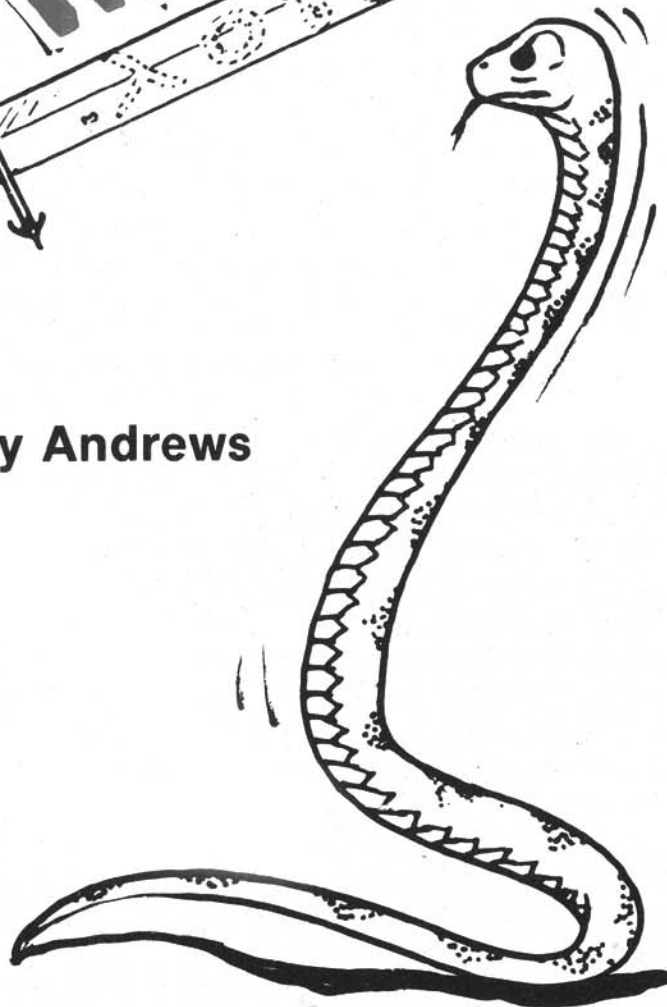


**IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO
TAKE THE OFFENSIVE IN . . .**



by Ray Andrews



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INTRODUCTION: What is Spiritual Warfare?

Do you have bad habits that you can't seem to break? Are you suffering with illness, discomfort, or pain in your body? Are you troubled emotionally? Are you afraid, hurt, depressed, angry, sad, irritated, frustrated? Are you harassed by feelings of guilt, inferiority, resentment, or rejection? Do you find it hard to accept yourself or to get along with others? Are you unable to cope with certain situations? Is your mind plagued by certain kinds of thoughts – lust, bad memories, grudges, fantasies? Do you find it difficult to concentrate or to control and direct your thought processes? Is it hard for you to make decisions or to deal with reality? Do you have trouble going to sleep or waking up? Do you have bad dreams? Are you feeling the effects of stress, anxiety, and tension? Are you prone to accidents or mistakes?

If any of these describe what is happening to you, then you are experiencing Spiritual Warfare. Perhaps you have tried to deal with your problems by seeking help in medicine psychology, exercise, yoga or other methods, only to find that these do not provide lasting solutions, nor do they deal with the root causes of your problems. This is because your problems originate in the spiritual realm, the invisible realm; everything originates there.

“By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that what we see was not made out of things which are visible.” (Hebrews 11:3). Science has confirmed this by demonstrating that solid matter is made up of atoms, which in turn are made up of sub-atomic particles that are invisible seen under the strongest microscope. There is more to reality than what you see, feel or experience with your senses; therefore you need to be aware of the reality of the spiritual realm in order to get help for your problems, and you must recognize that God alone can provide the answers you need. ***“The weapons of our warfare are not physical, but they are mighty before God***

for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds.” (II Corinthians 10:4).

God is not the only spiritual force at work in the universe; the devil also exists, and his aim is to destroy you. The devil, or “satan” as he is called in the Bible, is not a man in a red suit with horns and a pitchfork but rather a spirit who is actively at work in this world, producing everything evil and destructive. ***“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness in this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places”*** (Ephesians 6:12, KJV*). Even though these spirit forces are invisible, they are just as real as things you can see. The Bible says that satan is the prince of the power of the air¹ and the god of this world²; he is always working against God and trying to keep people from coming to God. Not only is satan the father of all that is false³ and the deceiver of all humanity⁴, he is the thief whose main purpose is to steal, kill and destroy⁵. Whenever you do something wrong, satan immediately brings it to God's attention⁶; and whenever you do what is pleasing to God, satan tries to stir up strife or persecution against you⁷. You are not going to be ignored by satan, so you must learn to fight back; if you don't, he will destroy you! If he can't damn your soul to hell, he will at least do all he can to make life miserable for you on earth.

Knowing what satan is up to is half the battle, and God has promised in His word to give you the courage and strength you need to overcome whatever problems satan has thrown in your path. Even if your mind doesn't comprehend the reality of the spirit realm, or you have trouble believing in God, reach out to Him as best you know how and ask Him to help your unbelief⁸. He will help you; He will give you the answers you need as you seek Him with all your heart. God's word is the final authority, and it won't let you down whenever you accept it with faith like a child's⁹.

1. Ephesians 2:2
2. II Corinthians 4:4
3. John 8:44
4. Revelation 12:9
5. John 10:10
6. Revelation 12:10
7. II Timothy 3:12
8. Mark 9:23
9. Hebrews 5:19, Mark 10:15, Matthew 11:25

CHAPTER ONE: Who is the Enemy?

The Origin of Evil

If God is all good and satan is all evil, and God is more powerful than satan, why has there been so much destruction in the world? Could it be that God doesn't care what satan does? No, certainly a loving God would care when there is destruction, heartache, and evil. Then is evil allowed by God in order to fulfill His purposes, and are "good" and "evil" just concepts we have of the way things ought to be? No, God has shown us what is good¹⁰, and there's nothing good about evil, although God can bring about good even in evil situations. When God finished His work and said, "it is good," He meant what He said – it was good! He is a God of love and perfection, and His desire has always been to reflect His nature and character in the things He created. He formed the highest orders of His creatures – first the angels and then man – to share some of His powers, particularly the power to choose. God didn't want a universe full of robots; He wanted sons who would be like His only-begotten son, Jesus, Who has been with Him throughout eternity¹¹.

The best and brightest of God's angels was Lucifer (meaning "the light-bringer"), the chief angel of heaven. Like all the other angels, he was a spirit being whose job was to serve God and worship Him; the Bible tells us that he was perfect until he chose to rebel against God¹². Why would he do such a thing? Because of ***"the abundance of his commerce he was filled with lawlessness and violence, and he sinned...his heart was proud and lifted up because of his beauty; he corrupted his wisdom for the sake of his splendor"*** (Ezekiel 28:1-17). Having the power to choose his actions and the ability to influence others (which was his "commerce"), Lucifer's God-given beauty and wisdom turned into pride and selfish ambition. ***He said in his heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will sit***

upon the mount of the assembly in the uttermost north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High." (Isaiah 14:13-14). Because Lucifer had great influence in heaven, one-third of the angels sided with him in his revolt.

Why didn't God just wipe satan and his angels out instead of giving them freedom to roam the universe? Because God is life¹⁴. He cannot and will not make anything return to nothingness. The only kind of destruction there can be with God is that which is brought about through the natural outcome of processes He has set in motion; even the hell of fire which will be satan's ultimate destination is "brought forth out of his own midst" – his own violence will be his ultimate destruction¹⁵. And since God is a God of justice¹⁶, He would not destroy satan and his angels for doing something they had the power (and had not been forbidden) to do. The final sentence was passed on satan when he condemned Jesus¹⁷. Jesus, God's only-begotten son, was born as a man from a virgin mother; He lived a sinless life, died on a cross and rose again from the dead to buy mankind back from satan's control and to release us from the punishment that we were due. ***"For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil."*** (I John 3:8, KJV).

