Jesus his faith was strong, but when he looked at the waves they grew (in his mind) to be greater than Jesus' power. Thus he started sinking. He then did the right thing, though, and put his eyes back on Jesus.

Dream with me for a minute. Suppose as a young child you had a father who loved you more than anything and constantly showed it. He was always there for you, always showing his love, enjoying you and laughing with you. Whatever you needed he was there to help and supply. How would that make you feel? How can such a relationship benefit a child as they grow up? There is something down deep inside all of us that would love to have someone we could trust, someone to take care of us, someone to always be there no matter what. Then we wouldn't need to try to be in control of things we fear. Control is a poor substitute for love and trust. It may have seemed necessary in your past but isn't necessary anymore!

Trust is the antidote to fear. How can we understand trust, what it means and how it works? I think understanding how a family should work is the best answer. God established a family relationship to answer all those questions. He is the Father, we are the children. Do your children trust you? What do they have to do to earn your love? What do you expect of them? It's exactly the same with us and God. Jesus says we are to be like little children in order to learn faith and trust. Let your children teach you. Put yourself in their position - with a Perfect Father.



8. RELIGIOUS DEMONIZING **(Occult, Cults, etc.)**

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MEMORY VERSE John 14:6 *Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.*

The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. 1 Tim 4:1

OCCULT

Deuteronomy 18:9-13 9. When you enter the land the LORD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the _____ ways of the nations there.

10. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire,

who practices divination

or sorcery,

interprets omens,

engages in witchcraft,

11. or casts spells,

or who is a medium

or spiritist

or who consults the dead.

12. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. 13. You must be blameless before the LORD your God.



MASONS, Secret Socities

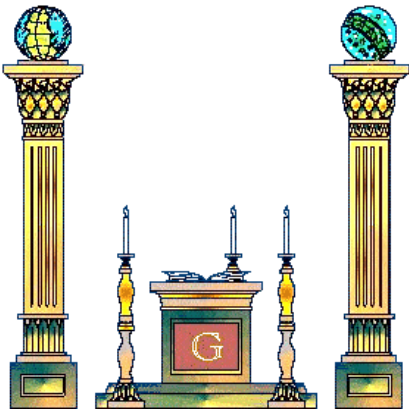
Counterfeit: talk about God
 have public prayer
 building called a 'temple'
 have chaplains, priests, etc.
 Talk about heaven, immortality, heaven, etc
 Bible present, recognized
 quote Scriptures



All different (like churches today)

All same: organized secrecy, handshake, rituals, oaths, beliefs

Almost always _____, demonic powers behind it



HISTORY

Masons first, oldest - Started at Mecca, Arabia
 Revived and instituted at Cairo, Egypt for Arabian & Egyptian
 inquisition
 First modern time lodge was in bar in London 1713

Patterned after heathen mystery religions
 -magic rites & special objects
 -titles like 'worshipful master'
 -death penalty for turning traitor on lodge

-supersituituion & idolatry
 -special 'in' with God by belonging

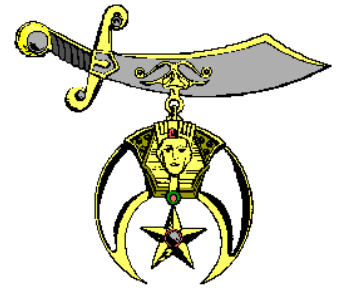
related to ancient MYSTERY RELIGIONS of Persia, Rome and Greece

Mystery religions started in BABYLON (tower of Babel), spread everywhere
 probably during mystical and very _____ days of Middle Ages (DARK Ages)
 Druids, etc., helped bring it over
 Condemned in Bible
 Destroyed in Tribulation, Rev 17-18 about New Babylon

OCCULT ROOTS

Behind all Masonic symbolism is occult interpretation of which most are ignorant
 CLAIM to be based on the _____ but not!!!! -fool ignorant Christians SUPPORT CHILDREN'S
 HOSPITALS, do good, so hide behind that to most people
 DEATH OATH WHEN JOIN = demonic, deadly

Focus on the unlimited power within _____
 Man's ability to become 'godlike' (like New Age)
 Magic, conjuring powers, divination, psychic powers, etc
 Put man in communion with the gods
 _____ leaders say their 'gods' are the same as Masons, pushing
 Masonry
 Many leading occultists are also Masons
 Therefore SATAN BEHIND SPREAD OF MASONRY
 -false _____, mislead from salvation in Jesus
 -occultic and cultic foundation – he gets the worship, not God
 -opposition to true _____



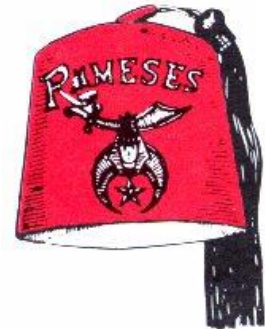
VIEW OF GOD

Called JBO – great secret of Masonry is this name of God, can't pronounce it
 J = Jehovah
 B = Baal
 O = On, Osiris (Egyptian gods Moses fought)

Jesus great moral example, like Buddah, Mohammed, etc.
 "different labels for same idea" – love and be nice to others
 Scriptures read, used – always leave Jesus' name out ('necessary
 modifications')

Prayers never in Jesus' name - If someone does it that way rebuked for it

Bible one of the greater lights of Masonry, along with Koran, etc
 Encourage members to leave fundamental churches and go to liberal
 churches



MORMONS



Galatians 4:8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods.

1 John 4:1 Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

ROMAN CATHOLICISM

BABYLONIAN MYSTERY RELIGION carried on in Roman Catholic church (rituals, colors, dress, words, etc)

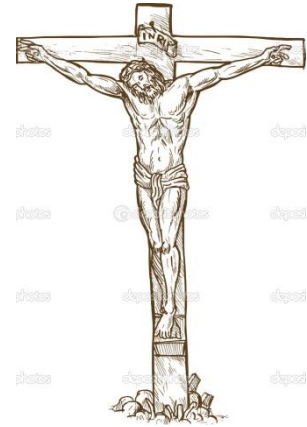
_____ – close to original, not far from it

Roots in Nimrod (Tower of Babel),

Madona worship = Nimrod in mother's arms, back to life, etc

Satanic _____ of truth

Priests = Go between of man and Satan



MUCH that isn't in God's Word

Priest as go-between of God and man, not go straight to God

Priests not marry

Purgatory

7 sacraments

Mass – Jesus crucified again each time

Earn salvation from church, gives/sells to whomever wants

IDOLATRY – demonic, thru family line

Mary worship (Queen of heaven, mother of God)

New baby dedicated to Mary

Icons, images everywhere

MARTIAL ARTS, KARATE

Karate, Tae Kwon Do, Judo, Jiu-Jitsu, Kung Fu, Capoeira, Sumo, Etc.

The martial arts aren't just physical exercise, they're Zen Buddhist - _____ techniques, warns a minister who was involved with them for 20 years. Ed Hird practiced karate, sometimes three times a week, and was so enthusiastic that he recruited other Christians to join him, he said in an article in Anglicans for Renewal Magazine.

...But he thought twice when his sons wanted to take taekwondo, a martial art similar to karate, as part of their Christian school gym class last spring. Taekwondo and martial arts are "Zen Buddhist meditational techniques designed to bring a person into the experience of satori, or Buddhist enlightenment," Hird said. Westerners can be naïve about the "very subtle" influences of martial arts, and lack the experience to notice their "hidden religious nature," Hird said.



YOGA

"It's hypocrisy of the highest order. I don't understand how anyone can teach yoga from a Christian background. It is an indisputable fact that has its origins in the East and in _____," Hindu leaders say.



yoga

YING & YANG



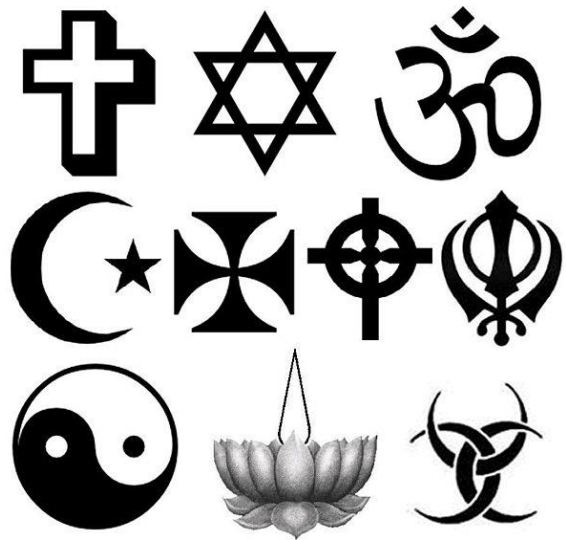
"Yin and yang are considered to be opposites (opposing forces). Yin represents eternity, dark, feminine, left side of the body, etc. Yang is its opposite and represents history, light, masculine, right side of the body, etc." "Yang is male, positive, and represented by the Sun. Yin is female, negative, and represented by the Moon," Used by: New Age, martial arts, Wiccans, witchcraft, gay community, Masonry uses it. Yin / Yang (Dualism) is the underlying Satanic doctrine behind all the false religions who use it.

"Wrong" to them is only what one "appears" to be wrong. Consequently, the whole concept of right and wrong is relative. The same is true of Yin Yang, there are NO - _____ . What might seem wrong to one person might not appear wrong to another. Just the fact that homosexuals and witches would cleave to the teachings of Yin and Yang reveal it's dark nature.

NEW AGE

New Age Movement: A loosely knit group of individuals and organizations that fundamentally believe that persons will all evolve into God and achieve a global unity that will transcend religious, racial, cultural and political ideologies.

Not a new religion, but a new way to think & understand _____



BASIC PRINCIPLES OF NEW AGE BELIEF

A. MONISM (ALL IS ONE)

B. PANTHEISM (ALL IS GOD)

C. HUMANISM (MAN IS GOD)

D. A NEW WORLD ORDER

E. MAYA - ALL IS ILLUSION

F. CONTACT WITH KINGDOM OF DARKNESS SOUGHT

FAMILIAR SPIRITS are counselors or inner friends who communicate invisibly with the person during an altered state of consciousness.

