

# THE BATTLE GROUND and WARFARE of CHRISTIANS

by  
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier  
Christian Literature and Bible Center Inc.,

NOT TO BE SOLD



*In Memory of  
Dorothy Leona Losier  
1911 - 1992*

## **A MEMORIAL TO MY BELOVED DOROTHY**

"My Beloved Wife" of 55 years of married life save 5 days is now safely in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the saints of all ages. She has escaped from her pains and has gained Paradise, re-united with many of our loved ones, who have gone on before. It is no doubt a busy time for her, sharing the news of the affairs of this earth. But most of all she is seeing her Savior, "face to face". We have asked the Lord, as she was suffering from cancer that the Lord would give her a painless farewell to this old world. As my son Tom, and Carol his wife and I watched our beloved slip away from this earth, she spoke my name, "Andy" and then as she quietly was breathing her last, she took a final breath and with a wonderful smile, left her body, and was carried into heaven by her ministering angel. Yes, we wept as we said goodbye, and will continue to weep, not as others who have no hope, but as the loss of our "Beloved", but praise God, the Lord's gain.

Dorothy was born December 5th, 1911, and went to be with the Lord May 16th, 1992. Dorothy was a "Beloved Wife" and a "Mother" of nine children. Two of her daughters, Catherine Anne, and Carol Marie were there in Paradise to meet their mother, to share much news with each other. Jack, Becky, Paul, John, Roger, Tom and Margie, a fine family are left behind with their father. God has given us a wonderful family with precious "In Laws" and twelve grandchildren.

The greatest memorial that we can give to our "Beloved" is a legacy through the printed Word of God. We will be sending several Biblical textbooks out to many places around the world in memory of her. To date we are printing 45,000 copies of the following. "The Battlefield and Warfare of the Christians", A Seminar on "The Second Coming of the Lord", and "Christ the Eternal Son of God". Thank you for your part in making this special memorial to Dorothy possible.

Yours for the furthering of the Gospel.

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier,  
Founder & President  
Christian Literature and Bible Center, Inc.  
10000 ... Drive  
...  
U.S. America

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## PREFACE

As we begin this study of the Biblical battle against our foes, our array for our defense and advance is very important. From the very beginning of the creation of man, the battle was already activated. The final Victor will be the King of kings and Lord of lords. The Almighty God, in his omniscience, knows the final outcome and has prepared specifically to combat all evil forces, according to his "Master Plan". A chosen people and a Messianic lineage was preserved in the face of every satanic attack. Israel was separated from all mankind for that particular achievement. With all of the failures of the nation Israel, God always preserved a remnant, that would not bow the knee to idolatry. God, placed in writing the law of warfare for his chosen people, but disobedience reigned in spite of God's continual grace. "When thou goest out to battle against thine enemies, and seest horses, and chariots, and a people more than thou, be not afraid of them; for the Lord thy God is with thee, who brought thee out of the land of Egypt. And it shall be, when ye are come near unto battle, that the priest shall approach and speak unto the people, and shall say unto them, Hear O Israel, ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies; let not your hearts faint, fear not, and do not tremble, neither be ye terrified because of them; For the Lord your God is he who goeth with you, to fight for you against your enemies, to save you." Deut. 20:1-4.

Going to battle against superior forces into a realm beyond the natural elements, must be approached by faith, claiming the promises of God. These mortal bodies of ours are to be instruments in the hands of God, building our character for eternity. During the teaching of the principles set forth in this textbook, may you be aware of the pitfalls, and dangers which one faces which cannot always be seen in the natural realm. God has provided the Christian with sufficient armor to combat the fierceness of the enemy, and this armor must be thoroughly tried according to Biblical instructions. "For thou has girded me with strength unto battle; thou hast subdued under me those who rose up against me." Ps.18:39. "Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle." Ps.24:8.

This study of both the battle ground and the battle has been approached primarily for the Christian. However, you will notice that many examples of Old Testament tactics have been used, for our God is the same yesterday, today and forever. As Christians, we face this world system, the weakness of the flesh, and the terrible onslaught of the devil, in the strength of the Lord. God has made every provision for every possible attack made against Christians. Before you venture too far into this spiritual realm, may you willingly accept the "Boot Training" under the Holy Spirit, in the light of God's Word. "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself for battle?" 1 Cor.14:8.

