

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

BARBARA WILLIAMS MINSTRIES

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SPIRITUAL WARFARE

What is Spiritual Warfare? What do you think of when you hear that term? Many people avoid those two words altogether - because they do not understand their identity in Christ they think, out of sight out of mind, or like my late husband, Russ, and so many others, if you do not think about it, it cannot have any effect in your life.

Galatians 5:16-23 *"I say then: Walk in the Spirit and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissentions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in the past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control."*

So Spiritual Warfare is the flesh and Spirit warring against each other. You can be walking "in the Spirit" and the enemy can be tempting you to get in agreement with his ungodly ways, OR you can be walking "after the flesh" and the Holy Spirit is convicting you of your righteousness.

We live in a spiritual world and there is continuous spiritual warfare going on to win our hearts and minds.

Man was made in the image and likeness of God – a spirit being.

- Genesis 1:26-27 *"And God said, 'Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.' So, God*

created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Image likely refers to the non-material aspects of a person such as the ability to reason, personality and intellect, and to the capacity to relate, to hear, to see, and to speak; their mind, will and emotions. Likeness refers to the spiritual dimension, the capacity for the human spirit to respond to GOD's Spirit.

God formed man with a spirit, soul and body.

- Genesis 2:7 *"And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being."* (soul; KVJ)

- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 *"Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*

- We are a spirit, we have a soul and we live in a body.

God cast Lucifer out of heaven because he rebelled against the authority of God and refused to glorify God.

- Isaiah 14:12-14 *"How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning. How you are cut down to the ground. You who weakened the nations. For you have said in your heart; I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High."*

* Note the five (5) "I will[s]" of Lucifer's declaration.

Where did the thought to rebel originate?

- The thought to rebel didn't just float through space to be picked up by Eve and Adam.

- A thought cannot and does not exist apart from the intellect of a rational being, visible or invisible, to create it.

- A thought is an extension of a "being". A rational human (Eve and Adam), by agreeing with the thought, became "one" with the thought and manifested it to the environment by acting it out in rebellion and disobedience.

- The god of this world (Satan) blinds the unbeliever from the light of the gospel (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

- Jesus said the prince of this world would be cast out and judged (John 12:31; 16:11).

- Satan and his kingdoms (Body of Sin) are the source of and the influence behind the sins of mankind and use humans to express their evil nature.

- Satan and his evil spirits do their work through humans who are "the children of disobedience" (Ephesians 2:1-2).

Life in the Garden of Eden (The Two Trees)

As God's children, we have a choice. We can live out of the Achieving System or we can live out of the Receiving System.

Achieving System	Receiving System
	
Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil	**Tree of Life**
We figure out the way	God leads the way
My Knowledge	God's Wisdom
Striving	Abiding
Self-sufficiency	God's Sufficiency
Independence	Dependence
Burden	Freedom
Law	Grace
Death	Life
Trying	Trusting
Inadequate	Adequate
Guilt and Shame	Forgiven
Pride	Humility
Lies	Truth

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, and in Him you have been made complete (Colossians 2:8-10).

Simply knowing what is good and what is evil does not give me any additional assistance in actually carrying out what is good and avoiding what is evil. The knowledge simply gives me a deeper definition of the nature of good and evil and a clear understanding of when I have stepped across the line from good into evil. But no capacity or ability is bestowed upon me by that knowledge, by which I am enabled to actually be able to perform the right and refuse the wrong. I've simply become an expert on what I am not doing (that is right) and on what I am doing (that is wrong).

- Satan owns the earth spiritually or is the god of the earth, as it was turned over to him by Adam and Eve. (2 Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; John. 12:31, 14:30, 16:11). Sadly, that includes the power that God gave Adam as well. Shame, guilt, accusation, and fear appeared immediately after sin. Remember, Satan comes to steal, kill and destroy (John 10:10).

There are evil spirits whose job it is to separate you from God, His Word, His love, yourself and others. **(The Spiritual Battle)**

Spiritual Battle diagram

The Spiritual Battle

GOD'S KINGDOM

God the Father
God the Son
God the Holy Spirit

GODLY
The Nature of God

LOVE
JOY
PEACE
LONGSUFFERING
GENTLENESS
GOODNESS
FAITH
VIRTUE
PURITY
WISDOM
JUSTICE
HONESTY
FAIRNESS
SINCERITY
KNOWLEDGE
UNDERSTANDING
GRACE
MERCY
EXCELLENCE
FORGIVENESS
COMPASSION
DEVOTION
TRUTH

MANKIND HAS FREE WILL TO CHOOSE

God created mankind with a free will. We are sovereign (responsible, have power to change) in our choices. We are told to choose each day whom we will serve. Whomever we choose to serve, we become a "servant" to them. The evidence of whom we have chosen to serve is seen in our speech, because it is what comes out of the heart of man that defiles him. Our fruits are either of God, our Creator, or of Satan, the enemy.

CONVICTION ← → TEMPTATION



Joshua 24:15
Matthew 15:18
James 1:8

SATAN'S KINGDOM

Satan
Powers
Principalities
Demons

FLESHLY
Satan's Nature

REJECTION
HATRED
VIOLENCE
JEALOUSY & ENVY
CONDEMNATION
SHAME
PRIDE
GUILT
LYING
LUST
GREED
COVETOUSNESS
REVENGE
RETALIATION
SLANDER
CRITICAL SPIRIT
FEAR
TERROR
UNFORGIVENESS
UNMERCIFUL
SELF PITY
GOSSIP
SELF CENTEREDNESS

In this life, our testing comes through the decisions we make. If we choose to obey God, and to make quality decisions that honor (agree with) Him, we receive His blessings. If we choose to serve God, we also choose to allow the Holy Spirit to manifest through us, and we exhibit the "fruits" of the Spirit. As a result, we have peace that passes all understanding.

If we choose to serve Satan, the consequence is that his evil spirits will manifest through us. God never "allows" evil; it is our choice. If we choose to disobey God, and follow Satan, we receive Satan's "blessings". In our disobedience, God turns us over to our own devices, and allows us to go our own way. This is always of Satan, the devil, whom God calls "the enemy". As a result, we lose peace and joy.

Spirits (good and evil) use humans through which to express themselves in the world. Through Adam's disobedience, sin and death entered into the world.

- Romans 5:12 *"Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world (people), and death through sin, and thus death to all men, because all sinned…."*
- Isaiah 59:2 *"But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you..."*
- 1 Corinthians 15:21 *"For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead."*

Although Adam and Eve opened the door for Satan and his demonic spirits to enter earth when he sinned, when Jesus died on the cross, He made a way for us to be reconciled to God and commune directly with the Father. When we receive Jesus as our Savior and are born again, the Holy Spirit comes to reside within each of us. Whereas in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came and went as He visited upon God's prophets.

The Channel of Temptation.

- The channel of temptation is directed toward the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life (1 John 2:15-17). All temptation is an attempt to entice us to live independent of God.

Taking Every Thought Captive

Where do you believe your thoughts come from? - either God, your flesh or the enemy – and it is your responsibility to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

- The key to winning the war in our thought life is found in 2 Corinthians 10:3-6, *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war against the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds; casting down*

imaginations (arguments), and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled" (NKJV).

When your obedience is fulfilled.

What does it mean, *"when your obedience is fulfilled"?* We must stand ready at all times to exercise our authority over sin. Sin opens the door for Satan or an evil spirit to influence us and show himself through us. We cannot expect to ever defeat the evil spirits in our life unless we are prepared to be obedient to God. We may strongly desire to be free of a Spirit of Bitterness or unforgiving spirit, but unless we actually take the step to forgive others, God's way, we will still be held its slave.

- Sometimes we put ourselves in a position to agree with evil, becoming one with it. Sometimes Bitterness even feels good and unforgiveness feels justifiable. When these things happen, we have become one with sin.

- We cannot cast down unforgiveness or Bitterness until we are ready to break away from what they represent and choose to defeat them in our heart. <u>This is the first step to becoming free</u>. We must be in agreement with Almighty God – we cannot be in agreement with, justify or defend any sin in our lives.

- God created us. He described His human creation as *"<u>very good</u>"*. We must come to a place of agreement with God about whom <u>He</u> says we are or we will not be able to defeat self-hatred, because our obedience hasn't been fulfilled.

- One of our most powerful tools in this spiritual warfare is recognizing Satan's devices and by so doing, not allow him to manifest his nature through us. When a spirit of lust overtakes you and tries to grip your body, you recognize it and think, "Wait a minute, I can't revenge all disobedience until after my obedience has been fulfilled. I recognize

this thought as coming from Satan. I'm not going to act out this sin; I'm not going to fantasize with it." You then say out loud, "I cast you down, spirit of lust in the name of Jesus." As we choose to rebuke any spirit and stand in the victory that is ours in Jesus Christ, our obedience is fulfilled. We receive the victory which has already been acquired for us.

- Why can't we defeat the devil? Because our obedience has not been fulfilled. Some lies are deeply imbedded from childhood and are very difficult to discern. But the Holy Spirit is our teacher and guide. Ask Him for His help to identify these lies, and ask Him to tell you the truth, giving you the power and courage to cast them down.

In 2 Peter 1:3-4 we read, *"as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."*

This kind of spiritual power is supernatural. It is more than the result of human effort guided by spiritual principles. Rather, it is the indwelling of God's own living presence in the human heart empowering and enabling us to draw upon God's supernatural strength and ability.

The Christian Life is a Supernatural Life

The word **supernatural** is defined as:

1. Of or relating to existence outside the natural world
2. Attributed to a power that seems to violate or go beyond natural forces
3. Of or relating to a deity
4. Of or relating to the immediate exercise of divine power; miraculous
5. Of or relating to the miraculous.

Sadly, most Christians have no clue how to experience that supernatural *Life* provided for us. We have grown to believe that we should be independent and self-sufficient, relying on human wisdom, reason, and solutions and thereby becoming more troubled, stressed, bound, broken and maladjusted.

God's plan and provision was to take broken, sin-sick, confused, torn and weary human life and transform it into a cleansed, restored, ignited, empowered, passion-filled, liberated, and joy-filled adventure.

It is the entry of the presence and person of the Holy Spirit that directly results in the entry of the supernatural. The two are inseparable. The supernatural is simply God giving Himself to us in the person of the Holy Spirit. One truth for all of us is that you cannot separate the gift from the person. I cannot give you my gift of counseling or teaching. If I am in the room, my gift is with me. If I leave the room, my gift goes with me. You cannot separate me from my gift or my gift from me. Since all the gifts belong to God, He decides when, to whom and how to minister His gifts through us.

It is the same way with the supernatural in relationship to the person of the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit is present, then God's approved access to the supernatural is present. If the Holy Spirit is not present, *any* supernatural activity that occurs will not be activated by God.

The Holy Spirit is not a force, an energy, a symbol, or a power. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity, the person and presence of God on earth and the one who empowers, delivers, convicts, enables, and reveals. He is our individual guide, our counselor, our comforter, and much, much more.

We have observed in Scripture the reality of spiritual warfare and the fact that spiritual warfare can become spiritual bondage in some cases. Knowing our enemy and having insights into how he operates, and the dangers of disobedience are important parts of our spiritual progress.

We can see why God says obedience is better than sacrifice. He knew all the destruction disobedience causes. It's possible for a person to commit a sin, repent of that sin, and be forgiven without falling into a specific level of spiritual bondage. For such an individual, his or her need is for the encounter with truth to counteract the lies that led to an act of disobedience to the Lord. Those in disobedience to the Lord need to see truth prevail in their life so that they do not continue to act out in rebellion.

For others, however, continued disobedience in a particular area can open the door to spiritual bondage. Once that spiritual bondage is established in a person's life, he or she needs a deeper understanding of the strongholds. Repeated acts of disobedience have opened the doors to a spiritual stronghold that needs to be recognized, repented for and forgiveness needs to be asked for and/or given.

The stronghold will continue to prevail and drag them repeatedly back into actions of disobedience, in spite of their desire to experience change. Until this individual has had an encounter with the delivering power of Jesus Christ, he or she will find little victory in simply knowing and studying the truth.

Any act of disobedience sets up the potential for spiritual bondage. Disobedience takes us outside the realm of God's revealed plan and His protection. Once outside the perimeters of the Father's protective care, we

open the door to our adversary, granting him great freedom to weave his destructive deceptions into our human experience.

Deliverance represents an encounter with the power of God in which the Holy Spirit faces down the adversary, breaks his strongholds, and sets captives free. In many instances, deliverance should not be viewed as a last resort but as a first step toward liberating a person and setting them free to grow and develop as a believer.

The truth of the gospel is to be followed up with the truth of the kingdom. In other words, the gospel of forgiveness from sin and reconciliation to the Father through Christ's sacrifice on the cross was to be followed up with the mandate to teach precepts and principles of Christ and the lifestyle of living under His Lordship. The process of turning new believers into disciples is by the truth of God's Word.

Discipleship and deliverance go hand-in-hand. Discipleship without deliverance doesn't take. Deliverance without discipleship doesn't last. Discipleship and deliverance are a supernatural partnership that must be operated in concert with one another.

Deliverance and discipleship are like a marriage that unites power to truth. Alone, each one has limited potential. Together, they represent a powerful supernatural partnership that can significantly increase our spiritual maturity, growth, and development.

Both deliverance and discipleship must be ongoing and continual. The power of God to deliver and the truth of God to disciple will always be needed throughout the course of our walk with Christ. Both are supernatural activities. Together they represent a supernatural partnership.

When deliverance has taken place, the truth is liberated within the heart of a believer to accomplish the process of casting down imaginations

(2 Corinthians 10:5) and countering the lies and arguments of the adversary. Without such deliverance, the truth never has opportunity to truly take hold, and then lies of the enemy constantly undo the truth.

In contrast, when deliverance is taking place but it is not followed up by discipleship, the former bondage the individual has experienced returns and even increases. The bondage was begun by the introduction of a lie, and that lie was believed, which established a beachhead of deception in the life of the believer. If the bondage in a person's life is broken and the stronghold dismantled but, the lie of the enemy continues to prevail, the individual's bondage can return. What you believe will have a greater impact on your life than the truth!! Often the discouragement that comes from that returning bondage can actually open the door for a greater bondage.

It is God's desire for us to be set free from bondage. It's critical for us to understand this about every area of stronghold in our life.

Freedom and the supernatural presence of the Holy Spirit go together. 2 Corinthians 3:17 *"...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (freedom)."* A big part of our spiritual victory in this supernatural conflict is related to the marriage of truth, power, deliverance, and discipleship. Galatians 5:1 states, *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."* Standing fast has everything to do with knowing the truth and refusing to be moved off that truth (choices!!). Christ has won a great victory for us in the spirit realm. He's given us exceedingly great and precious promises. He has openly defeated our adversary, triumphing over him by the Cross.

When discipleship and deliverance come together, a powerful release of the transformational life-giving resource flows from heaven. The Bible is very clear:

We are to be not just a "hearer of the Word", but we are to also be a "doer" of the Word. James 1:23, 25 (NKJV) To be a doer of the Word means to appropriate it in our life. We can possess all knowledge and still not experience the abundant *Life* Jesus rose from the dead to acquire for us.

So often we react to today's situations with emotional responses from our past. Instead, we need to examine the responses to see if they line up with the truth. We must ask God to tell us where these automatic emotions come from and tell us the truth about them.

Are you walking in the tree of the knowledge of good and evil – the flesh, or the tree of *Life* – the Spirit? Galatians 6:8 tells us *"For he who sows to the flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life."* (NKJV). Sowing seeds also involves your thought life. Many battles are won and lost right between your ears.

People have knowledge – sometimes truth and sometimes error.

- Hosea 4:6 "*My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me;"*

- Isaiah 5:13-14 *"Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge…"*

- This not only means lack of knowledge of God's Word but lack of faith/belief in God's Word.

- I believe it also means a lack of knowledge in how the enemy works.

- Sometimes knowledge is "caught" more from life experience than taught. Knowledge helps form your beliefs.

Discernment of Spirits – The First Step in Spiritual Warfare

- The dictionary defines discernment as "the ability to see clearly, to perceive, to distinguish, or to recognize." In Hebrews 5:14, the Greek word "diakrino" is translated as "discern". It means "to separate thoroughly."

- Hebrews 5:14 says, *"But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."* A mature Christian prays for and practices discernment in the conduct of their life. In so doing, they have learned to tell the difference between good and evil, and then choose to do what is good.

- Since your emotions and feelings come from your thoughts, you cannot rely on them. Rather, you must rely only on the Word of God taken by faith. Disobedience reaps the *"fruit of our own doings."* (Jeremiah 17:9-10). God built in consequences of disobedience as well as the blessings of obedience.

- In Psalm 139:23-24, David said, *"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts. And see if there by any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."*

- James 4:7 says, *"Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."*

- James 4:8 said, *"Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded."* (NKJV).

  Cleansing our hands requires repentance; a change of your mind (Strongs Concordance – New Testament 3340 and 3539) and a turning away from sin with a determination not to repeat it. Cleansing our hearts requires us to confess our sins, forgive others, ourselves, and God and ask Him for forgiveness.

  A major priority should be to seek God and His righteousness. That means putting Him first in our heart, mind and actions. Matthew 6:33 says, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added to you."* (NKJV).

- In God's order of things, we must take personal responsibility for our actions. He gave us a free will and we choose, situation by situation, whether or not to obey Him. Satan is a legalist. He has every right to our life IF we harbor unconfessed sin and/or do not understand how to recognize and rebuke the enemy. But the enemy also ONLY has the power and authority WE give him. We can lay the blame anywhere we wish, but we must accept the responsibility for our own choices. We must take personal responsibility and understand that we have been opening the door of our lives to Satan and evil spirits. Most often this is done out of ignorance. (Hosea 4:6)

Why is spiritual discernment so important?

- Because it is the means by which we can free ourselves from Satan's snare. 2 Timothy 2:24-26 says, *"And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient…. In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."* (KJV).

  Satan has taken us captive "at his will". God's plan is for us to have the knowledge and understanding required for discernment. Then we can repent and line up in agreement with Him. We can then experience freedom from Satan's snares.

Man's free will allows him to choose whom he will serve and obey

- We serve one of two Kingdoms
  - God's Kingdom
  - Satan's Kingdom

- According to Jesus in Matthew 15:18, we can know whom we have chosen to serve, *"*[18] *but those things that proceed out of the*

mouth come from the heart and they defile a man. [19] *For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies."*

- Joshua 24:15 says, *"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourself, …But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

Even spiritually correct truth cannot always penetrate a soul that is filled with strongholds. God can impart revelation knowledge any time He wants to, but His work of renewal occurs within the framework of our minds, thoughts, wills, emotions, memories, experiences and beliefs. He does not change, bypass or override, He just keeps offering His love and truth until we finally become willing to exchange our old beliefs and ideas for His. Some people spend their entire life trying to intermingle their concepts of God with His truth. Truth must be received, believed and acted upon to bring freedom.

God's Kingdom is manifested by His nature

- Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control;
- And other attributes such as grace, compassion, mercy, wisdom, forgiveness.

Satan's kingdom is manifested by his nature

- Hatred, envy, jealousy, unforgiveness, resentment, anger, murder, violence, rejection, fear, self-hatred, self-murder, lying, bitterness, fornication, adultery and many other destructive characteristics.

The Root Problem

The root problem is the vulnerability of a damaged soul and its strongholds. Erected by a wounded soul to keep further pain out, these strongholds keep

the pain in. Erected by a wounded soul to protect lies birthed from traumatic experiences, these strongholds keep God's truth out. Satan knows exactly what kind of stronghold you will erect (based on your past behavior) to protect your unmet needs, wounds, fears and humiliating memories. He assigns spirits to access these strongholds, further impacting your entire being.

Satan cannot read your mind. When he or his evil spirits put thoughts in your mind, the only way they know if it has been effective, is by your actions or words. So, as you change your beliefs, begin to recognize who is speaking to you and take your thoughts captive to the obedience of Christ, the enemy and all his demons have lost their effect on and in your life. Remember, if you get into agreement with those thoughts, recognize, take responsibility and rebuke the thoughts. You are walking in the victory at this point!!

Understanding Strongholds

Your strongholds may have actually enabled you to survive terrifying circumstances in your past that were out of your control. This is one of the reasons you trust them. But if they are still in place in your life, they are providing access for the enemy's assaults. They are also protecting wrong attitudes, beliefs and patterns of thought you have learned to trust more than you trust the Truth.

Strongholds and what they protect often cross and overlap and it is important to tear them apart and take them down, whatever their name. As you read the following list, remember that a stronghold is what we rely upon to defend and protect our right to believe something. What you believe will have a greater impact on your life than the Truth.

- **Suspicion:** Being painfully deceived can cause the building of a stronghold of suspicion to protect against being deceived again. This stronghold will resist intimacy with God.

- **Doubt:** The stronghold of doubt is usually one of the most obvious strongholds. It frequently accompanies a stronghold of suspicion which can masquerade so well, its existence is often totally denied.

- **Independence:** Rejection can cause the building of a stronghold of independence and self-sufficiency around pain, fortifying a right to never be vulnerable again. This can include any vulnerability to the work of the Holy Spirit.

- **False Security:** When unmet needs exist, a stronghold projects a façade of great strength intended to keep others from knowing how internally fragile and needy a person is. This can extend to keeping God at arm's length, as well.

- **Confusion:** A stronghold of confusion is erected by the old nature to mask the true understanding of a given issue or many issues. This stronghold leads to discouragement and depression (which can be strongholds, too).

- **Unforgiveness:** When someone has been abused or deeply hurt, unless forgiveness and healing come, strongholds of unforgiveness, bitterness or anger are erected to justify the role of being a victim.

- **Distrust:** Betrayal can cause the building of a stronghold of distrust to prevent anyone from getting close enough to betray again. This person will generally also be unable to fully trust God whose perfect love casts out fear.

- **Control and Manipulation:** A childhood filled with chaos, instability and everything seemingly out of control can build a stronghold of control to prevent ever being at the mercy of another again.

- **Self-Indulgence:** This stronghold is built to justify and protect the right to indulge self to compensate for unmet needs and pain. This stronghold also justifies a right to chemically alter reality with drugs (even prescription drugs) or alcohol to blot out pain.

- **Fear:** Fear is a common, but slightly different stronghold. People generally do not build this stronghold for protection, rather it is erected around great apprehension and anxiety over unresolved experiences and memories. This is one of the Principalities that will be discussed more fully in later chapters.

- **Denial:** A stronghold of denial refuses to acknowledge any of the above things. Denial is a valid, temporary mental and emotional coping mechanism to enable the human mind to survive certain traumatic situations – similar to how shock shuts down and prevents a severely wounded body from death. Denial enables abused children to survive unbearable situations. But just as shock becomes dangerous and life-threatening when a person cannot come out of it, so does denial when it becomes a stronghold.

A DIFFERENT LOOK AT STRONGHOLDS

In Strong's expanded dictionary, strongholds are defined as:

#2192 – to possess one's thoughts, mind, to possess externally, to have in one's power, control

#3794 – castle, fortress, to make firm, to fortify, the idea of holding safely

Typically, we have been taught that strongholds are bad. Based on the above teaching, I would agree with that. But then I had another thought about strongholds.

Can there be good strongholds? What if you are so rooted and grounded in the Lord that the evil spiritual strongholds no longer have the same negative effect in your life? Can you develop Godly spiritual strongholds?

Based on the above definitions, they sound like they can go either way – Godly or evil.

Psalm 27:*1 "The LORD is my light and my salvation – whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life – of whom shall I be afraid?"* (NIV).

In the gospel according to Mark, Chapter 2, the author records a fascinating scene. Jesus was preaching the word of God in Capernaum and because the crowd was so huge, 4 men went to the roof to lower their paralyzed friend down to Jesus. Jesus looked down at the man, full of compassionate intent.

What would He do? Obviously, the man needed to be healed. He needed a supernatural interventional miracle. However, Jesus saw more than paralysis. He saw more than palsy. He saw a person.

