

Exposing Satan's Armies

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All Scripture quotations, unless otherwise noted, are from the King James Version. Italics for emphasis are ours.

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INTRODUCTION

“Teach me thy way, O LORD, and lead me in a plain path, because of mine enemies” (Psalms 27:11).

“Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Corinthians 2:11).

When I preach a series about angelic warfare such as I did recently, there are the occasional few who question the need to go into the topic in such depth. We have said it before, but one of Satan’s more successful ploys is to make people think he doesn’t exist or that if he does, that he is merely a toothless roaring lion without real strength. But without looking very far, we can see the havoc wrecked in the lives of believers who did not properly gird themselves with understanding of the devil’s tactics.

Warfare is more than putting on armor and hoping it protects you. It involves preparation in how to wield the sword, when to move, and

where to go. Proper military combat training includes getting to know the enemy—his habits, his weaknesses, his strengths. How does he think? What kind of information does he have?

It is true that any move our enemy makes on us must first go through God, as Job 1 clearly shows. Ultimately, whatever God allows us to go through is to glorify Himself and to add degrees of glory to our soul bodies.

But immediately, think of the battle in terms of fallen soldiers and unsaved men who desperately need to be rescued. How can we go after them except we step onto the battlefield? And how will we succeed except we know our enemy? And how can we know him except we be secure in the love of the One who already has declared the victory? Get excited when you feel the thunder and see the lightning. Redemption draweth nigh.

Chapter One
UNCOVERING
DEMONIC IDENTITIES

“And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

“And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

“I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly”
(Proverbs 5:12-14).

The question is asked of me over and over, “This is what’s happening. Tell me! What should I do *now*?” Usually, this is the cry of someone who has been sitting under instruction from the Word of God, but who has not recognized the value of what is taught. Like Solomon who confessed his sad state in Proverbs 5, there is a good chance that they did not obey instruction.

An unusual verse in Hebrews 5:8 says, “Though he were a Son, yet *learned he obedience*

by the things which he suffered." The verb forms in the Greek are constative aorist indicative, showing that a past action is continued, implying that in His humanity Jesus continually obeyed the Father; He didn't "outgrow" His need to be taught.

Luke 2:52 says Jesus grew in "wisdom and stature." He was Deity. He was the Creator! But He emptied Himself (though He was always God), and He learned obedience as a man. *Manthano* is the Greek word for "learn" that includes the concept of understanding. God the Father taught Jesus precise doctrine for hours, day and night. Every morning, the Father opened Jesus' ears (Isaiah 50:4). From the time He was a young child, God taught Him categorical truth, and Jesus was able to apply what He learned with great sensitivity.

Manthano reveals that the Father taught Him *precise* light on precise subjects in a precise way so that Christ would be able to stand in a precise provision and have a precise confession. Through that confession He entered into precise obedience all the days of His life.

Just Obey God Today

Christ learned obedience by the pain and the

shame He experienced. Through persecution, lies, and suffering, He learned obedience, and He was always positive toward the Word of God.

A person in our church had been on drugs for eleven years. He would stop for a while then go back to whatever he could find. When he came to me for help, we put him on a “program.” The key? *Just obey God today.* Obey Him when you wake up. Obey Him at twelve o’clock. Obey Him at night. Several times a week we talked on the phone. I gave him specific verses to read because “If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land” (Isaiah 1:19).

In Job 36:11, if we will *obey* and *serve* God, we will spend our days in prosperity and our years in pleasures. This is not as some people think. But to obey and to serve God are two of the greatest things in all the world. We will eat the good of the land, and we will always have a provision for today.

But what happens when a Christian turns from a straight path in his thinking? Remember that long before a person gets “off” in his confession or behavior, the first place he gets off is in his mind. Obedience is an act of the will. It begins with a decision to agree with the truth God imparts by the Word and the Holy Spirit. But

when we allow, because of carelessness, ungodly thoughts or images to be processed in our unconscious and subconscious, we begin down the path of deception.

“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” (Ephesians 6:12). In this passage we begin to see the military strategy aligned by Satan. Having come out of the Kingdom of God with its hierarchy of angels, he knows something about perfect order. Now he has an agenda to overthrow that kingdom (Isaiah 14:13-14). There are commanding officers, commissioned officers, noncommissioned officers, and implementors that take Satan’s strategic plan and bring it into its tactical application on earth.

“Principalities” speaks of the highest ranking order in the Satanic cosmos.

