

# **The helmet of Salvation**

***And the whole armor of God***

**Don Randolph**

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**AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, AND WATCHING THEREUNTO WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL SAINTS. Ephesians, Chapter 6, Verse 17.**

**FOR THE WORD OF GOD IS SHARPER THAN A TWO-EDGED SWORD. Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verse 12.**

**AND HE HAD IN HIS RIGHT HAND SEVEN STARS AND OUT OF HIS MOUTH WENT A TWO-EDGED SWORD. Revelation, Chapter 1, Verse 16.**

## INTRODUCTION

Many of the principles in this book are taken from a book I wrote several years ago called “SPIRITUAL WARFARE AND THE CRAFT OF DECEPTION.” The theme of this book however, focuses mostly on the Helmet of Salvation than on the other armor we have in our spiritual arsenal.

The Helmet of Salvation is the most important virtue in our spiritual arsenal. Without the Helmet of Salvation the rest of the armor of God is useless. Unless Christians know how to use the weapons God has placed at their disposal to fight their spiritual enemies with they will continue to remain entrenched in their cognitive carnal thoughts. It is imperative that each Christian learn how to cast down the thoughts and imaginations that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God.

Carnal mindedness has kept the people of God from experiencing all that Jesus paid for them on the cross with His precious Blood. Understanding the enemy Satan is lying in wait to defeat each Christian and how to recognize his tactics is the beginning of experiencing victory over the enemy of our souls. We must never forget that the enemy will continue to test our faith and resolve whenever and wherever he detects an opportunity to kill, steal, and/or destroy.

When we put on the Helmet of Salvation we will understand the strategies of the enemy and how we can defeat him on the battlefield of our minds. Putting on the Helmet of Salvation will also give us spiritual insight into how we can dwell in peace and harmony with ourselves and others around us. When we understand that our greatest

enemy is SELF, we will be on the right tract to freeing ourselves form carnal mindedness by and through the power of the Holy Spirit. When we see Christ our Savior and Redeemer as our only hope of salvation and the only hope of true peace in our lives, we will be on our way toward total victory over Satan and our spiritual enemies.

Many Christians languish in fear, doubt, and unbelief because they do not have the knowledge they need to defeat the enemies of their soul. Knowing we have been given power over ALL the works of Satan is the beginning of finding true freedom in Christ. Knowledge and understanding are powerful weapons in our quest to overcoming and defeating the enemy who is waging war on the battlefield of the mind.

# CHAPTER 1

## SALVATION

The word “salvation” in the Hebrew is derived from the Hebrew word “yshuwah.” It is a word which is related to the Hebrew word “Yeshuwa” or Joshua which is the Hebrew name for Jesus. Jesus means “Savior.” The Bible tells us that Jesus is the “Captain of our Salvation.” Hebrews 2:10. The Old Testament is filled with many types and shadows. In the Old Testament the word “salvation” usually referred to God “delivering” or “saving” the people of Israel from evil, danger, and/or their natural enemies.

In the New Testament the word “salvation” is derived from the Greek word “soteria,” which basically means the same as the Hebrew word “yshuwah.” Soteria is derived from the root word “sotor” which means “Savior.” Jesus (Savior) like the song says, saves us from many “dangers, toils, and snares.”

Soteria is an all encompassing word regarding deliverance. As Christians Jesus delivers us from sin, guilt, sickness, trauma, spiritual death, as well as “carnal mindedness.” Deliverance from carnal mindedness or the “old man” is one of the most important aspects of salvation.

If we can be delivered from self-will and self-determination, we will be on our way to finding divine purpose in our lives. Through the blessing of “salvation” we are delivered from sin, sickness, disease, and oppression, as well as ALL the works of the enemy. Through the blessing of this “great salvation,” we are saved from the punishment which was and is awaiting the Devil

and his angels. See Hebrews 2:1-3.

## **DELIVERANCE FROM CARNALITY**

When we put on the “Helmet of Salvation,” Jesus, who is our salvation delivers us from the carnal thoughts that war against our souls. The will, as well as all carnal desires, motives, and attitudes are hindrances to our complete deliverance from self. Being delivered or saved from ourselves will lead us into greater spiritual freedom as well as many opportunities to receive the blessings of God.

Carnal thoughts and ideas will always hinder our walk with the Lord and will continue to plague the hearts and minds of those who have not been delivered from the “works of the flesh.” The Bible tells us that to be carnally minded is death, and that the “carnal mind” is the enemy of God. Read Romans 8:7. The Bible also tells us that to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

We cannot be at peace with ourselves or with God if we are carnally minded. The carnal mind is devoid of truth. Without truth the mind cannot be transformed into the mind of Christ because Christ is the Truth. It is the truth that makes us free and transforms us into the Image of Christ.

If we are going to be delivered from carnal thoughts, we must change the way we think as well as the things which we continually think about. Carnal mindsets can only lead to carnal emotions, attitudes, and desires. Carnal mindsets will always reject the truth and take into captivity the thoughts that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God.

When men reject the truth and lean upon their own understanding they cannot and will not possess faith. They

will reject the “instructions in righteousness” which can only come from being spiritually minded. They cannot receive the life Jesus offers to all who will repent of their sins and find the salvation which is freely offered to them.

## **THE SOURCE OF SALVATION**

**SALVATION IS FOUND IN NO ONE ELSE, FOR THERE IS NO OTHER NAME UNDER HEAVEN GIVEN BY WHICH WE CAN BE SAVED.** Acts 4:12 NIV.

Jesus is the only WAY to salvation. He is the Truth, the Life, and the Way. Jesus is the only way by which mankind can enter into the gates of Heaven. The Name of Jesus is the only Name that can open the gates of Heaven for a lost and dying world. Christ is the source of eternal life, and without Christ no one can find forgiveness of their sins and the salvation of their souls.

The Bible tells us that “all have sinned and come short of the glory of God.” Romans 10:23. Without Christ we cannot reach the pinnacle of God’s saving grace and glory. Without the source of God’s grace and glory, mankind is doomed to an eternity in the Lake of Fire.

When people find the source of “eternal salvation,” they will find Christ as their Redeemer and Lord. Acknowledging the truth, which is found only in Christ, opens the gateway, not only to Heaven above, but also to Heaven on earth. The promises of God are found only in acknowledging the promise giver who is Christ from whom all heavenly blessings originate. We cannot and will not receive the promises of God without first having faith in the



source of the promises--Christ.

The source of all heavenly blessings and promises are received by and through faith in Christ. Without Christ there is no hope of receiving any of the divine promises and blessings He secured for us at Calvary. The Bible tells us “without faith it is impossible to please God” and that He rewards those who diligently seek Him. Hebrews 11:6.

## **OUR INVISIBLE SOURCE**

**“THE KINGDOM OF GOD DOES NOT COME WITH YOUR CAREFUL OBSERVATION, NOR WILL PEOPLE SAY, ‘HERE IT IS,’ OR ‘THERE IT IS’ BECAUSE THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS WITHIN YOU.”** Luke 17:20-21.

Jesus said the Kingdom of God cannot be seen with the natural eyes. On the earth the Kingdom of God is an invisible kingdom which cannot be seen or felt by our natural senses.

As Christians we must understand that the Kingdom of God nor any of the virtues of the kingdom come through observation. We can see the results of some of the benefits of the Kingdom of God here on earth through the blessings and promises of God we receive at times. The greatest blessings we can receive on earth are those that are invisible to the natural eye. They are the virtues that come with being “one” with Christ. They are

The source of all spiritual blessings can only be found in the invisible Christ and the Kingdom of God that dwells within us. It is the invisible Spirit of Christ that dwells within our hearts (spirits) who is the administrator

and benefactor of the promise of salvation, as well as the spiritual virtues which dwell within us.

Christ in us IS our hope of glory. Christ in us is also our hope of salvation and redemption. Christ in our hearts is the gift that keeps on giving when all other natural gifts fail and/or cease to exist or comfort us. Christ alone is the only one who can quench the spiritual thirst that parches the dry soul. His Spirit is the River that waters a spiritually dry and thirsty ground. Only Christ can feed those who are spiritually hungry with manna from Heaven.

The Bible tells us that “Christ is the image of the invisible God,” and that all things which were created both visible and invisible in Heaven and on earth were created through Him. Colossians 1:15. Christ created an invisible kingdom in our hearts through the power of His Blood. He came to dwell within our hearts to free us from sin, fear, depression, oppression, and spiritual death.

Christ came to dwell richly within our hearts and give us power over all the works of the enemy. He came to give us hope for a more peaceful day, as well as a better, more glorious and prosperous tomorrow. However, the greatest hindrance to receiving all the blessings and promises of God is the carnal mind that opposes truth, righteousness, and faith. God gave us the power to become free from all things that hinder us from experiencing His best when He gave us the mind of Christ.

Knowing and understanding the principles of spiritual warfare can and will free us from carnal mindedness, and establish the Kingdom of God within our hearts AND our minds.

One day I was meditating on the whole armor of God and the weapons our warfare. As I was meditating I saw a vision in my mind of Paul receiving his revelation of

our spiritual “armor and weapons” as he was observing the armor of a Roman soldier. Paul shared those revelations in his epistles to the churches.

Understanding and utilizing the principles of spiritual warfare is of utmost importance to every believer. We have an enemy that is trying to deceive us and destroy our relationship with Christ.

## CHAPTER 2

### THE HELMET OF SALVATION

**PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD THAT YOU MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES.**  
Ephesians 6:11-12.

The Bible tells us to “put on” the whole armor of God because we are at war with unseen forces which inhabit the Kingdom of Darkness in this present world. There are many good books that have been written on the subject of “spiritual warfare” and deception. However, we must never forget that the power in the armor and weaponry the Lord has given us only comes from being “clothed” in Christ. As our roots grow deeper in Christ and our foundations in Him become more secure, we will gain more and more power over the Forces of Darkness.

In our journey through this life on earth we can be assured that the wiles and schemes of the enemy will have no affect on us when we are clothed with the “whole armor of God.” Being crowned with the Helmet of Salvation is the key to obtaining freedom from all the works of the flesh, and gives us the ability to utilize the other spiritual virtues and weapons we have in our spiritual armory.

The war to obtain spiritual maturity and victory over the Forces of Darkness begins on the “Battlefield of the

Mind.” The “Helmet of Salvation” is the most important part of our “spiritual armor” because it gives us insight into understanding and utilizing all the other armor and weapons God has provided us with. I believe that the Helmet of Salvation is the foundation which all the other armor and weapons God gave us is established and rests upon. Putting on the Helmet of Salvation is the beginning of a life of freedom from sin and oppression.

Our salvation is the foundation on which the weapons of our warfare rest. The biblical definition for the word “salvation” means to “preserve from destruction, danger, or great calamity.” Being clothed in Christ as our Savior and Redeemer is a pre-requisite for obtaining and putting on the “whole” armor of God

## **BEING CLOTHED IN CHRIST**

**THE LORD IS MY ROCK, AND MY FORTRESS,  
AND MY DELIVERER; MY GOD MY STRENGTH  
IN WHOM I WILL TRUST; MY BUCKLER, AND  
THE HORN OF MY SALVATION, AND MY HIGH  
TOWER.** Psalm 18:2.

The Bible tells us that the Lord is everything we need as we wage war against the enemy who is trying to destroy our souls. We are told to “clothe ourselves with Christ.” Read Colossians 3:10-12. NIV. When we put on Christ we are putting on the “whole armor of God.” When we put on Christ we are clothed in the Armor of God, and our enemies have no weapon they can form against us that can or will prosper.

The whole armor of God has the power and ability

to guard and keep our hearts safe from all the wiles and schemes of the Devil when he comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The Devil cannot penetrate the whole armor of God when it has been applied to our hearts and minds effectively and correctly.

Without the whole armor of God, we cannot and will not be able to face and defeat the spiritual giants that come to “defy” the armies of God that lack discernment and spiritual fortitude. Without understanding what we have been given through the sacrifice of Christ on the cross and His resurrection, our spiritual battles can and will be lost. That is why the Helmet of Salvation is so important to believers. Being renewed in the spirit of our minds assures us we have the power and ability to defeat all the spiritual enemies of our souls. Ephesians 4:23.

## **THE MIND OF CHRIST**

When we put on Christ we are being renewed in the “spirit of our minds.” When we are putting on the Helmet of Salvation, we are putting on the mind of Christ. The mind of Christ speaks of the desires, motives, and attitudes of Christ. It is Christ IN us that is the hope of our salvation and the hope of glory for us. Without being renewed in the spirit of our minds with the attitudes, motives, and desires of Christ, we will lack the power and understanding it takes to detect and stand against the wiles and schemes of the enemy. Defeating the enemy on the battlefield of our minds assures us we will defeat the enemy in every area of our lives.

Without the attitudes, motives, and desires of Christ, we are just like most Christians who are unknowingly waiting for a catastrophe to happen that they

cannot handle. Without the Helmet of Salvation, Christians will not recognize the schemes of the enemy which are designed to steal, kill, and destroy. Unless our desires, motives, and attitudes are pure, the enemy will find a way to defeat us, first on the battlefield of the mind as well as in many other areas of our lives.

## **KNOWLEDGE, WISDOM, AND UNDERSTANDING**

When we are putting on the Helmet of Salvation, we are putting on the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of Christ which enables us to drive out the ungodly inhabitants (habits and thoughts) of the mind that war against the soul. We cannot and will not be able to defeat the enemy without godly knowledge, wisdom, and understanding.

The Bible tells us that godly wisdom is the principle or the most important virtue we can possess. Proverbs 4:7. With the Helmet of Salvation comes the wisdom we need to fight the “good fight of faith,” and devise winning strategies against our spiritual enemies. Without godly wisdom we will not be able to recognize the enemy when he secretly and stealthfully comes to steal, kill, and destroy. Jesus tells us to be wise as a serpent, but gentle as a dove. Matthew 10:16. Like Eve in the Garden of Eden, if we are not as wise as the Serpent, we will be unable to detect the enemy’s evil devices and schemes.

Without the knowledge of “how” to defeat our spiritual enemies, we cannot and will not succeed in battle on the front lines of our minds. Learning the strategies and principles of spiritual warfare is important if we are going

to defeat the enemy who is waging war against our souls. However, knowledge without understanding of how our enemy wages war is useless. Knowledge without understanding is fruitless and incapable of devising effective defensive and offensive strategies in the battle over our souls. Many well meaning Christians have lost battles they could have won if they had known and understood the principles of spiritual warfare the Bible teaches.

## **LIVING IN THE PAST**

**THEREFORE, IF ANY MAN BE IN CHRIST, HE IS A NEW CREATURE: OLD THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY; AND BEHOLD, ALL THINGS ARE BECOME NEW. 2 Corinthians 5:17.**

In Christ old things have passed away and all things have become new “In Him.” When we become born again, the Spirit of Christ comes to live within our hearts (spirits). Unfortunately, many Christians do not understand that they must be “renewed in the spirit of their minds” in order for them to become completely free from themselves as well as the old man which rises from the dead whenever he desires. When “old man” philosophies, imaginations, and thoughts dominate the minds and hearts of Christians, they are left without spiritual understanding and/or insight. They can be easily blindsided by the wiles and schemes of the enemy.

Many Christians do not know how to free themselves from the ungodly thoughts, beliefs, and ideologies that still plague them. They are spiritually and



emotionally chained to the failures and sins of the past. They will continue to be bound by carnal mindsets until they learn how to free themselves of the ungodly thoughts, imaginations, and sins that so easily besets them. They will also continue to experience defeat until they understand how the enemy uses adverse circumstances and other people to defeat them.

As long as Christians live in the past “harboring” carnal desires and emotions, their sins and the enemy will continue to have power and control over them. Many Christians deceive themselves into thinking they are “walking in the Spirit” because the Spirit of Christ dwells within them. However, this is not the case. If we are walking in the Spirit, we will not be subservient to the flesh. If we are walking in the Spirit, vain imaginations and sin will not have dominion over us.

The “renewing of the mind” is of utmost importance for Christians if they are truly going to be free from the sins and evil imaginations they procured when they walked in the same darkness which continues to permeate this present world. If they were truly walking in the Spirit, sin would no longer have dominion over them, thus their cognitive thoughts would be pure and holy instead of unholy and impure.

Putting on and keeping on the Helmet of Salvation will ensure Christians they will be victorious on the Battlefield of the Mind. When Christians do not understand or even acknowledge they are at war with the Forces of Darkness, they have already been defeated. The good news is there is always hope for those who desire to stand against the onslaught of the enemy as they put on the Helmet of Salvation, pick up their cross, and follow Christ.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **THE DREAM OF THE HELMET OF SALVATION**

First, I want to say that the Helmet of Salvation is not something we can see with the natural eye. It is an invisible helmet which we put on as our minds become renewed as we grow and mature in Christ. Maturity in Christ comes as we walk with Christ and become conformed and transformed into His Divine Image.

As we grow in Christ and become transformed into His Image, our ability to walk vigilantly and watchfully increases. We will be able to understand and “recognize” all the strategies of the enemy and cast down every high thought that exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

Putting on the Helmet of Salvation is as simple as praying and seeking the Lord for wisdom and understanding. Jesus is our Wisdom. Jesus is the Light of the world. In the Bible light speaks of spiritual understanding. Jesus gives us understanding in order for us to live a spiritually prosperous life free from sin, deception, and the wiles and schemes of the enemy.

Jesus said the enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The Bible teaches simple strategies that enable us to defeat our spiritual enemies when they come to steal, kill, and destroy. When we are being renewed in the “spirit of our minds,” we are putting on the Helmet of Salvation that gives us the knowledge and understanding of how to “put on” and utilize the “whole armor of God.”

## THE MOTORCYCLE HELMET

In the dream I had regarding the ‘Helmet of Salvation’ I was getting ready to go on some kind of ministry trip with several other ministers. We all owned motorcycles, and we were going to ride our motorcycles on the ministry trip. There is much symbolism in prophetic dreams of motorcycles and ministry trips. However, the symbolism in my dream regarding those symbols are components of another message.

The other ministers had already put on their motorcycle helmets, mounted their motorcycles, and were ready to leave for the trip. I, on the other hand, did not have my motorcycle helmet with me, and I had to go back into the house where we were all staying in order to get my helmet.

I walked into the house and went into the room where all the motorcycle helmets had been stored. I began to get angry because I saw that someone had taken my helmet. I knew someone outside waiting for us was wearing “my helmet.” I looked around the room trying to find another helmet so we could all leave on the ministry trip together. One of the ministers who had walked into the house with me saw that my helmet was missing, and he started looking around the room with me for my helmet.

I picked up a small helmet, but I saw it would provide me very little protection and was way too small for my head. I laid the helmet back down on the shelf where I had found it. I was getting upset because I knew someone outside had entered into the house and took my helmet. Now, I was without a motorcycle helmet. I knew I would be unable to go on the ministry trip without a helmet.

Suddenly I looked down at the floor in front of me

and saw a bag. I picked up the bag and pulled out a motorcycle helmet. This helmet was different than any helmet I had seen before in my life. I have owned several motorcycles during my lifetime, and to this day I have never seen a helmet like the one I found in the bag. The helmet I had found in the bag was quite unique.

At first, I thought this helmet would not be something I could wear travelling the road on the ministry trip. I was disgusted at first thinking “this helmet” will not work for me. It was not very stylish, and it certainly did not look like my old helmet or any helmet the other ministers were wearing.

As I began to look closer at the helmet, I noticed there was writing all over it. The helmet was made to cover the “whole head,” including the entire face. There was only one opening in the helmet. The opening was at the bottom of the helmet and was just “big enough” to allow me to put the helmet over and onto my head.

I finally realized this “helmet” was no ordinary motorcycle helmet. It was the “Helmet of Salvation.” I knew the Lord was going to teach me some things regarding the Helmet of Salvation through this dream of the motorcycle helmet.