(Channeling involves the spirit fully _____ the person's body, totally taking over)

HALLOWEEN

CELTIC FESTIVAL 2000 BC spread over much of Europe

DRUIDS one group from them, time of Rome, witches offered human sacrifices - **STONEHENGE** place of human sacrifice



Lord of Death

BAAL FESTIVALS - All based on Baal festivals, _____ in Bible celebrated at Celtic New Year

shown as ghostly, skeleton holding sickle in hand (Grim Reaper)

worshipped November 1st – “Festival of Death”

“All Saints’ Day” Nov 1 added to pagan festival by Pope in 700’s

Satanists then said Oct 31 “all demon’s night”, Time of spells, curses, horrors

Oct 31 spirits of all who died during previous year assembled

Ghosts – represent these dead people without bodies

Allowed to return to homes Oct 31 night

People had ceremonies to protect them from these spirits

Sacrifices of blood, including human beings (burned to death)

BLACK – at night, time of darkness and death (worshipped at that time)

ORANGE – fire for sacrifices, gathered around huge bonfire to worship

Also fires kept away demons, hobgoblins and witches at night



Large turnips hollowed out and carved in demon faces as magic charm for protection

Each priest had own, contained his own demon spirit to lead him – his god

Light inside called Jock – demonic spirit who guided them ‘Jack o’ lantern’ today

Costumes worn to hide identity of Druid as threaten people with curses if not give what demanded

Witches travel on broomsticks on Oct 31 to gather & worship Satan

Guided by demons in form of black cats (reincarnated evil people)



HORROR MOVIES



'Dracula' indebted to _____ and can't be rightly understood apart from understanding Christianity. In Bram Stoker's version, Dracula, whose name means "son of the Dragon," i.e., the Devil, is literally an anti-Christ. Jesus shed his blood to bring men eternal life—Dracula takes other's blood to give himself eternal life. While most people know about Dracula's aversion to crucifixes, that's only one of the many Christian symbols and rites Van Helsing and company employ against the powers of darkness. As he tells his charges, they are "ministers of God's own wish," striving so "the world, and men for whom His Son died, will not be given over to monsters, whose very existence would defame Him."

SATANISM

FOUNDER: Satan himself (they say)

Modern day start: Anton LaVey ("BlackPope")

Everything _____ of Christianity, _____ God and Jesus, _____ Satan

Know God greater, but Satan more personally available to do what they want now

Worship hell as the throne of Satan, desire to be with him, not with God in heaven

Black Mass the central ritual, dress like priests but with goat symbol (picture of Satan), use upside down cross, parodies & inversions of Christian prayers and creeds, animal sacrifices, ritualistic orgies, _____ black host, real blood for juice, pray to Satan backwards, conclude with vows of special service to Satan

Promise to pay annual tribute to Satan

WICCA

Revelation 21:8 But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars — their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death."

Ephesians 5:11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.



SPIRITISM

Oldest and most deadly cult, hated by God & destroyed by Jews
In America founded by the Fox sisters in New York in 1848
Names after the '_____ which they seek and which empower
"Great Spirit," impersonal, Pantheistic - not very concerned with
focus on contacting the dead
Jesus An outstanding Jewish medium, 'one' with God by being a
medium

"Materialized" after death, no bodily resurrection, not the founder of a religion
Christ-spirit on many teachers & mediums besides Jesus - Any just and perfect being is a 'Christ'



them
God,

HARRY POTTER



Harry Potter is attractive to so many because it is made to look like a major amount of harmless fun. *But*, is it really? I think for many, the decision is based upon just that, whether to read or watch it because it is harmless fun (and some think it can even teach a lesson about good vs. evil) or not to read or watch because it is satanic.

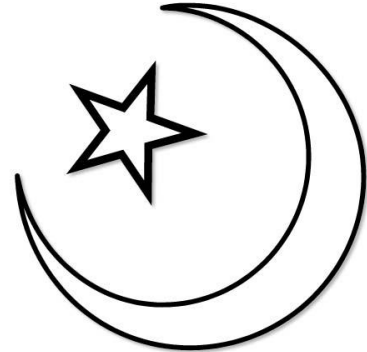
Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers, whatever is _____, whatever is - _____, whatever is _____, whatever is _____, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things.

And we all know that Harry Potter is a wizard ... he's learning to cast spells and all kinds other things at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

Check out what the Bible has to say about that, "Let no one be found among you who ... practices divination or _____, interprets omens, engages in _____, or casts - _____, or who is a _____ or _____ or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. You must be blameless before the LORD your God. (Deuteronomy 18:11-13, NIV)"

ISLAM

Dark, hatred, evil
not some 'fanatics' but heart and core of
Koran says
Very _____, evil, dangerous



what

Only the light of _____ will bring them to Him

HOW DO WE SHARE GOD'S TRUTH WITH THESE PEOPLE?

MEMORY VERSE John 14:6 Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

1. _____ them

2. _____ for them

3. _____ the terms

4. Show there must be a God _____ of man

5. Turn them to the _____

6. _____ the Bible



"False Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance." Matthew 24:24-25

Which of these religious groups have you been exposed to?

Which do you think is the most dangerous for Christians today? Why?

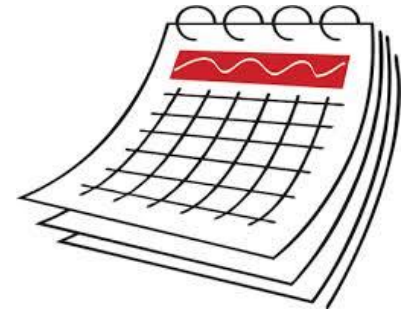
Which do you think is the most appealing to unbelievers? Why?

What is something new that you learned, something that surprised you?

DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK 9

Satan's Ways



Day 1 - Temptation: Jesus & Us 1

Immediately following His baptism Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit, the 'dove' who had just descended on Him, into the desert (Matthew 4:1). He needed time to focus on what was about to come, to strengthen His spirit and commitment. He needed time alone with His Father, something that would happen time after time during His earthly life. After 40 days of fasting and praying Jesus was tempted by Satan. Whether He waited because God restrained him or because he wanted to hit Jesus when He was weakest is unknown. Satan, who had been opposing God's plan of redemption from the beginning (Genesis 3:14-15), now focuses his attacks on Jesus.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Note that Jesus was in the perfect center of God's will when He was tempted, for God Himself led Him to the desert (Matthew 4:1). Being tempted to sin does not mean we are out of God's will or not following closely to Him. Often the opposite is true, like with Jesus. It is because we are following God closely that we are attacked the hardest. Be aware so you aren't take by surprise. Don't think it is a bad sign that you are tempted. Being attacked is actually a good sign for Satan only attacks those who are doing damage to his kingdom. When you aren't being attacked is the time to make sure you haven't drifted from the conflict (Luke 6:26).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Note that Satan attacks immediately, as soon as Jesus commits to doing God's will by being baptized. For us, too, the attacks come when we move in the direction of following God. When we are not as close to God, Satan and his forces leave us alone, but when our devotion increases so do the enemy's attacks. We soon discover that when we fade a bit in our walk with the Lord then the pressure decreases, tempting us to follow God, but not quite so closely!

LESSON FOR TODAY: Notice, too, that this battle with Satan was God's perfect will for Jesus. "Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil" (Matthew 4:1). God does not prevent our battles, no matter how hard we pray for that to happen, but He does help us through them. So it is better to focus on fighting them in His strength than looking for ways to avoid them. They are part of God's will for us because they strength us and show us that His grace is sufficient, as was true of the Jews fighting for the Promised Land behind Joshua's leadership.

LESSON FOR TODAY: The place where Jesus was sent by God to fast, pray and battle Satan was the "desert," considered the abode of demons (Matthew 12:43). Sometimes God leads us into strongholds of Satan's so we can do battle for Him, knowing we can experience have victory through His power (I John 4:4). We aren't to run from such encounters but face them with His strength.

When Satan was unable to defeat Jesus after three tries he left, and the angels came to minister to Jesus (Matthew 4:11). Satan wasn't done, though. Luke 4:13 says he left but would return at an "opportune time." He is never done, he never stops working against Jesus.

LESSON FOR TODAY: There will be lulls in demonic oppression against us. Often it seems oppression comes in cycles or waves. Some times things are very difficult, then it seems the attacks get milder or even disappear for awhile. But they always return. We will never have ultimate, total victory in this life. If you are going through a difficult time remember that it will one day lessen. If you are not going through a time of challenges and attacks, be prepared for when it returns.

Day 2 - Temptation: Jesus & Us 2



After being baptized by John Jesus immediately went to the wilderness to pray and prepare Himself for what was to come. At the end of that time Satan used his best three temptations to defeat Jesus. He uses them against us as well!

The **first temptation** was for physical needs – Jesus was hungry after 40 days of not eating. Jesus could turn the stones to bread, but that was not God's will. This was a legitimate need but not God's way of meeting it.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Sin is using an illegitimate way to meet a legitimate need. Hunger is a legitimate need, but Jesus must meet it in God's way, not in his own or Satan's way. When tempted look for the legitimate need behind it (peace, comfort, companionship, joy, etc.) and seek to have that need met God's way instead of taking a 'shortcut' that is sinful.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Building on what was just said, the fact that we have a legitimate need doesn't mean it has to be immediately met. The very common "entitlement mentality" today seems to say we should have everything we want as soon as we want it, and that parents, God, the government, or life itself owes it to us! That is a very unbiblical attitude and quite dangerous. In fact, it's the very lie Satan used with Eve in Eden – "You are entitled to this fruit!"

The **second temptation** Satan used was an appeal to Jesus' pride. He was due recognition from all so Satan suggested an easy way to get it - by throwing Himself down from the highest part of the temple and letting angels come rescue Him in the sight of the watching crowds. If Satan wanted to defeat Jesus, why would he offer to help Him have everyone come worship Him? While this might have seemed like something that would benefit Jesus, it really was a subtle way to give him recognition without having to go to the cross. This would have been a short-cut to His Kingship – giving Him the throne of Israel without having to go through the agony of crucifixion. But if He had taken this route, then there would be no salvation for us – and that was exactly why Satan tempted Him in this way. He was willing for Jesus to have His temporary throne on earth as long as He didn't pay for our sins in the process.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Pride is what motivated Satan to sin and rebel against God (Isaiah 14:13-14). It is still one of his best tools against us today (1 Timothy 3:6). There is no short-cut to maturity or spirituality, no easy way to grow. The way up is down. God exalts those who humble themselves (James 4:10; 1 Peter 5:6). He humbles those who exalt themselves (Luke 18:14). Pride is self-centeredness, a focus on ones self. It is pride if we think we are better than others or if we think we are worse than others. Either extreme is pride, an inordinate attention to self. Either extreme is wrong. Satan doesn't care which direction he gets us to fall as long as we fall!