“Powers” (*exousia* in the Greek) refers to attacking forces that have all the information and extend themselves toward people in “jurisdictions” on a particular subject. Using contact and reaction, this evil table of organization is governed by supernatural minds and forces to defeat the believer.

The “rulers of the darkness of this world” speak of commissioned officers that control the secondary officers. These secondary officers deal with us in those jurisdictions or localities to seduce and entice us into deception.

“Spiritual wickedness in high places” speaks of the infecting demons, as mentioned in Acts 10:38, that bring tremendous oppression to make people periodically depressed. These demons, known as *Kata dunastuo*, cause a person to be self-absorbed and depressed as he thinks of finances, circumstances, and blaming himself or others. He allows cosmic light to control the conscience of his soul.

That is why we need more than cosmic light that comes from knowledge about God. The only way we can stand in this battle is by Psalm 119:130: “The *entrance* of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.” God has not left us ignorant of the enemy’s devices.

Unmask the Accuser

For instance, particularly in the summer months, there is an army of demons known as *Rhadiourgia* that specialize in inflicting attitudes of passivity. This army is exposed in Acts 13:10, “...O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou

child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?"

Rhadiourgia sets up people when the seasons change. For example, when winter is over, these demons will get people occupied with the "good things" of summer, to love the beach more than they love the Cross. Now, I enjoy summer, but these spirits affect the senses with worldly impulses. They can attack at any time of the year, causing people not to be against anything, but to become careless and spiritually inactive, not redeeming the time, mentally, verbally, or physically. These demons try to invade their victim's personality and take over his identity.

Think of it. Did you ever notice people who were doing great, then they begin to act standoffish? They go to a gathering but stand way back in the corner. They frown. They are not the same now. Often the cause is *Rhadiourgia*. The worldly demons of hell are trying to distract them and make them do four things, according to Zephaniah 3:2: First, they do not hear the voice of God. Second, they will not receive correction. Third, they do not trust in the Lord. And fourth, they do not draw near to Jesus Christ. Four lines of attack—and all because of these in-

visible spirits that affect them with a new attitude and a new mood. But they are not from God.

Because they are an organized army with strategies for offense, they have a goal: to make their victims passive, negative, or reactionary. This sets them up for an invasion from an army known as *Kenologeo*. The root of this name, *logeo*, means “collection” (Isaiah 8:19). These demons take an empty mind and fill it with thoughts collected from the atmosphere—thoughts they project into the unconscious and gradually develop through the subconscious and conscious, giving direction to the previously “empty” mind. These are precise thoughts from the kingdom of darkness, and the deceived one calls it “light.” They cloud objectivity with human rationale to infect the senses empirically. The thoughts are projected through the digestion of heavy vibrations in the perceptive area of the central nervous system (in what we have referred to as “channel A”*) and may be transferred into the soul (channel C) without ever being screened by the human spirit (channel B), which is governed by the Holy Spirit because of the Cross.

The next army we will address is *Epaoiden*. Referred to in Deuteronomy 18:11, these are con-

sulting demons that manipulate the projections from *Kenologeo* to consult you in how to be happy in your lifestyle apart from the Cross. This counsel is infection from Satan that we see as reality. We think that we are “beginning to understand ourselves.” These demons come with armies of demons called *Agalmata*, which speak softly and gently as they seem to build you up in “where you are at” but not according to Truth. Theirs is a stranger’s voice, counterfeiting the gentle call of Christ (Isaiah 42:2-3). *Epaoiden* will cause you to rationalize the Word of God and to humanize *your* decision (while you give credit to God!). You will say, “I’ve prayed and it’s settled,” not realizing you are on the road to progressive deception.

Do you understand that we are not talking about a battle with flesh and blood? We do not war against *people*, but against principalities, powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

After *Epaoiden* we must deal with *Prosphatoi*. These demons are referred to in Deuteronomy 32:17, “They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to *new gods that came newly up*, whom your fathers feared not.” This army replaces God in your life to give you

pleasure as they offer “reasonable” alternatives to the Cross. They try to make you happy because you have changed your attitude, with the goal that you will withdraw from Christianity. Characterized by fantastic unity in four areas of light (cosmic, satanic, demonic, and adamic), they offer to serve you and even enter into a covenant to “bless” you. But ultimately they deliver you to the king of the children of pride.

Another powerful army is called *Therapsin* (2 Kings 23:24). These demons specialize in attacking the home and the family. They try to break up marriages or make them unhappy. They uncover secrets and sins. Proverbs 17:9 says, “He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.” By repeating things said in private, these demons not only separate friends but cause suspicion.