## **THE WORD OF GOD**

**MY SON ATTEND TO MY WORDS; INCLINE THINE EAR TO MY SAYINGS. LET THEM NOT DEPART FROM THINE EYES; KEEP THEM IN THE MIDST OF THINE HEART. FOR THEY ARE LIFE TO THOSE THAT FIND THEM, AND HEALTH TO ALL THEIR FLESH. Proverbs 4:20-22.**

The writing on the motorcycle helmet represented the Word of God. The Word of God covered the entire helmet. We must remember the Helmet of Salvation is not something we can see with the natural eyes. It is invisible to the naked eye; yet, it is the Word of God that establishes, transforms, and conforms us into the Image of Christ.

There were no eye sockets or openings one could see through when they donned the Helmet of Salvation. In other words, there is no place in the Helmet of Salvation through which our natural eyes can see. This is because we are not supposed to see through the eyes of natural man, but through the eyes of Christ. The eyes of our spiritual understanding can only be enlightened when we are seeing with the eyes of Christ. When we have on the Helmet of Salvation, we will be “seeing” through the eyes of Christ. The “Light of the World (Christ)” gives us spiritual insight in order for us to “walk in the spirit” in this world

The Bible tells us that “in Christ” we walk by faith and not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7. When we are wearing the Helmet of Salvation we cannot and do not see through the eyes of natural man, but through the eyes of the Spirit of Christ that dwells within us.

The Helmet of Salvation is designed to cover the entire head, including the ears. The Bible tells us to “listen” to what the Spirit is saying to the Church or Churches. If we do not have on the Helmet of Salvation, we cannot hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church as well as to each of us individually.

We are not to be led by any spiritual voices other than Christ, who is our Redeemer and Jehovah God, who both speak with the same voice. The words they speak will always line up with the written Word of God which was written all over the helmet. The voice and Word of

God is distinct and pure. You will never be led astray by anyone when you are listening and adhering to a voice that lines up with the Holy Scriptures.

## **THE VOICE OF WISDOM**

**SO THEN FAITH COMES BY HEARING, AND HEARING BY THE WORD OF GOD.** Romans 10:17

Hearing and acknowledging what the Spirit is saying to us is the **KEY** to obtaining great faith. When we continually and intently “listen,” “hear,” and “obey” what the Spirit is saying, it produces faith in our hearts. The faith in our hearts is a “shield” that is able to extinguish all the fiery darts of the enemy. The Shield of Faith is established within our hearts as we are transformed into the Image of Christ by the renewing of our minds. As we continue to walk daily with Christ and seek to become more Christ-like, we will become **FILLED** with His fullness.

The voice of wisdom says “I wisdom dwell with the prudent.” Proverbs 8:12. Listening and adhering to the “voice of wisdom” gives us the spiritual insight and understanding we could never gain through natural sources. When we listen to the voice of wisdom, we are listening to the voice of Christ, for **HE IS** our Wisdom.

When we put on the Helmet of Salvation we will not be listening or adhering to the voice of natural reason. God tells us to come and reason together with Him. Isaiah 1:18. He will give us all the wisdom and understanding we need in this world. Hearing and trusting in what the Spirit is saying to the Church will bring peace and stability to every believer.

The Spirit mind must become detached from the

natural or carnal mind if we are going to successfully walk in the Spirit and be free from the things that hinder our faith. With the Helmet of Salvation our will and emotions become subservient to Christ, and the enemy and the carnal mind have no weapon that can or will prosper against us.

The Helmet of Salvation I found had no place where the mouth would normally be located in order for someone to speak and be heard. This is because when we have on the Helmet of Salvation we do not speak with a natural voice. Those who wear the Helmet of Salvation speak with the voice of the Spirit which can only be heard and/or discerned by others who are listening or desiring to listen and be led by the Spirit.

The natural man cannot understand what the Spirit says to the Church. The carnal mind cannot comprehend spiritual things. When we speak with the voice of the Spirit, only those who are spiritually minded can understand what we are saying unless what we say is revealed to them by the Spirit of Revelation. Many Christians do not “hear” what the Spirit is saying to the churches because they are not listening to or for the Voice of the Spirit. They are too busy listening to the voices of natural men and their own “spiritually psychotic” thoughts that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God.

When we hunger and thirst after the righteousness of Christ, the Spirit will reveal to us all we need to know and understand concerning spiritual matters. The key to understanding spiritual things is found only in seeking and knowing the truth. The Bible says that if we “know” the truth the truth will make us free. John 8:32. True freedom only comes from knowing the Truth--Christ.

The Bible tells us to “gird up the loins” of our minds. 1 Peter 1:13. We gird (strengthen) up the loins of

our minds with the truth. Truth cannot make us free unless we “know” and possess the truth. Our minds cannot be spiritually renewed unless we know and understand the truth. The loins of our minds become spiritually renewed when we believe and receive revelation from the Spirit of Truth. It is the truth that transforms us into the Divine Image of Christ.

In order to become transformed into the Image of Christ, we must cast down all human logic and reason. We must change the way we think, act, and react to worldly circumstances. We must listen, act, and react to the voice of godly reason and wisdom. When we have on the Helmet of Salvation, we will “naturally” supernaturally act and react to worldly circumstances by and through the unction of the Holy Spirit.

When we are wearing the Helmet of Salvation, we will be seeing through the eyes of Christ, hearing with the ears of Christ, and speaking with the voice of Christ. Our hearts (spirits) will be melded together with His; therefore the enemy cannot discern the difference between us and Christ because it will be the Spirit of Christ that will be warring against him. When we have on the Helmet of Salvation, we will be portraying the Divine Image of Christ as we walk in the Spirit with Him. The desires, motives, and attitudes of Christ will lead us into greater revelation and power.

The Helmet of Salvation I saw in the dream was orange in color. The color “orange” speaks of power and authority. It can also represent impending danger. When we are wearing the Helmet of Salvation, we become a dangerous and unbeatable foe in the face of the enemy. Satan cannot penetrate the Helmet of Salvation, nor does he have any recourse against the power we have in Christ



when we are wearing HIS helmet.

The Helmet of Salvation gives us all the knowledge and understanding we need to activate and use all the spiritual weapons and virtues we have at our disposal. The knowledge and understanding needed to defeat the Forces of Darkness are eternally entrenched and established in the Helmet of Salvation.

## CHAPTER 4

### THE ARMOR OF LIGHT

**LET US THEREFORE CAST OFF THE WORKS OF DARKNESS AND LET US PUT ON THE ARMOR OF LIGHT.** Romans 13:12.

In the realm of the spirit darkness is the absence of light, and light is the absence of darkness. When the Bible speaks of the “eyes of our understanding” being enlightened, it is speaking regarding our understanding of the spiritual principles that govern the Kingdom of Light. It is also talking about truth and life.

Jesus is the Light that shines through the darkness in this world to enlighten the eyes of our understanding. In Him was Life and that Life was/is the Light of men. The Light of Christ dispels the darkness in the hearts and minds of those who receive the eternal life He offers to all who will accept Him as their Lord and Savior. Read John 1:4.

The spiritual darkness that prevails in the hearts and minds of men can only be dispersed by the Light (understanding) of Christ. The spiritual darkness in this world entered into Creation through the beguilement of the Satan the god of this world in the Garden of Eden. Since that day spiritual darkness has plagued mankind and will continue to do so unless Christ is given the opportunity to dispel the darkness within the hearts of individuals. Today the Serpent still uses the same beguiling tactics to deceive people that he used to tempt Eve in the Garden of Eden. The Serpent has not changed, and neither has his beguiling tactics changed.

## BEGUILEMENT

**AND THE LORD GOD SAID UNTO THE WOMAN, WHAT IS THIS THOU HAST DONE? AND THE WOMAN SAID THE SERPENT BEGUILED ME, AND I DID EAT.** Genesis 3:13

WITCHCRAFT (beguilement) is the art or “practice” of casting spells and invoking evil spirits to deceive, manipulate, control and/or curse people. The word “beguiled” comes from the Hebrew word which means to “seduce and deceive.” Satan’s greatest weapon, the most powerful weapon in his arsenal, is his ability to deceive people.

Satan uses psychological warfare to manipulate and control mankind. His cleverness and cunningness are no match for any human being on Earth who does not possess the mind of Christ. Even Adam and Eve did not discern the Serpent’s craftiness and beguiling ways as he led them into sin.

Sin entered into God’s creation in the Garden of Eden when the Serpent beguiled Eve into partaking of the forbidden fruit. Adam also partook of the forbidden fruit, thus the nature of the mother and father of all mankind was changed. The lust of the eye, the pride of life, and the lust of the flesh then became a part of human nature.

We can see how catastrophic the result of satanic beguilement can be. Eventually mankind became alienated (spiritually alienated) from God. After Adam and Eve partook of the forbidden fruit, they experienced emotions they had never before experienced. Shame, confusion, fear, strife, spiritual adultery, sedition, and variance all entered into the lives of all mankind due to the beguilement of the Serpent “in the beginning.”

The practice or art of beguilement and deception was passed down to the offspring of man from generation to generation. We saw the spirit of beguilement operating in Adam and Cain after they had sinned. They tried to deceive God into thinking their sins were not their fault, but the fault of someone else.

If we are going to win the battle for our souls we must recognize how beguilement works in our everyday lives. Beguilement is one of the works of the flesh which is also known as “witchcraft.” It is the most destructive of all the works of the flesh and must be abolished before all the other works of the flesh can be dealt with effectively.

In Heaven Lucifer deceived himself into believing he could enter into the “sides of the north,” topple the Kingdom of God, and sit upon the throne of the Most High. Self-deception lacks wisdom and is rooted and grounded in envy, which always produces strife. The self-deceiving heart lacks the fear of God. The Bible tells us that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the fruit of righteousness is peace. (Proverbs 9:10). Along with godly wisdom comes understanding, peace, and grace.

In order to defeat our enemy we must have knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. If we are going to gain knowledge, wisdom, and understanding, we must seek the one who possesses all these attributes, Christ our Lord. Christ IS our wisdom as well as the source of all godly knowledge and understanding.

Although we war with the Forces of Darkness, we can continue to maintain peace within our hearts. Every morning when I wake up I know I am going to have to fight my enemy. I also know and am aware of the fact that the battle is one I CAN and will win through prayer and supplication. Our enemy never takes a day off--neither can

we. Satan is thrilled when Christians neglect their prayer life because he knows their relationship with Christ will be adversely affected.

If I wake up one morning and decide I will take a rest from the battle, my enemy will continue to attack. Satan is not interested in fighting fair or conventionally. He never takes a day off--neither can I. I can, however, find rest and peace while I am doing battle by trusting in the only one who can help me through each day, Jesus, my Lord. The battle will be lost if I neglect prayer. Prayer is one of the most effective weapons in our arsenal. If I neglect prayer I am neglecting my influence in the heavenly realm and my opponent, the Devil, is sure to notice and take advantage of the situation.

The Serpent is called “the MOST subtle beast of the field” for a reason. He is the most cunning, crafty, manipulating, and shrewd menace on Earth. He is no longer “The Covering Cherub,” but an evil entity clothed with the darkness of depravity, filthiness, debauchery and sin. Satan now possesses a tail, which according to Revelation Chapter 12, Verse 4, he used to draw or entice a third of the stars (angels) to sin. The angels who sinned were also cast down from Heaven to Earth along with Satan.

The word “tail” in Verse 4 comes from the root of the Hebrew word “karar” which means to dance or whirl as the tail of an animal dances and whirls around. God cursed Satan in the Garden of Eden causing him to crawl upon the ground as a serpent (snake). A snake is merely a head with a tail. Satan wanted to be the “head” and not the “tail,” however he is nothing but a head and a tail. This is not to say that he cannot change his appearance. The Bible tells us he can change himself into what appears

to be an angel of light.

Snakes and serpents represent devils and demons. A snake has no arms, legs or feet. Some snake's power lies in the poison which it stores in its mouth. Other snakes kill by squeezing the life out its victims with its tail (tale).

According to Darwin's Theory of Evolution, the half-man, half-beast (or missing link) had a tail. Darwin's TALE of the tail has brought many men down into the "snake pit" and caused the deaths of literally hundreds of millions of people on Earth. Communism, Fascism and many other isms and schisms are rooted and grounded in the dance of the Serpent's tail. This Beast who was cast down from Heaven to Earth dances around the world with his tail enticing many with ungodly doctrines, theories, religions, cults, and philosophies. Many demons also have tails. I will talk more about this subject later. Most of the demons which I have seen have tails.

Satan's desire for men to believe in the Evolution Theory is an attempt to make them believe they have a "bestly heritage." In reality, since Satan is the Beast, he claims there is a missing link between man and beast. Satan is the link between man and the nature of the beast. Men without Christ are "children of darkness" and will possess the character and nature of the beast. (Jude 10).

There IS a missing link between man and his true ancestral heritage which began in the Garden of Eden. That link is known as Truth. The true genesis of man's existence has nothing to do with theory, but fact. Man was created in the image of God by God. Mankind was created to become a part of God's family. The truth is mankind sinned and alienated himself from God. Fortunately, God sent the Truth, Jesus, who IS the missing link between men and women who do not know God.

## CHAPTER 5

### DECEPTION PERSONIFIED

**EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE IN CHRIST JESUS WILL BE PERSECUTED, WHILE EVIL MEN AND IMPOSTERS WILL GO FROM BAD TO WORSE DECEIVING THEMSELVES AND BEING DECEIVED. 2 Timothy 3:12. NIV.**

We all have the capacity to be deceived if we do not possess and use godly wisdom. God created man to be a “free moral agent” with the capacity to make his own decisions. To be or not to be, to say or not to say, to believe or not to believe are choices we have all been given. It is each person’s responsibility to choose to do the right thing. The excuse “the Devil made me do it” will not work on Judgment Day when all mankind stands before God to be judged for the right and wrong choices they have made.

Because Adam and Eve were deceived in the Garden of Eden, mankind now possesses the capacity to deceive and be deceived. Unfortunately, the Serpent is still deceiving multitudes with his “tall tails (tales) of deception.” Jesus said in Matthew, Chapter 23, Verse 4: **TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU. FOR MANY SHALL COME IN MY NAME, SAYING, I AM CHRIST, AND SHALL DECEIVE MANY.** Christians can and will be deceived if they are not diligent in prayer and diligently seeking to be established in “truth and righteousness.”

I think many Christians believe Jesus is not talking

to them in the above scripture because they do not think Christians can be deceived. I have been in ministry over thirty years and have seen many Christians deceived by Satan. To say “Christians cannot be deceived” is a deceptive and untrue statement which comes from the “tail (tale) of the Serpent.” The scripture tells us we must always be sober and vigilant because the Devil as a “roaring lion” walks about seeking whom he may devour. Wherever and whenever the voice of the roaring lion is heard, we know that danger lurks nearby.

There are many ways in which our adversary can deceive us. The Bible tells us “the heart is deceitful above everything else and desperately wicked.” (Jeremiah 17:9). Many are easily deceived because their hearts (spirit) are prone to be deceptive. If the heart of man did not possess the nature of the beast, whose greatest weapon is deception, mankind would not be so easily inclined to be deceived.

Men are deceived because their hearts have not been transformed by Christ, thus the works of the flesh (see Galatians, Chapter 5) are predominant in their lives. The “works of the flesh,” also referred to as the “bestly nature of man,” are sexual immorality, impurity of mind, strife sensuality, witchcraft, hatred, jealousy, schisms, idolatry, rivalry, drunkenness, orgies, envy, lasciviousness, and bad temper, to name a few. Someone said years ago, “we have met the enemy and it is us.”

Knowing who your enemy is and how he operates is one of the first rules of warfare. If we fail to recognize ourselves (the flesh) as our own worst enemy, we will continue to fall to the deceptive manipulative practices of Satan through our own ungodly desires, motives and attitudes. If we trust in our own inhibitions and worldly wisdom, we will deceive ourselves, and failure will be just



around the corner--even at the door.

If people did not possess the capacity or ability to be deceived, Satan would not be able to deceive them. However, God has given us the privilege and opportunity to worship and pray in order to gain the power we need to win the battle and overcome our enemy. Wisdom and faith in the finished works of Christ will help us to overcome all the works and deceitful practices of the enemy. God has given us the “power of discernment” so we can recognize the evil schemes of the devil, as well as a “shield of faith” to deflect the wicked fiery darts of Satan. Every battle can be won if we recognize who our real enemy is and know that we have been given “power” through the Blood of Jesus over all his works. (Luke 10:19).

## **LABORING**

Before a new life is born a mother goes through a period of transformation within her body. When a seed of life is implanted within her body, she goes through many changes. An expectant mother experiences not only physical, but psychological and emotional changes before a new life comes forth from her womb. In the same way, as Christians we must undergo spiritual, psychological, and emotional changes for New Life in Christ to be brought forth within us. A renewing of the mind, soul, and spirit is essential if we are going to be free from the beguilement of Satan.

The natural man (the old man) must die in order that the “new man in Christ” can receive and utilize supernatural wisdom. The “soul man” must be transformed by the renewing of the mind by putting on the “Helmet of Salvation.” The “spirit man” must cast off the

works of darkness and let the “Light of Christ” come alive within his heart. The “new man” which is Christ in us—the hope of glory, must drive out all the ungodly inhabitants (thoughts) of the mind. Then, and only then, will the promises of God be fulfilled within us. Then the “divine nature of Christ” will rule and reign within our hearts and minds.

When God cast Adam and Eve out of the Garden of Eden, Adam had to toil or work the ground. Toiling and making a living by the sweat of his brow was something new to Adam. Not only did he have to work the ground by the sweat of his brow, but now the ground was full of thorns and thistles.

In scripture the “ground” has always been symbolic of the heart or spirit of man. The spirit is like a garden which not only grows good things but also produces spiritual weeds, thorns, and thistles as well. The carnal mind is fleshly oriented and will always have an inclination to commit sin. The carnal mind can be easily influenced by demonic entities which do not have our minds best interests at heart.

The flesh of man came from the dust of the Earth, but the spirit of man came from God when he breathed the Spirit of Life into Adam. Man is flesh, but he is also a spirit being. For many Christians the spirit within them desires to serve God, but their flesh is weak and easy prey for the “roaring lion” which comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

The words we speak are like seeds, whether they come from God or whether they come from the flesh oriented man. It takes the Word of God, the good seed which is planted by Christ into our hearts, to bruise or mortally wound the head of Satan our enemy. (See Genesis

3:14). We bruise the head of the enemy when we crucify our flesh and take our rightful place in Christ through the power of His Word. If the spirit is weak, the flesh will remain in control and sin will be more appealing than righteousness to individuals.

Sin will become “thorns in our flesh” when we neglect to drive it out of the land (our heart). The Apostle Paul called them “thorns in the side of the flesh.” Those spiritual “thorns” can oftentimes come as friends bearing gifts of deception. They may bring offerings which look good and appealing to the flesh, however, in reality they produce spiritual neglect, fear, and despair, along with many other problems.

In a dream I had a few years ago I was walking around in what looked like a hospital room. As I walked around in the room, I saw people lying on hospital beds and carts in fetal positions. I recognized some of the people, and others I had never seen before.

I noticed that all the patients who were lying on the beds and carts had what looked to me like vines with thorns and thistles sticking in their bodies from head to toe. These thorns and thistles reminded me of the crown of thorns which was placed upon the head of Christ before He was crucified. The crown of thorns which pierced the head of Jesus represented the curse of ungodly thoughts, ideas and philosophies which the enemy has implanted in the minds of people since “the beginning of time.”

Instead of helping the people to remove the thorns and thistles from their bodies, doctors and nurses were going from patient to patient pushing the thorns and thistles DEEPER into their flesh. Each time they pushed the thorns and thistles deeper into the flesh of the patients, the people would cry out in excruciating pain. The deeper the

thorns and thistles were pushed into their flesh--the deeper and more painful the wounds became.

I was astonished that the doctors and nurses who were supposed to be helping these people were instead making their problems worse by inflicting more pain on their bodies. Immediately I started going around pulling the thorns and thistles out of the patients. The people would cry out in great pain and anguish as I pulled the thorns and thistles out of their flesh. After they recovered the people thanked me for helping them get free of all the pain and sorrow which had satanically impacted their lives, spirit, soul, and body.

The patients, of course, were those people who had been entangled by the cares and deceitfulness of the world and the beguilement of the enemy. The doctors and nurses in the dream were their friends, and those in ministry who Satan had used to cause great pain and destruction in their lives through deception and beguilement.