Satan's **third temptation** was a final desperate measure. He put it all on the line, something he didn't have to do with Adam and probably didn't want to do with Jesus. But everything was at stake so he offered Jesus ruler ship of the whole world if Jesus would bow down to Satan. Ruler ship of the world was what Jesus had come to win back, and Satan was offering to give it to Jesus for free. But there was one condition – Jesus would have to recognize Satan as His authority instead of God the Father. Again we see that the end does not justify the means.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Satan seems to offer people today everything they want if they turn to this world system. He received ownership from Adam of the world system of values and motives as it operates today (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11). He tries to get us to think that we, too, can have everything we want. Adam and Eve believed this lie, and many today believe it as well. But it is a lie. It is Satan's bait to trap people into bondage.

Day 3 - Temptation: Jesus & Us 3

Satan attacked Jesus in the wilderness after was baptized by John. Three times Jesus resisted and was victorious. What can we learn from how He was able to have victory?

LESSON FOR TODAY: Jesus faced these human temptations as a man just like us. He did not rely on His deity to make it through. He was attacked just as Adam had been, but unlike Adam He did not sin and therefore He won back what Adam lost (Romans 5:12-21). We, too, can have victory through God's power, just as Jesus did. The same resource is available to us!

LESSON FOR TODAY: Fasting can be a useful tool in spiritual warfare, not because our suffering earns God's pity so He is more apt to answer our prayers, but because it is a way of denying our flesh and putting spiritual things before personal needs. It clears our mind and helps us focus on the battle at hand. Hunger reminds us of our weakness, our need of His strength and it reminds us to pray. It frees up more time to spend in prayer as well. We must be sure God wants us to fast before we do so, and we must use wisdom in what kind of a fast it is and how long it lasts, but it is a weapon we should make us of. Jesus used it often.

Jesus had victory over Satan's temptations by quoting God's Word each time He was tempted. That is the only way to have victory. Jesus knew the Bible well enough to quote the book of Deuteronomy three times.



LESSON FOR TODAY: Quoting Scripture is our best weapon against Satan's attacks against us as well. Paul says our only offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God (Ephesians 6:17). Psalm 119:9-11 tell us that it's through God's Word that we have victory. When thoughts or temptations you don't want come into your mind, use Scripture to have victory. There is power in God's Word that is lacking in our own words (Hebrews 4:12). Reminding demons of God's truth shows them they must submit to it, and helps us put our faith in Him and not give in to the lie behind the temptation. It allows our mind to explain reality to our emotions. Always have some verses that speak to your situation memorized or written down where you can reference them at any time. Use them as soon as you sense opposition coming against your thoughts.

Day 4 - Satan Blinds Unbelievers

Satan blinds unbelievers so they don't see the truth of the Gospel. "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4). Satan does all he can to keep men from leaving his kingdom/army and joining God's kingdom/army.

LESSON FOR TODAY: All unbelievers are children of Satan (Matthew 13:37-39; John 8:44; 1 John 3:3-10) and are in Satan's kingdom (Colossians 1:12-14). All are bound by Satan (Acts 26:18) and blinded by him (2 Corinthians 4:3-4; 3:14-15) and are under Satan's power (1 John 5:19). They belong to him (Matthew 12:22-29) and are enslaved in a world system controlled by Satan (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11; 1 John 5:19). Believers are a small minority, living in enemy-occupied territory, seeking to free some of those bound in darkness so they can find freedom in Christ. Meanwhile those who oppose us do all they can to dim our light and render us ineffective in our battle against them. That is where we find ourselves. That is our battle. We do not live in a neutral world nor are people nonaligned until they decide who they will follow. Everyone who has not committed their lives to Jesus is under the power of darkness and under judgment (John 3:16-21). Every one of them needs rescuing by us!

LESSON FOR TODAY: Since all unbelievers are in Satan's possession, does that mean that all of them are demonized? Not all have had their lives invaded to the greatest extent, but without Jesus' protection and God's power they are potentially open to demonizing to one degree or another. They still have the image of God in them which we all have, and they have a free will to use to make wise choices, and that can limit the amount of influence demons can have over them. But we must always be aware of the demonic when we witness to or counsel someone who is not a believer. That is why Paul's strong works about being 'unequally yoked' carry so much weight today (2 Corinthians 6:14-16). "Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? What does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God." This isn't just about marriage, but about business partnerships, close friendships, and the like. As believers we cannot be closely bound to those who are closely bound to demons.

LESSON FOR TODAY: If you are a believer then you have left Satan's kingdom of darkness (Ephesians 2:1-10) and deserted his army, choosing instead to join the forces of his arch rival. If you think he will take that lightly and leave you alone, that he will do nothing to retaliate and render you ineffective for God, then you are greatly mistaken (Daniel 10:10-21; Acts 13:6-12; 16:16-24; 19:11-18). He is totally committed to your destruction (Ephesians 6:10-18). That is why it is imperative to learn to fight. In addition, we still fight our old sin nature (Romans 7:14-25), so in reality we are fighting a battle on two fronts. Often they combine and make things that much harder on us!

LESSON FOR TODAY: When a blind person does not see the sun shining, that is no reflection on the brightness of the sun but rather on the inability of the person to see it. The same is true of spiritual things. Satan is the ruler of the kingdom of this world (2 Corinthians 4:4) and in authority over it (Luke 4:6). Naturally he wants to keep his subjects in darkness, which he does. In addition, our sin nature keeps us from coming to God for salvation. It is only as His Spirit works in us to draw us to Him that we come (John 6:37-46; 15:16, 19; Ephesians 1:3-6, 11; Romans 9:23; Acts 16:13-15). Still, man has a free will to choose or reject salvation (1 Timothy 2:4; 2 Peter 3:9; Acts 2:21; John 3:14-16; Exodus 8:15, 32). Somehow, even though our brains are not great enough to understand how it can be, both are true (John 6:37, 44, 47; Romans 9:1-23). It should not bother us that there are some things about God and His working that we are unable to understand for He is God (Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 55:8; Romans 11:34; 9:14-16; Isaiah 40:13, 2 Corinthians 2:16). Both are true, and when we get to heaven we will see how that can be (1 Corinthians 13:12). Our purpose is not to reconcile the two, for they are mutually exclusive, two truths which cannot be put together, but each must be believed by faith. What concerns us in this study is that at least part of the reason why it is necessary for God to work in someone for salvation is that Satan does all he can to blind them to the truth.

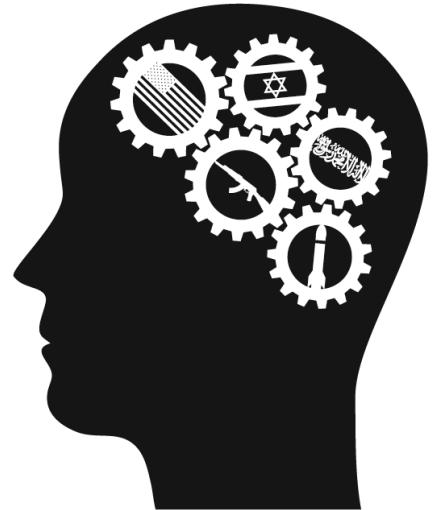
Therefore it is imperative that we pray for those who are blinded. How should we pray? Pray that God would roll back the blindness for a time so they can clearly see the claims of the Gospel and make a free will

choice to accept or reject Jesus. We can't pray for God to make them believe, for God will not violate a person's free will choice, but we can pray they can unmistakably see the issues so they can make their own choice. Now having said that, we must acknowledge that sovereign God will make sure every person who ever lived understands the issues and makes his or her own choice. No one will stand before Him in judgment and say they didn't know or didn't have a chance. Everyone will acknowledge God is just in condemning them for they had a chance to turn to Him but, of their own free will choice, turned it down. This whole issue takes great wisdom and none of us can really understand all of it. What we do understand is that God is fair and just, He doesn't want anyone to go to hell, and the proof of that is that He paid for our sins voluntarily when He wouldn't have had to. His love and justice have been proven and we cannot question that. Just because we cannot understand all He understands is no reason to doubt His goodness (see note on Genesis 3:1-

Day 5 - Demons Mess With Your Mind

Paul clearly states that Christians battle an unseen enemy, Satan and his demons "For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ. And we will be ready to punish every act of disobedience, once your obedience is complete" (2 Corinthians 10:3-6). There are powers that set themselves up against God. They use thoughts which lead to sinful actions. Actions start with thoughts, so the key is to have victory over the thoughts before they develop into actions.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Satan can and will use thoughts inserted into our minds to control us. He will use worldly philosophies and views to get access to and control of us. The majority of demonizing consists of demons putting thoughts into a person's mind or snatching thoughts out of a person's mind. While they don't have access to our minds and thoughts to the same extent that God does, the Bible makes it clear there is some access. Jesus said this in the sower and the seed: "Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown." (Mark 4:15). David's thought to take a census was demonic (I Chronicles 21:1ff; II Samuel 24:1ff). So was Ananias & Saphira's greed (Acts 5:3) and Saul's jealousy/anger (I Samuel 16:14-23). That's why, when talking about spiritual warfare, Paul says we are to "bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." (II Corinthians 10:4-5). Not only can Satan's forces put wrong thoughts into our minds, they can snatch right thoughts out of our minds (Mark 4:15) so we forget them.



LESSON FOR TODAY: Feelings and emotions are fine, important and necessary. They are icing on the cake of life. They add color and enjoyment to life. God created them for this purpose. But He didn't create them to be the source of our decision-making. Our feelings should be dependent on our rational thought. When our feelings get ahead of it or away from it then trouble comes. You know in your mind that you are an OK person, yet in your emotions you fear you will be rejected. When feelings aren't founded on the truth they can easily mislead. The truth is that you are a fine person, but your emotions reject that truth and try to do the 'thinking' themselves. We need to let our mind explain reality to our emotions. We must be very, very careful not to follow our emotions when they differ from our rational thoughts. One of the greatest needs of our emotions/feelings is security. This is closely related to love so we could say the core of our heart is love/security. Love must bring security but doesn't always do so. Other factors can tribute to our security as well.

Day 6 - Anger & Unforgiveness

Anger as a foothold. Many verses warn about the danger of unconfessed unrighteous anger and how demons can use it to gain access to the angry person (2 Corinthians 2:10-11). "In your anger do not sin": Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold" (Ephesians 4:26-27).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Anger comes from mishandling hurt and pain. Instead of feeling the hurt we turn it into anger for revenge or control. This allows demons to use it as an opening. There is a lack of control that opens the door. Also, it is almost like a prayer for power to hate someone, and demons seek to answer that prayer. They made Saul angry at David, so much so that he tried to kill David (I Samuel 18:10-11; 19:9-10). Paul says there is a very close connection between anger and demonizing (Ephesians 4:27).

