

THE VAGABOND SPIRIT

Don Randolph

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All Scripture references are quoted from the King James Bible.

INTRODUCTION

NOW THERE WAS A DAY WHEN THE SONS OF GOD CAME TO PRESENT THEMSELVES BEFORE THE LORD, AND SATAN CAME ALONG WITH THEM. AND THE LORD SAID UNTO SATAN, WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? THEN SATAN ANSWERED THE LORD, AND SAID, FROM GOING TO AND FRO IN THE EARTH, AND FROM WALKING UP AND DOWN IN IT. Job, Chapter 1, Verses 6-7.

Satan has always travelled to and fro in the Earth tempting people to sin. He walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. He was there in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve before they sinned by eating the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Eating from the Forbidden Tree set in motion a tragedy of epic proportions. THE SOUL THAT SINS SHALL DIE. Sin entered into the World through the disobedience of Adam and Eve. The story of the Vagabond Spirit began outside of the Garden of Eden when Cain slew his brother

Abel in a jealous rage. Because of his sin, God cursed Cain and drove him from HIS PRESENCE to WANDER aimlessly throughout the earth like Satan. The VAGABOND influences and controls the lives of many unsuspecting people, including many Christians. Without realizing or knowing anything about this spirit many Christians fall prey to its seducing power. This Book tells the story of the origins of the VAGABOND; how it influences the life of people, and how people can be free from this spirit.

CHAPTER 1

BEGINNINGS

IN THE BEGINNING GOD CREATED THE HEAVEN AND THE EARTH. AND THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM AND VOID; AND DARKNESS WAS UPON THE FACE OF THE DEEP, AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD MOVED UPON THE FACE OF THE WATERS.

Genesis, Chapter 1, Verse 1.

The Book of Genesis is a Book about the Creation of the World and the BEGINNING of Civilization. The word “genesis” is a Greek word which means “beginnings.” Genesis, which is the first Book in the Bible, is not just about the story of Creation. It is also the historical record of the BEGINNINGS of mankind. It details the course mankind followed after his fall from Grace in the Garden of Eden. Genesis is the story of the Love of God and His plan and purpose for creating mankind IN THE BEGINNING.

AND THEY HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD GOD WALKING IN THE GARDEN IN THE COOL OF THE DAY, AND ADAM AND EVE HIS WIFE HID THEMSELVES FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD GOD AMONGST THE TREES OF THE GARDEN.

Genesis, Chapter 3, Verse 8.

God had told Adam and Eve there would be severe consequences if they ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. He told them that IN the day they ate thereof they would surely die. The consequence of sin is death. We know Adam and Eve did not physically die on the day they ate the Forbidden Fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. However, the process of spiritual and physical death did BEGIN on the day they disobeyed God by eating the Forbidden Fruit.

UNTO ADAM ALSO AND TO HIS WIFE DID THE LORD GOD MAKE COATS OF SKINS AND CLOTHED THEM. AND THE LORD GOD SAID, BEHOLD THE MAN IS BECOME AS ONE OF US, TO KNOW GOOD AND EVIL: NOW LEST HE PUT FORTH HIS HAND, AND TAKE ALSO OF THE TREE OF LIFE, AND EAT, AND LIVE FOREVER: THEREFORE THE LORD GOD SENT HIM FORTH FROM THE GARDEN OF EDEN. Genesis, Chapter 3, Verses 21-23.

Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden because of their sin of disobedience. God slew an animal and took the skins to clothe them to cover their nakedness. This is a picture, or type and shadow of Christ dying on the Cross in order to cover our sin and shame with His precious Blood. He paid the penalty for the sins of mankind in order that mankind could again DWELL IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. The Blood of Jesus is the only hope for mankind.

AND UNTO ADAM HE SAID, BECAUSE YOU HAVE HEARKENED TO THE VOICE OF YOUR WIFE AND HAVE EATEN OF THE TREE, OF WHICH I COMMANDED YOU SAYING, YOU SHALL NOT EAT OF IT: CURSED IS THE GROUND FOR YOUR SAKE;

IN SORROW YOU SHALL EAT OF IT ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE: THORNS AND THISTLES SHALL IT BRING FORTH TO YOU AND YOU SHALL EAT THE HERB OF THE FIELD; IN THE SWEAT OF YOUR FACE SHALL YOU EAT BREAD, TILL YOU RETURN UNTO THE GROUND; FOR OUT OF IT WERE YOU TAKEN: FOR DUST YOU ARE, AND UNTO DUST SHALL YOU RETURN. Genesis, Chapter 3, Verses 17-19.

God created Adam and placed him in the Garden of Eden and God commanded him to DRESS and KEEP the Garden. To KEEP means to “guard.” It was Adam’s responsibility to keep the Garden secure. In other words Adam was the Security Guard given the task to keep and protect the Garden of Paradise from intruders.

Adam and Eve were driven from the Garden of Eden because they disobeyed God. Adam became a TILLER of the ground. The ground (spirit) had been cursed because of his sin. The ground, or earth, is prophetic of the spirit or heart of man. Both spiritual and physical death were the consequence of Adam and Eve’s sin. Now Adam had to WORK the ground (spirit) IN THE SWEAT OF HIS FACE. In other words, Adam had to work hard in order to keep the Serpent from invading his spiritual garden again.

When a farmer TILLS the ground he is breaking up the hard soil so he can plant seeds which produce life sustaining food. In the Garden of Eden God provided everything Adam and Eve needed. They did not have to till the ground (spirit), all they had to do was KEEP or GUARD the Garden from any outside invaders. After he sinned Adam’s heart (spirit) became somewhat hardened and now it was up to him to make sure his relationship with

God would continue. KEEP (guard) YOUR HEART (spirit) WITH ALL DILIGENCE, FOR OUT OF IT ARE (flow) THE ISSUES (FORCES) OF LIFE. Proverbs, Chapter 4, Verse 23. A better translation would be “GUARD YOUR HEART WITH ALL DILIGENCE BECAUSE THE FORCES OF LIFE FLOW OUT OF IT.”

AND OUT OF THE GROUND (spirit) MADE THE LORD GOD TO GROW EVERY TREE THAT IS PLEASANT TO THE SIGHT; AND GOOD FOR FOOD; THE TREE OF LIFE ALSO IN THE MIDST OF THE GARDEN, AND THE TREE OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL. Genesis, Chapter 2, Verse 9.

Eden was a spiritual garden as well as a natural one. Eden was a place where God and man walked together in spiritual fellowship and communion. Adam and Eve had the privilege of eating fruit from all the trees in the Garden except one tree, the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

Eating from the Tree of Life represented Adam and Eve’s communion and fellowship with God. The Tree of Life represented Christ. GOD IS LIFE. The fruit produced by the TREE OF LIFE sustained them spiritually. The GROUND, or spirit, produced all the spiritual food they needed. God breathed His Spirit into Adam after He formed him from the dust of the Earth. God was his source of spiritual nourishment.

The Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil represented the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH. God had told Adam and Eve in the day they ate of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil they would surely die. The

Law of Sin and Death was in effect long before the Mosaic Law was instituted.

MY SON, ATTEND UNTO MY WORDS; INCLINE YOUR EAR UNTO MY SAYINGS. LET THEM NOT DEPART FROM YOUR EYES; KEEP THEM IN THE MIDST OF YOUR HEART. FOR THEY ARE LIFE UNTO THOSE WHO FIND THEM, AND HEALTH TO THEIR FLESH. Proverbs, Chapter 4, Verses 20-21.

It is the responsibility of every person to make sure his or her Spiritual Garden is guarded and tilled. The WORDS of the Lord are our Defense, Buckler and Shield. God's Commandments are written in the hearts or spirits of every Christian. We must not only listen to the Voice of God when He speaks to us in our Spiritual Garden, but we must keep His WORDS because they are LIFE and HEALTH to all who find them.

God's Commands are His DEMANDS--not His suggestions. God commands us to LOVE one another. He commands us to love, serve and seek Him with a thankful heart. He commands us to "guard our heart" so He can find a place of FELLOWSHIP with us within our heart.

When people take their focus off of God and His Commandments, they leave themselves open to sin. True repentance is the only thing which will help them to refocus and again find that place of communion and fellowship with God.

When we hear the Voice of the Lord in the Garden of our Heart do we run toward Him or run and hide from Him? God expected to communicate with Adam and Eve daily. He visited them every day for the purpose of having fellowship with them. He expected them to be there when

He called out to them. Where are you when God calls out to you in your heart? Can you hear His Voice when He calls out to you or are you hidden amongst the trees in the Garden as Adam and Eve were? Does He dwell in the MIDST of your Garden or outside the boundaries of your Garden? Where are you when He desires to commune and fellowship daily with you? Do you look forward to meeting and fellowshiping with Him in the Garden of your heart, or have you forgotten He desires to daily commune with you?

CHAPTER 2

CAIN AND ABEL

ABEL WAS A KEEPER OF SHEEP, BUT CAIN WAS A TILLER OF THE GROUND. AND IN PROCESS OF TIME IT CAME TO PASS THAT CAIN BROUGHT OF THE FRUIT OF THE GROUND AN OFFERING OF THE LORD. AND ABEL, HE ALSO BROUGHT OF THE FIRSTLINGS OF HIS FLOCK AND OF THE FAT THEREOF. AND THE LORD HAD RESPECT UNTO ABEL AND TO HIS OFFERING: BUT UNTO CAIN AND TO HIS OFFERING HE HAD NOT RESPECT. Genesis, Chapter 4, Verses 2-5.

Eve gave birth to two sons, Cain who was the firstborn and Abel the second born. As time went on many other sons and daughters were born to Adam and Eve.

Abel was a Shepherd, a keeper of sheep. He was a type and shadow of Christ, our Shepherd. The Bible states in Psalms 23: "THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD." In John, Chapter 10, Verse 11, Jesus proclaimed: "I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD: THE GOOD SHEPHERD GIVES HIS LIFE FOR THE SHEEP."

Cain was a farmer like his father, Adam, and became a TILLER of the ground. There is absolutely nothing wrong with being a farmer. Farming is an honorable profession,

and if not for farmers many people would die of hunger. However, the message the Bible is conveying to us is a spiritual one rather than a natural one. Abel was a Shepherd taking care of sheep and had taken on the attributes of his HEAVENLY Father, while Cain was more like his earthly father, Adam. The professions of Cain and Abel are linked to the motives and attitudes of the heart which culminated in the death of Abel at the hands of Cain.

God had respect for the offering of Abel because it was a picture of the Cross. It was a prophetic example of Christ, the Lamb of God, being sacrificed for the sins of the World. God had performed the first animal sacrifice and clothed Adam and Eve to cover their nakedness (shame) because of their sin. Abel performed the second animal sacrifice with the firstlings of his flock. Abel recognized the need for a sacrificial lamb to become an offering for sin. The firstlings were the firstborn of the flock. Jesus, the Son of God, became the FIRSTBORN of many sons and daughters through His sacrifice on the Cross at Calvary.

Cain's sacrifice was a sacrifice of WORKS. Works can never cover sin or produce Godly sacrifice. Cain's sacrifice was prophetic of the WORK and toil of HIS hands in the earth (heart or spirit). Cain's sacrifice was not a sacrifice of Faith. Cain's sacrifice was one of his own choosing. The ground (spirit) produced thorns and thistles that had to be WORKED by the SWEAT OF HIS BROW. This speaks of a Works Based mentality.

BY FAITH, ABEL OFFERED UNTO GOD A MORE EXCELLENT SACRIFICE THAN CAIN, BY WHICH HE OBTAINED WITNESS THAT HE WAS RIGHTEOUS, GOD TESTIFYING OF HIS GIFTS: AND BY IT HE YET SPEAKS. Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verse 4.

Abel's sacrifice was a sacrifice of FAITH. Jesus, speaking of Abel in Mathew, Chapter 23, Verse 35, called him "RIGHTEOUS Abel." Abel knew what God expected of him, and he was obedient to God's Commandment. Abel knew what sacrifice was pleasing to God and that justification could only come through the sacrifice of the Blood of a Lamb. Cain's idea concerning sacrificial justification was feeble minded and not according to what God demanded. His idea of justification came from an unrepentant heart. Cain made up his own rules concerning justification and they had nothing to do with Faith and Grace.

AND THE LORD SAID UNTO CAIN, WHY ARE YOU ANGRY? AND WHY HAS YOUR COUNTANANCE FALLEN? IF YOU DO WELL, SHALL YOU NOT BE ACCEPTED? AND IF YOU DO NOT WELL, SIN LIES AT YOUR DOOR. AND UNTO YOU SHALL BE HIS DESIRE, AND YOU SHALL RULE OVER HIM. Genesis, Chapter 4, Verses 6-7.

God told Cain if he would bring the correct sacrifice he would be accepted. Cain's sacrifice was not an offering for his sin, but an offering of his own choosing. The only sacrifice God accepts is the sacrificial offering of the Blood of the Lamb of God. We do not get to pick and choose what is acceptable to God. Our trust must be in the sacrificial offering of Christ for the covering of our sins.

Unlike Abel, Cain did not recognize the need for a REDEEMER. He was unmoved by the suggestion from God that sin was crouching at the door of his heart.

AND CAIN TALKED WITH ABEL HIS BROTHER:
AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN THEY WERE IN THE

FIELD, THAT CAIN ROSE UP AGAINST ABEL HIS BROTHER, AND KILLED HIM. Genesis, Chapter 4, Verse 8.

Again we see a picture of the Cross. The Shepherd Abel was slain by his own brother. The innocent blood of a shepherd was spilled by someone of his own household. Abel was despised and rejected by his brother Cain. Like the Scribes and Pharisees who demanded the death of Christ, the innocent blood of Abel was the only thing which would appease the blood thirst of Cain. We see this same exact analogy with Christ and the hypocrites in His day who demanded the death of an innocent man.

Cain was jealous of Abel because Abel's sacrifice pleased God and his was rejected. Cain thought he was justified in killing his brother. Cain made up his own rules and they had been challenged by an outside source, his brother, Abel. The Scribes and Pharisees, the hypocrites in the days of Christ, had the same attitudes as Cain. Jesus upset their convoluted ideas of religion by exposing their hypocritical pretenses regarding religion and what God expected of them. The religious leaders in Jesus day chose to SACRIFICE the innocent Lamb of God, but it was for all the wrong reasons. Even worse than Cain, they encouraged the Romans to do their treacherous and ungodly deeds for them.

BUT WOE UNTO YOU, SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES, FOR YOU SHUT UP THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN AGAINST MEN: FOR YOU NEITHER GO IN YOURSELVES, NEITHER SUFFER THEM WHO ARE ENTERING TO GO IN. WOE UNTO YOU SCRIBES AND PHARISEES, HYPOCRITES! FOR YOU DEVOUR WIDOWS HOUSES, AND FOR PRETENCE

MAKE LONG PRAYER: THEREFORE YOU SHALL RECEIVE THE GREATER DAMNATION. Matthew, Chapter 23, Verses 13-14.

Jesus exposed the Scribes and Pharisees for what they truly were, a bloodthirsty gang of hypocrites whose religious zeal was inspired by their father, the Devil. Jesus called them a “generation of serpents, vipers, blind fools, and whited sepulchers.”

After Jesus rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees by calling them snakes and vipers, He told them all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, including the blood of **RIGHTEOUS** Abel, would come upon them. Matthew, Chapter 23, Verse 35. According to Jesus, the Scribes and Pharisees would receive greater damnation than Cain because they were a greater threat to humanity than Cain.

When Jesus was crucified His Blood ran down the Cross soaking into the ground. The ground is prophetic of mankind’s spirit. For all who believe in the Sacrifice of Christ, the sins of the heart are washed away by the **RIGHTEOUS BLOOD** of the **PERFECT LAMB OF GOD**, Jesus. Today the Blood of Jesus cries out from the ground saying, **COME UNTO ME, ALL YOU WHO LABOR AND ARE HEAVEY LADEN, AND I WILL GIVE YOU REST.** Matthew, Chapter 11, Verse 28.

AND THE LORD SAID UNTO CAIN, WHERE IS ABEL YOUR BROTHER? AND HE SAID, I KNOW NOT: AM I MY BROTHER’S KEEPER? AND HE SAID WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? THE VOICE OF YOUR BROTHER’S BLOOD CRIES OUT FROM THE GROUND. AND NOW YOU ARE CURSED FROM THE EARTH, WHICH HAS OPENED HER MOUTH TO

RECEIVE YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD FROM YOUR HAND. WHEN YOU TILL THE GROUND, IT SHALL NOT HENCEFORTH YEILD UNTO YOU HER STRENGTH; A FUGITIVE AND VAGABOND SHALL YOU BE IN THE EARTH. AND CAIN SAID UNTO THE LORD, MY PUNISHMENT IS GREATER THAN I CAN BEAR. BEHOLD YOU HAVE DRIVEN ME OUT THIS DAY FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH; AND FROM YOUR FACE SHALL I BE HID; AND I SHALL BE A FUGITIVE AND A VAGABOND IN THE EARTH.

Cain felt no remorse for killing his brother. The sin of Cain separated him from God. Without heart felt repentance sin will continue to separate man from God. When God asked Cain where his brother was, Cain lied and said he did not know. According to Cain's way of thinking, he was NOT his brother's keeper.

Cain's punishment for killing his brother was more than he could bear. He was driven from the Presence of God, destined to WANDER aimlessly about the Earth until his death. The earth, of course, speaks of the heart, or spirit. Cain would have no more communication or fellowship with God. The earth (spirit) would no longer yield its strength to Cain. From that day forth, Cain became a SPIRITUAL VAGABOND and a FUGITIVE.

Cain was driven from the PRESENCE OF GOD and became a Spiritual VAGABOND. A Spiritual Vagabond is one who has been or is separated from God. In other words, they are spiritually dead. Spiritual Death is simply defined as "SEPERATION FROM GOD." Cain was not only banished to a Natural Wilderness, but a Spiritual Wilderness as well.

Cain would no longer be able to till the ground. The earth (his spirit) would no longer bring forth any spiritual fruit. The only fruit his spirit and soul would produce would be the fruit of unrighteousness. No matter how much Cain searched for peace and rest in his heart, he would forever be a VAGABOND and FUGITIVE wandering from place to place.

AND CAIN WENT OUT FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD, AND DWELT IN THE LAND OF NOD, ON THE EAST OF EDEN. AND CAIN KNEW HIS WIFE; AND SHE CONCEIVED, AND BORE ENOCH, AND HE BUILT A CITY, AND CALLED THE NAME OF THE CITY, AFTER THE NAME OF HIS SON, ENOCH.

Genesis, Chapter 4, Verse 16-17.

Cain was driven from the PRESENCE OF GOD, and dwelt in the Land of Nod. “Nod” comes from the Hebrew word which means “wandering or vagrancy.” Cain had become a “vagrant,” destined to live a life of wandering. Cain BUILT A CITY and called it by the name of his Son, Enoch. This was not the same Enoch who walked with God and pleased Him. The actual Hebrew suggests that Cain “began to build a city, but never finished it.” Beginning tasks and never finishing them is one of the defining characteristics of the “VAGABOND SPIRIT.”

CHAPTER 3

THE VAGABOND SPIRIT

NOW CAIN TALKED WITH HIS BROTHER ABEL; AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN THEY WERE IN THE FIELD, THAT CAIN ROSE UP AGAINST HIS BROTHER ABEL AND KILLED HIM. THEN THE LORD SAID TO CAIN, "WHERE IS ABEL YOUR BROTHER?" AND HE SAID, "I DO NOT KNOW. AM I MY BROTHERS KEEPER?" AND HE SAID "WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? THE VOICE OF YOUR BROTHERS BLOOD CRIES OUT TO ME FROM THE GROUND. SO NOW YOU ARE CURSED FROM THE EARTH, WHICH HAS OPENED ITS MOUTH TO RECEIVE YOUR BROTHER'S BLOOD FROM YOUR HAND. WHEN YOU TILL THE GROUND IT SHALL NO LONGER YEILD ITS STRENGTH TO YOU. A FUGITIVE AND A VAGABOND YOU SHALL BE ON EARTH." Genesis, Chapter 4, Verses 8-12.

