

## *Satan's Limitations*

Carl H. Stevens Jr. is pastor of Greater Grace World Outreach located in Baltimore, Maryland. Pastor Stevens is also chancellor of Maryland Bible College & Seminary and host of the international Christian radio program "The Grace Hour." This booklet was created from a message preached by Pastor Stevens.

Pastor Stevens can be seen weekly on cable television stations throughout the United States. Call us for information regarding programming in your area.

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

GRACE PUBLICATIONS

P.O. BOX 18715

BALTIMORE, MD 21206

Printed in Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<i>Introduction</i> .....	5
<i>Chapter 1</i> .....	7
<i>JUST WHO IS TO BLAME?</i>	
<i>Chapter 2</i> .....	14
<i>MANIFEST THE SAVOR OF VICTORY</i>	
<i>Chapter 3</i> .....	19
<i>WHO CAN STAND AGAINST US?</i>	
<i>CONCLUSION</i> .....	25



## INTRODUCTION

Satan doesn't want any Christian to understand his limitations. He tries to manipulate and project an air of fear in people's lives. With this, he can keep them from being effective for the kingdom of God.

Make no mistake: the devil is not to be toyed with. He is a roaring lion, and he continually seeks to devour and destroy. Yet, Satan is no match for almighty God.

This booklet is written to expose Satan for what he really is—a defeated foe. In these pages, we will show that whatever strategy the devil wants to use against God's people, he cannot do a thing without first getting permission from God (Job 1). And God will not give permission unless He can exalt Christ and accomplish His purpose in spite of the evil Satan intends (Genesis 50:20). Certainly we ought to be aware of satanic strategies so we can detect his methods before we are overcome in an attack. But our

first need, as believers, is to be built up ones (Colossians 2:7) so we can manifest Christ as more than conquerors.

## Chapter One

# JUST WHO IS TO BLAME?

“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Romans 10:17).

“But without faith it is impossible to please [God]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” (Hebrews 11:6).

To have the quality of faith that pleases God, we need to engage five points of the law of faith. First, faith requires that we *hear* the Word of God. Second, we must *receive* the Word without hindrances (like “Yes, but...”) (Colossians 3:16). Third, we must *believe* the Word without wavering (Romans 10:9-11). Fourth, we must *obey* what we have heard (Romans 6:17). Fifth, we must *act* upon the character of the Word (Colossians 3:17, 23), *abiding* in faith until the answer to our prayers for help or deliverance has come.

After God gives us an understanding of the law of faith, we will recognize that when we be-

lieve a promise given by God, we become owners of that promise. Every promise is given by grace. And every time a child of God studies and hears the Word of God according to the law of faith, he takes ownership of brand-new promises that will be kept by God's integrity.

The Bible declares that whoever touches God's people, touches the apple of His eye (Zechariah 2:8). The "apple" refers to the pupil—the very center of His eye. Think about how sensitive your eyes are. When the light is very bright, the pupil automatically responds by contracting until you adjust to the light. When darkness keeps you from seeing clearly, the pupil dilates to allow entrance to as much light as possible to be able to see. The Lord is extremely sensitive to anything that happens to His children, and His response time is immediate when we come into harm's way.

Because of His great love for us, God has put limitations on the devil. Though we may have been friends of darkness at one time, once we have experienced the glory of the victory of Calvary, we become a new creation. We have become children of the light. And once we experience the reality of the Finished Work of Christ, we can understand that Satan is very



limited in what he can do to us.

*Satan's Disguise: An Angel of Light*

“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

“And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

“And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

“Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

“Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

“But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

“And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD” (Job 1:6-12).

When God asked Satan where he had been, of course the Lord knew what he was up to all along. God asked the devil, “Whence comest thou?” to identify for us the “angel of light” program (2 Corinthians 11:14-15). Satan operates on the earth often transforming himself to appear as a supernatural angel of light. He loves to disguise himself in the midst of some religious movements to promote human goodness. Also, he may use work systems or cause people to use grace as a license to sin when they can’t measure up to their own standards.

What’s more, he runs to and fro across the world to promote the perception that he doesn’t even exist. Satan communicates to the world, “Don’t worry about ‘the devil.’ In fact, I don’t even exist. Hell? It isn’t real.”

As a result, people scramble for an object to fix blame for their pain. They blame their problems on each other; they blame problems on what happened years ago during childhood. They blame things on human failure and weakness. It is very crucial that we learn to never place blame for our pain on God or people. Though there are natural causes and consequences that God may allow for His purposes, the ultimate source of everything that causes

pain and suffering is Satan.

### *According to God's Purpose*

Satan is always thinking death, and he wanted Job dead. But God said, "Satan, you can't take his life" (Job 1:12; Job 2:6). Satan cannot do anything beyond what God allows.

This means that Jesus Christ, because of His marvelous victory, will not let Satan trouble you or bother you without a purpose. If the devil is allowed to trouble you, it is for a purpose: to grow in grace, to grow in faith, and to glorify God in the midst of the angelic contest.