Pain must be handled as pain, not turned into anger. You can't bury something alive and think you are getting rid of it. The hurt must be dead - faced, admitted, healed, removed, forgiven. When a person buries hurt alive it keeps poisoning everything until it is dug out and destroyed.

While there is a legitimate use for anger ('righteous indignation') most of what we face is not right. Anger is a secondary emotion, unlike fear which is a basic emotion. Wrong anger is always the result of mishandling another, deeper emotion like fear or pain. Let's take pain, first of all. When a person hits their finger with a hammer what do they do? Usually they get angry. What they feel is pain, but it comes out as anger because anger is a much easier emotion to handle than pain. When someone says something critical or threatening it hurts, but the natural response in many is to get angry. That way they don't have to face the pain – but it stays and causes more and more anger. That's where fear comes in. It's not just pain that causes anger, but fear of pain. Fear is at the root of anger in other ways as well. To seek to manage our fears we try to control our lives and circumstances (thus the control emphasis part grows). We feel that is necessary to prevent pain and other things we fear. We use anger as a control tool. The adrenaline rush makes us feel in charge instead of a victim. We learn that people can be manipulated and controlled by our anger (or the threat of it) and we use that to control as well. This is another reason why it's important to deal with and get victory over the fears down inside. When they go the anger and control issues will become much more manageable. A person can't stop their anger as long as what causes it is still inside pushing it out. They must get the root cause out, and that is where dealing with the fear comes in.

Soon after writing 1 Corinthians Paul wrote another letter to the Corinthians, called 2 Corinthians in the New Testament. In it he warned the believers to **be aware of Satan's schemes** so they aren't tricked and defeated (2 Corinthians 2:11). The brother who was living with his father's wife and was disciplined by exclusion from church fellowship (1 Corinthians 5:1-5) evidently repented and was restored to fellowship (2 Corinthians 2:5-6). Now Paul encourages them to forgive the man and treat him with love and acceptance (2 Corinthians 2:7-10). If they don't forgive him, Paul says Satan will use that to work against them (2 Corinthians 2:11).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Paul is warning them that Satan will use their unforgiveness as an opening to attack them. One of the leading causes of demonizing is unconfessed anger. Anger includes any form of unforgiveness, bitterness, hate, jealousy, gossip, criticism, etc. Paul says these can "give the devil a foothold" (Ephesians 4:26-27). He tells the Corinthians that if they don't forgive each other Satan will use that to "outwit" them (II Corinthians 2:10-11). Jesus Himself said that those who don't forgive others will be turned over to tormenting demons to bring them to repentance (Matthew 6:14-15; 18:34). This anger includes anger toward others, parents, self, or God. There can be no removing demons who claim this access until all anger is truly confessed and put under the blood of Jesus. This is one of the first things that usually comes up when we counsel people and pray for their deliverance. Do NOT take this lightly!

Day 7 - Lessons from James

Another writer, besides Peter and Paul, was James, the half-brother of Jesus (same mother, different father). Chronologically, his was the first inspired book written in the New Testament and was addressed to Jewish Christians. James taught them about living for God, and spiritual warfare was/is an important part of that life.

James' words are quite interesting because they are the first written words about spiritual warfare in the New Testament. He starts talking about sin which comes from within man (James 4:1-3) then the influence of the world from without (James 4:4). He affirms God's great grace to those who are humble (James 4:5-6). Following this he gives three strong commands and two great promises. Command one is to submit to God (James 4:7), total and complete surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Romans 12:1-2). There can be no victory in the Christian life without this first requirement. This means that all sin must be confessed (1 John 1:9; James 5:13-16).

Following this comes the second command: resist the devil (James 4:7). "Resist" means to not give in, compromise or yield but to stand fast. It has the idea of a difficult struggle but remaining firm. How do we resist him? The same way Jesus did – we quote Scripture (Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 4:1-13) and we use God's armor (Ephesians 6:10-18).

LESSON FOR TODAY: When we resist the enemy, God promises he will flee (James 4:7). That is God's first promise to us in this passage. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7). James says he "will" flee – he has to because God makes him. Sometimes God drives him away instantaneously, other times it is more gradual as the person learns and grows in their faith. That is why continued counseling after spiritual warfare deliverance is so important. Demons may fight, stall and do what they can to resist, but ultimately they must obey when God sends them away. The only exception is if God allows them to stay because He wants to use them for our growth and His glory, like with Paul's "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). When God doesn't remove the source of the demonizing He promises to give special grace so we can hold up under it. It becomes His chosen tool to make us more like Jesus.

Peter concludes this passage with another command and promise. "Draw near to God" (James 4:8) means to keep Him and His greatness in the center of our focus. When we do this His promise is "He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). Don't sit back and expect Him to come wait on you, move in His direction and He will move in yours!

LESSON FOR TODAY: Don't focus on Satan or demons, nor let them keep your main emphasis from being on God and Jesus (Philippians 4:8-9). Too many live in fear of what demons are doing or may do. That gives them the power, attention and worship on which they thrive. We can't ignore them to the extent we let them do anything they want, but we must make sure God is always foremost in our thoughts and motives. When we move towards God He moves more than half way to move towards us.



9. SATAN'S WAYS **(Charges, Traps, Deceives)**

Rev. Dr. Jerry Schroyer – jerry@schroyer.net - © 2013

MEMORY VERSE Romans 16:20 The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.

Matt 12:43-45 "When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. 44 Then it says, 'I will return to the house I left.' When it arrives, it finds the house unoccupied, swept clean and put in order. 45 Then it goes and takes with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And the final condition of that man is worse than the first. That is how it will be with this wicked generation."

A. HE TRAPS

LIKE A _____

2 Tim 2:26 and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will.

has taken them captive to do his will.

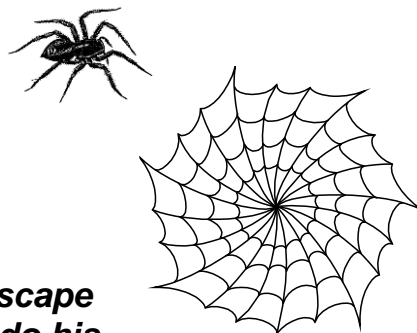
Innocent-looking web
Attractive bait
Waits patiently
Puts trap in path of victim
Paralyzes and then kills

WILES

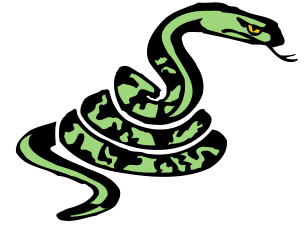
TEMPTATION

PERVERSION

ACCUSATION



B. HE DECEIVES



DECEPTION Rev 12:9

_____ TOOL in last days (even more than persecution, poverty,
“He who trusts in his own heart is a fool” Prov 28:26
“The heart is deceitful and desperately wicked, who can know it?” Jer 17:9

LIKE A _____

2 Cor 11:3 *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*

John 8:44 *You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a _____ and the father of _____.*



Rev 12:9 *The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him.*

1 Tim 2:14 *And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner.*

2 Cor 11:14 *And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of _____.*



C. HE CHARGES

LIKE A _____

1 Peter 5:8-9 *Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. 9 Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings.*

BE SELF-CONTROLLED – temperate, _____,

Greek nepho – abstain from drink which produces stupor, sleep, etc

BE ALERT – vigilant, awake

RESIST – set against, withstand, oppose (James 4:7-8)

STANDING FIRM – steadfast, solid, hard, unbending

SATAN CRUSHED

Gen 3:15 *And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel."*

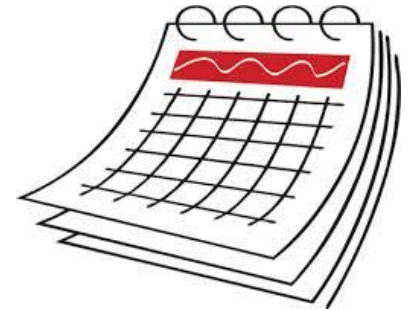
Rom 16:20 *The God of peace will soon crush Satan under _____ feet.*



DAILY DEVOTIONS

WEEK 10

“In Christ”



Day 1 - We Fight a Defeated Foe 1

After entering Jerusalem on a donkey and proclaiming Himself Messiah, the Jews continued rejection of Jesus became final. Jesus, knowing crucifixion was certain, told His followers what would happen so they wouldn't be surprised or discouraged. "Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out" (John 12:31). The coming judgment on Satan and this evil world system is so certain Jesus speaks of it as if it is currently happening. "Driven out" is the same Greek word (edballoe) that is used of casting demons out of people.

A few days later, after the Last Supper and while walking to Gethsemane, Jesus affirmed the same truth. "The prince of this world now stands condemned" (John 16:11). Satan was given authority over this world system from Adam when he sinned and followed Satan's advice. Now Jesus is winning it back (Romans 5:12-21). Satan will be condemned by Jesus' victory over sin on the cross. Again, using the present tense shows Jesus' assurance that it is as good as done!

LESSON FOR TODAY: We must always remember that Satan is a defeated foe. He was cast out of his original position in heaven because of pride (Ezekiel 28:16; Luke 10:18; Isaiah 14:12). His judgment was pronounced in Eden (Genesis 3:14-15). He was defeated by the cross (John 12:31). He will be cast to the earth in the tribulation (Revelation 9:1; 12:7-12), bound during the Millennium (Revelation 20:1-3) and then cast into the lake of burning sulfur forever (Revelation 20:7-10; Isaiah 27:1; 40:23-24; 2 Thessalonians 2:8).

The culmination of the battle between God and Satan which started in Eden ended as God predicted, with Satan painfully wounding Jesus but with Him defeating Satan (Genesis 3:15). But it was a terrible battle, the worst ever. Jesus, as a man, faced all the hate, violence and evil Satan and all his demons could throw at Him. They literally drug Him through hell for those hours, totally separated from God and facing it as a man. Yet He stayed faithful and endured, paying the price for every sin we would ever commit (Hebrews 2:14-15; Colossians 2:15).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Satan and his forces are defeated foes, having given their all to destroy Jesus on the cross, but being beaten by Him instead (Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 Peter 3:18-22). Now they are free to continue their work because God still honors man's free will and allows each one to decide whom they want to serve. They have been condemned and sentenced, now they are awaiting that sentence to begin. Knowing their time is short they strive to do all the evil they can against God and His people. When Jesus returns Satan and his demons will be cast into the lake of fire forever (Matthew 25:41; Revelation 20:1-15).