“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter” (Proverbs 25:2). Secret things belong to God. But these demons ignore the Blood and ignore the remission of sins, just like it didn’t happen. They operate on the emotions through Adam’s DNA, causing anger, lust, and making people withdraw from the assembly if they don’t get their

own way. These demons are very clever as they instigate disagreements to wound people. A soul will be wounded when it lacks an anointing of light from God's Word. To wound a person, the devil has to get permission from God.

Oruomai (1 Peter 5:8) come on the scene to prey on people's weaknesses and to attack young people. Like a roaring lion, they attack the senses. They attack young people with the glittering lights of the world to destroy right values forever.

Teratoskopos will bring on an affliction, and then influence "healing" ministries by simply withdrawing from the object they damaged. It looks like a miracle when really the cause and the remedy were both demonic. They are never redemptive miracles but only encourage the work of Satan.

Gnostas is the identity of an army of demons that cause people to become familiar with life (2 Kings 21:6). People deceived by this army will not reject their provision, they will just not appropriate it.

Epeseisen is the name given to the demons that provoke people to sin and then flood them with guilt. In 1 Chronicles 21:1 they provoked David to sin by numbering the people when

God specifically told him not to. He received satanic influence to do something that seemed to make sense. This army may provoke missionaries to take on a cultural identity, but a successful missionary does not need to “adjust” to the native culture where he serves. Rather, the Cross wiped out all natural identities so we can take on a supernatural identity in Christ where true oneness is.

Jesus Christ overcomes cultural barriers and Adam’s thinking. He crucifies it all and sets us free in a brand-new order as brand-new men. When this life is preached in love and revealed through life, any person in any culture wants it desperately.

In Luke 4:33, 9:42 and Revelation 18:2 we have a description of unclean spirits, *Daimoniou akathartou*. They stir up sensuality in single men and women and attempt to draw them into relationships outside the cross because of a “need to be loved.” Ultimately, their assignment is to give people an inner life of pornography. These unclean spirits provoke their targets to take drugs or alcohol, to get them addicted, and then to condemn and cause them to give up on life. These demons taunt the oppressed and say, “Maybe you will commit suicide! Maybe you

will die young.”

A most unusual crowd is called *Dienoichthesan* (Genesis 3:5, 7). These are mocking, whispering demons who behave like the serpent in Eden that spoke with Eve: “You don’t know all you are missing! He’s holding out on you, and you don’t have all the facts. Open your eyes!” This is how conspiracies begin, to kill a church or destroy a marriage.

The moment those demons are finished, *Katamartureo*, the accusing demons referred to in Daniel 6:24, enter the scene. They feed you unusual language to tear yourself down and cause you to sublimate.

In John 13:2, we discover *Diabolos paradidomai*. This spirit has unusual cosmic light, and unless the spirit is discerned this individual could appear to be one of the best people. But it is the spirit that took over Judas.

Hupselon (2 Chronicles 11:15) are the demons above the earth, with *Hupsoma* as the head demon of the air (above *Bathos*, the head demon of the dust). *Hupsoma* attacks subjectively to make people self-righteous, hyper spiritual, or presumptuous, using angel of light information. *Bathos* works to activate the old sin nature. This demon is able to hypnotize the unguarded

memory to constantly activate the old sin nature when demons aren't around.

Remember, all of these attacks happen where there is no personal accountability to the Cross. When a believer lives independently without a local assembly or one pastor-teacher sent from God, subjectivity enters in so easily. We need to be accountable. Proverbs 27:17a says, "Iron sharpeneth iron." That is how we deal with blind spots. Be accountable to objective men and women of God. Ask them to be straightforward with you, to keep you in check regarding any blind spots.

**Refer to The Hearing Heart, Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1996.*

Chapter Two

SAFETY THROUGH OBEDIENCE: BEYOND THE VAIL

Thank God for the precious Holy Spirit who encourages us to draw near the throne of grace. "Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the vail, that is to say, his flesh" (Hebrews 10:19-20).

We have a High Priest over the household of God. Let's draw near in the time of temptation! Draw near with true hearts in full assurance of faith, having our conscious sprinkled from evil, our bodies washed with the water of the Word. Let's be faithful because God is faithful. Let us continue in the faith because God is faithful to us.

Do you ever get moody and then take an attitude that says, "I'm just going to do what *I* want to do!"? You might as well just say, "Hi, *Rhadiourgia!* Hi, *Kenologe!* Hello *Epaoiden* and

Prosphatoi.” They will respond to your changes immediately. “We will make you happy this summer. Get with your friends. After all, winter is coming. We want to give you a good time this summer....”