Like the fallen angels, mankind came under satan's evil influence and took his stand against God. God is as just and fair with us as He was with satan; He has allowed us to choose whether we will serve Him or satan. God accepted the blood of Jesus as the sacrifice for our sins and the cure for our rebellion, providing that we accept it. By believing in our hearts that God raised Jesus from the dead, we are saved¹⁸ from the punishment that is reserved for satan and his followers¹⁹.

19 Mathew 25:41

10 Micah 6:8

11 Ephesians 1:4-5; Ephesians 2:10

12 Ezekiel 28:14-15

13 Luke 10:18, Isaiah 14:12

14 John 12:31

15 Ezekiel 28:18

16 Isaiah 30:18

17 John 12:31

18 Romans 10:8-10

Jesus is coming again to this earth to reign as King, but before He does, God will judge evil on the face of the earth in a seven-year chain of events known as “the Tribulation: or “The Day of the Lord.” Those who are following satan at that time will die horrible deaths this world has ever known in a series of disasters that will literally change the face of this earth.²⁰ Those who have not sold out to satan by taking his mark²¹ will cry out to God at that time; even though many will be martyred for their faith, God will accept their repentance. When the Tribulation is over, Jesus will return to set up the Kingdom of God on earth and rule for a thousand years, and finally there will be unlimited peace and prosperity. During this thousand years satan will be locked up so that he cannot influence the lives of men, except at the very end when he is released for a short time.²² Then satan and all those who serve him, both men and angels, will be brought before God’s throne to receive their punishment and will be thrown into the lake of fire to be tormented forever.²³

Although these facts are clearly set forth in the Bible and have been with us for a long time, satan still thinks he can carry out his plan to overthrow God’s government, and God won’t do anything to satan until the appointed time. Therefore, we still have to contend with him and not let him influence our lives. Jesus said in John 16:33, ***“In the world you will have tribulation, trials, distress, and frustration, but be of good cheer for I have***

overcome the world.” Jesus gave us power to control and restrain satan: He said that the gates of hell would not prevail against His church²⁴, and if Jesus is your savior this promise applies to you! God promised to subdue all the spirit forces that fight against us, and He told you to ***“rule, then, in the midst of your enemies.”*** (Ps. 110:1-2).

Satan Rules by Default

If satan has been defeated, and God has given Christians power over him²⁵ why then has he been able to do what he has all these years? Because Christians didn’t believe in the reality of satan, or else they didn’t know what power they actually had over him. Many times they were afraid to use that power, because they had made too many compromises with him in their lives. God said in Hosea 4:6 “My people are destroyed for their lack of knowledge.” The knowledge He referred to here is not intellectual or scientific, but spiritual – the knowledge of what is going on in the realm of the spirit, the on-material realm. This knowledge is absolutely essential in order to keep from being overpowered by satan. Just as he tried to stop Jesus from carrying out Gods plan, satan will try everything he can to stop you if you’ve made a serious commitment to do the will of God. So now we are ready to begin our examination of how he does this and what we can do about it.

20 For example, see Revelation 6

21 Revelation 13:16-18

22 Revelation 20:2-3,7-9

23 Revelation 20:10

24 Matthew 16:18

25 Luke 10:19

CHAPTER TWO: The Nature of Spiritual Warfare

Mental Suggestions

The most common method of attack satan uses against you is the one he used against Adam and Eve – mental suggestions. As a result of Adam and Eve’s sin, all mankind inherited the same tendency to fall into satan’s temptations.²⁶ Because people are earthly-minded by nature,²⁷ ungodly thoughts come naturally to a person’s mind; most people don’t even recognize that these thoughts are placed there by satan. Thoughts from satan come in the form of **“imagination, arguments, theories, reasonings, and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the true knowledge of God.”** (Corinthians 10:5) The true knowledge of God is the knowledge that He is God, His word is true, and He loves you! Any thought that is contrary to God’s word – impure, unreal, unloving, selfish – is from satan. By continually putting these kinds of thoughts in your mind, satan tries to keep your attention centered on people, things, situations and yourself instead of God and His word. The more you accept his thoughts, the more you will experience hate, fear, worry, guilt, self-pity, depression, doubt, lust and anger, and the less you will be able to receive the good things God has for you. Often satan twists words and actions of other people to make his arguments more convincing. Your mind is the primary battleground in your war with satan. If you let him get the vest of you there, you’ll have a more difficult time fighting off fleshly temptations, emotional upsets, sickness, accidents, and other physical attacks. The way to overcome satan’s mental suggestions is to counter them with what the word of God says, which we will discuss more fully in Chapter 5. But now let’s look at an even broader area of satan’s influence that can affect not only your thoughts but also what you experience in the natural world.

Trying Circumstances

God originally gave mankind complete authority over the earth and all that was in it²⁸; in God’s original plan there was nothing in creation that man couldn’t handle. Before Adam and Eve disobeyed

God and ate of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they knew nothing of evil, trouble, sickness or calamity – they were innocent. But they followed Satan’s advice and disobeyed God’s command, so they lost their authority to rule the earth; mankind became subject to death, disease, poverty, pain and any other distressing conditions satan could use to beat us down. God didn’t leave us helpless; He promises us that no temptation or trial is beyond our power to resist, and He always provides a way through or out of every one of them.²⁹

Being attacked by satan is a normal part of everyday life because **“satan roams around like a lion roaring in fierce hunger, seeking someone to seize upon and devour.”** (1 Peter 5:8) God restricts satan’s attacks against us according to our degree of accountability and our power to endure; otherwise, satan would have destroyed all mankind long ago. Once we receive the word of God and find out what satan is up to, we then must accept the personal responsibility of resisting him and not letting him get by with what he normally does. When a person knows who satan is and learns that he has power over him through the name of Jesus, the conflict becomes much more serious. This is the reason why any people have a hard time after they make a commitment to Jesus Christ. When a person has the power to resist satan and fails to do so, satan will come in and manipulate circumstances in his life. Ultimately satan wants total control of a person, a condition referred to as “demonic possession.” Short of that, however, satan usually works on people by weighing them down with problems. Most people don’t think there is anything that can be done about their troubles and simply accept them as part of life, not realizing that satan is the one to blame. Some people have heard religious saying that God puts troubles on people to teach them a lesson. This is error; God has said that He wants us to **“prosper and be in health even as our soul prospers”** (3 John 2 KJV). James 1:17 clearly indicates that only good and perfect gifts come from God.

26 Romans 5:12

27 I Corinthians 15:48

28 Genesis 1:26, 28

29 I Corinthians 10:13

The Flesh Nature

Negative thoughts, bad luck and trouble are not the only things satan has to offer; some of his offers are very appealing to the flesh. Eve believed satan's lie and ate the forbidden fruit because it looked good and she wanted it.³⁰ Likewise satan stimulates our fleshly appetites and desires so that we will listen to and obey him by seeking to please ourselves rather than seeking to please God by listening to and obeying Him. This is the nature of fallen mankind, as Ephesians 2:1-3 says: ***“And you God made alive, when you were dead, slain by your trespasses and sins in which at one time you walked habitually. You were following the course and fashion of this world, were under the sway and tendency of this present age, following the prince of the power of the air. You were obedient to him and were under his control, the demon spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience – the careless, the rebellious and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God. Among these we as well as you once lived and conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh – our cravings dictated by our senses and dark imaginings.”*** The flesh nature within people produces greed and selfishness, which leads to fighting and other interpersonal problems. ***“What leads to strife and how do conflicts originate among you? Do they not arise from your sensual desires that are ever warring in your bodily members?”*** (James 4:1) ***“Wherever there is strife, jealousy, envy, contention, rivalry, and selfish ambition there will also be confusion, unrest, disharmony, rebellion, and all sorts of evil and vile practices.”*** (James 3:16) Indulging selfish desires and appetites causes people to have problems not only with others but also with themselves, physically, financially, emotionally, and mentally as well as spiritually. Every person has a battle with “self,” whether it is in the area of feelings, attitudes, habits, or just that voice within that is always demanding gratification.