Jesus defeated death on the cross. He paid for every sin, then said "It is finished (John 19:30)." Only then did He voluntarily leave His body for there was no more any need to suffer in humiliation (John 19:30). Every sin had been paid for, Satan and his forces had been defeated. Technically Jesus didn't die for our sins, He suffered for them and died because His work was done. Sin did not kill Jesus, nor did Satan. It wasn't a matter of waiting to see if He'd come back to life. He voluntarily died and so He also voluntarily came back to life. Jesus' resurrection and ascension showed His victory over Satan on the cross. He freed us from sin and gave us eternal life (Ephesians 4:8).



Day 2 - We Fight a Defeated Foe 2

God shows demons His greatness through us. “His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms” (Ephesians 3:10). “Rulers and authorities” refer to the breakdown of Satan’s organization of demonic forces (see below under Ephesians 6:10).

LESSON FOR TODAY: ALL powers are under God’s authority (Ephesians 1:22), but not yet brought under His final control (Ephesians 6:12). God allows them freedom as He respects mankind’s free will. He allows man the choice to follow Satan or not. We are living and building God’s Kingdom of light in the middle of Satan’s kingdom of darkness. Therefore they can clearly see what we are doing – they carefully watch so they can destroy our work. But by our lives, our faithfulness and Christlikeness, we proclaim God’s power and greatness. Our victory over their work reminds them of their ultimate final defeat and demise. Many, however, are ignorant of this fact, so by our

small victories over them now we show them of God’s sovereign control and final defeat of them. Satan, the great deceiver, has deceived many of his own demons about their final defeat. Thus by our lives, and our words, we proclaim God’s victory over them.

Satan defeated by God’s people. Paul reminds the struggling believers that, although it may seem like Satan is winning at the moment, it won’t always be that way. “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet” (Romans 16:20).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Satan has already been defeated at the cross (Hebrews 2:14-15; Colossians 2:15; Ephesians 4:8). In the future he will be crushed and removed forever (Revelation 20:1-3, 10). Now, in the present, we have authority and power over him in Jesus’ name (John 14:12; Matthew 28:18-20; Luke 9:1; 10:1, 17-19; Acts 1:8). God uses us to gain victory over Satan even today. His future fall and removal is sure. It’s just a matter of time.

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Day 3 - Authority



There must have been much discussion between Jesus and His disciples as they walked the dusty roads, sat and ate in the evenings, and ministered to others who were demonized. Jesus took every opportunity to teach the disciples what they would need to know to continue the battle when He was gone. Only a very small part of all that happened is recorded in the Gospels for us. As John so aptly states, "If everything Jesus did was written down there wouldn't be enough room in the whole world for all the books!" (John 21:25)

Because of this, what is recorded about spiritual warfare is all the more important. There must be good reasons for choosing that which is recorded for us. It must be information we need. God Himself kept it accurate for us (2 Timothy 3:16). That being said, Jesus' comments about the power and authority believers have over Satan and demons are all the more significant (Luke 9:1; 10:1, 17-19). These comments were recorded because they are something we must know.

"When Jesus had called the Twelve together, He gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases" (Luke 9:1). "After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of Him to every town and place where He was about to go. ... The seventy-two returned with joy and said, 'Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name.' He replied, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you'" (Luke 10:1, 17-19).

"I HAVE given you" Jesus says indicating it happened in the past, it is already done. It's not something for them to wait for in the future. The Greek tense indicates the action is completed and the results continue on. Jesus had given to them, and therefore to us as well, two things: "power" and "authority."

Authority, 'exousia' in the Greek, is used 108 times in the New Testament and refers to the right to use power. He gave the disciples the authority to enforce His spiritual commands and laws. Policemen have authority, a badge, which allows them to enforce the laws of the government. It's not their own authority but that which comes from their government. It is delegated authority, like a husband has over a wife and a parent over a child. Everything Jesus did was because God had given Him authority to do it (John 5:19). He had laid aside His own divine authority (Philippians 2:6-8) to live life as any other human being. All He did was by God's own authority given to Him, as it is to us as well.

LESSON FOR TODAY: Jesus has given us that same authority to use today (John 14:12; Matthew 28:18-20). Satan deceives us into thinking we are powerless victims but that is a lie. As God's children we have access to the same resources Jesus did when He lived on earth. God has given us His full blessing because we are His children. He planned salvation and chose us to receive it before creating the world (Ephesians 1:4; Jeremiah 1:5). He created us in His own likeness (Genesis 1:26). He paid for our sins before we were ever born (Romans 5:8). He formed and cared for us while we were still in our mother's womb (Psalm 139:13-15). He chose us and He calls us His friends (John 15:15-16). We are born into His family, He is our Father (Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6) and we are His children (John 1:12; 1 John 3:2). He rescued us from slavery (Galatians 4:4-7) and put His Holy Spirit inside us (John 14:17). He gives us an equal inheritance with His Son, Jesus (Romans 8:14-17). When He looks at us He sees us as holy because of what Jesus did for us (Romans 1:7; 2 Corinthians 5:17). We can come into His presence in prayer any time we want, we have eternal life guaranteed, we are free from any condemnation and He has delivered us from the power of Satan. All these things and more He gives us.

Day 4 - Power

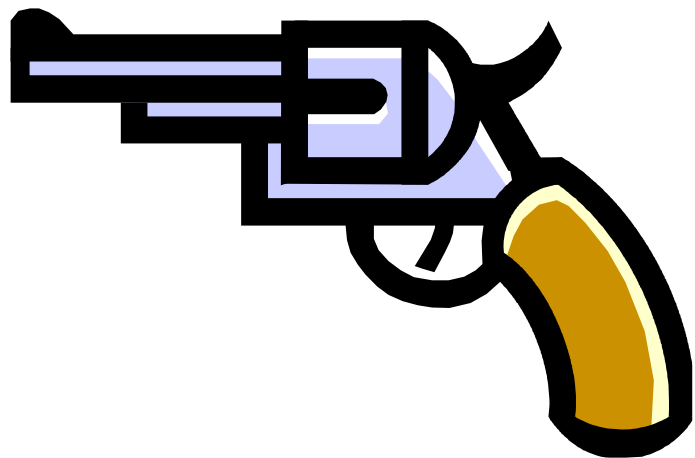
Jesus taught His disciples what they needed to know about spiritual warfare. He did this by His example and by teaching them basic principles. One of the most important truths is that we have His power and His authority (Luke 9:1; 10:1, 17-19). We already talked about the authority we have, now let's look at the power.

Not only did Jesus give His disciples authority, He also gave them **power**. A policeman needs authority, a badge, but sometimes he needs power to enforce that authority – a club or gun. 'Power' is used 118 times in the New Testament and refers to power, might, strength and force. Our word 'dynamite' comes from it. God has also given us His power as well as His authority (Acts 1:8; Luke 10:17).

LESSON FOR TODAY: We also have this power available to us (Acts 1:8; John 14:12). It is His power that transforms us into a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17) as He makes us a new man (Ephesians 4:24; Colossians 3:10). His power delivers us from temptations and trials when we rely on Him (1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Corinthians 2:14). He has power to put His divine nature in us (2 Peter 1:4) and give us abundant life now and eternal life in heaven (John 3:16; 10:10).

Jesus gave His followers power and authority to drive out ALL demons (Luke 9:1) – none are greater than His power. He did not enable His followers to cure all diseases, though. Some He will remove in response to our prayers, but only with demonizing are we assured that ALL must obey and yield. When Jesus returns all disease will be gone, but we don't have authority to remove all of it now (for more information on healing see under 13. LAYING ON OF HANDS, Luke 13:10-17).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Always remember the power and authority you have in Jesus. You can pray and preach in His name and power. Use it to encourage people when they need it, give counsel with the wisdom of God's Spirit, rebuke demons in Jesus' name, ask God to heal if it is His will, claim protection for your family and yourself, teach His word with authority, witness to others with power, forgive those who hurt you and show unconditional love to all. We don't have to live in defeat nor do we ever have to fear Satan or his forces. We have everything we need for victory in Jesus, but we must use the power and authority He gives us because on our own we can do nothing (John 15:5).



Day 5 - Deliverance by Paul

Paul and Barnabas continued their mission trip for about a year and a half (Acts 13:13 – 14:28). Wherever they went the gospel spread and people, Jews and Gentiles, came to Jesus for salvation. In fact, so many Gentiles were coming that the leaders of the Jewish Christian church met in Jerusalem to consider if Gentiles would have to become Jews also in order to be Christians (Acts 15). The clear answer was no. Paul then went back to the churches he had started on his first missionary journey, taking Silas and later Timothy with him (Acts 16:1-1-5). God led them through Asia Minor and across the sea to Philippi which was in Europe (Acts 16:6-12). They established a small church there in the home of Lydia (Acts 16:13-15). This sets the background for the next power encounter between Satan's forces and God's people, about two years after the previous encounter with Bar-Jesus.

When going to the place of prayer in Philippi, Paul and those with him were met by a young slave girl who "had a spirit by which she predicted the future" (Acts 16:16). The Greek word translated "spirit by which she predicted the future" is "python." Thus she was a "pythoress," a name used to refer to those indwelt by a spirit from the Greek god Apollo who gave oracles. This is the name of the dragon/snake, Apollo, killed at Delphi who guarded the priestess there and gave her oracles. Apollo was worshipped as the python god at the shrine of Delphi in central Greece. This Apollo spirit was the spirit by which the 'god' spoke to the person he indwelt, enabling them to pronounce oracles. The people thought Apollo was speaking through this young slave girl, especially since it was probably a male voice they heard coming out of her. While there are many explanations to what some today call 'speaking in tongues' (see with 1 Corinthians 11-13), there are those who feel that at least some of what was happening in Corinth, and even today, is done by these types of demons. Paul knew the true source of the slave girl's oracles was a demon. The girl was just their medium.

A medium is someone through whom a demon speaks (Isaiah 8:19; Leviticus 19:31; 20:27; Deuteronomy 18:9-13; Acts 16:16-18). For many days she followed them shouting, "These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved" (Acts 16:17). This shows us that the demons immediately recognized Jesus as God and couldn't deny who He was and is. Perhaps some of this has to do with the girl herself knowing who He is through the demons and wanting to be free from them.

Whatever the cause of her continual comments, Paul became very troubled. It wasn't what she was saying, but knowing that she was demonized that bothered him. The Greek word for 'troubled', *disponeou*, has the idea of grief, pain and anger all together. It describes how the Jewish leaders felt when they heard John and Peter were still preaching (Acts 4:2). Paul was upset because the young girl was being victimized by the demons as well as her owner. Therefore he turned and said to the spirit, "In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!" At that moment the spirit left her (Acts 16:18).