You know, most people don’t believe that demons operate this way. But that is exactly what they do. You can’t see them, but there they are.

To Obey Is Better

So what do you do when you are suffering? *Obey God.* Just obey Jesus. What do you do when you are going through temptations? Obey God.

Remember what Solomon said in Proverbs 5:12, “I hated instructions. I despised reproof. I did not obey the voice of my teacher, nor would I incline my ear to those who instructed me.” Think of that. Solomon testified that he almost became totally infected by the devil *while* in the midst of the congregation and the assembly! “While I was right there, listening to the Word of God, I was almost taken over with those armies of evil, and they *almost* knocked me out of the race!” But then he said, “When I realized what was happening, I corrected it and received instruction.”

“When thou art in tribulation, and all these

things are come upon thee, even in the latter days, if thou *turn to the LORD thy God*, and shalt *be obedient unto his voice*" (Deuteronomy 4:30).

Recently, a couple in this church were reconciled after being separated for three years. It happened one night when I preached a message upon the love and grace of God. Everyone was so broken, and we had a time of worshipping and praising God in song after the service. He went to where she was on the other side of the church, got right down on his knees and said, "Would you forgive me for being an insensitive husband? I'm not going to ask for you to take me back, but just forgive me."

She held on to him and said, "I *will* take you back!"

That man obeyed what he heard in the message. The Holy Spirit came in when he mixed faith with what he heard and obeyed.

I love what the Word of God says in 1 Peter 1:22: "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto *unfeigned love*"—wholehearted love—"...see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently."

Faith obedience purifies the soul and takes away the contamination. It removes weaknesses, frailties, and the things in the soul that do not

glorify God. Obedience purifies the soul through the Spirit unto unfeigned, wholehearted love as the Spirit of God sheds that love abroad in our hearts. And it is such a precious thing to have our souls purified. The husband was reconciled by obeying the Word that he heard as he mixed it with faith. That act of obedience also broke the relationship to the demons that held him and his wife captive for so long.

It is beautiful when we begin to realize through the Word of God that in *every* situation, the Lord Jesus Christ is there. He has *always* been there for us.

“...Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams” (1 Samuel 15:22). I thank God that in Exodus 23:22, the Lord says “But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.” What is God saying? “The key is to obey Me. I don’t want burnt offerings and sacrifices. Just obey Me.”

The Fruit of Obedience

We need to obey God in our thinking so we

can be filled with the Holy Spirit. We obey so we can properly love one another and be kind to one another. When we obey God, He promises that we will spend our days in prosperity (whatever that means in God's plan) and our years in pleasure with God.

As a result, we are able to take the faith obedience of Romans 1:5 to the nations. Faith obedience in studying, in loving, in Body life, to those who need us. Faith obedience in soul winning. *Faith obedience*, along with humility and meekness. That's the key.

In Matthew 17:5, on the Mount of Transfiguration, the disciples fell prostrate before the Father who declared, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Jesus Christ's soul body was tremendously glorified beyond His glorified body because He always obeyed. Likewise, with every act of our obedience, mentally and with our speech, there will be a degree of glory added to our soul body in heaven (1 Peter 1:7-8; Revelation 3:3-4a)—glory beyond what we would have if we didn't obey.

"And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:7). What a combination! Peo-

ple who obey God now are going to be recognized by their exceeding brightness in heaven. And though no one will be sad, there will be different degrees of joy that saved people will experience throughout eternity.*

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? the LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalms 27:1). Thank God we don’t have to be affected by the demons that bring in moods and negative depression. We don’t have to be critical, or in bondage to seasons. We can humble ourselves, obey, glorify God, and be set free!

**Read The Morning Star Order by Pastor Stevens, Grace Publications, 1998.*

Chapter Three

APPROACH THE ADVERSARY BY RAISING A STANDARD

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your *adversary* the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Peter 5:8).

This adversary, *antidikos* in the Greek, is our opponent in a lawsuit. He is the devil (*diabolos*)—a false accuser and a slanderer. He takes us to court (*antidikao*) where he vigorously, continually, and consistently attacks us on the offensive, with unbelievable determination. He rigorously cross examines us in the courtroom of heaven—and we don’t even know when he is doing it! We just think it’s a bad season.

“...*Seeking* whom he may devour.” Here we learn that the devil has placed a supernatural system of detectives on the Christian’s case, monitoring and keeping files on each one of us. Do you realize that in the latest trial in your marriage, you were in a courtroom scene before

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, as well as the elect and fallen angels? And you thought it was only a problem with your spouse. No, we do not wrestle against flesh and blood. It is the mystery of the age that Job was being cross-examined by Satan, with God's permission.