The desires of the old nature – lust, greed, covetousness, and all forms of selfishness – cause people to sin. Sin is a thought, word, or deed

contrary to God's ways;³¹ it is not only doing what is wrong but not doing what is right.³² “Every person is tempted when he is drawn away, enticed and baited by his own evil desire. Then the evil desire when it has conceived gives birth to sin, and sin when it is fully matured brings forth death. (James 1:14-15) Sin is the reason people die.³³ God wants to perfect us so that we will stop sinning and stop dying – to be perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect.³⁴ This is accomplished only as we believe the word of God and apply it to our lives, letting it change us. A Christian won't deliberately and habitually practice sin;³⁵ if he gets tripped up in sin he will know he has and won't feel good about it because the Holy Spirit lets him know when he needs to repent. Also, when Christians sin, satan has an excuse to put guilt and condemnation on them and lock their prayers from being answered.

Victory Through Commitment

So far we have given a very brief description of the ways in which satan operates; we have hardly begun to describe his ruthlessness and cruelty or the heartache and destruction he causes. Even the smallest problem can turn into a major one if it isn't dealt with by using spiritual weapons. The key to having victory over satan and his demonic forces is not your natural ability or strength but your commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ. Anything that comes between you and God is something satan can use against you. Once you make the decision to walk with God, you must keep your eyes on Jesus and seek first His kingdom and righteousness.³⁶ People can fail you, but Jesus never fails. He loved you while you were still a sinner, and He died for you, and He is still interceding for you at the Throne of God. Because of Jesus' death on the cross you can win all the battles in your life – He gave His life as a guarantee.

30 Genesis 3:6

31 I John 3:4

32 James 4:17

33 Romans 6:23

34 Matthew 5:48

35 I John 3:9-10

36 Matthew 6:33

Before you received Jesus as your savior, you were satan's property; he controlled you by planting thoughts in your mind, stirring up desires in your flesh, and manipulating circumstances around you. Your sins separated you from God; you had ***"no knowledge of or right in God's agreements, His covenants. And you had no hope – no promise; you were in the world without God."*** (Ephesians 2:12) When you receive Jesus in your heart, you no longer belong to satan but to God, giving you the authority He has over satan and demonic forces.³⁷ Jesus will help you overcome every problem if you will accept His Word and live by it. As you order your life by the Word of God, your faith is strengthened so that you can stand up and fight satan. ***"If God be for us, who can be against us? Who can be our foe, if God is on our side? He who did not withhold or spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, will He not also with Him freely and graciously give us all things?...We are more***

than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him who loved us." (Romans 8:31-32, 37) Jesus won this victory for us when He died on the Cross. This means more than just not having to go to Hell; it means we can be free from satan's torment in this life here and now. ***"The Spirit of the Lord God is upon Me, because the Lord has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the meek, the poor and the afflicted; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison and of the eyes to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord; to comfort all who mourn; to give them an ornament of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise instead of a heavy, burdened and failing spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that He may be glorified."*** (Isaiah 61:1-3)

37 Matthew 28:18, Luke 10:19, Matthew 10:1

CHAPTER THREE: Satan's Legal Right to Attack

If humanity were not falling short of what God required, Satan would have no right to attack us. God set forth laws, both natural and spiritual, to govern the universe. Also, God gave Moses "the Law" at Mt. Sinai to teach His people how to recognize and deal with sin, as well as to discourage any disobedience by warning of the consequences that would result; these are the "curses of the Law." What God has declared "unlawful" is always something that would harm us if we did it, and the results of the curses of the Law are simply the natural outcome of breaking God's laws. Because Satan is the instigator of sin, he uses the curses to bring destruction against the human race by demanding that God enforce His commands. Curses come not just upon the one who sinned but also his offspring,³⁸ due to the natural law that says everything reproduces according to its own kind, having the seed of the next generation within itself.³⁹ Children inherit certain physical and psychological characteristics from their parents. This is true in the spirit realm also: tendencies toward certain sins and shortcomings are also passed on from one generation to the next. Likewise, the effects of a curse are passed down through inheritance; this includes such things as deformities, handicaps, retardation, mental and

physical illness, bad habits, addictions, negative personality traits, inabilities, emotional problems, excesses and extremes, compulsions, obsessions, weaknesses, tendencies toward accidents or anything else bad that can happen to a person. God has a remedy for this: Jesus bore all the curses for us in His body on the cross and set us free and from their results.⁴⁰ However, this didn't happen "automatically" the moment you got saved; Satan is a "nit-picker," and he knows that it takes faith in order to receive anything from God.⁴¹ A person can have faith that Jesus has saved him from having to go to hell for his sins but still not know that Jesus bore the effects of curses inherited from his ancestors. Even though God forgives and washes away a person's sins when he accepts Jesus as his Savior, Satan doesn't cease his attacks in that person's life until the person starts to exercise his faith in that area. In other words, being born again doesn't automatically insure you against sickness, poverty, failure, accidents, or any other problem. If you want to be free from the effects of curses inherited through your family line, you must exercise faith and pray specifically for God to remove these problems from your life.

The following is a list of some specific sins that bring a curse and some of the effects of those curses:

Curses of the Law

Leviticus 20:27	Curse of death from being a wizard, a medium, having a familiar spirit
Leviticus 20:6	Curse of being cut off from the atonement from seeking help from the occult
Deuteronomy 23:1-3	Curse of damaged testicles or being a eunuch, curse of illegitimacy, curse of Ammonite or Moabite
Deuteronomy 27:15	Curse from idolatry
Isaiah 65:11,15	Curse of Gad (fortune) and Meni (destiny)
Isaiah 66:17	Curse of Adad – idolatry, false religion
Deuteronomy 27:16	Curse of guilt and death from dishonoring parents
Matthew 15:4	
Deuteronomy 27:17	Curse from moving neighbor's landmark
Deuteronomy 27:18	Curse from misleading the blind (Micah 3:1-7)
Deuteronomy 27:19	Curse from doing injustice (Proverbs 28:27)
Deuteronomy 27:20,22-23	Curses from incest (Leviticus 20:11, 12, 17-21)
Deuteronomy 27:21	Curse from having sex with animals
Leviticus 20:18	Curse from having sex with menstruating women
Leviticus 20:21	Curse of having no children from having sex with a brother's wife
Leviticus 20:13	Curse from homosexuality

38 Deuteronomy 5:9, Exodus 20:5

39 Genesis 1:11

40 Galatians 3:13, Colossians 2:14-15

41 Hebrews 11:6

Leviticus 20:10	Curse from adultery
Jeremiah 5:8	Curse of a stud and stallion – lust and adultery
Deuteronomy 27:24	Curse from secret murder – hatred (Matthew 5:21,22)
Genesis 4:11,12	Curse of a vagabond, non-productive – from murder
Deuteronomy 27:25	Curse from bribery to murder
Deuteronomy 27:26	Curse from disobedience to the Word of God
Leviticus 20:2-5	Curse of Molech – sacrificing children to idols
Numbers 5:12-28	Curse of barrenness, swelling, overweight, thigh falling away from jealousy and suspicion
Genesis 3:16	Curse on women: suffering in pregnancy and pain in childbearing
Genesis 3:17-19	Adam’s curse from obeying his wife instead of God: working in toil and sorrow in sweat of brow
Ezekiel 7:18	Curse of baldness, horror, dismay and shame
Romans 11:8-10	Curse of stupor, spiritual blindness
Deuteronomy 11:28	Curse of idolatry and disobedience
Jeremiah 48:10	Curse from slackness and indifference in doing the work of the Lord (Judges 5:23)
Malachi 3:8,9	Curse from withholding tithes and not giving to the Lord’s work
Micah 6:10-16	Curse from false balances, lying, wickedness
Zechariah 5:3,4	Curse from thievery, false swearing
Proverbs 3:33	Curse on the house of the wicked
Proverbs 28:27	Curse from not helping the poor
Malachi 2:2	Curse from not listening to and glorifying God
Malachi 1:14	Curse from deception, not keeping vows to God
Micah 2:1-3	Curse of not walking uprightly from devising iniquities on one’s bed, coveting, oppression
Micah 3:1-7	Curse of no vision, shame, blushing, being confounded from prophesying falsely
II Peter 2:14	Curse from spiritual harlotry: insatiable, beguiling, covetousness
Malachi 2:8-9	Curse from corrupt ministry of the Word, showing favoritism
Malachi 4:6	Curse of destruction of family priesthood: estranged parents and rebellious children
II Kings 9:22-37	Curse of Jezebel – fornication, witchcraft, treachery, manipulation (especially by women)
I Kings 21:19-29	Curse of Ahab from idolatry, selling out to evil (especially when incited by women)
Numbers 24:9	Curse from cursing any of God’s people
Jeremiah 17:5,6	Curse from trusting in man and the system
Proverbs 17:11	Curse of an evil man
Proverbs 23:21	Curse from self-indulgence, laziness, gluttony
Proverbs 28:7	Curse of bringing shame on parents from associating with gluttons, carousers and extravagant people
Psalms 119:21	Curse from pride and arrogance
Deuteronomy 28:15-68	Curses from not listening to God’s voice
Jeremiah 50:21	Curse of Merathaim – double rebellion and bitterness, defiance
I Samuel 25	Curse from not recognizing God and repaying evil for good
Judges 3:5-10	Curse of Chushan-rishaathaim – doubly wicked
Isaiah 33:1	Curse of the destroyer (Matthew 26:52)
Genesis 9:25	Curses of slavery from exposing father’s nakedness