A "Vagabond" is a person who is unsettled and irresponsible, a wanderer without any fixed destination or home. The first part of the word "vaga" means "wanderer." The second part of the word "bond" means "bound." In other words, a Vagabond is one who is bound or DESTINED to wander--one who "yearns" to WANDER. A Vagabond is a person who moves from place to place having no place to call home. The VAGABOND is different from other demonic spirits in that it is the spirit of

a person who is SEPARATED from the Presence of God. In the Church we call it the ‘OLD MAN,’ or the ‘FLESH.’

The Vagabond Spirit is a Spirit which is spiritually impoverished and void of SPIRITUAL LIFE. The Vagabond Spirit is a restless spirit which is destined forever to “wander” searching for a home. It is a spirit without plan, purpose or destination. Home is always somewhere where the VAGABOND is NOT. The VAGABOND mindset is firmly entrenched and embedded in the soul of the WANDERER. There is no place of spiritual rest for the VAGABOND.

A Vagabond possesses no spiritual insight, plan or purpose for his life. There is no greater tragedy in life than to go through life without purpose.

The VAGABOND spirit is not an evil spirit which seeks to dwell within men, but is a spirit which man is born with and is already dwelling there as a result of the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden. All men are born under the curse of the VAGABOND and will remain until they are born again by accepting Christ. Because the VAGABOND is already in tune with the carnal World, he is easy prey for demonic forces which come to control, influence and/or possess his heart, mind, emotions and attitudes.

Some Christians who have been born again will continue to remain under the influence or control of the VAGABOND Spirit in certain areas of their life if they have not been completely renewed in the SPIRIT OF THEIR MIND. Once a person has accepted Christ as their Savior, there has to be a total change in their thinking or they will WANDER aimlessly throughout their life not

knowing or understanding God's plan and purpose for their life. I will elaborate more on this later.

Cain was not just a VAGABOND, but a FUGITIVE. A fugitive is one who is running from justice. According to Webster's Dictionary, a fugitive is also a WANDERER. No matter how far Cain "wandered," he would never be able to escape the penalty for his sin. The consequence of his sin was eternal separation from God. **THE SOUL THAT SINNETH SHALL DIE.** Ezekiel, Chapter 18, Verse 20. Likewise, if we do not accept Christ as our Savior we too will be eternally separated from God.

Commitment to adhere to the Commandments of God does not exist in the VAGABOND who has not been born again. Being bound or destined to wander aimlessly without plan or purpose is an inescapably unpleasant lifestyle to say the least. For one reason or another some people find themselves in this lifestyle because they were forced into it because of their circumstances. For others it is a lifestyle they unwittingly and unknowingly embrace, totally unaware they are being influenced or inhabited by the VAGABOND. Homeless people are often referred to as VAGABONDS. However, that does not make every homeless person a VAGABOND.

THE HOBO

One day I was praying for someone and the Lord revealed to me that this man was under the influence of a VAGABOND SPIRIT. The Lord gave me a vision of a man who looked like a Hobo. He was carrying a long stick across his shoulder with a sack tied at the end, somewhat similar to what a Hobo would carry. I remembered at one time in his life this man had been homeless. Although he

changed his life and was no longer homeless, he was an alcoholic and was still under the influence of the VAGABOND Spirit. It became obvious to me that the VAGABOND Spirit was still causing him many problems. Deliverance from the VAGABOND would be the only cure for him.

I had never before heard of the Vagabond Spirit, and I realized the Lord wanted me to do some research on the VAGABOND, and how this Spirit influences the lives of people who fall under its spell. In order for me to help this man, and others who are under the control and influence of the Vagabond Spirit, I knew I had to pray and seek the Lord for guidance and answers.

In all my research I found very little information concerning the Vagabond Spirit. I had to rely on the Lord to teach me what He wanted me to know regarding this Spirit and how people could be freed from its control and influence over their life.

I continued to seek the Lord and continued to do more research on the VAGABOND Spirit. Much to my surprise I found that many people had fallen and were falling under the influence and/or control of the Vagabond Spirit in many different ways and in many differing degrees. God revealed to me that many people in Churches today are influenced by this spirit and do not know this spirit exists or realize how it is influencing their life. Therefore, they have no ability to fight or fend off this destructive spirit. They do not realize they are unconsciously trapped under the spell of the VAGABOND. I am sure the majority of people like myself, they have never heard of the Vagabond Spirit.

The Vagabond Spirit is very deceptive and beguiles individuals into thinking that many things going on in their lives are natural occurrences. In reality, however, they have fallen under the influence of the VAGABOND Spirit. Most church leaders do not want to teach about the destructiveness of evil spirits and how they operate in the church and in the lives of people. Unbeknownst to them, many church leaders are under the influence of demonic spirits. Because they have come under the control of certain demonic influences themselves, they are unable to discern or recognize the influence VAGABOND has on them and others in their congregation.

I want to make it clear that not ALL homeless people are VAGABONDS. Some are homeless because they have experienced financial difficulties in their life. These are people who would do anything if they could reverse their misfortunes. Due to circumstances, many unfortunate things happen to people during and in their lifetime which are totally beyond their control. I also want to make it clear that all VAGABONDS may not possess the same exact characteristics as others. They often differ according to their lifestyles and/or certain generational curses.

I hate to say this, but many ministers are under the influence of the VAGABOND without realizing it. Therefore, they fail to recognize this Spirit in others. Consequently, entire congregations suffer from this malady. Ministers like to talk about the Holy Spirit. However, they do not want to delve into what they perceive as unreal or teachings which might be uncomfortable or unacceptable to some of their congregations. Yet, Jesus taught many things about evil spirits, told us how they

operate in the lives of people, and how people can be set free from these spirits.

One of the ways the Vagabond Spirit controls certain aspects of a person is through a Generational Curse which has been passed down from their parents, grandparents or great grandparents. Sometimes the VAGABOND surfaces as a result of certain sins an individual has committed or is committing. The influence which this Curse has on an individual or others around them can vary from person to person. This Spirit does not necessarily affect each individual family member the same way. In some instances, however, it can and will, in one way or another, affect all family members. I will explain more about this later in the book.

Because of its craftiness the VAGABOND Spirit is one of the most difficult spirits to recognize and deal with. One way this Spirit controls the life of a person is by inflicting damage to their ability to perceive reality. In the life of many people, the VAGABOND always focuses on negative emotional circumstances from their past which they had no control over.

The VAGABOND also hinders the ability of a person to find HOPE for the future. If this Spirit can keep them dwelling on their past, they cannot and will not seek deliverance from their aimless WANDERING. Continually dwelling on the failures and hardships of the past will always circumvent, frustrate and destroy any hope for the future. People who live in the past are not likely to experience any positive changes in their life. The only hope for someone in this situation is to recognize they have a problem. They need to seek the Lord, and find a good Christian friend and/or counselor for deliverance.

Most people make decisions based on what they see, hear, feel or have experienced. Many VAGABONDS, who are under the control or influence of the Vagabond Spirit, have a problem making decisions because they are more concerned and focused on their past than their future. He or she will not be capable of making quality decisions for the future because their mind is continually reflecting on the past.

The Spirit of Witchcraft, along with many other evil spirits, influences and works to control the VAGABOND. I will address these issues in the following chapters. The Spirit of Witchcraft is the most deceptive and subtle of all evil spirits.

The VAGABOND is lacking in spiritual wisdom, knowledge and understanding. A person can be filled with natural knowledge, understanding, and earthly wisdom and yet be completely void of their spiritual counterparts. Many people do not recognize these spirits, therefore, they are doomed to live under the influence and/or control of these spirits unless they recognize them and get deliverance from them.

THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL

AND ALL THE CONGREGATION OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL JOURNEYED FROM THE WILDERNESS OF SIN, AFTER THEIR JOURNEYS, ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD, AND PITCHED IN REPHIDIM: AND THERE WAS NO WATER FOR THE PEOPLE TO DRINK. WHEREFORE THE PEOPLE DID CHIDE, WITH MOSES, AND SAID, GIVE US WATER THAT WE MAY DRINK. AND MOSES SAID UNTO THEM, WHY CHIDE YOU WITH

ME? WHEREFORE DO YOU TEMPT THE LORD? AND THE PEOPLE THIRSTED THERE FOR WATER; AND THE PEOPLE MURMURED AGAINST MOSES, AND SAID, WHEREFORE IS THIS THAT YOU HAVE BROUGHT US UP OUT OF EGYPT, TO KILL US AND OUR CHILDREN AND OUR CATTLE WITH THIRST? Exodus, Chapter 17, Verses 1-3.

The Children of Israel WANDERED in the Wilderness for forty years because they were a rebellious lot. "THE PEOPLE DID CHIDE," complained or argued with Moses, and in so doing they tempted the Lord in the Wilderness. The Children of Israel rebelled against God and ultimately rejected the PROMISE of a Homeland--the Land which God promised would be theirs. They chose not to believe God when He told them they could possess the land flowing with Milk and Honey. They chose to believe the report of the VAGABOND minded spies who declared to them that the land "could not be taken." Because of their rebellion and unbelief, the Children of Israel were doomed to WANDER in the Wilderness forty years as a VAGABOND Nation without a home.

We fail many times in our own life because we do not believe the promises God has given to us. We know what God has promised, but doubt the promises are for us because of the GIANTS which dwell in our past, present and future. Christians often times wander in a SPIRITUAL WILDERNESS just like the Children of Israel did because of their unbelief. Many times God's people choose to believe the REPORT of the enemy rather than the PROMISE of God. Therefore, they continue to WANDER in the Wilderness until they die or repent and follow the direction, the will, and the purpose of God for their life.

Many Christians WANDER from the PRESENCE OF THE LORD when they take their focus off Him and seek earthly pleasures and worldly treasures. Because they have lost their focus, they come under the influence of the Vagabond Spirit. When Christians only focus on God part of the time, they are only free part of the time. One day they may be trusting in the Promises of God, the next day they may be questioning the integrity of God's Word. Repenting and refocusing continuously on God and His plan and purpose for their life will free them from this Curse. Satan is always trying to draw men away from the plan and purpose of God for their life.

CHAPTER 4

THE VAGABOND DAUGHTERS

AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN MEN BEGAN TO MULTIPLY, ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, AND DAUGHTERS WERE BORN UNTO THEM, THAT THE SONS OF GOD SAW THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN THAT THEY WERE FAIR, AND THEY TOOK THEM WIVES OF ALL WHICH THEY CHOSE, AND THE LORD SAID MY SPIRIT SHALL NOT ALWAYS STRIVE WITH MAN, FOR THAT HE IS ALSO FLESH: YET HIS DAYS SHALL BE AN HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS. THERE WERE GIANTS IN THE EARTH IN THOSE DAYS; AND ALSO AFTER THAT WHEN THE SONS OF GOD CAME IN UNTO THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN, AND THEY BORE CHILDREN TO THEM, THE SAME WHICH BECAME MIGHTY MEN WHICH WERE OF OLD, MEN OF RENOWN.
Genesis, Chapter 6, Verses 1-4.

Some in the ministry are teaching that the Sons of God were fallen angels. Some people have written books saying the Sons of God, or fallen angels, are connected to the UFO phenomenon which many people say they have experienced. They claim that fallen angels will come back

as Aliens from another Planet to set up the anti-Christ as head of a One World Government. According to Scripture the anti-Christ WILL deceive the whole World during the Great Tribulation. However, some of this teaching is a false narrative. Although fallen angels or demon spirits are behind the anti-Christ and the One World Government, they are not coming back from another Planet which some believe they travelled to centuries ago. Fallen angels never left the area. Fallen angels have been here since they were cast out of Heaven centuries ago.

Many years ago I did a study on genealogies in the Book of Genesis. I did not use any Bible Commentaries or books for reference in my studies. I studied only the Scriptures. I did not want to be influenced by any commentaries or other books on the subject. In conclusion, I found that the SONS OF GOD were the descendants of Adam through his third son, Seth. I also discovered that the Daughters of Men were the DAUGHTERS and offspring of Cain. This teaching was not a new doctrine at that time. Many Bible Scholars, including, Dr. Frank C. Thompson who published the Thompson Chain Reference Bible, came to the same conclusion I came to after studying and praying for God to reveal to me the truth.

We are not descendants of fallen angels as some have suggested. According to Jesus, angels do not procreate. I am not suggesting that no one read the books written by authors who believe and have stated that the Sons of God were fallen angels. There is a lot of information in some of the books pertaining to fallen angels and their plan to deceive the entire World which are relevant to end time prophecy today. The thing which I disagree with is the teachings which say the Sons of God

are fallen angels who left this World and now dwell on another Planet, and have been and are now returning to and from Earth in UFOs. This theory is just not Biblical.

The Bibles says WHEN MEN BEGAN TO MULTIPLY ON THE EARTH, the SONS of God took the Daughters of Men as wives. The word “Sons” written here is translated from the Hebrew Word “bene or bin.” Bene or bin is the Hebrew word for “son” not angel. Sons of God throughout the Old Testament are always referring to the sons of Adam through the lineage of Seth.

The name “Benjamin” is derived from the three Hebrew words “bin” which means “son,” “yaw” which means “right” and “mene” which means “hand.” Jacob named his youngest son “Bin-yaw-mene,” or Son of my Right Hand. He did not name him Fallen Angel, or Demon of my right hand.

According to Ancient Hebrew writings, after Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden, they continued to dwell in the Presence of God. God cursed the ground and stated **IN SORROW SHALL YOU EAT OF IT ALL THE DAYS OF YOUR LIFE; THORNS AND THISTLES SHALL IT BRING FORTH TO YOU; AND YOU SHALL EAT OF THE HERB OF THE FIELD.** Genesis, Chapter 3, Verses 17-18.

In prophetic teaching whenever we see the words “earth” or “ground,” the Bible is speaking of the Spirit of man. On the day Adam and Eve sinned by eating the forbidden fruit in the Garden of Eden, the process of spiritual and physical death began. Cain and Abel were born to Adam and Eve after they were cast out of the Garden of Eden.

It was after Cain slew Abel in the field that he was **DRIVEN FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD**. We read this in the 4th Chapter of Genesis. However, Adam and Eve were **NEVER** driven from the **PRESENCE OF GOD**, only from the Garden of Eden.

THE SONS OF GOD

AND ADAM KNEW HIS WIFE AGAIN; AND SHE BORE A SON, AND CALLED HIS NAME SETH: FOR GOD SHE SAID, HAS APPOINTED ME ANOTHER SEED INSTEAD OF ABEL, WHOM CAIN KILLED. AND TO SETH, TO HIM ALSO THERE WAS BORN A SON; AND HE CALLED HIM ENOS: THEN MEN BEGAN TO CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD. THIS IS THE BOOK OF THE GENERATIONS OF ADAM. IN THE DAY THAT GOD CREATED MAN, IN THE LIKENESS OF GOD CREATED HE HIM. Genesis, Chapter 4, Verses 25-26; Chapter 5, Verses 1-2.

Some Bible Scholars say the term “**MEN BEGAN CALLING ON THE NAME OF THE LORD**” should have been translated from the Ancient Hebrew text: “**MEN BEGAN CALLING THEMSELVES BY THE NAME OF THE LORD.**” In other words, the descendants of Seth began to call themselves the **SONS OF GOD**. In Genesis, Chapter 5, we find the **BOOK OF THE GENERATIONS OF ADAM**. You will notice that Cain is not mentioned in that Chapter as being a son of Adam.

In the New Testament the Bible refers to believers as “**THE SONS OF GOD.**” We become the Sons of God through the process of rebirth. We are born again by the Spirit of Christ through faith in Jesus and His finished works at the Cross. We are not **SONS** of fallen angels,

never have been, and never will be. The term “SONS OF GOD” has always alluded to sons (bene), not angels or fallen angels. Angels are never referred to in the Bible as “sons,” whether they be fallen angels or heavenly angels.

AND IT CAME TO PASS, WHEN MEN BEGAN TO MULTIPLY ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH, AND DAUGHTERS WERE BORN UNTO THEM. THAT THE SONS OF GOD SAW THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN THAT THEY WERE FAIR; AND THEY TOOK THEM WIVES OF ALL WHICH THEY CHOSE. Genesis, Chapter 6, Verses 1-2.

When men began to multiply on the earth the SONS OF GOD married the DAUGHTERS OF MEN. There is a clear distinction between the Sons of God and MEN in the above scripture. Man’s days, according to God, would be limited to One Hundred and Twenty years. Before the FLOOD the descendants of Seth lived several hundred years. After the FLOOD the number of years men lived began to decline slowly. Methuselah, a direct descendant of Seth, lived Nine Hundred and Sixty Nine years and died just before the Flood.

MY SPIRIT SHALL NOT ALWAYS STRIVE WITH MAN FOR THAT HE IS ALSO FLESH: YET HIS DAYS SHALL BE AN HUNDRED AND TWENTY YEARS. Genesis, Chapter 6, Verse 3.

The Lord was not talking about Adam or his descendants in the above scripture. Adam lived Nine Hundred and Thirty Years. In Luke, Chapter 3, Verse 38, the Bible calls Adam the SON OF GOD. All the descendants of Adam named throughout Chapter 5 lived hundreds of years. Throughout the first five Books of the

Old Testament many men of God lived to be hundreds of years old.

THERE WERE GIANTS IN THE EARTH IN THOSE DAYS; AND ALSO AFTER THAT, WHEN THE SONS OF GOD CAME INTO THE DAUGHTERS OF MEN, AND THEY BORE CHILDREN TO THEM, AND THE SAME BECAME MIGHTY MEN WHICH WERE OF OLD, MEN OF RENOWN. Genesis, Chapter 6, Verse 4.

The Bible does not say that the GIANTS were the Sons of God. It merely states that “there WERE GIANTS in the Earth in those days when the SONS OF GOD procreated with the Daughters of MEN.” It is clear that neither the term “giants” nor the “Sons of God” refer to fallen angels.

The word “giants” in the above scripture comes from the Hebrew word “nephil.” Strong’s Exhaustive Concordance defines this word as “a bully, tyrant, feller or giant.” The word “nephil” comes from the Hebrew root word “naphal.” Naphal has a variety of applications, including, but not limited to, fall, perish, die, fugitive, rot, slay, overwhelm, lost and thrown down, all of which are characteristics of the VAGABOND.

THE SONS OF ANAK

“Nephil” is only found twice in the Bible. The only other scripture which the word “nephil” is found is in Numbers, Chapter, 13, Verse 33. **AND THEY BROUGHT UP AN EVIL REPORT OF THE LAND WHICH THEY HAD SEARCHED UNTO THE CHILDREN OF ISREAL, SAYING, THE LAND, THROUGH WHICH WE HAVE GONE TO SEARCH IT, IS A LAND THAT EATS UP**

THE INHABITANTS THEREOF; AND ALL THE PEOPLE THAT WE SAW IN IT ARE MEN OF GREAT STATURE. AND THERE WE SAW GIANTS: THE SONS OF ANAK, WHICH COME OF THE GIANTS: AND WE WERE IN OUR OWN SIGHT AS GRASSHOPPERS, AND SO WE WERE IN THEIR SIGHT. Numbers, Chapter 13, Verses 32-33.

The Sons of Anak were called “nephil” or giants by the Children of Israel. Anak means “long neck.” Maybe their long necks made them taller than everyone else.

According to Hebrew Scholars and the Writings of the Ancients in Israel, Anak’s descendants were crossbreeds of the Sons of God which were Seth’s descendants. Cain’s descendants were referred to as the Daughters of Men. They were NEVER considered to be fallen angels.

BUT AS FOR YOU, YOUR CARCASES, THEY SHALL FALL IN THE WILDERNESS. AND YOUR CHILDREN SHALL WANDER (be vagabonds) IN THE WILDERNESS FORTY YEARS, AND BEAR YOUR WHOREDOMS, UNTIL YOUR CARCASES BE WASTED IN THE WILDERNESS. Numbers, Chapter 14, Verses 32-33.