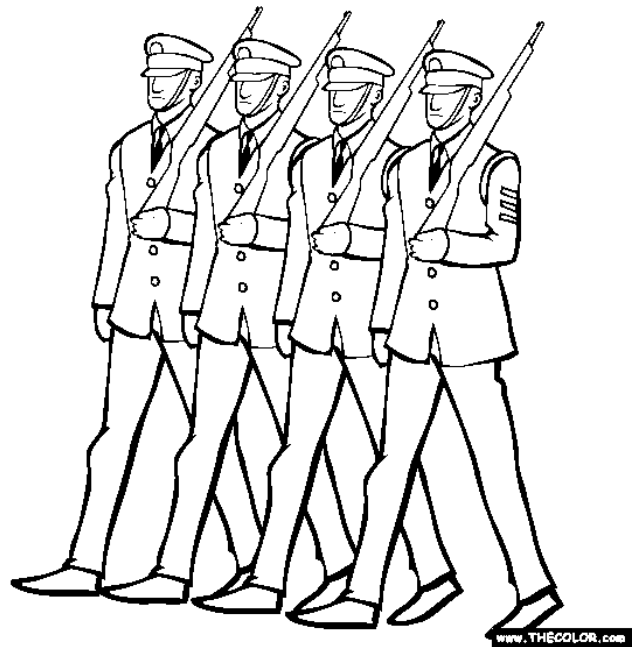
LESSON FOR TODAY: Paul didn't go out of his way to track down demonic activity, but when it was there he dealt with it. When demons interfered with his ministry or the lives of those he was ministering to, he expelled them. We can and must do the same thing. We don't have to go searching for demons to attack, we are to go about our daily lives and ministry. But when demons interfere with us or those we are ministering to, then we are to remove them.

Day 6 - The Battles Continue ...

After 70 years in foreign captivity some of the Jews were allowed to return to their home land and rebuilt Jerusalem. Several small groups made the journey home, but most stayed in Babylon where there was better financial prosperity. Those who returned, like Nehemiah and Ezra, were attacked from without and within. Externally they faced ridicule, criticism, mockery and threats of violence from neighboring nations who didn't want the Jews returning to their land. Internally they faced discouragement, gossip and criticism from fellow Jews. It was a battle with two fronts.

LESSON FOR TODAY: We, too, face a two-pronged attack from our enemy. He hits us head on with external problems and painful circumstances, criticism and rejection from others and obstacles in our way. Internally we fight against fear, anger, greed, lust, pride, self-centeredness, laziness and many more. It's hard enough to battle on one front, but to fight both battles well at the same time is truly difficult. In fact, it's impossible without God's help. Without learning to depend on Him, remember His promises, and keep our eyes on His person, we won't be able to have victory.

For five hundred more years the Jews lived in Palestine, their home land. They rebuilt their civilization but never attained their freedom or the prosperity they once had. Greece took over from Babylon and Persia, but their religion was similar to Babylon's, for they got much of it from the Babylonians. Greece adopted many Babylonian beliefs and practices and included them in their own religious system. They used concoctions, incantations, invocations (spoken or written on paper and hung around the neck), amulets, recipes (mixing oils, burning roots, sprinkling water, etc.) and blowing upon the person to remove demons. Many of these practices eventually became part of the Jews rituals at that time. To most Jews of the period, as indeed to most men of that time, the world was full of supernatural agencies. As there were angels to accomplish every good act, so there were demons or evil spirits to perpetuate every evil deed or to prompt every sinful impulse. These were an important part of their world view. Trying to live at peace with them, or manipulate these forces for their own benefit, was an important part of daily life and religion.



Warfare – no one wants it. But we will experience much of it if we will follow God. The only ones who aren't in a battle are those who are in Satan's army or captured by him. Any and all who follow God will have to fight. But God will bring victory. D Martin Lloyd-Jones in "God's Battle, Not Ours" writes: "All the battles of Israel, if they could have seen it, were not their battles, they were the battles of the Lord. They were involved because they were His people. This is God's battle, we are given the privilege of being in it and of fighting as individual soldiers, but God's honor is involved in it all. He cannot allow this to fall because His character, His glory, and His honor are involved at every point. Be strong in the Lord; remember that He is there, and that it is His battle."

Day 7 - Ultimate Victory!

The final book in the Bible, Revelation, written by John 6 years after 1 John, has much to say about spiritual warfare as might be expected. In it the battle between God and Satan, which started before the world was created and which included the human race when Adam sinned (Genesis 3:15), comes to a fitting conclusion.

John uses many terms for Satan. He calls him the “devil” (6 times), “evil one” (6 times), “liar and the father of lies” (3 times), “murderer” (1 time), “thief” (1 time), “wolf” (1 time), “deceiver” (1 time), “ruler of this world” (3 times), and “he who is in the world” (1 time).

In addition, John talks about territorial spirits, high ranking demons who oversee control of certain countries or geographical areas. In Revelation they are referred to as a “synagogue of Satan” (Revelation 2:9; 3:9) and “dwelling place of unclean spirits” (Revelation 18:2). They will be the power behind the rise of the nation called Babylon (Revelation 17-18).

LESSONS FOR TODAY: Demons influence and control the nations (Daniel 10:13,20; Eph 6:12) and mislead them so they can be destroyed (Isa 9:14). It must always be kept in mind, however, that God is in sovereign control. They do nothing without God's permission (Job 1:6-12).

Because they cannot get at God or Jesus directly, Satan and demons attack those closest to God today – His children. He focuses his power and leads those he influences to hate and harm believers (Revelation 2:10; 13:7, 14-15; Daniel 12:7).

LESSON FOR TODAY: Satan does all he can to attack God's people. Sometimes the enemy is permitted to exercise authority over the physical possessions of the child of God (as in Job's first trial), sometimes over his physical body (as in Job's second trial and in Paul's case), and sometimes this authority extends as far as the physical life of the individual is concerned. But usually it is the hand of God which is at work behind the scenes, working to accomplish His own ends, using whatever means He chooses.

Because Revelation records the final, ultimate defeat of Satan and his forces in their battle against God, it is only natural that the first skirmish in that long-standing battle be remembered and everyone reminded of the results. “Now war arose in heaven, Michael and his angels fighting against the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they were defeated and there was no longer any place for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world - he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him” (Revelation 12:7-9; see also Daniel 12:1).

This passage clearly details Satan's defeat in heaven, sometime in the very beginning, probably before man was created. He was defeated in heaven and this earth became his domain (Ephesians 6:12; John 14:30; 16:11; 12:31). Now in Revelation his defeat on earth is chronicled. It is accomplished by Satan being defeated under the feet of the church (Romans 16:20) and by God's holy angels (Revelation 20:1-3, 10).

This final defeat will be total and complete. Satan and his forces will be thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone and will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Revelation 20:10). Their defeat will be swift and final. They won't even be granted the dignity of standing before the throne of God to undergo a personal judgment. His judgment was made complete on the cross. He only awaits the carrying out of that sentence.

With that God's great promise at the start of this battle in Genesis 3:15 to “crush Satan's head” will be complete. He will be the victor, and us with Him!



10. IN CHRIST **(Authority, Power)**

Rev. Dr. Jerry Schmoyer – jerry@schmoyer.net - © 2013

MEMORY VERSE Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

I. GOD PROVIDES AUTHORITY



Matthew 28:18-20 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All _____ in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations ... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Luke 9:1 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, He gave them power and _____ to drive out all demons and to cure diseases.

Luke 10:17-19 The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in Your name." He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you _____ to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.

Jesus carried God's BADGE on earth

We have SAME BADGE from God

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST

MEMORY VERSE Ephesians 1:3 *Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.*



"HAS blessed us" = already done, already done at salvation

HOLY SPIRIT at moment of salvation does this

"with EVERY spiritual blessing" = not just some but every

Not every PHYSICAL blessing, but SPIRITUAL

Spiritual more important, last forever

2 Cor 5:17 *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!*

"new creation" = old gone, new in Christ
Become Christian = rights and privileges of that

"in Christ" = key phrase repeated over and over in Eph.

GOD PLANNED AND CHOSE US _____ CREATING THE WORLD

Ephesians 1:4 *For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love*



Jeremiah 1:5 *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart;*

GOD CREATED US IN HIS LIKENESS AND _____

Genesis 1:26 *Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness*

HE _____ FOR OUR SIN BEFORE WE WERE EVEN BORN

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

HE FORMED AND CARED FOR US IN MOTHER'S _____

Psalms 139:13-15 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. ... 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth,



HE _____ US AND CALLS US HIS FRIENDS

John 15:15-16 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. 16 You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit — fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.

HE IS OUR FATHER AND WE ARE HIS _____

1 John 3:1-2 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. 2 Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.

John 1:12 Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God—

HE HAS BECOME OUR _____

Romans 8:15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father."



Galatians 4:6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father."

HE RESCUED US FROM _____

Galatians 4:4-7 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. 6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir.

PUTS HIS HOLY SPIRIT _____ US

John 14:17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.



HE GIVES AN _____ INHERITANCE WITH HIS SON, JESUS

Romans 8:14-17 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

WE ARE SEEN AS _____ IN HIS SIGHT

Romans 1:7 To all in Rome who are loved by God and called to be saints: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.