These are not the only sins that bring a curse. Doing anything God warns us not to do opens a door for satan to come in and attack. Curses tend to become more and more ingrained in family lines as

time goes on. As a whole, people in the world today are having more problems than ever before, and this will continue to get worse as sin continues to be more open and flagrant.

CHAPTER FOUR: Demons and how They Enter

In the previous chapter we saw how sin gives satan a “legal right” to attack people. But how exactly does he bring about his evil work? Through the operation of demon spirits. These spirits fell along with Lucifer when he rebelled against God and was expelled from heaven. Demons can influence a person from the outside, or they can

take up residence in his body causing sin, sickness and various kinds of physical, mental and emotional problems. They can live in animals too,⁴² though they prefer people. Some demons, “Poltergeist spirits,” can even manipulate inanimate objects. The Bible speaks of demons as individual entities with definite personalities, such as:

- a) unclean (Mark 1:23)
- b) lying (Acts 1:1-11, 2 Chronicles 18:21)
- c) error (1 John 4:6, 2 Thessalonians 2:10-11 Note: in this reference, like the one in 2 Chronicles, God didn't cause people to err but simply let them suffer the consequences of refusing the truth)
- d) antichrist (1 John 4:3)
- e) stupor (Romans 11:7-8)
- f) deaf and dumb (Mark 9:25)
- g) leviathan, ruler of pride (Job 41, Isaiah 27:1)
- h) legion (Mark 5:8-9)
- i) fear (2 Timothy 1:7)
- j) slavery (Romans 8:15)
- k) infirmity (Luke 13:11-16)
- l) divination (Acts 16:16)

Every disease, misfortune, deformity, perversion, sin, false doctrine, and any other evil is brought about by demons whose job it is to manifest that particular thing. Besides “foot soldiers” there are “prince demons” in higher echelons of satan’s army, such as the princes of Persia and Greece mentioned in Daniel 10:13, 20, who arrange and assign “dirty work” to subordinates.

The Opening of Doors to Demons: Evil Associations, The World, The Occult

Besides curses, there are other “open doors” through which demons can enter a person’s life. Careless association with corrupting influences opens a person to demonic activity. **“Do not be deceived and misled! Evil companionships, communion and associations corrupt and deprave good manners and character.”** (1 Corinthians 15:33) Any relationships or social activity that is not centered on the Lord Jesus Christ can be an open door for satan if it is entered into without His

approval. Therefore 2 Corinthians 6:14 commands us, **“do not be unequally yoked up with unbelievers – do not make mismatched alliances with them or come under a different yoke with them inconsistent with your faith.”** Examples of yokes are marriages, friendships, business partnerships, and memberships in clubs, fraternal organizations, and Masonic lodges. Some groups requires members to take oaths or make pledges, which the word of God says not to do.⁴³ These things can hold a person in bondage because **“you are snared with the words of your lips.”** (Proverbs 6:2) Organizations of this sort often command secrecy, which is contrary to God’s says.⁴⁴

The world systems provide open doors for satan, since he is presently ruler of this world and his spirits are actively at work shaping public opinions and attitudes through the arts, media, education, entertainment, business and advertising. Humanism, the belief that “man is his own god,” is the dominant philosophy of the world today. Many

42 Mark 5:12-13

43 Matthew 5:33-37, James 5:12

44 John 18:20, Matthew 10:26—27

people think of humanism as being simply an interest in the welfare of humanity, when, in fact, it is an anti-Christian religion. Anything that exalts man and ignore Jesus Christ is from satan, because **“satan does not have a mind intent on promoting what God wills, but what pleases men.”** (Mark 8:33) The practice of witchcraft, magic, and other occult “arts” is widespread today, and many subtle forms of this, such as mind control and psychology, are widely used to control and influence human behavior. Christians don’t need to be fearful of satanic influences in the world, but we still must be **“wise as serpents though harmless as doves”**⁴⁵ in our dealings with the world. Jesus prayed that we be kept safe from the evil in the world, not that we should be protected from exposure to it.⁴⁶ The world influences people mainly through the mind; therefore, guard your thoughts when you read, listen to music, watch TV, or give attention to anything in this world. **“Be careful what you are hearing. The measure of thought and study you give to the truth you hear will be the measure of virtue and knowledge that comes back to you.”** (Mark 4:24). Paying attention to that which is not pleasing to God exposes you to demonic influences.

Another open door for demons is occult involvement, either by being involved yourself or by someone else using it against you. Some examples of occult practices are hexes, spells, charms, astral projections, plans and assignments, vexes, voodoo, conspiracies, incantations, love potions, jinxes, conjurations, mind control, witchcraft, magic, ESP and other psychic phenomena, as well a “cross-prayers” (prayers of another person that are contrary to God’s will or that seek to interfere with that person’s freedom to choose). Not all occult practices appear evil on the surface; some are so commonplace that they aren’t taken seriously, such as superstitions. Words are usually the vehicle through which occult powers operate; any derogatory, abusive, unkind, or negative speech is a curse which satan can use. Curses will inevitably come back on the one speaking them⁴⁷ – this is a spiritual law. If satan has no place in you he has no power over you;⁴⁸ no occult practice can work against a person walking uprightly before God. If, however, you have opened

up to satan, then you are vulnerable to occult practices coming against you.

Soul Ties

Another open door to demonic activity is something called a “soul tie.” In I Corinthians 6:16 we read that even in a relationship as uncaring as that between a man and a prostitute, a psychic bond is created between the two people. Mention is also made in Genesis 34:3 of a sexual soul tie between Shechem and Dinah, and in I Samuel 18:1-3 of an emotional soul tie between David and Jonathan. Sexual relations, intense attachments, or being dominated by another person create avenues for satan to bring spiritual attacks. This is true even when one of the people in the relationship is dead, absent, or after the relationship is over. Some people have soul ties with famous entertainers, fictitious characters, movies, books, TV shows, or songs, whenever they have allowed these to exert any influence over their lives. Any sort of sexual activity – even fantasizing about it – can create a sexual soul tie between two people. An emotional soul tie is formed whenever someone leans on another person rather than the Lord for guidance, acceptance or satisfaction. Usually this kind of soul tie is with a family member or a close friend. A dominating soul tie exists whenever someone is overbearing, manipulating and controlling someone else’s life. Many times this kind of soul tie exists between husbands and wives or parents and children, even though the bond in these relationships is legitimate for the purposes of nurturing, care, and protection. Soul ties affect people in various ways: feeling that the other person (or some unknown eye) is watching you, wondering what they might be thinking or doing, being tormented or preoccupied with thoughts or dreams about that person. Sometimes the effects of soul ties are not easy to pinpoint, such as stress, turmoil, agitation for no apparent reason, unclean or unkind thoughts, or irrational anxieties and fears. This happens because satan uses a soul tie for a “pipeline” to channel spiritual conflicts from another person’s life into your own. This can go undetected as long as it is not recognized or dealt with by using spiritual weapons.