If we do not put forth a concerted effort to keep our Garden of Eden (our hearts) free of thorns and thistles, we will suffer much pain and sorrow. We will be like the people in the hospital who were unable to get free from the "seeds of destruction" which had been planted by the enemy and watered by the ignorance of friends and ministers who lacked wisdom and understanding. It is time for us to go forward and not look back at what the enemy has done in our lives, but look at what God has done for us and what He desires to do for us now. When wisdom is planted in our hearts, it will produce the fruit of truth and righteousness within us.

Now is the time for planting, reaping, and harvesting in God's Kingdom. However, we must keep our own garden (heart) free from "seeds of destruction."

Let us go forward and fight the good fight of faith and trust in the promises of God which are “yea” and “amen.” We must be diligent in casting off the works of darkness which the enemy has planted and tries to plant in our hearts and minds.

As a mother protects and nourishes the seed which is planted in her womb until the child is born, it is our responsibility to care for the seed (Christ) within the womb of our heart. We must be diligent and make sure the seed of God’s Word brings forth “new life” conceived in righteousness and truth. That seed within our hearts must be fed with the Word of God and watered by the Spirit of God before its true potential can or will be realized.

Until the thorns and thistles have been removed from the garden of our hearts, we will be unable to help remove them from the hearts and lives of others who are in need of help. We must plant within the hearts and minds of others “seeds of righteousness and godliness,” not seeds which will ultimately end up causing them more pain and destruction.

## CHAPTER 6

### BEGUILEMENT

Beguilement, or witchcraft, which basically is the same thing, is the door through which all evil enters into the lives of people. James 3:16 is the counterpart to John 3:16. What John 3:16 is to the body of Christ and the Kingdom of God, James 3:16 is to Satan and his Kingdom. James wrote: FOR WHERE ENVYING AND STRIFE IS, THERE IS CONFUSION AND EVERY EVIL WORK.

People are beguiled every day by false or fake news stories, friends, co-workers, and relatives. A lying and deceptive tongue is controlled by the “fleshy work of witchcraft.” Witchcraft is one of the “works of the flesh.” Beguilement is found everywhere truth is challenged and/or suppressed. Beguilement is more prevalent in people’s lives than they know or understand.

In the Garden of Eden Eve was beguiled or deceived by the Serpent, Satan. The definition of “beguile” means to “deceive, delude, seduce and lead astray.” Beguilement is the process by which someone is manipulated by sorcery into fulfilling the wishes or desires of another person or demon spirit. Beguilement and witchcraft are the same thing, and will produce the same results.

In Galatians, Chapter 5, we see that witchcraft is one of the works of the flesh. Witches, through the power of Satan, are able to cast spells upon people through sorcery. Sorcery is defined as: the art of using drugs and/or enchantments to manipulate and control the minds of people. Manipulation is not always performed by

actually drugging people for the purpose of control, but it is done by a “spirit of witchcraft” or sorcery. The witch who is performing the “act of manipulation or sorcery” is also under the “spell” of demon spirits.

The word “witchcraft” comes from the Greek word “pharmakia.” We get our English word “pharmacy” from the Greek word “pharmakia.” Pharmakia, also known as sorcery, deals with the use of drugs, spells, and enchantments which operate to cloud or manipulate the physical and/or spiritual senses of people. In other words, witchcraft or sorcery deals with the use of drugs, medicines, or spells in order to change or control the thoughts, ideas, beliefs or mental dispositions of individuals. The main objective of those who practice “pharmakia” is control and/or manipulation. The benefit will always go to the practitioner when deception is performed by the SPIRIT OF WITCHCRAFT.

Deceptive words and lies can be like an intoxicating drug which clouds and confuses the mind. A person who is attempting to manipulate someone by telling them a lie is actually attempting to put a spell upon them. The person telling the lie is also under the spell of demonic manipulation (witchcraft). People lie to people every day in an effort to “cast a spell” on them for their own selfish reasons. All lying comes from a “spirit of deception.”

Sorcery is like wine which intoxicates and deadens the thoughts and senses of a person to the extent they have indulged. In Revelation, Chapter 17, Mystery Babylon (the harlot) was drunk with the wine of her fornication and the blood of the Saints and martyrs of Christ. In the Book of Revelation, Chapter 18, Verse 23, we see that all the nations of the Earth are deceived by the harlot’s sorceries. The harlot, of course, is the world’s geopolitical, religious,

financial, and military systems which are influenced by Satan, the god of this world.

The world systems operate according to certain earthy principles and philosophies which are nonconforming to the Kingdom of God. The Kingdom of God operates according to spiritual principles which conform to the plan, will, and purpose of God. In a sense, the kingdoms of this world operate apart and separately from the Kingdom of God. This world which we live in has its own god which is Satan. "Satan is the God of this world" (2 Corinthians 4:4), and the "Prince and power of the air." (Ephesians 2:2).

Satan's kingdom is called the "Kingdom of Darkness." Satan rules the darkness of this world through fear, intimidation, manipulation, and deception. His dominion is in the domain of spiritual darkness. Yet, there is light in this world which comes from God, the Father of Light, who resides in and rules the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of God lies within the heart of every believer.

Although Satan is the god of this world, this world is NOT his kingdom. His kingdom is a spiritual kingdom. He does, however, rule the "worldly systems" through fear, deception, and manipulation. Satan does all this through the power of beguilement, fear, confusion, intimidation, accusation, false religions, and economic subjugation, to name a few. We will take a look at each of these spiritual weapons, as well as the spirits which use these weapons against us. We will look at some of the spirits which possess demonic powers, as well as how they operate and use sorcery to manipulate and control the minds of many people in this world today.

Satan's plan and purpose is to draw believers away from God's plan and purpose for their lives. Satan always



attacks the “weakest” link in the body. The weakest link is always the first and easiest link to break. The weakest link in the body of Christ seems to always be our “relationship with Christ” as well as others within the Church. Satan attacks relationships between believers, families, and friends. More important, however, is that Satan attacks relationships between believers and their Lord Jesus Christ. Our relationship with Christ should be our greatest priority. Our right standing (righteousness) in Christ is where we will find the POWER to defeat Satan.

## **DEMONS AND DEVILS**

In many churches today we frequently find spirits of jealousy, envy, strife and confusion. What church has not experienced the fiery darts and schemes of the enemy? According to James entertaining these spirits leaves the door open for “every evil work.” All evil work is carried out or instigated by evil spirits in the realm of Satan’s Kingdom. Demons and devils are the angels which were tossed out of Heaven along with Lucifer when he attempted to usurp the power of God and take over the Throne of God.

Some have questioned the difference between demons and devils. There is no difference between the two, they are the same. However, the word “demon” is not found in the Bible. The word “devil” is found in the Bible 115 times. The Greek word “devil” is actually translated from the Greek word “daimonion” or “demon.” Many people, even some well known ministers, do not believe demons exist. However, Jesus spoke of them and to them on several occasions.

Jesus spoke more about “devils” than he did

“angels” in the Bible. Since He spoke so often about devils, surely He wanted us to know about them and to understand what we must do to take authority over them. On the other hand, Satan would deny his existence if he thought it would enhance (which it does) his power to deceive and bring into subjection anyone who believes the lies he propagates. If people realized who Satan was, how he operates, and how to defeat him, he would no longer be a threat to their lives.

All Christians should have a good understanding of how demons operate and how to cast them out of those who are tormented, oppressed, and/or possessed by them. I have cast demons out of many individuals. However, “deliverance” is not my main focus or call in ministry. There are Christians who are specifically called to deliverance ministry. Preaching the Word, delivering Christians from carnal mind-sets and exposing the “works of the flesh” in the Church plays a big part in what God has called me to do.

Demons come in many different shapes and sizes, and all have specific jobs which they have been assigned to perform. They operate much like an army having different levels of power and authority. Demons are organized according to rank much like our own military. The highest ranking authorities which are under Satan are known as “principalities.” Principalities rule over nations. There are demons which possess less authority under them who also have demonic entities which they have control over. The Kingdom of Darkness operates under a system of control where each satanic soldier is under the complete subjection of his superior officer.

Demon spirits are militant in nature. When recognized and confronted, they can and will become very aggressive.

We must know who we are in Christ and the power He has given to us to defeat the enemy or we will be unable to defeat the satanic entities when they attack us. The main objective of every evil spirit is to “steal, kill, and destroy.” With his “tail” Satan “Drew (dragged) a third part of the stars (angels) of Heaven, and did cast them to the Earth.” Revelation, Chapter 12, Verse 4.

I am not one who suggests there is a demon under every rock or bush, but we would do well to understand they can and will be found where there are people who have not cleansed their spiritual and/or physical homes. I have even seen demons in churches. Yes, many of them attend church on Sunday. When it comes to church attendance, demons are more faithful than many Christians. They travel with people, and are dwelling within many people.

Satanic armies do most of their warfare in secret. Deception is their greatest tactic and rule of warfare. If people fail to know they have an enemy, and the enemy is hard at work trying to destroy them, they are on the way to losing the battle for their souls.

All demons are workers of iniquity and are under the command of Satan. Demons are also slaves of sin which are bound in chains of darkness. Saying that they are “chained in darkness” does not mean they are all “chained” in a dark pit somewhere. It merely means that the darkness “IS their chains.” However, there are many demon spirits which are bound in the bottomless pit today and are waiting to be “loosed upon the Earth” during the Great Tribulation.

Demons have power to wreak havoc and destruction on unsuspecting souls all over the world. They can be found influencing people of all ages, cultures, backgrounds, and races. Mankind does not realize how governments,

societies, and nations are controlled by these workers of evil who dwell in the Kingdom of Darkness.

The sole (soul) objectives of demons are to steal, kill and destroy everyone they can by influencing them through fear, manipulation, deceptive thoughts and tactics. No one is, has been, or ever will be free from the schemes of these demons unless the Blood of Jesus is applied to their lives. Christians must be taught how to “use the authority” which Christ has given to them to defeat the enemy or they will languish in fear and devilish oppression as long as they live on this earth.

## **SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS**

**FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES.**

Ephesians 6:12

There are people in “high places” in geopolitical, religious, economic, and military positions in this world who are influenced and/or controlled by spiritual wickedness in “high places.” These demon powers are intruding on and influencing the lives of people every day. The Principalities are under the direct command of Satan himself. These Principalities have armies of demons under them which are bound in nature to submit to the will of Satan.

We know that Principalities are territorial (see Daniel, Chapter 10). From time to time demons with lesser authority and power can be and are dispatched to

different parts of the world to join and help other demons perform their ungodly works in the lives of individuals, as well as nations.

Nations, governments, entrepreneurs, armies, churches, and people from all walks of life have been and are manipulated by demonic powers at one time or another. The extent to which we are deceived will depend upon our ability to discern between right and wrong, as well as our understanding of how devils “operate.” According to scripture we must be wise as serpents and as harmless as doves. Our enemy knows our weaknesses, and he will always do everything he can in order to exploit those weaknesses and lure us into the Kingdom of Darkness by deception and manipulation.

## **CHAINS OF DARKNESS**

AND THE ANGELS WHICH KEPT NOT THEIR FIRST ESTATE, BUT LEFT THEIR OWN HABITATION, HE HATH RESERVED IN EVERLASTING CHAINS UNDER DARKNESS UNTO THE JUDGEMENT OF THE GREAT DAY. Jude, Verse 6.

The angels which sinned and left their first habitation in Heaven are now dwelling in “chains of darkness.” This is not to say they are chained up somewhere and cannot function, but they are eternally “bound in darkness” and cannot be released from the judgment which is to come. They, along with Lucifer, are condemned to this darkness which now engulfs them.

There are other demon spirits who are incarcerated in the bottomless pit which will be released during the tribulation period to join in the fight with other demonic powers to “steal, kill, and destroy.” If those demon spirits

had not been thrown into the bottomless pit, there would be no flesh left alive today. The onslaught of these evil spirits would have devoured mankind many years ago.

We know that demons are fallen angels which exist here on earth, as well as in the heavenly realm above us carrying out the evil works of their master, Satan. There are also demons who are caretakers of Hell, ushering in and victimizing the poor souls who rejected Christ. All demons will remain in the condition they are presently in until the Day of Judgment. Unfortunately, for all the inhabitants of Earth these demons will be here until they meet their final demise and are cast into the Lake of Fire along with Satan.

Satan and his angels will continue to deceive, pervert, steal, kill and destroy until Christ returns to destroy the works Satan religiously endeavors to perform. Along with the demonic hordes of evil spirits burning in the Lake of Fire will be all those who rejected the True God and followed after the “counterfeit gods” invented by satanic edict.

The Lake of Fire does not have to be the destiny of any person on Earth. Christ died for the sins of all mankind and became a propitiation for our sins. All people have to do in order to avoid the Lake of Fire is to sincerely repent of their sins and acknowledge the Lordship of Christ for Heaven to become their eternal home. If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

The scripture tells us “not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds.” (Romans 12:2). If we are going to win the battle for our souls against our enemy who is determined to destroy us, our minds must be “transformed and renewed.” We

must put on the whole Armor of God, including the mind of Christ, if we are going to win the battles we face each and every day. Putting on the “Helmet of Salvation” will give us the wisdom and knowledge we need in order to resist and overcome the enemy. When we put on the “mind of Christ” and follow Him daily, we cannot and will not be defeated by Satan.

## CHAPTER 7

### THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD

**FINALLY, MY BRETHREN, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL. FOR WE WRESTLE NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, BUT AGAINST PRINCIPALITIES, AGAINST POWERS, AGAINST THE RULERS OF THE DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, AGAINST SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS IN HIGH PLACES. WHEREFORE, TAKE UNTO YOU THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO WITHSTAND IN THE EVIL DAY, AND HAVING DONE ALL TO STAND, STAND THEREFORE WITH YOUR LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH, AND HAVING ON THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS; AND YOUR FEET SHOD WITH THE PREPERATON OF THE GOSPEL OF PEACE; ABOVE ALL TAKING THE SHIELD OF FAITH, WHEREWITH YE SHALL BE ABLE TO QUENCH ALL THE FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED. AND TAKE THE HELMET OF SALVATION, AND THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF GOD: PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL KINDS OF PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT, AND WATCHING THEREUNTO WITH ALL PERSEVERENCE AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL SAINTS. Ephesians 6:10-18.**



The Apostle Paul said “THOUGH WE WALK IN THE FLESH WE DO NOT WAR AFTER THE FLESH.” (2 Corinthians 10:3). Many Christians fail to realize we are at WAR with an unseen enemy. We must understand we are in a battle for our souls or the battle is already lost. Many Christians have lost spiritual battles they could have won if they would have known and understood proper battle tactics. Spiritual battles are won through knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and self-discipline.

The Bible says “God’s people perish for lack of knowledge.” However, God has given us all the tools and weapons we need in order to defeat Satan on every battlefield. Jesus defeated the Devil by applying the “spoken Word of God” to every trial, test, and temptation Satan directed at Him.

The first mention of war in the Bible is found in Genesis, Chapter 3, Verse 15. God told the Serpent “He would put enmity between his seed and Eve’s seed.” Eve’s seed (Christ) would bruise his head, but what was Satan’s seed? In the Bible seeds are prophetic of people and words. The Word (Christ) was “made flesh” and now dwells within us if we have been born again. Jesus also called words seeds. The devil plants deceptive and destructive thoughts which are “seeds” into the minds of people in order to deceive and manipulate them.

Our war is not against flesh and blood, but against Satan and the “powers of darkness” who comes to “steal, kill, and destroy.” Our war is with unclean spirits who try to influence our lives daily with seeds (words or thoughts) of destruction. Our enemies have been practicing their craft for years, and they are very proficient at what they do.

We can find consolation in the fact that Christ defeated the forces of evil at the cross. Through the power

of the Blood of Jesus we have been given authority over ALL the works of the enemy. “For in all things we are more than conquerors through Him that loves us.” (Romans 8:37).

If we are going to be more than conquerors, we must use all the tools and weapons which we have at our disposal. We must fight the “good fight of faith” with power, perseverance, and piety. Our strength and help comes from an omniscient, omnipresent, and omnipotent God who assures us victory if we will trust Him, be obedient, love His statutes and commandments, and walk in His ways. Jesus has already won the battle for us--all we have to do is trust in Him and use the power and authority He has entrusted to us by HIS SPIRIT.

The struggle for spiritual domination takes place in our minds. The mind has been called the “fortress of the soul.” The battlefield which we war upon is not an earthly one but a spiritual one. The location of the battlefield is found in our minds or souls. When we finally win control of our soulish battlefield, we will have no problem in dealing with the wiles or schemes of the enemy when he attacks us. Building up or reinforcing our minds to become spiritual fortresses will assure us victory over our enemies every time they attack.

## **STRATEGY**

The first rule of warfare is strategy. We must have a plan. Our enemy has a plan, and he is very adept at carrying out his plans. He has been using the same strategies for millennia, and he has been very successful in his endeavors to manipulate and control the masses. However, there are a few things which Satan lacks in his

arsenal which we possess in abundance in ours: God The Father, God The Son, and God The Holy Spirit. Satan also lacks the Blood of Jesus, the Name of Jesus, and godly wisdom, as well as the ability to pray to an omnipotent God.

We must put on the WHOLE armor of God if our battle plans are going to work for us. Strategic weapons only work if they are used and applied correctly during times of conflict. We must have the knowledge, understanding, and wisdom which comes only from God above. We must put all our faith and trust in the Lord and the weapons He has so lovingly and faithfully entrusted to us in order for us to “win the battle for our souls.”

I have heard some ministers say the Devil has been defeated and is no longer a threat to us. Yes, Satan was defeated by Christ at Calvary, but we are only free in the areas of our lives where we allow the Blood of Christ to dominate. We must realize we cannot not free from the wiles of a very crafty enemy until and unless we “put on the WHOLE armor of God.”

The Bible tells us that the battle we are fighting is the Lord’s. Many Christian leaders believe this statement means “we do not have to do anything to secure victory over Satan.” This interpretation of scripture could not be further from the truth.

If we are not responsible for keeping Satan “under our feet,” why are we told to “fight the good fight of faith?” What do we do with the “sword of the spirit” if God is going to fight all our battles for us? Why do we need a sword if we do not need to fight? The Bible says “the weapons of OUR warfare are not carnal.” Our weapons are “mighty through the power of God.” They are ALL weapons which were given to us in order for US to defeat

our enemy when he comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

Jesus said in Luke, Chapter 10, Verse 14: “Behold, I give YOU power to tread upon serpents, scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy.” God expects us to do all we can to defeat the enemy. God will do His part as we trust Him and believe in the power of our Risen Savior and the finished works of the cross.

A plan or strategy is not worth the paper it is written on if it is not followed diligently with vigor, wisdom, and understanding. Knowledge alone will not help us conquer our spiritual enemies. We must use ALL the weapons God has given us wisely and persevere in the face of adversity. We must never relinquish an “inch” of ground we have taken from the enemy. We must plant a STANDARD wherever we have taken ground to let the Devil know “this territory belongs to us.”

As the song says, “We must go down to the enemy’s camp and take back what he has stolen from us.” We must follow the strategies God has laid out in His Word or the battle for our mind will be lost and our warfare in vain.

We must understand how subtle our enemy operates, how he thinks, and why he does things the way he does them. With information on Satan’s strengths, weaknesses, weaponry, and strategies, we will be successfully able to defeat him. Through Christ we possess all the power we need to defeat Satan wherever and whenever he attacks. Satan has no weapon which can counter the power which is found in the Blood of Jesus. The BLOODLINE OF CHRIST is the one line Satan cannot cross.

Recently I received an email from a lady who attends a Lutheran Church. She was having a problem with a demon spirit and she did not know how to deal with

this spirit that was tormenting her. A friend of mine had given her my email address and told her to ask me for some advice. She said her pastor had been preaching a series on Spiritual Warfare. Imagine that, even the Lutherans have now realized there is a war going on for the control of our minds. Before we can win battles, we must acknowledge “we are at war.” Before we can fight these battles, we must know how to utilize the weapons which we have at our disposal.

