

Chapter Eight

Spiritual Warfare in the Normal Christian Life

God wants holiness for us because it is the most satisfying life we can have.

I have talked a little bit about there being voices speaking to us, trying to influence toward good or toward evil. I want to expand on that in this chapter to give some more guidance on the subject of demonic influence of christians and unbelievers.

The first thing I want to say is, most of the knowledge I am relating about this subject, I owe to Dr. Ed Murphy, in his book “Spiritual Warfare.” I knew him from his Overseas Crusades missionary work with Los Gatos Christian Church, Los Gatos, California in the 1980’s. I have used all of his concepts and some of his phraseology in certain places. Thank you Dr. Murphy.

I became interested in his ministry as a participant in a group called “Go Ministries,” where we would witness to kids at the local rock concerts. The lives of the kids were full of demonic activity. The angels of God seemed to go before us. The Holy Spirit protected; and overall, the demonic spirits appeared afraid of us.

The second thing I want to say is: Satan is completely and totally defeated. He was utterly defeated by Jesus Christ in His life, and death on the cross. We, as christians, have no need to fear the demonic world. Even though the demonic world is scary; as christians, we have authority over, and power over that world, which I will get into as we progress.

The Bible tells us that spiritual warfare has raged on in the world since before man came on the scene in the Garden of Eden. It is still going on, especially in the lives of non-christians but also to some lesser degree in the lives of chris-

tians also. I have alluded to their influence in our thinking. I will talk about the normal christian life and demonic attempts at influence. Also, the substandard christian life and demonic influence. We will talk about the believers warfare with the flesh, pride, the world, and evil supernaturalism (demonic happenings which we can experience). Be of good cheer, because of Jesus Christ, you are victorias over all sin including evil supernaturalism.

Someone may say, “Where do we see evidence of demons?” The most obvious answer is on television and in the movies. The Harry Potter sagas are a rather benign example. We see the news stories of terrible crimes where someone takes a gun and shoots several people before taking his own life. These are actions of the man, but they are also examples of anger, hate and depression intensified to murder and suicide by demonic power. The big problem is, we don’t recognize such events as perpetrated with the power of Satan. They appear to be only a crazy man gone wild. All crazy men gone wild are the work of Satanic powers heavily working in the lives of those people. We see many examples of suicide. This is deception by demonic forces. Another example is the all the demonic looking programs for children on TV. An example is Ozzy Osborn, and his claim to be the prince of darkness since 1979, in his association with the “Warcraft” game software. There are many games for children advertised on TV, like that one, which exhibit demonic overtones. This is desensitizing the public to coming devilish type appearances and activity. This seemingly harmless play causes demons to make

inroads into children's lives, which later, after being benign for a time, will unleash their terrible power on the lives of their victims. It manifests in their lives as being unruly, insolent, talking back, running wild, into smoking and drugs, rebellion of every kind.

Another place where we see the results of demonic power is in great sickness. The cancers and so are often caused by, and accentuated by, demonic powers. See the section below on Healing and Faith.

Another place we see demonic power is in the emotional problems which are prevalent in our culture. The sins of the flesh, pride and the world are sometimes driven to extremes, which appear as extremes of the deeds of the flesh, listed in Galatians five. When you look, you can see evidence of demonic activity all around us. The unbelieving world has no idea of what is going on in their lives. Even Christians who have some knowledge of spiritual things mostly don't see demonic activity. I heard one person say you shouldn't talk about Satan and demons because we don't want to give them too much credit for what they do. That statement sounds more like a demon not wanting the exposure by avoiding the subject. Satan has very craftily strategized to make his chaos appear to be the work of others. Even though his work appears to be the work of others, he controls the world system.

All of the kingdoms of this world are under the domination of evil supernaturalism.

* "We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one." - I Jn. 5:19

* "And you were dead in your trespasses and sins, in which you formerly walked according to the

course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, of the spirit that is now

working in the sons of disobedience." - Eph. 2:2

* "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the

god of

this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gos-

pel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God." - II Cor. 4:3-4

The evil one is very subtle. He does not want to show himself. He is a terrorist; he doesn't want to be seen. And when his damage is happening, he wants the blame to be on someone else, not him. If we can see him and find him, he can be defeated. But, that is hard. That is why he wants to be so elusive.

All of the people whom we seek to evangelize are demonized to one degree or another. Most are only mildly so, but some moderately so, a few severely. This does not mean anyone is demon possessed. That degree of control is only said to be in the world leader who becomes Antichrist during the seven year tribulation period if even then (Rev. 12:7-13:5). People you want to evangelize may be partially demonized.

The Total Defeat of Satan and Evil Supernaturalism

The purpose of this section is to outline the truth that Satan and all his demons have been totally defeated by the Lord Jesus Christ; and because of that defeat, believers have absolute certainty of our victory in spiritual warfare. Because of his influence, Satan needed to be defeated by the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross.

Satan's position of power over all men is spelled out clearly in scripture. He is the ruler and prince of this world (Luke 4:5-6; John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11). He is the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4). This means he has nearly total control over the lives of unredeemed men; in that they are under his dominion (Acts 26:18), and in his kingdom (Col. 1:13). They are manipulated by him through his demonic hierarchy to carry out his evil purposes (Eph. 2:2, 6:12; II Cor. 4:3-4).

Satan is against God primarily. In that

hatred for God, he wants to deny God as many people as possible from His inheritance among men. He wants them to be lost to Hell. However, he has limited resources so he doesn't waste them. He only uses demon power where he has too. That's why people walking toward hell on their own, don't experience much demonic push; they don't need it. They are already doing what he wants. Therefore, you don't see manifestations of evil in many unredeemed peoples lives. But if they were to turn toward God; look out, you would begin to see evidence of demonic power. Maybe it would come out in sickness, renewed bad habits, who knows what.

The Question of Authority

The basic issue in spiritual warfare is authority. Who has authority over the lives of the unbelieving person. As we have said above, in the *absence* of Jesus Christ, Satan has authority over all unbelievers. But Jesus is in-authority over Satan; everything, and everyone according to Matt. 28:18. A paraphrase might be: All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. This means I have authority over the demonic world. I have given you authority over the demonic world also (Lk. 10:17). Go and evangelize the world, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:19). Teach them to observe all that I have commanded you (Matt. 28:20). And lo, I am with you always, even while you confront demonic forces, even to the end of the age (Matt. 28:20). Therefore, we do not have to be concerned about His presence while confronting the occult, He is there with us. We know it by faith. Although, our foe is very powerful, far beyond that of any mortal being, he is not more powerful than the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Ministry of Jesus

Jesus began His redemptive work and defeat of Satan in the wilderness temptation. See Matt. 4:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13. On this occasion, Satan tempted Him in the area of the flesh, by asking Him to make bread to satisfy

His hunger. Satan tempted Him in the area of His pride, by saying if He were to jump off the pinnacle of the temple, defy gravity, the angels would catch Him. And thirdly, Satan tempted by offering Him all the kingdoms of the world; lust of the eyes. Jesus knew this was spiritual warfare, and used Scripture against the devil. We should too. Matt. 4:1-4:

“Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after He had fasted forty days and forty nights, He then became hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, ‘If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread.’ But He answered and said, ‘It is written, man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

We can make a couple of observations here. Jesus was a mortal man, not to say he was only a mortal man, but He was a mortal man like us (Heb.4:15). Satan had to tempt Him. Satan did *not* have the power to force Jesus to make bread from stones. God did not give that power to Satan. That is the very reason Satan cannot force us to do anything against our will either. He tempted Jesus with the lust of the flesh; just like he tempts us with the lusts of the flesh. Jesus would have had to succumb to the hunger; that is, give himself to the sin to be overcome by it. It is the same with us, we have to give in to the temptation for it to be sinful. This establishes one of the rules of life. *Satan cannot force us to do anything, he must persuade us to do his bidding.* That is the same rule that God has established for all people. God does not force anyone to love Him or not love Him. God persuades men to love Him. This observation speaks against the Calvinistic assertion that God controls who goes to Heaven.

The second observation is that Jesus quoted scripture to Satan; when he tempted Him with the possibility of making bread. The Scripture passage quoted, directly contradicted the potential lust presented. Jesus knew the truth, and the

truth made Him free from the potential sin, and potential feelings of lust if He did indeed make bread (John 8:32). This means we can do the same thing. Use the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, against Satan (Eph. 6:17). We must learn to do that.

Jesus continued His ministry and defeat of the works of Satan through bringing physical healing, and deliverance to demonized people throughout His Earthly ministry.

* Matt. 4:23-24 - “And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people. And the news about Him went out into all Syria; and they brought to Him all who were ill, taken with various diseases and pains, demoniacs, epileptics, paralytics; and He healed them.”