45 Matthew 10:16

46 John 17:15

47 Psalm 109:17-18

48 John 14:30

CHAPTER FIVE: Ways to Overcome

Rule Your Mind

To counter satan's attacks there are several things you must learn to do. First of all, rule your mind! You can control what you think about, because your mind belongs to you. What you allow to go on inside you will express itself in your behavior, as Jesus said in Mark 7:20-23 (KJV): ***"That which cometh out of a man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness; all these evil things come from within, and defile the man."*** Your thoughts are reflected in your words: ***"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."*** (Matthew 12:34) Therefore Proverbs 4:21-23 instructs us to take hold of God's words, to ***"let them not depart from your sight; keep them in the center of your heart. For they are life to those who find them, healing and health to all their flesh. Keep your heart with all vigilance and above all you guard, for out of it flow springs of life."*** To guard your heart, continually remind yourself what the word of God says about you instead of what satan or circumstances are saying; this involves casting down every thought is contrary to God's word and bringing every thought into obedience to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). ***"Set your minds and keep them set on what is above, not on the things that are on the earth."*** (Colossians 3:2) Go will help you, but He won't rule your mind for you; it is your job, and you must put forth the effort! Reading and thinking about the Word of God gives you ammunition against satan's thoughts. The more familiar you are with God's word, the easier it is to reject a thought the instant you recognize it is from satan. If you are having trouble blocking out satan's thoughts submit yourself to God and ask Him to give you scriptures to help you fight the battle. As you become more familiar with God's word your mind will be renewed so that you no longer think the way you used to when you were under satan's control. Read Joshua 1:7-9, Romans 12:2, Hebrews 12:2, Philippians 4:6-9. You have the mind of Christ! (I Corinthians 2:16). Learn to rely on the leadings of the Holy Spirit instead of

your emotions or your intellect, which can deceive you.

The Holy Spirit and How to Receive Him

The Holy Spirit reveals God's thoughts and purposes to those who love and obey Him.⁴⁹ If you have never asked God to fill you with the Holy Spirit, ask Him now. In John 16:7 and John 14:15-17 (KJV), Jesus told His disciples, ***"It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you...if you love Me, keep My commandments, and I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him. But ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."***

Before Jesus ascended into heaven, He commanded his disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promised Holy Spirit, ***"Of which," He said, "you have heard Me speak. For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall be baptized with – placed in, introduced into – the Holy Spirit...You shall receive power, ability, efficiency, and might when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."*** (Acts 1:4-5, 8) When the day of Pentecost came as His disciples were waiting together, ***"suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distribute and that settled on each of them. And they were all filled – diffused throughout their souls – with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression (in each tongue in appropriate words)." (Acts 2:2-4)***

49 I Corinthians 2:9-10

Peter, speaking to the crowd that gathered to witness the spectacle, told them that this was the Holy Spirit being poured out as the prophet Joel had foretold⁵⁰ and that the Holy Spirit was available not only to them, but to their children, children's children, ***“and to and for all that are far away, even as many as the Lord our God invites and bids***

come to Himself.” (Acts 2:39) So the Holy Spirit is available to you; all you have to do to receive Him is to ask God. ***“If you then, evil-minded as you are, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.”*** (Luke 11:13) You can pray a prayer like this:

Heavenly Father, I come to you in Jesus' name. I confess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I thank You for sending Your Son Jesus to die for me, to shed His precious blood for my sins, and You raised Him from the dead to rescue me from the power of satan. I am sorry for my sins, I do repent of them, and by Your help and grace I'll live for you from this day forward. I thank You, Father, that I am not Your child through Jesus Christ, for He is my Lord.

I renounce you, satan, your principalities and powers and spirits of wickedness, and all your evil ways; you are not my god, and I will not serve you.

Now, Father, Your word says You will give me the Holy Spirit if I ask; so I ask you to fill me with the Holy Spirit. I will speak in that new language You give me to praise You with, and I thank You that You promised to lead me into all truth and give me power to be Your witness, to bring glory and honor to the name of Jesus.

By faith I now receive the Holy Spirit, and I thank You in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

If you sincerely prayed this prayer, begin to operate your mouth and vocal cords and expect God to form a new language within you as you exercise your faith and speak it forth. You will do the speaking; God won't take control of you or “make” you speak in that new language. It does not have to make sense to your ears – in fact, it may sound like babbling or baby talk; but God puts the Holy Spirit in you so that when you allow Him to speak through your voice, it will be something which doesn't have to go through your thought processes.⁵¹ In life there are times when we ***“do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance.”*** (Romans 8:26) ***“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God; for no man understandeth him, howbeit in the Spirit he speaketh mysteries.”*** (I Corinthians 14:2, KJV) By being obedient to God and taking the step of faith to speak in tongues, not going by your feelings or intellect, God will

confirm to you the reality of being filled with His Holy Spirit.⁵² ***“But you, beloved, build yourselves up on your most holy faith – make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher – praying in the Holy Spirit.”*** (Jude 20)

The Power of Praise

When you receive the Holy Spirit and start getting excited about the Word of God you become a threat to satan because you are now equipped with the power to overcome him. You need to face the fact that you will be tested and tried. Rather than letting this upset you, respond to the threat of testing and trial by rejoicing in the Lord.⁵³ Don't thank God for the trial, because satan is the one who is trying you thank God for His deliverance and for the promises in His word that provide the way to overcome in every situation. God is the umpire, and He won't let you be tested beyond what you can handle but will always provide a way of

50 Acts 2:1-21, Joel 2:28-32

51 I Corinthians 14:14

52 Romans 8:16

53 James 1:2, I Thessalonians 5:18

escape.⁵⁴ Sing praises to God whenever you feel like grumbling and complaining. God will accept your praise even when you don't feel like praising Him; this is the "sacrifice of praise."⁵⁵ God inhabits the praises of His people,⁵⁶ and He will come quickly to your aid when you turn to Him with praise and thanksgiving. See Acts 16:24-26. Praising God is one of your most useful weapons against satan. ***"Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth and two-edged sword in their hand, to execute vengeance upon the heathen and punishments upon the people; to bind their kings with chains and their nobles with fetters of iron; to execute upon them the judgment written; this honor have all His saints."*** (Psalm 149:5-9 KJV) Praising God and speaking His word is a "two-edged sword" that rips satan's kingdom to shreds.

Freedom From Condemnation

If you know of any sin in your life, confess it, ask God to forgive you and cleanse you, and then turn away from it; otherwise, satan will use it to beat you over the head with condemnation. When you confess your sins and ask God to forgive you, He washes them away and cleanses you by the blood of Jesus.⁵⁷ After your sins are dealt with and forgiven, God forgets about them.⁵⁸ ***"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after flesh, but after the Spirit."*** (Romans 8:1 KJV) When you have sinned, God doesn't condemn you, He convicts you – He tells you about specific instances where you committed a wrong; but He never beats you over the head, condemning you and making you feel like giving up – that's satan's method. Conviction by the Holy Spirit always leads and encourages you to do right, whereas condemnation by satan pushes you to the point of despair, causing you to focus in on how bad you are and what you've done wrong. When you have asked God to forgive you for something, believe that it's done and walk on with the Lord in peace. Accept forgiveness of your sins by faith and not on the basis of anything you have

done or any merits you have earned. ***"This is the work that God asks of you, that you believe in the one whom He has sent (Jesus)."*** (John 6:29) ***"He who trusts in Him never comes up for judgment; for him there is no rejection, no condemnation; he incurs no damnation."*** (John 3:18) Don't let satan get you to dwell on past shortcomings and failures; give those things to God and then tell satan to "get lost!" "Forget what lies behind and strain forward to what lies ahead; press on toward the goal to win the prize to which God in Christ Jesus is calling us upward." (Philippians 3:13-14)

Will To Forgive

Just as God willingly forgives and forgets our sins, we must be quick to forgive those who have sinned against us and to forgive ourselves also. Unforgiveness towards self and others will block you from receiving God's forgiveness and will open you up to satan's tormentors – fears, frustrations, and sicknesses.⁵⁹ Unforgiveness is a sin, and you can't stand strong against satan with unrepented sin in your life. Don't give satan an inch! Forgive everyone you know who has hurt you or done you wrong, and forgive yourself. Do this by faith. You may not feel like you can forgive. But go ahead and express to God your willingness to do so and He will release you from the bitterness and hurt.