One of the things the lady said in her email was that after going to bed one evening a demon spirit appeared in her bedroom. It frightened her so badly she didn’t know what to do, and was unable to go to sleep. She told me she just snuggled up to her husband and tightly held onto him the entire night.

I replied to her email and explained to her some things regarding spiritual warfare. I told her how to dispose of this demon spirit the next time it attempts to bring fear into her life. I explained to her that the spirit she had seen was a Spirit of Fear, and its only purpose was to cause her to “fear.” That was exactly what the spirit did. I explained to her that she, through the Blood of Jesus, had power over this enemy of her soul.

A couple of days later she wrote me back thanking me for my help. She said everything was going much better for her. She was learning to fight the devil with the tools God had placed at her disposal, and the enemy was having to retreat when she used the authority God had given her. God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound (disciplined) mind. (2 Timothy 1:7)

If we fail to have a battle plan, godly knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, we are no match for our

enemy. If we are not aware of the power which God has given us over the enemy, we have already lost the battle, and the devil will bring chaos into our lives. We can conquer our enemy and claim victory in every spiritual battle because “greater is CHRIST who is in us than “he that is in the world.”

We overcome Satan by the “Blood of Jesus” and the word of our testimony. (Revelation 12:11). Our testimony should be that “through the power of the Holy Spirit” we will be able to overcome in the face of ALL adversity. We need to “know the power” we possess in Christ, as well as “who we are in Christ Jesus,” or we will never be able to convince Satan we have authority over ALL his works. We also need to know “WHO Christ Jesus IS in us,” and what He accomplished for us at Calvary.

## CHAPTER 8

### THE MIND, WILL, AND EMOTIONS

Someone once said “The mind is a terrible thing to waste.” Spiritually speaking, the Devil takes a terrible toll on everyone which has not been renewed in the “spirit of the mind.” It is the mind that does not acknowledge Christ and the principles He admonishes which is truly wasted.

Negative thought patterns will always result in negative thoughts, emotions, attitudes, and desires. Negative attitudes and emotions will result in many negative responses when we are attacked by the enemy. A mind which has not been renewed by the Spirit of God is a mind bound in “chains of darkness.”

If we do not possess the “mind of Christ,” our mind is in a spiritual prison controlled to some degree by spiritual darkness. True freedom of thought comes only through the Spirit of Liberty. The Spirit of Liberty frees us to believe in and be set free by the Spirit of Truth. It is Truth which transforms us into the image of Christ when we put on the Helmet of Salvation.

Many people have very little understanding regarding the human mind and the mechanics of how it works. Scientists have dissected and studied the brain for many years trying to learn more about it. Psychologists have studied behavioral patterns of the mind and have sought to understand the deep mysteries of the mind. With all the knowledge they have at their disposal, men still know very little about the human psyche and how it operates.

The mind is a very intricate instrument, and we may never know or understand its deepest secrets or mysteries while living on Earth. We are aware of the fact that man did not create the human mind. All the studying and experimenting men do will never bring them to the full understanding of the natural mind, its spiritual purpose, or how it functions. God's thoughts and His ways exceed human thought and human emotions.

However, we can take heart in knowing that God knows and understands everything we cannot or do not understand. He gives counsel to those who lack spiritual understanding, knowledge, and wisdom when they petition Him in faith. As Christians, God has introduced into our "spiritual psyche" the "mind of Christ." Because the human psyche wars against the spiritual psyche, we should no longer focus on natural understanding and wisdom, but on the "knowledge of God" to help us when we are fighting spiritual battles.

Our perception of the Word of God should be based upon revelation NOT upon human reason. The Bible tells us not to lean on our own natural understanding, but to trust in the supernatural power of God and His promise and desire to work on our behalf. The Bible tells us we must be renewed in "the spirit of our mind" so the truths of God can help us to rule and reign in life.

We must become "strong in the Lord and the power of His might" by putting on the helmet of His salvation. The renewing of the mind to the all the principles which establish faith in our hearts will cause us to be victorious in every area of our life.

**The mind has been called the "fortress of the soul," and we are the gatekeepers.** The mind assimilates knowledge and wisdom and builds up defenses, offences



and strategies for spiritual warfare as we put on “the whole armor of God.” The mind makes decisions and maintains, oversees, and directs our desires, feelings, will, and emotions. Our mind should be the most guarded and well-kept possession we have.

The mind is the storehouse of all of our accumulated knowledge, understanding, and wisdom. It is the sanctuary where all incoming thoughts, knowledge, truths, untruths, and spiritual strategies are either accepted or rejected. The decisions we make daily are based upon our desires, motives, attitudes and circumstances. We make decisions daily which may or may not bring us into a closer relationship with Christ. Unfortunately, there are many who make decisions which will eventually lead them to an eternity in the Lake of Fire at the end of the age.

Our eyes and ears are called “the windows of the soul.” They are the doorways by which we obtain all “spiritual insight, wisdom, knowledge and understanding.” The “flesh” believes what it sees because it observes and experiences things in the natural realm. However, “the spirit” believes because it KNOWS and SEES through the eyes of godly knowledge and understanding. The eyes of our understanding are enlightened by the presence of the Spirit of Truth as we trust in the promises of God. Our understanding is always the first target of Satan. If we lack spiritual understanding and wisdom, we will also lack faith.

The Bible tells us to “lean not to our own understanding.” It does not say we will never possess understanding. Our understanding must be based upon spiritual principles and precepts which lead us into greater faith in the promises of God. If and when we possess the mind of Christ and are filled with His fullness, we will be able to understand the mysteries of God.

Wisdom is the ability to use knowledge and understanding correctly. Christ, “our wisdom,” gives us opportunity to obtain knowledge and understanding, and the Holy Spirit shows us how to apply them properly to our lives. True spiritual power comes from knowing and understanding the person and nature of Christ, and having an intimate relationship with Him.

According to Ephesians 1:9, God wants us to know Him and experience the fullness of His power. Faith also helps us to obtain understanding. (Hebrews 1:11). When we understand where the “root” of our problems begin and how God gives us power to overcome them, we become more than conquerors. Through faith in the finished works of Christ we overcome the devil by “the word of our testimony and the BLOOD OF THE LAMB.

“Let this mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus, who humbled Himself before God.” (Philippians 2:5). We must be obedient to the spiritual laws and statutes which God has written so graciously and perfectly upon the tablets of our hearts and minds. If we are obedient and humble ourselves before God, He will not withhold anything from us which He has promised in His Word. All of the promises of God are “yes” and “amen” to those who dare to believe and obey Him. We must not neglect the gifts and power which God has entrusted to us which enables us to triumph over “ALL THE WORKS OF THE DEVIL.”

## **THE WILL**

The most important part of the mind is the will. Our will includes our wishes and desires. The mind is where we find wisdom to make the hard decisions we face

each day. The mind calls on and appropriates all the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding we have accumulated to make decisions which daily affect our lives.

The will is where our purpose, intentions, and determination come together to make decisions which affect our life. Many of these decisions we make will affect our lives for years to come, and even for a lifetime. It is important for us to use wisdom in our decision making process so we can live in peace. If we lack wisdom, all we have to do is petition God and He will give wisdom to us liberally. (James 1:5).

The will is where the power to make godly or ungodly decisions resides. The will is where good or bad judgments and decisions are made based upon our knowledge, wisdom, emotional and spiritual condition. The will can be the greatest hindrance or help to the psyche of man. Even Jesus, who was faced with going to the cross, had to pray "Father Thy will and not Mine be done." The power of the "will" is the reason why we must always pray that the will of the Father and not our own will be done.

Our motives and attitudes will affect our decision making process, and will ultimately forge our future and destiny. We must surrender our will to the Father before His will can be done in our lives. Our will and purpose for our lives will be different from God's will and purpose for our lives UNLESS we possess the motives and attitudes of Christ.

John, Chapter 1, Verses 11-13, says: HE CAME UNTO HIS OWN BUT HIS OWN RECEIVED HIM NOT. BUT TO AS MANY AS RECEIVED HIM, TO THEM HE GAVE THE POWER TO BECOME THE SONS OF GOD, EVEN TO THEM THAT BELIEVE ON HIS NAME,

WHICH WERE BORN NOT OF BLOOD, NOR OF THE “WILL” OF MAN, BUT OF THE “WILL” OF GOD.

When we are born again, the will of God, “to a certain extent,” dwells within us. When we accept Christ as Lord, He comes to dwell within our hearts to set us free from the power of sin. He gives us wisdom to help us make hard decisions in life, especially those which pertain to our walk with Him. Unfortunately, we still have to deal with the flesh, the Devil, and the motives and attitudes which ruled our lives before we entered into His grace and became a child of God.

Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy. The thief comes to steal the principles and doctrines of Christ which build moral character in the hearts and minds of men and women who are saved. Satan was a murderer from the beginning. He comes to kill the Words of Life which has been sown within our hearts by our Lord. Satan comes to destroy all that is holy in the Kingdom of God which dwells within our hearts.

Satan is insanely jealous of what God has created in the believer. Satan hates the Word of God. His greatest enemy is Truth. Truth transforms us into the image of Christ, but believing the lies of the enemy will keep us in bondage. Unless Christians become rooted and grounded in TRUTH, they will continue to fulfill the “works of the flesh.” Satan tried to destroy the Truth at Calvary. Truth, Jesus, sets people free from the bondage of sin. On the other hand, deception blinds the hearts and minds of those who have not been renewed in the “spirit of the mind.” Deception is Satan’s greatest weapon. The Spirit of Truth will always prevail against the spirit of deception if we will trust, embrace, and act upon God’s Word.

Satan’s greatest attacks are those he directs upon the

“will” of a person in order to weaken the will’s fortifications. The will can be influenced by temptation, evil desires, and selfishness, to name a few. That is why it is imperative that we “deny ourselves” and “pick up our cross daily” as we follow in the footsteps of Christ.

We must die to self so the “will” and power of Christ may dwell within us richly. Christ gives us the power to overcome sin, temptation, and self-desire. If we appropriate ALL the weapons we have in our “spiritual arsenal,” we will be victorious in the battle for our minds. When we use all the weapons we have at our disposal, we will become victorious in EVERY area of our lives. Sin cannot have dominion in the hearts of those who are established in truth and righteousness. Truth will transform us into the image of Christ when our loins (minds) are “girt about” or established with the POWER OF HIS WORD. When the WORD is our testimony, the enemy must flee.

## **OUR EMOTIONS**

The most vulnerable place we possess on our spiritual battlefield is our emotions. It is no wonder our emotions are targeted by our enemy more than anything else. Our emotions are our feelings and passions. Our will is strongly influenced by our emotions or feelings. Emotions strongly influence us to do the things we do whether they are right or wrong. Emotions are usually controlled by our motives and attitudes. We act and react according to what motivates us and what our strongest desires dictate to us.

Many emotions reside within the confines of our spirit. Some of those emotions are good and some are

negative. Some of the bad or negative emotions include fear, hate, anger, hurt, sorrow, guilt, pride, jealousy, and lust to name a few. Paul called these negative emotions the “works of the flesh” in Chapter 5 of the letter he wrote to the Galatians. On the other hand, we find positive emotions such as love, joy, happiness, courage, and peace. Yes, peace is an emotion. All godly emotions and attitudes will obviously produce godly character. On the other hand, negative emotions and attitudes will always produce ungodly character.

Negative emotions not only hinder the Spirit of Grace, but also the Spirits of Understanding and Wisdom from producing fruit in our lives. We will have no peace without wisdom! According to James, the fruit of wisdom, which is righteousness, is sown in peace. (James 3:17-18).

Our peace is reliant upon the strength of our emotions. Love is an emotion. If I possess the God kind of love, my will is to share that love with others, and I will desire for others to know and experience His love. When we are motivated by the love of God, we will love even the worst of sinners.

Seeing through the eyes of Christ enables us to understand why others live and act the way they do. When we are motivated by godly emotions, we will be able to cast down ungodly imaginations which exalt themselves against the knowledge of God.

When Christ came to live in me, He set me free from negative emotions, thoughts, desires and attitudes. Everything we do is a result of our motives, emotions and attitudes. I have the desire to do what I do for Christ and in Him because I am motivated by His love. His love is the emotion which motivates me to seek His will to be done in my life.

## **CHAPTER 9**

### **PUTTING ON THE ARMOR OF GOD**

#### **GIRDING UP YOUR LOINS**

**STAND THEREFORE, HAVING YOUR LOINS GIRT ABOUT WITH TRUTH.** Ephesians 6:14.

When we are girding our loins with truth, we are putting on Christ. Jesus said “I am the Truth, the Life, and the Way. No man comes to the Father but through me.” If we are going to be victorious in our sincere quest for peace and freedom, we must have our loins (minds) girt about with truth. Truth is not some man-made doctrine or philosophy. Truth comes to us and is revealed to us through the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. The truth which Christ offers to us is tangible, powerful, and absolute.

Christ gives us the “power of truth” which enables us to be delivered from all the schemes and attacks of the enemy. Truth sets us free when we accept and KNOW the truth. The truth is revealed to us by the “Spirit of Truth.” Truth is not and will never be negotiable. Truth does not and cannot change. In Christ, who is the TRUTH, there is no shadow of turning and cannot be changed, harmed, altered or destroyed. Truth is not a doctrine, but the embodiment of Christ in us--THE HOPE OF GLORY.

The words which Christ speaks and offers us are “Spirit and Truth.” Truth is able to transform us into His

image because the words He speaks are “tangible truth.” Tangible truth is truth which becomes a part of our spiritual DNA. If we pursue and appropriate the “tangible truth,” His truth is able to transform us into His image. There is power in His Word--power to heal, the power to save, and the power to deliver. In Christ there is power to overcome “all the works of the enemy.”

We are sanctified and set apart from the rest of the world by the Spirit of Truth. Jesus said in John, Chapter 17, Verse 17, “Sanctify them through Thy truth: Thy word is truth.” It is the TRUTH which Satan disputes and denigrates. This was his strategy from the beginning when he beguiled Eve into eating of the “fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.”

With godly knowledge and understanding we can and will be able to defeat the forces of darkness. The Spirit of Truth sets us free. The Spirit of Truth establishes the tangible precepts and principles of freedom in our hearts. Truth will be deposited in our hearts by the Spirit of Truth. We must always allow the Spirit of Truth to permeate our understanding by renewing our minds. We do this by casting off the works of darkness and putting on the armor of God’s Light (understanding). (Romans 13:12).

If truth is going to be established within our minds, we must allow our minds to be transformed by the truth. We do this by allowing the Spirit of Truth to renew and strengthen the loins (where spiritual power is generated) of our minds. If we do not accept the truth, we will be destined to repeat the same failures we have experienced in the past.

According to the Bible, we will reap what we sow. Unless we sincerely repent and change our perception of



truth, we will reap a harvest of sorrow and grief. Truth is not as hard to believe or understand as the devil tries to make us believe. If truth was so hard to understand, Satan would not be working so hard in order to prevent people from understanding and receiving the truth.

Truth transforms us into the image of Christ. We are changed from glory to glory as truth, Christ, is compounded and established within our hearts. Truth gives us the understanding and knowledge we need in order to discern right from wrong. Truth gives us the knowledge and power we need to tread upon serpents, scorpions, and all the works of the enemy.

As never before, God is transforming the hearts and minds of individuals today. He is doing this by pouring out the Spirit of Truth upon the Church. The Spirit of Truth will enable the Church to stand against the lies and accusations which the dragon will spew out of his mouth in the years to come. (See Revelation 12:14-17)

Christ, who is the Truth, transforms us into His image so He may reveal and help us understand the hope of His calling and the power of His love toward us. The power of TRUTH sets us free from the snares of the enemy. The power of TRUTH engages our voice to proclaim the “YEAR OF JUBILEE” and share the gospel with others. In Christ we live, and move, and have our being.

In Christ, we become transformed from darkness into Light. In Christ is found all the fullness of the Godhead. In Jesus Christ the fullness of the Godhead is imparted to us by the Holy Spirit.

In Christ we find Truth, Light, and Life. Truth, Life, and Light is what overcomes death, darkness, and deception. When the enemy comes in like a flood to devour his prey, the Light of Truth will defeat him. As

Christ reveals Himself to us as TRUTH, we will be able to withstand the deceptive wiles and schemes of the enemy.

Fear will always magnify our problems. Truth will always magnify the solution to our problems. We must become rooted and grounded in truth because it is the TRUTH we possess or know which sets us free.

## **THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS**

When we are putting on the Breastplate of Righteousness we are putting on the righteousness of Christ. Besides revealing Himself as Truth, Christ also reveals Himself as the “Righteousness of God.” This righteousness becomes a breastplate of His holy character within us. His character is formed within us to change us and protect us from acts of unrighteousness. It is Christ who allows us to experience the “hope of His Glory.”

Our lives were transformed from darkness into LIGHT the moment we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We become strong in Christ and in the power of His might because He has set us free from the power of sin. Jesus gives us life more abundantly. It is His life and His righteousness which comes to dwell within us when we accept Him as our Lord and Savior.

In Christ we can find the inner strength to stand when everything around us is falling apart. We know we are children of LIGHT because His righteousness guides us through the dark days of tests and trials. The Bible tells us we are the “righteousness of God in Christ.” We are in right standing with God because the righteousness of Christ dwells within our hearts. We can say many things about the righteousness of Christ, but His righteousness speaks for itself.

The Bible tells us we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus. In Christ we live and move and have our being. In Christ we are shielded from the enemies of our soul.

With the Breastplate of His Righteousness on we will be prepared to share the message of Christ with others. When we have on the Breastplate of Righteousness our **FEET WILL BE SHOD WITH THE GOSPEL OF PEACE**. With our feet shod with the gospel we will be able to take the message of Christ to the four corners of the earth, or to those we come in contact with daily. The Message of Christ is the message of peace on earth and “good will” toward men.”.

## **THE SHIELD OF FAITH**

**ABOVE ALL TAKING THE SHIELD OF FAITH,  
WHEREWITH YOU SHALL BE ABLE TO QUENCH  
ALL THE FIERY DARTS OF THE WICKED.**

Ephesians 6:16

Above all, we must take the “shield of faith” to protect ourselves from the attacks of the enemy. Our faith in the finished works of Christ becomes our “buckler and our shield.” According to the Apostle Paul, people of faith were able to change the course of rivers, move mountains, and pull down the barriers of the laws of nature. They did all this through the “substance of faith.” (Read Hebrews, Chapter 11).

Through faith we obtain salvation, healing, and help in the time of need. Faith is the substance (foundation) of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen.

Through faith we can calm the troubled waters of men's souls and find rest for our own souls.

Without faith, it is impossible to please God. Without faith it is impossible to conquer our enemies. Fear is one of Satan's strongest and most effective weapons. Satan thrives in an atmosphere of fear. Fear is a spirit. The Bible tells us that "Perfect love casts out all fear." When we become fully established and perfected in the love of God, fear must "flee from us." Faith in the finished works of Christ will always enable us to overcome fear. Faith is the shield which repels all the fiery darts of the enemy.

Without faith, we will be unable to approach the throne of Grace to seek help in the time of our need. Faith is a MUST for every believer if he or she is going to be able to defeat the enemies of the soul. Many Christians have failed and fallen on the "battlefields of life" because they have failed to respond to the attacks of the enemy with steadfast, immovable faith.

**FAITH IS ENERGIZED BY LOVE.** (Galatians 5:6). Faith is not an option for the believer. Faith is a byproduct of love. The "command to love" is probably the most important of God's commandments. Faith operates by the substance of God's love, and love is a commandment. Love is not merely an emotion, but also a strong desire. Love is the strongest and most powerful of all godly emotions and desires. **GOD IS LOVE.** (1 John 4:8). Godly love never fails, and will always prevail in times of adversity when the love of God has been established within our hearts.

Without love we will be unable to do the works of God because faith works, and is energized by His love. Without faith, we are mere pawns in the hands of Satan on

the “chessboard of life.” When we are grounded and entrenched in God’s love, we possess the power of our King. King Jesus gave us power to tread upon serpents and scorpions and over “all the power of the enemy.” However, if we do not exercise the power which we have over our enemy, and exorcize our enemy, our enemy will exercise his power over us.