The first words He spoke are recorded in verse 5; *"When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, 'Son, your sins are forgiven.'"* Wait a minute, the man did not come to Jesus looking for forgiveness of sin; he came looking for healing from a debilitating paralysis.

Jesus saw that this man's primary need as a person superseded his physical problem of paralysis. Jesus was interested in bringing healing and wholeness to the whole man, for he saw a person who was in need. Paralysis was one of the man's needs – but not the only need.

In the hierarchy of needs, his first need was redemption and forgiveness of sin. Sin was undermining the work of God in his life and needed to be dealt with first. The supernatural is meant to work across the board, in a multifaceted and multidisciplinary way, in order to bring wholeness to individuals. It is this deeply intimate and personal concern that God has for every individual's wholeness that is at the heart of the supernatural mandate.

A person who is healed of some sickness, but continues to struggle with anxiety and fear, is not a person who has been made whole. An individual who continues to carry around shame, even if he or she has experienced a degree of healing and freedom, is a person who has not yet been made whole.

From the gifts of the Spirit, to the fruit of the Spirit, to the empowerment of the Spirit, through deliverance and on to liberty/freedom – each step has as its goal, the gradual increase of wholeness, health, and healing of the whole person. Touching body, soul, mind, and spirit, God's supernatural power is meant to be a supernatural resource to achieve this supernatural outcome.

Sometimes the greatest healing that can take place is when a person who feels rejected and unloved has a supernatural encounter with Christ. This encounter releases a new level of relational and personal wholeness for that person, which can lead to physical, spiritual, and relational healing as well. God will never stop working His supernatural works – in His timing, and with our cooperation – within us to transform and empower us to live in greater and greater expressions of His healing and restoring power.

The Principality of Bitterness

We will explore a group of demons (devils, evil spirits) that answer to a "principality" or higher authority. There are differing levels of authority and power in Satan's realm.

- To prevent these spirits from moving in, we must be continually "filled up" with God's Word, and "the knowledge of God" – precept upon precept, line upon line (Isaiah 28:10). Being filled with God's Spirit is the antidote to Satan's ploys. Purpose to rid yourself of every thought and action that's not of God.

- Luke 11:21-22 says, *"When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him, and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils."* The "strong man" referred to here is one of Satan's principalities. He is "armed". Satan is strong but Jesus is stronger!

- A principality is a ruling demon that has several lessor demons answering to it. Bitterness is a principality. Some of the major spirits answering to it, giving it protection and providing its armor are:

    1. Unforgiveness
    2. Resentment
    3. Retaliation
    4. Anger and Wrath
    5. Hatred
    6. Violence
    7. Murder

In the hierarchy of the Principality of Bitterness, resentment is worse than unforgiveness; unforgiveness answers to resentment. Retaliation is worse than resentment; and so on.

- Hebrews 12:14-15 says, *"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled."*

  If we cause trouble, slander, stir-up gossip, or are resentful, we are not following peace. This Scripture is very clear. If we don't seek peace and holiness, we won't experience the Lord, because we will have failed to receive God's grace.

  The definition of grace according to #5485 of Strong's Concordance is - (Grace – Greek, Charis – The divine influence upon the heart, and its reflection in the life).

- Bitterness gains its entrance to us through unforgiveness. Unforgiveness keeps a "record of wrongs" against another person. Satan banks on the spirit of unforgiveness to remind us of the wrongs that somebody else has done toward us. Unforgiveness reminds, rehashes, projects and torments us with past negative events. The strong man, the principality, uses the spirit of unforgiveness to constantly accuse us. But unforgiveness is just the beginning.

- After unforgiveness has done its work, the strong one sends out the spirit of resentment. Resentment builds on the foundation laid by unforgiveness. The record of wrongs ferments, and resentment begins to grow.

- Satan employs millions of evil spirits in his attempt to control us. This is why resentment can exist in many people at the same time.

It can multiply its growth and so defile us that it can completely take over an individual, a family or a church or any area in our life.

- Unforgiveness is like instant replay, replaying the words, voices, sights and sounds of wrong events from our past. Unforgiveness flashes negative thoughts and images of everything someone ever said or did to us. Have you ever had that happen? The accusing spirit continuously replays a record of the evil music of our lives to reinforce itself, so this strong man of Bitterness can continue to manifest through us. Resentment adds fuel to the fire. Resentment and unforgiveness stem from thoughts. They work through our memories.

- After unforgiveness and resentment have gained a foothold in our minds, the strong man sends out the spirit of <u>retaliation</u>.

  The spirit of retaliation is physically and emotionally much more dangerous than the spirits of unforgiveness and resentment. Retaliation's presence shows progressive demonization. Each spirit is much more dangerous than the previous one. So, if we're going after the spirit of retaliation in ministry, we're going to go after the spirits of unforgiveness and resentment as well.

- When retaliation wins its foothold, Bitterness sends out <u>anger and wrath</u>.

  Anger gives the evil spirit a voice. Unforgiveness, resentment and retaliation can be kept unspoken, eating away at a person's own spirit through self-deception. I'm not angry, just hurt or disappointed. Once the line is crossed to anger and wrath, the demons start to show themselves physically. Have you ever seen anger in a person's eyes? It is very real and very observable. This is anger caused by the root of Bitterness, because of unforgiveness, resentment and retaliation.

The Word of God forbids us from seeking retaliation or revenge. We are told not to avenge ourselves, or to bear grudges (Leviticus 19:18). Proverbs 24:29 tells us not to ponder doing to our neighbor what he has done to us. Paul taught us not to repay evil with evil, but instead we are to give the offender over to God (Romans 12:17-19).

There is such a thing as "righteous anger" but it flows from a sense of an offense committed against God, not our own unforgiving spirit. Revenge is never the motive behind righteous anger. Whatever the source of our anger, we are taught not to sin as its result, or retain anger in our spirit overnight (Ephesians 4:26).

After anger and wrath has gained its foothold, <u>hatred</u> moves in. Hatred provides the fuel for our final victimization by evil spirits. When we observe hatred in someone, we know that anger, retaliation, resentment and unforgiveness are there as well. And we know that Bitterness is in the driver's seat, trusting in the armor provided by these lessor evil spirits.

- The sixth level of Bitterness is <u>violence</u>. Violence is <u>anger</u> and <u>hatred</u> set into motion. Our emotions erupt into physical or sometimes hate-filled verbal attacks. At this point, we see pots and pans thrown across the room, or punches being thrown. Fights erupt. Physical, sexual and/or verbal abuse result.

- The seventh and worst spirit in the Principality of Bitterness is <u>murder</u>. The spirit of <u>murder</u> includes more than taking someone's physical life. God's Word teaches how we can "murder" someone with our words. Murder starts in the heart, because the ultimate level of the Spirit of Bitterness is the elimination of another's person-hood. I John 3:15 says, *"Whoever hates his brother is a murderer; and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him."* Proverbs 18:21 says, *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue…"*

Murderous hate-filled speech, driven by Bitterness, kills a person's own spirit. Whether it is the person who is doing the screaming and his speech crucifies his own sense of decency, or a person who receives a verbal attack, whose spirit shrinks in fear, the end result is the death of a Godly, peaceful spirit for both. It even affects those hearing the verbal attack.

The Antidote for Bitterness

- First, we must recognize that we *are* bitter. This is harder than it sounds. Many people, especially Christians, know they should not be "bitter". They know the Scriptures about forgiveness and they desire to be obedient. They say "I am not bitter, I am just hurt, disappointed", etc. Or they say "I have forgiven." If any evidence exists of unforgiveness, resentment, retaliation, unrighteous anger, hatred, violence or murder in our lives, we have a level of Bitterness.

- Secondly, we must repent of the sin of Bitterness. Repent means that we change our minds about the situation, fall out of the agreement and turn away from it. And we ask God to forgive us.

- Thirdly, we must forgive others and ourselves – God's way!! What does that mean – God's way? There are several aspects to consider.

Forgiving Others

- The Bible teaches that forgiveness begins with YOU, and it starts in your heart. If YOU, from your heart, don't forgive your brother his trespass, God will not forgive YOU. This requires action on your part. God doesn't just erase the hurts in your life. He wants to meet with you after you choose to obey Him. Then He speaks to your heart and heals it. It starts with our choice.

Ask yourself how you are dealing with the thoughts and reasonings that come into your mind day and night. Do you find yourself thinking about someone who hurt you, or about a situation where you lost out to someone who harmed you? Do these thoughts sometimes come so fast you can't really think them through? Do thoughts of certain people or events cause you emotional pain? Do you harbor unforgiveness, resentment or regret about your past? Do your own thoughts put you down? Do you have a lot of 'if only' thoughts? If you experience these kinds of thoughts, then Satan's lies are present in your mind. The good news is that Jesus has won the victory over Satan; we just need to appropriate it in our life.

- Ephesians 6 says, *"Our battle is not with flesh and blood, but with principalities and powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places."* This means our battle is not against people. We might think most of our conflicts are with our mother, father, brother, sister or someone else who has hurt or rejected us. We meditate on these negative thoughts and in so doing, we see their face and remember what they did to us. Satan runs this projector in our minds and whispers in our ear interjecting past hurtful feelings into the present. All too often, we buy the lie!

- That person is NOT the one who really wronged us! Let God's Word give us the answer. Satan wants to hide behind, and work through, these people. But to be healed, we must begin separating the person from their sin. We must separate the lie from the truth.

- Through the eyes of the Spirit we can look directly at a person who is victimizing us or putting us down, and we see what is really happening. We look past the person talking to us and see the demonic spirit in high places that controls them. We realize it's not them talking to us, it's spiritual wickedness in high places – which they are choosing to allow to manifest and are talking to us through them.

At any moment, when those who are driven by spiritual wickedness in high places attempt to offend us, we have a choice as to how we will respond. Remember, you CHOOSE whether to be offended or NOT! You can become offended or you can remember that "the Word of God" instructs us to forgive them. It is our choice. We forgive because we are God's sons and daughters. He forgave us, set the example and asks us to be obedient by forgiving others.

It is a fact that the medical profession has documented diseases that are caused from chemical poisons released into the body by unforgiveness, bitterness, anger, resentment, frustration, fear and anxiety, to name just a few. (E.D.S.O.)

E.D.S.O.

(Endorphins, Dopamine, Serotonin, Oxytocin)

The Selfish Chemicals (hormones)

Without selfish chemicals, we would starve to death. Our ancestors, who hunted to survive when resources were either scarce or hard to come by, learned to hunt when they were not hungry. Suppose they waited until they were hungry to hunt for food. They might not have been successful in catching something to eat.

Two chemicals – endorphins and dopamine – are the reason that we are driven to hunt, gather and achieve. They make us feel good when we find something we're looking for, build something we need or accomplish our goals. These are chemicals of progress.

E is for Endorphins: The Runner's High.

Endorphins serve <u>one</u> purpose and one purpose only: to mask physical pain, that's it. It provides our own personal opiate. Often released in response to <u>stress</u> or <u>fear</u>, they mask pain with pleasure. Athletes and runners push themselves physically because endorphins make them feel good. The biological reason for endorphins, however, has nothing to do with exercise. It has to do with <u>survival</u>. God designed a clever incentive to encourage us to keep going – a little endorphin rush. The importance of laughter in tense times – it actually releases endorphins. You can't laugh and be afraid at the same time. As President Reagan joked with the Chief Surgeon after being shot by an assassin and before going into the operating room on March 30, 1981, "I hope you're all Republicans", to which the Surgeon replied, "We're all Republicans today, Mr. President."

D is for Dopamine: An incentive for progress.

Dopamine is the reason for the good feeling we get when we find something we're looking for or do something that needs to get done. It is responsible for the feeling of satisfaction after we've finished an important task, completed a project, reached a goal or reached one of the markers on our way to a bigger goal. We all know how good it feels to "cross something off" our to-do lists. The feeling of progress or accomplishment is primarily because of dopamine.

We are designed in a way to help us stay focused on the task at hand of hunting and gathering. One way we get dopamine is from eating, which is one of the reasons we enjoy it. So, we try to repeat the behaviors that get us food. By the same token, as we get closer to our goals, the metrics tell us we're making progress, so we get another little "spurt" of dopamine. Then when we reach our goal, we get a big "hit" of dopamine. We get that intense feeling of accomplishment at the end. The bigger the goal, the more effort it requires, the more dopamine we get. The more difficult the goal, the bigger the "hit". Whereas, doing something quick and easy gives us a little hit. There is no biological incentive to do nothing.

The Selfless Chemicals

Finding, building and achieving are only part of the story. It is the manner in which we make progress that is core to our ability to do well in a dangerous world. It is the selfless chemicals that make us feel valued when we are in the company of those we trust, give us a feeling of belonging and inspire us to want to work for the good of the group. It is the selfless chemicals that keep the Circle of Safety strong.

Without Social Chemicals, We'd Be Cold-Blooded

We are anything but loners. And for good reason. If we weren't adapted to live in tribes and cooperate, we would have died off ages ago. We're just not strong enough to survive alone, let alone thrive. Whether we like to

admit it or not, we need each other. That's where serotonin and oxytocin come in. They are the backbone of the Circle of Safety. There to encourage pro-social behavior, serotonin and oxytocin help us form bonds of trust and friendship so that we look out for each other. Because of these two chemicals, we have societies and cultures.

When we look out for each other and cooperate, serotonin and oxytocin reward us with feelings of security, fulfillment, belonging, trust and camaraderie. When firing at the right times and for the right reasons, they can help turn us into an inspiring leader, a loyal follower, a close friend, a trusted partner, a believer. And when that happens, when we find ourselves inside a Circle of Safety, stress declines, fulfillment arises, our want to serve others increases and our willingness to trust others to watch our backs skyrockets. When these social incentives are inhibited, however, we become more selfish and more aggressive. Cooperation declines, stress increases, as do paranoia and mistrust. Oxytocin and serotonin grease the social machine. When they are missing, friction results.

Serotonin: The Leadership Chemical

Serotonin is the feeling of pride. It is the feeling we get when we perceive that others like or respect us. It makes us feel strong and confident, like we can take on anything. And more than confidence boosting, it raises our status. As social animals, we more than want the approval of those in our tribe, we need it. It really matters. We all want to feel valuable for the effort we put forth for the good of others in the group or the group itself. That's why we have awards ceremonies, company recognition programs or graduation ceremonies. Serotonin is attempting to reinforce the bond between parent and child, teacher and student, coach and player, boss and employee, leader and follower, and also counselor and counselee. Remember, these chemicals (hormones) control our feelings.

O is for Oxytocin: Chemical of Love.

Oxytocin is most people's favorite chemical. It's the feeling of friendship, love or deep trust. It is the feeling we get when we're in the company of our closest friends or trusted colleagues. It is the feeling we get when we do something nice for someone or someone does something nice for us. It is responsible for all the warm fuzzies. It is the feeling we get when we hold hands and sing together. But oxytocin is not there just to make us feel good. It is vital to our survival instincts. Without oxytocin, we wouldn't want to perform acts of generosity, there would be no empathy, we wouldn't be able to develop strong bonds of trust and friendship, we would have no partner to raise our children; in fact, we wouldn't even love our children. Oxytocin makes us social. It is the chemical that helps direct how vulnerable we can afford to make ourselves. It is the social compass that determines when it's safe to open up and trust or when we should hold back.

Unlike dopamine, which is instant gratification, oxytocin is long-lasting. The more time we spend with someone, the more we are willing to make ourselves vulnerable around them. As we learn to trust them and earn their trust in return, the more oxytocin flows. In time, as if by magic, we will realize that we have developed a deep bond with that person. The madness and excitement and spontaneity of the dopamine "hit" are replaced by a more relaxed, more stable, more long-term oxytocin-driven relationship. A favorite definition of love is giving someone the power to destroy us and trusting they won't use it.

Generosity and other ways to build trust.

When we help others with no expectation of anything in return, we receive a small shot of oxytocin. It feels good to help people. Also, the people we help receive a small shot of oxytocin, because it feels good when someone does something nice for us too. Not only the helper and the helped receive a shot of oxytocin, but someone witnessing the act of generosity also gets some chemical feel good.

Oxytocin is also released with physical contact. The warm feeling we get when we hug someone we like for a few seconds longer – that's oxytocin. It is the reason that children seem to always want to touch and hug their mothers. In fact, there is lots of evidence that children who are deprived of human contact, deprived of sufficient doses of oxytocin, have trouble building relationships later in life. It is the reinforcing bond between athletes when they "high-five". When we shake someone's hand, we are creating trust and a "shot" of oxytocin.

Not only is Oxytocin behind the feelings of trust and loyalty, it also makes us feel good and inspires us to do nice things for others. "Mother Nature" wants the ones who give to others to keep their genes in the gene pool. That may be one of the reasons oxytocins helps us live longer. A person who is good to others in the group is good for the species.

According to a study, people who claim to be happy live 35% longer than less happy people. Oxytocin boosts our immune systems, makes us better problem-solvers and makes us more resistant to the addictive qualities of dopamine. Unlike dopamine, which is largely responsible for instant gratification, oxytocin gives us lasting feelings of calm and safety.

The Big C (Cortisol)

Cortisol is designed to alert us to threats and heighten our senses to prepare for possible danger. Absent that feeling, we would not be alerted to danger when we actually saw something or when the attack had already begun. From a survival standpoint, that would probably be too late. Cortisol is responsible for the stress and anxiety we experience when something frightens us. It is the first level of the "flight or fight" response. Like a high-security alarm system, cortisol is designed to alert us to possible danger and prepare us to take extra measures to protect ourselves to raise our chances of survival.

In the event of an actual threat, adrenaline is released into our bloodstream, giving us energy to get away and boost our strength to face our foe. An example would be a mother who suddenly gains superhuman strength to save her children from danger. But if there is no threat, we pause and take a deep breath, wait for the cortisol to leave our bloodstream, allow our heart rate to return to normal and relax again.

Cortisol is not supposed to stay in our system. It is supposed to fire off when we sense a threat and then leave when the threat is passed. And for a good reason. The stress on our bodies is serious. The manner in which it reconfigures our internal systems can cause lasting damage. If we live in a perpetual state of fear and anxiety, when the danger is real or imagined, the stress we feel is real. Unlike our rational minds, our bodies do not try to assess what danger is, we simply react to the chemicals flowing through our bloodstream to prepare us for what might be a threat. As social animals, we feel stress when we feel unsupported. If we do not feel a Circle of Safety, cortisol starts to seep through our veins. Drip. Drip. Drip. This is a serious problem, since cortisol actually inhibits the release of oxytocin, the chemical responsible for empathy which directly affects our relationships. It can also do serious damage to our health. Like all selfish chemicals, cortisol can help us survive, but it isn't supposed to be in our system all the time. It wreaks havoc with our glucose metabolism. It increases blood pressure and inflammatory responses and impairs cognitive ability. Cortisol increases aggression, suppresses sex drive, and generally leaves us feeling stressed out.

Because of the stress of a threat, our bodies take a lot of energy, so the body naturally turns off non-essential functions, such as digestion and growth. Once the stress is passed, these systems are turned on again. Unfortunately, the immune system is one of the functions that the body deems nonessential at this time, so it shuts down during a cortisol burst.

Whereas oxytocin boosts our immune system, cortisol compromises it. That our modern world has seen high rates of cancer, diabetes, heart disease and other preventable illnesses may not be a coincidence. Today these conditions are far more likely to kill us than threats like violent crime or terrorism. The National Counterterrorism Center estimates that more than 12,500 people were killed worldwide by terrorists in 2011. According to FBI statistics, about 165,000 people were murdered in the U.S. between 2000 and 2010, more than two-thirds of them with a firearm. Compare those numbers to the 600,000 people who die every year in the U.S. from heart disease and nearly 600,000 people died of cancer in 2012. Think about that, seven times more people die each year from heart disease and cancer than all the people murdered in a decade.

- Not only are these enzymes released – or not – but there is scientific evidence that our brains are affected by our thoughts and words. These are all by God's design and you can take all the meds, and supplements in the world and they, at best, will only minimize the results. But even better than the scientific evidence is God's very own Words about thoughts and words.

  "For as he thinks in his heart, so is he." Proverbs 23:7
  "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." Proverbs 18:20

- Another organ besides the hypothalamus that has automatic responses is our brain. The medical community refers to it as the mind-body connection – our thoughts are equally important. The brain does not have a brain – it is like a computer - it responds to what we put in it. Our thoughts are memes – and memes are like ruts in a dirt road. The more you go up and down those ruts, the deeper they get. So, if you constantly think negative thoughts, those ruts or memes will produce the negative results and if you consistently think positive thoughts they will form positive ruts – memes.

- At this point, I want to emphasize that even though these chemicals are secreted based on our thoughts, it is extremely important to understand another way God created us – the basic need for Love, Acceptance, Worth and Security – LAWS.

- When we forgive God's way, forgiveness becomes so much a part of us that we no longer need to quote it; we simply live it. It becomes part of our nature to forgive others as an automatic response to their actions or attitudes. Romans 12:19 says, *"Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath…Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord."*

- After having digested this idea of forgiving others, our humanity still feels the insult, but inside, gradually, the hurt is quenched. It is gone, and in its place, there is love and compassion for the person who harmed us. We see them as under the devil's influence and we can begin to pray blessings over them.

- 2 Corinthians 10:5 instructs us to *"*[cast] *down arguments (imaginations) and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."* High things are Satan's demons that *"bring spiritual wickedness in high places"* (Ephesians 6:12). What forms the various components of "spiritual wickedness"? <u>Bitterness</u>, for one thing. Others are <u>unbelief</u>, <u>doubt</u>, and <u>fear</u>. Still other spiritual wickedness in high places includes <u>unforgiveness</u> and <u>resentment</u>.

  When somebody hurts us, we don't just blank out our hurt feelings, saying "Well, God, you're just going to have to deal with this." No. God asks us to deal with our own unforgiveness. We forgive others as an act of obedience to God, and it accrues to our own benefit. Do you see the difference? NO amount of repenting, confessing, praying or reading the Word will ever cover over, atone for or excuse unforgiveness!

Forgiveness is not tolerance or pretending
Forgiveness is not forgetting.
Forgiveness is not generosity of spirit nor turning the other cheek.
Forgiveness is not looking the other way.
Forgiveness is not making a joke of a wrong.
Forgiveness is not politeness or tactfulness nor diplomacy.
Forgiveness is not a passive non-response.
Forgiveness is not rationalizing.

Forgiveness is something much more!

Forgiveness is a deliberate act of the will – a choice.
Forgiveness is a full pardon.
Forgiveness is a substitutional act.
Forgiveness is obedience to God's Word.
Forgiveness is an act of love.
Forgiveness is the key to freedom.