The Children of Israel WANDERED in the Wilderness for Forty years. They continually tempted God in the Wilderness. After seeing all the wondrous works and miracles God performed in the Wilderness, they still did not believe Him. Thus, their punishment was to WANDER in the Wilderness for Forty Years. All the Israelites over Twenty years of age, except Joshua and Caleb, died in the Wilderness because they did not believe God. They feared

the sons of Anak and the other giants which dwelt in the LAND OF PROMISE. The seed of Cain, the VAGABOND, had completely penetrated their thoughts and spirits. God allowed only Joshua, Caleb and those who were under the age of twenty at the time of the rebellion to enter into the Promised Land.

When the Sons of God took wives of the Daughters of Men, “THE SAME BECAME MIGHTY MEN WHICH WERE OF OLD, MEN OF RENOWN.”

The children of the Sons of God became Mighty Men, Men of RENOWN. Men of Renown are known to be Men of Honor, Authority and Character. Fallen angels have never been called or referred to as “Men of Honor and Character.” Fallen angels do have authority over the souls who they are able to influence, inhabit and/or control. However, they can only control the life of a person who gives them permission and allows them to control his or her life.

Cain was driven from the FACE or very PRESENCE OF GOD and thus became a VAGABOND. The phrase “PRESENCE OF GOD” comes from the same Hebrew phrase “FACE TO FACE.” The scripture tells us that Moses was the “last man” to know God “FACE TO FACE.” Moses spent forty days and nights on Mount Sinai in the PRESENCE OF GOD. Moses had many encounters with God, beginning with his encounter at the Burning Bush. Moses continued having encounters with God until his death in the Wilderness before the Children of Israel entered into the Promised Land. Because Moses did not obey God by speaking to the rock in the Wilderness, but instead struck the rock, he was not allowed to enter into the Promised Land with the Children of Israel.

Moses lived One Hundred and Twenty Years. According to Scripture, Moses was the last man to know God “FACE TO FACE.” This would put him in the same category as one of the Sons of God. One Hundred and Twenty years was the dividing line between the Sons of God, which were the descendants of Seth, and the Daughters of Men, which were the descendants of Cain.

The Spirit of God which initially dwelt in the Sons of God was diminishing over time because men were becoming more fleshly oriented through the consummation and crossbreeding of the Sons of God and the Daughters of Men. The Sons of God had become unequally yoked together with the Daughters of Men.

Even today God tells us not to be yoked together with unbelievers. He warns us about the dangers and pitfalls of being “unequally yoked” with someone who is not a Christian. He warned the Children of Israel not to take wives from other Nations. Unfortunately just like today, they did not adhere to the Command of God and disobediently took foreign wives who led them into idolatry, and eventually into destruction.

CHAPTER 5

NOAH AND NAAMAH

BUT NOAH FOUND GRACE IN THE SIGHT OF THE LORD. THESE ARE THE GENERATIONS OF NOAH, AND NOAH WALKED WITH GOD. Genesis, Chapter 6, Verses 8-9.

NOAH found GRACE in the sight of God. He lived Nine Hundred and Fifty Years. Noah had faith in God. BY FAITH NOAH, BEING WARNED OF GOD OF THINGS NOT SEEN AS YET, PREPARED AN ARK AS TO THE SAVING OF HIS HOUSE; BY WHICH HE CONDEMNED THE WORLD, AND BECAME HEIR OF THE RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH IS BY FAITH. Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verse 7.

NOAH became an Heir of Righteousness by faith because he believed God and was obedient to God's Command to build an Ark. Noah was one of the Sons of God mentioned in the Bible. He is also a type of Christ. Noah knew God FACE TO FACE. He was a direct descendant of Seth, who was the third born son of Adam and Eve. NOAH means "rest or comfort." Jesus is our rest, or SABBATH. Noah built an Ark of Safety for his family in order to save them from the judgment which was coming

upon the World because of sin. Jesus is our ARK OF SAFETY who saves all who believe in Him from the JUDGMENT of Sin which is again coming upon the entire Earth. All who are not Believers in Jesus, our ARK of Safety, will perish.

The birth and lineage of Noah is recorded in the Book of Genesis, Chapter 5, Verses 28-29. After the birth of Noah we see THE SONS OF GOD taking wives from the Daughters of Men. Genesis, Chapter 6, Verses 1-2. It was after the Sons of God began marrying the Daughters of Men that God made the statement "MY SPIRIT SHALL NOT ALWAYS STRIVE WITH MEN."

Adam was the first MAN God created, yet he was called a Son of God according to the Book of Luke, Chapter 3, Verse 38. Jesus called Himself the Son of Man. Jesus was the Son of natural man through His earthly lineage. Jesus was the Son of God through His Heavenly lineage. He is also called THE SECOND ADAM. Adam, through his Heavenly Lineage, was a Son of God according to Luke. The Story of Creation states that Adam was created from the dust of the Earth. AND THE LORD GOD FORMED MAN OF THE DUST OF THE GROUND, AND BREATHED INTO HIS NOSTRILS THE BREATH (His Spirit) OF LIFE; AND MAN BECAME A LIVING SOUL. Genesis, Chapter 2, Verse 7.

AND SO IT IS WRITTEN, THE FIRST MAN ADAM WAS MADE A LIVING SOUL; THE LAST ADAM (Christ) WAS MADE A QUICKENING SPIRIT. HOWBEIT THAT WAS NOT FIRST WHICH IS SPIRITUAL, BUT THAT WHICH IS NATURAL (Adam), AND AFTERWARD THAT WHICH WAS SPIRITUAL (Christ). THE FIRST MAN (Adam) IS OF THE EARTH;

EARTHY: THE SECOND MAN (CHRIST) IS THE LORD OF HEAVEN. 1 Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 45-47.

The first Adam was the created. The second Adam, Christ, was the Creator. The first Adam was made a living soul by the Second Adam, Christ. **ALL THINGS WERE MADE BY (through) HIM; AND WITHOUT HIM WAS NOT ANYTHING MADE THAT WAS MADE. IN HIM WAS LIFE; AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN.** John, Chapter 1, Verses 3-4.

Adam was to be an extension of the Godhead. He was not created to be a God, but an extension of the LIFE of God. God desired to have sons and daughters. He created Adam and **BREATHED His Life** into him and Adam became a living soul. God later created Eve from Adam's rib to be a helpmeet and companion to him. **GOD IS LIFE** and the creator of all Life. Unfortunately, the First Adam sinned and came short of the **GLORY OF GOD**. Fortunately Christ, the Second Adam, came to reverse the deeds and disobedience of the First Adam. Christ came to reverse the curse which was a result of the sin of the First Adam.

NOAH'S WIFE NAAMAH

NOAH lived during a time when great spiritual darkness permeated the Earth. God told Noah to build an Ark so that he and his family would be spared from the great Flood which God was going to send upon the Earth. In building the ARK Noah was condemning the World and preparing it for the Judgment of God. Only eight people would be chosen to survive the Flood--Noah, his wife, their

three sons and their wives. Eight is the number of “new beginnings.”

The Bible does not tell us the name of Noah’s wife. However, according to Hebrew tradition, Noah’s wife was named “Naamah.” Naamah was a direct descendant of Cain and the sister of Tubal-Cain. In Genesis, Chapter 4, Verse 22, it states that Tubal-Cain had a sister named Naamah. Naamah would have been one of the DAUGHTERS OF MEN.

Naamah means “pleasantness.” The Sons of God saw that the Daughters of Men were “fair.” The word “fair” comes from the Hebrew Word “towb.” One of the meanings for “towb” is “pleasant.”

According to Hebrew tradition Naamah was part of the crossbreeding between the Sons of God and the Daughters of Men. Since Noah was a direct descendant of Seth, Noah would have been a descendant of one of the SONS OF GOD.

Noah fathered three sons, Ham, Shem and Japheth. Ham means “Warm.” Japheth means “Open.” Shem means “Renown.” It is interesting that the name of Shem means “Renown.” The male descendants of the Sons of God who married the Daughters of Men were called Men of “RENOWN.”

Shem was the Father of all the Semitic Tribes. The Greek derivative of “Shem” is “Sem.” Thus, we have the word “Semitic.” The Hebrew Nation came out of the loins of Shem. The earthly genealogy of Christ can be traced all the way back to Shem.

Before the Flood men lived to be hundreds of years old. After the Great Flood the number of years lived by those who knew God FACE TO FACE began declining at a faster pace. Unless a remedy for sin could be found, mankind was on a downward spiral which would eventually take him to the depths of spiritual despair and annihilation from God. Thankfully, God had a Plan to free mankind from sin and save his wretched soul from ETERNAL DEATH. Christ willingly died upon the Cross to redeem mankind from the clutches of SPIRITUAL DEATH, which would have resulted in eternal separation from God.

According to Scripture everyone born after the great Flood will be able to trace their genealogical roots back to Noah, a descendant of Seth, and Naamah, a descendant of Cain. We know that Cain was driven from the FACE or PRESENCE of God and became a fugitive and a VAGABOND. All the children born to Cain came under the same curse Cain was under.

The Human race can trace its geological roots back to Noah and Naamah, and then to Adam and Eve. We are not descendants of fallen angels as some teach. At this point in time wherever our genes originated from really does not matter. What does matter is WHO we are spiritually and where we will spend eternity.

The scripture states, FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD.
Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 23.

We are all born into this World as sinners. By nature we are all Descendants of the Sons of God and the Daughters of Men. Whether we admit it or not, we need a

Savior to redeem us from the Curse of Sin. We are all born spiritual VAGABONDS and will remain as such until we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Jesus said, YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.

If we do not become Born Again by and through the Blood of Jesus and put our faith in Him, we are Vagabonds, destined to live eternally separated from the PRESENCE OF GOD. It is up to each of us to choose where we will spend ETERNITY. Have you decided where you will spend ETERNITY? Will it be in the PRESENCE OF GOD in Heaven, or ETERNALLY separated from Him.

CHAPTER 6

THE WANDERER

AND CAIN SAID UNTO THE LORD, MY PUNISHMENT IS GREATER THAN I CAN BEAR. BEHOLD YOU HAVE DRIVEN ME OUT THIS DAY FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH; AND FROM YOUR FACE SHALL I BE HID; AND A FUGITIVE AND A VAGABOND IN THE EARTH AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS WHO FINDS ME SHALL KILL ME. AND THE LORD SAID UNTO HIM, THEREFORE WHOEVER KILLS CAIN, VENGEANCE SHALL BE TAKEN ON HIM SEVEN FOLD. AND THE LORD SET A MARK UPON CAIN, LEST ANY FINDING HIM SHOULD KILL HIM. AND CAIN WENT OUT FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD AND DWELT IN THE LAND OF NOD, ON THE EAST OF EDEN. Genesis, Chapter 4, Verses 13-16.

Because Cain sinned and slew his brother Abel, he was driven from the PRESENCE of God. Adam and Eve sinned and were CAST OUT of the Garden of Eden, but Cain was DRIVEN from the very PRESENCE of God. Sin ALWAYS separates man from the PRESENCE OF GOD. Cain was driven from the PRESENCE of God and became a FUGITIVE and a VAGABOND.

There is no rest for the VAGABOND. This Spirit searches throughout the Earth looking for a place to call home, yet it can never find a place of REST. No matter where the VAGABOND may find himself, it is never home. In the PRESENCE OF GOD there is PEACE AND REST. When we are dwelling in the PRESENCE of Christ, we have entered into the REST or SABBATH of God. Sabbath means “rest.” For Christians, Jesus is our SABBATH. He is our REST. By FAITH we REST in Him. Study Hebrews, Chapters 3 and 4.

The VAGABOND is always thinking about the view from the other side of the Mountain. To him the GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER on the other side. He does not realize that he is blind, destitute and spiritually naked. He does not know where his place of rest is or where he can go to find rest. He does not know that peace and rest can only be found in the PRESENCE OF GOD. The VAGABOND fails to realize his problem is not his natural environment, but his spiritual environment.

As BONDSERVANTS of Christ, we are “bound” to serve Him, obey Him and follow Him in order that we can continually DWELL IN HIS PRESENCE. We choose to do these things when we are born again by accepting Christ as our Savior. We no longer practice the sins of the past because we now have a glorious future and a HEAVENLY

DESTINATION. We no longer WANDER aimlessly in this World without peace, hope or an uncertain destination. In Christ we have found our spiritual destination and our hope for the future, knowing we will be spending an eternity in Heaven with Him.

After Cain slew Abel he was destined to follow a path which he had never before travelled. Cain neither understood nor knew where this path would lead him. The new path which he now travelled was an unfamiliar path filled with twists and turns he could have never imagined existed. Cain had no guidance in the natural and spiritual condition in which he found himself. There would be no more direction for his life from God because he had rejected the counsel of God to: DO WELL AND YOU WILL BE ACCEPTED. Genesis, Chapter 4, Verse 7. Because of Cain's sin he was rejected by God and driven from His PRESENCE to WANDER aimlessly throughout life with no peace, rest, plan or purpose.

Christ Jesus is the only hope for the sinner. To the VAGABOND salvation is an anomaly. The VAGABOND will focus mainly on his past. The VAGABOND always blames someone else for his problems and expects someone else to solve them. Unfortunately, many Christians continue to possess some of the characteristics of the VAGABOND. They may have accepted Christ as their Savior, but oftentimes their motives and attitudes need to be adjusted. Without attitude adjustments, they too are destined to fail and follow the ways of the VAGABOND.

The Children of Israel WANDERED in the Wilderness for Forty Years as a result of their sins. We separate ourselves from the PRESENCE OF GOD when we sin. We will wander in the Wilderness until we repent and

confess our sins. However, if we fail to seek God and repent of our sins, we will surely suffer and/or die in the Wilderness of Sin. How many laps around the Mountain must we take before we repent of our sins and submit to the authority of God.

Many times we wander aimlessly in a Spiritual Wilderness because we have taken our focus off Christ and His will and purpose for our life. Unfortunately, many have left their first love to follow after earthly pleasures and worldly treasures for earthly gain. We cannot LOVE THE WORLD AND THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD and still have room for the love of God in our hearts. We will love one and hate the other. Which one do you love?

The VAGABOND Christian cannot keep his mind stayed upon the Lord or stay focused upon God for very long. His thoughts tend to focus continually on the Cares of this World and the Deceitfulness of Riches. Earthly thoughts of what things he may gain wander around in his mind rather than GODLINESS WHICH IS THE GREATER GAIN.

Many Christians find themselves caught in the trap of VAGABOND because they have failed to renew their minds and continually keep their focus on things which are eternal, such as FAITH, GRACE and LOVE. People reject or neglect the Counsel of God because of earthly or carnal thinking and/or their love for the things of this World. The carnal mind is the VAGABOND mind. TO BE CARNALLY MINDED IS DEATH; BUT TO BE SPIRITUALLY MINDED IS LIFE AND PEACE. BECAUSE THE CARNAL MIND IS ENMITY AGAINST GOD. Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 6-7.

Peace is deferred when the people of God remain carnally minded and fail to PUT ON THE MIND OF CHRIST. Spiritual darkness will continue to permeate carnal minds until people turn from their wicked ways and serve God. A carnal mind and carnal thinking always separates man from God. However, if we seek and experience the TRUTH, we will be set free from carnal thoughts and acts which brings reproach upon those who reject the WHOLE Counsel of God. PERFECT PEACE will be found in the hearts and minds of those who KEEP THEIR MINDS STAYED UPON THE LORD. Isaiah, Chapter 26, Verse 3.

WANDERING aimlessly is a Mindset. People wander aimlessly because their minds are SET to wander without plan or purpose by the VAGABOND. Some people are VAGABONDS because of the choices they make. Some people live the VAGABOND lifestyle even though they may not want to because they do not understand there is a better WAY. Everybody is born into this World as a SPIRITUAL VAGABOND. They will WANDER aimlessly through life without any TRUE Spiritual direction unless and until they receive Christ as their Lord and Savior. They will remain under the influence of the Devil until they are delivered from the Vagabond Spirit.

The Bible tells us to be RENEWED IN THE SPIRIT OF THE MIND. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23. Carnal thinking is the enemy of God and man. If Satan is able to gain control of the thoughts of a person, he is able to control that person's destiny.

THE VAGABOND MINDSET

The VAGABOND mindset is continually searching for satisfaction in all the wrong places. True satisfaction can only come from knowing Christ as Lord and Savior. The VAGABOND may find temporary satisfaction for the flesh, but it is always yearning for something new and different. The VAGABOND does not realize that what he is seeking can never bring TRUE satisfaction because what he is seeking has no foundational TRUTH. He seeks a place of rest for his weary soul, however, he cannot find rest because he is continually searching in all the wrong places. True rest is only found in KNOWING Christ as Lord and Savior.

Cain could have found favor with God if he had been truthful with Him, and had been willing to repent of his sin. Repentance, which proceeds forgiveness, cannot be found in a heart without remorse. Consequently, the soul that sins, rejects the truth, and refuses to repent will surely die.

A few years ago the Lord sent me to work with a ministry in Cleveland, Tennessee. We ministered daily to homeless, poor and destitute people. Through that experience the Lord taught me many things regarding homeless people. I learned through observation that many of the homeless and poor people had CHOSEN the type of lifestyle they were living. It was a choice THEY made. No matter what you did for them or how much you tried to help them, they did not want to change their lifestyles. They were content with living on the street, panhandling and looking for a handout. As a matter of fact, many of them thought it was the responsibility of someone else to make sure they had something to eat and a roof over their

head. This mindset is prevalent in the Culture of the VAGABONDS.

On the other hand, there were many homeless and destitute people who had not chosen that type of lifestyle. However, for some reason or another, they had found themselves right in the middle of a lifestyle they hated. They did not have the ability or wherewithal to change the way they were living. Perhaps a tragedy happened in their life which they were unable to overcome. It may have been a failed marriage, the loss of a child, a financial crisis or some other devastating tragedy with which they could not deal. Those people were looking for a helping HAND. However, others chose that lifestyle and were always looking for a HAND out. If some of them would have received the appropriate training, proper skills, the desire, intuitive know how, and the opportunity, they would have done everything they could to pull themselves out of their life of destitution. These qualities, along with the will to change, were missing in the life of most of them. Some of the fortunate ones were able to get back on their feet with a little help and a lot of prayer.

Yet, the condition of both of these types of people can be attributed to their mindsets. The people who do not desire change in their life will never change unless there is a change in their thinking and the way they perceive life. If people do not make a conscience decision to change, they will never be free from the VAGABOND Spirit. Many of those who do not like the VAGABOND lifestyle will continue in that lifestyle unless they have the determination to change their mindsets. Without change they will be destined to WANDER through life without any hope for a better life.

Those who did change did so because they made a quality DECISION to change. They understood if they were going to leave that lifestyle behind they would have to make a change by turning around and going in the opposite direction. They realized they had to change their way of thinking, take a different path, and walk in a different direction. A few of them changed their mindsets and were able through help and prayer to pull themselves out of that spiritually destitute ditch in which they found themselves.

Before Cain sinned and slew Abel, he dwelt in the PRESENCE OF GOD. After Cain sinned he was driven from the PRESENCE OF GOD and became a VAGABOND. A spiritual VAGABOND is one who is spiritually dead. Spiritual death is separation from God. The Bible states that GOD IS LIFE. Anyone who has not accepted Christ as Lord and Savior does not possess the Spirit of God and is spiritually dead and destined for Hell. HE WHO HAS THE SON HAS LIFE. HE WHO DOES NOT HAVE THE SON, DOES NOT HAVE LIFE. 1 John, Chapter 5, Verse 12.

People who are not BORN AGAIN have no spiritual understanding, thus their minds cannot comprehend the TRUTH. They possess no LIGHT to guide them through a World BOUND by Spiritual Darkness. Their hearts are filled with the Darkness of this present World. Their souls are aimlessly WANDERING toward eternal judgment and punishment unless they hear, believe and receive the Message of the Cross of Christ.

Those who are sincere about changing the direction of their life must make a quality decision to CHANGE, without looking back. Being BORN AGAIN and following Christ is the only way that leads one from the pathway of

the VAGABOND. Without Christ, no change can be realized. VAGABONDS require much prayer, patience, love and guidance from those around them in order that they may find the path of RIGHTEOUSNESS through FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST. I didn't say criticize them, but love them. Love covers a multitude of sins.