By faith we are able to take the gospel to the entire world because our feet are shod with the “preparation of the gospel of peace.” Because we “know the truth,” we can “share the gospel of peace” to a lost and dying world. When the truth abides within us, we will be able to set people free as we share the truth with those around us. We desire to share that truth with others because the love of God abides within us and guides us on our journey toward Heaven. We can say many things about faith, but what is most important is the fact that it is FAITH which gives us the victory over the world and Satan who is the god of this world.

The opposite of faith is fear. Fear is to Satan what faith is to God. We will study the Spirit of Fear and how fear works in another chapter. If we do not deal first with the Spirit of Fear, we will NOT possess the faith we need in order to defeat the enemy in every area of our lives.

## **THE HELMET OF SALVATION**

When we put on the Helmet of Salvation we are putting on Christ and girding up the loins of our mind. When our minds have been renewed by the Spirit of Truth, we will be wearing the “Helmet of Salvation.” Without truth, the doctrines of devils and worldly philosophies will confuse the mind and leave people weak in faith. It is the

truth which we possess that sets us free. In the realm of the spirit anything other than TRUTH will leave people in a quagmire of doubt and unbelief.

Doctrines of devils and worldly philosophies are attempts of the enemy to hinder faith, peace, and righteousness from being established within the hearts and minds of people. False doctrines are enemies of faith, righteousness, and truth. If men are burdened and held back by untruths, it will be hard for them to understand the will and purpose of God for their lives. False doctrines war against the soul and create chaos, lawlessness, and confusion within the soul.

Believing lies will always hinder the progress and process of faith in believers. Faith in the TRUTH will set people free from the darkness which now prevails on the earth.

Faith in the TRUTH (Christ) is what sets people free from sin and the spiritual darkness which keeps their hearts and minds in spiritual bondage. How can someone be delivered from the clutches of evil conclusions and suppositions if he or she does not believe the TRUTH? How can someone be set free from the darkness which pervades the hearts and minds of those who have never heard the TRUTH? How can one be saved if he does not know he needs a Savior or that Jesus died for his sins? How can one believe man and believe God at the same time when the two have opposing views?

If people are going to be set free from all spiritual bondage, someone is going to have to share the TRUTH with them. As Christians, we believe what God says is true because the TRUTH has been revealed to us. We have had a life changing experience, and now know Christ and the love He has for us. The Spirit of Truth has

revealed the truth to us, and we receive the Word through the substance (foundation) of faith. We believe everything God has said because the Spirit of Truth tells us God cannot lie. If we are not sharing the TRUTH with others, we are not fulfilling the plan and purpose of God for the Church.

Men believe a lie because they do not know and have not been introduced to or experienced the Truth. Many Christians believe the lies Satan tells them and squander away many years of their lives because truth eludes them. However, deception is not the plan of God, but of the enemy. Knowing the truth protects us from being deceived, but believing lies will prevent us from knowing the truth. Our relationship with Christ is a relationship with TRUTH. Because we KNOW the TRUTH, the TRUTH will set us free.

Why do Christians not always receive what they desire to have? After all, God said He would give us the desires of our hearts “if we delighted in Him.” (Psalm 37:4). Why do we not experience God’s best, even though we say we believe? Many times our wants and desires do not always line up with God’s desires for our life. Another reason is because our minds are still programmed with doubt and unbelief which was left over from the years we sojourned in the “Wilderness of Sin.” Doubt and unbelief are two of the worst enemies of our soul. Understanding WHY we are not receiving all the promises of God will help us in our endeavors to receive ALL the promises of God.

If we are not using all the weapons and tools we have at our disposal, we will never experience all that God has given us through the sacrifice of Jesus. If we are not “by faith” putting on the “whole armor of God” and utilizing the sword of the Spirit, we will never be fruitful in

serving Him.

## **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT**

**THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT IS IN THE HEART OF EVERY BELIEVER.** The Bible tells us that the Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. The Bible also calls Jesus the Word of God. Thus far, we have studied all of the “armor of God” which are defensive in nature. Jesus is not only our defense, but in Him we have the power to tread upon serpents, scorpions, and all the power of the enemy.

The armor gives us wisdom, understanding, direction, and purpose in our fight against the forces of darkness. The “Sword of the Spirit” is our only offensive weapon, and is the only weapon which we need in order to destroy the forces of darkness after we have put on the rest of the armor.

Although the Sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon we possess, it can utilize a variety of ordinance. The main ordinance, of course, is “prayer.” **PRAYING ALWAYS WITH ALL PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION IN THE SPIRIT, AND WATCHING THERE UNTO WITH ALL PERSEVERANCE AND SUPPLICATION FOR ALL SAINTS.**

Satan’s greatest weapon is fear, coupled with his ability to deceive the nations through verbal manipulation. Doubt, which Satan retains in his arsenal, is a type of fear. Satan oftentimes takes our own words and uses them to spread fear and doubt within our own lives. Recognizing the tactics of the enemy is most important when it comes to forming strategy which will prevail against the enemy.

Fear, which is the opposite of faith, is used by Satan



to “storm the gates of our souls.” Faith can be used defensively and offensively against the schemes and confusing tactics of our enemies. We use faith “defensively” as the Shield of Faith, and “offensively” as the Word of Faith. The Shield of Faith works to protect us from the fiery darts of the enemy. The Word works to defeat the enemy as we speak God’s Word in Faith. The Word does not become a sword until we speak it from our mouth. In other words “it is our WORDS which are our most powerful weapons.” The Word does not prevail until we BELIEVE (have faith) it is true.

The Truth must be the foundation of our faith or the Sword of the Spirit will not work properly when we curse the darkness or command the enemy to depart from us. The Sword of the Spirit is the only offensive weapon we need. When the foundations of faith, truth and righteousness have been established within the heart of the believer, victory over the enemy will be obtainable.

The power we have at our disposal is the same power which created this universe we live in. It is the miracle working, “dunamis power” of our omnipotent God. The only way we can fail is to fear our enemy or believe a lie instead of the truth. We must utilize the Sword of the Spirit, the Shield of Faith, and all the armor which God has given to us. When we put on the “whole armor of God,” we will be able to stand victoriously against ALL the schemes of the enemy.

In some instances the Sword of the Spirit will only be effective for a short season when utilized by a believer. Unless truth, faith, and righteousness are rooted and grounded in the heart of the believer, victory will only be temporary. After fleeing, the enemy will come back to test our faith and resolve to see “if we are going to stand

firmly” upon the Word of Truth.

The Sword of the Spirit will not be as effective as it should be without the WHOLE armor of God. If our Shield of Faith is weak, we will be unable to quench ALL the fiery darts of the enemy. We will have a hard time convincing Satan who we are in Christ if our faith IN Christ and His finished works is weak.

The “spirit sword” is the spoken word of God. Because the “spirit sword” is established in truth and righteousness, it is more powerful than a “two edged sword.” The Holy Spirit is the source of the “spirit swords” power. The power of the “spirit sword” comes from our innermost being as we cast down imaginations and every high thing which exalts itself against the knowledge of God.

A man or woman of faith must become well trained, equipped, disciplined and diligent in faith if he or she is going to conquer evil and destroy the works of the devil. We must realize that the battle can and will only be WON by utilizing ALL the weapons we have at our disposal. We must not be fearful or intimidated by our enemy. The fearful will have already lost the battle before it begins, and will have placed themselves in jeopardy of losing the entire war.

## CHAPTER 10

### OUR SPIRITUAL BATTLE

**FOR THOUGH WE WALK IN THE FLESH WE DO NOT WAR AGAINST THE FLESH: FOR THE WEAPONS OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL, BUT THEY ARE MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONGHOLDS. CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. AND BRINGING INTO CAPTIVITY EVERY THOUGHT TO THE OBEDIENCE OF CHRIST; AND HAVING IN A READINESS TO REVENGE ALL DISOBEDIENCE, WHEN YOUR OBEDIENCE IS FULFILLED. 2 Corinthians 10:3-6.**

Although we live in the realm of the natural, we do not or should not war against flesh and blood. Our battle is not an earthly one, but a spiritual one. Paul wrote to the Ephesians and said: “we wrestle against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in high places.” Our enemies are masters of deception and manipulation which cannot be seen with the naked eye. Our enemies are not waging a conventional war, but a spiritual war. That war is taking place in the battlefield of our minds.

When our desires, attitudes, and motives are carnally subjective, the enemy can and will easily infiltrate our minds and take our thoughts captive. If we have not

been renewed in the “spirit of our minds,” our enemy can be our own emotions, attitudes, motives, will, and desires.

The devils we face are the most devious, ruthless, vicious, and unrelenting force anyone ever had or will have the displeasure to confront on the face of this Earth. They do not follow the rules of warfare established by the Geneva Convention, but by the rules of warfare established by the Devil’s Convention. They give no quarter (rest) and will release no prisoners unless they are confronted with the Blood of Jesus which always renders them powerless.

Satan’s greatest weapons are his powers of “deception and fear.” Satan used his ability to deceive and manipulate Eve in the Garden of Eden when he beguiled her into partaking of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Beguilement, or witchcraft, is the spirit by which all other evil spirits find entrance into the psyche. The Spirit of Witchcraft works alongside the “Spirit of Confusion.” At times the “Spirit of Confusion” will work with other demonic spirits to entrap, deceive, and seduce people. All evil spirits use the tactics of beguilement, entrapment, and fear in one form or another.

When Adam and Eve took their focus off of the Tree of Life (Christ) and placed it on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, they “gravely” left themselves open to beguilement, sin, and temptation. Spiritually speaking, the Tree of Life was all they needed to sustain them. Jesus is the Truth, the Life, and the Way. In Christ we can find all the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding we need to sustain us spiritually. Partaking of the “sensual wisdom” and the “good side” of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil was rebellious and sinful. According to the Bible, earthly wisdom and goodness is sensual and devilish in nature. (James 3:15).

Satan changed one word which God spoke to Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. When they received and acted upon the beguiling words of the Serpent, the whole course of man's spiritual and physical nature changed. Eve neglected to align herself with God's Word, but rather with the subtle seductive words the Serpent had spoken to her.

Within the Serpents tempting words dwelt the "seed of evil" which would ultimately plunge mankind into spiritual darkness. This darkness would remain until a Savior (Christ) would come to redeem men from the grip of sin and free them from the Kingdom of Darkness.

Eve reasoned within her mind that all the words which the Serpent had spoken to her COULD be true. After all, the fruit she saw on the tree appealed to her emotional and physical desires. She saw the "fruit was pleasing to the eye, and believed it would make her wise." However, the wisdom found within the forbidden fruit was not godly wisdom, but demonically and sensually oriented.

Natural reason always opposes faith. It is a byproduct of beguilement which opposes godly principles and precepts. Natural man is in bondage to natural reason. He does not trust in God because he does not have faith to believe in God. He may believe there is a God, but reason stands in the way of him accepting the concept of a God who loves Him.

The carnal mind is "enmity with God" and cannot and will not receive the things of God because "faith to believe eludes him." Natural reason beguiles men and prohibits them from receiving the things of God. Logic tells the carnal mind that if there was a supernatural God, He would not be approachable by natural man.

There is nothing wrong with human logic in a

natural setting, however if we are dealing with spiritual things, we must always be spiritually reasonable and responsible. Natural reason and logic supersede and super-impede the laws of faith through the process of beguilement. Natural reason rejects the supernatural reasoning of God. Faith goes beyond human reason. That is why we must trust and believe in God “by faith” and NOT rely on our own understanding.

In order to believe in God men must go beyond human reason and logic. In order to believe and receive the “promises of God,” men must set human logic and reason aside and trust Him by faith.

If man is going to win the battle for his soul, he must realize how beguilement affects his daily life. Beguilement (witchcraft) and deception are among the most destructive works of the flesh. Unless we can recognize the role beguilement plays in everyday life, we will not be able to deal with other evil spirits which are warring against our souls.

As Christians we have access to the most powerful weapons in the universe. However, most Christians fail to realize this power exists or that they can have unlimited access to the power of Christ. Consequently, many areas of their lives become “battlefields” which have been taken over and are controlled by the enemy.

Every day can be a never-ending, spiritually exhausting battle which rarely or never produces any peace or security for the weak in faith. If we are going to win this war, we must implement all the principles of spiritual warfare which God has so graciously given to us in His Word.

Although we walk in the flesh, we daily come in contact with demonic entities which war against our soul.

The enemies which we face each day are invisible, thus we must possess spiritual discernment before we will be able to recognize them or understand how they try to devilishly influence our lives. According to the Bible, Satan can appear before us as an “angel of light.” Many times he will appear with some sinful desire to tempt the flesh to sin against God. Whatever his tactics may be, if we fail to recognize and resist him, we will find ourselves falling prey to his schemes.

## **STRONGHOLDS**

**THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE ARE NOT CARNAL BUT MIGHTY THROUGH GOD TO THE PULLING DOWN OF STRONGHOLDS. 2 Corinthians 10:4.**

Our weapons are “mighty through God.” The word “mighty” used in this passage of scripture comes from the Greek word “dunamis.” The word “dynamite” is the English version of the word “dunamis.” In some places in the Bible the word “dunamis” is translated as “power,” and in other places as the “working of miracles.”

In other words, the weapons of our warfare are “powerful” or “miracle working” in nature. They are the most powerful weapons in the entire universe. It was “dunamis power” which created the universe. Our weapons are powerful (dunamis) through God to the pulling down of “strongholds.”

The weapons we have at our disposal are “dunamis” for the pulling down of the devilish strongholds which Satan establishes within the hearts and minds of people. These strongholds become “mind-sets” which will hinder

us from receiving the promises of God. They oppose our faith and trust in God.

Strongholds cause many negative issues in the lives of individuals. We can see evidence of strongholds that adversely affect the lives of individuals daily. Until all of the demonically inspired strongholds existing in the minds of believers are cast down, they will continue to be “thorns in the flesh.”

Strongholds darken perception and distort the truth. They exalt themselves against the will, plan, and purpose of God in the lives of people. Strongholds keep many Christians from “finding and fulfilling” their God given destiny. Strongholds block spiritual growth and maturity in believers.

Strongholds hinder the decision making process, thus wrong decisions will be made until those strongholds are cast down. Strongholds oppose the knowledge of God and grieve the Holy Spirit. They steal the joy and peace of many Christians, and leave open doors for demonic activity to come into their lives.

When Moses sent the twelve spies into the Land of Canaan (promise and opportunity) to spy out the land, ten of them came back with negative reports. Ten of the spies returned and reported there were “giants in the promised land” that hindered them from entering into and taking “the land.” The Spirit of Fear has prevented many people from receiving the promises of God. The giants the ten spies spoke of in the “promised land” were merely strongholds of unbelief in their own minds which caused fear to engulf their hearts. Fear and beguilement will always dominate the hearts and minds of people who focus on adverse circumstances rather than TRUSTING in all the “promises of God.”



God said that “in the Wilderness the Children of Israel had their perception darkened.” They did not believe they could overcome their enemies because they were “too mighty.” They squandered a great opportunity to believe God and “see the salvation of the Lord.” Victory was at hand, but they failed to believe they were more than able to become victorious over their enemies. We must not allow our perception to be darkened by the “forces of darkness,” but enlightened by the revelation of who we are and what we are able to do in Christ Jesus.

Ten of the twelve spies were too weak in faith to perform the task of “taking the land” God had told them was already theirs. The giants are prophetic of the strongholds which the enemy sows in the hearts and minds of individuals today. Even though God tells people they can defeat Satan, fear tells them they cannot. Their perception of truth is darkened and they choose to put their faith in “what the enemy can do” rather than in what God told them they can do.

Joshua and Caleb “believed the promise of God.” However, the Children of Israel were beguiled by the fearful report of the ten spies who were weak in faith. The “giants in the land” are prophetic of “mind-sets” which the enemy sows into the hearts and minds of many individuals today. Hopelessness can and will be a terrifying conclusion when people are desperate for change.

Even though God tells people they have power over “ALL the works of the enemy,” the Spirit of Fear convinces them they do not. We have all been given a choice to either believe our omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent God, or Satan who does not have the ability to tell the truth.

When Joshua led the Children of Israel across the Jordan River into the Promised Land, a giant fortress, or

“stronghold” stood in their way. The Promised Land was “prophetic” of the promises of God today. It was a land flowing with “milk and honey.” Jericho, the “stronghold” was representative of thoughts (imagination) which exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. Everyone who receives Christ as their Lord and Savior must deal with strongholds which block them from receiving the fullness of God’s promises.

Jericho stood in the way of the promises of God after Israel crossed over the River of Jordan (Jordan means death). Israel had wandered in the Wilderness for forty years, and now they were prepared to receive the inheritance God had promised their forefathers. Although God had given them the land, it was their responsibility to rid the land of all its inhabitants. Those inhabitants represent our spiritual enemies, fear, sin, sickness, disease, and poverty to name a few. First, Israel had to eliminate the stronghold “Jericho” which represents thoughts that exalt themselves against the “knowledge of God.”

Before we can receive the promises of God, we must rid ourselves of the carnal thoughts and imaginations which stand in our way. Casting down thoughts and imaginations which ruled our attitudes, will, and emotions as we “sojourned in the wilderness (world)” opens to us the opportunity to receive all the promises of God.

The Bible tells us to become “renewed in the “spirit of the mind.” (Ephesians 4:23). The New International Version translation tells us: to be made new in the “attitudes of the mind.” The Bible tells us we have been given the “mind (attitudes and motives) of Christ.” The mind which has not been renewed with the mind of Christ will not possess the motives and attitudes of Christ.

Thoughts (strongholds) which exalt themselves

against the knowledge of God must be “cast down” before we can “put on the mind of Christ.” Carnal imaginations which are strongholds will continue to plague Christians who have not been “fully renewed” in the “spirit of the mind.” Our understanding will continue to remain unfruitful if we have not become “renewed” in the “spirit of our mind.”

Many Christians have “Jerichos” firmly established in their minds which hinder them from receiving ALL the promises of God. Carnal mindsets exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. Many Christians continue to wander hopelessly in a spiritual wilderness because they fail to believe the “report of the Lord.” They continue to be beguiled and manipulated by the Serpent.

Jericho was destroyed as the Children of Israel shouted unto the Lord. The Children of Israel walked around the stronghold for seven days, and on the seventh day the ram’s horns were blown and they all shouted in unison. The scripture is not clear as to what words were said as Israel shouted, but it was through the act of obedience that Jericho, the stronghold (mindset) which stood in their way, was demolished (cast down) by the hand of God.

Strongholds are “Jerichos” which pollute the mind and bring spiritual deterioration to attitudes and motives. Sin, doubt, fear, unbelief, and lust are all strongholds which control the flesh. These strongholds abound in the hearts and minds of people as they continue to wander aimlessly in the “Wilderness of Sin.” These Jerichos (strongholds) must be cast down and destroyed if we as Christians are going to experience the “good of the land” which God has promised to those who believe.

The weapons of war which God has given to His

children are more than capable of destroying the works of the flesh. The “works of the flesh” were established in the heart of believers before they crossed over the Jordan River into the Promise Land of God. Today the strongholds which Satan has established in the hearts and minds of men must be replaced with strongholds of God-- obedience, faith, love, joy, and peace.

God has given us the power to tread upon serpents, scorpions, and all the power of the enemy. The enemy establishes strongholds of doubt, fear, unbelief, and spiritual perversion in the hearts and minds of believers and unbelievers alike. However, dunamis power is more than enough to demolish the strongholds which the enemy establishes in the minds of believers and put them to flight.

Jesus, the Greek form of the Hebrew name “Joshua,” has lead us across Jordan, the River of Death, and brought us into a land flowing with milk and honey. Now we dwell with Christ in heavenly places far above all principalities, power, might, and dominion. (Ephesians 1:20-21).

ANYTHING which exalts itself against the knowledge of God is an evil stronghold. False doctrines and doctrines of demons are some of the worst strongholds Satan has established in the Church. Unless these strongholds are dealt with and destroyed, the Church will never experience complete freedom and unity. Until we cast down the strongholds Satan has established within the Church, Christ will remain waiting at the threshold of Heaven for His Bride. When His Bride, the Church, is prepared and has made herself ready for her Groom, nothing can or will stop Him from coming to rapture her away.