Principalities or Major Strongholds

- Accusation
- Addiction
- Bitterness
- Envy and Jealousy
- Occultism
- Rejection
- Unloving (anti-Christ)
- Fear

Scriptures for Principalities

Eph.6:12

- Bitterness: Heb. 12:15; Acts 8:23; Eph. 4:31; Prov. 14:10
  Unforgiveness: Mt. 6:14-15; Mark 11:25-26; Rom. 1:31
  Resentment (offense): I Tim. 6:2-4; Gal. 5:15; Mt. 18:17; Luke 17:1
  Retaliation: Mt. 5:38-39; Lev. 19:18; Rom. 12:17, 19; I Pet. 3:9; Deut. 32:35; Heb. 10:30; Mt. 5:22
  Anger & Wrath: Prov. 15:1; Eph. 4:26, 31; Jas. 1:19-20; Gen. 4:5; Mt. 5:22
  Hatred: I John 2:11, 3:14-15; Gal. 5:20; Lev. 19:17; Tit. 3:3
  Violence: Ps. 27:12, 72:14; Rom. 1:30
  Murder: Gen. 4:8; Jas. 3:8; Mt.5:21, 22; Rom. 1:29; I John 3:15; Rev. 21:8, 22:15

- Accusation: Rev. 12:10; Luke 6:7; Mt. 27:37; Jas. 4:11-12; II Pet. 2:9; John 5:45

- Envy & Jealousy: Prov. 14:30; Luke 12:15; Heb. 13:5; Jas. 3:14,16; Tit. 3:3; Gal. 5:19-21, 26; Rom. 1:28-29; Eph. 5:3,5; Acts 13:45; I Tim. 6:4; Ex. 20:17; Num. 5:14; I Cor. 13:4; Rom 13:13; Job 5:2

- Fear: II Tim. 1:7; Luke 12:5, 32; I John 4:18; Mt. 6:34; Lk. 8:50; Heb. 13:6; John 14:27

- Occultism: Ex. 20:3; Deut. 18:9-12; II Cor. 11:13-15; I John 4:1-3; Gal. 1:6-9; II Cor. 4:2-4; Gal. 5:19-21; I Cor. 5:11; Eph.5:5; Rev. 21:8, 22:15

- Rejection: John 13:38; Jer. 8:9

- Unloving spirit: I John 4:20-21; Rom. 1:31

Addiction: Although not a Principality, addictions play a major role in the area of emotional and physical illnesses. ALL addictions have a spiritual root of 'a need for love' – this is the unconditional love of the Father – a vertical love – not horizontal love.

Where does peace come from: 1Thess. 5:23; John 14:27; Is. 26:3

Spirits of Bitterness – Ministry List

Main Underlings

Unforgiveness

Resentment

Retaliation

Anger/Wrath

Hate

Violence

Murder

(Physical, with the tongue and in the heart)

Other Underlings

Programming

Chaotic thinking

False Imaginations

Fear

Rebellion

Bitterness toward God

Self-Pity (short and long-term memory)

Bondage

Rejection

Accusation

Projection of lies

Recorder

Hostility

Strife

Thief

Destroyer

Death

Suicide

Shame

Physical Abuse

Verbal Abuse

Sexual Abuse

Fornication

Adultery

Cursing

Pornography

Slander

Envy/Jealousy

Emotional Abuse

Accuser

- Projected fear
- Self-destruction
- Acting as another's Holy Spirit
- Co-dependency
- Not releasing one who has repented

SPIRITUAL WARFARE DELIVERANCE PRAYER

A Prayer of repentance and renunciation should include at least the following elements:

Person being ministered to says:

- Heavenly Father,
- I recognize and take responsibility for participating with and serving the sin of (*Principality)* in my life.
- I take responsibility in my generation, on both sides of my family all the way back to the Cross, for the following spirits: *(individual spirits).*
- Father, in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth I repent to You and ask You to forgive me for allowing the above-named spirits to manifest through me and by faith I now receive Your forgiveness.
- Sin of *(Principality),* I renounce everything you stand for in my life. I will no longer serve you. I take a stand against you and everything you represent. You must now leave me and go into a dry place in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- Father, I thank You for Your forgiveness and ask that the curses be broken.

Person doing the ministry now says:

- Spirit of *(Principality),* you have heard his/her confession and declaration and you MUST obey him/her and leave now in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.

- By the power of the Holy Spirit, I take authority over the spirit of (*Principality)* and break your power in his/her life. You no longer have any power, right, or authority in his/her life and I cast you out. .

Holy Spirit, I invite you into our hearts to heal us in the areas of *(Principality).* Please speak your words of truth to us about these situations.

9 R's to Freedom

1. RECOGNIZE

- You must recognize the problem and the enemy.
  Isaiah 5:13-14; Jeremiah 3:15; Hosea 4:6; Hebrews 4:13, 5:14;
  1 Peter 5:8

2. RESPONSIBILITY

- Taking responsibility is having **NO** excuses; it's your choice.
  Psalm 51:3-4; Matthew 12:35; 2 Corinthians 3:18

3. REPENT

- Remember from where you have fallen short. Repentance starts in the heart.
- Accept the truth. Change your mind about the matter. Turn away from the sin.
  Acts 3:19; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22; 3:3, 19

4. RENOUNCE

- Fall completely out of agreement with the sin; have a perfect hatred for sin.
- A commitment to refuse to recognize the authority of Satan in one's life.
- Speak out loud – the enemy needs to hear you.
  1 Samuel 15:22; Hosea 4:6; 1 Corinthians 10:20; 2 Corinthians 4:2

5. REMOVE IT

- Remove, get rid of the thing in your life that is causing you to sin. Take action to separate from it – this is the point of deliverance
- Come into agreement with God – disagree with sin.
  Ezekiel 18:30-32; Mark 9:43; James 1:7-8

6. REPLACE IT

- Keep your house filled with the Word of God, praise and worship.
- Strengthen your relationship with the Godhead.
  Acts 2:42; 2 Corinthians 5:7; 2 Corinthians 10:3-6; Ephesians 5:26; Philippians 3:13, 4:8

7. RESIST

- Stand against it! Break the power of the memories.
- Submit to God *then* resist the devil – resist by submitting.
  Proverbs 4:23; Isaiah 33:15; Luke 11:24-26; 2 Corinthians 10:4-6; Philippians 4:8; James 1:14-15, 4:7-8

8. REJOICE

- Thank the Lord for every victory!
  Isaiah 35:1-10, 61:10; Philippians 1:18, 4:4

9. RESTORE

- Build others up in their faith.
  Isaiah 42:22, 58:10-12; Galatians 6:1; 1 Peter 4:8

The 9 Rs to Freedom - Expanded

1. **RECOGNIZE –**
   - You must recognize the problem and the enemy.

Isaiah 5:13-14 - *[13] Therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; Their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst. [14] Therefore hell has enlarged itself and opened its mouth beyond measure; their glory and their multitude and their pomp, and he who is jubilant, shall descend into it.*

Jeremiah 3:15 - *[15] And I will give you shepherds according to My heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.*

Hosea 4:6 - *[6] My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.*

Hebrews 4:13 - *[13] And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.*

Hebrews 5:14 - *[14] But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

1 Peter 5:8 - *[8] Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

2. RESPONSIBILITY –

- Taking responsibility means having **NO** excuses; it's your choice

Psalm 51:3-4 - *3 For I acknowledge my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.4 Against You, you only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight— That You may be found just when You speak, and blameless when You judge.*

Matthew 12:35 - *35 A good man out of the goodness of his heart brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.*

2 Corinthians 3:18 - *18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

3. REPENT –

- Remember from where you have fallen short.
- Repentance starts in the heart.
- It is a turning away from the sin.
- Change of mind; think differently.

Acts 3:19 - *19 Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord,*

2 Corinthians 7:10 - *10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*

Revelation 2:5, 16, 21-22 - *[5] Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lampstand from its place—unless you repent.*

[16] Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

[21] And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. [22] Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds.

Revelation 3:3, 19 - *[3] Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent. Therefore, if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you.*

[19] As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore, be zealous and repent. **Strong's Concordance – NT #3328; #3340**

4. RENOUNCE –

- Fall completely out of agreement with the sin; have a perfect hatred for sin.
- A commitment to refuse to recognize the authority of Satan in one's life.
- Speak out loud – the enemy needs to hear you.

1 Samual 15:22 – *[22] But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the voice of the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.*

Hosea 4:6 - *[6] My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge. "Because you have rejected knowledge, I also reject you as my priests; because you have ignored the law of your God, I also will ignore your children.*

1 Corinthians 10:20 – *[20]No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons.*

2 Corinthians 4:2 - *[2] But we have renounced the hidden things of shame, not walking in craftiness nor handling the word of God deceitfully, but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

5. REMOVE IT

- Remove, get rid of the thing that is causing you to sin.
- Take action to separate from it – this is the point of deliverance.
- Come into agreement with God - disagree with sin.

Ezekiel 18:30-32 - *[30] Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. [31] Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? [32]For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!*

Mark 9:43 - *[43] If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed, rather than having two hands, to go to hell, into the fire that shall never be quenched -*

James 1:7-8 *[7] For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; [8] he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

6. REPLACE IT

- Keep your house filled with the Word of God and praise and worship.
- Strengthen your relationship with the Godhead.

Acts 2:42 – *[42] "And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and*
fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

2 Corinthians 5:7 - *[7] For we walk by faith, not by sight.*

2 Corinthians 10:3-6 - *[3] "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. [4] For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, [5] casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; [6] And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when our obedience is fulfilled."*

Ephesians 5:26 – *[26] That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word.*

Philippians 3:13 – *[13] Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,*

Philippians 4:8 – *[8] Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.*

7. RESIST

- Stand against it! Break the power of the memories.
- Submit to God, then resist the devil – resist by submitting.

Proverbs 4:23 – *[23] Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life.*

Isaiah 33:15 – *[15] He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, he who despises the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil.*

Luke 11:24-26 – *[24] 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.' [25]When it arrives, it finds the house swept clean and put in order. [26]Then it goes and takes 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.*

2 Corinthians 10:4-6 – *[4] For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, [5] casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, [6] and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.*

Philippians 4:8 – *[8] Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy – meditate on these things.*

James 1:14-15 – *[14] But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed, [15] Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.*

James 4:7-8 – *[7] Therefore, submit to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you. [8] Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double-minded.*

8. REJOICE

- Thank the Lord for every victory. Joy of the Redeemed

Isaiah 35:1-10 -

[1] The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, [2] it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. [3] Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; [4] say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, He will come with vengeance; with divine retribution He will come to save you." [5] Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. [6] Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. [7] The burning

sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. [8] And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness. The unclean will not journey on it; it will be for those who walk in that Way; wicked fools will not go about on it.[9] No lion will be there, nor will any ferocious beast get up on it; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, [10] and the ransomed of the LORD will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

Isaiah 61:10 – *[10] I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God, for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

Philippians 1:18 – *[18] What then? Only that in every way whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached, and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice.*

Philippians 4:4 – *[4] Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice!*

9. RESTORE

- Build others up in the faith.

Isaiah 42:22 - *[22] But this is a people robbed and plundered; All of them are snared in holes, and they are hidden in prison houses; They are for prey, and no one delivers; For plunder, and no one says, "Restore!"*

Isaiah 58:10-12 – *[10] and if you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday. [11] The LORD will guide you always; He will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well-watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fail. [12] Your people will rebuild the ancient ruins and will raise up the age-old foundations; you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwellings.*

Galatians 6:1 - *[1] Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.*

1 Peter 4:8 - *[8] And above all things have fervent love for one another, for love will cover a multitude of sins.*

PRINCIPALITY OF REJECTION

The Nature of the Principality of Rejection

- The definition of Rejection means to cast from one; to throw away; to refuse; to put aside, to remove from your presence. As a noun, the word rejection means a person or thing rejected as not up to some standard.

- Feeling rejected is one of the most devastating of all human emotions, and it is usually ill-founded. But we can't defeat Rejection if we have given Bitterness, Envy and Jealousy a place in our lives.

- Rejection robs people of relationships. Rejection will make people feel that others don't love them.

- It is a form of unbelief. It says that you are <u>not</u> accepted of God and in order to be accepted of God you have to be accepted of people <u>first</u>.

- Rejection communicates that a person is unacceptable, of no value, doesn't belong, unwanted, can't fit in and unloved. Rejection communicates this message through a disgusted look, disdain, an impatient answer, a snub, through neglect, through abandoning someone, through silence, to name just a few.

- Rejection can be real or imagined. Either way, we know the feeling when we've been rejected.

- We're born with an innate longing for love and acceptance. The Word of God tells us that we are loved, adopted and accepted, but the Spirit of Rejection has an assignment to steal those truths away from us.

- There are two ingredients for rejection: it really did happen, or the person imagined it. About 60-70 percent of all rejection is imagined

and the person really was not rejected, but because they have a Spirit of Rejection, they take every little look, every little word, every little sound, etc. and twist and turn it to make themselves feel rejected.

- You need to start accepting yourself as God has accepted you from before the foundation of the world. Let God be true and every man a liar.

  Romans 8:15 – *"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."* (NKJ).

Rejection consists of four major aspects.

- First, Rejection tells us we are unwanted, put aside and refused. It's a feeling of being unloved and not accepted either as a member of a group, by a friend, a family member or sometimes, even the human race. Rejection places a wall around us that repels acceptance even when it is offered.

- Second, Rejection reminds us of our desperate need to be loved and at the same time we're convinced we're unloved. This causes emotional torment. Rejection drives love from us and drives us from love.

- This Unloving spirit tells us that no one can ever really love us – we're unlovable. Any time someone begins to open love's door to us, Unloving spirits slam it shut with accusations that we're unworthy of being loved.

- As someone starts to show love toward us, Rejection starts picking their affection apart. Rejection judges facial expressions and body language, or evaluates nuances, subconsciously looking for a reason to feel more rejected.

- Rejection blocks our ability to reconcile differences with others over misunderstandings. It carries us into Bitterness; keeping a record of wrongs.

- The fear of being rejected is fueled by the fear of man and by the fear of failure. Rejection, Unloving spirits and Fear work together.

- Third, though people offer love and acceptance to us, we're unable to believe them and receive it. Giving and receiving love forms the foundation for our relationship with God, others and ourselves. Love has the power to break Rejection and Fear.

- Fourth, though we desire "to be a part of something", we never feel like we belong. We attempt to become involved in family, church, a group of friends or some organization, or we strive to fit in at work. This sense of "not belonging" is Rejection. Shame and guilt result from Rejection, making us feel uncomfortable and like we don't "fit in".

Plagued by Rejection

- Rejection produces double-mindedness. "I know God said He loves me, but I don't feel His love." Feelings cannot be trusted. We constantly argue with God's eternal truth, bolstered by Satan's eternal lies. Rejection robs us of our true identity in Christ Jesus.

- You choose what you are going to believe and you cannot intermingle your beliefs with Truth.

- Rejection causes us to run and hide, or to search for our identity in all the wrong places.

Rejection in the Work Place

- In the work place Rejection drives people to focus on their "position". They want an identity, title and status. A person who has a healthy, true identity rooted in Christ knows who he or she is and is content. They don't overly strive for position or status, and because of this, others often seek them out for leadership.

- Rejection is an acknowledgement of agreement with Satan's lies. Believing Satan's lies calls God a liar. Romans 3:4 *"…let God be true and every man a liar…".*

Rejection's Claims

- Scripture teaches that rejection is just as dangerous as unbelief and faithlessness. Rejection claims that God's acceptance of us rests on us first winning people's acceptance. It puts people in the place of God, because it gives irrational weight to man's acceptance. We let humans define our reality, choosing them instead of God.

- When we make winning people's approval our god, we are in idolatry. Idolatry carries a curse down a family line through the third and fourth generations. Exodus 20:3 says, *"You shall have no other gods before Me."* Lev. 26:1, *"You shall not make idols for yourselves;".* Exodus 20:3-5 and Deuteronomy 5:7-9 tell of the curses to the third and fourth generations. (NKJ)

Rejection Wounds Our Spirit.

- Proverbs 18:8 says, *"The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly."* (KJV)

- Negative comments uttered years ago by our parents may have penetrated deep into our spirit, putting us under the influence of those words ever since. Proverbs 18:14 says, *"The spirit of a man will*

sustain him in sickness. But who can bear a broken spirit?" Again, in Proverbs 18:21, *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue; and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."*

- Our words have power and they will be honored – either by God or Satan and his evil spirits. We can curse or bless others. We can curse or bless ourselves. We can set evil spirits in motion by our words. "I wish I never had you." "You're nothing but trouble." "I never wanted you in the first place. You were just an accident." "Your middle name is trouble. You'll never amount to anything."

- To defeat the curse of words we must <u>fall out of agreement</u> with them. <u>Reject</u> them and instead, <u>believe</u> God's Word. Accept God's will and His promises, and the power of an evil spirit to execute those words will be broken. This needs to be followed by forgiveness.

- If we have spoken these kinds of evil words, or gotten in agreement with these thoughts, we must take responsibility and repent, and renounce them.

The roots of Rejection are a tangled mess with <u>four</u> identifiable causes.

- <u>The fear of Rejection.</u> Rejection by itself is tough enough, but when coupled with the fear of Rejection it becomes even more powerful. The fear itself produces more Rejection. Compare faith to fear. Faith is the substance of things hoped for (Hebrews 11:1). Fear is the substance of things <u>not</u> hoped for. Faith says the eventual outcome of events will be for the better. Fear says all things happen for our detriment (Job 3:25, 26).

- Remember, fear and faith are equal in this dimension, they both project into the future and they will both be fulfilled.

- There are three powerful demons that answer to Fear and Rejection working in tandem. They are <u>fear of man</u>, <u>fear of failure</u>, and <u>fear of rejection</u>. All three must be defeated!

- God says to be anxious – i.e., nervous or distraught – about nothing. Philippians 4:16 (NKJ). Believers are to be free of anxiety. Isaiah 26:3 says, *"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."* (NKJ).

- Self-rejection. Self-rejection often results in an intense and sometimes irrational drive to succeed. There is a need to prove to our parents, the world and ourselves that we are valuable and useful.

- If we grew up in a home where we did not experience unconditional love and acceptance, and where we were treated as someone with very little value, we may well experience Rejection and self-rejection even as adults.

- Rejecting others. We habitually reject others first before they reject us. In this way, we protect ourselves from the hurt of future Rejection. We fear becoming vulnerable and transparent with others, and we have a hard time trusting anyone. This can also influence our trust in God.

- The desire for Rejection. This is the most perverse result of Rejection. It is the fruit of an Unloving spirit of self-hatred. We actually set ourselves up for Rejection by treating others poorly or with indifference. In reality, we are seeking Rejection from them. Rejection reinforces and validates our lack of self-worth and lack of identity.

Defense Mechanisms

Being rejected sets various defense mechanisms in action. We withdraw from others like a turtle hiding in its shell. Rejection says, "I'm not going to let myself be vulnerable. I'm not going to let people reject me again."

- Fear of failure drives a defense mechanism that prohibits us from taking chances in a relationship. By risk avoidance, we protect ourselves from Rejection, but also miss much of life.

- Rejection naturally seeks for a meaningful identity outside of a whole, pure relationship with God. Rejection distorts us so no one, including us, even knows our real self.

- Rejection looks for identity and comfort from other people, not God. Instead of patterning ourselves after Christ, we idolize other people.

Possible sources of Rejection.

- Fatherless homes often produce children subject to Rejection. Fatherless homes lack a clear identity, causing the children to miss out on the fullness of feeling loved and accepted. The father establishes the identity and emotional stability in the home.

- Rejection can stem from the lives of our ancestors. Spiritual problems can be inherited. Sin can continue from generation to generation unless someone repents and puts a stop to it.

- Rejection can occur at conception if one or both of the parents are not happy about the coming of the baby. If a child is unwanted, a door opens for a Spirit of Rejection to enter into the child sometimes while in the womb. God gave all of us life and He knew each of us before laying the foundation of the world. His hands knit us together in our mother's womb. God has a plan and purpose for each of us.

- Sometimes parents are disappointed with their baby's gender. The father complains, "I don't know what to do with you. If you were a boy, it would be different."

- Fathers sometimes build up great resentment toward their infant child because of all the attention it receives from the mother. A Spirit of

Rejection transfers from the father to the baby, and that child matures caught in the vicious cycle of Rejection.

- Blended families are ripe for the influence of the Spirit of Rejection. The newly married parents need time to get to know each other. Each worry over their own blood offspring, and often resent the lack of attention provided by the other parent, both to them and their own children.

- If a parent dies when a child is young, the child sometimes resents or even hates the dead parent. They feel abandoned and rejected.

- Adopted children often struggle with a deep inner sense of Rejection by their birth parents.

- Middle children often feel rejected because the older and younger siblings get more attention. Psychologists label this the "middle child syndrome".

- If a father, mother, wife or husband has rejected you, please understand that at some time since their conception, they were more than likely also rejected. No matter the scenario, there is an answer and a "cure" for Rejection. God accepts you and when you realize your true identity is in Him, Rejection no longer has a chance with you.

Four Steps to be Released from Rejection

<u>Accept God's love once and for all.</u>

- James 1:6-8 says, *"But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways"* (NKJ).

- A double-mined person is drawn in two opposite directions. His allegiance is divided and because of his lack of sincerity he vacillates

between belief and disbelief, sometimes thinking God will help him and at other times doubting that God is even there. This not only affects your prayer life but Scripture tells us he is unstable in all his ways.

- Proverbs 26:7 *"For as he thinks in his heart, so is he."*

- Don't vacillate. You are God's heir and Christ's king and priest. You are accepted, not rejected. Get rid of self-rejection

- Since God has accepted you, when you do not accept yourself, you call God a liar.

Develop a close fellowship with God the Father, Jesus the Word, and the Holy Spirit.

- 2 Timothy 1:7 says, *"God hasn't given you the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love and of a sound mind."* (NKJ) One antidote for Fear is the power of the Godhead.

- The Holy Spirit gives us power. The Father gives us love. The Word of God, Jesus, gives us a sound mind. Fellowship with the Godhead drives Fear away. These all need to be received and appropriated for us to benefit.

Repent of your sin of Rejection.

- Quit believing the devil and his lies.

- Accept the truth of what God thinks of you. You are the apple of His eye, the bride of Christ, the righteousness of God by faith, a son or daughter of God.

God confirms our acceptance.

- Deuteronomy 32:9-10 says, *"For the LORD's portion is His people; Jacob is the place of his inheritance. He found him in a desert land, and in the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, He instructed him, He kept him as the apple of His eye."* Psalm 17:7-8 says, *"Show Your marvelous lovingkindness, by Your right hand, O You who save those who trust in You from those who rise up against them. Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of Your wings."* (NKJ).

- 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, *"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* (NKJ).

- 2 Timothy 4:8 says, *"Finally there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day: and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing"* (NKJ).

- Ephesians 1:4-5 says, *"just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestinated us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will…."* (NKJ).

  Predestined here does not suggest a fatalism that excludes some while including others, but assures an appointed plan and guaranteed destiny for all the redeemed.

God's Directives

- Proverbs 26:2 – *As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come* (KJV).

- When we step outside of the commandments of God, we open ourselves up to the devil and his evil spirits. It is as simple as that. When you hate your brother, you receive the recompense

of the reward. Through "one man sin entered into the world and death by sin" (Romans 5:12-21). Through one man's disobedience sin came and through the obedience of another man, Jesus Christ, we are free. We are either obedient sons and daughters of God or we are disobedient sons and daughters.

Your enemy does not have the right to oppress you just because he is out there. Someone has to open the door and invite him in. Often, it is out of ignorance – remember Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge"? Sometimes it is generationally passed down. Sometimes it has to do with sowing and reaping.

- Deuteronomy 28 lists a bunch of blessings and then there are a bunch of curses. On the blessings side not one sickness or disease is mentioned but under the curses side there are all manners of disease. This could be our direct disobedience, or lack of knowledge, or it could be generationally inherited.

Freedom requires responsibility

Blessings/Curses

- There is a required action on our part in order to receive God's blessings. You cannot have your sin and also have your blessings (doctrine of Balaam – Numbers, chapters 22-24).

- *"Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse; the blessing, if you obey the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you today: and a curse, if you do not obey the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I command you today, to go after other gods which you have not known."* (Deuteronomy 11:26-28) (NKJ).

If, Then and But

- In Deuteronomy 28 - God said: IF you do this, THEN I will do this, BUT if you do not, then all these curses shall come upon you.

- *"Now it shall come to pass, if you diligently obey the voice of the LORD your God, to observe carefully all His commandments which I command you today, that the LORD your God will set you high above all nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God."* (Deuteronomy 28:1-2) (NKJ).

- I encourage you to read all of Deuteronomy 28.

- I am not into legalism. I am into something much deeper than legalism. I am into something called a "heart change".

- *"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life,…"* (Deuteronomy 30:19) (NKJ).

- It is your choice. Choose this day what you shall have: blessings or curses, life or death. Curses come from Satan, not from God.