See also Mark 1:23-27; Matt. 12:22-29; Acts 10:38.

Jesus came to specifically destroy the works of the devil and his demons.

* John 16:11 - “. . . and concerning judgement, because the ruler of this world has been judged.”

* I Jn. 3:8 - “the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

* Col. 2:15 - (speaking of Satan and demons) “When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him (the Father).”

* Heb. 2:14 - “. . . He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.”

Jesus continued His ministry and defeat of the works of Satan through giving His disciples all authority and power over the works of Satan and demonic powers.

* Luke 9:1-2 - “And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons, and to heal diseases.”

* Luke 10:17-18 - “And the seventy returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name.’ And He said to them, ‘I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning.’”

Jesus continued His ministry and defeat of the works of Satan through maintaining His Sinless life. Satan’s goal was to entice the Lord Jesus Christ into any disobedience to the Father’s perfect will.

* Luke 4:13 - “And when the devil had finished every temptation (in the wilderness), he departed from Him until an (more) opportune time.”

* Matt. 16:21-23 - “From that time Jesus Christ began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up on the third day. And Peter took Him aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, ‘God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to you.’ But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but man’s.’”

As it turns out, maintaining His sinless behavior is what obligated the Father to resurrect Him. You will remember the promise of death for disobedience given in Gen. 2:17. But the implication is also life for obedience. Jesus, being a man, was subject to death by virtue of His mortality. But if He was sinless, the Father was obligated to resurrect Him to life again. So, His sinless life was needed to gain His, and our, resurrected life. Therefore, His sinlessness was imperative to giving believers eternal life.

The Lord Jesus Christ began the final defeat of Satan on the cross. While Satan thought he was rid of Christ when crucified on the cross, His death

was, in fact, a triumph over Satan.

* I Jn. 3:8 - “. . . the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”

* Heb. 2:14 - “Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.”

* Col. 2:14-15 - “. . . having cancelled the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He was taken out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.”

His public display over them was His resurrection, ascension and now sitting at the right hand of the Father.

The conclusion that we can draw from the above study, and specifically from the above three verses, is while our enemy is a mighty supernatural foe, he and they are utterly defeated. Satan is a paper tiger; although scary to look at, he will run from you. I know by experience.

The application of this truth is: you must believe this truth, live, and act in light of it. Believe the truth, and reject the lies of the devil (Jn. 8:44). Read on for more insight on what to believe and what to reject.

The Normal Christian Life

The *ideal* christian life is following the biblical model of hearing, belief, repentance, confession, baptism, faith, lordship, sanctification, and service to Christ. This ideal is not very real because of sinful people trying to live that ideal

christian life. We are all sinful people, even with the best of intentions; no one ever lives the ideal christian life. We all fail in our attempts. I know I did many times, and do sometimes now. We are not one-trial learners.

I was not able to attain to the ideal christian life. Even though I had resolve for Jesus to be Lord of my life, and I was striving to do what God asked of me, I was still a failure. I made Jesus Lord of my life in 1976, but I was still divorced again in 1987 after being married in 1981. I was the, so-called, innocent party but it didn't matter. This situation caused truckloads of embarrassment for me and brought even more condemnation from my pastors. Perhaps they already passed the early years of sanctification and forgot the problems they had. The worst pain and disappointments I have had in my entire christian life, have been at the hands of pastors who should have loved me, but instead were judgemental. This means the leaders who have wrong attitudes don't live the ideal christian life either. Demonic powers sometimes get to them also; whispers that motivate negatively. This points out the difference between the ideal christian life and the normal christian life; which is the actions of the demonic powers in our lives.

The difference between the ideal christian life and the normal christian life is a certain expectation of failure; yet persevering. The sincere believer who submits to the Lordship of Christ will be strongly resisted each step of the way. Both from within and without we will be harassed, resisted, afflicted, tormented, tripped up, sabotaged and, too often defeated in our christian life. We will grow weary in well doing, and can become discouraged, critical, bitter even cynical and deliberately sinful. Has that happened to you?¹ It certainly happened to me.

What did *not* happen in my life was instruction on spiritual warfare. What did *not* happen in my life was intercession against the demonic powers in my life. That; is the difference

1. “Spiritual Warfare: Bearing the Bruises of Battle,” Christianity Today, August 8, 1980.

between victory and defeat. Even though I was trying, demonic attachments to me, were able to trick me into defeat.

That is a gross indictment of christian leadership in general. Is there anyone in christian leadership who is promoting spiritual warfare as a part of the normal christian life? If not, they should be ashamed; they are letting down Christ and their respective congregations. Too many christian leaders are intolerant of weakness or failures in the lives of others. Leaders tend to become uncompassionate and critical. Our churches are filled with hurting believers, suffering alone for fear of rejection if they share their struggles. This is not the way it should be. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15). And, if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; . . . (I Cor. 12:26). This means leaders should be sympathetic with the sin problems of the congregation; not be against the persons, but against the demonic powers who attempt enslavement (Eph. 6:12).

Pastors and leaders need to know about spiritual warfare so they can protect their congregations from the ravages of the demonic forces at work everywhere in peoples lives. Perhaps everyone on an elder board need not be well versed in spiritual warfare, but at least someone should be capable of readily dealing with demonic activity. The prayer below will go far to protect. This is what I will address now; the preparation needed, in the normal christian life, to ward off the influence of demonic activity, especially when confronting demonized people.

As I have said before, our war is a sin war. It is a war with the flesh, the love of the world, and our pride. On top of that, the devil speaks to our mind on all those fronts. He speaks to our flesh goading us on to excesses of the flesh, excesses with love for the world, speaks to us through our pride that we are very smart and know much about life. In reality, maybe we do and maybe we don't. This is why you must know the truth of Scripture, and if you do, the truth will set and keep you free from demonic power, sin and death (John 8:32).

Christians Are At War

Apparently, Lucifer who became Satan, lived in the Garden of Eden before Adam and Eve were created (Ezek. 28:13-19; Gen. 3:1). We see Satan rear his ugly head from time to time throughout the Scripture; fighting God (Matt. 4:3-11; Rev. 12:4), Adam and Eve (Gen. 3); King of Babylon (Isaiah 14); Michael the Archangel (Jude 9); King of Tyre (Ezek. 28:1-24); christians (II Cor. 11:3); or God at Armageddon (Rev. 9:11). In close study of Scripture, everything between Genesis 3 and Revelation 20 is focused on this Spiritual - Earthly warfare between the kingdom of God and the kingdom of Evil Supernaturalism. It is historical in the sense of past battles: Adam and Eve (Gen.3); the persecution of Job (Job 1:6-2:7); the messages getting to Daniel (Dan. 10:12-14); the temptation of Jesus (Matt. 4:1-11). It is prophetic in the sense that Satan will go to the lake of fire with all those who have worked against God (Rev. 20:7-15). The war is between the kingdom of God, and the kingdom of Satan.

The war is a sin war

It is a battle for the minds of men. He who influences the mind is the one who influences the person to whatever degree. If Satan controls the mind, to whatever degree through sin, he controls the actions of the person. If God, the Holy Spirit controls the mind, to whatever degree through righteousness, He controls the actions of the person. Neither God nor Satan takes over a mind by force. It must be given by the person. On the evil side, sinful thinking and actions authorize demonic spirits to greater influence in those areas. Being an angry person allows demons to make that person more angry. Their action accentuates the problem. Satan wants to control people to their destruction.

Calvinism espouses "determinism" which means that God controls all things down to every action, of every person, of every day, of all individuals lives, for all human history. For me, that idea is too much like what Satan wants; that is, control of everything. The idea of determinism, in my opinion, is false.

God does not completely control people; it would not be loving. Loving influence is called “Lordship” or “Managed Cooperation” in the case of God’s kingdom. A loving God shares His sovereignty. In the same way, God asks husbands to lovingly share their sovereignty over the family with the wife (Eph. 5:25). Giving himself up for her; is sharing sovereignty. He doesn’t want to control everything.

God desires that evil, unregenerate people become people who love Him and their fellow man. Godly men and women must intercede and fight the evil one for lost souls (Matt. 28:19-20). That increases God’s Earthly inheritance. However, if God controls who is and is not saved, as Calvinism purports, it makes no sense for us to fight Satan for men’s souls to give God a greater Earthly inheritance. Because, its His job, and we have no real influence. On the other hand, if Calvinism is not true, we need to change.

Sin, which is our ungodly thinking, wars against us. It causes us to do things, which seem right, but ultimately results in making our lives worse in some way. If you run up bills on your credit card, because you don’t have enough money for groceries, it comes back to bite you when the bill comes due. That is not faith. Godly thinking would be to *not* use the credit card but pray for God’s help and food. It is God’s responsibility to provide, and your responsibility to trust. If you trust, He will provide (Matt.6:33). This is the major reason to come to know God so your sinful thinking will abate, your correct thinking will increase, and your life will become better. This is why we war against sin. Going God’s way is better for us. And a better life gives added reason to love God.