Be Sure of Your Authority

In Acts 19:13-16 we read about some men who were unsuccessful in using the name of Jesus to cast out a demon because they weren't born again believers. They had no right to use Jesus' name against satan; they were merely imitating something they heard Paul do. Therefore, they had no authority against satan, and he quickly overpowered them. That's what he will try to do to you if you start fighting him without first getting things right between you and God. If you don't know whether or not you are saved, the remedy is simple: ask Jesus to come into your heart. Make Him Lord of your life, and confess your faith in Him.

54 I Corinthians 10:13

55 Hebrews 13:15

56 Psalm 22:3

57 I John 1:9

58 Hebrews 8:12

59 Mark 11:25-26, Matthew 18:21-35

“If you acknowledge and confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and in your heart believe that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart a person believes and is so justified, declared righteous, acceptable to God, and with the mouth he confesses – declares openly and speaks out freely his faith and confirms his salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10)

Faith is the Victory

One thing you will learn when you start fighting satan and his demons is that they don't give up easily. Sometimes the battles can be fierce, and at

times it may look like you are losing. ***“But thanks be to God, who is Christ always leads us in triumph.”*** (2 Corinthians 2:14) Remember, you're not fighting on your own. Jesus defeated satan and his forces by shedding His blood for us, and we only have to believe God and speak His word in order to have and enjoy that victory.⁶⁰ Don't let go of God and His word! Jesus in us is greater than satan is in the world.⁶¹ Jesus gave us authority in His name over all the powers of satan.⁶² Take God at His word and act on it. ***“Submit yourselves therefore to God; resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”*** (James 4:7 KJV)

60 Revelation 12:11

61 1 John 4:4

62 Matthew 10:1, Luke 10:19

CHAPTER SIX: Dealing With Demonic Forces

Binding Demons

What can you do when you demons operating? First, you can bind them, which means forbidding them to act in some particular way or situation. As a son of God you have the authority to bind satan (according to Matthew 16:19 and 18:18) whenever you see something happening or about to happen in your domain that isn't a "good and perfect gift" – in other words, anything destructive, evil, or ungodly. If you don't know exactly what to call it, ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you the name of the demon. When it is obvious what satan is trying to do, you can bind it by the name of whatever it appears to be – tornado, heart attack, car accident, fear, loneliness, depression, etc.

Casting Out Demons

Cast demons out when they are in a place that belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. Casting out demons is a sign that should follow true Christians,⁶³ since it was a vital part of Jesus' ministry, even to the point of His referring to it as "the Children's bread."⁶⁴ Deliverance (another name for casting out demons) is for Christians. Why shouldn't it be for non-Christians? Because scripture tells us that seven times as many demons will come back to re-enter the "house" (the person) if it remains empty – that is, not filled with the Holy Spirit and word of God.⁶⁵ It is better to bind demons in an unbeliever rather than to cast them out, except when they are hindering that person from confessing Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

There are many different methods and techniques used in casting out demons, and new methods frequently are discovered as deliverance ministers seek God for help. In general, the more thoroughly prepared a person is to receive deliverance, the easier it will be for him. The following is an outline of some recommended steps to prepare a person to receive deliverance.

Setting Up a Deliverance Ministry

The person wanting deliverance should be spiritually ready. More than just wanting to be free from what is bothering him, he should desire to be free from everything in him that hinders his relationship with God. He should be a born-again Christian who is honest with himself and God. He should understand enough about the spirit realm to know that demons exist and that they are the sources of his problems. He should accept the scriptural validity of deliverance and should desire it enough to ask for it himself (if, of course, he is in control of his faculties enough to do so). One of the best ways to prepare for deliverance is to fast and pray.⁶⁶ Anointed preaching of the word of God helps to prepare a person for deliverance; those who regularly associate with a body of committed believers where the whole word of God is preached are the most receptive to the ministry of deliverance.

The deliverance ministers should be spiritually prepared and in harmony with one another. Preferably they should have received prior instruction on how to minister deliverance; generally, a person should have received deliverance himself before trying to minister it to someone else. The ministers should be committed to the Lord Jesus Christ, baptized in the Holy Spirit and familiar with the gifts of the Spirit so they can recognize God's voice giving them discernment of spirits.⁶⁷ Whenever possible, there should be at least two deliverance ministers present, one of whom will be the "leader" who does most of the praying and talking. As a rule, it is a good idea for the ministers to be the same sex as the person receiving in order to avoid the appearance of evil,⁶⁸ as well as to minimize embarrassment if anything relating to sex is dealt with. ***"All things should be done with regard to decency and propriety and in orderly fashion."*** (I Corinthians 14:40)

63 Mark 16:17

64 Mark 7:27

65 Matthew 12:43-45

66 Matthew 17:19-21

67 I Corinthians 12:8-10

68 I Thessalonians 5:22

The first deliverance a person goes through should be thorough: family curses and soul ties need to be broken, all occult involvement should be renounced, and then demons should be cast out as the Holy Spirit gives discernment. If there is a time limitation, deal only with specific demons in problem areas and simply bind the rest of the demons to be cast out some other time. A person should receive only as much deliverance as he is able to maintain afterwards; God knows how much this is and the Holy Spirit will reveal to the ministers when to stop.

Although it isn't necessary for a person to understand intellectually what is going on in his deliverance, any details that bother him should be explained as simply as possible. The person receiving deliverance should have confidence that the ministers know what they're doing and that they are led and guided by the Holy Spirit.

Demons can come out in several ways: coughing, yawning, gagging, retching, vomiting, screaming, shaking, thrashing, convulsing, laughing, speaking in false tongues, even carrying on conversations. When allowed to go unchecked, violent manifestations serve only to hinder the deliverance, to injure or embarrass the person, or to glorify satan by putting on a show. In order to keep this from happening, take authority⁶⁹ over satan before the deliverance ministry gets started. Command all demon spirits to come out quickly and quietly and go directly to the dry places,⁷⁰ never to return and harass that person, the ministers, or anyone in that area. Command the demons not to hurt or tear the person or make him unconscious, nor to speak or display themselves in any unseemly manner. This is what Jesus did in Luke 4:41: ***“Demons came out of so many people screaming and crying out, ‘You are the son of God!’ But He rebuked them, and would not permit them to speak, because they knew that He was the Christ, the Messiah.”*** Taking authority from the start will

help the person be less apprehensive about what is about to happen, and thus he will receive more readily. Deliverance is accomplished by faith; there is no need to look for overt physical manifestations to determine whether a demon has left or whether you called it by the right name. Depend on the Holy Spirit to reveal any information you need in a deliverance.

The ministers should first submit themselves to God, repent of any known sin, and pray for the cleansing and protection of the blood of Jesus. They should then ask the Holy Spirit to guide them, giving them discernment of spirits, words of wisdom and knowledge, and any other gifts of the spirit as needed.

The ministers should bind transmitting and transferring of demons, and anything else that might interfere with the deliverance ministry. They should bind all “ruler spirits” in the heavenly sphere, since these are the ones who have been giving orders to the demons you are casting out. Charge Michael the war-angel and the ministering angels to stand by and assist⁷¹ in removing all demons. Should a demon refuse to obey any command in the name of Jesus, charge Michael to take it to the pit before its time.⁷²

The person receiving must submit himself to God and ask God to forgive him for all sins. Make sure that the person is in right-standing with God before you proceed. The person must be willing to forgive and forget all who have hurt him in any way; if he has trouble doing that, encourage him to do it as an act of faith. Have him deal with any unforgiveness before going further with the deliverance. Mark 11:2-26 states that God won't forgive those who don't forgive others.