A Place for Discernment

- As God's people came into promise, they were immediately brought into a place of *discernment*. What is discernment? It is recognizing the choices - good or evil. You choose what you are going to believe (Hebrews 5:12-14).

- God was bringing a very powerful truth to His people – in your obedience to Me and My commandments, which is best for you, the blessings are immediate and close by. However, if you are disobedient, the curse shall surely come (curse here means consequence).

- Malachi 3:6 – *For I am the LORD, I change not…* Did Jesus come and change certain aspects of the Law? Yes, He did. He rewrote certain aspects of the law concerning dietary rules, concerning the

Sabbath, concerning an eye for eye and tooth for tooth. But principles of righteousness have never changed!

- James 1:13 – "*Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted by God: for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."*

Freed from the Power of Sin and Death

- We are freed from the power of sin and death at the cross. But people will say, I thought Jesus said, "It is finished". Since it was finished and the penalty of the curse has been paid, why do so many Christians have disease and emotional and mental illnesses? Scripture tells us Jesus paid the penalty for ALL sins of the world. Did He pay for ALL sins once and for all? (YES) Is everyone saved? (NO) But it was finished. If it was finished, then why isn't everyone saved? Because each person must appropriate it by faith. Ephesians 2:8 – *"For by grace are you saved through faith…"* Strong's Concordance definition of grace – "The Divine influence upon the heart AND its reflection in the life."

- If we were totally free at conversion, then why would we need to be sanctified? So why would we listen to Paul tell us about circumcision of the heart? Why would Paul say to cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit? We discussed this Scripture previously.

- *"Therefore having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."* (2 Corinthians 7:1) (NKJ).

Ministry List - Spirits Associated with Rejection

Abandonment
Fear of Abandonment

Accusation of others
Self-accusation
Lust, fantasy lust
Rejection by others (fathers
Mothers, God, etc.- real or imagined

Self-rejection
Rejection of others
Fear of failure
Fear of man
Fear of rejection
manipulation
Fear of vulnerability
Fear of deliverance
False burden bearing
False responsibility
Deep hurt and wounding of the Spirit
coming out of Rejection