Satan charged that God is not a loving God because fallen angels would be sent to hell. As a result of his accusation, one third of the angels followed Satan in his rebellion. God answered his charge with the creation of the human race. God created man so He could manifest His character, which is love, to the angels and all creation.

God fashioned the human race and has allowed each one of us to be born in sin. Without Christ, we are sick from the soles of our feet to the top of our head (see Isaiah 1:5). But out of this sin-sick race, God saves whosoever will, and calls us out to be a part of His Church. Because of

Calvary, every person has the opportunity to become a member of Christ's body. And whoever receives His free gift of salvation is being made ready to become His for all eternity.

Because of the work of Redemption in fallen sinners, Satan is constantly being embarrassed before the angels.

"He that is our God is the God of salvation; and unto God the Lord belong the issues from death" (Psalm 68:20).

"And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

With the Lord's permission, Satan is often used to try our volition. Satan can never touch us without God's permission. Certainly, the mystery and times of some deaths seem so unusual. But we must understand that everyone has a time of death appointed by God.

This is why murder, abortion, and suicide are such serious matters with God. Though He does not overrule human volition, the omnipresence, omniscience, and omnipotence of almighty God ensure that perfect justice and righteousness will prevail (Psalm 85:10). Though there is a price to pay for taking a life, God's justice was satisfied on the Cross when Christ became sin for us. Therefore, He gives abundant

grace and mercy to all who are guilty of those sins when they look to the Lord.

Satan cannot make us go through anything without it serving a purpose for God. In spite of the charge from hell that He is unfair, the Lord will always reveal His nature of love to fallen men.

Satan couldn't stand it when he heard that God would give grace to sinful men while He would also send one third of the angels to hell. Lucifer rebelled against God's authority and plan, and became the god of this world.

## *Chapter Two*

# MANIFEST THE SAVOR OF VICTORY

God has all knowledge; Satan does not. God is everywhere present; Satan is not. God is all powerful; Satan is not. These are the limitations the devil desperately wants to keep secret. These are facts you should know.

What really frustrates Satan is when God's people exercise faith. He hates to see a Christian who stands against a disease and claims healing in the power of love and the power of the Spirit. The law of faith overcomes the strategies of Satan and the demons of hell. Just as an airplane through the law of aerodynamics defeats the law of gravity, so can we by the law of faith soar above the problems caused by the devil.

### *God's Policies Are in Force*

“And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan

standing at his right hand to resist him.

“And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire?

“Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

“And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment” (Zechariah 3:1-4).

Satan despises, attacks, and accuses people because we are sinners. Joshua, the high priest in Zechariah 3, had sinned, yet God refused to hear any accusations from Satan. On the Cross, Christ paid the penalty for sin, and our sins are no longer an issue with God. And even from the beginning of time, Jesus Christ was the Lamb of God “slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8). Satan cannot bring up any of our sins to Christ.

The devil recognizes this extreme limitation with regard to us. Therefore, when we sin, Satan accuses us directly-as he has no possibility of accusing us before God. Using demonic projec-

tions, the devil attempts to stir feelings of guilt and despair. If you find yourself feeling this way, remember Satan's limitations.

The devil cannot change God's policy of grace (Ephesians 2:5, 8). Grace forgives and also teaches us to deny ungodliness. Furthermore, he cannot change God's policy of mercy that rejoices against judgment (James 2:13). He cannot change the unconditional love that God has for us (Jeremiah 31:3). The devil cannot change the fact that the Holy Spirit is constantly interceding for us with groanings that cannot be uttered (Romans 8:26). Satan knows that the Spirit of God searches the hearts of men to convict us of the truth (Romans 8:27). Also, he knows the heart of the Father toward all men (Ezekiel 16:6-8). Satan knows the letter of the Word of God, but he cannot do a thing against God's policy of love and grace.

When you are going through a trial, keep in mind that you will not go through any more than what will serve God's purpose for your life. God desires that you have a testimony before the angels of heaven and the angels who fell from heaven. As you go forward, always remember that Satan is so limited that he can never bring up a single sin to God. He has ab-



solutely no right to uncover what God has forgiven through the blood of Christ.

### *Always Triumphant*

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

“For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

“To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life...” (2 Corinthians 2:14-16a).

The manifestation of Jesus Christ, the Word of Life, through the believer is God’s plan to defeat Satan. He wants the devil to smell defeat as we reveal Christ, making manifest the love and aroma—the “savour”—of His presence. God reveals the savor of this knowledge through us, wherever we go. This savor goes to those who are saved and to those who are perishing.

Some days, we go out soul winning and find folks who just will not receive God’s love. God reminded me that we are a savor even to those going to hell, because of our knowledge and the

Holy Spirit's power in us. Unfortunately, to them it is a savor of death.