# CHAPTER 11

## CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS

**CASTING DOWN IMAGINATIONS, AND EVERY HIGH THING THAT EXALTS ITSELF AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD. 2 Corinthians 10:5.**

Imaginations are “thoughts” or “reasonings” in the minds of individuals. The word “imagination” comes from the Greek word “logismos,” or in English, “logic.” In a scriptural context imaginations are related to evil reasoning and logic.

Logic in itself is not evil, but any logic which exalts itself against the knowledge of God is evil. When human logic and reason are all that is relied upon, natural man will be void of faith. If men are going to defeat the enemy of their souls and overcome the darkness which prevails within their hearts, they must have faith. Faith defies and goes beyond human logic and reason. If we are going to believe God, we **MUST** set human logic and reason aside, and put our faith into practice.

Human reason conflicts with and opposes supernatural faith. We must go beyond human reason and logic if we are going to trust in God and the promises of God. Casting down human reason and logic is essential before faith can arise in the heart of the believer.

Thoughts are like seeds. Evil thoughts or seeds are sown into the minds of men by the evil sower, Satan. Satan planted an evil seed (thought) in the mind of Eve. That thought, when accepted as truth, germinated and produced the fruit of unrighteousness which remains in the

hearts and minds of natural men till this day. Within the “seed of evil” was the fruit of doubt.

What Satan told Eve sounded “somewhat” like the truth. However, it was a lie. The fruit of wisdom on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil looked pleasing to the eye, and after all, wisdom is a thing to be desired. Like many people who are beguiled by the “Serpent” today Eve must have thought “what could be the harm?”

Eve saw that the fruit on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil had some “good” in it. Even the name of the tree had the word “good” attached to it. Eve “saw that the forbidden fruit was able to make her wise.” After all, wisdom is what prudent people desire. Eve listened to and obeyed the voice of the Serpent, and subsequently, creation eventually plunged into spiritual and soulful darkness.

Human logic and reason can get us in trouble if we use them in the context of spiritual truth, understanding, and wisdom. Imaginations or thoughts which align themselves with carnal desires, motives, and attitudes, are the enemies of God. Faith is rendered helpless where human logic and reason rule. Natural law and the laws of nature are contrary to the Law of Faith.

Every thought, reason, or logic which is in opposition to the knowledge of God must be destroyed in our life if we are going to win the battles against the enemies of our faith. These thoughts are strongholds which hinder and nullifies our faith. Without faith, it is impossible for us to receive the promises of God or defeat our enemy and his attempts to steal, kill, and destroy.

Opportunity lies ahead for all who by faith enter into the promises (promised land) of God and cast down every thought, natural reason, and imagination which exalts itself against the knowledge of God. All the promises of

God are available to every Christian, however the devil is not going to allow us to receive them without first testing and trying our faith.

Doubt is a powerful stronghold and motivator. Doubt is a type of fear which subtly controls the mind when people become distraught and discouraged. Doubt is a stronghold which must be dealt with ardently, authoritatively, and expeditiously.

Israel destroyed the stronghold of Jericho by “faith in the promises of God” and their shout of praise. Praise is one of the greatest weapons we have in our arsenal. Praise is akin to the sword of the spirit. The enemy must yield when we raise our voices with our “sword of praise.” Many times as Israel went into battle, the “praise and worship team” went onto the battlefield before the Israeli Army.

Israel obediently circled the stronghold of Jericho seven times (seven represents completion, or in this instance fulfilling the command of God). They obeyed God’s command and shouted with the “voice of triumph and praise.” God gave Israel victory over the “stronghold” which stood in their way as they entered into the Promised Land (promises of God.)

Imaginations (strongholds) which exalt themselves against the knowledge of God are cast down by the “sword of the spirit.” We cast down imaginations when the Word of God is released in faith and power through the “spoken word.” The Blood and the Name of Jesus are more than a match for any demon spirit, demonically inspired thought, or stronghold. We possess “dunamis power” through the Blood of Jesus and faith in His name. All the promises and power of God are available to us to “cast down imaginations and every thought which exalts itself against

the knowledge of God.”

Every thought which holds the mind captive has to obey the voice of faith. Every imagination which exalts itself against the knowledge of God can be disposed of by the “word of faith.” However, we cannot take revenge upon the “enemies of thought” which prevail in our minds until we submit ourselves to the laws and statutes which God has written upon our hearts.

When our obedience is fulfilled we will be able to exact revenge upon carnal thoughts and imaginations which exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. God will give us the faith and ability we need in order to destroy all the works of the enemy when and if we submit our will to Him.

Victory may or may not always be instant. Sometimes believers must attack the same strongholds daily, however we must remember God WILL help us defeat the enemies of our soul if we are patient, obedient, and sincere. We must patiently believe before we can receive. The Bible tells us “In our patience we possess our souls.” (Luke 21:19). We must trust in God--not in our own fears and inhibitions. We must realize God is always greater than our enemy, and Christ in us is greater than our enemy. Greater is He who is in us than he that is in the world. (1 John 4:4).

All disobedience must be removed from within our hearts minds if we are going to defeat our enemies. If we have not renounced the works of the flesh, the flesh will rise up and rebel against godly wisdom, knowledge, and understanding and our faith will then be weak. The strongholds of human reason, imaginations, evil desires, and fear must be cast down before we can become “partakers” of God’s promises. When we have destroyed



the works of the flesh in our lives, we will then be able to help others to do the same.

We cannot use the same human reason, tactics, and logic, the Children of Israel used for forty years in the Wilderness. They brought condemnation, judgment, and destruction upon themselves by their evil works and carnal reasoning. They lacked faith in God, even after seeing and experiencing all the miracles He performed in their midst.

We cannot use the weapons of human reason and logic we embraced while we wandered in the “Wilderness of Sin” to destroy the enemy within our “promised land.” We have met the enemy on the battlefield of our minds, and his thoughts will continue to remain within us if we fail to drive them out.

Human logic and imaginations are mind-sets which hinder Christians from believing and trusting in the power of God to set them free. As Christians we are no longer faithful citizens of the Kingdom of Darkness. We have become citizens of the Kingdom of Light, and we need to think and act upon the laws and principles which govern that Kingdom.

As Christians, we need and must have new mind-sets, or strongholds which exalt, agree with, and conform to the knowledge of God. The darkness in this present world which prevails in the hearts and minds of unbelievers should not be present in the Church. We MUST possess new mind-sets before we can faithfully go forward in the power and might of the Holy Spirit to preach the gospel, cast out demons, raise the dead, and heal the sick.

As Christians, we live in a Kingdom which is governed by different precepts and principles than the rest of the world. We cannot continue to walk in the vain

imaginations which govern the rest of the world. New mind-sets must replace the old ones which exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. New mind-sets will establish godly knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and power in our lives. We must possess new mindsets if we are going to defeat the enemies which are continually trying to destroy us.

## **DISCERNING OF SPIRITS**

The DISCERNING OF SPIRITS deals with the ability to “see” into the realm of the spirit. To discern means to “see or determine.” We may not always see the demon with our spiritual eyes, but we can “discern” his presence through our spiritual senses. Discerning of spirits is the gift of the Spirit which deals with seeing into the realm of the spirit or determining the nature of spiritual entities and/or gifts. The discerning of spirits includes the ability to see angels, as well as demons.

Many people get hung up on seeing devils all the time, however the discerning of spirits also includes seeing angels as well. One who possesses the gift of discerning of spirits will see into the spirit realm as the Lord opens his or her spiritual eyes.

There are many more angels than demons. One third of the angels who rebelled against God were cursed and cast out of Heaven. Like God, angels and demons are spirits. They reside in the spiritual dimension which is adjacent to our own dimension. Angels and demons have the ability to see into our dimension at all times. One could say they have “discerning of people.”

The gift of discerning of spirits opens our eyes to see into the realm of the spirit. God has opened my eyes

on many occasions to see into the spirit realm. I have experienced seeing both angels and demons. This gift is very useful to those who are ministering deliverance, healing, miracles, and power to people who are bound by satanic entities.

Elisha, speaking of his servant, prayed: “Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes that he may see.” And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horsemen and chariots of fire round about Elisha. (2 Kings 6:17). This is one example of “discerning of spirits” which is recorded in the Bible.

When operating in the discerning of spirits, the Holy Spirit is allowing us to see into the realm of the spirit. When God opens our eyes to see into the spirit realm, He expects us to do something about what we are seeing. If we are seeing demonic activity, He expects us to deal with the demon spirits authoritatively and harshly. At times the Lord has opened my “spiritual eyes” to see demons in order to teach me how certain demons operate in the lives of people. Other times He opens my spiritual eyes to see into the “spirit realm” in order to deal with evil spirits expeditiously and authoritatively. Our spiritual eyes are connected to the “eyes of our understanding.” Spiritual discernment is akin to “spiritual understanding.”

When we are seeing angelic activity, God is trying to send us a message, give us direction, or perform something supernatural in our midst. Sometimes God sends us a message through angelic presence and activity in our lives. Many of us have entertained angels unknowingly. Angels have saved and delivered many God fearing people from destruction without their knowledge. “Angels encamp round about those who fear God and they deliver them.” (Psalm 34:7).

Discerning of spirits has been very helpful to me in waging war against the Forces of Darkness, ministering deliverance, and imparting wisdom and direction to others. Many people have been set free all over the world because men and women of God have been able to see demonic activity taking place within the “spirit realm.”

Without this supernatural gift, many lives would remain in spiritual darkness. Many people do not know what type of demon or demons they are dealing with or how to deal with the evil which may be present in their lives. Discerning of spirits is a must for every believer, not just for those in the pulpit or deliverance ministry. If we can see the evil spirits which we are dealing with in the spirit realm, we will have a greater understanding of how they practice their evil craft. We should all PRAY for God to open our eyes so we can discern when good or evil is present, and how we are to deal with evil when discern it is in our presence.

## CHAPTER 12

### THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM

**AND THERE SHALL COME FORTH A ROD OUT OF THE STEM OF JESSE, AND A BRANCH SHALL GROW OUT OF HIS ROOTS: AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL REST UPON HIM, THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL AND MIGHT, THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE, AND OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD.**  
Isaiah 11:1-2.

The Bible says “the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” (Proverbs 9:10). The fear of the Lord is the basic foundation “godly wisdom” is built upon. Men who do not possess “godly fear” cannot and will not possess godly wisdom.

Not all fear is bad--only fear which comes from the enemy. What fear we may possess depends upon which fear and “who” we align ourselves with. We must ask ourselves the question “Are we subject to the Spirit of Fear or the Spirit of the Fear of the Lord?” The fear of the enemy brings torment, but the Fear of the Lord brings hope and peace.

The “fear of the Lord will always result in peace. The fear of the enemy will always consume our peace and hinder our walk with the Prince of Peace, Christ Jesus. The Spirit of Fear will always bring confusion into the hearts and minds of those who lack faith in the promises of God. Fear brings torment, and torment is the precursor of judgment.

Many Christians lack a good, healthy “fear of God.” That is one reason why there is so much confusion and turmoil within the lives of many individuals. I have always said that a good, healthy “fear of God” is what every Christian needs to have in his or her spiritual arsenal. Without godly fear, people tend to go their own way and do their own thing, regardless of whether it is right or wrong, or the consequences that they may face due to their sin.

“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.” (Proverbs 9:10). “The fear of the Lord” is also the beginning of knowledge. (Proverbs 1:7). Without knowledge and wisdom we will not be able to devise a plan which will defeat the enemy of our soul.

Without godly knowledge and wisdom, the battles we fight in our minds will be lost. Without the “fear of the Lord,” the “Spirit of Fear” will be able to dominate and control our lives. Christ, who is our wisdom, strengthens our heart with “godly fear” as we put on the whole armor of God. Without the knowledge which Christ imparts to us, we will be unable to maintain the peace which rules our hearts and minds.

When our thoughts and words are controlled by the Spirit of Fear, we are not trusting in God. The Bible tells us it is a “fearful thing” to fall into the hands of an angry God, but a godly fear will always keep us safe in His hands. Trusting in “fear” rather than fearing the only One we can trust will lead us into judgment and torment. Godly fear will always ensure us that we are pleasing to Him.

Godly fear can become one of our greatest assets in the battle for the mind. Men must put on the “Spirit of the Fear of the Lord” and remove the “cloak of darkness” which empowers their enemies to control their lives through fear. Godly fear will lead men to salvation and

deliverance through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Fear will always lead to death and destruction in those who trust in their own fears and inhibitions.

When confronting our spiritual enemies, we must always remember that we cannot win the battles using natural knowledge and understanding. The weapons of warfare are not carnal, but they are “mighty” through God to the pulling down of strongholds that hinder our spiritual growth and physical well being.

We cannot receive spiritual understanding in the same way we receive natural understanding. Much of the spiritual understanding we receive comes by way of revelation. All the weapons of our warfare and spiritual armor is imparted to us by the Spirit of God--not by any natural means.

## **CHRIST OUR FOUNDATION**

**THROUGH WISDOM A HOUSE IS BUILT, AND BY UNDERSTANDING IT IS ESTABLISHED.** Proverbs 24:3.

Christ is the foundation of our salvation. Christ is our wisdom. Christ is the foundation of our faith. In Christ we possess all the riches and virtues that exist in the Kingdom of God. Understanding who Christ is and what Christ in us can do to free us from self will lead us into a life filled with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

When we build our spiritual houses on the foundation Christ laid for us at Calvary, our minds will become towers of strength that cannot be penetrated by the enemy. A tower of strength for Christians can only be built by using the wisdom God imparts to us. Building a

spiritual house without the wisdom of God is like building a house on sand. When the storms of life come, the house will collapse under the pressure of mental and emotional stress and strain. We can be assured that the storms of life “will” come to each and every one of us.

A spiritual foundation that is built upon anything other than Christ does not possess the capacity to stand against the wiles of the Devil. Sooner or later spiritual wickedness will find occasion to destroy every house that is built upon the sand.

Godly knowledge, wisdom, and understanding are the foundations on which our spiritual houses must be built in order for us to become truly free. Christ, our salvation, and the knowledge we find in Him can and will lead us into a life filled with righteousness, peace, and unspeakable joy.

## **PUTTING ON KNOWLEDGE**

**AND BY KNOWLEDGE THE ROOMS ARE FILLED  
WITH ALL PRECIOUS AND PLEASANT RICHES.**

Proverbs 24:4.

We saw that through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established. When our spiritual house is filled with the fullness of Christ, the rooms are filled with all the treasures and riches of Heaven.

When we put on the Helmet of Salvation, we are putting on the knowledge of God. The knowledge of God gives us insight into everything Christ secured for us through His finished works at Calvary. Without the knowledge of God regarding the weapons of our warfare, the people of God will be unable to defeat the Forces of



Darkness.

Knowledge is the pathway that leads to wisdom and understanding. Without knowledge the keys to wisdom and understanding cannot be found. Without wisdom and understanding, the knowledge we obtain is useless. Knowledge, wisdom, and understanding work together to build a spiritual house we can dwell in that cannot be moved or shaken by any earthly or spiritual storm that may come our way.

## **KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING**

**AND I WILL GIVE YOU PASTORS ACCORDING TO MINE HEART, WHICH WILL FEED YOU WITH KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING.** Jeremiah 3:15.

Knowledge without understanding is unfruitful. Albert Einstein once said “Any fool can know—the point is to understand. Knowledge without understanding is fruitless. Wisdom is the “principle thing;” however, without knowledge and understanding we will never find the wisdom of God and the perfect will of God for our lives.

Our hearts will never be established in truth and righteousness if we do not know and understand the principles that can set us free from the carnal mindedness that war against the soul. Truth sets us free from carnal mindsets that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. Understanding WHO the truth is and how He can set us free from carnal mindsets can lead us into becoming “free indeed.”

The Bible tells us to study to show ourselves approved of God, a workman that needs not be ashamed. 2 Timothy 2:15. When we study the word intently and rightly divide the “word of truth,” we will receive God’s “stamp of approval.” When we understand what we have learned from the Word of God, we will be able to impart both knowledge and understanding to others.

When we possess the knowledge and wisdom of God, we will understand why it is imperative that die to self-will and self-determination. Before we can be fully effective in our “ministry of reconciliation,” we must be reconciled to God ourselves. Before the truth can be our buckler and shield it must transform us into the divine Image of Christ. The truth can only gird up the loins of our minds and set us free if we “know” the truth. When our loins are girt about with truth, we will be successful in the “ministry of reconciliation” God has entrusted to us.

Until we break the carnal mindsets that control our desires, motives, emotions, and will we will never be able to fully understand the perfect will of God for our lives. We will never be able to walk in the fullness of Christ and be free from all the things in our hearts that cause us to “self-destruct.”

## **CHAPTER 13**

### **THE BREAKING OF SELF-WILL**

It is the breaking of self-will and self-desire that opens the door for our hearts to become filled with the fullness of Christ. We are filled with His fullness when our minds have been completely renewed to think and act like Christ. When our will has been broken and the mind of Christ takes preeminence in our lives, we will understand why it was imperative that we die to self.

Christians are able to preach the gospel with greater passion and have a greater compassion for the lost and those in need when their will is broken. When our will has been totally broken, we will be able to reach a greater number of people for Christ. Our focus will be continually on things that are above rather than on things that hinder our walk with our Lord here below.

Our will is directly linked to our emotions. Our emotions are usually affected and driven by our circumstances and/or our relationships with others. When our will has been broken, and the will of the Father takes preeminence in our lives, we will become emotionally secure in Christ. Fear cannot and will not have dominion over those who are wearing the Helmet of Salvation. The Bible tells us that “fear has torment.” When people fall into the “snare of fear,” they can and will suffer anguish, agony, and defeat.

The Spirit of Fear carries a lot of negative emotional baggage with it, including torment. According to the Bible, those who fear have not been made perfect/complete in the love of God. However on the other hand, according to the

Bible perfect love casts out all fear. Casting down imaginations and thoughts that contain negative emotions such as panic, fear, and dread, will lead us into a greater love walk with Christ. When we are wearing the Helmet of Salvation, the Spirit of Fear cannot penetrate our minds or control our emotions.

## **DYING TO SELF**

I heard Kathryn Kuhlman say in a video “I know the day that I died.” Before we can truly live for Christ, we must truly die to self. Dying to self is not something that is appealing to the flesh. The “flesh man” is accustomed to getting his own way and doing his own thing. To the flesh man, the thought of dying to self is very frightening and can cause “daymares.”

When Christians die to self, they should mark the date on a calendar and call their family and friends to have a party. Everybody could celebrate the dying of the “flesh man.” They could have a “New Birthday Party” every year on the anniversary of the day they died to self.” Their friends could bring them flowers, and the person who died to self could hand out sympathy cards to those who have not yet died to self. The person who died to self could give their own eulogy at the New Birthday Party. The only tears shed would be for those who had not yet died to self. It would be more like a wake than a funeral.

When we die to self, we die to negative emotions, desires, attitudes, and motives. When we die to self, Christ has opportunity to live in us without restraint or limit. When we die to self, the flesh man no longer has control of our will, and we will be easily influenced by the

disciplines (knowledge) of faith, peace, righteousness, and truth.

When we die to self, the flesh man no longer dictates who we are and what we do. When we die to self, we no longer identify with the flesh man or the world. Worldly things no longer have any value to us because what we have found in our relationship with Christ is much more valuable than anything this world has to offer.

When we realize why we must die to self before we can truly live in Christ, we will understand that the will of God for our lives is more important than our own will. Many Christians are unable to receive the blessings of God because they are carnally minded. Carnal mindedness is a curse that hinders the Spirit of God from imparting ALL the blessings of Christ to the believer. It is Christ in us that is the “hope of glory” and the benefactor and administrator of all the blessings of God.

Being free from self-will gives us access to the Throne Room of God. We cannot enter into the throne room of God if we are self-willed, prideful, and arrogant. When we are clothed in Christ, we will be continually dwelling in the “secret place of the Most High,” and the life we now live we will live in Him. Living in Christ is the only life we can live that pleases the Father.