Discontentment
Need for love, need for
```approval,
Need for acceptance

Fabricated personality
Double-mindedness

Need for identity

Insecurity
Self-hatred
Self-pity
Depression

Rebellion, control,

Unthankfulness
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SPIRITUAL WARFARE DELIVERANCE PRAYER

A Prayer of repentance and renunciation should include at least the following elements:

Person being ministered to says:

- Heavenly Father,
- I recognize and take responsibility for participating with and serving the sin of *(Principality)* in my life.
- I take responsibility in my generation, on both sides of my family all the way back to the Cross, for the following spirits: *(Individual spirits).*
- Father, in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth I repent to You and ask You to forgive me for allowing the above named spirits to manifest through me and by faith I now receive Your forgiveness.
- Sin of *(Principality),* I renounce everything you stand for in my life. I will no longer serve you. I take a stand against you and everything you represent. You must now leave me and go into a dry place in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- Father, I thank You for Your forgiveness and ask that the curses be broken.

Person doing the ministry now says:

- Spirit of *(Principality),* you have heard his/her confession and declaration and you MUST obey him/her and leave now in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit, I take authority over the spirit of (*Principality)* and break your power in his/her life. You no longer have any power, right, or authority in his/her life and I cast you out. .

Holy Spirit, I invite you into our hearts to heal us in the areas of *(Principality).* Please speak your words of truth to us about these situations.

PRINCIPLITY OF ENVY AND JEALOUSY

What is so insidious about Envy and Jealousy is that you really like what the other person has or is but you hate or resent them because you don't have what they have.

- The problem with Envy and Jealousy is that no matter how much you do have, you are never satisfied. Envy and Jealousy will never leave you alone and will never leave you at peace because you are always comparing yourself with someone else.

- Envy and Jealousy will always make you think God will not take care of you and He will not provide for you. It accuses you to yourself as it gets you to compare yourself to others. Hebrews 13 gives us the keys to understanding Envy and Jealousy:

  Number one – not trusting God
  Number two – not believing that He will take care of you
  Number three – not accepting yourself as He has accepted you.

  Hebrews 13:5 says, *"Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, I will never leave you nor forsake you."*

- Have you ever seen someone who is always strategizing for the upper hand? A con-man? Strategizing to gain at the expense of another? That is rooted in covetousness. That is rooted in Envy and Jealousy, the lack of ability to trust God to meet their needs and be content where they are.

- In the area of covetousness, we always strongly desire something, and this doesn't always involve money. It can be about lust, not sexual lust, but into pride of life, desire, keeping up with the Jones', comparing yourself with another; desiring clothing; your neighbor's

house; your neighbor's wife; your neighbor's good looks; healing, etc.

When the root of Bitterness comes in conjunction with Envy and Jealousy, then they work together to produce the removal of the person they are directed towards. Rejection, Envy and Jealousy and Bitterness bring a three-pronged assault. Usually where you find one, you find the others. But you can't deal with Rejection, and you can't deal with Envy and Jealousy, unless you first understand Bitterness, because he really is the strongest of the three. That's why we taught Bitterness first, because he is the stronger one. He is the reinforcer. He's the one that brings the memories. He's the one that plays the flashbacks and instant replays. Bitterness maintains a record of wrongs. He's the one that comes and reminds you of that creature you don't like.

Rejection will feed off of others, but Envy and Jealousy will make others your source of value and fulfillment when that source should be God. Envy and Jealousy will take your eyes off of God and put your eyes upon others.

Since the root of covetousness is not trusting God, it is a form of unbelief and doubt and faithlessness. An axiom to deal with Envy and Jealousy and covetousness is:

"But seek first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33).

The Lord wants to bless you with peace of mind and peace in your heart.

"So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Hebrews 13:6).

In Colossians 3:5 we read*, "Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth; fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire and covetousness, which is idolatry:"* So this verse tells us covetousness is idolatry.

Anything or anyone that you esteem more than God is idolatry!

Because Envy and Jealousy are no respecter of persons, it only wants one thing – destruction, without exception. Envy and Jealousy are not a peacemaker, and it can never be satisfied. Envy and Jealousy have torment because it is never fulfilled.

There is nothing wrong with curiosity, but there is a side to curiosity that can be dangerous. The need to know comes out of matriarchal witchcraft. The need to know is rooted in Occultism. Curiosity is rooted in suspicion. But in the area of Envy and Jealousy, the need to know has a spiritual dimension where people must know everything that is going on because they do not want to miss out on one little bit of information, or be left out, because of covetousness. That comes out of lust and Envy and Jealousy. Looking into other people's business is rooted in not wanting to be left out. It's rooted in Jealousy. This is the type of curiosity that would be meddlesome, looking for information that would feed Envy and Jealousy and ultimately create a root of Bitterness. There is also an element of discontentment.

What about sibling rivalry? How about being an only child – there could not be sibling rivalry there. No, but it could be something much worse – the Envy and Jealousy of a parent who wants their child to be all that they were not. They model this behavior to the child because they want to be known as the parents of this well-known successful child. The parents believe they will then have value and worth. Remember LAWS!

What does Proverbs say about Envy – Proverbs 14:30, *"A sound heart is life to the flesh, but envy the rottenness of the bones."* Proverbs 17:22, *"A merry heart does good like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones."* What is a well-known disease which involves rottenness of the bones? Osteoporosis. Possible connection???

Laughter can strengthen the immune system. It has been documented that laughter causes the body to manufacture T cells and killer cells.

A broken spirit dries up bones. A broken spirit compromises the immune system which contributes to autoimmune issues. A compromised immune system can also automatically cause allergies. What is in bones? Red and white corpuscles - the immune system. Part of the immune system is in the bones.

So, a broken spirit or a broken heart compromises the immune system. What did we discuss about the release of Cortisol – over and under secretion is based on your thoughts. These internal thoughts trigger a hormonal or chemical response but often one that we are unaware of. The immune system can be compromised by Fear and anxiety coming from a broken heart.

Even though the medical community now associates autoimmune diseases (including lupus, Crohn's, diabetes [type 1], rheumatoid arthritis, multiple sclerosis) with Fear, anxiety and stress, Pastor Henry's studies indicate that most autoimmune diseases are primarily the result of an Unloving spirit producing feelings of not being loved, not being accepted, self-rejection, self-hatred and self-bitterness coupled with guilt. In fact, it could be said that autoimmune diseases are primarily a self-hatred disease with a fear-anxiety-stress rider attached to them.

I am not trying to convince you to believe anything. I am just attempting to give you information, based on Scripture, so you may enjoy the freedom and abundant *Life* Jesus obtained for us when He was resurrected. Remember, whatever you allow, YOU allow. Whatever you disallow, YOU disallow. Choose (that's YOU) this day what you shall have – blessings or curses; life or death!!!

There is a good type of Jealousy – it is God's jealousy for you. In Strong's Concordance, NT #7065, jealousy means very zealous, zeal. The jealousy of God would be when you turn away from God's commandments, which are best for your life, and follow the thinking of the enemy, God is jealous for us – it is His zeal and His integrity towards us to protect us and care for us. He loves us so much and wants only the best for us.

Some people say that teaching obedience is legalism. No, obedience is not legalism. To "not teach" obedience is to "teach" rebellion and witchcraft. To "not teach" obedience is to "teach" stubbornness and idolatry. 1 Samuel 15:22 says "*...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice."*

We do not teach legalism – we teach discernment. We do not teach the law – we teach discernment that comes from the law. Legalism is a list of *do's and don'ts;* they have nothing to do with the heart.

If you want to sin, it's your business. There is a godly order; no one is allowed to go around and be an island unto themselves. However, whether you eat pork or you don't eat pork is your business, but don't force it on someone else. If a person walks in strife, is angry, bitter, or is argumentative, it's their business. I also have a choice as to my response. I can "open not my mouth" or respond in a less Godly way – MY CHOICE.

Because of what Christ did, now we are free to appropriate what He did for us out of our obedience. It is a beginning. Your spirit came alive to God and the work of the Holy Spirit in sanctification.

When you yield to Envy and Jealousy and covetousness, that is idolatry. Envy and Jealousy and Bitterness are no respecter of persons. They will attack those closest to you, take those whom you seemingly love and make you hate them instantly. Have you ever watched love/hate relationships? Those relationships have a perverse spirit that duplicated love. It was not love at all – do you not think Satan demonstrates a perverse form of love? You cannot love someone today and hate them tomorrow. You didn't have Godly love (agape) from the beginning. You cannot truly love someone and then murder them with your words. You had lust and a perversion of love which would have been an angel of light coming to counterfeit, meeting the demands of your sin nature, giving you your solutions and your fantasy lust of those needs, and then coming along to destroy all of it.

Unloving spirits, which we will discuss in another session are highly involved in these relationships. If you truly love people, with God's love, you do not ever hate them. You may not still have a relationship with them

or even still hang out with them and become their victim. But you do not trash them in Bitterness and hatred. No. Because you genuinely loved them, whether they are good or they are bad. The Bible says to mark those who cause division and have no part with them (Romans 16:17) (1 Corinthians 5:11).

The worst thing that can happen to a bin of potatoes is to have a bad one in there. The seed of that rotten potato spreads and everything coming in contact with it becomes infected until the whole bin has rotted. You have to mark division makers, troublemakers, and people behind the scenes who are trying to stir up Bitterness and Envy and Jealousy because they are like rotten potatoes. You can love them, but you cannot fellowship with them around the evil that they represent because that would be the destruction of your relationship together in peace.

Unless you have a perfect hatred for Envy and Jealousy, you most likely will not be delivered from it; as with all of the Principalities. What you sow you are going to reap. If you sow Envy and Jealousy, you are going to reap the rewards of Envy and Jealousy. If you sow unto hatred, Bitterness, Rejection, etc., what are you going to reap???

> Jesus' words in John 20:23, *"Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained."*
>
> Strongs Concordance for remit is 863 – forgive, forsake, put away
> retain is 2902 – hold, keep, hold on

When you don't release that anger, when you don't release that retaliation, when you don't release that Envy, when you don't release that Jealousy against another, you are retaining it in them <u>and in you</u> as well.

Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy (Matthew 5:7).

Spirits Associated with Envy and Jealousy – Ministry List

Covetousness

Idolatry

Comparison

Discontentment

Not Trusting God

Unbelief that God will provide

Envy

Jealousy

Bitterness

Unforgiveness

Resentment

Anger

Hatred

Violence

Murder

Rage

Treachery

Dominance

Contention

Avarice Craving

Material Lust

Sarcasm/Slander

Critical Spirits

Gossip

Curse of Touching God's Anointed

Competition

Pride

Superiority

Self-Ambition

Strife

Rivalry

Jealousy (around relationships)

Possessiveness

Control/Dominance

Fear

Fear of Loss of Control

Cruelty

Spitefulness

Bossiness

Impatience

Agitation

Hatred of Authority

Bickering/Quarreling/Discord

Stealing and Occultism

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Person doing the ministry now says:

- Spirit of *(Principality),* you have heard his/her confession and declaration and you MUST obey him/her and leave now in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
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Holy Spirit, I invite you into our hearts to heal us in the areas of *(Principality).* Please speak your words of truth to us about these situations.

PRINCIPALITY OF ACCUSATION

Definitions of accusation are: to accuse, call to account, find fault, blame, complaint, criminal charge, condemnation, damnation and judgment. We have all experienced the work of Accusation. Accusation is one of the greatest weapons of our enemy Satan. In fact, his name means accuser or slanderer. Satan's goal is to separate us from God, others and/or ourselves. Remember, spiritually rooted disease is often the result of separation, so if Satan and his demons can separate us, he has an easy door opening for disease in our bodies.

Accusation is ALWAYS from Satan; conviction is from God. Conviction brings about a deepening and strengthening process thus resulting in a more Godly experience. Accusing spirits condemn us over and over and over and over again causing shame and guilt. They set us up to believe the lies. We are under NO obligation to accept or obey every thought that enters our mind. The mature Christian knows that every thought is not necessarily for their Godly edification.

This process of examining our thoughts is powerful, often preventing mental illness and banishing sin and disease from our lives. Some people lose the thought war before they begin to fight by believing that every thought is their own. The ones who gain victory are those who discern the voices and thoughts, accepting truth and discarding lies. In order to do this, we must know truth. This is the Scriptural principle taught in 2 Corinthians 10:5 *"Casting down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."*

God wants us to develop and use discernment. If discernment were unnecessary, then all our thoughts would come from God and benefit us. If every thought entering our minds or every word spoken were truthful, we would have no need for discernment. Satan would prefer that we not know the truth so he can continue to put thoughts in our minds that accuse us to God, accuse us to others, and accuse us to ourselves. I hope to expose some of the subtle ways accusing spirits operate in our lives. Discernment puts a

governor on our brain, slowing us down to stop and examine the thoughts and actions to determine what is appropriate. Discernment is our "on/off" switch. It allows us, at times, to be quiet when otherwise we might strike out at someone. It stops us from doing something that later we would regret. Discernment will keep us from committing many destructive actions, as well as prod us toward healthy ones. Still our choice!!

We often show more sense while driving on a highway than we do in our personal lives. On the highway we are forced to obey the rules of the road. On the highway of our Christian life, God's Word provides the rules, but our obedience is our choice; God gave us a free will. Still, He wants us to make right decisions and gave us all the tools we need to do so. In Hebrews 5:14 we are told*, "But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."* God wants us to develop discernment to be able to know good and evil, the truth from a lie and then CHOOSE GOOD OR TRUTH. What benefit is it to know good and truth and still choose evil or a lie???

One of Satan's tactics is to show us something that looks good, when in fact it is evil and counterfeit. To recognize the counterfeit object or thought, we must know what the real thing looks like. Accusing spirits build on our ignorance of who we are in Christ – our identity. They force us to misunderstand who other people really are. They confuse our thinking about God's true nature. Evil is the counterfeit of good. Evil shows itself in a range of deception from outright lies and rebellion to those sometimes-gray areas between truth and error. Accusing spirits routinely use the tactic of a 90% truth and a 10% lie as they seek to seduce and deceive us. Satan even quoted Scripture to Jesus in his attempt to cause Jesus to sin. However, as we all know, Jesus was without sin and He not only knew the Scriptures, He knew the meaning behind each Word of Scripture.

Accusing spirits hand us a generous portion of truth with one hand, and use the other hand to slip us a lie that begins to break down our value system and cause doubt. Have you ever had any of these thoughts? "I'm born again and know the Word of God. I love Jesus and it's a wonderful thing to be a Christian. God has done so many wonderful things in my life." Accusing spirits will build us up like this and then instantly, in a flash or thought, "but

I still don't measure up to _____." You fill in the name. Or "I don't do as much for God as _____ does". Accusing spirits love to plant doubt that will destroy our faith. Satan's nature is to destroy; it is the only aspect of his character that you can count on. He has no integrity.

Matthew 10:16 says, *"To be wiser than a serpent but harmless as a dove."* If we want to walk in victory, we must be alert to the enemy's ways. There is never a good time to be spiritually asleep, because the moment we are, we give Satan an opening. We must know that Satan's battleground is in the human mind and his greatest power comes from lying accusations. He operates on the premise of us not knowing the truth.

Let's look for a few minutes at our thoughts. When does a thought go from a temptation to a sin? Some people, when confronted with sin, harden their hearts and are not convicted; they don't have a perfect hatred for sin. In fact, they either condone it or ignore it. Temptation is not sin. Having evil thoughts is not sin. If that were the case, we are all deep in sin. Many people, because they are tempted, feel that they have sinned. We have only sinned when the action of that sin is fulfilled; then it becomes our sin. A thought is not sin until it is acted upon.

Accusing spirits possess definite characteristics. Some of the fruits of accusation are: holding a record of wrongs, murder with the tongue or in the heart (gossip and slander), mind control, scrambling thoughts, chaotic thinking, jumbled thought patterns, misunderstandings, projected fear, accusing another in your own sin, false burden bearing, and becoming codependent in another's sin by attempting to be their Holy Spirit. Others include bitterness, mistrust or always believing the worst about someone (that includes the worst about ourself). Are any of these currently at work in your life? Presence of any or all of these in our thought life should sound a warning shot that an accusing spirit is at work. The same is true of being easily offended, or easily offending others. Exaggerating offenses and failures are evidence of accusing spirits. We <u>CHOOSE</u> to be offended or not.

If we observe someone falling short of the glory of God and our thoughts become filled with Bitterness, comparison, condemnation, criticism, or judgment, that's the work of an accusing spirit. Galatians 6:1says, *"Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in the spirit of gentleness; considering yourself lest you also be tempted."* What does God have you do? Restore a fallen believer in meekness; considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ. We are to restore that person to fellowship, not drive them away through accusations. To do this requires understanding and care, so that we don't become the judge and jury. God is the judge and jury.

Matthew 18:7 (NKJ) says*, "Woe to the world because of offenses!* (Enticement to sin). *For offenses must come, <u>but woe to that man by whom the offense comes</u>*!" If you allow accusing spirits to rise up in you and they are set in motion against another person, you bring a curse on yourself. The woe falls on you. Those words are God's Words! Don't allow this to happen! Bite your tongue, govern your thoughts, even if what you want to say or think might be true. Again, we do not have to obey every thought that comes our way! What did Jesus do or say when they accused Him? He took His peace and said nothing. He did not even try to defend himself. Do you ever feel the need to defend yourself? Especially when you are right??? Jesus allowed His Father to be his justifier and His defender.

ACCUSING OTHERS

1 John 1:7 says, *"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin."* Accusing spirits say, "I can't have fellowship with you and you can't have fellowship with me because we don't agree on the use of worship choruses. Or we don't agree on (<u>you fill in the blank).</u>" But the truth is we <u>will</u> have fellowship <u>IF</u> we "walk in the light, as He (Jesus) is in the light." We need to understand how this works in our everyday lives. Here we are walking together in the light. Along come accusing spirits to try to separate us. There are two ways that they try to do this.

One way is to bring a false accusation. A second is when there has been sin and the accusation is true. In either case, accusing spirits will keep us from walking in the light with our brother or sister even after repentance and forgiveness, by reminding us of the sin against us and against others. Accusing spirits will seek to keep us from forgiving and will encourage us to keep a record of wrongs. God is the healer; we cannot heal ourselves. He, and He alone, heals the breech when we repent and forgive each other, providing we do not get back into the sin which caused the breech to begin with. That is why it is so important to be able to recognize the accusing spirits. Again, we must forgive God's way – choosing not to bring it up again. We don't have amnesia, and neither does God. It is a CHOICE!!

JUDGING OTHERS

Romans 2:1 says, *"Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whosoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another, you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things."* What this says is when we judge another, we condemn ourselves with the same judgment. Do you realize vows are usually made as a form of judgment? Have you ever said, "I will never be like my father or mother." Or "I've always been this way." These usually stem from judgments made against another person, yourself, a situation or even God. Accusing spirits love to get us judging each other. Judging others with accusations is extremely serious. Our purpose must be to restore fellowship not to tear each other down through accusations. Remember, in Matthew 7:1-2 it reads, *"Judge not that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged…"*

There is a difference between discernment and judgment. We are to discern behavior, but if we attempt to say why, or decide their motive, we have gotten into judgment. A good way to think about this is it's OK to discern (observe) behavior, never judge the motive or heart!

Satan constantly points out our weaknesses and flaws to others and in others. We must learn to separate people from their sin and we must take responsibility for our own actions. Accusing spirits speak lies to us, giving

us reasons why we should not fellowship with one another or why we cannot believe one another.

What makes Accusation a sin? First of all, who does the Word say is the accuser? So, who are you patterning yourself after? Most of the time Accusation is deciding what would be right or wrong for someone else. Then you take great joy in sharing your valuable opinion with all who will listen.

Identifying what someone did is not judgment; that is merely observation. To judge someone's heart or motives is not what we are called to do. Only God has the right to judge. He alone knows why people do what they do. We do not know, nor is it our place to judge why. In many cases, people do not even know why they do what they do. Have you ever asked yourself, "Why in the world did I do or say that?" We find an answer in Jeremiah 17:9, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: Who can know it?"* God is the only One who can truly know the heart. When people assume to know why, then their reactions are not based on reality; they are based on judgment. That judgment causes confusion, pain and loss.

Passing judgment causes us to react to situations inappropriately. The combination of our judgments and unacceptable behavior then begins the cycle of sowing and reaping.

In Luke 17:1 Jesus said to His disciples, *"It is impossible that no offences should come; but woe unto him, through whom they do come!"* To be offended is a choice and many times that choice is based on a previous judgment. That judgment can happen as early as childhood – or we can even be taught certain things based on our ancestor's judgments (Matthew 18:7).

There are people who no longer walk with God because they judged that God caused or allowed certain events to happen. In light of their judgment, they thought God had rejected or abandoned them. As a result, they began to feel rejected or abandoned. Their false feelings confirmed God's "rejection or abandonment" and so validated their false judgment. In the end, they grew angry with God and rejected Him.

Judgement precedes vengeance. Until we pass judgment, we have no desire for vengeance. God says vengeance belongs to Him alone (Romans 12:19) *"Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath, for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord."*

Who do you think the Lord is talking to when He says Dearly Beloved? Who is the judge? Who says vengeance is mine? The mere fact that we are seeking vengeance indicates that we have already passed judgment.

If judgment belongs to God, then it is highly possible that, before the fall, Adam did not have the capacity or the tendency to judge. We know that when Adam sinned, he gained the ability to judge good and evil for himself – something that he did not previously possess. The ability to judge was a part of Satan's destructive offer. Adam ultimately trusted his own judgment over God's. Possessing the power of judgment, in addition to a fearful nature, drove him away from God.

Before the fall, Adam trusted God and His opinion. He had no need or desire to determine good and evil for himself. Prior to the fall, Adam was an *observer* of the world. When he wanted to know *why*, he looked to his Father and Creator. There was no need for judgment because there was no fear. When Adam fell, however, he became fearful by nature. The sin nature is at heart fearful; fear was Adam's first new emotion after becoming a sinner.

Matthew 7:1-2, we are told *"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use it will be measured back to you."* For centuries, people have missed the meaning and scope of this simple yet powerful passage. We have misinterpreted these verses to say, "If I judge people, God is going to judge me." That is not what the passage says. It says that if we judge people, people will judge us.

In Luke 6:38, we find the parallel passage to Matthew's: *"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running*

over shall men give into your bosom." (KJV) *Traditionally* this Scripture is applied primarily to financial giving. However, Jesus was not talking about finances in this verse. He was talking about what we give to others emotionally. Earlier, in verses 36 and 37 of Luke 6, He said, *"Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned; forgive and ye shall be forgiven."* (KJV)

Even though this verse could apply to financial generosity, it is more specifically talking about giving mercy, passing judgment, expressing condemnation and forgiving. What I give emotionally and relationally is what they give back to me. Again, this is not talking about what God gives to me as a result of my actions. This is what people give to me. In other words, most often people respond to me in direct accordance with the way I treat them, with one exception. When they give it back, they always give me more than I give – *"good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall **men** give into your bosom."*

If you give kindness and love, other people will give you kindness and love – *"good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over."* However, if you give judgment and criticism, other people will give you judgment and criticism – *"good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over."* Never confuse people's reaction with God's reaction.

Jesus warned us that others would judge us with the same standards we use to judge them but with greater than we used. (Matthew 7:2 above). The measure, or effect, that comes back to us through any event is based on two factors. The first is the significance we attach to the event or person. The second is our motive when we do these same things. If we measure something by giving it value, size, and significance, then that measurement determines its effect on us.

The effect of another person's behavior has little to do with his or her intent. But that effect has everything to do with our judgment, or how we measure it. People may take actions with no ill intention, yet they can have

devastating effects. There can even be actions people intend for good, but that can create massive amounts of pain. For example, being rejected by a person we dislike or have a causal relationship with, has relatively no effect compared with being rejected by someone we love or value. The action is the same, but we attach significance because we pass judgment on *why* he or she did it plus the value of the relationship.

Let's consider our relationships to be somewhat like the garden of our lives. Our garden grows with the seed we plant. We all know one seed, when planted, produces a harvest larger than itself. When we plant one, we reap many. That being said, what is growing in your life's garden? Too often we find our lives filled with things like criticism and rejection. We wrongly assume that we had nothing to do with how others treated us, when the truth is, they usually gave back to us a harvest of how we treated them.

The quality of our emotional life is found in the quality of our relationships. We are social, emotional, and relationship-oriented beings. We thrive on meaningful relationships. It is one of the deepest needs we have as human beings. And even though our judgments influence those relationships more than any other factor, few people even know what it means to judge.

So, what <u>does</u> it mean to judge? Although judging has many facets, I believe the most basic and essential aspect is: Identifying what someone did is not judgment; that is merely observation. It is when we assume to know *why,* or rationalize as to why, a person did what he or she did that we have entered into judgement.

The moment you attempt to determine *why* another is doing what he or she is doing you have given it significance. Keep in mind that rarely does anything have the power to hurt you until you attach significance to it. Another person's actions are only as significant to you as the judgments you pass on them. The judgment you make is based on the decision about why that person did what they did. The degree of pain or insult you experience from the actions of another is based solely on the judgment you pass. And the judgment you pass is your assumption of why they did what they did.

Most often that which happens outside of you does not have the power to hurt you until you judge it. Only when you judge something does it bear significance in your life. To put it another way, when people do something, you judge *why* they did it; you decide what their motive was. Once you decide (judge) the motive, you give that event significance and power.

Commit to becoming an observer instead of a judge. It is easy to think that if we don't know people's motives, if we fail to judge them, then we won't know how to relate to them. But this is wrong thinking. God's Word is full of wisdom about how to relate to people, how to develop trust, whom to depend on, and whom not to depend on. But in true "god of our own world" fashion, we reject His wisdom and apply our own judgment. It all comes back to fear – fears tend to drive us to trust our judgment rather than God's. In our attempt to protect ourselves from future pain (which we fear), we judge. But instead of freeing us from pain, it distorts our observation, and true discernment is lost. Discernment is our ability to know right from wrong according to God's Word.

Although the Scripture in Matthew 7:16-18 is primarily speaking of false profits, I believe it also applies to all relationships. Jesus said, *"You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit."*

Fruit is the only thing that is observable, and fruit is something that grows over time. It is not a single event, a mistake, or even one's current actions. Fruit is a person's track record. People are likely to do in the future what they have done <u>consistently</u> in the past. A track record is all anyone knows about us.

Knowing a person's track record, however, does not give anyone the right to make a judgment about motives in any situation. Criticism is not justified. A person's track record simply gives us observable, measurable data so that we can use wisdom in relating to him or her. It does not give people the right to treat others without love and respect and it certainly does not mean