As you prepare for the work of the Lord, regardless of how great or how small, the enemy of our souls has one desire, and that is to defeat Almighty God. "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; Whom resist steadfastly in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." 1 Pet.5:

## **DEDICATION**

Since most of my life was spent in preparations, and in foreign mission work, I would like to dedicate this textbook to all of the faithful National Christian leaders around the world. I am grateful in being chosen as a vice president in missions, to that great continent of Africa, under the Associated Missions. I therefore count it a great privilege to remember those faithful National Christian leaders, who are fully dedicated to the Lord under extreme and difficult circumstances. If the world is to be evangelized in this generation, it will largely depend upon the Christian nationals to do their part, while the doors are still open. "For a great door, and effectual, is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries." 1 Cor. 16:9.

## **FORWARD**

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you one of our mission co-workers for many years. This brother in the Lord has been a Director on our Board, and has always been ready to help with any legal affair that would arise. He has offered his labor of love, as unto the Lord and has been my excellent partner in this vast distribution of the printed page of God's Word. I could always count on him for legal advice, from the Christian viewpoint. This brother in the Lord has consistently been an encouragement to me these many years. I have cherished his prayers and cares, as we have reached out, preaching the Gospel, and building up the saints in the most holy faith. Let me present to you, Brother Jack Hayden, a lawyer and Patent Attorney by profession from Houston, Texas.

One is totally inadequate to prepare an introduction for anything Andy Losier has done and is doing. Long past the time when most individuals in any field have retired, Andy is still fervently active full time for his first love-The Lord Jesus Christ. This book further demonstrates Andy's firm foundation and life long commitment to spiritual issues. Certainly there is no evidence that we are to ever retire from our constant and life long battle against the forces of Satan. Andy demonstrates God's love by his walk on this planet and by orally and in writing-presenting the glorious news that victory is through faith in Jesus Christ. His whole being and personality have always radiated the love of God with a smile of unconditional love.

More than at any time in the history of Christianity, when the forces of evil are aggressively, openly and stridently active, is this book needed to teach and remind us to make use of God's unlimited resources He has provided for us to be victors.

**MR. JACK HAYDEN**

Lawyer and Patent attorney

Houston, Texas.

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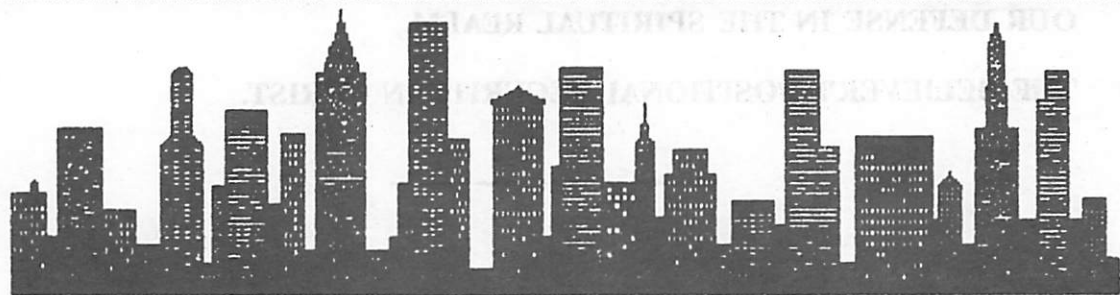
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# Chapter 1

# The World





## **CHAPTER ONE.**

### **THE WORLD.**

#### **INTRODUCTION.**

As Christians we must always remember that we are in the world, but not of it. The Lord Jesus Christ had prayed to the Father, "I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Jn.17:15-18. The Lord has commissioned every Christian to be his witness, to the saving grace of our loving Lord. It is not a light thing to separate one's self from the traditions and customs of natural man. We constantly combat this wicked world system and need the wisdom of God the Holy Spirit, to prevent us from conforming to their legalized pattern of worldliness.