Demonic power and activity is generated and increased by our sin. If by deception we think it is ok to sin in some area; at the right time, the demonic powers use that as authorization to exert more influence in our life. And God allows it, because the wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23), and the demonic powers bring death (Jn. 10:10). That is how our life turns for

the worse. It brings on trouble and heartache and sickness (James 5:15-16). Not every sickness is demonic, sometimes it is a sickness unto death. See the section on healing below.

Sin exists on three levels: personal, it comes from within; social, it comes from the world; and evil supernaturalism, it comes from demonic spirits. As I have said before, the Holy Spirit’s whisper counteracts the whisper of the demonic spirits, but the person gets to choose to whom he will heed. Personal sin comes by way of the flesh; lusts of every type (Eph. 2:3; Gal. 5:17-21a). Social sin involves other people, the love of the world (I Jn. 2:15-16). The third aspect is evil supernaturalism; various occurrences involving demonic spirits (Eph. 2:2; I Thess. 3:5). I will give you an example.

When I was in the process of writing this section, at about the same time, my wife was getting ornery. Her action made me lose my temper, and we were arguing. The following morning, as I started to write, I recognized that we were being attacked by demonic forces ourselves; setting each one against the other. I recognized it because I was writing on the very subject, and the Holy Spirit brought it to my awareness. I called her on the phone and we prayed against the forces of evil. Immediately, the bad feelings went away, and we had a good time together. By the way, that day was our twentieth wedding anniversary. This is deception at work. The demonic forces want you to think that it is her, or him, who is at fault and the cause of our fighting (Eph. 6:12). The truth is the demonic forces accentuated the bad feelings; making them far worse than they otherwise would have been. This phenomenon of increased bad feelings has been termed “sin energy.” I will use this term later. You need to watch out for this kind of intrusion in your life.

Sometimes you can recognize demonic activity when the situation is unusually blown out of proportion. You might say to yourself, “why is he so mad over nothing?” Why is she making a mountain out of a mole hill? That may be a sign of demonic needling or in other

words; “sin energy” developing, which you can pray against. Praying against those demons will remove them and their power.

Another sign of sin energy is *strong or persistent* feelings of anger, bitterness, resentment, self-pity, self-rejection, self-condemnation, inferiority, superiority, loneliness, sensitivity, frustration, hardness of heart, and lusts of all types; sexual, popularity, recognition, money, and pleasure. These are things that a person might go to a therapist or counselor to solve; thinking the problem is mental. Many times, if you think the problem is bad enough to warrant a counselor, there is sin energy involved. The person may just need to be free from one or more demonic strongholds in their life. But then again, if the strongholds are broken, it must be accompanied by *spiritual* counseling to replace the lie, which the person believes; with truth, which prevents a further demonic foothold (Jn. 8:32).

You must know the Scripture so you can recognize when you’re being deceived. When the deception is contrasted to the truth, the truth becomes apparent. That’s why you need to learn all you can about God. This is why I have spent so much time talking about the contrast between good and evil in previous chapters.

The Assurance of Heaven

For many Christians, this is the first battlefield. Am I really a partaker of the promises of God? Many times it is a faith issue encountered soon after accepting Jesus Christ as Lord or manager of your life. As you run into trouble living the Christian life, and as a result, get defeated while trying to do what God asks, the devil will speak to your mind something like, “You’re not really a Christian, you’re not good enough.” “Jesus has too many other things to do, to be bothered with the likes of you.” Demons will try to discourage you into believing, you are not under the power and protection of God through faith. *But demons do that on the basis of your works.* The reality is God accepts you on the basis of your faith commitment to Him, not on the basis of your failure to perform.

See Chapter Seven, My Spiritual Position In Christ. He loves you and knows you are trying to live the Christian life, even if you are not successful every time you try.

Rom. 10:9-10; “. . . if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord (manager), and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth confesses, resulting in salvation.”

This means, (1) do you believe God raised Jesus from the dead? (2) Have you confessed Jesus as manager of your life? If so, then you have the promise of salvation. This is true, based on the Word of God. The Word of Jesus is your foundation. What you have to do is stick with Jesus such that He can change your heart, and you can come to “know” that He is real. Right now, you may believe God raised Him from the dead, but in the future, you will come to “know” God raised Him from the dead. Coming to “know” God raised Him from the dead, provides absolute assurance of your salvation. Meanwhile, since your faith is fragile, you must get it in your head what the Scripture actually says; and point to what the Scripture says, every time the demons try to fool you into believing you’re not saved. This is spiritual warfare. The same goes for all other issues of faith. If the Scripture says it; it’s true. That’s how you know the truth from a lie. Believe it or not, the demons know the Word of God; so you better know it.

I have already said, the believer’s war is in three areas; with the flesh, with the world, and with evil supernaturalism (Eph. 2:1-3). We will look at each of those areas in more detail so we can know how to defeat our enemy who wars against us on those fields of battle.

The Believers War with the Flesh

As the natural man lives his life, he has thought patterns which are different than God’s thought patterns. That means the natural man believes some of his thoughts and actions are right in his own eyes. Matthew comments, “. . . But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from

the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. These are the things which defile the man; . . ." (Matt. 15:19).

On the negative side, these things need to be cleaned up. But these are the very things which demonic forces use to defeat you and make your life miserable. If angry, they may enhance that anger to wrath which may cause you to end up killing somebody. If sensually is aroused, they may enhance that arousal to lust which may cause you to end up committing adultery. Christians must crucify the flesh; just like Jesus was crucified (Gal. 5:24). Christians must fight off the evil one by prayer, like the one below, to limit the power of the demons, and by forsaking the lusts which so easily entangles us (Heb. 12:1).

On the positive side, in II Pet. 1:5, the believers curriculum, which needs to be learned on the way to achieving the divine nature, talks about adding to your faith; moral excellence. So as a beginning christian, one should clean up his life, and Romans 6, 7, 8, show *how* to do that. Galations 5 tells us *what* we should clean up, and *what virtues* we should cultivate. In addition, we must pray and ask the Father to come to our aid by destroying the fortresses of the evil one and fill us the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is needed to accomplish the changes He and we must wrought in our lives.

The believers war with the flesh usually involves more than just the flesh; it involves a demonic component also. The lust part plus the enhanced factor of the demonic spirit making the lust worse; the added "sin energy." Teachers of christianity usually talk about the problem of the flesh; sexual sin, lying, etc.(Matt.15:19; Rom. 1:21-32; Gal. 5:16-21). Dr. Murphy gives a good definition of the flesh:

"The flesh with which we daily battle, therefore, is that inborn moral defect we all carry within our body, our soul and our spirit which is inclined toward interdependency, self-centeredness, and physical, emotional, and intellectual

delights which enhance our selfishness, pride, and inflated self-esteem and self-satisfaction."²

Novice christians trying to change from their old life to sanctification in the new life; must allow Jesus to manage their life, and want to change. But we, as mature christians, must be intercessors for people who can't or don't pray against the demonic powers, which plague the ones that cannot defend themselves. That is, those ones who may be potentially defeated by the evil one. I am not defending their fleshly desires, I am saying they need help to defeat the spiritual component which keeps them in bondage to their fleshly sin (Rom. 6-7). Intercession takes away the power of the evil one, and allows them to break free (II Cor. 10:3-4, 11:3; Luke 10:17-18). Here is the keys to success for the individual seeking freedom from sin. God gives grace greater than sin (Rom. 5:20).

James 4:6-8, ". . . But He gives greater grace. Therefore it says, 'God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts, you double minded."

This gives great power to the one seeking freedom from sin. Do what God asks; resist against the temptations, and you will get free. However, the relief may only last a short time. The devil must leave but you can bet he will be back with temptation again. Your relief may only last literally one minute. So, what do you do? The same thing over again. Do what God asks, resist against the temptation, and you will get free. This repeated effort is part of the training. The temptation will persist until the demons believe you won't give in again. This may take awhile but you will succeed. It helps to draw near to God. Cry out to Him for help (Heb.4:16) while being tempted. The demons

2. "Spiritual Warfare," p.38.

hate that.

II Cor. 10:4-5: “. . . for the weapons of our warfare and not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ,”

This is the power to change people’s thinking. The truth of God is making a difference in people’s lives. Speaking truth to people destroys speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God; this is what it means to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.

We are told to cast out demons (Matt. 10:7). We are given the authority in the name of Jesus to do so (Luke 10:18). An example is given in Acts 16:18, where Paul said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out at that very moment.” We are no less gifted. If you come across a demon in somebody, you can do the same, cast it out. I will talk more about that later. Its the same for breaking away from the love of world.