that people cannot grow and change. It simply tells us what they have a tendency to do.

One Scripture I want to address is 1 Corinthians 2:14-15, which reads, "*But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he who is spiritual judges (judgeth) all things, yet he himself is rightly judged by no one."*

When it says "he who is spiritual judges all things" it refers to believers having the ability to bring God's perspective to bear on every aspect of life. WOW!

ACCUSING GOD

Accusing spirits will praise God to us in one moment and then add a twist saying, "But why did God 'allow' your daughter to get sick?" insinuating that we cannot trust Him and causing us to have an unholy fear. Have you ever heard anyone say "If God really cared about me, why did such and such happen?" These are examples of an accusing spirit in action. If we can't discern truth from lies, then we are in serious trouble. Remember, the accusing spirits work against us in such sly ways in order to create jealousy, fear, envy, bitterness and separation.

Satan constantly tells us that God doesn't care about our suffering or some area in our life. Satan always blames God for his own actions. Satan creates a dilemma that leads to suffering and then blames God for not stopping it, or worse yet, accuses God of creating it.

ACCUSING OURSELVES

Satan uses self-condemnation to accuse us to ourselves. Let's face it, it is relatively easy for us to make peace with God when we have been wrongly accusing Him. And it can be relatively easy to forgive others and accept others if we have been wrongly accusing them. But it is very difficult to cast

down those accusing spirits that suggest that we are not good enough or that we don't deserve forgiveness.

The primary goal of accusing spirits is to steal our faith and confidence in God, and to make us feel like "second rate" citizens in God's Kingdom. We really need to understand who we are and who we are not in Christ. This is a profound truth: We are everything that God said we could be, provided we are living it or should I say appropriating it in our life. If we attempt to live in our identity in Christ and yet still feel unworthy, guilty, unclean, and unacceptable to God or man, we have accusing evil spirits operating against us. It is not who we are in Christ.

We need to learn to separate ourselves from the demons that accuse us. If we fall to their accusations and begin to believe them, then we will act out their lies. Often, we are told lies as children and we continue to act on them as adults. Because we feel unclean, unworthy, guilty or condemned does not mean we ARE unclean, unworthy, guilty or condemned. Do not trust your feelings; trust what God has said about your relationship with Him. Satan accuses us about God, about others and to ourselves all the time. Satan and his accusing spirits focus on our weaknesses, sins, faults and failures. They focus on sins for which we have already received forgiveness but they accuse us as if those forgiven sins were still part of our lives. One of the most successful tools of accusing spirits is to accuse us of confessed sins, from which we have already turned away, trying to discourage us so that we will sin again.

Romans 8:1 says, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them that are in Christ Jesus who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit."* If you have confessed your sin and turned away from it, and you are now walking after the Spirit, there is no more condemnation or guilt. If you still feel condemnation or guilt after you have repented of a certain sin, and you have quit practicing that sin, then the condemnation and guilt bears evidence of the work of accusing spirits who want to drag you down.

Feeling like we 'don't fit in' or "They don't like me for myself, just for my (talent, money, service, etc.)" are also lies of an accusing spirit. When self-

accusation is present, understand that this is an evil spirit attacking you. It is not you! If you are accusing yourself in any way, or putting yourself down, go before the Lord and deal with it. Put the 9 R's into practice right here and remember to 'speak out loud' to those unwanted spirits – they cannot read your mind!

Then how do we receive victory? God has the answer, but there are standards we must attain. Remember that in Christ, we have everything we need to be victorious. One powerful tool to use when we are under attack is to quote the Bible. We need to master James 4:7-10 because it holds the key to success and receiving God's blessing in all areas of our lives. The conditions for receiving answers are stated very plainly in James 4:7-10 *"Submit yourselves, therefore, to God."* The first condition is <u>submitting to God</u>. We cannot submit to God if we don't know Him. He is the one that brings healing. All the ministry and deliverance the world offers does little good if we don't know and accept the truth. Notice I said THE Truth – not a truth. It all starts with knowing God personally because He is the one that brings healing. Submission requires obedience to God. Submission also involves forgiving others and ourselves.

The second part says*, "Resist the devil".* Do you believe the devil is real? If you don't, you have bought into the ultimate deception. The Bible says the devil is real, and that settles it for me. Don't doubt the reality of Satan and his demons. The Bible teaches it, and teaches it. Satan is real and so are evil spirits. But the good news is we have victory over all of them thru Christ Jesus. Do not let fear enter in here.

"Resist the devil and he WILL flee from you." It means we must test every thought to know if it is of God, Satan or ourselves. Since the devil doesn't have a physical body, he must use yours or someone else's to continue his attack. He and his demons use people's bodies and minds (through thoughts) to manifest their sin nature.

It is our right and responsibility to obey God and RESIST! RESIST! RESIST! Do you know what resist means? It means, 'to put up a fight'. JUST SAY NO! When we resist, they will flee from us. If we don't resist,

they won't leave us alone. Why should they – if we don't resist, they have a legal right to stay. When we resist, God steps in and the demons must flee. James 4:8 says, *"Draw nigh to God and He will draw nigh to you."* This verse requires us to do something – draw close to God. He will respond. Many people have the attitude, "I have given this up to God, it is now up to Him." They continue to live in their sin, waiting on God to do something. They wallow in the accusation of self-pity and pride and wonder why they never receive deliverance. God promises to meet with us; He is moved by our faith. Hebrews 11:6 and John 20:29 discuss this. 2 Corinthians 10:6 says, *"Having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.* We cannot defeat our enemy in disobedience.

James 4:8 says to cleanse our hands and purify our hearts. This process requires us to come to a place of repentance because all of us have fallen short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23). Submit to God; resist the devil. It's a 'formula' that works because it is an eternal Scriptural principle.

There is a price to pay called "circumcision of the heart." This is the key to receiving God's blessings and healing: We must die to ourselves; die to everything we were; surrender to the leading of the Holy Spirit within us, prayerfully confess our sin and let it go.

Remember, God knows your heart and the Holy Spirit will not reveal truth to anyone if it is unwanted.

Spirits of Accusation – (Luciferian)

Accusation towards God/self/others	Bitterness with all underlings (*)
Bigotry	Competition-not feeling whole unless we win
Offense	Mistrust
Rebellion	Keeping a record of wrongs
Programming	Blaming others for problems
Personality of accusation	Control
Envy/jealousy	Replay
Manipulation	Not walking in or accepting forgiveness
Prefabricated personality	Suicide
Heaviness	Gossip and innuendo
Suspicion	Being easily offended/Easily offending others
Racism	Judging others for actions we excuse in ourselves
Misunderstandings	Perfectionism
Scapegoat mentality	Unworthiness
Shame	Guilt
Isolation	Division
Self-pity	Lying
Torment	Destroyer
Holding people to their past behaviors	Self-exaltation
Self-condemnation	Acting as another's Holy Spirit
Self-accusation	Vanity
Rejection	Depression
Fear	
Worry	Comparing yourself to others

SPIRITUAL WARFARE DELIVERANCE PRAYER

A Prayer of repentance and renunciation should include at least the following elements: *Person being ministered to says:*

- Heavenly Father,
- I recognize and take responsibility for participating with and serving the sin of *(Principality)* in my life.
- I take responsibility in my generation, on both sides of my family all the way back to the Cross, for the following spirits: *(individual spirits).*
- Father, in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth I repent to You and ask You to forgive me for allowing the above-named spirits to manifest through me and by faith I now receive Your forgiveness.

- Sin of *(Principality),* I renounce everything you stand for in my life. I will no longer serve you. I take a stand against you and everything you represent. You must now leave me and go into a dry place in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- Father, I thank You for Your forgiveness and ask that the curses be broken.

Person doing the ministry now says:

- Spirit of *(Principality),* you have heard his/her confession and declaration and you MUST obey him/her and leave now in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit, I take authority over the spirit of (*Principality)* and break your power in his/her life. You no longer have any power, right, or authority in his/her life and I cast you out. .

Holy Spirit, I invite you into our hearts to heal us in the areas of *(Principality)*. Please speak your words of truth to us about these situations.

PRINCIPLITY OF FEAR

What is today's terminology for Fear?

God gave us emotions to enhance our lives. The emotion of fear was intended to alert us to danger so that we may respond by our fight or flight abilities. However, much of mankind lives with Fear on a daily basis. Every one of us has been subjected to Fear. Fear of tomorrow, Fear of the unknown, Fear of failure and Fear of man to name just a few.

Many lives are ruled by Fear. This kind of Fear was not given to us by God. This kind of Fear does not warn us or protect us. This kind of Fear brings destruction. This Fear is a spirit. It is an evil spirit; an antichrist spirit. Any thought that comes to you from another voice or from your thought process which contradicts the Word of God is an antichrist thought.

At one time the terms for fear in society were stress and anxiety, so we didn't recognize it as fear. Stress is influenced by external events, but it is manifested internally by how we perceive them. Anxiety is the resulting emotional/physical response to how we choose to discern the meaning of those external events. Stress and anxiety are what Fear "looks like." The world tries to find other words to mask the Biblical perspective because the world wants to deal with things psychologically. (Fear diagram – page 111)

ALL FEAR IS A LACK OF TRUST IN GOD!!!

The activity of the Spirit of Fear has been masked as a psychological defect and what hides our true enemy can be found in one term called negative emotions. But Paul said in Ephesians 6 that our war, our battle, is not with flesh and blood.

- Ephesians 6:12 – *"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."* (NKJ).

Am I flesh and blood? Yes, I am, but my battle is not with myself. If it were a negative emotion, that would be an aspect of my psychology. My psychology is "me".

In Romans Paul indicates that he wants to do good; that he wants to NOT take thought for tomorrow, but he finds himself doing it anyway."

- Romans 7:15 – *"For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice, but what I hate, that I do."* (NKJ).

So, the day I take thought for tomorrow and begin to worry and take on these cares, it is no longer I that am doing it, but sin that dwells within me (Matthew 6:34).

- Romans 7:17 – *"But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me."* (NKJ).

This opens a new dimension. No wonder we haven't had much success in psychological and biological problems, even in Christianity, in the area of wholeness because we don't recognize our enemy. We don't even see the kingdom that's working in us and teaching us how to think opposite of our God. And when we see the effects of it in our lives, we just call it a psychological defect. Even in Christian psychiatry, with all due respect, when we see the imbalances of body chemistry that are caused by fear and anxiety, rather than getting them out of our life and having our mind renewed (with the mind of Christ), we try to balance the imbalance of chemistry through psychiatric drugs. That does not deliver us; that does not

heal us. It binds us to the problem without the true enemy being defeated (E.D.S.O. – teaching from a previous session).

In fact, it's an attempt to bypass the penalty of disobedience artificially without taking responsibility for the participation with the sin that causes the disease or imbalance.

A Demand to Be Fulfilled

- Hebrews 11:6 says, *"But without faith, it is impossible to please Him..."* (NKJ) Faith represents your future. Fear represents the *destruction* of your future.

Faith and Fear both demand fulfillment. Faith will always defeat Fear, because faith is a work of the Holy Spirit. Fear is a work of the created being named Lucifer, who fell and became Satan. He now rules a kingdom determined to destroy mankind. Satan's kingdom consists of many principalities and powers, rulers of the darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places. They dwell in the second heaven. Fear is from that kingdom. Fear is Satan's attempt to overthrow God's plan in the earth, using you to do it.

Your hopes motivate you because that is what faith is. Faith involves God's plan for you: what He created for you from before the foundation of the world.

Faith and Fear Are Equal

- Faith and Fear are equal in the dimension that both demand fulfillment. They are both spiritual principles. One represents God, and one represents the devil, but both demand fulfillment.

"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Hebrews 11:1 (NKJ) This statement, "the evidence not seen", represents the future. Faith is *substance*. When you touch your fingers, you know they are there. You can feel them. They are *substance* and they are real. **Faith** is the *substance* of things hoped for that has not happened yet. Fear is the same as faith in that it is substance. **Fear** is the substance of things *not* hoped for, the evidence *not* yet seen.

What you are meditating on or thinking about every day occupies your mind. You may be meditating on the good things or you may be thinking about all the things that will go wrong in your life today and tomorrow or all the things that went wrong yesterday. The object of your fear is not only being projected into tomorrow, but also yesterday's projected fear is here today.

TWO DIMENSIONS OF FEAR

The Spirit of Fear is a principality. A principality is like a head architect who is in charge, with additional Fear beings underneath it (called "underlings") that have specific assignments.

There are two dimensions of Fear. One is that Fear is an evil spirit. It can become difficult to separate yourself from that spirit, so you become one in spirit and soul with the spirit of Fear. Why the soul, because the soul is your mind, will and emotions (your thoughts).

The other dimension is that the fruit of Fear becomes part of you biologically. **It is possible to become programmed in your mind to have a personality of fear and it has nothing to do with an evil spirit.** Both dimensions must be resolved. The mind must be renewed and purged of the old beliefs that represent Fear.

When you have been around Fear for so long that you have become phobic and panic-ridden, mere exposure to your Fear stressor puts your body into a Fear reality. An evil spirit of Fear doesn't have to be present because the pre-programming rules your response. That is the mind-body connection.

- Hebrews 4:12 says, *"For the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."* (NKJ).

The antidote to the principality of Fear is very simple. Trust God. This means fellowship with the Godhead. Second Timothy 1:7 tells us that God has not given us the spirit of Fear but of power, love and a sound mind. Power represents the Holy Spirit, love represents the love of the Father and a sound mind represents the Word of God, Jesus. If you are filled with the fellowship of the love of God the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Fear does not have a shot at you. If you are listening to Fear, you are not trusting God and are not listening to Him. Fear is an antichrist spirit because it says you cannot trust God. It says evil is more powerful than God.

Knowing God and knowing His Word will not guarantee your freedom. Satan knows the Word of God but he is definitely not free or using it in the proper way. We have been taught to be intellectually and spiritually superior, but we have not been taught how to defeat our enemy.

The Word is Jesus Christ, a living being, but the defeat of your enemy with the Word can only be fruitful if you **believe** and **make it a part of your life**; when His thoughts become your thoughts, you are spiritually changed. When His ways become your ways, you are spiritually changed.

THE FEAR-FAITH COUNTERFEIT

Where there is faith, there is also a counterfeit. Fear-faith is a counterfeit of real faith. Fear-faith approaches God out of fear and out of need, not out of faith, not out of real believing. Fear-faith will make you quote 14 scriptures a day **hoping** it will work. Fear-faith will get you running to ministers all over America trying to get healed, looking for some man who has the answer. Fear-faith is something that will drive you because of Fear. Fear-faith is a fear that will get you into positive confession, which is a counterfeit for true confession.

It is not what you confess; it is what you **believe in your heart** that you confess that will change your life. Many people are trying to confess with their tongues, **hoping** it will get into their heart and manifest in their life.

Real faith
is when you confess out of your mouth
what you already believe in your heart

In your battles against Fear, you must be willing to throw yourself on the absolute care of God. Trust Him whether you live or whether you die, whether you win or whether you lose.

Trusting Him does not mean He will immediately remove your problem. If you believe He loves you because He has immediately removed the problem, you have erred. That is fear-faith. When you believe God and trust God, He will set things in motion to lead you out of captivity. If you choose to allow God to get involved in your life, He is going to honor His Word.

There is an exchange that happens in healing. In exchange for your life, you allow God to **be** your life. Walking free in faith does not mean there is no Fear. You can be in faith, yet Fear will be raging at you just as strong as your faith. Ephesians 6:13 says, *"Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."* (NKJ).

When you are standing in faith while Fear is raging, that does not mean you are in fear-faith; that means you are right in the face of your enemy. It's the best place you can be, because if you are facing the enemy with him raging in your ears, you are still standing in faith. You do not have to cohabit with these spirits.

This is **your** life and God wants you to learn Spiritual principles. God wants you to understand this battle because He does not want to continually deliver you from Fear. God's perfect will is not to deliver you continually from daily fears. His perfect will for you is that you do not walk in Fear to begin with. You can defeat Fear. Fear is not greater than God! Fear is not greater than faith! Fear is not greater than the Word of God! Fear is not greater than you!

We all need to consider options, not out of Fear, but weighing and considering out of wisdom, according to knowledge.

Fear will take you into a theology called "the permissive will of God" and get you to settle for second best in your life. Fear reminds you of who you are **not** and what you do not have. Fear reminds you of all the things of your life that are wrong and it projects the same into the future. Fear is excellent in getting you to settle for second best. Again, Fear is not greater than the Word of God!! Jesus was resurrected that we might **live life and life more abundantly**.

- 1 Peter 5:6 says, *"Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."* (KJV).

Many people do not teach there is a season of receiving. I may plant seed in the ground in the spring, but it takes time for it to bear its fruit. The tree may not bring forth fruit until the fall. Your faith, even if it is the size of a mustard seed, sets the Holy Spirit in motion to execute the object of your faith. There are stages of germination and various stages of growth. Fear will tell you that you should be free right now, but you have not germinated yet. You have not grown yet, you have not matured yet, and you have not been perfected yet. God knows what it takes to grow you into what you should be.

So, expect a measure of time to receive and if it is short – praise God. That really ticks off Fear! Your enemy knows when you believe; he recognizes faith. Then Fear comes demanding, "What about that symptom? Smell this! Do you feel that? God lied to you. If God really loved you, He would deal with you right now."

Faith leads you.

Fear drives you.

Fear drives you. Fear will come along and act like he is trying to help you get healed. Fear will remind you of your faith but will take away that measure of time to bring forth its fruit, that due season.

Fear will take away the perfecting of God in your life. Fear will demand a fulfillment **right now**. The enemy will send Fear of man, Fear of Rejection and Fear of failure to deceive you into demanding your healing now. He will coerce you into thinking you should take control of the timing of your healing. God is the healer – He determines the time and process.

So, remember, when you are asking for God's blessings, give Him the glory. Remember what you have been saved from and never exalt yourself in your blessings. You didn't bring the blessing anyway; He did it. God's love for you is reliable. Trust Him.

You can choose to not listen to lies. Fear is a lie. Don't listen to lies. You are going to be surrounded by every evil thing that is in the earth, but you do not have to be a partaker of it. It does not have to rule you.

Prozac
is <u>not</u> a substitute
for the Holy Spirit

Did you know Fear of pain can produce pain? You can also accelerate pain levels by thinking about it. Your body is a responder to your thinking. Pain is not an emotional or soulish expression, nor is it a spiritual expression. Pain is a physiological expression. Although pain is a physical reality, it can be caused by an evil spirit or by your thoughts.

THE MIND-BODY CONNECTION

The hypothalamus is the brain of the endocrine system, but it is also the facilitator of the mind-body connection. For every thought you have there is a corresponding chemical, hormone, or neurotransmitter that secretes somewhere in your body to respond to that thought, trying to maintain homeostasis (spirit-soul-body stability).

Here are a few of the life circumstances of which the hypothalamus gland is the originating point and facilitator: *fear, anxiety, stress, phobia, phobic realities, panic attacks, rage, anger and aggression*. All of these expressions in mankind are set into motion by one gland, the hypothalamus.

For example, in an anxiety attack, what happens physically, which can be documented medically, there would be a rush of the hormone ACTH into the bloodstream. In a panic attack it goes directly into the receptor cells in the muscles of the heart causing an immediate respiratory rate increase, a pounding of the heart, automatic immediate hyperventilation and over involvement of carbon dioxide retention in the brain. It causes fuzziness of thinking, a shutting down and can even produce anaphylaxis and catatonic reality. It can go to a full range just like that. It is caused by the *spirit of Fear*.

Stress and Fear, immediately and in the long-term, directly affect the hypothalamus gland. This is the mind-body connection. Fear, stress and anxiety produce a fight or flight response. Then the hypothalamus says to that person, "Yes, God created you with a spirit of Fear. I am responding to who you are in creation. Body, obey your spiritual realities!" That is exactly what is happening. Which god are you listening to? Certainly NOT the God who created you!

- Remember, Matthew 6:34 says, *"Take therefore no thought for the morrow."* (KJV). The keyword is "thought," because Fear projected into the future involves thought.

Fight or Flight

God created us with fight or flight in its basic stage as part of our creation. But the devil extends it into perversion, long-term, and that's where he "has" us. The devil has programmed us with a fallacy. He is a liar and a deceiver. He is a master of deception, manipulation and control.

Even when the danger is gone, you are still geared up for fight or flight. When that happens, your bloodstream is filled with hormones. The

beginning of reversing that reaction is when you start to take your peace. When you are at perfect peace, physically that is called homeostasis.

But just because you take your peace and have knowledge does not mean the reaction stops instantly. The evil spirits "have" you again because of ignorance. You believe God, but it doesn't go away instantly.

What happens next? You go right into more fear, unbelief and doubt which accelerate more of the same. When you start to take your peace back, you recognize what is happening and say, "Wait a minute. I have been taught better than this."

You can still be having that reaction, that feeling, or that exhaustion, that sickness, that burning or that fuzziness because there are a wide range of manifestations. You can take your peace back in your heart before God that moment, but your bloodstream is still filled with those neurotransmitters. This is how God created the body to function.

- Isaiah 26:3 (NKJ) *"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You; because he trusts in You."* All of a sudden, you have taken back your peace in your spirit and your soul, but your body is still reacting. Fear is still there; unbelief is still there. But as you stand firm in your peace, your body will catch up.

Take your peace in your mind and in your heart, and the hypothalamus will accept it and it will affect the peace and health of your body.

You have to learn to fight this enemy long-term. You must renew your mind and face the stressor. Eventually, the reaction will not occur anymore because the programming is broken. Your problem has a root cause. There is a spiritual bondage; a cause and effect. Some people grasp it faster than others. Sometimes there are things in people's lives that just need to be dealt

with before the root can be removed. There is a battle for your life. This is not mind over matter. This is not a science. **This is life.** There is an invisible enemy out there that has been controlling mankind for hundreds of years. But he has already lost the battle – we just need to learn how to appropriate it in our lives.

Hatred of Evil

You are to have a perfect hatred of evil (Romans 12:9). Fear is evil; it is sin. The perfect hatred of evil is something you will have to ask God to help you develop so you can begin to think the way He thinks.

The two dimensions of Fear include both the spirit and the soul through something called memes, or memories. Your physiological response to Fear can also be on two dimensions. First, Fear comes as the Spirit of Fear. Second, it can also come through the programming of your soul by the Spirit of Fear. When you have a thought that stays with you for a long time, an electrochemical reaction occurs in the brain. It produces a unit of memory, or a meme; either short-term memory or long-term memory.

Renew Your Mind

Becoming free sometimes requires work. It took you a lot of work to get into bondage, so it may take a little work to get out of it. Not only does the spirit of Fear and everything that it represents have to be dealt with in your life, but you have to renew your mind in faith by making <u>new memes</u> – new units of memory that represent the faith of God for you and what He says about you for the future. Faith takes you into the future.

Fear is not just an emotion. Fear is a spirit. But long-term fear can become part of your emotional makeup because that is where your soul is. God has created us to be able to have a godly fear that comes from wisdom.

You don't go out and play in traffic because you know there is a possibility you could get hit by a car. You don't drive on the left side of the road, unless you are in England, because you know you would most likely be in a wreck. You drive according to wisdom. That wisdom is not a spirit of Fear; it is part of the foundation of understanding good and evil; right and wrong.

There are people who don't want to drive because they have fear of having an accident. Is that wisdom or fear?

Fear will project the failure of your past, or present, into the future. Now Fear is your reality and it has ruined your day. Ignorance is a form of knowledge. If your mind is being renewed, then you are putting into your mind new information from the Word of God and you are mixing it with faith. The author of Hebrews says the same gospel was preached to those coming out of Egypt under Moses and Aaron. The same gospel preached to them is being preached to us today. But it profited them little because they did not mix the Word they heard with faith. They did not believe it (Hebrews 4:2).

Remember, you are a spirit, but you have a soul and you live in a body (or mobile home!). Who you are as a son or daughter of God, is a spiritual being. Your spirit does not know disease. Your spirit does not know that dimension because disease is a physical or emotional dimension. Your body can be racked with fever and coughing, and you can feel it in the physical dimension, but what does that have to do with the spiritual man?

It is amazing how your external can control your spirit man and you wonder why. *"For as he thinks in his heart,* (in his spirit man), *so is he...* (NKJ) Proverbs 23:7; *"...According to your faith, be it unto you."* (KJV) Mathew 9:29

Types of Fear

There are several types of Fear in God's Word. One is Fear of man. Others would be Fear of evil and Fear of death. To fear man is to look to and regard people rather than God. In other words, Fear of man makes man your god. What man thinks and says is what is important to you.

- Paul said in Romans 3:4, "…*let God be true, but every man a liar…."* (KJV).

- Proverbs 29:25 says, *"The fear of man brings a snare; but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe."* (NKJ). This Scripture equates fearing man with not trusting in the Lord. At the very least, fearing man robs us of the peace God intends for us. It also warps our view of who we are in Jesus Christ, because we take our self-concept from what others think of us, instead of what God says about us in His Word. Remember LAWS – who fulfills those needs?

When you have Rejection and Fear of Rejection, you draw back from people. You do not become transparent with them because you are afraid of Rejection. Who you are depends on what other people think about you. If you are letting a man be your source rather than letting God be your source, you are not trusting God. In Psalm 118:6, we read, "*The LORD is on my side; I will not fear; what can man do unto me?"* (KJV).

Another antidote for Fear is found in 1 John 4:18, *"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves torment. But he who*

fears has not been made perfect in love." (NKJ). If you do not believe the Lord is on your side, you have an antichrist spirit with you and you need to recognize it. If you do not trust the Lord, who can you trust?

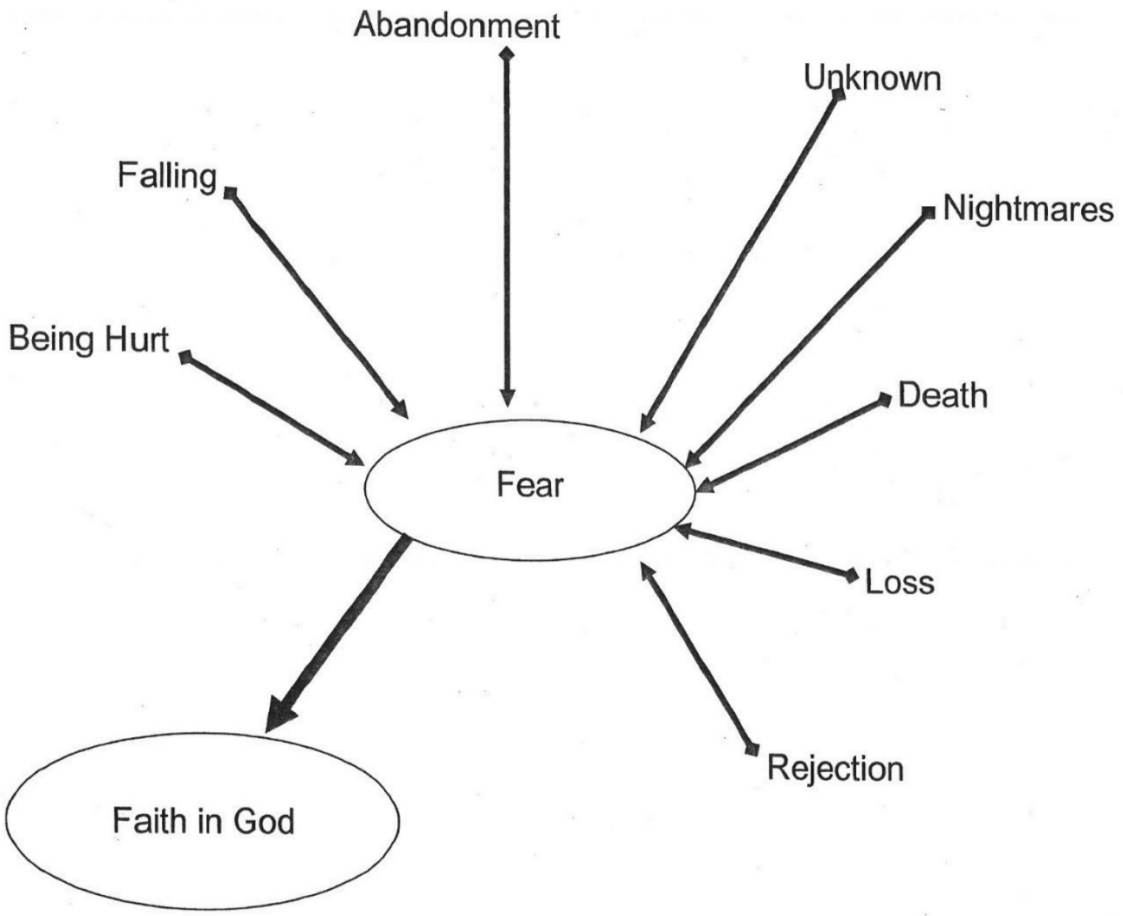
Repent for fearing man. God will transform your heart to trust Him without looking to people as your source anymore. That is a place of peace. A spirit of Fear will try to get your attention in every dimension of your life – concerning your family, your spouse, your finances, your future, your health, and a multitude of other areas. Many thoughts come and demand that you stop and listen to them. YOU decide which ones to listen to.

An antidote to Fear is what God has said, not what the devil says. I believe the Holy Spirit who was with Jesus is the same Holy Spirit who lives within you and me. I do not believe it was any easier for Jesus than it is for you and me. I believe Jesus came to show us that, as a man, it was and is possible to believe God. Jesus divested Himself of the glory that He had with the Father and He became one of us. The Bible says He was tempted in all points such as we are, yet without sin.

Well, as you can see, fear is a **HUGE** topic and we have only touched the tip of it! I am not trying to cause you more fear. I am just attempting to give you information so you can recognize your enemy of fear and make wise decisions and choices. Some of the information is based on how God created us to function and is automatic, as with the hypothalamus.

Remember, you and God are a majority in **everything**.

Fear Diagram



Spirits of Fear – Ministry List

Instructions

Renounce in the generations of your family on both sides. Renounce and repent for each spirit you have entertained.

Panic Attacks/Various Phobias

- Fear of Man
- Fear of losing life
- Fear of a wasted life
- Fear of sickness/COVID
- Fear of death
- Fear of the dying process
- Fear of dying prematurely
- Fear of losing children
- Fear of disease
- Fear of abandonment
- Fear of abandoning others
- Fear of foods/clothes/i.e., allergies
- Fear of lack of food/clothes/etc.
- Fear of loss of spouse

General Fear

- Fear of failure
- Fear of rejection
- Fear of poverty
- Fear of judgement
- Fear of vomiting
- Fear of verbal rejection
- Fear of reproach
- Fear of being shamed
- Fear of humiliation
- Perfectionism
- Fear of another's driving habits

Controlling Others

- Fear of being controlled
- Fear of mother
- Fear of father
- Fear of natural disasters
- Fear of animals
- Fear of being alone
- Fear of intercourse or sex
- Fear of loss of sexual ability
- Fear of loneliness
- Fear of pregnancy
- Fear of menopause
- Fear of water
- Fear of fire