Psalm 18:44 says that as soon as they hear, they shall obey. Why is that such an important principle? Because it is the only way to avoid giving a place to the devil. As soon as we hear, we do not "consider" what we will do; we obey. Then it says that "strangers shall submit themselves unto me." That speaks of souls being won all over the world—winning strangers who submit to the Gospel that we preach because we are obedient.

Supernatural Unity

It is so vital that we understand genuine warfare. With all of the demonic armies that come against us, thank God we can know we have the victory. "Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" (1 John 5:5). Jesus Christ came not only by water, "but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth" (1 John 5:6).

So in heaven we have the witness of the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit. The three are perfectly one. And we have three that bear witness on earth in perfect agreement: the Spirit, the water, and the Blood (1 John 5:7-8).

Jesus said to the Father, "I pray for those who will believe in the future, that they will be one even as We are. I in Thee, and Thou in Me, that they may be one so everyone will know that You sent Me." He said, "The glory You gave Me, I give to them" (see John 17:20-22).

This is the unity of God's kingdom versus the unity of Satan's kingdom. Because there are supernatural detectives with supernatural intelligence against us, it is one unbelievable fight unless as soon as we hear, we obey.

Leviathan

Job 41:16 says, "One is so near to another, that no air can come between them." This description of leviathan and his scaly skin is a picture of Satan and his demons and the unity they display in battle. How do we know that "leviathan" is the devil? Because of Isaiah 27:1, which says, "In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan *the piercing serpent*, even leviathan that

crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea.”

Picture it: Satan is a piercing, crooked serpent. He has amazing unity in his armies, in his purpose, and in his attacks. There is shocking unity when he goes after the mind, the emotions, the body, relationships, family, friends—unless the Christian chooses to live by every Word of God and uses rebound when he fails.

“Will he [leviathan] make a covenant with thee? wilt thou take him for a servant for ever?” (Job 41:4). Have you entered into his unity and made a pact with the devil without even knowing it? Do you want him to serve you forever? Job 41:34 says, “He beholdeth all high things: he is a king over all the children of pride.”

As we begin to understand this battle, the ongoing investigation, and Satan’s supernatural “computer” system with all the files and records against us, we can see that his plan is to consume and destroy us as far as our service to the Kingdom of God goes. He can’t take away our salvation, but he wants to disable us.

Cast Your Cares on Jesus

When the Word of God tells us to cast our care on Him (1 Peter 5:7), it means to throw

every care, every fear, toward Deity because He cares for us. Then it says in verse 8 to “be sober,” which means do not be intoxicated with the problems of the old sin nature and the cares of the world, but be quietly relaxed with precise light. Then, “be vigilant.” That means to stay awake, stay alert, stay Spirit filled.

Then it says something unusual that could easily be overlooked. Be sober and vigilant because of “*your* adversary the devil.” Notice that this is not generalized as *the* adversary. The original text is actually phrased, “...the adversary *your* devil, walketh about, as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” Devour means to swallow up, to ingest, to destroy by a constant attack, and to wear you down till you have no defenses left. Everybody has the categorical forces of demons that come against you with a personal threat to your life and your family.

So what do victorious Christians do when the attacks come? As soon as they hear, they obey.

The Deceiver

Satan deceives the whole world (Revelation 12:9). Here, to deceive means to carry away into his kingdom of darkness *through light!* That is

the work of *Hupsoma*. In 2 Corinthians 11:14, Satan transforms himself into an angel of light, so that it is possible for believers to be led away instead of growing in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ in the angelic conflict (2 Peter 3:17-18).

Deceived Christians will accuse other believers of being deceived who are *not*. They will uncover private matters. They will lie. They will not pray. They do not love. They do not give grace for the grace they have received (John 1:16). They repeat matters that are stirred up in hell.

First Satan deceives, then he accuses the brethren from morning until night (Revelation 12:10*b*). Then, he blames. "The woman thou gave me did it!" was Adam's plea in the garden (Genesis 3:12). In Genesis 3:13, Eve blamed the serpent. Next, the devil "separateth even friends" (Proverbs 17:9*b*). He divides and puts people on sides so that we cannot love.

When Christians can't love each other, Satan effectively destroys compassion and prayer for one another. The armies of demons operate with such unity that no air can come between them. But the Word of God says we should never allow even one projection against another believer to develop. Another thing Satan does is to get

people to compare themselves with others (2 Corinthians 10:12-14). The point in this attack is to get us thinking with relative righteousness. But the Word clearly instructs us not to let that happen, because it is not wise.