The Believers War with the World

The believers war with the world is not quite an accurate statement. It is the *love* of the world that is the problem. It is the lust of the eyes, it is loving the things which you see, you want and can possess, which is the problem.

I John 2:16 says, “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world.”

Our focus in this section will be how the lust of the things which glitter, make us magically comfortable, and give us pride in the having, contaminate our life. The world contaminates our life because we don’t see the world in its proper Godly perspective. The proper perspective is: see the beautiful creation, isn’t the creator won-

derful? But the natural man just sees the world and does not see the creator, because of separation; so he just admires and loves what he sees instead of the one who created it (Rom.1:20-25). And, guess who reinforces that notion; you guessed it, the evil one and all his hordes. The evil one always wants us to get our mind off Jesus, and onto anything else, including what the world has to offer. And, that is considerable.

The demons hate God and men, so they take advantage of men’s naivete and suggest to some, that they should start and join organizations like the Sierra Club and Greenpeace, who care more about the creation than they do the creator. When the creation becomes more important than the creator; that is idolatry. But what is the balanced view?

Herein, is the balance of christians living in the world but not being a part of the world. *Not making things more important than God; in your particular life.* That’s the secret.

I John 2:15, “Do not love the world, nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

Why is that? Love for the Father and love for the world are mutually exclusive. What you love is what you put your time and effort into. And, what you put your time and effort into is what you love. You cannot serve two masters; God and mammon; if you love the one, you will hate the other, or you will hold to one and despise the other (Matt. 6:24). This means you have to give one of them up as first in your life. Its smart to give up the world. The world is passing away; God is forever.

And, its not a function of how much money you have. Its a function of how much “want” you have. I want this, I gotta have that. Or maybe I want to help these missionaries and my church, or my brothers in need. What are your wants? If your wants are things, you can bet demonic forces will plague you. They will whisper how beautiful the things are (lust of the eyes). They will whisper about how important you will feel when you have these things (pride of possessing). The truth is possessing things

only brings satisfaction for a short time, if at all. But you pay for it by having your mind set on the world; because it produces death. And conversely, not having your mind on the spirit (Rom. 8:6).

The lesson here is love of the world produces death. Love of the world is as much your enemy as all the lusts of the flesh. They all separate, and keep you separated, from the love of God. The love of God is the goal of our journey in life. If so, what is the answer to defeating the flesh and the world?

The answer is crucifixion (Gal. 5:24). Jesus went to the cross for us where He defeated sin, death, and the devil. Figuratively, we need to go to the cross and die to our flesh, worldly wants, and the whispers of the devil. We must kill the desires of the flesh and the world and the devil. The cross is where the victory is won. We die to ourselves (Rom. 6:3-4), our own desires of flesh and world. Romans 6 and 7 tell you how.

The Believers War with Evil Supernaturalism

This is the area of knowledge, about which, Christians are most ignorant. Ray Stedman's observation:

“We often hear the idea ‘The enemies of the Christian are the world, the flesh and the devil,’ as though these were three equally powerful enemies. But there are not three. There is only one enemy, the devil, as Paul brings out in Ephesians 6. But the channels of his . . . approach to men are through the world and the flesh.” (Ray Stedman, *Spiritual Warfare*, Multnomah Press, 1975; p. 47³)

There is great insight in these words that points out who we are up against in our sin war; ourselves and evil supernaturalism. There is no one else. Since the Lord Jesus Christ has defeated evil supernaturalism, the sin war is with our-

selves and the deceptions of demons. It is with our sin habits and practices which are wrong, but we think is right (our flawed character), and it is with our accepted deceptions of demons which needs to be exchanged for truth (finite knowledge). Dealing with our sin habits and practices we talked about in the believers war with the flesh and the world. Now, we will deal with demonic deceptions and schemes.

The Strategy of Satan

The overall strategy of the evil one is to attack us in three areas; (1) keeping us ignorant of his schemes; (2) by filling us with fear, dread, and terror of himself and his demonic spirits; and (3) by attempting to gain a foothold in some area of our life.

Schemes are tactics the evil one uses against God's people for hindering, harassing, and defeating Christians and churches in their life and ministry. The following are some examples of their tactics. Keeping you ignorant of them is done by them staying out of your sight. They are like terrorists; here for a moment, then gone. It's like the Columbine school shooters who killed many of their fellow students, then committed suicide. After the deed was done, the demons arranged to kill off the evidence of their works through the suicide of the shooter. No one attributes that horrendous deed to demons. But, they still did it (Jn. 10:10 with Eph. 6:12).

There is often intense emotional, almost irrational resistance to discussing and / or teaching being given to people about spiritual warfare. Some say, “Your seeing a demon behind every bush.” Others say, “Don't give demons more attention than they deserve.” Most of the time, these are schemes of the demons to discourage talking about the subject, under the guise of balance and conservatism. Yet the Scripture lays out in some detail the schemes of the enemy. Here is a biggy.

* II Cor. 2:10-11 - “But whom you forgive anything, I forgive also; for indeed what I have forgiven, if I have forgiven anything, I did it for

3. *Spiritual Warfare*, p. 60

your sakes in the presence of Christ, in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not unaware of his schemes.”

The big scheme is unforgiveness. Unforgiveness gives demons an opening in a life. Unforgiveness allows anger, fear, and / or a negative self-image to develop and fester. These extreme emotions allow demonic activity because they lead to death. See also Gal. 5:18-21. Forgiveness and the work of the Holy Spirit dispels the extreme emotions.

* Eph. 6:10 - “Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” All of the implements of armor speak to exposing the schemes.

The second strategy Satan uses is fear, dread, and terror. Mark I. Bubeck writes about this fear in his book “The Adversary,” as quoted by Dr. Murphy.⁴

“It has been my experience to hear what I consider to be a tragic statement concerning warfare with Satan. There are those who say that if you are not aware of any particular attack of Satan upon you, it is best to avoid any active study of Satan and his working because many who do make such a study come under particular harassment from Satan and his kingdom. It deeply concerns me to hear such statements, because it appears to be built upon the principle of fear.

“According to such thought, Satan is so fearsome and powerful that we’d best not challenge him because of the personal cost to us.

“For too many years, believers in the Western world have shown tragic temerity in any bold use of their authority in Christ. Even the most devoted pastors and christian leaders have joined the ranks of those reticent to face any demonic power in a head-on confrontation. The results are appalling. Any

people who are troubled with demons are ignored or even pushed away from any help they are entitled to receive from our Lord Jesus Christ.

“As I approach this delicate subject, I am full aware of the fear, uncertainty, and reluctance of most evangelical believers to get involved in any direct confrontation with demons. The excesses and extremism of so-called faith healers in this area is well known. Most of us do not want to be identified with such extremism. Some of us may fear that the evangelical hatchet will fall if we dare to venture into an area considered unsafe in the evangelical spectrum of practice. But perhaps the most universal reason why biblically-sound believers avoid confrontation with demonic powers is fear of the unknown. We just wouldn’t know what to do or how to proceed in such a facedown with darkness. It will be the purpose of this chapter to remove some of that fear. I trust that God also may call believers to see the importance of using their authority in Christ.” (Bubeck; 1975; p.79, 116-117)

Contact with the spirit world usually produces fear to the uninitiated individual even when it is direct contact with the Lord or His angels (Dan. 10:5-10). There is no place in Scripture where we are told to fear the devil or his demons. On the contrary, we are told to expose their schemes, resist and destroy their operations in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is true that warfare is scary for the warriors.

But I know by experience, that it is even more frightening for the demons. They know we will always win. They may try to bully you by saying things. You don’t have to allow them to talk. Ask them to be quiet in the name of Jesus Christ. Speak to the demon directly, not to the person, ask the demon his name (Mark 5:9). Speak in a loud voice. The demons answer gives you a clue to what kind of a demon is present. This makes it easier to cast them out

4. Spiritual Warfare, p.69.

later. The way to dispel fear is: be courageous!

* II Tim. 1:7 - "For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power, and love, and discipline."

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

How Demonization Occurs

The third strategy the devil uses is the most dangerous; he attempts to gain a foothold in some area of your life. This is done through sin; either the flesh or love of the world.

Keeping demons out of your life is a really great reason to stay away from sin! We have talked about warfare with the flesh and the world already. Keep yourself clean and keep confessing your sins to others and God. In other words, keep short accounts. It is not being a perfect christian, which is most important, its being forgiven which is most important. Its being forgiven which provides a clear conscience. Its a clear conscience which keeps a person out of the clutches of the evil one. Conversely, its having a guilty conscience which gives demons an opening to your life.