Cain failed to understand or refused to be his brother's keeper. All the Law and the Word of the Prophets can be summed up in the COMMANDMENT to "Love God with all our heart, soul, mind and strength and to love your neighbor as yourself." Your neighbor would surely include your brother. It is vital that we love God and love our neighbor as we love ourselves. If we are not obedient to this Command, we are destined to follow the path of the VAGABOND.

I BESEECH YOU THEREFORE, BRETHREN, BY THE MERCIES OF GOD, THAT YOU PRESENT YOUR BODIES A LIVING SACRIFICE, HOLY, ACCEPTABLE UNTO GOD, WHICH IS YOUR REASONABLE SERVICE. AND BE NOT CONFROMED TO THIS WORLD: BUT BE YOU TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT IS THE GOOD, AND ACCEPTABLE, AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD. Romans, Chapter 12, Verses 1-2.

Many Christians have a VAGABOND mindset. That is, they allow their minds to WANDER away from God's plan and purpose for their life. One day they are on fire for God. The next day they have more important things to do, so they think. They are double minded. A double minded person is unstable in all his ways. They are more interested in the pleasures of this World than the Heavenly

Treasures which come from KNOWING and experiencing Christ in His fullness.

The WANDERING mind will become the DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND as it is tossed to and fro, going from one carnal thought to another. The WANDERING mind can never be at rest or satisfied because it is ever searching for things in all the wrong places. The cares of this World and the Deceitfulness of Riches will always lead the WANDERING mind to eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. If they are entertaining evil thoughts and worldly pleasures, Christians do not realize how easy it is to fall into the snares of Satan.

The natural or carnal mind is enmity with God. Many Christians do not know or realize when they are born again they MUST change the way they think. If they continue to live their life the same way as they did before they COMMITTED their life to Christ, they will surely fail. Every thought that exalts itself against the KNOWLEDGE of God must be cast down. We must put on the MIND of Christ if we are going to find His plan and purpose for our life.

Accepting Christ as Savior is not only a decision we make, but a promise to commit ourselves to His work, plan and purpose for our life. We have been bought with the price of His Precious Blood and have relinquished control of our life to Him. Our minds must be realigned and RENEWED with the plan and purpose of God or we will never embrace the TRUTH which sets us totally free.

CHAPTER 7

VAGABOND BOBBY

Bobby was a quiet one. He did not talk very much and always kept to himself. Bobby looked to be in his early thirties. He had lived on the street around ten years, and to my knowledge he did not associate with any of the other homeless people in the area. I never was able to find out his last name.

Bobby never attended Church, but always came to eat every time a meal was served at the Center. Sometimes he would come early and listen to someone preach before the meal was served. When Bobby did come early, he was always one of the first ones in line when the doors to the

Cafeteria were opened. The Cafeteria, Food Bank and Kitchen were located in the basement of the Church.

Bobby was one of those homeless people who lived in a world of his own. Nothing ever seemed to stir him. He never showed any emotion of any kind. I do not ever remember seeing Bobby smile. Many times I wondered what his story was. Why was he living on the street? What horrible event had transpired in his life that brought him to this place of destitution? What causes a person to be void of any sense of responsibility or feeling? What causes a person to choose to live all alone without purpose in his life? The few sermons he did listen to never seemed to have any effect on him at all. There were so many questions, but no plausible answers.

Psychologists can offer many reasons for the VAGABOND mindsets, but few solutions. Even Psychologists fall short in their evaluations and psychoanalysis of the problems. They fail to realize that the root cause of the VAGABOND problem is a spiritual one and not a psychological one. The symptoms of the homeless mindset shows up in the psychological arena, but lasting help and change can only come from faith in Christ Jesus. It was a few years before the Lord revealed the root cause and causes of this spiritual anomaly to me.

You could always see Bobby standing around outside the Church or leaning up against the wall with his bag at his feet. It was just a small bag. It couldn't have held very much. Everything he owned on earth, except the clothes on his back, he kept in that bag. After each meal Bobby would walk over to the counter where we kept the cupcakes and other deserts and stick a couple of them in his little bag. I assumed it was so he could have a snack later

on in the evening when he became hungry. Hunger and homelessness are some of the consequences of the VAGABOND lifestyle.

Bobby's parents lived somewhere in town. I never met them personally, but sometimes I would see them driving around downtown looking for Bobby. Sometimes they would find him hanging around outside the Church or sitting on a Park Bench across the street from the Church.

Bobby's parents occasionally brought food for him to eat if, by chance, they could find him. They would beg and plead with him to come back home, but their pleas always fell on deaf ears. If he had wanted to he could have gone back home and had his old bedroom back. I could see no plausible reason for him to live the life he was living. On his Birthday and on Christmas his parents would bring him something to eat along with a Birthday or Christmas gift. They would always beg him to come back home, but to no avail. Bobby was still there when I left the Ministry at the Church. Over the years I have often wondered what happened to him and where he ended up.

The VAGABOND Spirit is as destructive and deceptive as any of the other spirits, if not more so. This Spirit destroys the life of a person who falls under its control, as well as the people who truly love and try to care for that person. Many times the mind of a VAGABOND is unable to discern between right and wrong. Because they have a hard time focusing on the future, some VAGABONDS have a hard time making even the simplest of decisions. They are usually self-centered, self-deluded and self-promoting. Although many of the moral and emotional characteristics of the VAGABOND differ from

person to person, they are always self-serving. Each person is different and their motives and attitudes differ as well.

DWELLING ON THE PAST

VAGABONDS tend to dwell mostly on the past. They rarely think of anything in the future except where they might find their next meal, next drink or someplace to keep themselves warm for the night. Many cannot forgive and forget what someone did to them in the past which caused them great anguish and grief. They always blame everyone else for their problems, but never themselves.

Some VAGABONDS dwell and live in the past so much they cannot take time to think about or prepare for the future. Their focus is more on what happened in the past than what may happen in the future. They walk the dark catacombs of the past searching for a purpose and reason for the dilemma in which they find themselves. They don't realize that change can only come from faith, hope, self-help and self-awareness; not despair, self-pity and gloom.

As I stated earlier, many Christians will at times come under the influence of the Vagabond Spirit. Some are more inclined to walk the path of the VAGABOND than others. Because of the different lifestyles people live, the manifestations of the VAGABOND Spirit may vary from person to person. However, the root cause of their problems and shortcomings are always the same. They have allowed themselves to be seduced by the spirits of hatred, jealousy, strife, envy, seditions, drunkenness, greed, pride, idolatry and witchcraft--which are all characteristics of the VAGABOND mindset and lifestyle.

Many VAGABONDS or people with Vagabond mindsets find it hard to maintain or keep a job for any length of time. They will often move from job to job, place to place or town to town, never finding satisfaction. Many of them will WANDER from job to job because of their poor work performance and their attitudes toward others, especially toward those in authority.

Unfortunately there are many Church VAGABONDS who wander from church to church looking for that perfect place, not realizing they will never find a perfect place. They wander around looking for a church that will tickle their ears, tell them they are fine, and they are on their way to Heaven. Just drop your offering in the plate as it goes by, come back next Sunday, and you will be pleasing God. They choose to live their life the way they want to without any consequences. They do not want anyone telling them what they should or should not do. It all boils down to the fact that it is their way or the HIGHWAY. They have a lack of respect for any true godly authority.

Many Church VAGABONDS are somewhat like VAGABOND Bobby. They want to live life their way regardless of who they hurt. They are self-seeking and will listen to no one. It is their way or no way. Some of them can be reached, but most of them cannot. Therefore, they will continue to WANDER in the Wilderness of Sin seeking, but never finding, peace. Most of them will never change because of their wandering mindset. They cannot see they are spiritually blind, naked and destitute of TRUTH. Like Cain, they will not adhere to sound doctrine.

One of Cain's many problems was his inability to recognize or refusal to recognize authority. He hated his

brother and certainly did not want to be his brother's keeper. Like Bobby, Cain was oblivious to the fact that he lacked true purpose in his life. Without PLAN or PURPOSE you have no direction in life. Possessing PURPOSE for your life should be the goal of every human being. Without purpose in life, man is destined to fail.

Cain was given the same opportunity as Abel to serve God and KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. Cain did not want Godly counsel and set out to do what he wanted to do regardless of who he hurt. All that mattered to him was what he wanted--not what God wanted. God demands that we love one another as ourselves. Without love for God and our brother, our joy cannot be full. John, Chapter 15, Verse 12. God has told us to love our neighbor as our self.

I tried many times to show Bobby the love and compassion Jesus had for him, but all my efforts failed. He had no desire to change. His VAGABOND mindset could not be broken. We must always show the love and compassion of Christ to the lost and destitute. However, when we are dealing with the spirit or spirits which control and drive these individuals, we must be forceful and unwavering in our attempts to help them.

People without Christ do not know or understand they are spiritually naked, poor, blind and destitute. They will WANDER aimlessly through life, while true PURPOSE and REST for their poor souls will continue to allude them. However, there is hope and deliverance available for those who sincerely desire change in their life.

We must make an effort to do all we can to share the Gospel with others regardless of what mindset they may possess. Believing in Jesus Christ and the sacrifice He

made at Calvary is the only hope for a lost and dying World. We must ask the question, “Who will go and share the Gospel with them?” Who will share the Message of the Cross with them?

CHAPTER 8

THE GENERATIONAL VAGABOND

AND THE LORD DESCENDED IN THE CLOUD, AND STOOD WITH HIM THERE, AND PROCLAIMED THE NAME OF THE LORD. AND THE LORD PASSED BY BEFORE HIM, AND PROCLAIMED, THE LORD, THE LORD GOD, MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS, LONGSUFFERING, AND ABUNDANT IN GOODNESS AND TRUTH, KEEPING MERCY FOR THOUSANDS, FORGIVING INIQUITY AND TRANSGRESSION AND SIN, AND THAT WILL BY NO MEANS CLEAR THE GUILTY; VISITING THE INIQUITY OF THE FATHERS UPON THE CHILDREN, AND UPON THE

CHILDREN'S CHILDREN, UNTO THE THIRD AND TO THE FOURTH GENERATION. Exodus, Chapter 34, Verses 5-7.

Generational Curses are not new. Generational Curses have been around since sin entered into the Garden of Eden. Because of the sin of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, the proclivity to commit sin has been and will continue to be passed down from generation to generation. According to Moses, specific sins of the fathers can and will be passed down from generation to generation unto the third and fourth generations.

Although the propensity to commit the sins of our forefathers may be present in each of us, the compulsion to commit all of them may be absent. For those who are righteous and abhor those sins, the Generational Curse of sin may not affect or have power over them. Read Ezekiel, Chapter 18.

Christians are not automatically precluded from Generational Curses. Many Christians have the propensity to commit and will continue to commit the same sins as their fathers and grandfathers did. I know and can attest to this because I have counseled with many who have committed the same sins of their forefathers. In counseling with Christians I have found that in many situations they committed the same sins as their fathers and forefathers. I have also counseled with ministers who could not understand why they gave in to the same seducing spirits as their forefathers. Understanding why people fall into temptation and commit sin is the first step people need to take in order to be delivered from their shortcomings. The next step is the process of being delivered and set free from the enemy who usurps control over them.

In my own family sins were committed which mirrored the sins of one or more of our forefathers. In fact, some of the details and actions were exactly the same.

When people fail to recognize the deceptive tactics of the enemy, they are destined to fail. Many Christians do not have their senses trained to discern between good and evil (see Hebrews (ch. 5 vs. 14). People do not realize that in failing to submit to Godly authority, they are submitting themselves to the authority of Satan. Eve chose to believe the lie of the Serpent and submitted to the words he spoke. Unfortunately, Adam followed her lead. If you do not recognize the subtle attempts of Satan to draw you into sin, you can be easily deceived. Satan is as a roaring lion walking about seeking whom he may devour. Many times he appears as an “angel of light.” We must remain close to Christ if we are going to recognize Satan’s deceitful ways.

THE CHRISTIAN VAGABOND

Many Christians, if not all, can at times fall under the influence of the Vagabond Spirit. Being Born-Again does not preclude one from being tempted by Satan. If there is one thing people can count on, it is that Satan will sooner or later tempt them. All people are tempted to come under the authority of the VAGABOND spirit. No one is exempt from being TEMPTED and TRIED, not just once but over and over again. Many vulnerable people have fallen prey to seducing spirits and have been blindsided by the schemes of the Devil. Unbeknownst to them, many well-meaning Christians have been seduced, enticed and fallen prey to Doctrines of Demons.

AND AS JESUS PASSED BY, HE SAW A MAN WHICH WAS BLIND FROM HIS BIRTH. AND HIS DISCIPLES

ASKED HIM, SAYING MASTER WHO DID SIN, THIS MAN, OR HIS PARENTS, THAT HE WAS BORN BLIND. John, Chapter 9, Verses1-2.

It was commonly known or thought in Ancient Israel that sickness was usually, but not always, a direct result of sin. Either the forefathers, parents or the person involved would have been suspected of sin. In this case it was neither his parents nor the fault of the man which caused him to be blind. Sin always has consequences resulting in judgment. Many of those consequences, unfortunately, come in the form of sickness and disease. Sickness, disease, poverty and death are all part of the Curse of Sin.

According to Medical Science, many diseases are generationally and genetically linked. Many people are often diagnosed with and suffer from the same diseases their parents and/or relatives suffered. The phrase “It runs in the family” is a true saying.

Because there was a Generational Curse in my family from sins committed by my forefathers, a physical Generational Curse was passed down to my generation. Cancer was part of that curse. My father died of cancer at the age of forty nine. My mother was diagnosed with cancer at an early age and had a double mastectomy. She did not die of cancer. I had two older sisters who had cancer. Both of them died in their early fifties. One of them died of brain cancer, the other of another disease. I had a younger sister who also died of inoperable brain cancer. All of them were Christians who served God.

I have had to deal with a Generational Curse as well. No, I did not have cancer, but I had to make sure that

Curse would not come by my dwelling. Everybody must take the initiative to break the Generational Curse in his or her own life. They can find help if they seek it, but they must take the initiative to get help. This Generational Curse had to be broken in my life. I was the only one who had the authority to break the curse. If you are under a Generational Curse you can seek help in assisting you to be free from that curse in your life. I broke this curse on my life by renouncing it and believing the Word of God which states: "THERE SHALL NO EVIL BEFALL YOU, NEITHER SHALL ANY PLAGUE COME NEAR YOUR DWELLING." Psalms 91, Verse 10. God has been gracious to me and kept me free from this Generational Curse through my Faith in the Name and the Blood of Christ Jesus which He shed for me at Calvary. Jesus shed His Blood at Calvary so we all could be free from Generational Curses as well as all sins.

The PHYSICAL curse of the VAGABOND is passed down from generation to generation. Because the mindsets and lifestyles of each individual in a family may differ, not everyone in that family falls prey to every Generational Curse. The propensity to WANDER may be present in the life of an individual, but the VAGABOND can only infect those who are the most vulnerable. The VAGABOND can and will surface in the lives of people in many different ways and in different degrees.

The VAGABOND Spirit has the propensity to bring a CURSE upon everyone within its sphere of influence. Everyone who is not Born-Again is under the influence of and is subject to the Vagabond Spirit. Everyone who is not Born-Again is already under the curse of the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH, thus they are Spiritual VAGABONDS. The

entire Book of Romans explains the Law of Sin and Death and instructs us how we can be free from the CURSE OF THE LAW.

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN

Jesus said: “YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.” He was not SUGGESTING that we be born again. In fact, He was telling people that SPIRITUAL REBIRTH was not an option but a requirement for anyone to enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Being born again means a person has “BELIEVED ON THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST,” and accepted Him as Lord and Savior. The moment a person has received and believed in Christ Jesus, he has inherited ETERNAL LIFE, and becomes a new person spiritually.

Everyone who is not born of the Spirit of God is aimlessly wandering this Earth as a spiritual VAGABOND. Like Cain they will WANDER aimlessly without any spiritual direction. They do not dwell IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, but are under the influence of Satan. The Bible calls this tragedy “being lost.” The Spirit of man must be re-born spiritually by accepting Christ in order to possess ETERNAL LIFE.

Another characteristic of some Vagabonds is the inability to finish tasks which they start with the intention to finish. However, their minds wander and they lose interest in many of the projects they start. Consequently, they frequently leave the tasks undone or unfinished. VAGABONDS sometimes have problems prioritizing different issues they may be facing. Some things which SHOULD be important to them they do not deem important because they have little or no sense of commitment.

Without strict supervision they may move from task to task, never finishing any one of them.

Constantly desiring to move and/or moving from place to place and never being settled is another characteristic of the VAGABOND. It was a big surprise when the Lord revealed to me this aspect or characteristic of the VAGABOND. I immediately realized how the VAGABOND Spirit had influenced my own life. I realized that my desire to move from place to place had come through a Generational Curse.

Moving and being unsettled was one of the things my parents passed down to my sisters and to me. Before I left home at the age of twenty my parents had moved at least thirteen times. I could never understand why they continued to move from place to place. I am still not sure why they moved so often. I do know it was not because of my Father's work. However, it is reasonable for me to ascertain they were under the influence of one aspect of the VAGABOND.

There are legitimate reasons why people move frequently, but as far as I can remember, my family did not fit that criteria. Some people move a lot because they are in the Military, others because their jobs require them to move from place to place. Some people move to find work because good jobs are unavailable where they live. You cannot always say that frequent moving is caused by a Vagabond Spirit. Sometimes it is necessary for people to move in order to take care of their family.

I have moved more than thirty times since I left home at the age of twenty. In one year I moved eleven times. At that time I was not a Christian. However, until

now my record of moving has not been that outstanding when it comes to staying settled in the same place. After receiving Christ as my Lord some of the moves I made were God ordained and some were not. All of my sisters have also moved multiple times during their life. Some of their children have also moved multiple times and continue to do so. Unfortunately, some of them became homeless and continue to remain homeless today.

I came to realize that if we are not spiritually SOBER and VIGILANT in every area of our life in one way or another, we can all be influenced by the VAGABOND. As Christians we are told to be SOBER AND VIGILANT because the Devil is walking about like a Roaring Lion seeking “whom he may devour.” We must be VIGILANT in recognizing and exposing the works of darkness and the schemes of the Devil. 1 Peter, Chapter 5, Verse 8. We must PRAY WITHOUT CEASING, AND BE LED BY THE SPIRIT OF GOD at all times or we will fall into temptation.

CHAPTER 9

THE ALCOHOLIC VAGABOND

WINE IS A MOCKER, STRONG DRINK IS RAGING:
AND WHOSOEVER IS DECEIVED THEREBY IS NOT
WISE. Proverbs, Chapter 20, Verse 1.

All alcoholics are influenced and/or controlled by the Vagabond Spirit to a certain extent. This Spirit's sole (soul) desire or purpose is to destroy everyone it comes in contact with. Lives are destroyed, homes are ravished, and friends and families are devastated by the manipulating and controlling tactics of the VAGABOND. Alcohol destroys the lives, families and homes of millions of people each and every year.

The Spirit of Alcohol works alongside VAGABOND to change the disposition of the thought processes in the mind of the individual. It accomplishes this by clouding their emotional and spiritual thoughts while enhancing their most destructive thoughts. The only hope for the Alcoholic VAGABOND to be free from alcohol is deliverance by the Power of the Holy Spirit, and in some instances by drugs or re-education. Re-education may come through an organization such as Alcoholics Anonymous or other similar organizations. However, drugs and re-education is only a temporary fix and is rarely successful because it does not address the core issues which are the real cause of their problems. Those issues include, but are not limited to: sin, depression, bitterness and unforgiveness.

Every VAGABOND is not an alcoholic. In fact, many of them have never taken a drink of alcohol. You do not have to be an alcoholic to be a VAGABOND. However, all homeless and/or destitute people are susceptible to the same delusionary characteristics of the Vagabond Spirit. Alcohol is just one of the vices which can entrap, control and influence the VAGABOND, but it certainly is not the only one.

THE SPIRIT OF ALCOHOL

My wife and I were praying for the son of a friend of ours who was an alcoholic, and the Lord showed her a “Spirit of Alcohol.” This spirit was shaped like an M&M, except on a much larger scale. It was holding a bottle of alcohol in its hand. As it attempted to walk, it was stumbling and almost falling down with each step it took.