Thank God that the moment we receive the Word of God and mentally obey it, we receive it with meekness and lay aside all "superfluity of naughtiness." As we practice truth, we become doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving our own selves (James 1:21-22).

The greatest privilege in the world is to be hid with Christ in God, seated above. We have the King of kings and Lord of lords! Jesus Christ is for us. He is in us. We have the water of the Word, and because our lives are hid with Christ in God, we have His death, burial, and resurrection. We are covered by the new covenant of the Finished Work. We have the Father and Jesus Christ, the living Word. The Spirit bears witness that these things are true.

According to the light of the Word, there is a great contrast between sides. For example, in Matthew 12:30, "He that is not with me is against me; and he that gathereth not with me scattereth abroad." When Paul went against Christians, Jesus Christ said to him in Acts 9:4, "Why per-

secutest thou *me*?" When anyone attacks a man of God, they attack the Church of God. They are attacking the Head, which is Jesus Christ Himself.

In Luke 10:16, Jesus told the disciples as He was sending them out, "He that heareth you heareth me; and he that despiseth you despiseth me; and...him that sent me." Those who are not with the Word of God cause division—they scatter and they sow discord among the brethren—one of the worst sins in the Bible, mentioned twice among the seven great sins, in Proverbs 6:16-19.

This is the progression: Iniquity was found in Satan's heart (Ezekiel 28:15). We were conceived in iniquity (Psalm 51:5). Iniquity has three distinct manifestations: It is a negative decision toward God's character; it is wounded emotions; it allows rebellion to come in as a reaction to being hurt. You confess the wounds and the hurt, but the problem is that at some point you rebelled against the character of God, and now you are involved with accusing, separating, blaming, and sowing discord. This progression is often seen in marriages. But whatever relationship is under attack, these things happen because people refuse to be rec-

onciled to God.

Resistance Training

So now that we can see this principle of iniquity with it's source in the devil, what are we to do? We resist him, "...stedfast in the faith" (1 Peter 5:9a). We resist him in *the* system of faith, believing categories from the Word of God. And as soon as we hear, we obey. As a result, strangers will submit to the truth of the Word that we bring as servants of the Gospel in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost parts of the earth. To effectively resist the devil, we put on the whole armor of God, girding our loins with the truth, putting on the breastplate of righteousness (the love of God protecting the heart) and the helmet of salvation, having our feet shod with the gospel of peace, and taking up the shield of faith.

With that, if I obey God, follow Him, and love Him, then Satan cannot touch me. If, however, I make a wrong decision followed by another bad decision and play games with deliverance because of self-preservation in some area of my flesh, then I open myself up to amazing attack from skillful demon warriors.

Remember that in Zephaniah 3:2, there were

four separate areas the people got wrong. This was because they were distracted by demon armies to the details of life, fleshly cares and responsibilities, and preference for Adam. But God Almighty will cause us to triumph. Thank God we can hear the Word, receive correction, trust the Lord, and draw near by faith.

The Lord's impartations are far greater than Satan's temptations. The measure of our obedience reveals the power of God's availability. The living Word of God always sends Satan to flight when it is applied in our heart and our confession. Victory is not nearly as far away as you think! Jesus simply quoted the Word, and Satan took off.

Thank God that He is here to heal, to forgive, to revive, to love, to reconcile, to give life, and to cleanse—He releases Himself in men and women.

Chapter Four
DON'T GIVE A PLACE
TO DARKNESS

“The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single,”—speaking of the soul—“thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is [infected with] evil, thy body also is full of darkness....If thy whole body therefore be full of light, *having no part dark*, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light” (Luke 11:34-36).

So many people are not full of light. That is why they get offended—why they react and become negative and defensive. But God says we are to have no part dark. *No part dark!* Why is it that people fall into deception in ministries that teach the whole counsel of God and love as Christ loves? First, they did not receive the Word with meekness, and therefore it was not engrafted in their soul. Next, they did not obey as

soon as they heard. James 1:22 says we are to be doers of the Word we have heard. And to “do” the Word of God is to *believe* (John 6:29). If you are a hearer and not a doer, you are deceived.

Unresolved Deception

So many Christians live in partial deception. Some part of their soul is dark, and the only light they have is not of God. In other words, the light they have has turned into darkness. *Many* live in unresolved deception. These are Christians that go against other Christians who may be under attack. The deceived party believes a lie fed by the demonic atmosphere. But when the accused is vindicated, those who were deceived never deal with their deception. Now, instead of being led by the light of the Word, they continue to be misled by light from the world’s system.