Demonic influence starts with sin. Sinful thinking produces sinful actions. Sinful actions tend to solidify the sinful thinking. They reinforce each other. In a sense, it is like getting a taste of worldly truth (not God's); the experience provides feedback which says for example, "This illicit sex is great; her husband won't find out." So the fun side of sin draws one in for more. Then when they get caught, there is hell to pay; and the demons just laugh.

Potential demonization happens because the *sin energy*, which I spoke of above, produced by the flesh, the world, or pride is taken advantage of by demons speaking to the mind of the person. They say things which cause the person to become further entrenched into the sin practiced. Just the way my wife and I did to each other. Becoming further entrenched causes more bonds. Strings of desire and lust become cords of desire; and after awhile, cords become ropes of desire and debauchery; soon, escape becomes harder to almost impossible. These are the

kinds of cases which require a deliverance of oppressive powers. Drugs are a good example. Sampling drugs become drug practices, and the practices become habits. Habits are harder to break than is a single instance of sampling use. The increased difficulty to be free of the lusts, are the bonds of which I am talking.

Doors Allowing Demonic Entrance

These six doors of entrance to a life do not necessarily mean demons will enter if the door is opened. However, they may enter; and have been known to enter by these doors. Where these doors are opened, the influence of demons, which Dr. Murphy calls "demonization," can vary from mild to severe.

In the same way also, deliverance can vary from instant to prolonged. That is, one could be totally freed at the moment of conversion; to having attached demons, which will make your life miserable until delivered from their influence.

Individuals are always held responsible by God for their sinful choices, even if they are victims of other peoples sins or abuse by evil supernaturalism. Pre deliverance counseling must accentuate a fearless and thorough moral inventory of the victim's life in light of wanting their heart searched and cleansed of sin (Psalm 139:23-24 with James 5:16).

The first door open to demons is the door of generational sin. That is sin which is transferred from a parent to a child. This can come through the parent teaching the child about idolatry, such as Hinduism, Voodoo, Occultism. Early on in a child's life, he thinks those practices are good, not evil. In Scripture, there are divine warnings of the sins of the parents being visited upon the children to the third and fourth generation of those that hate God (Ex. 20:5, 34:6-7; Duet. 5:9).

The context of these warnings is idolatry. In our modern era, idolatry is more sophisticated. It comes in the form of sports; football, baseball, racing. Many parents are avid sports fans of all kinds. Their children learn that sports are good fun, and important to a well rounded,

pleasurable life. Many see it as more important than God. Children learn this from a very young age in many so-called good christian families. The way out is renouncing the idolatry and praying that God will remove the demonic power.

The second door open to demons is abuse. Abuse allows demons into a life because it produces extreme feelings of fear, anger, or negative self-image. Child abuse is the worst kind; they are so vulnerable to the extremes of parents or guardians. By the way, if you have any of these extreme feelings, forgive the people who abused you, before doing any spiritual battle. You must have a clean conscience to be effective.

There are three kinds of abuse; sexual abuse which produces feelings of extreme fear; physical abuse which produces feelings of extreme anger; and psychological abuse which produces extreme feelings of negative self-image. A combination of abuses will produce a combination of extreme feelings. Abuse can lead to multiple personality disorder (MPD). MPD and demonization can combine and make treatment more complex and prolonged. Forgiveness to the people who abused, and prayer against the oppressive spirits, and or deliverance, is the only way out from under the oppression and misery.

The third door open to demons is bitterness, hatred, rage, and rebellion against authority. These manifest themselves against others, circumstances, the law, and God. I talked about stifling these feelings as a part of cleaning up ones life when trying to live the christian life. That is, crucifying the flesh. If one allows bitterness, hatred, rage and rebellion in ones life, those extreme feelings invite demons to make it worse; because the wages of sin is death.

Deliverance will not usually occur until these sins are confessed, rejected, and forgiveness extended by faith to the offending parties.

The fourth door open to demons are sexual sins, immorality, and moral impurity of any kind. Sexually oriented rock music and pornography are attractive openings to demons. Pornogra-

phy is especially harmful because it is a sin easy to keep secret. If one watches pornography, it quickly becomes addictive. This addiction provides the strings that become ropes if not severed. These practices must be renounced, confession made, and forgiveness sought from whomever knows the situation, at least from God. Pray for or ask for, deliverance from the power of the demons.

The fifth door open to demons are curses, hexes, vexes brought against one's life by malevolent practitioners or angry persons operating in the spirit world; speaking vows or curses even in jest. These might come from people in voodoo cults, satanistic cults, or witch covens. Just reading witchcraft courses, books and study guides, teach people how to propagate such curses from which demons flow like water. If involved in any of this you must renounce Satan and all of his demons and works, confess your sin and ask for forgiveness and protection from the Lord Jesus Christ. The sixth door is similar to the fifth.

The sixth door open to demons are occult practices of any kind. There are at least two types; non-christian and christian. Non-christian types are belief in horoscopes or astrology. Use of ouiji boards even in fun, fantasy role playing games like "Dungeons and Dragons," or any other method of associating with the spirit world; invites demons to come into your life. Stay away from acceptance and use of any practices of ESP, clairvoyance, levitation, telekinesis, astral projection, and automatic handwriting. Any involvement in the cults, seances, belief in reincarnation, contact with the dead, Eastern and Mystic religions are also invitations to demons. Kids attachment to heavy metal rock, acid rock, or punk rock music opens them to demonic influence.

Christian type occult activity might include seeking for, or accepting spiritual experiences within a christian context, without examining the practices and motives behind seeking those experiences. If you come across some "christian" spiritual experience, test the spirits (I Jn. 4:1-3). There is a three part test you can apply

to establish biblical validity.

(1) The doctrinal content implied by the spiritual experience; especially with respect to the person of the Lord Jesus Christ (I Jn. 4:1-11; I Cor. 12:3; Rom. 10:9).

(2) The effect produced in one's life: it produces humility not pride; one is drawn closer to the Lord; holiness is increased; obedience to His word increases (Gal. 5:22-23); love for and tolerance of all believers is increased (I Jn. 2-5).

(3) The body of Christ is edified (I Cor. 12-14). Some biblical warnings: II Cor. 11:3-4, 12-15; Gal. 1:8; I Tim.4:1; II Tim. 3:13; I Jn. 4:1-6.

If the activity producing the experiences does not meet the biblical criteria, surely stay away and do not participate. There are many deceivers out there.

Even though Christians have authority over demonic powers; evil supernaturalism will still oppose us, and will strongly resist, such that it may take a period of time in spiritual warfare to overcome them (Dan. 10:10-21; Acts 13 6:12; 16:16-24; 19:11-18). This means that growing Christians may find their Christian growth stifled by demonic powers working through lingering sickness, lingering bad habits like smoking, or other manifestations of generational sins (sins passed down from parents and relatives). Most of these can be taken away by spiritual warfare prayers like the sample shown below. The remainder must involve deliverance to be free from demons.

We are to invade the enemies territory with the liberating power of the gospel, and bring people out of their bondage to sin, Satan and his demons. Just like Jesus did (Matt. 4:23).

* “. . . to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, in order that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in me.” - Acts 26:18

* “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and

lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” - Matt. 28:19-20

This means we not only preach the gospel but we do battle with the forces of evil such that people are able to hear without the interference of demonic forces preventing them from listening.

Personal Protection From Demonic Influence

These are the protection areas with which you need to comply to keep the demons from having an opening in your defence. They are all very important. Ephesians 6:10-13:

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. “Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. “Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm.” Stand firm therefore, according to the following verses, 14-18:

* *Having girded your loins with truth* - The truth is needed to recognize a lie. The truth tells you how to live your life God's way. Sometimes the demons accuse you if they think they can get away with it. If they said, “You have no power over us.” You need to know they are lying (II Cor. 10:4-5). You don't have to be an expert, just know the truths of salvation and of your personal standing with Christ (see Chap. Seven, My Spiritual Position In Christ). You need to know God's Word reasonably well.

* *Having put on the breastplate of righteousness* - Personal holiness is probably one of the most important assets you possess. Demons will accuse you in a second, which muddles the work you are trying to perform. It is confusing and embarrassing if what they accuse you of is true. This means you must be a clean vessel when you confront demonic powers. This is not

to say you have to be perfect, but you must confess your sins to God, and know He has forgiven you (See I Jn. 1:7-9). This provides a clear conscience and thus a defence against false accusations.

* *and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace* - You must know how to present the gospel to an unsaved person. The four spiritual laws are a good outline (See Appendix B). But you need to know more than just that. You must be at peace with God and other men. No outstanding differences.