This Spirit had large bulging, bloodshot eyes, huge ears, which were red on top, and a large red nose which

was ball-shaped on the end. This Spirit had a rather large mouth with large, thick lips from drinking alcohol. Its arms were very long and skinny. Its hands were large with very long fingers which were completely out of proportion with its skinny arms. It had very large feet, and a pair of very large shoes which seemed to be too big for its feet. As this Spirit tried to stand upright, it would flounder around and stagger as if trying to gain its balance, and would finally fall to the ground. It would manage after a while to get back up on its feet and the process would then start all over again.

Alcoholic beverages are referred to as “spirits” in many circles. This saying is not far from the truth. The ingredients in alcohol are designed to confuse and manipulate the minds of people in much the same way demonic spirits influence the minds of their victims. This does not mean that people who drink in moderation can be manipulated by the Spirit of Alcohol. Problems arise when people cannot control their intake of alcohol and eventually become slaves to its addictive powers.

All demonic SPIRITS work together with the “Spirit of Confusion” in order to create great delusion, spiritual fornication and adultery. Spiritual fornication and adultery are any sins which are committed against God. All alcoholics come under the influence and/or control of the Spirits of Alcohol, Confusion, Witchcraft and VAGABOND.

Alcohol confuses the mind of its victims and causes them to think and act irrationally. Alcohol impairs and/or confuses the spiritual and natural senses of its victims. In the same way alcohol confuses the natural senses of an individual, the Spirit of Confusion confuses the Spiritual

Senses of its victims as well. The Spirit of Alcohol and the Spirit of Confusion partner together to take control of the mind and body in order to influence the Alcoholic.

While under the “influence” of any spirit, whether it be natural (alcohol) or demonic, a person cannot think, act, see, hear, or even smell properly. In other words, alcohol impairs all the physical and spiritual senses. “Under the influence” literally speaks of being “controlled and/or manipulated by something or someone else.”

I was an alcoholic until Christ instantly delivered me from the chains of alcohol. I had no power within myself to overcome the Curse of alcohol. I could not help myself or stop myself from destroying my own life. However, I found someone who could help me, and I turned my life over to Him. Jesus instantly delivered me from alcohol, and I am no longer addicted to alcohol. Jesus Christ totally freed me from the bondage of alcohol, and He is no respecter of persons. He will deliver all who, in faith believing, call upon Him for help in the time of their need. This does not only apply to alcohol, but to every addiction a person may have.

Since the day I surrendered my life to Christ, I have never desired another drink of alcohol. I realize this is not the case in the life of every alcoholic who has been born again. People are different and are under the influence or control of the Vagabond and Alcoholic Spirits at differing degrees. There are other evil spirits as well which can control or influence a person through other types of Generational Curses. Generational Curses can be physical, emotional, financial or sinful in nature. Most people, if not all, at one time or another will suffer from one or more of

these curses because of the fall of mankind in the Garden of Eden and the sins of their forefathers.

NOT A DISEASE

Alcoholism is not a disease as many people suggest, but rather an addiction. However, alcohol does cause many severe physical and emotional problems. The root of an alcoholic's problems is not a natural one, but a spiritual one. Many people who cannot face reality turn to alcohol to help them forget their problems and the fear and dread that comes along with their problems. Alcohol is not the solution to the problems, but a great enhancer of any problem a person may have. Alcohol always magnifies and makes the problems look bigger than they actually are.

I am no longer an alcoholic because Jesus set me free from the Curse of the Spirit of Alcohol. To say that a person "will always be an alcoholic" says that God cannot deliver that person from bondage. This suggests that God is not omnipotent. When God delivers a person from something, that person is free from that bondage. **WHOM THE SON SETS FREE IS FREE INDEED.**

Our God is greater than any demon spirit that inhabits and inhibits mankind, and that includes Satan as well. The Blood of Christ is the most powerful force in the Universe. However, it is up to the person God has set free to remain free. The same dependence a person has had on alcohol must be redirected to total dependence on God. Many people have been set free from the bondage of alcohol and other habitual sins only to return to them later. The only way to remain free from bondage is by submitting their life totally to Him, and they must not look back.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a great organization, and I would never dismiss the good work they perform for many alcoholics or the progress they have made in their quest to deliver people from alcohol. Their Twelve Step Program to combat alcoholism has helped many people who have been ravaged by the many diseases caused by alcohol. They have helped to free many people from this deadly addiction. There are many Christian Programs for Alcoholics such as Teen Challenge which have a much better cure rate than Alcoholics Anonymous.

Only Jesus can set an individual COMPLETELY free of this curse or any other curse imposed on the life of an individual by satanic entities. Alcoholics Anonymous has been helpful and has helped people to control their alcoholism to a degree, but one can never be completely and totally free from any curse without Christ. Only the BLOOD OF JESUS can break a curse AND SET ONE FREE.

HEAR YOU, MY SON, AND BE WISE, AND GUIDE YOUR HEART IN THE WAY. BE NOT AMONG WINEBIBBERS; AMONG RIOTOUS EATERS OF THE FLESH: FOR THE DRUNKARD AND THE GLUTTON SHALL COME TO POVERTY: AND DROWSINESS WILL CLOTHE ONE WITH RAGS. Proverbs, Chapter 23, Verses 19-21.

The Spirit of Alcohol entraps, engulfs and enslaves many as it seeks to control and manipulate its subjects. The Spirit of Alcohol, Confusion, Witchcraft, Poverty and VAGABOND work together to enslave the souls of mankind. Once these Spirits gain control of the flesh, only the Power of Christ can set the individual totally free from bondage. Those who have been freed by Christ are FREE

INDEED. However, it is up to the person to remain free by totally committing their life to Christ.

WHEN THE UNCLEAN SPIRIT IS GONE OUT OF A MAN HE WALKS (wanders) THROUGH THE DRY PLACES, SEEKING REST, AND FINDING NONE. THEN HE SAYS, I WILL RETURN UNTO MY HOUSE FROM WHENCE I CAME OUT AND WHEN HE IS COME, HE FINDS IT EMPTY, SWEEPED AND GARNISHED. THEN HE GOES, AND TAKES WITH HIMSELF SEVEN OTHER SPIRITS MORE WICKED THAN HIMSELF, AND THEY ENTER IN AND DWELL THERE: AND THE LAST STATE OF THE MAN IS WORSE THAN THE FIRST. Mathew, Chapter 12, Verses 43-45.

When freed from the Spirits of Alcohol, Confusion, or any other Evil Spirit, people must replace them with something more powerful than the cast out evil spirits were or their latter state will be worse than their former state. The demon or demons which have been cast out of an individual will always come back with demons more powerful in order to try to regain entry to his “old home place.” One must commit daily to seeking Christ and reading and studying His Word in order to quench all the fiery darts of the Devil.

Once delivered from the clutches of drugs and alcohol, one must commit himself daily to studying God’s Word, and committing completely and totally to Christ. If they fail to do so, they will find themselves being drawn back into a life of alcohol or drug addiction. We must continue to seek Him daily. Christ is the only answer to all of life’s problems.

CHAPTER 10

THE MICHIGAN VAGABOND

One day a new face appeared in the serving line at the Food Counter looking for a hot meal. This was nothing new because new people would come by almost daily looking for a free meal. We saw many different people come and go at the Kitchen. There were the regulars, and then there were the homeless people who were just passing through town headed for Florida or some other unknown destination. However, this new man caught my eye immediately. I found out later he had just arrived from Michigan.

He really didn't look much different than any of the others standing in line. His hair was somewhat long and looked as though it had not been combed in several days. He looked to be in his mid-forties. His clothes were dirty and wrinkled as if he had slept in them for many nights. He looked like he hadn't shaved in several days. His eyes were bloodshot, sunken and dull. He appeared to be socially and mentally withdrawn from the rest of the people who were there.

It was not the clothes he wore or his unkempt appearance that drew my attention to him. It was the look in his eyes and his overall demeanor which touched something deep within me. I felt more compassion for him than I had for some of the other homeless people who came daily for a hot meal. Maybe the Lord had singled him out to me so I would pray more for him than I did for some of the others. It was apparent to me that he needed much prayer. He seemed so lonely, destitute and out of touch with reality.

There were many homeless people who came to eat at the Church at mealtime. I knew they were not all coming for the sermon they thought they were expected to listen to before the meal was served. No, it was not a requirement that they had to listen to the preaching before they had a chance to fill their empty stomachs. However, I think many of them thought it was required that they sit and listen to a sermon before they ate. Some of them would just stand around outside the Church Building and wait until the preaching was over before coming downstairs to the dining area. In the winter, however, when it was too cold to stand around outside the Church, more of them would come in and sit down before and during the sermon.

After everyone finished with their meal, some of them would ask for prayer. Others were not interested in prayer, or in anything you had to say to them. Some would eat hastily and leave immediately. All they came for was a hot meal and that is all they received.

Everyone had a sad story as to why they were living on the streets. There were some who came that did not live on the streets who just came in for a free meal. Others were there because they could not afford to buy food but they seemed to me to be almost as destitute as the homeless ones. Not all of them who came for the daily meal were homeless, but they all were looking for a hot meal and a place to rest for a while.

Young mothers would come in with their children. You could tell they were desperately in need of help because of the way they were dressed. To me the children were the most pitiful of them all. Some of them had dirty little faces and their clothes were inadequate and dirty, wrinkled, torn and old. The children were totally helpless and could not fend for themselves. Their little faces would always light up when they were given a sweet treat after the meal or a place to sleep that night. The homeless could stay nights at the City Shelter for two weeks. After two weeks they were expected to find another place to sleep. After another two weeks passed, they were able to renew the cycle and start over again.

After the meal was served we would hand out groceries to those who had homes or a place where they could store a small amount of food. There were always snacks which had been donated to the Church by a local bakery for people to take along with them when they left. Most of the people living on the street had no place to keep

or store food without it spoiling. Others, after they had eaten, would often help the volunteers fold up the tables and chairs and stack them along the wall in the basement.

A HOPELESS VAGABOND

The Lord taught me many things from my experience working with the poor and homeless people. I will never forget those lessons Jesus taught me while I worked in that Kitchen. I can still remember the look on the faces of the people as they stared down at the food being placed on their plates as they came through the line. I often wondered if they would be somewhere the next day where they could get a free meal and a place to sleep.

One day while working in the kitchen I had an unusual experience. I had cooked up a good meal for the people that day. Suddenly, I heard something rattling like metal clanging against metal. I turned to look at the people in line who were being served by the other volunteers. A man was standing there with the shakes so bad his spoon and fork were clattering against the metal plate he was holding in his hand. It was the Michigan Vagabond. He was shaking so badly he was unable to hold his plate still. Alcoholics will sometimes shake uncontrollably when they need a drink.

The sound of the clanging seemed to echo throughout the basement Cafeteria like a tingling cymbal. There were times when some of the people who came to eat could not hold their plates long enough to get their food back to the table. Sometimes their food would end up on the floor, and we would fix them another plate. At times we would have them sit down at a table and we would take their plates to them.

When I walked into my house later that day, I fell immediately on the floor in our living room and wept uncontrollably for at least an hour. I could not hold back any longer. All I could think about was the man with the shakes and the sound the silverware made clanging against the metal plate. I could not get the dirty faces of the little children out of my mind. They are ever before me. I can never erase the images of those poor and destitute people from my mind. I had never gone without a meal in my life unless I was fasting. I had never been homeless. I had never seen or experienced poverty and destitution like these people were experiencing.

I made it a point to talk with the man who had the shakes and tried to show him the love of Christ. I wanted to help him in any way I could. He told me he was from Michigan. He said he had raised a family there and had some problems with his wife. He told me they were no longer together. He didn't say why they were no longer together, but I could not help but think the problems they had were due directly to his alcoholism.

After a few weeks had passed, the Michigan man told me he had gotten a job as a Cook at one of the fast food restaurants in town. He told me he had rented a room in a sleazy Motel a few blocks from the Church and was trying to save up enough money to buy a car. He told me he was trying to get back on his feet. Sometimes I would drive him back to the Motel after I finished my work at the Kitchen and would always share the Love of Christ with him as I drove him home. Sometimes we would sit in my car and talk for a long while.

One day as I was working in the Kitchen I noticed him sitting in the Cafeteria with a very sad countenance on

his face. He looked very distraught. Immediately I inquired as to what his problem might be. He told me someone had broken into his Motel room and stolen all the money he had been saving to buy a car and insurance. His wallet with his driver's license was also missing. He was totally devastated, to say the least. I didn't know what to say to him, words escaped me. I had tried to show him the Love of Christ and tell him how much God loved him and would help him get his life straightened out, but now this tragedy had happened to him. I didn't know what to say or do for him. Nothing I said made any difference to him. His spirit was broken. Everything I said to him fell on deaf ears.

After a few days he never came back to the kitchen, and I did not see him again. I thought about what a tragedy had befallen him. Here was a man who was trying to get his life back on track and someone had stolen all the hope he had in this World. It was only money, but to him this was more than money, it was his life. It was to be his path back to some normalcy in life. Satan had destroyed his hope, his plans and his future. He had worked hard in hopes that he could get away from his life of destitution and regret. Now, Satan had succeeded in destroying his life again. All his hope was gone. He just sat there motionless with a blank stare on his face.

That tragedy happened fifteen years ago. To this day I still wonder what became of the Michigan VAGABOND.

VAGABOND DON

I grew up in Michigan, and at one time I became a Michigan VAGABOND myself. No, I was never homeless. Yes, I was bound by the Curse of Alcohol. Alcohol was

destroying my life. I spent time in an Alcoholic Ward at a Hospital in Garden City, Michigan. Two days after I was released from the hospital I found myself drinking at a bar in downtown Detroit. I had been unable to shake the alcohol which had gained a great hold on my life.

My Father was a Minister and I was raised in a Christian home. I had received Christ as my Savior as a child. However, these things do not preclude anyone from being tempted and falling prey to the Devil. Satan is constantly seeking to devour and destroy the life of every person on this earth. Being a Christian does not exempt one from the subtle schemes and fiery darts of the Devil. As a matter of fact, it makes the Devil more intent in his efforts to destroy your life.

I took my first drink of alcohol at the age of fourteen. By the time I reached the age of seventeen, I was drinking heavily and taking drugs. On my eighteenth birthday I was arrested for Driving Under the Influence. At the age of twenty one I was a member of an outlaw motorcycle gang in Detroit, Michigan. At the age of twenty six I found myself serving time in Prison because of things I did when I was drunk. I lost everything I owned physically. I was heading down a path toward total destruction.

The Bible says: HEAR YOU, MY SON, AND BE WISE, AND GUIDE YOUR HEART IN THE WAY. BE NOT AMONG WINEBIBBERS, AMONG RIOTOUS EATERS OF FLESH. FOR THE DRUNKARD AND THE GLUTTON SHALL COME TO POVERTY: AND DROWSINESS SHALL CLOTHE A MAN WITH RAGE. Proverbs, Chapter 23, Verses 19-21.

Worse than being a drunkard, I had become a Spiritual Vagabond and I was lost and undone without Christ. Like the Prodigal Son I had walked away from my Heavenly Father and began to live a life of sin and degradation. Thankfully, later in my life I came to my senses and returned to the Jesus I had known as a child. I realized He had been patiently waiting for me to return, like the father who was waiting for the Prodigal Son. I was like the Prodigal Son who had left his home and the father who loved him dearly. His father waited patiently for him to return from his WANDERING WAYS. Jesus is patiently waiting for ALL the PRODIGALS to come to their senses and return unto Him without any condemnation.

A spiritual VAGABOND is one who is spiritually homeless with no spiritual direction. After WANDERING here on earth, the VAGABOND is destined to Hell and the Lake of Fire which was originally created for the Devil and his angels. The VAGABOND'S condition is worse than that of an Alcoholic. He is spiritually destitute and without hope for the future unless he receives Christ as his Savior. A spiritual VAGABOND wanders the Earth seeking rest and contentment, but will never find them unless he finds the TRUTH found only in Jesus Christ.

TRUTH can only be found in what took place on a lonely hill called outside of Jerusalem Golgotha approximately Two Thousand Years ago. On Mount Calvary Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was crucified in order that all Spiritual VAGABONDS could find a sense of direction, peace and rest for their weary, wandering souls. Jesus was raised from the dead on the third day by the power of the Holy Spirit so that all who would believe in

Him could live and find that peace and rest for their
WANDERING souls.

BRETHREN, IF ANY OF YOU DO ERR FROM
THE TRUTH AND ONE CONVERT HIM LET HIM
KNOW, THAT HE WHICH CONVERTS THE SINNER
FROM THE ERROR OF HIS WAY SHALL SAVE A
SOUL FROM DEATH, AND SHALL HIDE A
MULTITUDE OF SINS. James, Chapter 5, Verses 19-20.

The word “err” is derived from the Greek word
which means “wandered.” At one time or another all of us
have or will wander or err from the TRUTH and come
short of the GLORY OF GOD. Repenting AND TURNING
AWAY from dead works to Christ will change our spiritual
direction, and we can once again travel the Path of
Righteousness toward ETERNAL LIFE in CHRIST.

FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF THE
GLORY OF GOD. Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 23.

It is inherent that everyone on Earth is born in sin
and will remain in sin until and unless they accept Jesus
Christ as their Lord and Savior. None of us are perfect.
None of us have lived a sinless life. We are all born in sin.
All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. Only
Christ is perfect and only He can save us from our sins. We
are all under the judgment of the LAW OF SIN AND
DEATH unless we repent of our sins and live a life of
dedication to Christ. We must PICK UP OUR CROSS
DAILY and follow after Him.

CHAPTER 11

THE CHURCHY VAGABOND

AND UNTO THE ANGEL OF THE CHURCH OF THE LAODICEANS WRITE THESE THINGS SAYS THE AMEN, THE FAITHFUL AND TRUE WITNESS, THE BEGINNING OF THE CREATION OF GOD. I KNOW YOUR WORKS, THAT YOU ARE NEITHER COLD NOR HOT. I WOULD YOU WERE COLD OR HOT. SO THEN BECAUSE YOU ARE LUKEWARM, AND NEITHER COLD NOR HOT, I WILL SPUE YOU OUT OF MY MOUTH. BECAUSE YOU SAY I AM RICH, AND INCREASED IN GOODS, AND HAVE NEED OF

NOTHING; AND KNOWEST NOT THAT YOU ARE WRETCHED, AND MISERABLE, AND POOR, AND BLIND, AND NAKED. I COUNSEL YOU TO BUY OF ME GOLD TRIED IN THE FIRE, THAT YOU MAY BE RICH; AND WHITE RAIMENT, THAT YOU MAY BE CLOTHED, AND THAT THE SHAME OF YOUR NAKEDNESS DO NOT APPEAR; AND ANNOINT YOUR EYES WITH EYESALVE, THAT YOU MAY SEE. AS MANY AS I LOVE, I REBUKE AND CHASTEN: BE ZEALOUS THEREFORE, AND REPENT. BEHOLD, I STAND AT THE DOOR, AND KNOCK: IF ANY MAN HEAR MY VOICE, AND OPEN THE DOOR, I WILL COME IN TO HIM, AND SUP WITH HIM, AND HE WITH ME. Revelation, Chapter 3, Verses 14-20.

A Churchy Vagabond is a person who once followed the TRUTH but WANDERED away from Christ to follow the wide path of dead works. They became more interested in Worldly Gain than Heavenly Treasures. A Churchy Vagabond will TALK THE TALK but fail to WALK THE WALK. Their focus becomes more on worldly treasures and earthly pleasures than doing the work of God.

Laodicea means “a people judged.” The Laodeceans were probably the most pathetic of all the Churches in Asia Minor. Jesus had nothing good to say about the Church in Laodicea. “Apathetic” would be the word which best described the Laodiceans. Jesus gave the Laodiceans an opportunity to re-examine their lifestyles, repent and recommit their life to Him.