## **LIVING IN CHRIST**

Living in Christ always requires dying to self. When we die to self, we are resurrected and become raised up in the Divine Image of Christ. When we put on the Helmet of Salvation, we are putting on Christ. The invisible Kingdom of God dwells within our hearts by virtue of the Spirit of Christ. Living in Christ gives us the

power to become the sons and daughters of God. Living in Christ gives us power over sin and the consequences that come from submitting to the “flesh man.”

There is nothing good that can be said about the “flesh man.” The flesh man is corrupt and desperately wicked by nature. On the other hand, the spirit man which is rooted and grounded in faith in Christ is “wholly” complete and faultlessly “holy” in Him.

When we are living holy in Christ, we will be walking in the Spirit and the God of this world will have nothing in us. We have been completely exonerated of all our sins and transgressions, and we live to forever be found guiltless and shameless in Him.

When we are living in Christ we are clothed with His righteousness, joy, and peace. We understand that the peace that transcends all understanding is no longer an enigma, but an ever present reality.

When we are living in Christ, Christ is forever living in us to help us bring sacrifices of praise into the Throne Room of the Almighty. When we are living in Christ, He is the only reason we live.

## **DYING TO SELF-WILL**

Dying to self-will is one of the hardest things Christians can do. The Devil uses the tempting allure of worldly pleasures and treasures to ensnare those who are not rooted and grounded in Christ. For many Christians the things of this world are more appealing than the virtues of Christ. This is because they have not truly tasted and experienced the goodness of God and the tangible power of His resurrection. Many Christians have never experienced

the tangible manifest presence of God.

Many Christians have not experienced or tasted of the powers of the age to come. (See Hebrews 6:5). Others have tasted of the powers of the age to come but were drawn away from them by the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches by the schemes and wiles of the Devil. The cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches have led many down the path of destruction.

If Christians are bound by carnal desires and emotions, they cannot effectively reach out to help others that are bound. Freeing self of the things that control and hinder their own relationship with the Lord is the first step in helping to free others who are bound.

Many of the obstacles that hinder Christians from experiencing true freedom is “hidden” deep within their hearts. True freedom can only come by knowing and continually abiding in the light of the knowledge and understanding that the Helmet of Salvation provides. When the eyes of our understanding become “enlightened,” we will be able to see that truth is the only thing that can free us from the darkness that permeates this world.

## **AUTHORITY**

**BEHOLD I GIVE UNTO YOU POWER TO TREAD ON SERPENTS, SCORPIONS, AND OVER ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY, AND NOTHING SHALL BY ANY MEANS HURT YOU. Luke 10:19.**

The word “power” in the above scripture comes from the Greek word which means “authority.” Jesus said He gave us “authority” over ALL the works of the enemy.

Our authority to tread upon Satan and ALL his evil works cannot come from a higher source. Jesus has given us the same authority He has over the enemy of our souls.

Many Christians are waiting for Christ to deliver them from the “snares of the enemy.” However, Jesus has already done what He was sent by the Father to do. His finished works at Calvary has provided us with all the power and authority we need to “tread” upon our spiritual enemies. Jesus said “I give YOU the power to tread.”

We MUST understand and believe that the authority we have inherited from Christ has the ability to change our circumstances. We MUST understand and believe that the authority we have in Christ is sufficient to handle any fiery darts our enemies throw at us.

One of the problems many Christians have regarding “authority” is a lack of understanding and believing they have been given authority. Many Christians are destroyed by the lack of knowledge. Others are destroyed because they reject or neglect the knowledge God has made available to them.

Authority to “tread” comes from believing and receiving. However, if we do not believe we cannot and will not receive. When we have on the Helmet of Salvation, we will know and understand that we DO have the power to tread upon the enemy. We will know HOW we can tread, WHERE we can tread, and WHY we can tread upon the enemy.

Knowledge is POWER. Understanding what knowledge is telling us is even more powerful because it gives us insight into the truth that is able to set us free from ALL the works of the enemy. Wisdom is important because it gives us the ability to use knowledge and understanding in the proper manner.



The authority we have been given in Christ is more than just the ability to “give” orders to the enemy. Our authority comes with the “tangible power” in our words to enforce the orders that we give to the enemy as we “tread upon his head.” No weapon the enemy has can or will prosper when we “understand” and believe we have the power to tread upon him.

The Bible tells us we “sit” in heavenly places in Christ Jesus “far above” all principalities and powers. Ephesians 1:20-21 and Ephesians 2:6. The reason we are able to “tread” upon the head of our enemy is because in Christ our enemy is under our feet. Understanding and believing the enemy MUST obey our orders is key to defeating him when our alliance and obedience to Christ is fulfilled.

If we have not died to self-will and self-determination, we are not completely sitting in heavenly places with Christ. Our enemies will not recognize nor submit to our demands because our authority only comes when we are “seated” with Christ in heavenly places far above the principalities and powers that war against our souls.

When we are seated with Christ in heavenly places, the “old man” is dead and the “new man” has been raised up with Him by the power of His resurrection. It is the resurrection power of Christ within us that gives us the ability to overcome ALL the works of the enemy.

## **CHAPTER 14**

### **THE RENEWING OF THE MIND**

**AND DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT IS THAT GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD. Romans 12:2.**

The Bible says “the carnal mind is the enemy of God.” When our minds are rooted and grounded in the knowledge, reasoning, and vain imaginations of this world, our thoughts can be considered “enmity with God.” The Bible tells us to be renewed in the “spirit of our minds.” The carnal mind cannot receive the knowledge of God because it does not understand or know how to process such knowledge.

### **BEING SPIRITUALLY MINDED**

It has been said “the mind is a terrible thing to waste.” Spiritually speaking, the devil takes a terrible toll on every person who has not been “renewed” in the spirit of the mind. The mind of believers will not be established in truth and righteousness if they fail to acknowledge or understand the principles in God’s Word.

A mind which has not been “spiritually renewed” through the “power of revelation” is a mind which is bound in spiritual darkness and depravity. True freedom of thought can only come through the Spirit of Liberty.

Christians will remain “carnally minded” when they fail to renew their minds to the truth. Carnal Christianity is a problem found in many churches today. People can be born again, however unless their minds are renewed to the knowledge and understanding of God’s Word, their lives will be in vain and somewhat fruitless.

Our mind is the most important physical organ we possess. It is the place where we make decisions based on what we know, have experienced, and what we have learned over the years. It is imperative that the decisions we make are representative of the “mind of Christ.” The knowledge we possess and how we use that knowledge will determine the outcome of many events which will transpire in our lifetime.

If we fail to “cast down ALL the thoughts and imaginations which exalt themselves against the knowledge of God,” we will be unable to defeat the enemy when he comes to steal, kill, and destroy. When we are vigilant in the battle for the control of our minds, we can be assured that victory over our enemy is and will be attainable.

The mind has been called the “fortress of the soul.” Spiritual battles are continually being fought to retain possession of the souls of mankind. All spiritual battles are fought on the battlefield of the mind. We cannot win the battle for control of our minds without the knowledge and understanding of our enemy and his tactics.

If we are not renewed in the “spirit of our mind,” we will fail to have proper understanding of how we can defeat our enemy. With godly wisdom and knowledge, we will be able to use the godly principles of “spiritual warfare” which will assure us victory in every area of our lives.

Knowledge is the key to understanding how our enemy operates, as well as the ways we will be able to

defeat him. Without the knowledge of HOW to wage “spiritual warfare,” we will most definitely lose the battle for the control of our minds. God has given us ALL the weapons we have need of in order to defeat the forces of darkness which are continually trying to hinder our walk with Christ. Our enemy does not take a day off--and neither can we.

The Apostle Paul said “the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but they are “mighty.” Our weapons are “mighty through God” in their ability to destroy the strongholds within the mind which exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. Without godly knowledge we will be unable to penetrate the darkness which builds and sustains the strongholds. Strongholds which exalt themselves against the knowledge of God subtly, but forcibly, keep the carnal mind in bondage.

Carnal thoughts are the enemy of God. They are satanically sustained strongholds which stand in opposition to the will and knowledge of God and His Word. Carnal thoughts are always rooted and grounded in earthly wisdom, ideologies, and philosophies which are found in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

## **HUMAN LOGIC**

Human logic can be the “enemy” of our soul. There is nothing wrong with logic in a natural setting, however logic is useless on the spiritual battlefield of our mind. When we are dealing with spiritual enemies, we must be spiritually minded, reasonable, and responsible. The Bible tells us our enemy is “going about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour.” In the presence of our

enemy we must remain diligent, vigilant, sober, and constantly on guard bearing the “whole armor of God.”

Natural logic in itself is not necessarily evil. However, any logic which exalts itself against the knowledge of God is evil. When human logic and reason is all that is relied upon, natural man will be void of faith. Faith always defies and supersedes human logic. Faith says “with God all things are possible,” however, human logic and reason disagrees. Faith says “we can do all things through Christ which strengthens us;” human logic says we cannot. If we are going to believe God, we must put aside ALL human logic and reason. The faith which gives us advantage over Satan comes from KNOWING, trusting, and believing in the power of God as we fight the spiritual battles in our lives.

When people are carnally minded rather than spiritually minded, natural reason and logic supersedes and super-impedes the Law of Faith. Casting down human reason which exalts itself against the knowledge of God will always lead us to victory and freedom in the Holy Spirit.

Natural reason will always reject the supernatural reasoning of God. Faith goes beyond natural reason, and will take us into the realm where the supernatural triumphs and “all things are possible.” Spiritual weapons do not make any sense to natural man. To Christians, our weapons are “mighty through God” when it comes to casting down and eliminating strongholds which keep the carnal mind in bondage. When the carnal mind has been TRANSFORMED by the renewing of the mind, FAITH will rule and reign in our hearts through righteousness, joy, and peace.

Many people try to understand the Bible by using

natural logic and understanding. However, the natural mind will not accept, and will always oppose, the truths which are found in the Word of God. Human logic and reason will always oppose spiritual principles. Spiritual precepts and principles can only be discerned by those who are “spiritually minded.”

Doubt and unbelief are enemies of the mind. They are rooted and grounded in the depths of deception. Faith, on the other hand, is rooted and grounded in the concept of spiritual understanding rather than natural logic. The carnal mind will always doubt and oppose the Word of God. To be carnally minded is DEATH. To be spiritually minded is LIFE. Our righteousness, which comes by faith in God, always depends on us believing what God says--not on what the carnal mind dictates to us.

## **BEGUILEMENT AND DECEPTION**

If we are going to be successful in winning the battle for our soul, we must realize how beguilement affects and infects our daily lives. If we fail to recognize the role beguilement plays in our everyday lives, we will be unable to recognize the enemy when he subtly comes to deceive us. Deception is a weapon of the enemy which is designed to draw us away from God and into sin and depravity through the power of beguilement.

When we understand the strategies of our enemy, we will be on constant alert if we desire to walk in freedom. Sooner or later the enemy will place before us an opportunity which “looks appealing” to us. However, in reality, it is an attempt to invade and conquer territory within our minds.

Many Christians lose battles because they do not have the knowledge and understanding of how the enemy operates through beguilement. Christians must realize that the battle for control of the mind is the BATTLE for the “control of their soul”. If Satan can influence or control the mind, he will be able to capture the soul. Without the “knowledge of the truth,” people will always lose the battle for their souls.

If we are going to be successful at discerning the deceptive tactics of the enemy and how we can defeat him, we must use ALL the weapons we have at our disposal. Our only hope for defeating our enemy lies in the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding which is found in the Word of God. A good book written on spiritual warfare will empower Christians with the knowledge they need to defeat their spiritual enemies.

## **SATAN’S STRATEGIES**

Satan has been using the same strategies for millennia; and unfortunately he is very proficient and successful at what he does. However, for Christians there is no weapon Satan can form against us that will prosper if we possess and utilize the knowledge and wisdom concerning “spiritual warfare” God has given us.

We MUST put on the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD in order for our strategy to work. Strategic weapons only work when they are applied and used properly. If we do not put on the WHOLE armor of God, we are leaving ourselves vulnerable to the “deception of the enemy.” If we fail to use godly wisdom and understanding, Satan can and will invade and conquer territory in our minds with his

fiery darts.

God gives us strategies in the Bible which we can use to defeat our enemy. Studying a good book on spiritual warfare would be a good investment for those who are seeking more information on the “weapons of our warfare.” God’s power is unlimited; on the other hand Satan has no weapon that can prosper against us when we are “strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” The Apostle Paul told us to be “strong in the Lord and the power of His might.” (Ephesians 6:10).

God has equipped us with His armor, power, and weapons in order for us to be free from the stumbling blocks which are found entrenched within the carnal mind. There is no weapon our enemy can use against us that can match the power God has imparted to us by His Spirit.

When we cast down human reason and carnal thoughts, we **MUST** replace them with **GOD THOUGHTS**. We must be spiritually transformed and renewed in the “spirit of the mind” in order for us to defeat the enemy. We cast down imaginations when we take the initiative to “receive and believe” what God says, and “refuse” to accept what the enemy says. When people replace human logic with the supernatural logic and knowledge of God, they will find themselves free of **ALL** oppressing, depressing, and distressing thoughts. Any thoughts which are contrary to the Word of God should have no place in the mind of the believer.

**BEHOLD I GIVE YOU AUTHORITY TO TRAMPLE ON SERPENTS AND SCORPIONS, AND OVER ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY, AND NOTHING SHALL BY ANY MEANS HURT YOU. Luke10: 20.**



## CHAPTER 15

### TRUTH, REVELATION, AND COUNSEL

#### THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

**AND I WILL PRAY THE FATHER, AND HE WILL GIVE YOU ANOTHER COMFORTER, THAT HE MAY ABIDE WITH YOU FOREVER; [EVEN THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH]; WHOM THE WORLD CANNOT RECEIVE, NEITHER CAN THEY KNOW HIM: BUT YE KNOW HIM; FOR HE DWELLS WITH YOU, AND SHALL BE IN YOU. John 14:16-17.**

Truth possesses the capacity to set people free from the bondage of sin. Jesus is the Truth, the Life, and the Way. No man can come to the Father unless they are drawn to Him by His Spirit. (John 6:44). The Spirit of Truth is also known as the Comforter. (John 14:16-17). Jesus said the Father was going to send ANOTHER Comforter which is and was the Holy Spirit. It is comforting to know we possess the Truth, Jesus our Lord and Savior, and the Spirit of Truth which is the Holy Spirit. Both of them are “Comforters.”

If we possess the Truth, we possess Eternal Life. We have taken off the “old man” and have become new creations through the Blood of Christ. The old man which was born of flesh has put on the “new man” which is Christ Jesus. We have put on the helmet of Truth and Salvation

and the armor of His Light which enables us to dwell with Christ in heavenly places.

Truth has become our “buckler and shield.” (Psalm 91:4). Truth and faith work together in order to establish the Kingdom of God within us. We accept the truth by faith in the finished works of Christ. Because we know and believe the Truth (Jesus), the Truth has set us free. We no longer wander through this world in darkness because the Light of Truth now leads us through this life as we follow Christ. However, it is only the truth WE KNOW which will set us free. If we have not applied truth to every area of our lives, we will continue to have problems in this world.

Truth transforms us into the image of Christ. (2 Corinthians 3:18). Truth is not transient as many philosophers proclaim. Truth can never, and will never change. Truth is Truth. Nothing anybody can say or create in Heaven, on Earth, or beneath the Earth, can change the truth. Truth is established and will remain the same forever. It is the foundation of righteousness, faith, grace, and mercy. Truth stands alone, far above the hypotheses, philosophies, and ideologies of men. It is established on the foundation and integrity of the Word of God forever. Many men have denied, rejected, and maligned the truth to their own detriment. Fools deny the truth, thus they become in bondage to great deception. Truth will stand forever. All human logic, reason, and understanding will fail because truth is the only foundation which can and will stand the test of time.

Jesus told the truth, and men tried to destroy Him. They did not want to hear the truth because it exposed their hypocrisy and sin. The Truth stood before them, but they did not recognize Him or accept Him as Truth. When men

reject the truth, they are rejecting the wisdom and counsel of God. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the “Spirit of Truth,” unfortunately for them, the hypocrites did not want anything to do with Him. They chose to believe a lie rather than the TRUTH. Jesus walked and dwelt among men as the Word of Truth, however many chose to deceive themselves, reject Him, believe a lie, and were damned.

When we renew our minds to the truth, we are putting on the mind of Christ and girding up (strengthening) the “loins of our mind.” The whole armor of God is not complete if we do not understand the purpose of truth. Understanding the purpose of truth will help us to become “renewed in the spirit of our minds.” If men do not know and accept Jesus as the embodiment of TRUTH, they will suffer eternally along with the children of disobedience.

It is the truth that we know which will set us free. If our perception of truth is misguided, our walk with Christ will suffer; and Satan will be able to usurp power over us. If we misrepresent truth or allow what we erroneously perceive to be truth to rule within our hearts, we will also suffer the same consequences. If every area of our mind is not established in truth, we will be destined to fail in our attempts to be free in every area of our lives.

All Truth is revealed by the Spirit of Truth. Jesus said the words which He spoke were “Spirit and Truth.” The only requirement for us to KNOW the truth is to desire and seek truth. If we are going to acquire truth, we must hunger and thirst for it with our whole heart. If we search for the truth with all our heart, we will find what we are looking for.

According to the Apostle Paul, speaking the truth in love edifies or builds our faith as we grow and mature in

Christ. (Ephesians 4:15). The truth is a buckler and a shield. Truth becomes a two-edged sword when we believe and speak it from our mouths. No weapon Satan has formed against us “can prosper” when we believe the truth and speak forth the Word of Truth in faith.

When we believe and speak the truth, we are casting down human reason, imaginations and every thought which exalts itself against the knowledge of God. When truth comes to dwell within the “spirit of our minds,” we will be transformed from darkness into the Kingdom of Light. Truth will never fail us because its foundations endure forever and cannot be compromised, nor do they change.

## **THE SPIRIT OF REVELATION**

**BUT I CERTIFY YOU, BRETHREN, THAT THE GOSPEL WHICH WAS PREACHED OF ME IS NOT AFTER MAN. FOR I NEITHER RECEIVED IT OF MAN, NEITHER WAS I TAUGHT IT, BUT BY THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST.** Galatians 1:11-12.

All spiritual knowledge, truth, understanding, and wisdom, come through the Spirit of Revelation. At times when I am preaching in a Church or a meeting, the Lord will tell me a Spirit of Revelation is in our midst. The Lord desires to impart to His people knowledge, wisdom, understanding, and truth. He does this by the Spirit of Revelation.

We gain wisdom through knowledge and understanding. Christ, who is our wisdom, is revealed to us by the Spirit of Revelation. We trust in Christ because the Spirit of Revelation reveals to us He is trustworthy, as

well as the “Truth, the Life, and the Way.”

Jesus asked Peter, “Who do men say that I am?” Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus then said to Peter, “Flesh and blood has not “revealed” this to you but my Father which is in Heaven.”

Paul’s revelation of Christ was also given to him by the Spirit of Revelation. Paul’s revelation was by no means an interpretation of “who man believes God is,” or “how man may or may not perceive Him.” The word “revelation” comes from the Greek word “apocalypse” which means to “uncover or unveil.” Revelation always points us to truth and wisdom through knowledge and understanding. It is the truth which sets us free, but it is the Spirit of Revelation which reveals the knowledge of the truth to us.

Possessing knowledge without wisdom and understanding is unfruitful. Many people have knowledge, but without understanding will fail to know how to use it properly. Knowledge alone can make one prideful, however understanding and wisdom will give them the ability to use knowledge correctly.

Many people possess much knowledge concerning spiritual truths; however they lack wisdom and understanding. They may believe Christ is the Son of God, but they reject Him (Truth) as Lord and Savior. Satan knows the truth, but he denies and rejects the Spirit of Truth. The sin of pride preceded Lucifer’s eternal fall from grace. Pride rejects wisdom, and wisdom rejects pride. Pride and wisdom are always incompatible. God rejects the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Humility which is rooted and grounded in the “fear of the Lord” is the beginning of wisdom.

The Spirit of Revelation “reveals” the truth to us.