* *taking up the shield of faith with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one* - You might call these fiery darts. Sometimes a demon might say or do something unexpected, don't let that fluster you. The Holy Spirit will tell you what to say or do. You must be courageous. You have been given a spirit of courage not timidity (II Tim.1:7). With your armor, you can stand against anything the demons can do to you.

* *and take the helmet of salvation* - This is another vital item of armor, your assurance of salvation. If you are not assured that you are in Christ, you should not face a demon on purpose until you are sure. Confess and say out loud the following, "I Renounce the kingdom of Satan 100%; and I Affirm the Lordship of Jesus Christ in my life 100%." Assurance of salvation is knowing that if you died this minute that Jesus would take you to Heaven (See Chap. Seven, My Spiritual Position In Christ). You must be absolutely sure, and the demons will know, and will try to shake your composure or worse if they think you are unsure. Think this issue through before you face a demonic force.

* *and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God* - This is your last defensive weapon, and only offensive weapon. The Word of God contains all the truth you need to counteract anything the demon says. Use it like Jesus did against Satan at the temptation (Matt. 4:3-11)

* *Forgive any wrongs committed against you by anybody else.* See II Cor. 2: 10-11. If you don't, the demons will give you back-talk, saying they don't have obey a sinner. It gives them

an excuse not to comply with what you say. Its nothing but trouble if you don't.

* *Humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God.* See I Pet. 5:6. Spend lots of time in prayer and ask God to hold you up as you go about spiritual warfare; the group I was with spent about three hours in prayer and worship before going to a rock concert. It was wonderful to have the feeling of confidence that the Holy Spirit gave because of our extended time spent with Him. It was very worth it.

* *casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you.* See I Pet. 5:7. Sometimes saints about to do battle with demonic forces may be anxious. Its Ok. A warrior is always somewhat apprehensive when about to do battle. The angels of God will go before you, and the Spirit of God will fill you.

* *With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit,* and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints. You should spend extended time in prayer and worship before facing demonic forces. This provides you and the team time needed to be filled with the Spirit before meeting the enemy. Three hours is not too much time.

Praying for Lost and Oppressed People

Spiritual warfare must be viewed in the context of God's central purpose of loving Him, and loving our neighbor as ourselves. To love God, we must do what He asks and teaches, the best that we can, for His betterment! That means getting into the fight for the freedom of souls which He, and we love. It also means that to love our neighbor we must fight for his soul. That soul is in bondage to the evil one to some degree.

Believers everywhere are burdened for unsaved, backsliding, or oppressed loved ones. However, many are praying in the spirit of fear and worry instead of true faith. There is great need in our society to curtail the demonic workings which plague our ability to evangelize; even when we do have proper theology, and the desire for unity of the Spirit. For our prayers to be effective, they must be offered according to true

faith. Which is, praying according to what the Scripture actually says; for what you want to accomplish. That also includes recognizing the reality that there are demonic forces which interfere with our lives, and that they must be defeated in order to progress in our christian life. Otherwise, we just languish in our spiritual defeat, wondering why God doesn't do something for us. *He has done something for us, we just don't see it and receive it.*

1. *It seems impossible for some, whom we love, to ever get clear of worldly influences such that they would ever be open to hearing the truth of the gospel and believe.* However, it is possible for Satan to be driven out of men's lives such that they will be able to hear. Consider this verse.

* "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle (man door in a large city gate) than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. And they were even more astonished and said to Him, then who can be saved? Looking upon them, Jesus said, 'With men it is impossible, but not with God; for all things are possible with God.'" - Mark 10:25-27. This means it is possible for God to act in your loved one's life such that the demonic forces must release him. Then he will be free to hear and believe. The following is the authorization, and is based on the redeeming work of Christ.

2. *Christ's life, suffering and death paid the price for the redemption of all Mankind.*

* "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which He made proclamation to the spirits now in prison, who once were disobedient, . . ." - I Peter 3:18-20a)

* "For while we were yet helpless, at the right time, Christ died for the ungodly." - Rom. 5:6

Thus, we can say that each and every person, is a part of God's purchased possession. Although your loved one is still a prisoner of Satan, he is also still the possession of Jesus Christ who died to redeem him. Therefore, he can legally be set free from demonic control, and demons must let him go. This means we must,

through the prayer of true faith, claim and take for God, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, that which is rightfully His. In addition, when he is finally free, he still needs to be evangelized such that he might believe and be saved. For more detail on the extent of the atonement, see Chapter Ten, The Atonement of Jesus Christ.

3. *An appeal to God can tear down the strongholds of the demonic forces with the sword of the spirit (Eph. 6:17).*

* "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses. We are destroying speculations and every lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." - II Cor. 10:3-5

This means when we pray for, or are talking to people we must use scripture, or the authorization of the Scripture, against the evil forces. When Jesus was confronted by Satan in the wilderness, He used Scripture against him. We must do the same.

4. *We can ask in the name of Jesus for Him to tear down the fortresses of Satan and the demonic powers through prayer.* Authorization is II Cor. 10:3-5 (cited above) and the following verse.

* "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go to the Father. And whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it." - John 14:12-14

5. *We can ask for and claim the individual by name before God, thank Him for liberating this individual from the demonic forces.*

* "Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and may find grace to help in time of need." - Heb. 4:16

A Prayer of Freedom

During the course of the prayer, you will see numbers in the middle of the sentence; these are

references to the prayer authorizations listed immediately above.

Praying, you might say something like: “Father, I come before your throne of grace, which Jesus has invited me to do (5), on behalf of the one(s) I love, (name of individual(s)), whom Jesus died to redeem from Satan (2). I ask you to release my loved one(s) from the kingdom of Satan because all things are possible with you (1); and because you said you would do it if I asked(4).

“Father, in the name of Jesus Christ and by His blood, I ask that you destroy all the works of Satan which the enemy may have built up in his / her / their thinking (3); namely, (name one or more below if they apply),

False Doctrine, Unbelief, Atheistic teaching, Hatred, Anger, Generational sins of the parents (Duet. 5:9, i.e. Sexual abuse, Physical abuse, Emotional abuse, Occultism), Homosexuality, Pornography, Fornication, Adultery, Idolatry, Witchcraft, Carousing, Alcoholism, Drug abuse, Immorality, Impurity, Sensuality, Strife, Jealousy, Rebellion,

and that all his / her / their thoughts will be brought into the captivity of the obedience of Christ (3). I ask Lord, that you will deliver him / her / them from the power and persuasion of the evil one, namely the lusts of the flesh, the love of the world, and the pride of life (I Jn. 2:16).

“Father, I pray his / her / their conscience will be convicted, and you will bring him / her / them to the point of repentance, and that he / she / they will listen and believe as each hears or reads the Word of God. Thank you Father, for your love and blessing on this one / these ones whom we both love. Amen.”

Intercession Must be Persistent

Intercession must be persistent because sometimes when demons are evicted they may come back (Luke 11:24-26). The defense against demons coming back is coming under the protection of Jesus by belief and faith in Him. This happens by cleaning up your life to minimize

evil influence; and by closeness to Jesus.

Changing to be conformed to the image of Christ takes time and effort, as well as the work of the Holy Spirit in your life. So, some evil influence may creep back in, thus you need to be persistent in prayer, even though the demonic influence seems to have gone away.

Deliverance From Demonic Oppression

This section of study is the most important part in this chapter on Spiritual Warfare. It deals with how to engage in deliverance of our own demons which plague our spiritual life, and also how to lead others step-by-step into victory in their war against evil supernaturalism.

The study is based on James 4:1-8; the most concise passage which reveals how to beat the devil at his own game. It deals with all three dimensions of man’s sin problem; the flesh, the world and evil supernaturalism. This passage takes us through all the steps necessary to complete victory. The primary focus of the passage is spiritual warfare faced by christians, but it can, with some adaptation, be applied to non-christians as well. This passage contains the foundational counseling principles to use with christians who are struggling in their spiritual life.

Deliverance from demonic power is mostly prayer for, and counseling with, the effected person. Prayer by the counselor for the effected person, just to allow them to listen to counseling beforehand to prepare for the actual deliverance from demons, and counseling after the actual deliverance to finish removal of possible deep seated demons and the damaged soul of the individual. The start of the counseling ministry should be for the counselor to pray on behalf of the counselee, a prayer of freedom like the one in the above section. In counseling:

The first step for the counselee is to be honest with himself. A christian must honestly face the sins of the flesh which apply to their life (vs.1-3). The specific list of possibilities is

given in Gal. 5:19-21. Check those out, do any apply? Do any of the following from James 3:14-16 apply?

Bitterness against others, circumstances or God? Jealousy? Selfishness? Self-centered ambition? Arrogance? Self-deception; that is, lying against the truth? Quarrels? Conflicts? Abuse? Hatreds? Envy? The counselor must draw these out into the open where they can be forsaken.