- Fear of responsibility
- Fear of commitment

Fear of change
Fear of the unknown
Fear of disability
Fear of pain
Fear of evil
Fear of suffering
Fear of not being free
Fear of deliverance
Fear of being free
Fear of the future
Fear of heights

Dread – Projection of Evil into the Future

Fear of fear
Drivenness
Night terror – dreams and visions
Fear of the dark
Fear of the enemy
Fear of war/conflict
Fear of authority
Fear of punishment
Fear of own sexuality
Fear of loss of confidence
Fear of loss of relationships
Fear of everything/free floating anxiety
Fear of success
Fear of dependency
Fear of criticism
Fear of children

Superstitions

Fear - doctors/hospitals/procedures
Fear of bad news
Fear of public speaking
Fear of weapons
Fear of being robbed

Suspicion

Fear of betrayal
Distrust
Fear of disfigurement
Fear of reproof
Fear of harassment
Self-consciousness
Fear of inadequacy
Distress
Shyness
Inferiority
Fear of bigotry
Fear of spouse
Fear of insanity
Fear of losing salvation

Horror

Trembling

Speculative Fear

Fear of facial expressions

Fear of another's bitterness

Fear of another's words

Fear of disapproval

Fear of noises

Fear of blood

Fear of driving

Fear of God/afraid of Him

SPIRITUAL WARFARE DELIVERANCE PRAYER

A Prayer of repentance and renunciation should include at least the following elements: *Person being ministered to says:*

- Heavenly Father,
- I recognize and take responsibility for participating with and serving the sin of *(Principality)* in my life.
- I take responsibility in my generation, on both sides of my family all the way back to the Cross, for the following spirits: *(individual spirits).*
- Father, in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth I repent to You and ask You to forgive me for allowing the above-named spirits to manifest through me and by faith I now receive Your forgiveness.
- Sin of (*Principality),* I renounce everything you stand for in my life. I will no longer serve you. I take a stand against you and everything you represent. You must now leave me and go into a dry place in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- Father, I thank You for Your forgiveness and ask that the curses be broken.

Person doing the ministry now says:

- Spirit of *(Principality),* you have heard his/her confession and declaration and you MUST obey him/her and leave now in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit, I take authority over the spirit of (*Principality)* and break your power in his/her life. You no longer have any power, right, or authority in his/her life and I cast you out.

Holy Spirit, I invite you into our hearts to heal us in the areas of *(Principality).* Please speak your words of truth to us about these situations.

UNLOVING SPIRITS – THE PRINCIPALITY OF SELF

What is an Unloving spirit? It is an antichrist spirit sent to steal, kill and destroy – you. It's a spirit that attaches to and attacks us, seeking to make us feel self-rejected, unclean and unworthy. It tells us that we "don't measure up", that "we are no good." Our days are spent feeling like we always fall short of others' expectations or even the expectations of ourselves. "Not even God could like me. I can't stand myself. Why was I born?"

These Unloving spirits continue their assault so that self-rejection becomes the norm in your life. The conflict wears you out. A constant or high level of this type of self-accusation and rejection is evidence that Unloving spirits have taken up residence with us.

The Unloving spirit uses its armor to keep you from discovering the real "You". It uses weapons of self-pity, self-abuse, self-rejection, self-hatred, competition, self-pride, self-enthronement, and false piety.

It fires self-comparison, self-idolatry, perfectionism and self-torment at us. It pushes us to be defensive, and filled with self-doubt, unbelief, self-bitterness, self-resentment, self-unforgiveness, self-retaliation, self-anger, self-violence, and even suicide. These are but a few of the arms with which Unloving spirits attack us.

A Biblical law is a precept or concept by which one ought to live – a standard. Paul says that residing within him are two opposing ways of thinking. One way loves God and desires to serve Him and righteousness. The other way responds to a different law than God's law. Both laws establish within us a code of thoughts, words, actions, beliefs and motives. Attitudes are defined as habits of thought, so both legal codes promote their own set of attitudes. And we follow one or the other. This is how spiritual warfare plays out in our lives.

In this warfare, it is essential to decide which law will rule our lives – the law of God, or of the kingdom of Self controlled by Satan. The Unloving

Spirit – Kingdom of Self – is the Principality and it is protected by strong armor (Luke 11:24-26).

Let's start by defining the term "self". The dictionary definition is "one's own person, an individual". In Romans 7, Paul teaches about the two different "parts" of "self". Paul said that there was a part of him that was "good", and a part of him that was "sin". Paul says there are two "laws" working within him. One is the "law of sin" and the other, the "law of God".

When Satan entered the world through Adam, another nature became added to our nature – the sin nature. "Self" now had a – (dash) after it and became the target of Unloving spirits.

Turning back to our dictionary, we notice that immediately following the definition of the word "self" includes many modifiers.

> Self-abandonment: disregarding all self-interest.
>
> Self-abasement: humiliation of oneself.
>
> Self-absorbed: focusing on oneself to the exclusion or consideration of others.
>
> Self-abuse: comes in many forms, i.e., obesity or anorexia, sleep deprivation or too much sleep, lack of exercise or pushing oneself to the brink, denial of normal sexuality or preoccupation with sex.
>
> Self-accusation: constantly finding fault with oneself.

Next to God, we should be our own best friend, enjoying and accepting ourselves. We should love ourselves. Perhaps self-love is a novel concept to you. Self-love, though, is an important Biblical principle. Jesus taught that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matthew 22:39).

I want you to consider this: I can teach what God has said about us, but you can reject it. Rejecting God's teaching about self-love is, in essence, telling Him that He made a mistake when He created us. Calling Almighty God a "liar" is serious business, yet when we curse ourselves, we also curse God.

To be successful in finding the peace of God and His healing power, we need to agree with God about this matter of self-love. Anything that disagrees with God's Word flows from an anti-Christ spirit. Psalm 139:14 says that we are *"fearfully and wonderfully made."* Before we were ever knit together in our mother's womb, God knew us. Before our bones, eyes, hair and the rest of our body was formed, God knew us.

In Jeremiah 1:5, God told the prophet that He knew and sanctified him while he still lay in the womb. In Zechariah 2:8, God says we are the "apple of His eye." In Isaiah 49:16 we're told that we are engraved on the palms of His hand. God took a special interest in each one of us even before we were born. We are not the product of some accident of nature.

When Jesus, God's only Son, came to die for us and His Holy Spirit to convict and teach us, it was the ultimate expression of love. He considered us so valuable that Jesus died for us to reconcile us back to God and make our salvation possible. John 15:13 says, *"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."* Jesus is our Creator, Friend and Savior.

Why, then, did humans begin hating themselves and those around them, all of whom were created in the image of God? Because Satan came into the world and brought along his lies and accusations. This is another reason we need to be fully informed of Satan's wiles (schemes, thoughts).

Competition or Self-Comparison. It tells us that we are not a "whole person" unless we win or "are right about everything". Competition is rooted in self-pride or self-enthronement that forms another layer of Satanic armor. What is self-enthronement? Putting ourselves on the throne of our lives so that we become the singular focus of everything that interests us. Me, me, me. Self, self, self.

Unloving spirits often drive us to make self-comparisons. This is the behavior in which we compare our successes to another person's, putting the other person in the position as an idol – false god. You hold them – their

behavior, looks, lifestyle, etc. – up as a standard to which you aspire. This type of idolatry can lead us to despise and resent the person we idolize.

Idolatry provides armor to the Principality of an Unloving spirit. It also leads to another piece of evil armor: perfectionism. Perfectionism allows no room for failure and you can be sure that if you are engaged in any aspect of life, failure will come at some time. When perfectionists experience failure, it produces self-accusation and self-condemnation.

Pride is an anti-Christ mentality. Pride drives a person to dishonesty about himself or herself. Pride says, "Everybody else has the problem, but I'm glad I don't."

> Pride is the result of disobedience to the Word of God. It is the ultimate expression of Satan who thought himself to be so great he believed he was equal to God.

Another piece of the armor of an Unloving spirit is "I and the I will". An anti-Christ spirit will always protect, develop and look to itself first. It sees the world in a sphere that surrounds self. It thrives on the I, I will, self-exaltation, attention getting, excessive talkativeness, insecurity, self-mutilation, excessive eating, and bingeing.

Referring to Satan, Isaiah 14:13 says, *"For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north;"*

Learning to be free from an Unloving spirit requires looking beyond ourselves and really seeing others. It gives us the ability to look at those who have rejected or victimized us and realize they have serious problems of their own. It is the ability to separate the sin from the sinner, and gives us the ability to forgive and have compassion on them.

This is a truth about all created beings, from archangels to people: God gave us all a free will. God gave us the ability to make quality decisions. None of us were created as puppets or clones, or to simply vegetate. All of us have been given the ability to reason out a matter and come to a conclusion. Then we CHOOSE how we will respond.

Deuteronomy 30:19 says, *"...that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;"* Every created being has free choice. Joshua 24:15 says to *"...choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, ...But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."*

Lucifer tempted the other angels with self-exaltation, promising them power, supremacy and rulership. We need to answer the question, "What does Satan use to tempt us?" One-third of the angels followed his lead, indicating his temptation is powerful.

David's life gives us the key. When Nathan confronted him with his sins, he tore his robes and lay before God, begging forgiveness. Psalm 51 powerfully tells us the story. Because David repented, he was called *"a man after God's own heart"* (Acts 13:22). The key was <u>repentance</u> in <u>humility</u> going before God, acknowledging his sin, asking for forgiveness and turning away from evil. Making the right choice today sets us apart in both this life and for eternity.

A person who has an Unloving spirit often desires attention. A bully usually has both a spirit of Rejection and an Unloving spirit. He compensates for these evil influences through bragging, bravado and threats. Why? He thinks that getting attention will mask his spiritual deficiencies.

<u>Excessive talkativeness</u> is another piece of Satan's armor he uses to disguise the strong man of the Unloving spirit. This is the person who always has something to say, talks non-stop, but really never says much of value. Such

a person has deep struggles with insecurity. They talk excessively to avoid dealing with their own issues.

Insecurity is a form of fear – fear of man, of failure, of abandonment, of rejection, etc. The Unloving spirit is a Principality who often links arms with the Principalities of Fear and Rejection. 1 John 4:18 says, *"perfect love casts out fear."* One way we defeat Fear is with the perfect love of the Father and trusting God.

When we have mastered loving God, self and others, Fear doesn't stand a chance. To defeat Fear, we must face him down by learning to love ourselves and to be prepared to deal with the armor of the Unloving spirit. We can't defeat Fear unless we've defeated the Unloving spirit. Part of the armor of the Unloving spirit is self-doubt, self-unbelief, and self-questioning. When we battle an Unloving spirit, we always question our beliefs and motives, further eroding our self-confidence.

Part of an Unloving spirit's armor is division. An Unloving spirit seeks to divide and conquer by destroying unity. When an Unloving spirit successfully accuses a person, they are not interested in peace; they're interested in war. Schisms produce or result from strife. When strife exists, a door for every evil thing is flung open. James 3:16 says, *"For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work."*

These aspects of an Unloving spirit make up its armor. These are the "goods" of Luke 11:21. This is another example of how the armed strong man fights to keep his palace. How do we "spoil the goods"? We learn to discern each of the goods to determine which ones are of Satan and then we begin unraveling them.

Satan uses self-bitterness against us. Here, instead of being bitter toward others, we are bitter toward ourselves. Self-bitterness produces an inability to forgive ourselves. Have you ever struggled with unforgiveness toward yourself? I have.

Self-bitterness leads to self-resentment. It says, "I can never do anything right. The harder I try the worse things get. I never have been any good, never will be any good. I'm just a nobody. I don't like the way I look. Daddy was right – I'll never amount to anything." All of these thoughts stem from self-bitterness.

Self-resentment leads to self-retaliation. This will cause us to react strongly and negatively to someone who accuses us. Our negativity results from their rejection of us, which is what we expected in the first place. Before long, we have developed a continual pattern of victimization.

Victimization, oddly enough, is a type of control. It gains us attention and can win us support outside of our abusive relationship. We win membership in the victim's support groups.

When self-hatred, which results in abuse by others, becomes dominant, it is a force that "takes over" and we are unable to stop the craziness. The only way to break its hold is to totally remove ourselves from the situation, to gain space and cool off. When we remove ourselves from a violent situation but fail to deal with our root problems, the next person we marry or move in with is most often an abuser. We recreate the same situation, and hear ourselves say, "Oh, no! Here I go again."

How do I know that it's an Unloving spirit? Because the Bible makes it clear that a man who hates his wife hates himself. They became one flesh in marriage, and if the man is abusing his wife he is abusing himself (Ephesians 5:31). He hates what God loves.

People accused by Unloving spirits split churches, split families, and ruin businesses. They seem bent on finding trouble. What did the Lord say? *"If at all possible, live peaceably one with another."* When people cannot live or work together peaceably, it might be time to consider a change.

Have you ever experienced self-anger? "I just can't stand myself!" "See, here's more proof how stupid I am!" In self-anger, we will find

perfectionism, self-accusation and self-condemnation. When these three come together, they will trigger anger like a flash fire.

Self-anger is no respecter of persons. We see how it affects us well enough, but if we're not careful, this anger will spill over onto somebody else. The devil is an equal opportunity oppressor.

Consider self-hatred. We don't get to self-hatred without self-bitterness accusing us. Self-hatred results from something that simmers and festers below the surface, often for days, weeks, months or years.

The next stage is self-violence. Self-anger spills over into committing some type of hurtful act against oneself. On occasions counselees have shared that they have cut or mutilated themselves out of extreme shame or guilt.

The ultimate expression of self-violence is, of course, suicide. When we entertain thoughts of suicide, we have clear evidence of self-bitterness with its entire evil armor in full battle array. To defeat self-murder, we have to break the bond of the Unloving spirit and eliminate self-bitterness.

Constantly defending oneself is rooted in the fear of Rejection, but it's also tied directly to the Unloving spirit. We desire to feel safe in our relationships, and if we perceive an attack, we become defensive. So sensitized are we to these perceived attacks that we "fly off the handle", even when we are not being provoked.

Some people always seem to be trying to "fix" someone else. They marry the alcoholic or the abuser, suffer for it, get divorced and do it again. This, too, is driven by an element of the Unloving spirit. Here, we are drawn to others who "need us" so we can feel value about ourselves. We have an urge to help these people see that they are alright and worthwhile, but we fail to confront their real spiritual needs.

Self-pity is the most dangerous of all the Unloving spirits because it binds us to past evil spirits. This binding keeps us from God's future provision, binds

us to what somebody has done to us or what we've done to ourselves. Self-pity says nobody really understands us, and even if they did, they don't really care. Self-pity is the "superglue" of hell, binding us to the past.

Self-pity creates a vicious circle. We need to be loved and use our manipulating techniques to get someone's attention. Then we offend them enough that they leave us alone. This increases our self-pity and the cycle repeats itself. Self-pity is very dangerous, because it binds our freedom with a life sentence.

A compulsive spender needs the rush gained from buying yet another thing. It is their fix to help them feel good about themselves. Compulsive spending is very similar to binging. It attempts to satisfy its love void with material possessions. It flows from an Unloving spirit.

Self-sabotage is also dangerous because it is tied closely with self-mutilation and self-destruction. Self-sabotage destroys our faith because faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not yet seen. (Hebrews 11:1) Self-sabotage says that our faith will never work and, on those occasions, when we attempt to live by faith, we sabotage the results. Self-sabotage keeps us from ever achieving our hopes.

"Ungodly Vows" or "self-talk" is another form of self-sabotage. When we say, "I will never trust women (or men) again," because of how we have been hurt, Satan is there, ready to fulfill those words and every future relationship that begins to grow close is destroyed. The "I will never" do this or that statements set us up for failure in the future (Proverbs 23:7).

False piety is another evil spirit. In the context of the Christian faith, piety means devotion to God, His Word and Biblical religious practices. It carries the element of loyalty and devotion to parents and family.

> False piety is contrary to Godly piety. "Even though mom and dad abuse me, victimize me, and reject me, since the Bible says to honor your father and mother, I'll just have to submit, like it or not." This

false piety preaches the stiff upper lip when confronting ungodly behavior in others.

Nowhere in the Bible are we taught to submit to evil. When God says to honor your father and mother, He doesn't mean to submit to their authority if it is used in an evil way.

God calls us to peace and to have a perfect hatred for evil. So why would we submit to evil? False piety produces martyrdom and martyrdom can be true or false. True martyrs suffer for the sake of the Cross, not to raise their own self-image or to give them an excuse why they should do nothing to correct a bad situation.

There are many ways that we show a lack of Godly self-love. We need to learn to accept our position in Christ and the extreme love God places on us, and begin a proper love relationship with ourselves. I choose to believe the report of the Lord. Let God be true and every man, devil, angel and created being (that includes the lies I tell myself) that preaches another gospel be accursed and be a liar (Romans 3:4).

1 Corinthians 13 tells us the more excellent way is love. Godly love, directed at others and ourselves, drives out an Unloving spirit and all its armor. Without it, everything we do falls far short of God's desire. 1 Peter 3:12 says, *"...for the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and His ears are open unto their prayers."*

Spirits Associated with Unloving (Anti-Christ) - Ministry List

Self-Pride
Self-Idolatry
Selfishness
Programming
Competition
I and I Will
Self-Exaltation
Prefabricated Personality

Broken Heart
Ungodly Grief
Shame
Self-Pity

Self-Rejection
Self-Accusation
Self-Condemnation

Self-Bitterness
Self-Resentment
Self-Unforgiveness
Self-Anger/Wrath
Self-Hatred
Self-Violence
Self-Murder

Insecurity
Examples of behavior:
Anorexia, bulimia, bingeing
Obsessive-Compulsive behaviors

Not necessary
Not important or needed
Self-Doubt
Self-Unbelief
Self-Questioning
Lack of Confidence
Self-Abasement

Self-Consciousness
Self-Deception
Self-Sabotage

Division
Separation
Isolation
Loneliness
Shut down

Religious spirit
False Piety
Victimization

Double-Mindedness
Fornication
Adultery
Pornography

Attention-Getting
Excessive Talking
Self-Comparison
Need for approval

Co-Dependency
Fear
Perfectionism
Ungodly Vows
Rebellion
Self-Mutilation
Envy/Jealousy
Self-Annihilation
Addictions
Self-Torment
Drunkenness

SPIRITUAL WARFARE DELIVERANCE PRAYER

A Prayer of repentance and renunciation should include at least the following elements:

Person being ministered to says:

- Heavenly Father,
- I recognize and take responsibility for participating with and serving the sin of
  (Principality) in my life.
- I take responsibility in my generation, on both sides of my family all the way back to the Cross, for the following spirits: *(individual spirits).*
- Father, in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth I repent to You and ask You to forgive me for allowing the above-named spirits to manifest through me and by faith I now receive Your forgiveness.
- Sin of *(Principality),* I renounce everything you stand for in my life. I will no longer serve you. I take a stand against you and everything you represent. You must now leave me and go into a dry place in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- Father, I thank You for Your forgiveness and ask that the curses be broken.

Person doing the ministry now says:

- Spirit of *(Principality),* you have heard his/her confession and declaration and you MUST obey him/her and leave now in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit, I take authority over the spirit of (*Principality)* and break your power in his/her life. You no longer have any power, right, or authority in his/her life and I cast you out.

Holy Spirit, I invite you into our hearts to heal us in the areas of (*Principality)* Please speak your words to us about these situations.

I Am Because Christ Says I Am

Matt 5:13	I am the salt of the earth.
Matt 5:14	I am the light of the world.
John 1:12	I am a child of God (part of His family) See Roman 8:16
John 15:1, 5	I am part of the true vine, a channel (branch) of His (Christ's) life.
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend.
John 15:16	I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear His fruit.
Acts 1:8.	I am a personal witness of Christ for Christ.
Rom 6:18	I am a slave of righteousness.
Rom 6:22.	I am enslaved to God.
Rom 8:14-15	I am a son/daughter of God (God is my spiritual father) See Gal 3:26; 4:6
Rom 8:17	I am a joint-heir with Christ, sharing His inheritance with Him.
1 Cor. 3:16	I am a temple (home) of God. His Spirit (His life) dwells in me.
1 Cor 6:19	I am joined (united) to the Lord and am one spirit with Him.
1 Cor 12:27	I am a member (part) of Christ's body. see Eph 5:30
2 Cor 5:17	I am a new creation (a new person).
2 Cor 5:18-18	I am reconciled to God and am a minister of reconciliation.
Gal 3:36, 28.	I am a son/daughter of God and one in Christ
Gal 4:6-7.	I am an heir of God since I am a son/daughter of God.
Eph 1:1.	I am a saint. (See 1 Cor 1:2, Phil 1:1, Col. 1:2)
Eph 2:10.	I am God's workmanship (handiwork).
Eph 2:19	I am a fellow citizen with the rest of God's people In His Family
Eph 3:1, 4:1	I am a prisoner of Christ.
Eph 4:24	I am righteous and holy.
Phil 3:20	I am a citizen of heaven and seated in heaven right now. (see Eph 2:6)
Col 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God.
Col 3:4	I am an expression of the life of Christ because He is my life.
Col 3:12	I am chosen by God, holy and dearly loved.
1 Thes 1:4	I am chosen and dearly loved by God.
1 Thes 5:5	I am a son/daughter of light and not of darkness.
Heb 3:1	I am a holy brother/sister, partaker of a heavenly calling.
Heb 3:14	I am partaker of Christ...I share in His life.
1 Peter 2:5	I am one of God's living stones and am being build up (in Christ) as a spiritual house.
1 Peter 2:9-10	I am a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy, nation, a people for God's possession to proclaim the excellencies of Him.
1 Peter 2:11	I am an alien and a stranger to this world I temporarily live in.

1 Peter 5:8	I am enemy of the devil.
1 John 3:1-2	I am now a child of God. I will resemble Christ when He returns.
1 John 5:18	I am born of God and the evil one (the devil) cannot touch me.
Psalm 23:10	I am a sheep of His pasture. Therefore, I have everything I need.

What He Says About How "I Am Made New"

Rom 5:1	I have been justified (completely forgiven and made righteous)
Rom 6:1-6	I died with Christ and died to the power of sin's rule on my life.
Rom 8:1	I am free forever from condemnation.
1 Cor 1:30	I have been put into Christ by God's doing.
1 Cor 2:12	I have received the Spirit of God into my life that I might know the things freely given to me by God.
1 Cor 2:16	I have been given the mind of Christ.
1 Cor 6:19,20	I am chosen and appointed by Christ to bear His fruit.
2 Cor 1:22	I have the Holy Spirit as a pledge (a deposit) guaranteeing my inheritance and what is to come.
2 Cor 5:14, 15	Since I have died, I no longer live for myself, but for Christ.
Gal 2:20	I have been crucified with Christ and it is no longer I who live, but Christ living in me. (The life I live is Christ's life.)
Eph 1:3	I have been blessed with every spiritual blessing.
Eph 1:4	I have been chosen in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and without blame before Him.
Eph 1:5	I was predestined (determined by God) to be adopted as His son/daughter.
Eph 1: 7-8	I have been redeemed, forgiven and I am a recipient of His lavishing grace.
Eph 2:6	I have been made alive together with Christ.
Eph 2:18	I have been raised up and seated with Christ in heaven.
Eph 3:12	I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.
Col 1:13	I have been delivered (rescued) from the domain of darkness (Satan's rule) and transferred to the kingdom of Christ.
Col 1:14	I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins (the debt against me has been canceled.) See Col 2:13-14
Col 1:27	Christ Himself is living in me.
Col 2:7	I have been firmly rooted in Christ and am now being built up in Him.
Col 2:10	I have been made complete in Christ.
Col 2:11	I have been spiritually circumcised (my old, unregenerate nature has been removed.)

Col 2:12-13	I have been buried, raised and made alive with Christ.
Col 3: 1-4	I have been raised with Christ. My life is now hidden with Christ in God. Christ is now my life.
2 Tim 1:7	I have been given a spirit of power, love a sound mind of self-discipline.
2 Tim 1:9	I have been saved and called (set apart) by God for His great plans.
Titus 3:5	Christ saved me, not because of righteous things I had done, but because of His great mercy, through rebirth and renewal.
Heb 2:11	Because I am sanctified and am one with the Sanctifier (Christ), He calls me brother/sister.
Heb 4:16	I have a right to come boldly before the throne of God (the throne of grace) to find mercy and grace in my time of need.
2 Pet 1:4	I have been given exceedingly great and precious promises by God, which I receive and am a partaker through God's nature.
1 Thes 5:5	I am a son/daughter of light and not of darkness.
Heb 3:1	I am a holy brother/sister, partaker of a heavenly calling.
Heb 3:14	I am partaker of Christ...I share in His life.

WHO I AM IN CHRIST

I am accepted . . .

- **John 1:12** — I am God's child
- **John 15:15** — I am Christ's friend
- **Rom 5:1** — I have been justified
- **1 Cor 6:17** — I am united with the Lord (one spirit)
- **1 Cor 6:19-20** — I am bought with a price; I belong to God
- **1 Cor 12:27** — I am a member of Christ's body
- **Eph 1:1** — I am a saint
- **Eph 1:5** — I have been adopted as God's child
- **Eph 2:18** — I have access to God through the Holy Spirit
- **Col 1:14** — I have been redeemed and forgiven
- **Col 2:10** — I am complete in Christ

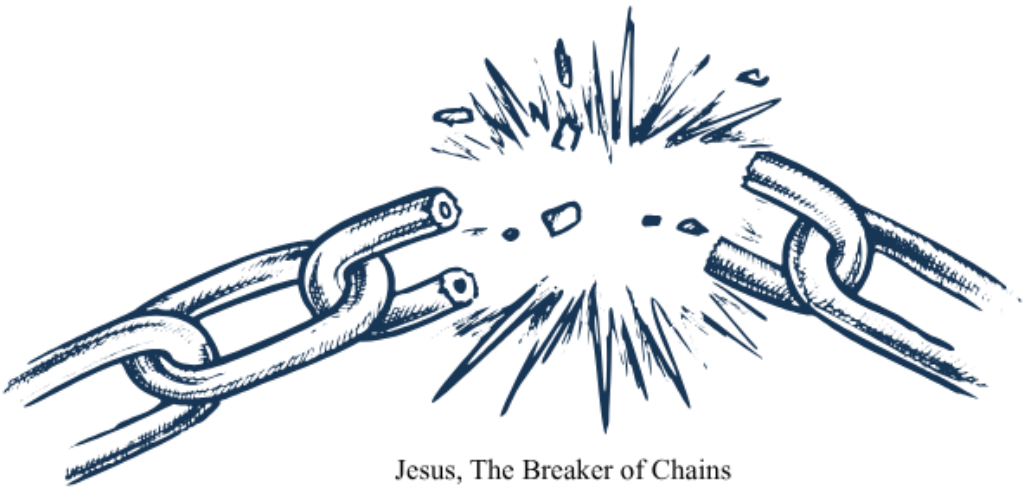
I am secure . . .

- **Rom 8:1-2** — I am free forever from condemnation
- **Rom 8:28** — I am assured all things work together for good
- **Rom 8:35-39** — I cannot be separated from the love of God
- **2 Cor 1:21-22** — I am established, anointed, sealed by God
- **Col 3:3** — I am hidden with Christ in God
- **Phil 1:6** — I am confident that the good work God has begun in me will be perfected
- **Phil 3:20** — I am a citizen of heaven
- **2 Timothy 1:7** — I have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind
- **Heb 4:16** — I can find grace and mercy in time of need
- **1 John 5:18** — I am born of God; the evil one cannot touch me

I am significant . . .

- **Matt 5:13-14** — I am the salt and light of the earth
- **John 15:1, 5** — I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life
- **John 15:16** — I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit
- **Acts 1:8** — I am a personal witness of Christ's

- **1 Cor 3:16** — I am God's temple
- **2 Cor 5:17-21** — I am a minister of reconciliation for God
- **2 Cor 6:1** — I am God's co-worker (1 Cor 3:9)
- **Eph 2:6** — I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm
- **Eph 2:10** — I am God's workmanship
- **Eph 3:12** — I may approach God with freedom and confidence
- **Phil 4:13** — I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me



Jesus, The Breaker of Chains

MY IDENTITY

"Understanding your identity in Christ is absolutely essential for your success at living a victorious Christian life!"

Satan's Lie	**God's Truth**
You are a sinner because you sin	You are a saint (one declared righteous by God) who sins
Your identity comes from what you have done	Your identity comes from what God has done for you
Your identity comes from what people say about you	Your identity comes from what Christ says about you
Your behavior tells you what to believe about yourself	Your belief about yourself determines your behavior

Dr. Neil T. Anderson, *Who I Am in Christ*
(Gospel Light, 1993)

BINDING AND LOOSING

- Matthew 16:19 and 18:18 tell us, "*And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven."*

- The basic teaching I learned illustrated the binding of the devil or evil spirits and the loosing of the Holy Spirit or a ministering spirit to a troubled person or into a troubled situation.

- I had a difficult time understanding what in the world you would possibly loose the Holy Spirit from.

- One of the reasons I began studying this topic was I could find no Scriptural record of Jesus ever binding an evil spirit or a demon. He either rebuked them or told them to get out.

I. **<u>Bind/Binding</u>** – Strongs OT 631, 2280, 7194; NT 1195, 1210, 2280

Some of the word meanings for bind are to bind, be in bonds, knit, fasten, tie, to wrap firmly and wind.

There are two kinds of binding. There is a binding which imprisons and chains and there is a wonderful, helpful binding. In the Old Testament, the positive side of binding is shown in a word which means to tie, gird, confine, compact, bind, heal, conspire, join together and knit. This is the same Hebrew word used in the following Scriptures referring to the value of God's wisdom and truth:

- "*Let not mercy and truth forsake you: **bind** them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart"* (Proverbs 3:3).

- *"**Bind** them continually upon your heart, tie them around your neck* (Proverbs 6:21).

- *"**Bind** them on your fingers, write them on the tablet of your heart"* (Proverbs 7:3).

There is a good example of both sides of binding in Isaiah 61:1, *"The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent me to **bind** (heal - Strongs OT 2280) up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are **bound**."*

The Hebrew word as used here for **bind** means heal, bind up, wrap about and hold together. We read within the very same Scripture that spiritual prison doors are to be opened to set free those the enemy has **bound** (Hebrew for made prisoner, held fast, girded about and kept).

Many people see only the one side of binding, having firmly connected the act with a mental image of chaining up something so it can't hurt them. I think this stems from the Scripture in Revelation 20:1-3 where God binds Satan and throws him in the bottomless pit for 1000 years.

The word picture that was given to the author is somewhat different. Picture a parent binding a baby to their body with a cloth baby-wrap as was used in the sixties and seventies. When that little one was bound to the parent, wherever the parent went, the baby went. The baby had a distinct personality and thoughts of its own, but it was bound to and experiencing the wiser, more mature will of the parent. If the parent went into sunshine and warmth, the baby went into sunshine and felt the warmth. If the parent came into the presence of a sweet scent or a pleasant sound, the baby smelled that same sweet scent and heard the same sound. When the parent avoided dangerous situations, the baby avoided danger.

For all intents and purposes, the baby became as one with the parent even though it was still an individual entity. With this thought, think about the following:

- I bind my spirit, soul and body to the will and purposes of God in my life.