#### **I. PRINCIPALITIES.**

##### **A. CHRISTIANS ARE TO STAND FIRMLY UPON GOD'S PROMISES**

##### **B. GOD'S PRINCIPLES NEVER CHANGE**

##### **C. OUR SOULS ARE ENLIGHTENED BY GOD IN THIS WARFARE**

The word of God clearly reminds us, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities" Eph.6:12a. It is a difficult situation and problem for the believers to be alert to the evil principalities to which this refers. We can look back in history and behold great principalities of the past were disposed, destroyed and dissolved, yet at the time, they seemed to be the controlling factor of the day. In this world of evil, we do face these principalities controlled by the evil forces and they must be dealt with in our Christian life. In our Christian walk through this present life, we are reminded of our eternal estate in the Lord and nothing can separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. (Rom.8:38-39.)

##### **A. CHRISTIANS ARE TO STAND FIRMLY UPON GOD'S PROMISES.**

However, these principalities of the evil forces are to be challenged by the believers based upon the eternal principalities of God. "To the intent that now, unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places, might be known by the church and the manifold wisdom of God, According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus, our Lord, in whom we have boldness by the faith of him." Eph.3:10-12. In this present world of principalities, we as believers, are confronted with rules and regulations which are contrary to the Word of God.

The Christians who are in fellowship with the Lord must encourage one another to stand fast in the promises of God. Our strength is in the Lord Jesus Christ and not in ourselves. Our stand is not made in the wisdom of men, but rather in the power of God. "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. However,

we speak wisdom among them that are perfect; yet not the wisdom of this age, nor of the princes of this age, that come to nothing; But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the ages unto our glory; Which none of the princes of this age knew; for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." 1 Cor.2:5-8.

### **Principles, contrary to the Word of God.**

The early church faced this situation, both from the Roman Government and man made regulations and religions. Jewish Christians were being rounded up and put in prisons as well as put to death. In order to escape these principalities, the early church was scattered and the wrath of man brought glory to God as the witnesses reached to the "Regions Beyond". The Roman Government gave it's citizens a choice of bowing down to their idols, or thrown into the arena of lions to be torn asunder. As the Gospel spread among the heathen nations, so the persecution multiplied. Often times the Bible was deprived and forbidden to be read by other than a set group. The printing of the Word of God was also forbidden, with the penalty of death if anyone attempted to do so. I personally am a descendant from among the Huguenots of France, where the predominant religion used their principalities in attempting to destroy religious groups contrary to theirs. As early as 1530 the French protestants became powerful. It was John Calvin, who had to flee for his life from France. The first French Huguenot church was established in 1555 in the city of Paris. This grew rapidly and became a great factor in France, but plots were made to gather and destroy all of the Huguenots and a massacre of St. Bartholomew began. This caused my forefathers to come to America in 1585. We could write chapters about this as well as other political principalities, concerning the translation of the Bible in other languages. Men of God have given their lives for the sake of the Bible, such as Wycliffe, and many of his followers. William Tyndale was strangled and then burned at the stake. Dr. Robert Barnes, Gerrard, and Jerome were burned by those in charge of these false principalities. We could go on with great numbers of martyrs, who were defenders of the faith in spite of the wicked principalities that existed for almost 2,000 years.

May I remind you, that this does not give the Christians a licence to disobey authorities, for we have been reminded, "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work." Tit.3:1. The emphasis here is upon good works, in which are not contrary to the Bible. These principalities may legalize certain wicked practices, but we as Christians, must not accept them in our personal conduct.

### **B. GOD'S PRINCIPLES NEVER CHANGE.**

#### **Eternal principalities.**

This gives us a little idea of the battleground, which sometimes is visible, but in the majority of cases is invisible with satanic control. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities," Eph. 3:10a. Praise God, we have someone in the invisible realm who is on our side! "Who is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of all creation; For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers- all

things were created by him, and for him; And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. For he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in all things he might have the pre-eminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell;" Col.1:15-19.

These eternal principalities, established by God, give us stability as we face the onslaught of this evil world, where man is totally depraved. All of these evil forces have been judged at the cross and will be totally destroyed in the fullness of time, according to God's "Master Plan". We have confidence in the Lord, "Being confident of this very thing, that he who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ;" Phil. 1:6. When we combat these temporary wicked principalities, we need to remember that our final victory is in the Lord Jesus Christ. All these wicked principalities, past, present, and future have been defeated by the Lord. " Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And, having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it." Col.2:14-15.