"I don't need it, I don't want it, and you can't give it to me," one man said to me as I tried to share the Gospel.

"I am not going to give it to you, and God isn't going to, either, because you won't receive it," I answered back.

Still, the savor of the knowledge of God was in the air.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

Another thing that really frustrates Satan is a Christian who rebounds after he has failed. The devil hates rebound. He despises it. The power of love, grace, and faith to restore one who has fallen drives Satan mad.

Why?

Because he is limited—and there is nothing he can do about it.

### *Chapter Three*

## WHO CAN STAND AGAINST US?

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

“For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

“Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.

“What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us?

“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?” (Romans 8:28-32).

This is one of the most magnificent passages. Each one of us has an old sin nature, but in the

eyes of God we are glorified positionally before we are glorified physically. God the Father sees us as justified and glorified even in our bodies of sin.

What a great salvation!

And how Satan hates it.

The devil despises the fact that you are already glorified. He despises you. He may try to have a drunken driver knock you down. He may send a thief to your home. He will try anything to hurt you because he is trying to hurt God who loves you, the object of His affection—the apple of His eye.

But Satan won't get away with any of his devices. God is for us, so who can stand against us? (Romans 8:31). By His Son, God has freely given us all things. Can anyone lay a charge against God's elect? No, for Christ has justified every believer. Who can condemn one of God's children? No one, for Christ died and is now at the right hand of the Father ever living to make intercession for each one who calls Him Lord.

### *The Final Legitimate Battle Was Won*

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ. We have been made more than conquerors through Him who loved us. "More

than conquerors” is a phrase that implies there are no more legitimate battles to fight. Satan was defeated by Christ once and for all at Calvary.

We can have sacred, beautiful, fabulous marriages: We are more than conquerors in our marriages. We are more than conquerors in our families, and we can reign over the demons that attack that area of our lives. He will give us success as fathers and mothers.

God will give us success in the exploits of our businesses. He will give us success in every area of our lives that we submit to Him. We are more than conquerors through Him who loved us, and nothing shall ever separate us from the love of God.

### *Inseparable Love*

People who have failed need to see that the grace of God will hold them up. They don't have to continue in failure. All of us need to realize that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, neither height, nor depth, nor any other thing shall ever be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:38-39).

I can't begin to express how these Scriptures

bless me. I am so indescribably thankful for what God has done for us. These truths are incomprehensible to my own limited understanding, but I know they are true. I know the God who sees the whole picture at all times, and He sees me as glorified and justified in Christ.

“For if by one man’s offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:17).

Satan cannot bring up a single thing to separate us from God. If you feel separated from God, it’s a lie. You can never be separated from Him. Satan cannot stop us from receiving the abundance of grace. He cannot stop any one of us from receiving the gift of righteousness.

Where sin abounds, grace does much more abound (Romans 5:20). The Greek word for “much more abound” is *hyperperisseuo*. It is a word that means “overflowing; something that cannot be measured by scales.” God’s grace never ceases to flow out to us. Where sin once abounded through the fall, grace now does much more abound.

## *Reign As a King*

“And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen” (Revelation 1:6).

One of the most precious things we can understand is that we have been made to reign as kings in the kingdom of God. We can reign over our emotions. We can reign in the midst of circumstances. We can let our faith become the owner of God’s promises and go forward as never before in the grace of God.

Satan really fears this kind of manifestation of Christ. Jesus Christ was manifested to *destroy* the works of the devil! Manifestation simply refers to the life of Christ demonstrated in us. When we respond to Him by faith, others are able to see Christ in us and experience His character of love. To manifest the savor of His knowledge is the ultimate way to glorify Christ. It glorifies God and exposes the limitations of the devil.

In the midst of everything that Satan tries to bring against us this week, come right back at him with the manifestation of the law of faith, the manifestation of love, and the manifestation of peace. Always consider what Caleb declared

as he prepared to take the Promised Land by war in Numbers 13:30: “Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.”



## CONCLUSION

“And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.

“Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ephesians 3:19-20).

As a born-again believer, you have a brand-new position of faith. You are loved with a love that will never give up on you. You have a brand-new manifestation, a brand-new savor. Get together with others and pray. As you turn to intercession, you will learn to overcome things that you have never been able to overcome.

We are more than conquerors. We can do things through Christ. God will supply all our needs. God has put a limit on Satan, and we will not be defeated. But when circumstances cause us to be discouraged or depressed, we

must exercise faith. We will experience God's unlimited grace and mercy when we trust Christ and His victory at Calvary.

We are here on earth to manifest exactly who God is, to manifest the savor of His knowledge. Live so that the world and the angelic realm can witness God's forgiveness, love, grace, mercy, and patience manifested through us. Let's allow people to see the fruit of the Holy Spirit through our lives.

Our God wants to bless us beyond anything we can ask or think. Let's manifest a personal faith that exalts Him and recognizes the fact that He has made us more than conquerors.