As you bind your spirit, soul and body to God's will for your life, you will begin to feel secure in walking where you had not been able to negotiate on your own. You will begin to realize that you are aligning yourself with the words of Christ as He prayed, *"Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."* You are ensuring your will's cooperation on earth with His will in heaven by the words of your mouth.

- I bind my mind to the mind of Christ that I may have the thoughts, feelings and purposes of His heart within me.

In Philippians 2:5 we read, *"Let this mind be in you, which is also in Christ Jesus,"* and in 1 Corinthians 2:16, *"…but we have the mind of Christ."* Binding your mind to the mind of Christ will help you line up with 1 Corinthians 10:5, *"Casting down arguments (imaginations), and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."*

Another benefit to binding your mind to Christ's mind could be a powerful key in situations where you do not know how to meet either the revealed or hidden expectations of others. You will begin recognizing truth and getting understanding in situations that were simply not discernible in the natural.

Let's discuss another positive aspect of the baby being bound to its parent. That baby is, for all intents and purposes, one with its stronger and wiser parent. Whatever the parent does, wherever the parent goes, whatever the parent is exposed to…so goes the baby. The baby partakes of the same experiences. Consider this:

- *"For we have become partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end"* (Hebrews 3:14).

- *"For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He (the Lord) for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness* (Hebrews 12:10).

- *"As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises; that through these you might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust"* (2 Peter 1:3-4).

Have you ever wondered how partaking actually occurs? The Greek word translated as partaker means participant, associate, companion, fellowship. Consider the following:

- I bind myself to God's truth and an awareness of the power of the blood of Jesus working in my life every day.

- I bind myself to the work of the cross with all of its grace, mercy, truth, love, forgiveness, dying to self, healing, salvation, restoration and resurrection power.

As I use the keys of the kingdom to bind myself to the things of Christ I partake of His holiness, His joy, His nature and His presence!

Binding the Strong Man

Jesus does make one reference to binding evil. You can find the same basic reference in Matthew 12 and Mark 3 where He speaks of

binding the strong man. Matthew records Jesus' reply to the Pharisees who accused Him of casting out devils by Beelzebub, the prince of devils, *"...But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. Or else how can one enter a strong man's house and plunder (spoil) his goods, except he first bind the strong man? And then he will spoil his house"* (Matthew 12:28-29).

Luke 11:20-22 says, *"But if I cast out demons with the finger of God, surely the kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man, fully armed guards his own palace, his goods are in peace. But when a stronger than he comes upon him and overcomes him, he takes from him all his armor in which he trusted, and divides his spoils."*

If the thousands of Christians who have tried to bind Satan in chains according to their understanding of Matthew 16:19 and 18:18 had been successful, he wouldn't still be running loose, now would he? That right is reserved for the Lord and the angel who will cast Satan into the bottomless pit and shut him up for a thousand years.

<u>Old Testament Confirmation</u>

There is an Old Testament confirmation that speaks of the deliverance of captives and prey from Satan's kingdom or house. Isaiah 49:25, *"But thus says the Lord: Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible be delivered; for I will contend with him who contends with you, and I will save your children."*

Everything and everyone that Satan has laid claim to has been taken from God's creation, mankind. Jesus has given us instructions on how to render the works of the enemy useless and take the stolen goods and captives back. *"...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil"* (1 John 3:8).

II. **Loose/loosing** - Strongs OT 6605; NT 3089

Some words for loose are dissolve, destroy, crush, shatter, let go free, break apart and disrupt.

Strongholds

There are many negative strongholds we have built to protect wrong concepts, opinions and beliefs currently held in our life. (I can't do anything right; I'll never amount to anything; I am not good enough for _____; etc.) Remember, a negative stronghold is a wall of protection we have built to prevent additional hurt, offenses, etc. These walls often prevent us from believing even the Truth.

The memories of our past do not automatically leave once we accept Jesus as our Savior. However, we can loose the power and effects of those memories and loose the strongholds guarding them. Loose wrong ideas and beliefs and any deception associated with what you remember.

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 tells us "*For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds. Casting down arguments (imaginations), and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."*

The tearing down and destroying of the sources of personal strongholds can be categorized into two areas. The first area consists of eight sources of inner influence: attitudes, patterns of thinking, ideas, desires, beliefs, motivations, habits and behaviors learned from ignorance or ungodly sources. The second area consists of two outside sources of influence: generational bondages and wrong words (word curses) and ungodly vows spoken about us, to us and by us.

Internal Influences

- Attitudes – The only right attitudes we should strive to convey as Christians are attitudes expressed by the fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-26 – *"…Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control…"*

- Wrong Patterns of Thinking – One meaning of pattern is the model used to make a mold into which molten metal is poured to form a casting. Regardless what you pour in – liquid gold, molten metal, wet cement or gelatin – the end result will come out shaped exactly the same every time.

  Things do happen and have happened to everyone that are definitely not right, fair and not good. Those are facts and you cannot loose facts. But the patterns of thinking, wrong behaviors and the strongholds that come from such existing facts can be loosed.

  A typical pattern might be:

  Something traumatic happens in your life which is a **fact** → which leads you to develop **a wrong pattern of thinking** → which helps you justify **a wrong behavior** → which causes you to erect **a stronghold** to protect your right to do so → **which perpetuates your pain by keeping the trauma locked in and God locked out.**

  You cannot loose the fact of the original trauma or abuse, but you can begin to peel off the multiple layers and allow God's healing and renewal as you bind your mind to the mind of Christ.

- Wrong Ideas – Your ideas are the representation of your thoughts on a given subject. Interestingly, the English word "idea" is not used in the KJV Bible; the closest words used are thoughts and imaginations.

- Wrong Desires – In the original Greek text, the word desire is described as (1) setting the heart upon and longing for, or (2) to intensely crave possession of something or someone.

    - Desire can be a right longing for something good such as a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ. A wrong desire can be covetousness, self-gratification or self-indulgence, to name a few. Wrong desires generally come from an inner drive to satisfy an unmet fleshly need for love, acceptance, worth or security.

- Wrong Beliefs – A belief is the mental acceptance or conviction of something that appears to be deserving of confidence and trust. Remember – What you believe will have a greater impact on your life than the truth.

- Wrong Motivations - Some inner drive that causes a person to do something or act in a certain way. Motivations are closely related to desires.

- Wrong Behaviors and Habits - A behavior is anything an organism or being does involving action and response to stimulation. A habit is an acquired mode of behavior repeated so often it becomes involuntary, fixed and sometimes compulsive.

  Negative motivation rarely brings about good behavior. It will only modify the bad behavior. Behavior modification does nothing other than make the outward behavior manifestation disappear. The underlying reason for the behavior will still

exist and the behavior will just manifest itself under a different guise.

External Influences

- Generational bondages and curses

- Word curses – Spoken words do contain power that affects us. If someone has spoken evil, harsh words to you or to others about you, these words contain power to hurt. Hard, unkind words you have spoken about others or directly to them have the power to hurt them as well.

1. Job said in anguish to his "friends*", "How long will you torment and crush me with words?"* (Job 19:2).

2. David prayed in Psalm 64:2-3, *"Hide me from the secret plots of wicked, From the rebellion of the workers of iniquity, who sharpen their tongue like a sword, and bend their bows to shoot their arrows-bitter words..."* (NKJ)

3. In Psalm 109:3 the Psalmist said, *"They compassed me about also with words of hatred…"*

4. Proverbs 18:8, "*The words of a talebearer are as wounds."*

5. Matthew 12:37, *"For by your words you will be justified and by your words you will be condemned."*

Old attitudes and patterns of ungodly thinking and reacting can be defused and destroyed as you continue to bind yourself to the will of God, to the truth and to the mind of Christ. You can

then loose the power and effects of any wrong words (word curses) spoken to you, by you and about you. This also includes ungodly vows.

Many people speak words containing curses and spiritual death in them without even realizing what they are saying. In James 3:9-10 (NKJV) we read, *"With it* (the tongue) *we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in God's likeness. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so."*

III. **Setting the Captives Free** (Praying for Others)

Binding and loosing prayers are very effective not only for ourselves but also for others. What we must remember is the ultimate decision regarding spiritual warfare remains with each individual. But, let me ask you a question – why in the world would anyone want to continue to experience fear, rejection, self-hatred, accusation, unforgiveness and deception, to name a few? If they were in their right mind, no one would refuse help if they believed they could have it. They have been deceived and/or believed what was modeled for them or a lie from the devil. So, as we pray and bind their mind to the mind of Christ, they will begin to get in unity with Christ.

The right mind:

- Receives the Word and its promises with all readiness (Acts 17:11).
- Is capable of serving the law of God (Romans 7:25)
- Is a renewed mind capable of transforming a person (Romans 12:2)

- Is a willing mind (2 Corinthians 8:12,19)
- Is a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7)
- Has a renewed attitude (Ephesians 4:23)
- Is the same mind which is in Christ Jesus (1 Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5)

It is not as difficult to reach those who are broken and crying out for help. The harder cases are the ones who are apathetic, in denial, self-sufficient or full of rebellion. These poor souls have been deceived and have all understanding blocked from their blinded minds. *"But even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them"* (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

Those who are under this blindness do not recognize truth any longer or never knew it in the first place. They are not in their right mind. They cannot see, believe or understand God's help. So as you bind them to the truth and loose their wrong ungodly patterns of thinking and beliefs, they will be able to receive God's Truth.

Do not be confused by the positive and negative sides of binding. Anything filled with power can be used positively or negatively. It's all in knowing how to use the power. Extremely important to remember that you can only accomplish a total binding and loosing in your own life. You can definitely and powerfully impact someone else's old nature, but you cannot override their right to choose – even God will not do that!

The following prayers are only suggestions and can be changed as you desire.

Personal Prayer for Binding and Loosing

Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, I bind my spirit, body, soul, mind, will and emotions to Your will and purposes for my life. I bind myself to Your truth and to an awareness of the power of the blood of Jesus working in my life. I bind my mind to the mind of Christ that I can have the thoughts, feelings and purposes of His heart within me. I bind my feet to the paths of righteousness You have ordained for me to walk. I bind myself to the work of the cross with all of its grace, mercy, truth, love, forgiveness, dying to self, healing, salvation, restoration and resurrection power.

In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, I bind the strong one, Satan, that I may spoil his household taking back every bit of joy, peace, blessing, freedom and every material and spiritual possession he has ever stolen from me as it is my rightful inheritance. I rebuke his works and loose the power and effect of every deception, device and influence he wants to bring against me.

Father, I repent of having wrong attitudes and thoughts. I renounce them now and ask Your forgiveness. I loose every old, wrong, ungodly pattern of thinking, attitude, idea, desire, belief, motivation, habit and behavior that may still be working in me. I tear down, crush, smash and destroy every stronghold I have erected to protect them. Father, I loose any stronghold in my life justifying and protecting wrong feelings I have against anyone. I forgive all those who have caused me pain, loss or grief and I ask for Your forgiveness. I loose any desire for retribution or redress. I loose the power and effects of any harsh or hard words (word curses) or ungodly vows spoken to me, about me or by me. I loose any strongholds connected with them. I loose all generational bondages and their strongholds from myself.

Father God, I bind myself to the attitudes and patterns of Jesus Christ and the overcoming behavior and Spiritual desires that line up with the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Thank you that you have given me the keys, power and authority to bind and loose these things in Jesus name.

Prayer of Binding and Loosing for Others

Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth, I lift up to You ____(name)____ I bind his/her/their spirit, soul, body, mind, will and emotions to Your will and purposes for his/her/their life. I bind him/her/them to Your truth and to the blood of Jesus. I bind his/her/their mind to the mind of Christ that he/she/they can have the thoughts, feelings and purposes of His heart within him/her/them. I bind his/her/their feet to the paths of righteousness You have ordained for him/her/them to walk. I bind his/her/them to the work of the cross with all of its grace, mercy, truth, love, forgiveness, dying to self, healing, salvation, restoration and resurrection power.

I loose every old, wrong, ungodly pattern of thinking, attitude, idea, desire, belief, motivation, habit and behavior from him/her/them. I tear down, crush, smash and destroy every stronghold associated with these things. I loose any stronghold in his/her/their life that has been justifying and protecting hard feelings against anyone. I loose the strongholds of bitterness, unforgiveness, fear and distrust from him/her/them.

I loose the power and effects of deceptions and lies and the confusion and blindness of the god of this world from his/her/their mind that has kept him/her/them from seeing the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I call forth every precious Word of Scripture that has ever entered into his/her/their heart and mind that it would rise up in power within him/her/them.

In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, I loose the power and effects of any harsh or hard words (word curses) or ungodly vows spoken to, about or by him/her/them. I loose all generational bondages and associated strongholds from him/her/them. I loose all effects and bondages from him/her/them that may have been caused by mistakes his/her/their parents or stepparents have made. I crush, smash and destroy generational bondages of any kind from mistakes made at any point throughout every generation on both sides of his/her/their family all the way back to the cross.

In the name of Jesus of Nazareth, I bind the strong one, Satan, that I may spoil his household taking back every bit of joy, peace, blessing, freedom and every material and spiritual possession he has ever stolen from him/her/them as it is his/hers/their rightfulness inheritance. I rebuke his works and loose the power and effect of every deception, device and influence he wants to bring against him/her/them. I loose the enemy's influence over every part of his/her/their body, soul and spirit.

I bind him/her/them to the attitudes and patterns of Jesus Christ and the overcoming behavior and spiritual desires that line up with the fruit of the Holy Spirit. Father, thank you that you have given me the keys, power and authority to bind and loose these things in Jesus precious name.

OCCULTISM - DO NOT BE DECEIVED!

In all of the teachings we have just learned about, the enemy and his demonic spirits will continue to tell you lies and get you to go back to old patterns.

Under Envy and Jealousy, we mentioned idolatry and occultism. Let's elaborate a little on each of these. Remember where God warned us that "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." So, I encourage you to be open-minded for this last teaching.

Occultism and idolatry are words usually associated with psychics, witches, warlocks, druids, Wicca, Ouija boards, fortune telling, seances and even Satanism.

Webster's Dictionary defines "idolatry" as: Worship of a physical object; excessive devotion to a person or thing.

A Biblical definition of idolatry centers on giving to anything or anyone, other than God, the worship, trust, allegiance, healing or ultimate devotion that belongs to Him alone.

Webster's Collegiate Dictionary defines "occult" as: Hidden; concealed; secret; beyond human understanding; of certain mystic arts or studies, such as magic, astrology, etc.; to hide or become hidden from view; to cover up or conceal.

A Biblical definition of occultism includes any belief or practice that opposes the law of God. Central to occultism is man's desire to be his own god. Examples of occultism would be Pokémon (pocket monster), Mensa (self-idolatry), Sorcery/Pharmakia.

Anything that offers itself as truth – in place of God - and is not God, is Occultism and is rebellion against God and His authority. Disobedience to God's Word, lack of trust, fear, self-independence and deception are also indications of the presence of an ungodly spirit.

Remember we have the mind of Christ Who is the Creator of all things and is all Truth. You are the habitation of the Holy Spirit. You cannot cohabit with your enemy because he is a destroyer and will destroy you.

As God's child, He has planned and set you apart as a holy temple. You are redeemed from death to *Life*, and part of being redeemed is to start doing some house cleaning. But sometimes we like those critters. They have protected us for years and we called that safety but, in fact, it was bondage. Those critters may have been familiar – but they were not safe. When the Lord reveals them to us, we recognize they no longer serve us and we see the need to get rid of them.

Rebellion stems from self-righteousness and Phariseeism. Since Adam and Eve, rebellion has characterized mankind. Our flesh sees rebellion as a principle of freedom, self-realization, and self-development. **People choose to believe that freedom from obeying God's laws somehow releases them from answering to His laws.** Rebellion does not free us from the temporal and eternal consequences of disobedience.

1 Samuel 15:23 says "for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry". The word "witchcraft" can also be translated as soothsaying and divination. **All conscious disobedience is idolatry**, because it places the human self-will on

a par with God – like a god. Sometimes we unconsciously idolize things such as statues, fortune telling, Masonry, celebrities or New Age. This Opposition to God's Word and His commandments is really rejection of God, thus idolatry and deception.

- The Biblical definition of divination is: seeking hidden knowledge or guidance through means other than God; attempting to discern the future; uncover secrets; make decisions consulting spirits, omens, objects, or occult practices rather than relying on God's revealed will.

- Deuteronomy 18:10-12; Leviticus 19:26

Occultism is one of Satan's principalities.

1. **The basis for occultism is:**

(a) philosophies of man
(b) traditions of men
(c) vain deceit
(d) rudiments of the world.

Colossians 2:4, 6-8 – *"Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words. As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Beware lest anyone cheat you through <u>philosophy</u> and <u>empty deceit</u>, according to the <u>tradition of men</u>, according to the <u>basic principles of the world</u>, and not according to Christ."*

Occultism is a form of knowledge that offers itself as if it were the real thing. Occultism is also a form of power or a form of identity. Occultism is rooted Fear and is based on the opposite of who God is and who you are in Him. You are:

(a) truth,
(b) knowledge,
(c) position
(d) identity.

2. Satan's kingdom has an agenda to duplicate, replicate, or counterfeit the Godhead. False religions take on a mixture of truth and error.

2 Timothy 3:2-5 *"For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"*

2 Corinthians 10:5 – *"...taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ."*

- Meditation is not being mindless. Philippians 4:8 – *"...whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are of good report...meditate on these things."*

- A Biblical definition of meditation is: a declaring, groaning, a slow ponder on Scripture, a soaking in.

BE WARNED:

- 2 Corinthians 4:4 tells us the eyes of those who are perishing are blinded by the god of this age – Satan.

- Satan uses the Word of God out of context; he perverts it. He is a liar and the father of lies – there is NO truth in him.

- Many who are desperate to hear God, be healed, or be blessed, often open themselves to error – (Transcendental meditation).

  - Transcendental meditation was developed by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, an Indian guru and is rooted in Hinduism.

- Yoga is founded in Eastern mysticism in the awakening of Kundalini which is the worship of other gods.

- Satan uses the Word of God out of context; he perverts it. He is a liar and the father of lies – there is NO truth in him.

  - 2 Timothy 2:15 – *"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth…"*

  - 1 John 4:1 – *"Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God;*

because many false prophets have gone out into the world."

- 2 Corinthians 11:14 – *"And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."* (NJK)

- Satan can also counterfeit false healings, psychic healings and remove evil spirits if he has something to gain from it.

3. Occultism can be inherited iniquity from the ancestral line (fortune tellers, witches. Palm readings, Masonry, tarot cards, druids, etc.,) including divination. The word <u>python</u> is translated into English as divination.

Acts 16:16-18 tells about the slave girl who had a spirt of divination or "a spirit of python" characterizing her as one inspired by Apollo, the god worshiped at Python (Delphi).

Hypnosis – opens theta brainwave activity which allows you to tap into anything that is spiritual (good or evil).

Again, I want to say, ANYTHING OR ANYONE you give credit to in place of God opens you up to Occultism and is an antichrist spirit.

Antichrist Belief

Eve was tempted by Satan and doubted God's Word, resulting in rebellion. That was the beginning. When we listen to a voice that produces an action against God's commandments, it sets into place an antichrist system.

In Hebrews 4:1-2 we read, *"Therefore, since a promise remains of entering into His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it. For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it."*

Notice it says, "For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them" (those coming out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses and Aaron).

But the word preached to them (and to us) did not profit because it was <u>not</u> mixed with faith in them that heard it. The gospel preached to them and the gospel preached to us isn't working because it is not mixed with faith and obedience – in them or in us.

Now what is the purpose of mixing faith with the gospel that was preached? The benefit of having a gospel preached – is to walk in it! The fruit of hearing a gospel preached and not walking in it is having <u>no rest</u>. What does no rest look like? It's not trusting, it's not faithful, it's deception. These are some of the ways we identify that we are being deceived or we are in agreement with lies from the enemy, thus establishing another gospel in Rebellion.

We must realize that in establishing another gospel we allow it to become part of our life, and in so doing, we are not taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. We have thoughts and a choice on which ones we will follow. Some we choose through action, without question. Others come once we speak and then act on them. What seems like no big deal, sets in motion a lived out and changed gospel years down the road.

Hebrews 4:3, *"For we which have believed do enter into rest…"* So how do you begin to enter into rest? You begin to believe and trust and that means no doubt. Hebrews 11:1 *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* Remember, what you believe will have a greater impact on your life than the truth.

We want to enter into that rest. This is not talking about a rest that you get in heaven in the resurrection. It is talking about a rest that you have now.

In the midst of believing, rest, and trusting, doubt and unbelief can also be strong. There is a Principality out there that wants to control us. Decision making has nothing to do with the feelings, words, or impressions of doubt and unbelief; it has to do with a **decision I make** to believe I am a son or daughter of God right in the midst of the feelings and the thoughts.

You have three voices coming at you at the same time: God, the evil spirits and you. If you have anything hidden, secret or deceiving you, it will pull you away from God and into fear, doubt and unbelief which brings forth confusion. Faith brings forth peace and joy; the fruit of God's promises.

The remainder of Hebrews 4:3 reads, *"… although the works were finished from the foundation of the world".* The place for your rest has been a finished product from the foundation of the world.

As a child of God, you decide to *believe,* by faith, when you don't **feel** like it. You *speak* truth when you don't **feel** like it. You even *do* things obedient to God, when you don't **feel** like it because you decide to not be moved by thoughts or feelings that are contrary to God.

You can determine to be moved only by the Word of God. So, if you are waiting for doubt and unbelief to be removed *before* you believe, it will never happen. If you are waiting to be free of temptation, accusation and all the fiery darts of the enemy *before* you believe, you will never believe.

The prince of the power of the air over your mind and your spirit has to be recognized and put on notice that you are going to quit serving Satan at this level. Remember the 9R's on page 46 of this manual.

When the spirits of fear, doubt, unbelief, accusation, etc., come at you, God would say to you, "That the rest is where He is, the abiding is where He is – so you choose to enter into that rest." Are you waiting for confusion to leave *before* you believe?

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God these are the sons of God (Romans 8:14). I would caution you that deception, occultism, hidden things, secrets, rebellion, etc., will pull you away from God so that you have an altered state of mind – which is NOT God's mind at all.

You have to decide to believe and trust God whether you feel like it or not. Will it always make sense to you? Probably not always, but choose to believe Him anyway.

Remember Isaiah 5:13 – *"Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge."* Ignorance is a form of knowledge. We have all been taught, or chosen, to believe something and later, down the road, discovered what we believed was not true. At that point, we again can choose what we will decide believe.

In Matthew 6:23 we are told *"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."*

The Bible tells us there is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof is destruction. (Proverbs 14:12; 16:25) It also says, *"whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake, will find it."* (Matthew 16:25) Our decision to choose God brings freedom and *Life* to our heart and soul.

I have included a list of Scriptures and would encourage you to read through them and ask the Holy Spirit who lives within you, to reveal any beliefs that are contrary to God and then you earnestly deal with them.

Surrendering the flesh and walking in the Spirit, is the key in all of this.

Galatians 5:16 – *"I say then; Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."*

Romans 8:1 – *"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."* (KJV)

Scriptures Regarding the Occult

Genesis 3:5
Exodus 7:11-13
Exodus 20:3-5
Exodus 22:18
Leviticus 18:20-22
Leviticus 9:26-28
1 Samuel 15:20-29
1 Samuel 28:3-19
2 Kings 17:17
2 Kings 21:1-6
2 Kings 23:5
2 Chronicles 33:6
Proverbs 14:12
Isaiah 2:6
Isaiah 2:8
Isaiah 2:19-20
Isaiah 5:13
Isaiah 5:20-21
Isaiah 8:19-20
Isaiah 19:3
Isaiah 30:1-3
Isaiah 47:9
Isaiah 47:12-13
Jeremiah 10:12
Jeremiah 14:14
Jeremiah 27:9
Jeremiah 29:8-10
Ezekiel 12:24
Ezekiel 13:1-23
Ezekiel 21:21-23
Daniel 4:7
Micah 5:12
Zechariah 10:2
Malachi 3:5
Matthew 7:22-23
Matthew 23:25
Matthew 24:24
Luke 11:15-26
John 10:10
Acts 8:9-13
Acts 13:6-11
Acts 16:16-18
Acts 19:19-20
Romans 1:24
1 Corinthians 10:19-22
2 Corinthians 10:3-5
2 Corinthians 11:3-5
2 Corinthians 11:13-15
Galatians 5:6-21
Galatians 6:1
Ephesians 5:11
Ephesians 6:10-18
Colossians 2:8
2 Thessalonians 2:8-12
1 Timothy 4:1-5
2 Timothy 3:8
Hebrews 4:12
James 4:7
1 John 2:18-19
1 John 2:22-23; 26

Ezekiel 22:28
Daniel 2:27
1 John 4:1-4
Revelation 16:14
Revelation 18:23
Revelation 19:20
Revelation 21:8
Revelation 22:14-15

1 John 3:8

This is NOT an exhaustive list

SPIRITUAL WARFARE DELIVERANCE PRAYER

A Prayer of repentance and renunciation should include at least the following elements:

Person being ministered to says:

- Heavenly Father,
- I recognize and take responsibility for participating with and serving the sin of *(Principality)* in my life.
- I take responsibility in my generation, on both sides of my family all the way back to the Cross, for the following spirits: *(individual spirits).*
- Father, in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth I repent to You and ask You to forgive me for allowing the above-named spirits to manifest through me and by faith I now receive Your forgiveness.
- Sin of *(Principality),* I renounce everything you stand for in my life. I will no longer serve you. I take a stand against you and everything you represent. You must now leave me and go into a dry place in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- Father, I thank You for Your forgiveness and ask that the curses be broken.

Person doing the ministry now says:

- Spirit of *(Principality),* you have heard his/her confession and declaration and you MUST obey him/her and leave now in the Name of Jesus of Nazareth.
- By the power of the Holy Spirit, I take authority over the spirit of *(Principality)* and break your power in his/her life. You no longer have any power, right, or authority in his/her life and I cast you out.

Holy Spirit, I invite you into our hearts to heal us in the areas of *(Principality).* Please speak your words of truth to us about these situations.

RESOURCE BOOKS

used by Barbara Williams in Spiritual Warfare teaching

Spirit Filled Life Bible

Strong's Exhaustive Concordance

A More Excellent Way by Dr. Henry Wright

Shattering Your Strongholds by Liberty Savard

Exposing the Spiritual Roots of Disease by Dr. Henry Wright

A Sound Access to the Supernatural by Mike Atkins

Bondage Breaker by Dr. Neil T. Anderson

Pathways to Wholeness by Pastor Henry W. Wright

Healing Is by Grace Alone by Dee Henderson

Resolving Spiritual Conflicts by Dr. Neil T. Anderson

Victory over the Darkness by Dr. Neil T. Anderson

How to Stop the Pain by Dr. James B. Richards

Take Control of Your Life by Dr. James B. Richards

Resolving Spiritual Conflicts by Dr. Neil T. Anderson

Fear by Pastor Henry W. Wright

For too long, Spiritual Warfare has been misunderstood, oversimplified, or avoided altogether — leaving believers confused, under-equipped, and unable to walk in the abundant life God intended.

In 2013, Barbara Williams and her late husband, Russ, discovered something that changed everything. Facing Russ's prostate cancer diagnosis and having exhausted conventional paths to healing, they encountered a teaching that pointed to the spiritual roots behind physical and emotional disease. When applied, Russ was healed! That discovery became a ministry. Barbara has watched God bring hundreds of people into physical and emotional healing through this Biblical framework — one built on the truth that we are spirit, soul, and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23), that God alone is our Healer, and that Deuteronomy 28 reveals the connection between spiritual bondage and its consequences.

In this book, you'll learn:

- How to recognize the spiritual roots behind sickness, pain, and emotional struggle
- A Biblical framework for understanding spiritual warfare — without fear, confusion, or extremes
- How to walk in the freedom and authority Christ purchased for you
- Practical steps to apply this teaching in your own life and see God move

Whether you're new to this teaching or have wrestled with these questions for years, this book offers a clear, scripture-anchored path toward the deeper, more intimate relationship with the Lord you were made for.