Nothing we do can make Him love us more

Nothing we do can make Him love us less

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

PRINCIPLES ARISING FROM THESE SAVING NAMES

COMPLETE

God's provision in salvation is complete



FAMILY

Shows He is able and willing to complete what He started

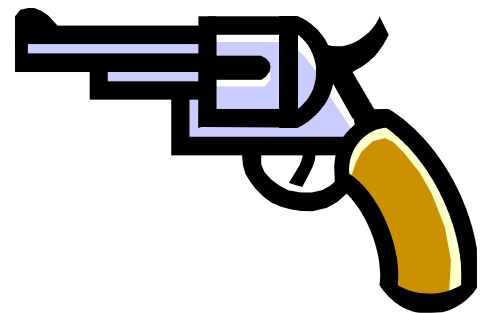
Phil 1:6 being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Can't lose salvation – or God loses His nature and character as Savior and Provider
Nothing can separate us from God (Rom 8:33-39)

GOD PROVIDES POWER

Acts 1:8 But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

POWER COMES FROM THE HOLY SPIRIT
Presence and power of the Holy Spirit – no greater power available



POWER TO Transform you into a new creature 22 Cor 5:17
Transform you into a new man Eph 4:24; Col 3:10
Deliver from temptations and trials 1 Cor 10:13; 22 Cor 2:14
Power to put His divine nature in us II Pt 1:4
Power to give life, abundant and eternal Jn 10:10; Jn 3:16

WE HAVE AUTHORITY & POWER

Luke 9:1 When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them _____ and _____ to drive out all demons and to cure diseases,



POWER AND AUTHORITY TO

PRAY in Jesus name

PREACH the truth in Jesus' power

ENCOURAGE people that God will forgive, take care of them

COUNSEL people with wisdom of Holy Spirit

REBUKE demons in Jesus name

ASK FOR HEALING if it is God's will

CLAIM PROTECTION for self, family, others, church

BIND UP powers of darkness attacking ministry, others

TEACH God's truth as final and absolute authority

WITNESS for Jesus to unbelievers

CALL ON GOD for comfort, encouragement, strength

CHALLENGE those in sin to change their lives

STUDY the Bible and ask God to show you truth, interpretation

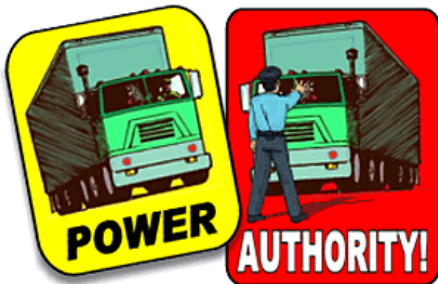
ASK GOD for wisdom, guidance, direction and listen to
Him provide it

VICTORY over sin that defeats us

HUMBLY SERVE when don't feel like it or want to

FORGIVE those who don't deserve it

SHOW UNCONDITIONAL LOVE to all



REMEMBER...



1. WE ARE AT

1 John 5:19 We know that we are children of God, and the whole world is under the control of the evil one.

Ephesians 6:10-13 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.

Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.

2 Corinthians 10:4 The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

2. WE HAVE ALL WE NEED IN

1 John 3:1 How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

3. WE MUST TO JESUS

John 15:1 "I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. "

John 15:4-5 Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

WHO I AM IN CHRIST "

I am accepted...

I am God's child ~ John 1:12
As a disciple, I am a friend of Jesus Christ ~ John 15:15
I have been justified ~ Romans 5:1
I am united with the Lord, and I am one with Him in spirit ~ 1 Corin. 6:17
I have been bought with a price, and I belong to God ~ 1 Corin. 6:19-20
I am a member of Christ's body ~ 1 Corin. 12:27
I have been chosen by God and adopted as His child ~ Ephesians 1:3-8
I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins ~ Colossians 1:13-14
I am complete in Christ ~ Colossians 2:9-10
I have direct access to the throne of grace through Jesus Christ ~ Hebrews 4:14-16

I am secure...

I am free from condemnation ~ Romans 8:1-2
I am assured that God works for my good in all circumstances ~ Romans 8:28
I am free from any condemnation brought against me, and I cannot be separated from the love of God ~ Romans 8:31-39
I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God ~ 2 Corin. 1:21-22
I am hidden with Christ in God ~ Colossians 3:1-4
I am confident that God will complete the good work He started in me ~ Philippians 1:6
I am a citizen of Heaven ~ Philippians 3:20
I have not been given the spirit of fear but of power, love, and a sound mind ~ 2 Timothy 1:7
I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me ~ 1 John 5:18

I am significant...

I am the branch of Jesus Christ, the true vine, and a channel of His life ~ John 15:5
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit ~ John 15:16
I am God's temple ~ 1 Corin. 3:16
I am a minister of reconciliation for God ~ 2 Corin.5:17-21
I am seated with Jesus Christ in the heavenly realm ~ Ephesians 2:6
I am God's workmanship ~ Ephesians 2:10
I may approach God with freedom and confidence ~ Ephesians 3:12
I can do all things through Christ, who strengthens me ~ Philippians 4:13



THE BELL

I KNOW WHO I AM

I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord(1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price(1 Cor. 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt.5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ(1 Cor 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil.3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God(2 Cor.5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God(Rom.8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor.1:21-22)
I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8: 28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship(Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected (Phil.. 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven (Col. 1:14). I have been adopted as God's child(Eph 1:5)
I belong to God
Do you know
who you are!?

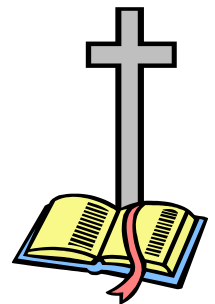
"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6:24-26



210 Things that are True of Me Now that I am Saved

1. My salvation is fully accomplished - John 19:30.
2. I have eternal life as a present possession - John 5:24; 6:47; 1 John 5:11-13.
3. I have Jesus Christ as my present possession - 1 John 5:12.
4. I know the one, true God - John 17:3; 1 John 2:3; 5:20.
5. I have been saved by His grace - Eph. 2:1-10.
6. I have been justified by His grace - Titus 3:7.
7. I have passed from death unto life - John 5:24; 1 John 3:14.
8. I have been quickened by God - Eph. 2:1,5; Col. 2:13.
9. I have been made fit for heaven - Col. 1:12.
10. I have the forgiveness of sins - Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14.
11. My sins have been taken away - John 1:29; Heb. 9:26; 1 John 3:5.
12. My sins have been completely purged - Heb. 1:3.
13. My sins will never be remembered by God - Heb. 8:12; 10:17.
14. My name is written in the Lamb's Book of Life - Phil. 4:3
15. My life is hid with in God - Col. 3:3
16. I have been forgiven all trespasses - Col. 2:13; 1 John 2:12.
17. I have been fully justified - Rom. 4:5; 8:30; 1 Cor. 6:11; Gal. 2:16; Tit. 3:7.
18. I am reconciled to God - 2 Cor. 5:18,19; Col. 1:20.
19. I am made nigh by the blood of Christ - Eph. 2:13.
20. I am redeemed through His blood - 1 Pet. 1:18,19; Eph. 1:7; Col. 1:14.
21. I am redeemed from the curse of the law - Gal. 3:13.
22. I am redeemed from all iniquity - Titus 2:14.
23. I am bought with a price - 1 Cor. 6:20; 7:23.
24. I am delivered from so great a death - 2 Cor. 1:10.
25. I have been delivered from this present evil world - Gal. 1:4.
26. I have been delivered from the power of darkness - Col. 1:13.
27. I have been delivered from the wrath to come - 1 Thess. 1:10.
28. I will not come into condemnation or judgment - John 5:24; Rom. 8:1.
29. I am a child of God - John 1:12; Rom. 8:16; Gal. 3:26; 1 John 3:1,2.
30. I am a son of God - Gal. 4:5-7.
31. I belong to Jesus Christ - Gal. 3:29; 5:24.
32. I have been adopted - Gal. 4:5; Rom. 8:15,23.
33. I am an heir of God and joint-heir with Christ - Rom. 8:17; Tit. 3:7.
34. I am an heir of the grace of life - 1 Pet. 3:7.
35. All things are mine - 1 Cor. 3:21-23.
36. I possess all things - 2 Cor. 6:10.
37. I will inherit all things - Rev. 21:7.
38. I am enriched by Christ in everything - 1 Cor. 1:5; 2 Cor. 9:11.
39. I am a fellow-heir - Eph. 3:6.
40. I am rich because of Christ - 2 Cor. 8:9; Rev. 2:9.
41. I am blessed with every spiritual blessing - Eph. 1:3.
42. I have obtained an inheritance - Eph. 1:11,14; Heb. 1:14; 9:15; 1 Pet. 1:4.
43. I have been appointed to obtain salvation - 1 Thess. 5:9; Heb. 1:14.
44. I am His inheritance - Eph. 1:18.
45. I am a partaker of His promise in Christ by the gospel - Eph. 3:6.
46. I am a new creature in Christ - 2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 2:10; 4:24; Col. 3:10.
47. I have been renewed by the Holy Spirit - Tit. 3:5.
48. I am accepted and highly favored in the Beloved - Eph. 1:6.
49. I am seated in heavenly places in Christ - Eph. 2:6.

50. I am to the praise of His glory - Eph. 1:6,12.
51. I am light in the Lord - Eph. 5:8.
52. I am a child of light - Eph. 5:8; 1 Thess. 5:5.
53. I am a "peculiar person": God's special, purchased possession - Tit. 2:14; 1 Pet. 2:9.
54. I am a priest who can offer spiritual sacrifices - Heb. 13:15,16; 1 Pet. 2:5,9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6.
55. I am a king who will reign - Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6.
56. I am privileged to have fellowship with the Father and with the Son- 1 John 1:3.
57. I dwell in Christ - John 6:56; 1 John 3:24; 4:13,15,16.
58. Christ dwells in me - John 6:56; Gal. 2:20; 1 John 3:24; 4:12-16.
59. I am in Christ - John 14:20; 2 Cor. 5:17.
60. Christ is in me - John 14:20; Col. 1:27; 1 John 4:4.
61. The Spirit of God dwells in me - Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 3:16; Eph. 2:21,22.
62. I am not in the flesh but in the Spirit - Rom. 8:9.
63. My "earthen vessel" houses a great Treasure - 2 Cor. 4:7.
64. My body is the temple of the Holy Spirit - 1 Cor. 6:19.
65. I have the gift of the Holy Spirit - 2 Cor. 1:22; Gal. 4:6; Eph. 1:13,14; 1 Thess. 4:8; 1 Jn 3:24; 4:13.
66. I have an anointing (unction) from the Holy One - 1 John 2:20,27.
67. I have an anchor for my soul, both sure and steadfast - Heb. 6:19
68. I am one of the called of Jesus Christ - Rom. 1:6; 8:28-30; Jude 1; Rev. 17:14.
69. I have been called unto the fellowship of God's Son - 1 Cor. 1:9.
70. I have been called unto eternal glory - 1 Pet. 5:10.
71. I have been called with a holy calling - 2 Tim. 1:9.
72. I am a partaker of the high, heavenly calling - Phil. 3:14; Heb. 3:1.
73. I have been called out of darkness into His marvelous light - 1 Pet. 2:9.
74. God foreknew me - Rom. 8:29; 1 Pet. 1:2.
75. God predestined me to be conformed to Christ's image - Rom. 8:29; Eph. 1:5,11.
76. I have already been glorified according to God's mind and purpose - Rom. 8:30.
77. I am eternally secure in God's love - Rom. 8:38,39.
78. I am chosen in Christ - Eph. 1:4; Col. 3:12; 1 Thess. 1:4; 1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 17:14.
79. I am complete in Christ - Col. 2:10.
80. I am beloved of God - Col. 3:12; 2 Thess. 2:13.
81. I am chastened and disciplined by my Heavenly Father - Heb. 12:6,7.
82. I am one that Christ is not ashamed to call His "brethren" & "friends" - Heb. 2:11; John 15:14,15.
83. I am a child of Abraham - Gal. 3:7.
84. I am Abraham's seed - Gal. 3:29.
85. I enjoy the blessing of Abraham - Gal. 3:9.
86. I am a child of promise - Gal. 4:28,31.
87. I am faithful - Rev. 17:14.
88. I am a sheep in His flock - Luke 12:32; Heb. 13:20; 1 Pet. 2:25.
89. I am a member in His body - 1 Cor. 10:17; Eph. 3:6; 4:25; 5:30.
90. I am a stone in His building - Eph. 2:20-22; Heb. 3:6; 1 Pet. 2:5.
91. I am a branch in His vine - John 15:1-7.
92. I am a child of His kingdom - Matt. 13:38; Mark 10:14,15; Luke 17:21.
93. I am born again into His family - John 1:12,13; James 1:18; 1 Pet. 1:3,23; 2:2; 1 John 5:1.
94. I am one of God's people because He graciously claims me as His own - 1 Pet. 2:10; Rev. 21:7.
95. I am a fellow citizen with the saints - Eph. 2:19.
96. I was baptized into Jesus Christ - Rom. 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:12-13 Gal. 3:27.
97. I was identified with Christ in His death - Rom. 6:3-6,8-11; 2 Cor. 5:14; Col. 2:12,20; 3:3.