If so, they must be forsaken by repentance and confession as sin, claiming cleansing by the blood of Christ, and forgiveness asked from God. In the case of abuse, the abuser must be forgiven.

The second step for the counselee is to be honest with himself. The world represents all of the thoughts and activities of the lust of the flesh and lust of the eyes. Examples are: wanting to continue a lifestyle into which you have become accustomed; believing you deserve that new car which you really can't afford; not having the things which your peers seem to have. All of these thoughts and activities are under the subtle control of evil supernaturalism (Eph. 2:2, 6:12; I Jn. 5:19). The world tries to draw us in to its influence through pride (James 3:14-4:4), and strong desire (lust of the eyes) for that which pleases us (James 4:2; I Jn. 2:15-17). James affirms that following the world's lustful and prideful values brings hostility between us and God (James 4:4). He further affirms that God's love for us is a jealous love; as is all "marital" love (James 4:5). We are the bride of Christ (Eph. 5:25 with Rev. 19:7).

What is really happening here is the counselee is trying to manage his own life. He has made the erroneous assumption, that if he or she is ever to have anything in this world he must get it for himself. After all, who will provide for me if I, or my spouse, won't or can't? This is what Lordship is all about. It is *God's job* to provide for you; not *your job* to provide for you. It's God's job morally, because you are His bride. It's your job to make yourself ready for the marriage of the Lamb by seeking *first* the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33). As

far as making money, it's your job to cooperate with whatever money making opportunities God has given you; and live within those means (See Chap. Seven, What it Means for God to Manage Your Life).

This means a Christian must honestly decide to break all ties with the world system which exalts pride-of-self; in possessing worldly goods, and / or selfish ambitions (James 4:4-5). And, you must trust God to do His job of taking care of you; His beloved marital bride.

Therefore, cleanse your hands you sinners, and purify your hearts you double minded; be ashamed of yourselves (James 4:8). Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord and he will exalt you (James 4:10).

By faith, we must accept and believe God's great affirmation of Grace. Whatever problem we have, God's grace is greater (James 4:6a; Rom. 5:20). Grace is unmerited favor; getting what we don't deserve. Grace is why God can and will provide for all our physical, mental and spiritual needs. He is full of grace and truth (Jn. 1:14). The problem we have, is changing our thinking, such that we trust what He says in His Word!

Conversely, if we believe we merit grace, we will not experience it; this is just evidence of more pride. Sometimes people say, "Lord, why me?" They are really assuming, 'I deserve better than I'm getting.' So they feel somehow short changed. Here is an illustration of this.

It's kind of like a generous man who gives a person one thousand dollars for no apparent reason. The recipient is overjoyed at the gift. He is happy at the extras it can provide. The following month, the generous man provides another one thousand dollar gift. Wow! The recipient exclaims, and goes on to save some and spend some. The same thing happens each month. Soon the recipient begins to depend on this gift. The following year, the money keeps coming. All of a sudden, after eleven years, seven months of gifts every month like clockwork; the checks stop coming. So the former recipient calls up the generous man and demands his monthly check. What was once a gift of

grace, after a period of grace, now has somehow becomes merited and owed to the recipient. What is wrong with this picture?

Of course, the recipient's thinking has changed. Somehow, over the years of plenty, because he was gifted with the money for such a long period of time, he began to view the gift as owed. Sometimes we also mistakenly view the grace of God, and His provisions for us, as payment owed instead of thanking Him for provisions given. This why God sometimes allows hard times so our wrong attitudes will become right attitudes again. This is how a godly parent teaches gratefulness.

In obedience, the person humbles himself before God and others. Pride is the chief problem of Satan. We must be the opposite of Satan, humble before God (James 4:6b). This means we must turn away from self; that is, self-centeredness, self-gratification, the wrong kind of self-esteem; self-image projection which is pride. Pride was the sin of Satan (I Tim. 3:6-7; Ezek. 28:12-17). Pride is the sin in which Satan traps Christians (I Tim. 3:6-7, 5:9 with vs. 14-15; II Tim. 2:14 with vs. 26). Pride is the main problem area in every christian's life (II Cor. 12:7). God is opposed to the proud to the proud (James 4:6). This gives demons a foothold. Pride must be forsaken, and one must humble himself or deliverance will be stopped.

All of the above is God's preparation in your heart so you can respond to His three great commands and two great promises (James 4:7-8). Submit to God, resist the devil, draw near to God; and the result is: the devil will flee from you and God will draw near to you.

Command One, "Submit therefore to God" (James 4:7a). This command reveals our first step to success; deal with and clean up the sin areas of our life. Confess all your sins so you can be a clean vessel before God (I Jn. 1:6-10, 2:1-2; Psalm 139:23-24). If generational or genealogical sins apply, the counselee needs to confess those sins also (Neh. 1:4-9). Confessing all your sins demonstrates a humbling of yourself, a clean break from those sins, and a desire not to continue in those sins. It implies

true repentance.

The second major submission to God is turning to Him. You have turned away from sin, and now you need to turn toward God. Maybe you have accepted Jesus as savior, but you must accept Him as Lord and manager of your life (Rom. 12:1-2, 6:13; I Cor. 6:19-20). Its kind of like signing a blank contract, and God gets to fill in the blanks with His will for your life. This means you just do what God asks, and God will make your life successful (Jer. 29:11; Pro. 3:5-6). You just do your part; seek *first* the kingdom of God and His righteousness (Matt. 6:33). If you do that whatever happens to you is God's will for your life (Pro. 3:5-6). See Chapter Seven, What it Means for God to Manage Your Life.

Command Two, "Resist the Devil" (James 4:7b). Direct verbal confrontation with, and resistance against, evil supernaturalism. This is the deliverance part, maybe 10% of the counseling; 45% pre counseling before and 45% counseling after the actual deliverance.

How do we resist him? The same way that Jesus did, by verbal confrontation based on the truth of God's Word (Matt. 4:1-11 with Luke 4:1-13)

To the counselor: You can say, "In the name of Jesus Christ, come out of him / her; because it is written that you shall be Holy, for I am Holy" (I Pet. 1:16).

To the counselee: (1) declare to him your testimony of cleansing from all sin, and freedom from Satan's bondage through the Lord Jesus Christ; (2) declare that it is written that Jesus came to proclaim release to the captives (Luke 4:19), and therefore I am free. The demons will leave the counselee.

Promise One, "He will Flee from you" (James 4:7c). He must flee, the choice is not his. Often it is instantaneous. Usually it is progressive; a continuous process. While demons will complain, bluff and argue, they will eventually leave. If they try to argue, you can demand they be quiet, and leave, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Mark 1:25).

Command Three, "Draw near to God"

(James 4:8a). Worship Jesus, praise Him, read the Word, show your love for Him, Lift Him up as you witness. This and additional counseling, if needed, is the second 45% of freedom from demonic forces.

Promise Two, "He will draw near to you" (James 4:8b). You will begin to sense His presence in your life as never before.

Warning! Do not reverse the chronological order, nor skip, any of these essential steps. It is God's blueprint for victorious spiritual warfare.

Spiritual Counter Attacks

When the disciples of Christ invade the territory of Satan, by talking to unbelievers or oppressed Christians about Christ, the demonic powers resist by causing anger, or causing retreat, or any one of several other defences in the person. However, the victorious disciple of Jesus Christ, by his faith, has the same authority and power as the twelve disciples (Jn. 14:12-13), including power over the demons which prop up the oppressed person's resistance. This means the disciple has options in dealing with the situation. You can say these things even if the person is blustering or babbling; just say what you must anyway.

To a person making a demonic disturbance, the disciple might say (to the demon), "In the name of Jesus Christ, be quiet and come out of him" (Mark 1:25). Jesus' example.

To a person becoming angry, the disciple might say calmly, "In the name of Jesus Christ, please be at peace; because it is written, cease from anger, and forsake wrath" (Psalm 37:8).

To a person retreating, the disciple might say calmly, "In the name of Jesus Christ, please stay and listen; for it is written, hear the Word of the Lord of hosts" (Is. 39:5). This way you can address the person, and the demon, without being offensive to the person.

To a person lying to you, the disciple might say, "In the name of Jesus Christ, tell the truth; for it is written, keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit" (Psalm 34:13)

God desires to heal you from the oppression of the evil one. He desires you to be free indeed from all demonic influence. He desires you to be close to Him. That takes a combined effort of God and the self; submit therefore to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you.

God Desires to Heal Sickness and Disease

Before we talk about healing we have to talk about the kinds of sickness spoken of in the scripture. There are three types: (1) the sickness unto death; (2) the sickness unto the glory of God; and (3) the sickness because of sin.