The extent of control or influence which the VAGABOND has on Churchy People will vary from

person to person and from church to church. I use the term “Churchy People” because they may be church goers, but they are not “fully committed” to Christ. Many people attend church consistently. They are committed more to the Church than they are Christ. They show little interest in doing anything more than attending “Church.” Their hearts and thoughts are not focused on the plan and purpose God has for their life, or their reasonable service to Him. Many Churchy People flounder around going through the motions of playing church. Many Church bodies have become more of a social club than a Church. They have taken their focus off of Christ and placed it on worldly things. Because of their lack of total commitment to Christ, they bear little or no fruit. **BY THEIR FRUITS YOU SHALL KNOW THEM.** Because of the lack of total commitment to Jesus, He said they were **BLIND, POOR, NAKED, MISERABLE, AND WRETCHED.**

The Laodiceans were Churchy People. Churchy People are those who have departed from their **FIRST LOVE** to follow the path of the **VAGABOND**. They may not be physically homeless, but they are **UNDER THE INFLUENCE** of the **VAGABOND**. Their relationship with Christ has been diminished or forgotten because they became more concerned with doing the **WORKS** of Christ rather than seeking the **PERSON** of Christ. A Works Based Religion will always separate man from God. More than anything else Christianity is supposed to be about our relationship with Christ. We cannot know Christ without having a personal relationship with Him. Relationships are rooted and grounded in fellowship. Unless we are fellowshipping with Christ on a daily basis, there can be no relationship with Him.

Churchy People pander more to the plan and purpose of the VAGABOND than they do the plan and purpose of God for their life. They are more interested in doing their own thing rather than what God requires of them. They become panhandlers to the flesh, begging for the lusts and desires of their flesh to be satisfied. They can never be truly satisfied because they are seeking fulfillment in the wrong way and in all the wrong places. Dead works is a heavy burden to bear and will never bring satisfaction to the Christian. Faith and obedience, on the other hand, will always produce godly works. When TRIED IN THE FIRE our godly works will stand the test of time. Works alone will burn up in the fire, but works of FAITH will emerge victorious from the fire.

Churchy People are more concerned with owning material possessions than heavenly blessings. Their earthly goods and riches will be consumed and perish in the fire when tested. FAITH and GRACE are Treasures that remain throughout eternity. Jesus challenged the Laodiceans to buy GOLD which had been tried in the fire. Gold represents the Divine Nature of CHRIST. FOR BY GRACE ARE YOU SAVED THROUGH FAITH, AND THAT NOT OF YOURSELVES: IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD. "NOT OF WORKS," LEST ANY MAN SHOULD BOAST. Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 8-9.

A WORKING FAITH

All religions outside of Christianity are Works Based Religions. A Works Based Religion says that I am saved by what I do, not by what God has ALREADY done for me THROUGH faith in Christ and His SACRIFICE on the Cross. A Sacrifice of Works is an abomination to God if

they are not Faith Based Works. It is imperative that we KNOW Christ, not just know about Him. FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD WORKS. James, Chapter 2, Verse 20.

If you do not have a PERSONAL relationship with Christ then you do not know Him. Many people make the mistake of knowing about Jesus, but they really do not know Him because they do not spend time with Him. They fail to solidify their relationship with Him through daily fellowship and communion. Knowing Christ and “thinking you know Him” are two totally different things. If we truly KNOW Him we will LOVE Him. If we LOVE Him, we will surely KEEP His Commandments. You do not choose a spouse and talk to her once or twice, or once a week or a year. Therefore if you do not spend time with Christ on a daily basis you do not really know Him. To know Him is to love, cherish and obey Him.

FAITH WORKS (is energized) BY LOVE. Godly Works are energized by Godly Love. Godly Works are the works we do by FAITH. Works of FAITH are works which are inspired by the Holy Spirit. Dead Works can be defined as “works inspired by the fleshly or carnal mind.” Faith is not energized by a compulsion to act, but is energized by the Christ-like compassion we possess through Faith in Him. Because it is self-oriented rather than faith-oriented, a Works Based Religion can only satisfy the flesh.

THERE IS A WAY WHICH SEEMS RIGHT UNTO A MAN, BUT THE END THEREOF ARE THE WAYS OF DEATH. Proverbs, Chapter 14, Verse 12.

We need to ask our self if we are on the RIGHT path or are we just walking a path which seems to be right.

The right path is the path of Righteousness which leads to the Tree of Life. We walk this path when we seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness.

Dead works are works of self-righteousness. If our works do not honor or lift up Christ they are considered dead works. They are called “dead works” because they are not Holy Spirit inspired and will lead a person to death rather than life. They are not energized and motivated by love and compassion, but by a sense of pride and/or delusion and confusion. Dead Works are rooted and grounded in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.

WANDERING from a Faith Based religion to a Works Based Religion is a snare of the VAGABOND. Our place of REST is our FAITH in the FINISHED WORKS OF CHRIST. Faith is not performance based but is based upon our relationship with Christ. We do the WORKS of Christ because we are motivated by His Faith and Love which dwells within our hearts.

The Churchy Laodiceans lacked true spiritual understanding. They could not see they were spiritually naked, poor, blind and destitute because their motives and attitudes were not FAITH BASED. The deceitfulness of riches has drawn many people off the Path of Righteousness to WANDER in a Spiritual Wilderness without any spiritual focus or direction. The Laodiceans were not rooted and grounded in FAITH. The GRACE of God had become of NO EFFECT in their life. Jesus KNEW their works and warned them they had become lukewarm. They had not totally rejected Christ, neither were they totally sold out to Him. Because the Laodiceans had become lukewarm, Jesus said He had no other recourse

than to “spew them out of His mouth” unless they repented of their Dead Works.

Jesus loved the Laodiceans even though they had become lukewarm. A strong rebuke, a call to repentance, and a new zeal for Him was the only cure for their rebellion. Jesus stood “knocking at the door” of their heart, desiring to enter in to SUP, or have fellowship with them. Today Jesus stands at the door of our hearts and knocks. He desires to come in and commune with His people. For those who will listen to His plea, His voice can be heard all over the Earth today. Without true heartfelt repentance, Jesus cannot enter into our heart to commune with us. Jesus is calling out in the WILDERNESS to the Laodiceans who have been influenced by or have fallen under the control of the VAGABOND mindset to repent of their sins.

Many people have strayed and WANDERED away from the HOUSE OF GOD because they have lost their heavenly focus and are searching for things which satisfy the flesh rather than the Spirit. We are the Temple of the Holy Spirit. We are His place of REST. Christ is our place of REST. The Bible tells us a WANDERING Spirit has no peace or rest. Choose Christ and you choose Life. Choose to follow Christ and you will find a place of REST AND PEACE in every situation that LIFE brings. REST AND PEACE will always allude everyone who has WANDERED and STRAYED from the TRUTH. The TRUTH can only be found in Christ Jesus because He is the TRUTH. Christ Jesus is our Peace and Rest when we seek Him and walk daily with Him.

God’s love for us is unfailing, and our love for Him must be unfailing if we are to maintain a PERSONAL relationship with Him. Jesus gave His all for us. He expects

no less of us than our best. Someone once said “I paid a great price to follow Christ.” However, Christ was the one who paid THE GREAT PRICE. Whatever we do pales in comparison to what Christ has done for us. As a matter of fact, nothing we do can be compared to His GREAT and SELFLESS SACRIFICE. Whatever we do for Christ must be LOVE motivated, not PURPOSE driven. Our works without faith will perish. They will burn up like hay and stubble when tried in the fire. However, what we do in LOVE will remain forever.

Works which are not Faith Based and Holy Spirit Inspired can never satisfy the soul of man or please our Father in Heaven. We rest in Christ by FAITH in HIS finished works at Calvary, not in our own works. Cain made the mistake of bringing a sacrifice of the works of his hands to God. Because he was presumptuous his sacrifice was rejected by God. Cain’s failure to recognize or care what WAS an acceptable sacrifice eventually led him to kill his brother in a jealous rage and he was driven from the PRESENCE OF GOD.

We can do nothing to work our self into Heaven. Jesus is the only door to peace, rest and Life Everlasting. No amount of work can open the door to Heaven.

Jesus is always knocking at the door of our heart seeking to gain entrance in order that He may commune with us. Jesus is a gentleman. He will never enter into a house where He is not invited or welcome, or into a house which does not acknowledge Him as LORD.

CHAPTER 12

WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE
NAKED?

AND THE EYES OF THEM BOTH WERE OPENED,
AND THEY KNEW THAT THEY WERE NAKED; AND
THEY SEWED FIG LEAVES TOGETHER, AND MADE
THEMSELVES APRONS. AND THEY HEARD THE
VOICE OF THE LORD GOD WALKING IN THE COOL
OF THE DAY: AND ADAM AND HIS WIFE HID
THEMSELVES FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD
GOD AMONGST THE TREES OF THE GARDEN. AND

THE LORD GOD CALLED UNTO ADAM, AND SAID UNTO HIM, WHERE ARE YOU? AND HE SAID, I HEARD YOUR VOICE IN THE GARDEN, AND I WAS AFRAID, BECAUSE I WAS NAKED; AND I HID MY SELF. AND THE LORD SAID, WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE NAKED? HAVE YOU EATEN OF THE TREE, WHEREOF I COMMANDED YOU THAT YOU SHOULD NOT EAT? Genesis, Chapter 3, Verses 7-11.

It was not the physical nakedness of Adam and Eve which was the issue in the above Scripture. After all, it is not a shame for a husband and wife to be naked in front of each other. The problem Adam and Eve was facing was a sin problem. They had sinned against God and their sin had been exposed. They had broken God's Commandment not to eat of the Forbidden Fruit and found themselves spiritually naked in the PRESENCE OF GOD. In essence, they had committed spiritual adultery.

After Adam and Eve partook of the Forbidden Fruit they hid themselves from the PRESENCE OF GOD. Sin had entered into the GARDEN through their disobedience, and fellowship between them and God had been deferred. No doubt many thoughts were going through Adam's mind. However, meeting with God for a time of fellowship was not one of them. Adam disobeyed God and sinned by eating the Forbidden Fruit. Sin always separates man from God. Sin always causes man to hide from the PRESENCE OF GOD.

The spirit of man is like a garden. A garden will grow any type of seeds you plant. In Adam and Eve's Spiritual Garden the Seed of Rebellion had been planted by the Serpent. Now there was a new voice in the Garden of Eden. It was the voice of the Serpent. The Serpent had

planted the seed of rebellion and it had already taken root and began producing fruit. Men fall prey to the seeds Satan plants in their Spiritual Garden (their hearts) when they take their focus off the Tree of Life and divert it to the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Unfortunately, this new fruit Satan introduced to Adam and Eve was corrupt and vile and brought the curse of sin and death upon all mankind. The Fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil had produced the Fruit of Unrighteousness in the First Couple. One sin of disobedience will lead to another if we do not repent of our sins.

Many Christians today are partaking of the Fruit from the Forbidden Tree and find themselves naked, ashamed and afraid. They try to hide from the PRESENCE OF GOD because they understand that fellowship with God has been broken and judgment is imminent. However, when we do sin and repent with a sincere heart, God is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and CLEANSE us from all unrighteousness.

The first question in the Bible was asked by the Serpent. The Serpent questioned the integrity of God's Word and continued to deceive Eve by lying to her saying, "you shall not surely die."

After Adam and Eve succumbed to the lies of the Serpent God began asking Adam and Eve a series of questions. Questions might seem a bit unusual for someone who already knew all the answers. After all, God is Omniscient. When God asks questions He is not looking for answers. He already knows everything. He knows the thoughts and intents of the heart of every person. In the Bible God was always asking questions. He was not trying to educate Himself, but those to whom He was asking the

questions. God knew Adam had sinned and had eaten of the Forbidden Fruit. Adam's feeble attempt to hide his sin from God showed his lack of UNDERSTANDING as to what he should do next. Adam knew there would be a penalty for disobeying God's Command or he would not have tried to HIDE from the PRESENCE OF GOD.

There was and is a lesson to be learned from what Adam was feeling and experiencing, and it would be a very hard lesson to learn indeed. It was the lesson of how sin in our life can lead to spiritual confusion and separation from God. Sin always separates man from God. Adam had sinned and found himself in fear of the judgment of God. He knew the judgment of God was about to be unleashed upon him because of his disobedience. Adam needed a covering for his sin, but did not know what to do in order to obtain it. Above everything else, Adam had need of a High Priest who could offer up a LIVING Sacrifice to cleanse him from the guilt and shame he was experiencing.

God's first question to Adam was: "Adam where are you?" Of course, God knew where Adam was, just as He always knows where we are and when we sin. Adam had lost his focus. His thoughts were no longer focused on his reasonable service to God, but on the sin he had just committed against God. Adam's sin bore witness in the PRESENCE OF GOD and exposed his nakedness and shame. God's Presence was no longer a covering for him.

God asks us questions in order to stimulate our thinking and to bring clarity, understanding and knowledge to us in the same way a TEACHER does. If we do not know the answers to the questions, we can ask the TEACHER, Jesus. However, Adam's only response was: "I was afraid and naked." Sin had left Adam afraid and

ashamed to be in the PRESENCE OF GOD. Likewise, when we commit sin we are naked in the eyes of God.

In asking Adam questions the Lord was trying to get Adam to ask himself the same questions. When tragedy befalls us because of our own sinful actions, we must always ask the questions: who, what, where, when and why. Who was at fault, and who must take the blame for my actions? What did I do that resulted in the tragic events which have befallen me? What will I do now? What is going to happen to me? Where did I go wrong? Where can I get help, and who will help me? Where am I in my RELATIONSHIP with God and His plan, purpose and will for my life? Where is the Lord in this? When will I be free of this guilt and shame? When will all this confusion and horror be over? Why did I do what I did? Why am I confused, depressed and despondent? Adam was probably asking himself many of these very same questions and many more.

WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE NAKED?

The second question God asked Adam was: “Who told you that you were naked?” God then immediately asked Adam the third and final question: “Have you eaten from the Tree I Commanded you should not eat?” Adam’s response to God’s questions was not one of sorrow, but one of accusation. Adam knew he had sinned, but would not admit it and blamed his sin on Eve. After all, Eve was the one who had given him the Forbidden Fruit to eat. According to Adam, it was not his fault he had sinned, it was Eve’s fault because she gave him the deadly fruit. Adam could not justify his act of disobedience to God so he placed the blame on a SCAPE GOAT, Eve. Although

Adam realized someone other than himself had to pay the penalty for his sin, he had chosen the wrong **SCAPE GOAT**. The only Scape Goat which was able to pay the penalty for all the sins of mankind was Jesus Christ. Jesus would pay the ultimate price for the sins of all mankind when He would be crucified on a Cross at Calvary many years later.

God was admonishing Adam to search his own heart for the answers to the questions He was asking him. **WHO TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE NAKED?** Where did that **REVELATION** come from? How did you become **NAKED?** Was it a result of eating the Fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? Who is responsible for this thing you have done? How will it all end? What is the end result of disobedience?

Nobody had to tell Adam he was spiritually naked before God. He could see that for himself. That is why he was afraid and hid himself from the **PRESENCE OF GOD**. There was nothing wrong with his natural vision, it was spiritual vision he was lacking. Yes, he could see he was spiritually naked and understood judgment in one form or another was imminent because he had disobeyed God by eating the Forbidden Fruit. What Adam could not see or understand was how fellowship between he and God could be or would be re-established. Adam's spiritual nakedness had been exposed in the **PRESENCE OF GOD**, and fear of judgment gripped his heart. Our sin will always be exposed in the **PRESENCE OF GOD**.

Adam was aware he had sinned, but he could not see or recognize the answer to his sin problem. He was aware that he was naked, but he failed to realize the answer to his dilemma was repentance. Adam also understood

there would be a penalty to pay for his sin. That is why he tried to hide himself from the PRESENCE OF GOD.

After God asked Adam three questions, He turned to Eve and asked her one question, “What have you done?” Eve’s response was not any better than the response Adam gave. Eve responded by blaming the Serpent for her sin. She realized there must be a Scape Goat for her sin as well. The Serpent could never pay the price for sin. Only the Blood of the sinless Lamb of God could cover the sin problem by shedding His precious Blood on Calvary.

The answer to our sin problem is not found in blaming someone else for our shortcomings. The only response to the sin problem must always be Godly sorry accompanied by heart felt repentance. When we commit and retain sin in our life, we lose our GODLY FOCUS. When we lose our GODLY FOCUS, we lose our GODLY FELLOWSHIP.

Adam and Eve had never before experienced the feelings of shame, fear and condemnation. They were accustomed to peace, tranquility and security sustained by being in the PRESENCE of their Creator as they walked and fellowshiped with Him daily in the Garden of Eden.

Adam and Eve hid themselves from the PRESENCE OF GOD because they were spiritually naked (ashamed) and afraid. Before they sinned Adam and Eve were not aware, or cognizant, of their physical nakedness before one another. There is no sin connected to being physically naked when two people are united in HOLY Matrimony and become Husband and Wife. This is God’s plan for man and woman. God created the physical institution of Marriage between a man and woman to be a

spiritual example of Christ and His Bride, the Church. If a wife commits adultery against her husband, she brings shame upon herself and is guilty of rebellion by breaking her wedding vows. She has exposed her nakedness before another man and committed an UNHOLY act before God and man. I am speaking of the relationship between God and man and using the analogy of a husband and wife as an example. Spiritual nakedness is a result of spiritual adultery.

After Adam and Eve sinned, the Holy Covering of God's PRESENCE or GLORY departed from them. The lesson the TEACHER is conveying to us is that spiritual nakedness is in a sense similar to physical nakedness. When we sin, our sin is exposed before God. Adam and Eve could SEE after they sinned, and understand that they were naked. No one had to tell them they had sinned and that their sin had been exposed. They were well aware of what they had done. We have to remember that the lesson we learn from eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil is a spiritual one and not a natural one.

The fear and shame Adam and Eve were experiencing was not the result of being physically naked, but spiritually naked. It was that spiritual nakedness which made them afraid and ashamed. The Bible says "FEAR HATH TORMENT. 1 John, Chapter 4, Verse 18. The word "torment" in the Greek speaks of pending judgment. Adam and Eve realized they had disobeyed God and knew there would be a consequence for their actions.

Adam and Eve tried to hide their shame (sin) by sewing fig leaves together to make aprons for themselves. However, Adam was still afraid and ashamed when he heard God speaking to him in his Garden. One of the

biggest problems in the World today is that people are searching for natural remedies for their spiritual problems. However, Jesus and His finished work at Calvary, is the only answer for the sin problem.

AND THE LORD SAID UNTO CAIN, WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER ABEL? AND HE SAID, I KNOW NOT: AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER? Genesis, Chapter 4, Verse 9.

After Cain murdered Abel he made no attempt to hide himself from the **PRESENCE OF GOD**. He boldly lied to God and answered God's questions with impudence and total disregard for His authority. Cain was not ashamed of his sin. Cain did not try to hide himself from the **PRESENCE OF GOD** as Adam did because he did not fear God **OR** the consequence of his sin. However, Cain did try to hide the sin of killing his brother **FROM** God. When God asked Cain a question, Cain responded with a question rather than an answer. However, Cain was not searching for an answer, but he was questioning God's authority. His question was a grandiloquent or rhetorical one. In other words, Cain was suggesting he **HAD NO SIN**.

Unlike Adam and Eve, Cain did not try to blame someone else for his sin. Cain did not even admit a sin had been committed. Cain tried to **HIDE** his sin from God and portrayed a lack of responsibility for his own actions. "**AM I MY BROTHER'S KEEPER**" is not the response the **TEACHER** wanted to hear. Cain was not sorry he sinned and did not care what the **TEACHER** thought of him. He had his own agenda and nothing else mattered to him. Consequently, Cain was driven from the **PRESENCE OF GOD** to **WANDER** aimlessly in the land of Nod throughout his life without purpose or plan. The word "**NOD**" means "vagrancy."

Strength and purpose is found in unity with God and His plan and purpose for our life. We can never be truly happy or spiritually prosperous outside of the will, plan and purpose of God for our life. Sin will always separate us not only from the PRESENC OF GOD, but also the plan and purpose of God for our life. If we are not experiencing the fullness of God and His many blessings, it could be that we are hiding from HIS PRESENCE because we have sin in our life.