98. I was identified with Christ in His resurrection - Rm. 6:5,8,11; 2 Cor. 5:15; Gal. 2:20; Col. 2:12; 3:1.
99. I am dead to sin - Rom. 6:2.
100. My "old man" was crucified with Christ - Rom. 6:6; Gal. 2:20
101. I have crucified the flesh with its affections and lusts - Gal. 5:24.
102. I am alive unto God - Rom. 6:11,13; Gal. 2:19,20.
103. Christ is my life - Phil. 1:21; Col. 3:4.
104. I can walk in newness of life - Rom. 6:4.
105. I can serve in newness of spirit - Rom. 7:6.
106. I can live unto righteousness - 1 Pet. 2:24.
107. I died to the law - Rom. 7:4; Gal. 2:19.
108. I am delivered from the law - Rom. 7:6.
109. I am not under the law but under grace - Rom. 6:14.
110. I have God's laws written in my heart - Heb. 10:16.
111. I am married to Jesus Christ - Rom. 7:4.
112. I am a partaker of Christ - Heb. 3:14.
113. I am identified with Christ in His suffering - 2 Tim. 2:12; Phil. 1:29; 1 Pet. 2:20; 4:12,13; 1 Thess. 3:3; Rom. 8:18; Col. 1:24.
114. The knowledge of God is made known by me - 2 Cor. 2:14.
115. The savor (aroma) of Christ is made known by me - 2 Cor. 2:15,16.
116. I am an epistle of Christ - 2 Cor. 3:3.
117. I am being changed into Christ's glorious image - 2 Cor. 3:18.
118. I am being perfected - Phil. 1:6.
119. My inward man is being renewed day by day - 2 Cor. 4:16.
120. I have put on Christ - Gal. 3:27.
121. I am not of the world - John 17:14,16.
122. The world is crucified unto me - Gal. 6:14.
123. I am crucified unto the world - Gal. 6:14.
124. I am separated unto the gospel of God - Rom. 1:1.
125. I am sanctified in Christ Jesus - 1 Cor. 1:2; 6:11; Heb. 10:10; Jude 1.
126. I am holy - Col. 3:12; Heb. 3:1; 1 Pet. 2:9; Rev. 20:6.
127. I am clothed in His righteousness - Rev. 19:18.
128. I am a saint - 1 Cor. 1:2; Phil. 1:1; Col. 1:2; Rom. 1:7.
129. I am faultless in Christ - Eph. 5:27; Col. 1:22; Jude 24.
130. I am perfected forever - Heb. 10:14.
131. I am not my own - 1 Cor. 6:19.
132. I am called unto holiness - 1 Thess. 4:7.
133. I am a citizen of heaven - Phil. 3:20.
134. I am a stranger and pilgrim who is not at home in this world - Heb. 11:13; 1 Pet. 2:11.
135. I have been translated into the kingdom of the Son of His love - Col. 1:13.
136. I am circumcised in my heart - Col. 2:11; Phil 3:3 (cf. Dt. 10:16).
137. My faithful God will sanctify me wholly - 1 Thess. 5:23,24.
138. My faithful God will keep me from evil - 2 Thess. 3:3; 2 Tim. 4:18.
139. Christ has made me free, free indeed - John 8:32,36; Gal. 5:1; 1 Cor. 7:22.
140. Jesus Christ is my Deliverer - Rom. 7:24,25.
141. I am free from sin - Rom. 6:7,18,22.
142. The law of the Spirit of Life has made me free from the law of sin and death - Rom. 8:2.
143. I am God's servant /slave - Rom. 6:22.
144. I am Christ's servant/slave - 1 Cor. 7:22.



145. I am a servant/slave of righteousness - Rom. 6:18.
146. I have been called unto liberty - Gal. 5:13.
147. I have the mind of Christ - 1 Cor. 2:16.
148. I have a sound mind - 2 Tim. 1:7.
149. Christ has given me an understanding - 1 John 5:20.
150. I have the righteousness of Christ - 2 Cor. 5:21.
151. I have all sufficiency in all things - 2 Cor. 9:8.
152. I have all things that pertain to life and godliness - 2 Pet. 1:3.
153. I can ever be content for I have Christ - Heb. 13:5.
154. I have all the armor and weapons I need - 2 Cor. 10:4; Eph. 6:10-17.
155. I have God's all-sufficient grace - 2 Cor. 12:9.
156. I have grace to help in time of need - Heb. 4:16.
157. I have God's power - Eph. 1:19; 3:20.
158. I have access to the Father - Eph. 2:18; Heb. 4:16.
159. I have a great High Priest - Heb. 2:17,18; 3:1; 4:14-16; 8:1; 10:21.
160. I have an unfailing Intercessor - Heb. 7:25; 9:24; Rom. 8:34.
161. I have a righteous Advocate with the Father for times when I sin - 1 John 2:1.
162. I have peace with God - Rom. 5:1.
163. Christ is my peace - Eph. 2:14.
164. I have rest for my soul - Matt. 11:28,29; Heb. 4:9.
165. I am led by the Spirit of God - Rom. 8:14.
166. I am enabled during trials and temptations - 1 Cor. 10:13.
167. I am given assurance by the Spirit - Rom. 8:16; Heb. 6:18.
168. I am given comfort by God - 2 Cor. 1:3-7.
169. I am tranquilized by His peace - Phil. 4:7.
170. I am freely given truth and knowledge by the Spirit - 1 Cor. 2:12.
171. I am not distressed - 2 Cor. 4:8.
172. I am not in despair - 2 Cor. 4:8.
173. I am not forsaken - 2 Cor. 4:9.
174. I am not in darkness - 1 Thess. 5:4.
175. God is my Sufficiency - 2 Cor. 3:5.
176. God is my Strength - 2 Cor. 12:9,10; Phil. 4:13.
177. God is my Helper - Heb. 13:6.
178. I belong to a Sovereign God who works all things together for my good - Rom. 8:28.
179. All things are for my sake - 2 Cor. 4:15.
180. My God is for me - Rom. 8:31.
181. My every need is supplied - Phil. 4:19.
182. I am a laborer together with Christ - 1 Cor. 3:9; 2 Cor. 6:1.
183. I am His workmanship - Eph. 2:10.
184. God works in me - Phil. 2:13; Heb. 13:21.
185. God's Word works in me - 1 Thess. 2:13.
186. I am sealed by God - 2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13.
187. I am on the Rock, Christ Jesus - Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 3:11.
188. I am established securely in Christ - 2 Cor. 1:21; 2 Thess. 3:3.
189. I am kept by the power of God - 1 Pet. 1:5.
190. I am preserved in Jesus Christ - Jude 1.
191. I am kept from falling - Jude 24.
192. I have a building of God eternal in the heavens - 2 Cor. 5:1.
193. My name is forever written in heaven - Luke 10:20.



194. I am more than a conqueror: a super-conqueror - Rom. 8:37.
195. I have victory through Christ - 1 Cor. 15:57.
196. I have overcome the world - 1 John 5:4,5.
197. I always triumph in Christ - 2 Cor. 2:14.
198. I am indwelt by the victorious Christ who is greater than Satan - 1 John 4:4.
199. Satan cannot touch me - 1 John 5:18.
200. I have a living hope - 1 Pet. 1:3.
201. I have a glorious future - Rom. 8:18; 2 Thess. 2:14.
202. I have been given eternal encouragement and good hope through grace- 2 Thess. 2:16.
203. I will be given a new body just like Christ's glorified body - Phil. 3:20-21.
204. I will be preserved unto His heavenly kingdom - 2 Tim. 4:18.
205. I am receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved - Heb. 12:28.
206. I have a place reserved in heaven for me - John 14:2,3; 1 Pet. 1:4.
207. I will not be hurt of the second death - Rev. 2:11; 20:6.
208. I will have a new name - Rev. 2:17; 3:12.
209. I will sit with Christ in His throne - Rev. 3:21.
210. I will be with my God forever - Rev. 21:3,4.

I am God's child (John 1:12)
 I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
 I am united with the Lord(1 Cor. 6:17)
 I am bought with a price(1 Cor. 6:19-20)
 I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
 I am a personal witness of Christ (Acts 1:8)
 I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt.5:13-14)
 I am a member of the body of Christ(1 Cor 12:27)
 I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
 I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil.3:20)
 I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31-34)
 I am a minister of reconciliation for God(2 Cor.5:17-21)
 I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
 I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
 I cannot be separated from the love of God(Rom.8:35-39)
 I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor.1:21-22)
 I am assured all things work together for good (Rom. 8: 28)
 I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
 I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
 I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
 I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
 I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
 I am hidden with Christ in God (Col 3:3).
 I have been justified (Rom 5:1)
 I am God's co-worker (1 Cor 3:9; 2).
 I am God's workmanship (Eph 2:10)
 the good work God began in me will be perfected (Phil 1: 5)
 I have been redeemed & forgiven (Col. 1:14).
 and been adopted (Eph 1:5)



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