The Spirit of Truth opens and enlightens the eyes of our understanding in order for us to see and know Christ in all His glory and grace. If we are going to know Christ as He is, the Spirit of Revelation must reveal Him to us. If we desire to know how to defeat our spiritual enemies, the Spirit of Revelation will instruct us in the tactics of spiritual warfare.

The gifts called the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and the discerning of spirits are called the “revelatory gifts.” Whenever the Spirit of Revelation is present, He is there to impart direction, knowledge, wisdom, truth and/or understanding to us. He will always point us to Christ and/or what Christ has accomplished, will do, or wants to do in our lives.

If we desire a greater relationship with Christ through the power of His resurrection, all we have to do is ask God to REVEAL Him to us. God reveals Christ to us in a more personal way through the power of “His resurrection” and the Spirit of Revelation. Peter had a revelation of “who Christ was,” but he did not KNOW Him in the “power of His resurrection” because Christ had not yet been crucified and raised from the dead.

The fear of the Lord (see Isaiah 11:4) is a byproduct of the Spirit of Revelation and the Spirit of Wisdom. Through knowledge, understanding, and wisdom, we serve a God who promotes and exacts judgment, justice, and justification. We never want to find ourselves on the wrong side of God in the “day of His wrath.”

## **THE SPIRIT OF COUNSEL**

**AND THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD SHALL REST**

**UPON HIM, THE SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND UNDERSTANDING, [THE SPIRIT OF COUNCIL] AND MIGHT, THE SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE AND OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD. Isaiah 11:2.**

Wise men will always seek wise counsel. The Spirit of Counsel, like all the other Spirits of God, is supernaturally engendered. If we are sincerely seeking supernatural counsel, we must go to the “Supernatural Counselor.” God is the source of all natural and supernatural knowledge, wisdom, and understanding. If and when we need godly wisdom and direction in order to make decisions, God always has the answer. All we have to do is ask Him, believing in faith that He will provide the answer.

Jesus told His disciples “He would send them a Comforter who is the Holy Spirit.” The word “comforter” comes from the Greek word “parakletos” which means “counselor or advocate.” It is a comfort to know we have a “parakletos” who will instruct us in righteousness and guide us into all truth.

We would not understand how to function in the “realm of the supernatural” without a “supernatural counselor.” Without the Comforter we would have very little understanding of God’s will, way, and purpose for our lives. The “Spirit of Counsel” helped Job when his friends offered him nothing but pity and scorn.

**THOU SHOWEST LOVING KINDNESS UNTO THOUSANDS, AND RECOMPENSE THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS INTO THE BOSOM OF THEIR CHILDREN AFTER THEM: THE GREAT, THE MIGHTY GOD, THE LORD OF HOSTS, IS HIS**

**NAME, [GREAT IN COUNSEL], AND MIGHTY IN WORK: FOR THINE EYES ARE OPEN UPON ALL THE WAYS OF THE SONS OF MEN: TO GIVE EVERYONE ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS, AND ACCORDING TO THE FRUIT OF HIS DOINGS.**  
Jeremiah 32:18-19.

Isaiah called Him a “Wonderful (supernatural) Counselor.” He is mighty in war and counsels His children with strategies in supernatural ways which the world does not understand. Because they are carnal minded, the strategy of casting down imaginations and natural reason in spiritual warfare is not something most Christians understand.

Supernatural warriors in the Kingdom of God do not “walk in the counsel of the ungodly,” but in the counsel of their Supernatural Parakletos. Our delight is in the word of His counsel, and in His word we meditate day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2).

**HEAR COUNSEL AND RECEIVE INSTRUCTION, THAT THOU MAYEST BE WISE IN THY LATTER END. THERE ARE MANY DEVICES IN A MAN’S HEART; BUT NEVERTHELESS THE COUNSEL OF THE LORD, THAT SHALL STAND.** Proverbs, 19: 20-21.

When all else fails, the strategies of the Lord will lead us to victory over our enemies. Our Supernatural Counselor will not only give us supernatural wisdom in counsel, but also practical knowledge and perfect understanding. We can trust that anything God tells us will lead us faithfully through this life and to victory over Satan, who is the enemy of our souls. God bids us to



“come and reason together with Him.” (Isaiah 1:8). The Spirit of Counsel gives us godly direction and reason as we cast down vain imaginations with the Sword of the Spirit.

## **THE SPIRIT OF POWER AND MIGHT**

**FOR GOD HAS NOT GIVEN US A SPIRIT OF FEAR; BUT OF POWER, AND OF LOVE, AND OF A SOUND MIND. 2 Timothy 1:7**

God has given us a Spirit of Power to overcome all the works of Satan. Paul preached the Word in power AND demonstration of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Power enables us to overcome all the schemes and beguiling tactics of our satanic enemies.

The power of God is released through the “Sword of the Spirit” as we cast down imaginations which exalt themselves against the knowledge of God. **THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT IS THE SPOKEN WORD OF GOD.** Through the “spoken word,” we are able to destroy **ALL THE WORKS OF THE ENEMY.**

The power (dunamis) of God is released through the Sword of the Spirit as we cast down imaginations and every high thing which exalts itself against the knowledge of God. The Sword of the Spirit is the “spoken word” of God. By faith we can destroy the strongholds of doubt, sin, and unbelief through the spoken word of God.

The power of the “spoken word” can change the course of mighty rivers, cast mountains into the sea, and destroy **ALL** the works of darkness. We must trust in the power which God has given us in order to defeat the devils which war against our souls.

**FINALLY MY BRETHREN, BE STRONG IN THE LORD AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT. PUT ON THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD, THAT YE MAY BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST THE WILES OF THE DEVIL.** Ephesians 6:11.

We cannot or will not be able to stand against the forces of evil unless we are “strong in the Lord and the power of His might.” Power (dunamis) is one thing the Church has seen very little of over the years. However, we are entering into a new phase of God’s miracle-working power. God is pouring out His Spirit upon the Church as never before. We will witness firsthand the miracle-working power of God when the Spirit of Power is in our midst.

A church without the Spirit of Power is a church which has been beguiled and controlled by the enemy. A church can have the knowledge of the truth, but if they lack power, all they have will be a “form of godliness.” **A FORM OF GODLINESS IS A REFLECTION OF A POWERLESS CHURCH.** If we are serving a god in form only, we are serving the wrong god.

Down through the ages we have seen the power of God working in the lives of those who dared to believe his Word. Jesus said “Behold I give you power over all the works of the enemy.” The Devil beguiles the Church into believing the **POWER OF GOD** that destroys all the works of the enemy is no longer available to them.

The Spirit of Power is just as powerful today as it was “in the beginning” when God spoke the worlds into existence. The winds and waves will obey the voice of believers when the Word is spoken by them in faith and “dunamis power.” If we neglect the power which God has

entrusted to the Church, we will not be able to stand against the “schemes and wiles of the enemy.” If we are going to believe in an omnipotent God, we are going to have to trust in the power He has endowed us with.

Grace alone will not save us. We are saved by grace, “through faith,” in the finished works of Christ. Faith is the power which works within us to ensure that His promises are fulfilled in our lives. (2 Corinthians 4:13). The Bible tells us “faith works (is energized) by love.”

Jesus told us to have the “God-kind of faith” or have the “faith of God.” If I have the God kind of faith, I will be able to move mountains by the “Spirit of Power.” God will withhold no good thing from those who believe in His Word and upon His Name.

**FOR WHOSOEVER IS BORN OF GOD OVERCOMES THE WORLD; AND THIS IS THE VICTORY THAT OVERCOMES THE WORLD EVEN OUR FAITH.** 1 John, Chapter 5, Verse 4.

The Spirit of Faith and the “Spirit of Power” work together in order to perform the miraculous in our lives. However, victory will not come without cost. We must contend with our enemy if we are going to overcome and receive the promises of God. (Jude 3). We must build up our faith through intense prayer and fasting if we are going to win the battle for our souls. (Jude 20).

In Christ we live and move and have our being. Faith through the Spirit of Power is found in those who have denied residence to the flesh man and put on the divine nature of Christ. In Christ we find the power to destroy ALL the works of the enemy. In Christ we find His measureless love. Ephesians 3:19.

## **CHAPTER 16**

### **IN CHRIST**

**I AM CRUCIFIED WITH CHRIST NEVERTHELESS I LIVE, YET NOT I, BUT CHRIST LIVES IN ME.**  
Galatians 2:20.

The Bible tells us we overcome the Devil by our testimony and the Blood of the Lamb. Revelation 12:11. The ability to resist the Devil does not lie only in our confession or our “word of testimony,” but in the Spirit of Christ that dwells within us through the power of His Blood. We inherited all the virtues found in the armor of God when we accepted Christ as our Lord and Savior.

**IN CHRIST** we identify with His death, burial, and resurrection. We are buried with Him by baptism into His death, and raised up from the dead spiritually by the glory of the Father; therefore we should walk in the newness of His Life. Romans 6:4. We are new creations **IN CHRIST** treasuring within our hearts and minds the power to become the sons and daughters of God as well as the ability to walk in the Spirit. We can fully identify with Christ when we have completely died to self-will and self-determination.

In Christ we live, and move, and have our being because we are His offspring. Acts 17:28. In Christ we are able to walk in the Spirit because the Spirit takes preeminence in our lives. Our hearts and minds have become one with Christ because the old man has been crucified with Christ. Self-will and self-determination has been nailed to the cross with Christ, and we no longer

desire to give occasion to the flesh to commit sin. Because the old man has been crucified with Christ, the new man is determined to be free of the sins that control and manipulate our will and emotions. Because the old man has been crucified with Christ, the new man can sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus far above all principalities and powers. The Spirit of Christ in us is the tangible evidence we are the sons and daughters of God.

In Christ we no longer desire to walk the perverted pathway that once dictated and controlled our spiritual senses and emotions. In Christ we walk by faith and not by sight. We are able to walk in the Spirit when we become FILLED with His Spirit. When we become filled with the fullness of Christ as individuals and as a body of believers, the Church will be filled with the full stature of the Son of God. Ephesians 4:13.

## **PUTTING ON CHRIST**

**BUT PUT YOU ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST AND MAKE NOT PROVISION FOR THE FLESH, TO FULLFILL THE LUSTS THEREOF.** Romans 13:14.

When we are putting on Christ, we are putting on the Helmet of Salvation along with all the other armor of God. We are armor bearers of the Spirit and the Divine Nature of Christ.

We cannot and will not be able to identify with Christ if we are not putting on Christ. If Christians do not put on Christ, they will be making provision for the flesh, and will sooner or later fulfill the lusts of the flesh. We cannot and will not find our identity in Christ unless we

completely die to self-will and self-determination.

The Apostle Paul said “I die daily.” 1 Corinthians 15:31. Jesus told us to pick up our cross daily and follow after Him. Luke 9:23. Dying to self-will and self-determination is something we must do every day before we can pick up our cross to daily follow after Christ.

When we pick up our cross, die to self daily, and follow after Christ, we are identifying with the death of Christ on the cross. We cannot walk with Christ or follow Christ unless we are walking in the Spirit. Putting to death the works of the flesh enables us to walk in the Spirit of freedom in Christ every day.

When we pick up our cross daily, we are identifying with the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ. When we identify with His death, burial, and resurrection, we are putting on the Helmet of Salvation, and no weapon the enemy tries to form against us can or will prosper.

The will of God is for all who call themselves Christians to become filled with the fullness of Christ. When we are filled with the fullness of Christ, sin will no longer have dominion over us. The works of the flesh will no longer have occasion to work in our bodies because there is no place the flesh man can take up residency.

## **OUR UNION WITH CHRIST**

Our union with Christ becomes the standard which the enemy cannot conquer. When our hearts are melded together with the heart of Christ, we become “joined” together with Him spiritually like a Bride and Groom become “one flesh.” Nothing can separate us from the love of God when our hearts (spirits) are rooted and grounded

together in Him.

Many want the blessings of Christ but are not willing to pay the price of total surrender of their will to Him. Many say they desire the fullness of Christ, however, in reality they are just wanting the benefits that come along with Christ without the persecutions which comes from living godly lives.

Many Christians presumptuously believe they are entitled to all the benefits that come with being born again without totally relinquishing their will to Christ. Many believe that Christ is their servant rather than their Lord.

Christ loves us and gave His life for us at Calvary. We are saved by grace, through faith, when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior. However, His grace has not been made available to us in order for us to commit sin occasionally. If we are walking with Christ daily, we will not desire to commit sin, nor will sin have dominion over us when we are tempted by the deceiver.

Our union with Christ requires more than just a “hello” in the morning, and a “see you later alligator” when something or someone tries to deter our “heavenly focus.” Paul said for me to live is Christ and to die is gain. Philippians 1:21. Whatever situation we may find ourselves in, Christ must be the reason we are living or the reason we are dying. Our walk with Christ must be through life and death. No matter how we may look at it, living for Christ is gain, and dying for Christ is gain.

If we are not living for Christ, we will find it hard to die for Christ if and when we are confronted with death through persecution or through other earthly devices. When Christ is our life, death is also a pathway to life—the eternal life we possess in Christ Jesus. Like Paul wrote: “For to me to live is Christ and to die in Christ is gain.

Philippians 1:21.

## **HOW DO WE PUT ON THE HELMET OF SALVATION**

We put on the Helmet of Salvation when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior and become born again. However, finding Christ as Lord and Savior is just the beginning of our love relationship with Christ. All carnal mindsets must be “cast down” from their “lofty habitations” in order for us to become filled with the fullness of Christ.

We must become renewed in the “spirit of our minds” so the mind of Christ can have preeminence in our thinking. When Christ has preeminence in our lives we will have found God’s divine purpose for our lives and for Creation.

After coming to the “saving knowledge” of Christ, we must grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. We must become “filled with the “fullness” of Christ. We must study to show ourselves approved of God, a workman that “needs not be ashamed.” 2 Timothy 2:15. We must continually add to the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding Christ imparts to us in order for us to grow into the full stature of the man of Christ. We do this both individually and corporately as a body of believers.

The Bible tells us to present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God which is our reasonable service, and not to be conformed to this world but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Romans 12:1-2.

Our only reasonable service to God is the sacrifice of our bodies and our will. We cannot be sanctified for the



Master's use unless we give the Lord our bodies to be His, hands, feet, and voice upon this earth. Most Christians do not understand the concept of presenting themselves as a "living sacrifice to God."

When I was a young Assemblies of God Associate Pastor several years ago, I went to the Church one morning to pray. After praying for a while I walked over to one of the altars and laid down on top of the altar. I said to the Lord, "Lord, I give myself to you as a living sacrifice. Take my life and do what you want to do with it."

I learned over the years what becoming a living sacrifice really meant. I learned that to be a living sacrifice, I had to die to self-will and self-determination. I learned if I wanted to truly be a living sacrifice, I had to truly die to self. I learned that dying to self was not just for my own benefit, but also for the benefit of others the Lord wanted me to reach with the gospel.

There are many other lessons I learned along the way, but learning how to become a living sacrifice, and why I needed to become a living sacrifice, was the most important of all the other lessons I learned.

The Bible tells us that as Christians we have been bought with a price, and our life no longer belongs to us but to God. (Read 1 Corinthians 6:20). If we belong to God, then we must yield our earthly vessels to Him to use as HE wishes, not what pleases us.

When we wear the Helmet of Salvation, our focus will continually be on things that are above where our life is hidden in Christ, and not on earthly treasures and pleasures here below. When we put on the Helmet of Salvation, we will be able to see through the eyes of the Spirit and make decisions based on what we see in Christ, not what we may see through our natural eyes.

When we wear the Helmet of Salvation, we will hear what the voice of the Spirit is saying to us, not what the carnal mind tries to dictate to us. When we are wearing the Helmet of Salvation, we will speak the words the Spirit imparts to us when we are ministering to the needs of others.

When we have on the Helmet of Salvation, we will be able to recognize all the evil plots and plans the enemy tries to devise against us. When we have on the Helmet of Salvation, we will be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.

**ACCORDING AS HIS DIVINE POWER THAT GIVEN UNTO US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN TO LIFE AND GODLINESS, THROUGH THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIM THAT HATH CALLED US TO GLORY AND VIRTUE. 2 Peter 1:3**

God has given us everything we need in order to be partakers of the Divine nature of Christ. He tells us to make every effort to add to our faith goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness and love. God said when we abound in these virtues we will become effective and productive in the knowledge of Christ. Without these Christ endowed virtuous principles we are spiritually blind. Read 2 Peter 1:3-9. When we add to and abound in these virtues, we are strengthening our spiritual foundations.

What we put in our minds determines our earthly and our eternal destiny. What principles we build our spiritual foundations on determines “who” we will serve. What we meditate on the most will bring a spiritual harvest whether it be good or bad. When we meditate on Christ

and the principles that build the Kingdom of God within us we are putting on the Helmet of Salvation.

The darkness that prevails in this world cannot penetrate the Helmet of Salvation because the helmet is also a shield. The Helmet of Salvation originates with Christ. The Helmet of Salvation is Christ in us, the hope of glory. The Helmet of Salvation is rooted and grounded in the foundational principles of the gospel of Christ. When we put on the Helmet of Salvation, we are establishing the foundational principles of salvation in our hearts and minds. Those principles are the foundations that our righteousness, faith, and peace rest upon.

In the Helmet of Salvation rests the Chief Cornerstone of eternal life and peace. When we have on the Helmet of Salvation, our focus will remain on the Chief Cornerstone--Christ our Deliverer, and Redeemer. When we have on the Helmet of Salvation, we will be able to see the world through God's Holy perspective. We will be able to understand the deep mysteries of God and the eternal value of our relationship with Christ.

The spirit of the world must be excommunicated from the Church. The Bible tells us to come out of Mystery Babylon so we will not be partakers of her sins and judgments. Revelation 18:4. We can only get the Church out of the world by getting the world out of the Church and filling her with the fullness of Christ. We do this by preaching Christ, who is the only hope of salvation and glory for all mankind.

Everything we teach and preach should point to Christ and His finished works at Calvary or our preaching will fail to affect change in the lives of others. If Christ and the finished works of the cross is not the main theme of our message, we are not fulfilling the "great commission."

If we are not working to win souls, make disciples, and promote “true unity” in the body of Christ, we are not preaching the gospel of Christ. What has God whispered in your ear? What has he told you to do?

## **GOD IS WHISPERING**

What has God whispered in your ear?  
The time is short and the end is near.  
What has God whispered in your ear?  
Do you listen to His voice or to the voice of fear?

What has God called you to do?  
What has God spoken unto you?  
What do you say when He speaks to you?  
Do you say here I am--what do you do?

Do you ever shed a tear  
when sorrow lingers ever near?  
Do you listen--do you fear?  
Do you wish He wasn't near?

Do you help the poor and lost  
for whom Jesus died upon the cross?  
Have you experienced Pentecost?  
Is your soul still tempted and tossed.

What do you do in Christ's Holy Name?  
Do you heal the sick and the lame?  
Do you suffer endless blame?  
Is your heart filled with shame?

**WHAT HAS GOD WHISPERED IN YOUR EAR?**

## HOW MANY TIMES

How many times do Christians have to go to the altar and rededicate their lives to the Lord before they truly die to self? How many times do Christians say “Yes Lord, I will go, but when it comes time ‘to go’ something more important comes along?” How many times do Christians say with their lips they truly love the Lord, but in their hearts their love has grown cold? How many times must the Lord hear the praises that are formed by many His people’s lips, but their hearts have grown cold and empty? How many times has the Lord called out to His people to repent but many have not and will not listen? What will you do when He calls out to you? Will you listen to His voice? What will you do?

## **THERE IS A NEW DAY DAWNING**

**There is a new day dawning—Things will be different forevermore--God has spoken and the door has been opened--So His children will follow Him wherever He goes--Days of doing nothing are gone—Now we must don our Helmet of Salvation and follow God alone—He will lead us through all eternity--until we arrive at His Throne—So pick up your Sword and head for the door—Go until you find yourself in front of His Throne—Where you will forever be before Him as He sits on His Throne.**

**A prophecy the Lord gave to Alma Randolph.**

**6-1-2018**

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