The sickness unto death is the one we all partake of at the end of life. It is the physical one decreed by God for all men (Gen. 2:17); unless you happen to be around for the rapture of the church; in which case, you will ascend like Jesus did, and not taste death. *The sickness unto death cannot be healed*. When God says it is your time; that's it. However, as a Christian, your separation from the body allows you to come into the presence of Jesus (II Cor. 5:8).

How do you recognize a sickness unto death compared to the other types of sickness? I am not sure you can. I would ask for healing for all my sicknesses, and the ones not healed are probably sicknesses unto death. In which case, you accept that God's grace is sufficient (II Cor. 12:9).

The sickness unto the glory of God is one in which God gets direct, full glory. Jesus bringing Lazarus back to life is an example (John 11:1-46). As we see later, Lazarus died again physically. So this type can be healed as Jesus demonstrated. But since he died again, he died from some failure of a body part; a sickness unto death. It was his time to go. Another example of a healing to the glory of God is the case of the Apostle Paul (Acts 9:1-19).

You remember the story; where he was on the road to Damascus, and a bright light shone down and blinded him. His companions lead him into the city, and he was there three days

without sight, where he neither ate nor drank. Ananias, a disciple, was told by the Lord to go lay hands on him that he might regain his sight. Although afraid of Saul's reputation for harming Christians, he went and laid on hands, whereby Saul received back his sight. He said it was like scales dropping from his eyes. Jesus healed him through the disciple Ananias. He went on from there to do ministry.

God blinded him and God healed him. These miraculous happenings God used to get his attention; the hard way. His heart was right even before this incident, but his zeal was not according to knowledge. God was certainly glorified because he went from extremely against christians, to extremely supporting christians. God always knows what it takes to turn a man around.

The third type, ordinary disease and sickness, caused by sin throughout the world, instigated by demonic powers, can be healed (Matt.10:1). However, there are exceptions; Paul's thorn in the flesh is talked about in II Cor. 12:7-10.

“And because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet me--to keep me from exalting myself! Concerning this I entreated the Lord three times that it might depart from me. And He has said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.’ Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me. Therefore, I am well content with weaknesses, that the power of Christ may dwell in me.”

Healing and Faith

Healing by God is a very important subject because it speaks to our ability to *believe* God, as well as getting well from our sicknesses. Most times we just want to feel better. We don't nec-

essarily care how God feels.

If we ask for healing, and it does not happen, maybe we think God does not *want* to heal at that time. Maybe we think we're not good enough for God to heal us. There are a thousand reasons one could come up with, which might give God reason not to heal.

The problem is our lack of faith. We read into the situation *doubt* that God wants to heal. We say, “God please heal me.” But understood in that request is the caveat, “if you are willing.” After all, we can't demand that God heal, can we? Of course not! But this is not faith because He is already willing. This is what you must know and believe.

Jesus started His public ministry by going to the synagogue in Nazareth, and declaring who He was, and what He would do in Israel. This defined who He was, and what He was there to accomplish. He went in, stood up to read, and someone handed Him the Isaiah scroll. He read Isaiah 61:1 and part of verse two.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor. “He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are downtrodden, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.”

Then He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down.

This action demonstrates His purpose and goals upon Earth in total. This action defines what He was about; and therefore what we should believe and expect from Him. From the above, we can see His purpose in ministry consists of five goals.

- (1) To preach the gospel to the poor.
- (2) Proclaim release to the captives.
- (3) Recovery of sight to the blind.
- (4) Set free those who are downtrodden.
- (5) Proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.

Matt. 9:35-36 - “And Jesus was going about all the cities and the villages, teaching in their synagogues, and pro-

claiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness. “And seeing the multitudes, He felt compassion for them, because they were very distressed and downcast like sheep without a shepherd.”

Even though He had five goals, only the one is applicable to this section of writing. Thus, I will not mention the others.

Proclaiming Release to the Captives

Jesus came to proclaim release to the captives, which is freedom from sin, sickness and death. The proclamation, because it is a proclamation, means that all who are in Christ Jesus have the benefit of freedom from sin, sickness and death. That is why it is a proclamation.

Disease and Sickness Matt. 4:23 - “And Jesus was going about in all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every kind of disease and every kind of sickness among the people.”

Unclean spirits, Disease, and Sickness Matt. 10:1 - “And having summoned His disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.”

Unclean spirit and Sickness Luke 13:11-12 - “And behold, there was a woman who for eighteen years had a sickness caused by a spirit; and she was bent double, and could not straighten up at all. “when Jesus saw her, He called her over and said to her, ‘Woman, you are freed from your sickness.’”

Jesus decreed He would heal our infirmities, and take away our diseases. If He said it, He is willing. As Christians today, we have the same imputed freedoms. But these freedoms must be appropriated by true faith; just as they were appropriated by faith in His day, under His min-

istry.

The thought that He might *not* be willing is just an excuse that the Devil offers, to cover our pride if it doesn't happen. Us, asking God to heal, “if He is willing;” when He has already said He wants to heal, is not faith. It demonstrates doubt. You must take God at His word. Believe what He says, and act on it. That is faith.

Jesus wants to heal you; and even more, He wants to increase your faith in Him. That is, He wants to develop your ability to believe Him in dealing with future issues of faith. That means you must believe He *will* positively heal, because He said so. In other words, *assume He will heal you.*

On the other hand, who does not want you to be healed? Who, especially, doesn't want your faith increased? Yes, the demonic forces. This is why they work so hard against you. They get a lot of success.

They will be defeated by Jesus if you will just believe what He says and act on it. Don't let the demons tell you different. When you act in faith, after the healing, you can look back and say, “See everyone, this is what God did for me.”

This is the start of being a “knower.” Before one is a “knower,” one is a “believer,” a person of faith. A person of faith believes and acts on his belief. If you believe the above scripture and act on it, you will be healed. When God heals, you have the healing experience. This added experience in your life makes you a “knower.” It is God doing something in your life which gives you the experience that He is real.

Take joy in the fact that He wants to heal you. Delight in the fact that He wants you to love and appreciate Him because He is such a wonderful God (Psalm 37:4). Let Him manage your life. Let Him do in your life as He wills. You just believe that whatever happens, it is His will for your life, right then.

When you are ready to be healed, ask Him once, verbally, to heal you. Immediately, thank Him verbally for healing you. The verbal part is

your confession of your faith. The symptoms will probably not go away. But you just keep thanking Him, verbally, for healing you, based on the authority of the above verses. Sometimes you may have to keep thanking Him for weeks or months; depending on the seriousness of the disease.

There is more to this than what meets the eye. There are battles going on in the spirit world that we don't know about (Dan.10:12-13). These battles affect the timing of the outcome. We don't know the timing so we have to allow God to accomplish what we ask in *His* time.

This means we have to keep thanking God for His healing, for as long as it takes to accomplish it; *in fact*. Daniel waited twenty-one days for the answer to his prayer. The most important thing is not to give up.

Not giving up is the test of your faith. The quickest way to get the demons out of your life, and get healed in fact; is, every time you become aware of the symptoms, you thank God, verbally, for healing you. Remember, every time the symptoms appear to your awareness, thank Jesus for your healing. After awhile, the demons get tired of trying to deceive, and leave you completely healed. "Submit therefore to God. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

Does Our Sin Void His Healing?

The answer is no. But that doesn't mean we can sin voluntarily.

Our tendency is to give up because of the deception of the demons. They put thoughts in your head like; since you haven't been healed or cured, God decided not to heal you. Maybe He decided not to heal because of your xxx sin. Its all deception. The scripture is the truth. See I Peter 2:24 below.

"and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live by righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed."

Jesus didn't bear our sins on the cross for nothing. He bore them for a very serious purpose; our healing. Many times we don't take this truth

serious enough.

Jesus bore the penalty of our sin on the cross which includes the results of sin namely sickness and disease. See James 5:14-15

"Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord; and the prayer offered in faith will restore the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up, and if he has committed sins, they will be forgiven him."

The elders are the authority of Jesus Christ in the local church body. Asking them to come and pray over the sick is the same as asking Jesus to come to you and heal you (James 5:14-15). Just you calling for the elders, demonstrates some faith.

After the elders have prayed over the sick person, the symptoms will probably not go away. The sick person must continue to appreciate God for His healing hand. You must, every day, tell Jesus of your appreciation for His healing through the prayers of the elders.

Again, one must believe that healing has already taken place. You may not see the symptoms go away. Don't give up telling Jesus how much you appreciate His healing you; by thanking Him for it. Your gift of appreciation demonstrates your faith.

Summation

The most important issue is your ability to believe what Jesus tells you. If you trust His Word, He will not let you down but you must trust Him to manage your life in the area of faith issues. If He said it, He will do it because He wants you to believe what He says.