A lack of knowledge and/or understanding of God's plan and purpose for our life can and will separate us from experiencing every blessing our Heavenly Father has purposed for our life. Sometimes we allow our minds to WANDER from the Truth and from our reasonable service to God. We fail to become LIVING SACRIFICES which, outside of our praise, is the only sacrifice ACCEPTABLE to God from US as believers. Yes, we are saved by Grace through Faith because of the SACRIFICE of Christ and the Blood He shed at Calvary for our sins. However, we have the responsibility of reconciling ourselves and others to God by keeping our focus on Him and His plan and purpose for our life.

Cain failed to recognize HE WAS HIS BROTHERS KEEPER, or guardian. When we do not love God above all else, and our brother as our self, we cannot dwell continuously in THE PRESENCE OF GOD. If we are going to experience the fullness of the blessings GOD has set aside for us, we must seek to consistently dwell IN HIS PRESENCE. We must ask ourselves the question, "Am I dwelling consistently IN HIS PRESENCE?" If the answer is no, it could be because we are feasting more on the Fruit

of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil than we are from the Fruit of the Tree of Life.

Jesus seeks to fellowship daily with us in the GARDEN of our Spirit (our heart) just as He did with Adam and Eve. The Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil stand in the midst of that Garden (our heart). We must always be sensitive to the voice of Christ we hear in the Garden which bids us to COME AND DINE with Him. We must never entertain the “SEED” thoughts the Serpent tries to plant in our Garden. Every thought which exalts itself against the Knowledge of God is a SEED designed by the Serpent to separate us from the PRESENCE OF GOD. We must be ever vigilant to GUARD and PROTECT our Garden from the schemes and traps of the Serpent in order that we can cast out every thought which exalts itself against the Knowledge of God.

Taking our focus off the Tree of Life and placing it on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil will always result in disastrous consequences. Always keeping our focus on the Tree of Life will assure us that the blessings of God’s Grace and Mercy will follow us all the days of our life.

CHAPTER 13

OFFENCES

AND AS HE SAT UPON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES,
THE DISCIPLES CAME UNTO HIM PRIVATELY,
SAYING, TELL US WHEN THESE THINGS SHALL
BE? AND WHAT SHALL BE THE SIGN OF YOUR
COMING, AND OF THE END OF THE WORLD? AND
JESUS ANSWERED AND SAID UNTO THEM, TAKE

HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU. FOR MANY SHALL COME IN MY NAME, SAYING I AM CHRIST; AND SHALL DECEIVE MANY. AND YOU SHALL HEAR OF WARS AND RUMORS OF WARS, SEE THAT YOU BE NOT TROUBLED: FOR ALL THESE THINGS MUST COME TO PASS, BUT THE END IS NOT YET. FOR NATION SHALL RISE AGAINST NATION, AND KINGDOM AGAINST KINGDOM: AND THERE SHALL BE FAMINES, AND PESTILIENCES, AND EARTHQUAKES; IN DIVERS PLACES. ALL OF THESE ARE THE BEGINNING OF SORROWS. THEN THEY SHALL DELIVER YOU UP TO BE AFFLICTED, AND SHALL KILL YOU: AND YOU SHALL BE HATED OF ALL NATIONS FOR MY NAMES SAKE. AND THEN SHALL MANY BE OFFENDED, AND SHALL BETRAY ONE ANOTHER, AND SHALL HATE ONE ANOTHER. Matthew, Chapter 24, Verses 3-10.

Jesus told His Disciples of the many signs which would proceed His coming in the last days and the end of the World. Two of the signs Jesus specified were OFFENCES and people HATING one another. Early in 2014 the Lord spoke to me and told me that we were entering into a new season of OFFENCES, and it was imperative that His people not get caught up in the snares of OFFENCES. An OFFENCE is anything we may do or say that offends others in word or deed.

Many Christians do not have a clear understanding of what OFFENCES are and how they can adversely impact their life. There are many snares that lead to OFFENCE both to the Offender and the Offended. We need to understand that Satan is the source from which OFFENCES come. We need to know we can be delivered

from the snares of the Serpent who is the instigator of all OFFENCES. We must understand how OFFENCES affect us in order that we may not fall prey to them. Many times people offend others without ever realizing they have offended them. Even a small difference of opinion can become a stumbling block and offence to people if we are not careful to confront them in a spirit of love and compassion.

The word “offence” is derived from the Greek word “skandalon.” Skandalon means “a stumbling block, occasion to fall and a thing that offends.” The word “scandal” is the English derivative of “skandalon.”

THE OFFENDERS

**WOE UNTO THE WORLD BECAUSE OF OFFENCES!
FOR IT MUST NEEDS BE THAT OFFENCES COME;
BUT WOE TO THAT MAN BY WHOM THE OFFENCE
COMETH. WHEREFORE IF YOUR FOOT OR YOUR
HAND OFFEND YOU, CUT THEM OFF, AND CAST
THEM FROM YOU: IT IS BETTER FOR YOU TO
ENTER INTO LIFE HALT OR MAIMED, RATHER
THAN HAVING TWO HANDS OR TWO FEET TO BE
CAST INTO THE EVERLASTING FIRE. Matthew,
Chapter 18, Verses 7-8.**

In the above scriptures Jesus is addressing the Offender. In many places in the Bible trespasses and sins are defined as OFFENCES. It is not our place to condemn or judge others for their sins and trespasses or OFFENCES. Jesus rules and reigns upon the Judgment Seat. He is the judge, jury and executioner of all who trespass and offend. The LAW OF SIN AND DEATH is not negotiable. If people continue in their sins they will die in their sins. The

wages of sin is death. Christ, our Judge, however does allow for some plea bargaining regarding our sin. If we admit our guilt and confess our sins, He is Faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteous OFFENCES.

Offenders who do not repent of their sins will be judged without mercy. That is what the LAW OF SIN AND DEATH requires.

According to Jesus, in the last days OFFENCES and HATRED will abound. The increase in OFFENCES is a sign that His returning is drawing near.

In 2014 the Lord gave me an Open Vision of the United States. It was as though I was in the sky looking down at the North American Continent. There were dark clouds which had formed all over the United States. In the middle of the Country (the heart) a much darker cloud rose up above the other clouds and moved toward and covered the East Coast of the United States. This cloud was more ominous and threatening than all the other clouds. That is not the first time I have seen storm clouds over the United States. I have had several dreams and visions of storm clouds engulfing this Nation and the entire World. I go into more detail about THE STORM in my book titled I AM--A Prophetic Look At End Time Events.

Over Twenty Years ago I had a dream of a great storm which engulfed the entirety of the United States, consuming everything in its path. The Storm also engulfed the entire World and brought great trials and TRIBULATION upon all who dwelt upon the Earth at that time. I wrote about this Storm calling it the "Perfect Storm"

in one of the books I wrote over ten years ago called “I AM-A Prophetic Look at End Time Events.

As I said earlier, the Lord told me that we were entering into a new season of OFFENCES, and that OFFENCES would become more prevalent in the last days. Many people will succumb to the many traps and snares of the enemy. Many, but not all, of these OFFENCES will come from deep seated animosities which have been hidden in people’s hearts because of the way their ancestors were treated and enslaved. This will result in many great divisions and battles for the souls of men and women. Whoever we may be, we must not be entrapped by the SLAVERY of OFFENCE or we will not be able to free others from their bondage.

FOR NATION SHALL RISE AGAINST NATION, AND KINGDOM AGAINST KINGDOM. Matthew, Chapter 24, Verse 7.

In the above scripture the word “Nation” is derived from the Greek word “ethnos,” which means “race or tribe.” The English word “ethnic” is a derivative of “ethnos.” The word “Kingdom” is derived from the Greek word “basileia,” which means “Kingdom or Sovereign Nation. Jesus is saying that people from different ethnic groups would rise against each other, and that Sovereign Nations would also rise against each other. Before Christ returns there will not only be wars and rumors of wars, but ethnic wars between people of different races.

WHEREFORE ALSO IT IS CONTAINED IN THE SCRIPTURE, BEHOLD I LAY IN ZION A CHIEF CORNERSTONE, ELECT, PRECIOUS: AND HE WHO BELIEVES ON HIM SHALL NOT BE CONFOUNDED.

UNTO YOU THEREFORE WHICH BELIEVE HE IS PRECIOUS: BUT UNTO THEM WHICH BE DISOBEDIENT, THE SAME STONE WHICH THE BUILDERS DISALLOWED, THE SAME IS MADE OF THE CORNER, AND A STONE OF STUMBLING, AND A ROCK OF OFFENSE, EVEN TO THEM WHICH STUMBLE AT THE WORD, BEING DISOBEDIENT: WHEREUNTO ALSO THEY WERE APPOINTED. 1 Peter, Chapter 2, Verses 6-8.

The Message of Christ is quickly becoming an OFFENSE to the unbeliever and the disobedient. Many people are becoming more and more OFFENED by the preaching of the Gospel. This is why lawmakers in many States are passing laws to prevent the Message of the Cross from being preached. The Cross of Christ is a stumbling block, and an offense to those who oppose the Truth and try to legitimize their unholy agendas.

The devil is using every tactic he can in order to stop the Body of Christ from reaching out to the lost and preaching Christ to the Nations. Christ is our ROCK OF SALVATION, but he is also a ROCK OF OFFENSE to those who reject the Truth. Evil men do not want their evil hearts and deeds to be exposed so they try to suppress the Message of Salvation. They do not wish to be found “weighed in the balance and found wanting.” Therefore their only recourse is to stifle the preaching of the Gospel so they can continue to dwell in the lewdness of their uncircumcised hearts without shame or sorrow. Christ, the Rock of Offense, becomes a stumbling block to them. All who reject the Truth will be found guilty of their sins and OFFENCES and will be judged and punished for their crimes.

They Lord spoke to me and told me over twenty years ago that a time was coming when the Gospel could no longer be preached, nor the name of Jesus spoken in public places. We are slowly seeing that prophecy come to pass. Many people are OFFENDED by the Message of the Cross because their hearts are evil. Many Pastors no longer preach Christ and the Cross because it OFFENDS their congregations. Holiness is no longer a way of life. It has been replaced with bickering, complaining, contention and a hotbed of strife.

Many preachers are no longer preaching the Truth of the Gospel of Christ because they do not want to OFFEND their congregations. The term “the Blood of Jesus” has become an OFFENSE to many main stream denominations. Any reference to the “Blood of Jesus has been taken out of some Bibles and many sermons. Even the story of the birth of Christ is being removed from Christmas because Christ has become an OFFENSE to those who reject the Truth. Preachers will be held accountable for disobedience and for every lamb they have led astray. According to Scripture if we are ashamed of Jesus, He will be ashamed of us. On judgment day all teachers and ministers of the Gospel shall “receive the greater condemnation” if they fail to preach the Truth and warn people of the consequences of their sin. See James, Chapter 3, Verses 1-2

THE OFFENDED

OFFENCES are nothing new. Everybody is or has been offended at one time or another for one reason or another. Some people are very effective and seem to just have a knack for offending others. Some OFFENCES are

intentional and purpose driven while others are totally unintentional. How we handle OFFENCES is important.

Some people are more easily offended than others. Many people are willing to harm someone if they offend them. Others will kill someone for offending them. The improper response to OFFENCE is to strike back to hurt the Offender. According to Christ, the proper response to OFFENCE is to FORGIVE the offender and never to retaliate. By this reaction we are portraying the Love of God we possess to others.

FOLLOW PEACE WITH ALL MEN, AND HOLINESS, WITHOUT WHICH NO MAN SHALL SEE THE LORD: LOOKING DILIGENTLY LEST ANY MAN FAIL OF THE GRACE OF GOD; LEST ANY ROOT OF BITTERNESS SPRINGING UP TROUBLE YOU, AND THEREBY MANY BE DEFILED. Hebrews, Chapter 12, Verses 14-15.

Nations have gone to war with other Nations just because someone was offended. OFFENCES hurt people's feelings and emotions. Offended people can become bitter and want to strike back to hurt the offender. Too often the response to offence is retaliation rather than FORGIVENESS. OFFENCES can cause a Root of Bitterness to grow in an individual which can trigger animosity and hatred in the offended.

While writing this Chapter there was a Terrorist Attack at a newspaper in Paris, France, by Muslim Extremists and 12 people were murdered. The attackers were OFFENDED by the Newspaper's Satiric Cartoons of their Prophet Mohammed. Many people have been killed by Muslim Extremists over the years because of

OFFENCES relating to religion. This plague by Muslim Extremists is growing and will continue to grow in these last days. Many in these ethnic groups will continue to deceive and to be deceived by Satan.

In 2014 a movement started by a very few or minority of Native Indians to try to get the Washington Redskins to change their name. The Washington Redskins of the National Football League was established in 1932. They have retained the named REDSKINS since their inception 83 years ago. As far as I know, until last year there were never any complaints about the name “Redskins.” Now, all of a sudden, people have become OFFENDED by the name being used, so they say, and are using the RACE CARD of OFFENSE to further their agenda.

The term “Redskins” was never meant to be a slur upon Native Americans. Certain names are usually picked for sports teams because they want to portray strength and pride. They are never meant to slander or degrade anybody or anything.

OFFENCES are a tool Satan uses to divide and conquer people. They are satanic traps the enemy uses to incite chaos, instability and lawlessness around the World. If you are not careful you will be caught in the trap of OFFENCES. We must be SOBER and VIGILANT as we live amongst each other or we could find ourselves snared in the trap of OFFENCE as many have and many will. It is not a question of IF “we are offended,” but WHEN “we are offended.” Jesus warned us, “OFFENCES will come.” We need to be on the lookout and be prepared for them lest we fall prey to them.

HE WHO LOVES HIS BROTHER ABIDES IN THE LIGHT, AND THERE IS NONE OCCASION OF STUMBLING IN HIM. BUT HE WHO HATES HIS BROTHER IS IN DARKNESS, AND WALKS (wanders) IN DARKNESS, AND KNOWS NOT WHERE HE GOES, BECAUSE THAT DARKNESS HAS BLINDED HIS EYES. 1 John, Chapter 2, Verses 10-11.

Cain was offended when his sacrifice was rejected by God. God's intent was not to offend Cain, but to instruct him what would be a proper and acceptable sacrifice to Him. However, Cain was not one to follow Heavenly protocol. Instead he made up his own rules of what was and was not acceptable behavior. His focus was not a Heavenly one, rather an Earthly one. Cain was not focusing on the Tree of Life which represented Christ when he offered up his sacrifice. His focus was upon the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil which represented alienation from God and His Commandments. Cain's offense resulted in the death of Abel and Cain's expulsion from the PRESENCE OF GOD.

WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE TRUE, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE HONEST, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE JUST, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE PURE, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE LOVELY, WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE OF GOOD REPORT; IF THEIR BE ANY VIRTUE, AND IF THERE BE ANY PRAISE, THINK ON THESE THINGS. THOSE THINGS, WHICH YOU HAVE BOTH LEARNED, AND RECEIVED, AND HEARD, AND SEEN IN ME, DO: AND THE GOD OF PEACE SHALL BE WITH YOU. Philippians, Chapter 4, Verses 8-9.

Offensive mindsets are destructive. According to the Apostle Paul, we must SET our minds to think on Heavenly things rather than Earthly things. The God of Peace rules and reigns in the hearts and minds of those who meditate daily on Him and His Word. Dwelling on OFFENCES can only produce hatred and turmoil in our hearts and minds. We must keep in mind that the Scripture states “if you do not forgive others of their sins you will not be forgiven of yours.” See Mark, Chapter 11, Verses 25-26.

FORGIVENESS

THEN PETER CAME TO HIM, AND SAID, LORD, HOW OFTEN SHALL MY BROTHER SIN AGAINST ME, AND I FORGIVE HIM? TILL SEVEN TIMES? JESUS TOLD HIM, I SAY NOT UNTO YOU SEVEN TIMES: BUT, UNTIL SEVENTY TIMES SEVEN. Matthew, Chapter 18, Verses 21-22.

FORGIVENESS is not an option, but a Command. It is not an issue which is up for debate. According to Jesus, if we do not FORGIVE people who have sinned against us of their sins (OFFENCES), God in Heaven will not forgive us of our sins. Read Mark, Chapter 11, Verses 25-26.

Some people take offence at things which were never intended to be offensive. For example, the term “Redskins.” We must understand that the underlying motive for OFFENCES is Satan’s intent to divide and conquer. It is his plan for men to argue and war against one another though conflict and chaos. To divide and conquer is one of the most effective strategies of warfare.

OFFENCES have even become a tool in the ideology of POLITICAL CORRECTNESS. Many people

aspiring for political gain are using OFFENCES to promote themselves and their unholy agendas. Again, this is a trap of Satan. Over the centuries hundreds of millions of people have died because others have desired Political Position and Status. Men who lust for Political Power and Position will do anything they can to obtain it no matter who they harm.

OFFENSES also come because of different religious beliefs. False Religions are a haven for OFFENCES. Most people when verbally attacked and condemned for their religious views, will become offended. If you say anything about their IDOLS or their religious ideology, they are ready to fight to the death to defend what they believe. I am not just speaking of Radical Islamists, but also of people in other false religions and cults.

Many Christians are OFFENDED when their religious beliefs are attacked. True Christians should never be OFFENDED by others who are questioning or condemning their beliefs. Our faith should be the purveyor of our beliefs. We are not to respond to OFFENCES, railing for railing or evil for evil. Retaliation is not the Christian WAY. Christians should understand that OFFENCES are a trap or snare of Satan. That is why FORGIVENESS is so important to the believer who becomes offended. We know who we are in Christ Jesus, and any attempt from Satan to hinder our walk with God should be met with Christ like motives, attitudes and responses.

We have all heard the adage, “To err is Human (carnal), but to forgive is Divine.” To FORGIVE is to be Christ like. FORGIVENESS is a matter of Choice. We must choose to forgive others of their OFFENCES because

God has FORGIVEN us of our offenses. FORGIVENESS is also an act of GRACE and MERCY. We not only receive Grace and Mercy, but we are also givers of Grace and Mercy. Grace and Mercy are not just something that is bestowed upon us, but something we can also give and bestow upon others. Jesus expects nothing less.

FORGIVENESS is an act of the will. It is a CHOICE or decision we make when we are acting like Christ under the Heavenly Command to “forgive as we have been FORGIVEN.” The Scripture says “those who show no mercy shall be JUDGED without Mercy.” James, Chapter 2, Verse 13.

OFFENCES come from the mindset of the VAGABOND. They are rooted and grounded in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The Fruit of Offense can only produce more OFFENCES which lead to bitterness and unforgiveness. Grace is the only cure for OFFENCES. We are saved by the Grace of God through faith in Christ Jesus and His finished works at Calvary. Christ’s finished works must be completed in us in order that we can perform the WORKS of His Righteousness.

OFFENCES which come from the VAGABOND mindset can only lead to bitterness and hatred which causes division and animosity. The WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD is our only protection against the fiery darts and traps of Satan. One act of FORGIVENESS can save a soul from Hell and cover a multitude of sins. As Jesus hung upon the Cross He said, “FATHER FORGIVE THEM FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.” One act of FORGIVENESS opened the door for a WORLD destined for hell who needed forgiveness to find GRACE and MERCY in the eyes of God.

If we are determined to walk the Path of the VAGABOND, we will surely fall short of the Glory of God. When we forgive others, as we have been forgiven, we will walk in harmony with Heaven. There is no greater position to be in than being in harmony with God and His plan and purpose for our life. How we respond to OFFENSES as we sojourn here on Earth will determine our position in Heavenly Places with Christ. If we continue our walk with God the way HE requires us to walk, we will know Him FACE TO FACE and dwell daily IN HIS PRESENCE.

CHAPTER 14

IN HIS PRESENCE

AND THEY HEARD THE VOICE OF THE LORD GOD WALKING IN THE GARDEN IN THE COOL OF THE DAY: AND ADAM AND HIS WIFE HID THEMSELVES FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD GOD AMONGST THE TREES OF THE GARDEN. Genesis Chapter 3, Verse 8.