For a season, they are covered by identities of demons which can include human good and self-righteousness. Now their adversary is the Holy Spirit. If they do not agree quickly when He convicts, these people will eventually take on self-destructive patterns.

No man can serve two masters; he will love one and hate the other. Believers who become

infected with evil because they were not properly guarded in warfare belong to God in their position while they serve Satan in their experience. So here is Christ paying for the sins of the *whole* world, and on the other side is the evil crowd manufacturing differences. Here is Christ forgiving and forgetting, and there is the accusing crowd, having been forgiven for far worse things than they are attacking. Their light has turned to darkness. Jesus said, "How *great* is that darkness." The angel of light distorts the light of the Word of God and interprets that light as darkness; the eye of the soul is not single.

But the eye that is single speaks of the unity of the Spirit. Christ cannot be divided. And as we have studied in 2 Corinthians 10:5-6, we are to be ready to revenge all disobedience with obedience. As soon as they heard, they obeyed. That is one of the greatest verses for our protection. They didn't argue. They didn't resist truth. They didn't question or challenge. They obeyed.

Christians who have been deceived by an angel of light do not know they are deceived. Though they try to justify their position, according to Isaiah 30:1-2, they only add sin to sin. In order to get out of the cycle of disobedience, that person needs to realize it, face it, and confess it,

or he will continue to add sin to sin. Then they will end up going down to “Egypt,” or the world, for help, and where, God says, “you have a covering, but it’s not of me.”

“For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light” (Ephesians 5:8). Walk as children of total light, proving what is the acceptable will of God. Have no fellowship with unfruitful works of darkness.

We must walk in the light to discern the works of darkness. So many of us are connected to people whose souls are partly dark, and they can influence us. It is one thing when a person is entreatable and we can minister to them. If you cannot minister, then have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness. It is a shame even to speak of them.

Discern God’s Light

Again, how do we discern? “But all things that are reprov’d are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light” (Ephesians 5:13). The entrance of God’s Word gives light. The Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. In light, we receive more light (Psalm 36:9). When we are filled with

God's light, we will not let in the cosmic light that is really darkness. We must be available to hear the Word of God. We need to receive light—and more light—so that our whole soul is filled. That way, when Satan tries to come in with something that will leave us in partial darkness, we advance in God's light because we hear the messenger bring it.

“Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light” (Ephesians 5:14). Cosmic darkness will put you to sleep so that you don't act on the Word as soon as you hear it. This is *Rhadiourgia* at work. So be alert and stay awake!

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise” (Ephesians 5:15). We are to be simple in our faith so the light of God's Word can rule our hearts, but we are not to be non-thinking fools! “But,” you may ask, “how can I walk circumspectly on a divine tightrope?” The answer? By light. By waking up to new light and by receiving that light. We put on new light to get out of cosmic darkness, regardless of what we perceive with our senses. The light of the Word of God always takes precedence over our feelings.

In the angelic conflict, Jesus said that if we

will confess Him before men, He will confess us before the Father. The demons are building their case by a supernatural investigation—but they have no right to accuse. When Satan gathers all of his “facts” against us, as he did against Joshua in Zechariah 3, Jesus tells him to shut up, because those sins have been paid for. The devil has supernatural evidence against us that he gathered from the earth, but because we confess Christ in our low estate, the evidence is thrown out of court.

“In those days, and in that time, saith the LORD, the iniquity of Israel shall be sought for, and there shall be none; and the sins of Judah, and they shall not be found: for *I will pardon them whom I reserve*” (Jeremiah 50:20). Whatever *diabolos*, the false accuser, brings up after it has been dealt with is overruled—even if you are guilty.

Now we learn to deal with the attacks that try to uncover Adam. Because of the Fall, we were created with Satan’s emotions. So God gives us grace, love, mercy, lovingkindness, and forgiveness. These filter into our emotions as we make right decisions in how to think. The emotions then become stronger and stronger until they become healthy. The term used in 1 Peter 3:8

is *eusplanchnos*, which means healthy emotions, designed to appreciate love, respond to grace, and receive forgiveness if we fail.

Satan will dispatch armies with commanding officers that possess supreme powers to try to bring down strong Christians. This warfare was illustrated in Daniel 10 where God's angel was hindered for twenty-one days while Daniel prayed. That angel was replaced with one that held a higher rank to bring the answer. The point is that even when there appears to be a mismatch, we still have the awesome privilege to stand in grace and to have access to the throne of mercy. We are quickened by the Word of God in humility, therefore, Satan has to flee!