### **C. OUR SOULS ARE ENLIGHTENED BY GOD IN THIS WARFARE**

The Word of God enlightens our souls as believers and through the teaching of the Holy Spirit we are mindful of our position in Christ. Our supreme authority comes from the finished work of Christ. "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him, The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come; And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." Eph.1:17-23. "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, who is the head of all principality and power;" Col.2:9-10. The Lord cannot make our position any stronger as we combat these wicked principalities, which we face in our earthly walk for the Lord.

## **II. POWERS.**

### **A. POWERS OF DARKNESS**

### **B. THE POWER OF DELIVERANCE IN CHRIST JESUS**

### **C. THE POWER OF GOD IS ESTABLISHED FOREVER**

## **A. POWERS OF DARKNESS**

The powers that we face in this world are only temporary in the light of eternity. To combat the powerful wicked forces which are behind the visible depravity of the natural man, we need the invisible forces of Almighty God. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech.4:6. We have not only been made alive by the Holy Spirit, but are continually kept by the power of God. "And you hath he made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins; In which in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience;" Eph.2:1-2. Praise God for our keeping power in the Lord! "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Pet.1:3-5.

Our battle is against these powers of darkness and we need direct discernment from the Holy Spirit, through his Word, to combat these evil forces. They do not always look evil, for satan and his demons can appear as angels of light. "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works." 2 Cor.14-15. As we see, our battle ground is often directly in the realm of evil spirits. There is a restraint at present of these evil powers but the day is coming, when the Rapture takes place that their full powerful force will be felt upon the unregenerate left in the world. "And then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming, even him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, That they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thess.2:8-12.

## **B. THE POWER OF DELIVERANCE IN CHRIST JESUS**

However, these evil forces are in the battle grounds, trying their utmost to both destroy our witness for the Lord and continually brain wash those that have not believed. Praise God, we have been delivered from this satanic power! "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light; Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son; In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins;" Col.1:11-14. The Gospel of Christ has provided the power of deliverance. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Rom.1:16. Since we have this eternal treasure in our mortal bodies, we are totally dependent upon God for power to overcome the evil forces. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor.4:7.

The greatness of power at our command, supercedes all the enemy's forces combined. God's divine power is our ever present help, but it must be acquired by faith. God the Holy Spirit dwells within us and desires to help us in time of need, as well as lead us into all truth. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit." Rom.15:13. That was why the Lord prayed to the Father, that the Holy Spirit might be sent, not only to provide the spiritual birth, but also furnish power over the evil forces. This was evident among the apostles as they witnessed of the Lord's resurrection. "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:33. The Lord Jesus Christ has provided us with wisdom and power to face the enemy of our souls. "But unto them who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." 1 Cor.1:24-25. This is why, in our weakness, we become strong in the Lord. "Hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to those who have no might he increaseth strength." Isa.40:28-29.

### **C. THE POWER OF GOD IS ESTABLISHED FOREVER**

In this present life, we are confronted by evil forces, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ. God in his omniscience prepared sufficient armor to combat all of these evil forces and times of testing. While Christ was on this earth, he gave his disciples power against evil as they went about teaching the kingdom truths. "And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease." Matt.10:1. This of course was a special sign to Israel, in order that they may recognize their Messiah, but it does reveal the power of God. That great commission of the Lord to the disciples, as he was soon to return to heaven is encouraging. "And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen." Matt.28:18-20. Christ's prayer to the Father also reveals this tremendous power which is made available to us as Christians. "These words spoke Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify the Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee. As thou hast given to him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him." Jn.17:1-2. Before God, there is no limit of his great and glorious power and it is forever. "Come and see the works of God: he is awesome in his doing toward the children of men. He turned the sea into dry land; they went through the flood on foot; there did we rejoice in him. He ruleth by his power forever; his eyes behold the nations. Let not the rebellious exalt themselves." Ps.66:5-7.

#### **God's power at work in this world.**

The Lord's special prayer for his own, reveals his divine love toward his own. "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world,



but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth. As thou has sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world." Jn.17:14-18. As God's witnesses to the saving grace of our loving Lord, we have the complete backing of the Lord who has been given all authority and power. We are sent into this world amidst the turmoil and strife with the full protection of Almighty God. God the Holy Spirit is the restraining power, giving us wisdom and strength through the Word of God. God has promised never to leave us nor forsake us in the task of speeding the gospel light to the regions beyond. He wants to show us great and mighty things in and through our lives. "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jer.33:3. "That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God. Now unto him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." Eph.3:17-21.