The person must openly renounce satan and his powers and principalities. He must renounce all occult practices and involvement, all oaths, vows and pledges that are contrary to the word of God (Masonic, fraternal, etc.), and all doctrines, dogmas and creeds that are contrary to God's word.

69 Matthew 16:19

70 Matthew 12:43

71 Hebrews 1:14

72 II Peter 2:4

The following is a prayer to renounce satan and the occult:

Prayer for Deliverance

Thank you, Lord Jesus, for dying for my sins, for Your glorious resurrection and for making me a new creature by faith in Your precious blood.

Lord Jesus, I have a confession to make: I have not loved, but have resented certain people. I ask You to help me forgive them. I do now will to forgive _____ (Put in the names of those the Lord brings to mind and forgive them). And I do forgive myself also.

Lord, I have another confession to make: I have sought supernatural experience apart from You. I have disobeyed Your word. I now renounce all these things and ask You to cleanse me in spirit, soul and body, in Jesus' name.

- I renounce witchcraft and magic, both black and white.
- I renounce ouija boards and all other occult games.
- I renounce séances, clairvoyance and mediums.
- I renounce ESP (extrasensory perception), second sight and mind reading.
- I renounce all fortune telling: palm reading, tea leaf reading, crystal balls, Tarot or other card laying and 8-ball gazing.
- I renounce all astrology and interest in horoscope, planting and healing by the use of signs. (e.g. The Farmer's Almanac).
- I renounce the heresy of reincarnation and all healing groups involved in metaphysics.
- I renounce all hypnosis under any excuse or authority.
- I renounce all curiosity about either future or past, UFO's, science-fiction, mythology and that which is outside the will of God.
- I renounce all water witching or dowsing, levitation, body lifting, table tipping, psychometry, and automatic writing and other demonic skills.
- I renounce astral projection, transcendental meditation, scientology, yoga, karate, mind control, est, and other "New Age" thinking programs.
- In the name of Jesus Christ I renounce everything psychic and occult.
- I renounce all literature I have ever read in any of these fields, and all music or art dealing with the occult, and I agree to destroy any such things in my own possession.
- I renounce and break all Masonic oaths, fraternal pledges, and every vow or promise I have made which is contrary to the word of God.
- I renounce involvement with any group that denies the blood of Jesus or the divinity of Jesus.
- I renounce every religious teaching or philosophy that is contrary to the Word of God.
- I renounce every attempt to control people through the use of witchcraft, manipulation, mental suggestion, psychology, or any other power.

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I break all psychic heredity and any demonic hold upon my family line as a result of the disobedience of any of my ancestors.

I renounce every evil spirit that is operating against me, and I call upon You, Lord Jesus, to set me free!

When the person has renounced satan and the occult, the minister should break all hexes, vexes, curses, cross-prayers, plans, conspiracies, and assignments, incantations, voodoo, conjurations, love potions, charms, witchcraft, mind control,

psychic manipulations, astral projections, and magic that have been set against him. Command all words contrary to God's word spoken against the person or his family to fall dead to the round and bear no fruit.

Have the person break all ungodly soul ties – sexual emotional, and dominating – in Jesus’ name. Ask the Holy Spirit to recall to the person’s mind everyone with whom they have had a soul tie and break each one specifically, by name if possible. If the names are forgotten, some other description will do (like “the red-headed girl in Boston,” or “my second grade teacher”).

The sins of ancestors cause curses to come down from previous generations;⁷³ the person receiving needs to know that not every curse affecting him is the result of what he himself has done. Explain that some demons may be cast out that the person has never been aware of having (for example, a demon of alcoholism can be present in a person who never drank anything alcoholic). Many times demons from inherited curses remain “latent” – they pretend not to be there – so that the person thinks he doesn’t have the problem (and it may even disgust him), until he is caught in a compromising situation and gives in, at which time the demon will manifest in full force.

Now the person is ready to have demons cast out. This usually works best in conjunction with breaking the curses,⁷⁴ since demons use the curses as a “legal” excuse for being there (and if the curses aren’t broken the demons could claim they don’t have to go). Another reason for breaking the curses at this point is that each curse deals with a specific sin, which gives the ministers an orderly way of calling out myriads of demons that can infest a person. Before you start breaking curses, tell satan that Jesus bore in His body all the curses for the person⁷⁵ and cancelled all legal rights satan would have to attack him, nailing all his sins to His cross.⁷⁶

Then break each curse individually and specifically; the person receiving can indicate his agreement by saying “Amen” or “so be it for me and my household.”

The best way for a person to release a demon is to cough. There is nothing “magic” about coughing; it is to show satan that the person wants to be rid of the demon being called out. The word meaning “spirit” in both the original Bible languages means “breath;” this is another reason why coughing is an appropriate way to expel demon spirits. Since most demons came in through breath, they can go out the same way. Ask the person not to speak in tongues during the deliverance, because the Holy Spirit speaking through a person always has a binding effect on demons inside of him.

When the deliverance is complete, pray for God to fill the void left by the departed demons. Pray for the person to receive more of God; ask Him to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit⁷⁷ in him. Pray for the person to have the blessings of God in his life.⁷⁸ Ask God to create a desire for the Word of God and a deeper revelation of Jesus Christ. Stress the importance of staying full of the word after receiving deliverance. Matthew 12:43-45 shows that demons try to regain territory they have lost, and they usually succeed if the “house” is not filled with the Holy Spirit and the word of God. The way to stay filled is to pray in tongues and read and meditate on the word. If the person has never received the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, pray with him to receive. Praying in tongues enables a person to intercede for things he has no natural awareness of, which is a great advantage in battling unseen spirit forces.

73 Exodus 20:5, Deuteronomy 5:9

74 See Curses of the law

75 Galatians 3:13

76 Colossians 2:14-15

77 Galatians 5:22-23

78 Deuteronomy 28:1-14

CHAPTER SEVEN: Walking Your Deliverance

Deliverance is not a one-time event. After you have had demons cast out, recognize that your war with satan is now on for real! Demons are much easier to battle on the outside than they were on the inside, but you must “keep the door closed” so they don’t come back in. Here are some things you can do to keep them out:

The Crucified Life

First, learn to deny self and live the “crucified life.”⁷⁹ Lay aside your old self-nature with all its fleshly appetites, moral conflicts and agitating passions; do this every day! It takes a deliberate decision to commit yourself without reservation to the Lord Jesus Christ. Whatever the cost, decide that you are going to seek after the things of God. *“Work out your own salvation with reverence and awe and trembling, with serious caution, tenderness of conscience, watchfulness against temptation; timidly shrinking from whatever might offend God and discredit the name of Christ. Not in your own strength, for it is God who is all the while at work in you – energizing and creating in you the power and desire – both to will and to work for His good pleasure and satisfaction and delight.”* (Philippians 2:12-13)

One of satan’s common ploys is to get you to believe that it’s all up to you, so that you wear yourself out trying to be good enough for God. Will-power and self-effort are not the same thing as “the crucified life.” Crucifying self means accepting God’s word as true and making a daily commitment to live by it. God’s word contains everything you need to live a victorious life. *“For His divine power has bestowed upon us all things that are requisite and suited to life and godliness through the full, personal knowledge of Him who called us by and to His own glory and excellence.”* (2 Peter 1:3) To receive what God has provided, believe His word. Believing God is more than just an intellectual process; it means acting on the word (James 2:17), being a do-er and not merely a hearer of it (James 1:22). This often means you will have to disregard what your mind or your feelings are telling you, *“for we walk by faith, not by sight or appearance”* (II Corinthians 5:7). Even though the way is straight

and narrow, it is not impossible. God will enable us to deny self and live for Him as we entrust ourselves into His care.

Put On God’s Armor

God instructs us to put on His full armor,⁸⁰ “that you may be able to resist and stand your ground on the evil day of danger, and having done all the crisis demands, to stand firmly in your place.” (Ephesians 6:13) Each piece of armor is something we need in order to combat satan.