That is what glorifies God in the angelic conflict. We are little human beings with old sin natures in a mixed-up world in a mixed-up cosmic system. By grace through faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to the Word, we cause the devil to run.

Think of it! There is no record of your sins. Regardless of the source of the disclosure, the farthest it can go is in the earth because of Isaiah 43:25: "I, even I, am he that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins."

Jesus Christ is our Advocate—our defense attorney. In Hebrew 9:4, He is pleading our case in His Father’s courtroom. Notice that in Zechariah 3, there is no record of Joshua repenting. But as soon as Satan brought up his sin, the punishment came off of Joshua and onto his accuser. Joshua didn’t even have to repent, and his sins were added to Satan’s degrees of punishment in hell.

It is the Finished Work! Knowing that doesn’t make me want to continue in sin. Rather, it makes me want to continue with Christ in this amazing love life we have.

God Is For Us!

Redeem the time—buy it back—because the days are evil. Understand what the will of God is and be filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit. Walk in light. Walk in the Spirit. Walk in love (1 John 1:7, Ephesians 5:2, Galatians 5:16). That means we are to have every step directed by the words of God, so that iniquity will not have dominion over us.

In our conversations, even in casual meetings, every word should be directed by light. Don’t speak unless you have direction from the Word of God in the application of love and wis-

dom.

Even our conversation with ourselves is to be directed with the light that comes from Christ's resurrection. We speak to ourselves in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, giving thanks always to God for all things in Jesus Christ.

Also, there will always be people whom we will love and minister to, but we must discern the part that is dark. We don't run them down or broadcast it, but it must be discerned. Every relationship must be brought into the light. There are marriages that seem good, but they operate in partial darkness.

If you do not live with God's attitude of forgiveness that includes forgetting (Matthew 6:14)—toward yourself or others—then you are living in partial darkness. Don't think of the issue another moment. You mentally forgive. How? The only remedy is to keep in the light through the Holy Spirit. By light, we receive more light. But except for being Spirit-filled, it is impossible to forgive, forget, and go on!

The entrance of God's Word brings light. It is in the entrance that we see meekness applied (James 1:20) by faith (Hebrews 4). Light enters through the words of a category. The Spirit takes

over the words (so we can enjoy them, even if they are exhortation or rebuke). We enjoy each word because we know they are there so we do not have to live in partial darkness. Remember what was said in Zephaniah 3 about the four steps into darkness. The devil would ultimately have us withdraw from the Body where we receive light.

Thank God that Christ is the great Deliverer! Thank God that love covers! Thank God that we can grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. But we cannot if we are partially deceived.

The greatest thing I have going for me isn't my strength, but my honesty with God. I am so thankful whenever I am lovingly reprovved by the Holy Spirit. I don't resist it. I hear it, and I say thank you. Then, trusting the Lord, I draw near in that category. I keep meditating on it, and amazing strength comes in. Why? Because, now I'm equipped. I'm not deceived in that area. I'm no longer weak in that area, because Christ's strength has made me strong in grace.

CONCLUSION

There are two things more enduring than failure. First is the unchanging purpose of God's grace. If sin abounds, grace does much more abound (Romans 5:20). Second is the permanent, priestly intercession of Christ until we are perfected (Hebrews 6:17; 7:24). God *will* perfect us!

Holiness is a body and soul filled up with light. Pitch your tent on the grace of God, and you have a right to who you are in Christ. You have a right to your victory. Pitch your tent with the golden provision of grace. Apply the eye salve of Revelation 3:18 and the white raiment you receive through doctrine. You have a right to mercy, a right to grow, and a right to confess the promises of God. It is your right because of the throne of Grace.

Christ ever lives to make intercession for us. The Holy Spirit groans when we can't pray because of partial darkness. It is in those times—when we are deceived or ignorant or in the

middle of an operation of God—that it seems our prayer doesn't get through. But the Holy Spirit is groaning what we cannot utter!

Plan to be around Spirit-filled believers. Don't be a lone ranger. You need that fellowship because you need the light. You need love. You need to take your place as a member in particular, in the fullness of the Body of Christ. It is how we expand spiritually in our faith, our maturity, and expand our vision with the fullness of Christ—not just our own limited portion. We are in a battle. The enemy has been exposed and he is riled up, but we have unusual protection when we claim what is ours by faith.