Before Adam and Eve sinned and fell from Grace, they dwelt in the PRESENCE OF GOD and walked daily with Him in the Garden. Sin separated them from the PRESENCE OF GOD. They hid from God because they knew judgment was coming. Sin will always cause us to hide from the PRESENCE OF GOD because it makes us aware of impending judgment. REPENTANCE from dead works is the only thing which puts us in right standing with God. If we REPENT OF OUR SINS, He is FAITHFULL AND JUST to forgive us of our sins, and CLEANSE US FROM ALL UNRIGHTEOUSNESS. When we have sought forgiveness of our sins, we are again able to DWELL IN HIS PRESENCE.

As born again Christians the PRESENCE OF GOD dwells in our hearts richly. The Mist of His GLORY permeates our Spiritual Garden of Eden, our Heart. The VOICE OF THE LORD can be heard and felt as we daily commune and walk with Him. IN HIS PRESENCE we find treasure without measure. IN HIS PRESENCE we find pleasures divine. IN HIS PRESENCE we find joy unspeakable. IN HIS PRESENCE we find peace so sublime. IN HIS PRESENCE we can drink His HEAVENLY WINE. As we walk daily IN HIS PRESENCE He fills our Hearts with LAUGHTER and JOY UNSPEAKABLE that is full of His GLORY DIVINE.

Sin always separates man from God. If we do not repent of our sins all we can do is hide from HIS PRESENCE when we miss THE MARK OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS. Sin always has consequences. Sin always separates us from the PRESENCE OF GOD. When we are separated from HIS PRESENCE, we miss the peace, joy, pleasures and

treasures which He has made available to us in our daily walking with Him.

YOU WILL SHOW ME THE PATH OF LIFE: IN YOUR PRESENCE IS FULLNESS OF JOY; AT YOUR RIGHT HAND THERE ARE PLEASURES EVERMORE. Psalms, 16, Verse 11.

THE JOY OF THE LORD

IN HIS PRESENCE we find **FULLNESS** of Joy. **IN HIS PRESENCE** we find **JOY UNSPEAKABLE** that is **FULL OF GOD'S GRACE AND GLORY**. His Joy is our strength. It is a heart felt joy that we experience which cannot be explained with words. It is a joy which brings sweet praise upon the lips of each one of us as we Worship and Praise God with **THANKSGIVING** in our hearts. Nothing can be or ever will be as wonderful as **THE JOY OF THE LORD**. As we walk daily **IN HIS PRESENCE**, His Joy becomes our strength.

IN HIS PRESENCE Peace and Rest can always be found for the soul that is weary. The **VAGABOND** has no place of rest, and true joy eludes him because he is cut off from the **PRESENCE OF GOD**.

If you are not experiencing the **JOY OF THE LORD** in your heart, you may have an unresolved sin problem in your life. However, sin is not the only thing which separates us from experiencing the fullness of the **JOY OF THE LORD** in our life. Many times people get too busy doing things they deem to be more important than their relationship with Christ. Because of this their Joy remains less than full. For others, Satan has stolen their Joy by placing heavy burdens on them which Christ never

meant for them to carry. The most important thing in our life is our relationship with Christ. We must guard that relationship as though we were guarding our own life.

Seeking Christ and **CASTING ALL OUR CARES UPON HIM** will restore our Joy to its fullest. If you have sinned and come short of the **GLORY OF GOD**, repentance will place you back in right standing with God. You can again find yourself dwelling in the **PRESENCE OF GOD** and the fullness of His joy.

IF YOU KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS, YOU SHALL ABIDE IN MY LOVE; EVEN AS I HAVE KEPT MY FATHERS COMMANDMENTS, AND ABIDE IN HIS LOVE. THESE THINGS HAVE I SPOKEN UNTO YOU, THAT MY JOY MIGHT REMAIN IN YOU, AND THAT YOUR JOY MIGHT BE FULL. THIS IS MY COMMANDMENT THAT YOU LOVE ONE ANOTHER, AS I HAVE LOVED YOU. John, Chapter 15, Verses 10-12.

Many people struggle to maintain and keep a **JOYFUL** relationship with Christ. The Joy of the Lord comes when we are obediently walking continuously at His side. To know Christ is to Love Christ. **IF WE LOVE HIM WE WILL KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS.** John, Chapter 14, Verse 15. If we are not keeping His Commandments, we know our love for Him is growing dim.

If we want to experience the **FULLNESS** of the Joy of the Lord, we must follow the Commandment which says to **LOVE ONE ANOTHER.** The **JOY UNSPEAKABLE** which comes from dwelling in the **PRESENCE OF GOD** is available to every believer all the time. We have to make

the decision to dwell continually IN HIS PRESENCE or we will miss the FULLNESS OF HIS JOY.

LOVE WORKS NO ILL TO HIS NEIGHBOR:
THEREFORE LOVE IS THE FULFILLING OF THE
LAW. Romans, Chapter 13, Verse 10.

One who is made PERFECT in love will never harm his neighbor. We must love our neighbor as ourselves. In doing so we are fulfilling the LAW and Commandment of God. The Curse of Cain came because he did not love his brother as himself. If we are not loving our brother as our self, we are not fulfilling the LAW thus leaving ourselves open for the judgment of God.

Love is not an option, it is a Commandment. Unless the love of God is abiding in us, we will not experience His Joy. If we do not have LOVE, then we do not possess His Strength. We cannot be strong in the Lord and in the POWER of His MIGHT if we do not abide in His Love. Ephesians, Chapter 6, Verse 10.

Love is more than just an EMOTION. Love is not just a special way of feeling or a “fuzzy feeling,” but the most powerful force in the Universe. God placed within the soul of every person the desire to be loved. Without Christ man’s concept of love becomes perverted and misguided. The highest calling of God is for one to be made PERFECT in love. Love is the fulfilling of the Law. Love covers a multitude of sins and creates an atmosphere of creative power. Faith is ENERGIZED by love. Love is a place of REST and PEACE which can only be found in Christ. There are many things we can say about love because our God IS LOVE personified.

O COME AND LET US SING UNTO THE LORD: LET US MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE TO THE ROCK OF OUR SALVATION. LET US COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE WITH THANKSGIVING, AND MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO HIM WITH PSALMS. Psalms, 95, Verses 1-2.

Because we have found Christ and abandoned our lifestyle of “wandering” and “yearning to wander,” we now dwell IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD. The writer of Psalms 95 admonishes us to make a JOYFUL Noise unto the Lord by singing songs of PRAISE to Him. If we are dwelling IN HIS PRESENCE we will experience the FULLNESS of His JOY. If we are not experiencing the fullness of His Joy, it is because we are not consistently dwelling IN HIS PRESENCE.

MAKE A JOYFUL NOISE UNTO THE LORD, ALL YOU LANDS. SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS: COME BEFORE HIS PRESENCE WITH SINGING. KNOW YOU THAT THE LORD HE IS GOD: IT IS HE WHO HAS MADE US, AND NOT WE OURSELVES; WE ARE HIS PEOPLE, AND THE SHEEP OF HIS PASTURE. ENTER INTO HIS GATES WITH THANKSGIVING, AND INTO HIS COURTS WITH PRAISE: BE THANKFUL UNTO HIM, AND BLESS HIS NAME. FOR THE LORD IS GOOD; HIS MERCY IS EVERLASTING; AND HIS TRUTH ENDURES TO ALL GENERATIONS. Psalms, 100, Verses 1-5.

When we enter into the Gates and Courts of HIS PRESENCE with thanksgiving in our heart, we find that Joy which is Unspeakable and FULL OF HIS GLORY. We must diligently seek Him in order to dwell IN HIS PRESENCE so HIS PRESENCE can dwell within us

consistently and eternally. If we have the JOY OF THE LORD in our Heart, the JOY OF THE LORD will sustain us through all the troubles and trials we face on this Earth. The JOY of the Lord is our STRENGTH.

FOR HE HAS MADE HIM TO BE SIN FOR US, WHO KNEW NO SIN, THAT WE MIGHT BE MADE THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN HIM. 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 21.

Jesus, who knew no sin, literally became sin for us. He became the Sacrifice for our sin when He was crucified on the Cross at Calvary. When we receive Christ as Lord and Savior, we become the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God in Him. Being the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God in Christ brings us FACE TO FACE with God in order that we may dwell humbly IN HIS PRESENCE. Jesus paid the penalty for our sin and freed us from the bondage of sin in order that we could dwell eternally IN HIS PRESENCE.

The PRESENCE OF GOD dwells in the heart of every believer. Jesus desires to fellowship individually with every believer on a daily basis. Many believers are not all that enthusiastic when it comes to meeting daily with the Lord. However, Jesus continually STANDS AT THE DOOR of our heart and knocks. When we hear Him knocking do we bid Him come in, or do we tell Him to come back later? How long do YOU keep Him waiting till you open the door to let Him in? Fellowshiping with Christ on a daily basis will bring joy, peace and rest to our weary soul.

Christ cannot dwell in the heart of the unbeliever. Every unbeliever is a SPIRITUAL VAGABOND. Jesus stands at the door of each heart knocking, whether believer

or unbeliever. He desires to have fellowship with all men who will open the door of their heart to Him. Jesus beckons to all who will hear His voice “COME AND DRINK OF THE WATER OF LIFE FREELY.” Revelation, Chapter 22, Verse 17.

As Sons and Daughters of God dwelling IN HIS PRESENCE, let us drink of the Water of Life freely and take the message of Salvation to the World. We have all been given the Command to GO INTO ALL THE WORLD AND PREACH THE GOSPEL. Mark, Chapter 16, Verse 15.

CHAPTER 15

A CRY IN THE WILDERNESS

THE VOICE OF HIM WHO CRIES IN THE WILDERNESS, PREPARE YOU THE WAY OF THE LORD, MAKE STRAIGHT IN THE DESERT A HIGHWAY FOR OUR GOD. EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE EXALTED, AND EVERY MOUNTAIN SHALL BE MADE LOW: AND THE CROOKED SHALL BE MADE

STRAIGHT, AND THE ROUGH PLACES PLAIN: AND THE GLORY OF THE LORD SHALL BE REVEALED, AND ALL FLESH SHALL SEE IT TOGETHER: FOR THE MOUTH OF THE LORD HAS SPOKEN IT. Isaiah. Chapter 40, Verses 3-5.

After Cain slew Abel he was driven from the PRESENCE of the Lord and forced to WANDER in a Spiritual and Physical Wilderness. In the Wilderness Cain started building a City called NOD (wandering). Cain never finished building the City because he had become a VAGABOND (wanderer,) destined to WANDER the Earth until his death. The spiritual problems of the VAGABOND can be traced back to Cain's sin when he murdered his brother, Abel. As time went on all mankind eventually became separated from the Presence of God and LOST in a spiritual WILDERNESS.

Cain was WILD like the Wilderness in which he WANDERED. He had become like his spiritual father, the Serpent. Like the Beast of the Field (Satan), he WANDERED to and fro without plan or purpose in his life. See Job, Chapter 1, Verse 2. The VAGABOND Spirit WANDERS aimlessly in a Wilderness of Sin.

The Wilderness in which Cain found himself was not only a physical one but also a spiritual one. A Spiritual Wilderness is much like a Natural Wilderness. A Natural Wilderness is a difficult place to find food, water shelter, and above all, clothing, to protect one from the elements. When man is spiritually hungry, only the BREAD OF LIFE (Christ) can satisfy his soul. When man is spiritually thirsty, only LIVING WATER (Christ) can quench his thirst. When one needs a Shelter from spiritual storms, only Jesus can shelter him during trials and tribulation. Christ is

a SHELTER in the time of a storm and an EVER present help in the time of need. When we are spiritually NAKED, only the GLORY OF GOD can clothe, save and protect us from the elements of judgment.

IN THE BEGINNING when Adam and Eve disobeyed the Commandment of God by eating the forbidden fruit, their sin exposed their NAKEDNESS and shame. That seed of disobedience was passed down to their firstborn Cain who murdered his brother Abel. Cain was driven from the PRESENCE OF GOD and became a VAGABOND wandering the Earth seeking a place of rest, but never found one.

Today mankind still wanders the Earth seeking a place of rest but will never find one unless they have an encounter with the PRINCE OF PEACE who died at Calvary. Jesus, our Redeemer, paid the penalty for our WANDERING and lives to ever intercede before God on our behalf. Jesus was raised from the dead so all who would believe in Him could find PEACE and REST for their WANDERING souls, and GRACE, MERCY and HELP in their time of need.

BEHOLD, I WILL SEND YOU ELIJAH THE PROPHET BEFORE THE COMING OF THE GREAT AND DREADFUL DAY OF THE LORD. AND HE SHALL TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN, AND THE HEART OF THE CHILDREN TO THE FATHERS, LEST I COME AND SMITE THE EARTH WITH A CURSE. Malachi, Chapter 4, Verses 5-6.

After their EXODUS from Egypt, the Children of Israel entered into the Wilderness of Sin. It is interesting that this is the first place the Children of Israel sinned in the

Wilderness by murmuring and complaining against God. The Children of Israel were running out of food and complained they would be better off if they had stayed in Egypt. They had seen God perform many miracles in Egypt prior to their Exodus. God had even parted the Red Sea to save them from their tormentors and taskmasters who were chasing after them. They saw the Egyptian Army drown in the Red Sea as the waters fell back upon them. Instead of being thankful for deliverance from their tormentors, they were obstinate and stiff-necked. According to the Bible many of them were punished by God and died in the Wilderness because of their sins of rebellion and unbelief. God provided Manna from Heaven for them to eat every day, yet they were still not satisfied. They lusted for “flesh” to eat, and God sent them quail. Many of them died of food poisoning with the flesh of the quail between their teeth because it was not the diet the Lord had purposed for them.

The Wilderness of Sin was a place of testing and trials for the Israelites. It was a type and shadow of God the Provider and Man the Divider. Sin always separates man from God, yet God is always calling out to man in the Wilderness of Sin (his heart) to repent of his sins in order that his nakedness and shame can be covered.

A BROKEN SPIRIT

THE SACRIFICES OF GOD ARE A BROKEN SPIRIT: A BROKEN SPIRIT AND A CONTRITE HEART, O GOD, YOU WILL NOT DESPISE. Psalms, 51, Verse 17.

Reconciliation with God requires true **REPENTANCE**. A contrite heart (spirit) is a heart which has been or is **HUMBL**ED before God. Christian humility is submission before God. A man at a Church was honored

with a special pin one Sunday because he was the most humble man in Church. The next Sunday he proudly wore his pin to Church to show off the Award he had been given. So they took the pin away from him for being proud.

Humility is the opposite of pride. The PRIDE of life will always precede destruction. If we approach the throne of God PROUDLY in the time of need, we can expect nothing from Him. God rejects the proud, but gives grace to the humble. We must humble ourselves in the PRESENCE of God or we will surely be rejected by Him. PRIDE is the scourge of the ages. It was the sin and downfall of the Serpent. It was the sin and downfall of Cain. If we are not very careful, pride will be our downfall as well.

All have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. All who have not been born again are like Cain, wandering in the Wilderness of Sin. They are being led by the Spirit of Confusion around Mount Sinai in the Wilderness of Sin just like the Children of Israel. They are like Wild Mustangs whose spirit must be broken before they can be pleasing to God. Until the spirit of a wild horse is broken, it is of no use to the rider.

The spirit of many Believers has not become completely broken and humbled before God. Sometimes their minds WANDER aimlessly seeking rest and peace, but they are searching for it in all the wrong places. They focus more on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil than they do the Tree of Life, Christ. The cares of this World and the deceitfulness of riches have replaced their worship and reasonable service to God. They think they can pacify God with their Dead Works, and they continue with their ungodly lifestyles WANDERING in the Wilderness of Sin like the Children of Israel.

Today there is a voice crying out in the Spiritual WILDERNESS of the hearts of men and women everywhere. It is the Voice or Spirit of Elijah calling out to all who WANDER in the Wilderness of Sin to “repent, turn from their wicked ways, and follow the Path of Righteousness.”

Elijah means “Jehovah is God.” Both Eli and Jah (or Yah) are names of God. The voice of ELIJAH is the Voice of God Crying in the Wilderness. The Voice of one crying in the Wilderness is not actually the voice of Elijah. Elijah is just a Prophet reverberating the Voice of God. It is the Spirit of God who speaks through individuals to “repent and make straight paths in the desert (Wilderness)” as they call people to repentance from dead works and unholy lifestyles. The Voice Crying in the Wilderness is the Voice of God. He uses our vocal chords to CRY out in the Wilderness of Sin to call people to repentance through Divine Inspiration.

Many people have a problem with sin because they are continually eating Fruit from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil rather than the Tree of Life. Their response to “Who told you that you were naked?” might be “I did not know I was naked.” They fail to recognize they are spiritually NAKED. They do not know there is a Veil over their hearts which separates them from the PRESENCE OF GOD. When they accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior, the Veil which covers their heart will be rent in order for them to know (understand) the Truth.

Many Christians have a sin consciousness because they are not focusing daily on the Tree of Life, Christ. Sin consciousness will cause one to focus more on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil than the Tree of Life.

Eating daily from the Tree of Life will change our sin consciousness into God consciousness. Eating daily from the Tree of Life will even change our worldly attitudes and motives. Sin consciousness focuses more on the problem of sin rather than the answer to the sin problem which is Christ. The Bible says that we ARE the “Righteousness of God in Christ Jesus.” 2nd Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 21. We must not fall into Satan’s trap of self-consciousness and self-confidence. These are traps of Satan which always lead to self-centeredness and self-reliance. If we put our faith and confidence in God we will be consciously aware of the PRESENCE OF GOD wherever we go. Sin consciousness will always hinder our walk with Christ when we focus more on the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil than we do the Tree of Life.

We are all born into this World with a sin nature because of the fall of man in the Garden of Eden. However, through faith in the Blood of Jesus and His finished works at Calvary, we will be transformed and changed from death unto life when we accept Him as Lord and Savior. We will no longer travel the Path of the VAGABOND because we have been freed from a lifestyle of spiritual WANDERING to walk daily with Christ in our Spiritual Garden (heart). If we keep our focus on the Tree of Life, Christ, we will continue to walk in freedom from sin. We will then continuously dwell in THE PRESENCE OF GOD where there is JOY UNSPEAKABLE which is FULL OF HIS GLORY.

IN ORDER TO BE FREE FROM THE CONTROL OR INFLUENCE OF THE VAGABOND SPIRIT, YOU MUST PRAY AND ASK THE LORD TO DELIVER YOU FROM ITS BONDAGE. YOU MUST RENOUCE THIS SPIRIT DAILY. YOU MUST SEEK THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, MIND, SOUL AND STRENGTH AND BELEIVE HE IS A REWARDER OF THOSE WHO DILIGENTLY SEEK HIM.

The Scripture declares that all have sinned. FOR ALL HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF THE GLORY OF GOD. Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 23. Jesus stands knocking at the door of your heart seeking to come in to fellowship with you.

IF YOU DO NOT KNOW JESUS CHRIST AS YOUR LORD AND SAVIOR, OR IF YOU HAVE BACKSLIDDEN, OR YOU ARE NOT SURE WHERE YOU WILL SPEND ETERNITY—PLEASE PRAY THIS PRAYER AND ASK JESUS TO COME INTO YOUR HEART AND LIFE NOW.

FATHER I COME TO YOU IN THE NAME OF YOUR SON JESUS. I ADMIT THAT I AM A SINNER AND I AM IN NEED OF A SAVIOR. I HAVE SINNED AND COME SHORT OF YOUR GLORY. I BELIEVE THAT JESUS IS THE SON OF GOD AND THAT HE DIED ON THE CROSS FOR MY SINS. I BELIEVE THAT ON THE THIRD DAY YOU RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. I KNOW THAT IT WAS FOR ME HE DIED. I AM SORRY FOR ALL THE SINS I HAVE COMMITTED. PLEASE FORGIVE ME AND COME INTO MY HEART AND LIFE NOW. I ALSO ASK YOU TO BAPTIZE ME WITH YOUR HOLY SPIRIT. I DESIRE TO WALK IN THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN AMEN.

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Website: eaglesnestprophetic.com

E-Mail Address: donrandolph@gmail.com