To protect us from lies and deception, God has given us the **belt of truth**; this covers our “loins,” the reproductive area, which is one of the most sensitive areas of the body. God’s truth will keep us from believing or telling lies, or accepting anything untrue or contrary to God’s word. We get the truth by abiding in God’s word, meditating on it, acting on it, speaking it, and letting it govern our lives.⁸¹

The **breastplate of righteousness** protects our heart, the “inner man,” giving us right-standing with God and *“full freedom and confidence to enter into the Holy of Holies (God’s presence) by the power and virtue in the blood of Jesus.”* (Hebrews 10:19) We are righteous because Jesus is righteous, and His righteousness is imparted to us only as we accept Him and His word. Without awareness of our right-standing with God, we would be unable to contradict satan’s accusations against us.

The **shoes of peace** guard our feet so that we can follow the Lord without stumbling and face the enemy with stability, promptness, and readiness. Without God’s peace we couldn’t stand against the onslaughts of fear, doubt, unbelief, unrest, tension, worry, and anxiety that satan is constantly trying to bring it up.

The **shield of faith** is our “hiding place;” it covers us fully and protects us from satan’s “flaming arrows” – those fiery trials, evil thoughts and temptations – causing them to bounce off and not touch us as we exercise our faith. Through faith we can overcome the world, the flesh, and satan.⁸² *“With God nothing is impossible”* (Luke 1:37) *“All things are possible to him who believes.”* (Mark 9:23)

79 Luke 9:23-25

80 Ephesians 6:14-18

81 John 8:31-32

82 I John 5:4

The **helmet of salvation** covers the head, the place where knowledge is stored, options considered and decisions made. Knowing God personally and experiencing His love through Jesus Christ saves us from mental agony, confusion, misunderstanding and poor judgment here and now as well as saving us from eternal damnation. Knowing the word of God protects us from satan's influence on our minds, because the word offers alternatives to the thoughts and accusations satan tries to put there.

Finally, we have the **sword of the spirit**, the word of God, as the offensive weapon. More than just a defense, the word gives us power to go after satan and cut his kingdom to pieces! It hurts him every time we speak the word in faith; it hurts him every time we bind him or command him to obey the name of Jesus. The word of God gives us complete authority over satan. Not only that, it is a "reference manual: giving us detailed instructions on how a son of God is to operate in this world. The word reveals the manner in which satan and his kingdom operate, and it gives us examples of how ordinary men and women overcame evil by using the weapons God has given us. God honors His word above His name,⁸³ and nothing can overpower the word of God when it is used properly in faith. ***"Is not My word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks in pieces the rock of most stubborn resistance?"*** (Jeremiah 23:29)

How to Deal With Failures

Remember that satan will try to condemn you and tell you to give up if you slip or stumble after receiving deliverance. Always run to Jesus with your failures and shortcomings! He bore all your weaknesses,⁸⁴ and His blood will cleanse your sin and remove you from sin.⁸⁵ Deliverance doesn't automatically make you perfect, but it does give you more freedom to be the way God wants you to be. Simply trust that God is at work in you and that He will complete what He has begun;⁸⁶ He will perfect that which concerns you.⁸⁷ If you find that you are falling short in some area and you have let satan back in, confess your sin to God and repent, then take authority over satan in the name of Jesus and command him to leave you! As you continue to

walk with the Lord, you may find that you need more deliverance in certain areas That's nothing to be ashamed of; everyone has that sin which so easily besets them.⁸⁸ Praise the Lord that you know where your help comes from; run to Jesus with your problems.

Clean House!

If you want to keep satan out of your life, destroy anything that represents his kingdom: occult books and objects, and all symbols from satanic sources or origin (owls, frogs, snakes, stars, buddhas, dragons, statues of heathen gods, cupids, charms, hex signs, zodiac signs, and any grotesque or drug-influenced art works, etc.) Destroy anything that would cause you to be drawn to a former source of bondage, such as a photograph, keepsake or trinket associated with something from the past that you have been delivered from. There are certain types of music which are heavily influenced by satan and associated with a sinful life-style such as rock 'n roll, country-western, jazz, blues, disco, new wave, heavy metal and avante-garde space music. It is better not to listen to any style of music that does not glorify God, even seemingly harmless music like easy listening and classical, because satan can use music to distract our minds from that which is pure and holy to that which is worldly and vain. Most popular entertainment – TV programs, movies, magazines and books – are filled with messages that are contrary to the word of the living God and can be real hindrances to living an overcoming Christian life. Ask God to show you anything in your home or environment that is an open door to satan, destroy it and renounce any ties with it.⁸⁹ Even if the things have monetary value, "you shall not desire the silver or gold that is on them nor take it for yourself, lest you be ensnared by it; for it is an abomination to the Lord your God. Neither shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you become an accursed thing like it; but you shall utterly detest and abhor it, for it is an accursed thing." (Deuteronomy 7:25-26) By being obedient to God, you will experience a freedom that will far outweigh any supposed benefit from keeping those things or selling them.

83 Psalm 138:2

84 Isaiah 53:4

85 I John 1:9

86 Philippians 1:6

87 Psalm 138:8

88 Hebrews 12:1

89 II Corinthians 4:4, Acts 19:18-20

After you have gone through deliverance and have removed satanic things from the premises of your property, you can signify that your home, office, land, vehicles or animals are entrusted into the care and keeping of the Lord by commanding satan to keep his hands off them, charging the ministering angels to protect you and your property from satan's attacks (Hebrews 1:13), and anointing your property with oil in the name of Jesus; anointing oil is a symbol of the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life.

Don't Fear, Praise the Lord

If Jesus is your Lord, you have no reason to fear satan or demons. God protects all those who trust in and rely on Him.⁹⁰ One of the best ways to keep from being afraid is to praise and worship the Lord. Do this always – in every situation, no matter how trying.⁹¹ “Let the saints be joyful in glory; let them sing aloud upon their beds. Let the high praises of God be in their mouth...to bind their kings with chains, and their nobles with fetters of irons.” (Psalm 149:5-6, 8 KJV) Praising God makes satan very uncomfortable. Laughing at him also makes him uncomfortable; satan is attracted and empowered by fear, and your laughing at him shows him that you are not afraid. By refusing to allow fear in, you won't need to worry about what satan might be doing. ***“Who is there to hurt you if you are zealous followers of that which is good?”*** (I Peter 3:13) God promised to give you wisdom if you ask Him for it;⁹² He promised to supply all your needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus,⁹³ and you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.⁹⁴ With promises like these there is nothing to fear; God has every situation covered. ***“Trust in the Lord with all your heart***

and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Fight Back

Jesus came into this world to destroy the works of satan.⁹⁵ Now that He is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven we are to use the authority of His name to restrain satan and his servants. Jesus said we would do even greater works than He did.⁹⁶ There soon will be a day when demonic beings like we can't even imagine will be running loose in this world; but God has promised that those who know Him ***“shall prove themselves strong and shall stand firm, and do exploits.”*** (Daniel 11:32) In order to be strong for God we must hate evil and anything pertaining to satan.⁹⁷ For too many years the gates of hell have prevailed against the church of Jesus Christ. It's time now for us to turn the tables and fight back! ***“Amid all these things we are more than conquerors and gain a surpassing victory through Him who loved us.”*** (Romans 8:37) We are in an all-out fight to the finish; the order of the day is: ATTACK! ATTACK! ATTACK!

You're in this world and it is still enemy territory, so be at least as wise as the devil – be prepared for him to attack! Don't be caught off guard or lulled to sleep in a false sense of security. Make it your aim to learn effectively to fight the devil right where you are, so that you can be one of the “Overcomers”⁹⁸ who are found worthy to escape the time of tribulation coming upon all the earth.⁹⁹ ***“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”*** (Galatians 5:1 KJV)

90 Isaiah 26:3, 54:13-17, 59:19, Psalm 91

91 Philippians 4:6-7, I Thessalonians 5:15, Ephesians 5:20

92 James 1:5

93 Philippians 4:19

94 Philippians 4:13

95 I John 3:8

96 John 14:12

97 Proverbs 8:13, Psalm 139:21

98 Revelation 2:7, 11, 17, 26-28, 3:5, 12, 21-22, 12:1-5, 14:1-5, 19:11-14

99 Luke 21:36, Revelation 3:10