The enemies of our souls may look to be winning the battle, but God is sovereign and will have complete victory in his own time. The powerful forces that are for us in both heaven and earth are far greater than all of our opposition. "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. As we have, therefore, opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." Gal.6:9-10. The battle against the evil forces continues throughout this present life and we take great courage in the Lord, who has provided every necessary weapon of warfare against the evil forces, both in heaven and on earth. "For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor.4:15-18.

### **III. Problems.**

#### **Heaven and earth - The battle grounds for the Christian's warfare**

This battle ground and warfare is more extensive than one naturally would realize. The battle ground extends from the heavenlies to the demonic spirits dwelling here upon planet earth. This warfare is subtly hidden away in religions, cultural differences, superstitions, customs, fears, and every day affairs. We face it as believers in our habits and customs of this ordinary life. There are problems that the Christian faces in maintaining continual contact and fellowship with the Lord. The heavenly realm is still a future life of ours in our glorified bodies, and the natural realm upon this earth is our habitat. However, since we are born again by God the Holy Spirit, we have understanding of heavenly principles, as we are taught by the Holy Spirit. We also have the Lord in heaven as our Advocate and the Lord has also given us ministering angels. "Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Heb.1:14. Even

though we cannot see the demonic enemies of our souls, we do have ample protection by God's provision. It is our duty to keep these heavenly lines of communication open so that we can maintain that heavenly fellowship, being led by the Holy Spirit. May we discuss these principles in the following categories.

- A. THE HEAVENLY FELLOWSHIP MAINTAINED
- B. THE HEAVENLY COURTS OF ACCUSATION
- C. THE EARTHLY WAY OF LIFE

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A. THE HEAVENLY FELLOWSHIP MAINTAINED

**Sin erupted in the heavenlies.**

The original sin occurred in heaven by the greatest creature that God created, namely, Lucifer the cherub. The cherubim were created to guard God's holiness, as the Seraphim were created to worship and serve Almighty God. Lucifer was the supreme commander among the cherubim in the highest position in heaven. Instead of being satisfied as the top ranked angel, he desired to be on an equal basis with God, and thus he sinned by pronouncing his five I wills recorded in Isaiah 14:12-17. Lucifer lost his position before God but his power remains, under the sovereignty of God. For a further record of Lucifer's former position and judgement read Ezekiel 28:12b-19.

When Lucifer sinned against God, his Creator, he used his terrific personality to draw away one third of God's angels to formulate his evil kingdom of darkness. (Rev.12:4.) These angels are now classified as "Fallen Angels" or "Demons". They number in the billions, with some so uncontrollable that God has placed them in chains under darkness. (Jude 6.) Others are sealed in the bottomless pit. (Rev.9:1-12.) There are still others under the Euphrates river. (Rev.9:13-21.) The remaining demons are under the control of Satan, the Devil, and are prevalent both in heaven and upon this earth.

Satan and all of his billions of demons brought sin into heaven and became useless unclean vessels before God. These spirit creatures are no longer in their places of duty and God has placed their previous responsibility in the hands of others. How long this change has been in existence, only God knows.

**The Believers break through for fellowship with God.**

In the Old Testament times, God dealt with individuals through the continual sacrifices, in order to maintain fellowship with the Lord. These sacrifices did not remove the sin, but merely covered the sin, until God would send forth his supreme sacrifice, "the Lamb of God who taketh away the sins of the world." We as Christian do not offer animal sacrifices to maintain our fellowship with God, but rather we make our confessions to God according to the Scripture. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 Jn.1:8-9. This is God's provision for his own who

have put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal savior. This fellowship can only be established through the Lord Jesus Christ. "Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him, Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchizedek." Heb.5:8-10. "Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb.12:1-2.

This fellowship which we have with our heavenly Father through his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, can be broken through sinning. It is necessary that when we sin, that we use God's method of cleansing through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, as we confess our short comings to the Father. It is important that we allow the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us, make full use of the Word of God, and continually walk in the light. "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth; But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, his Son, cleanseth us from all sin." 1 Jn.1:6-7.

## **B. THE HEAVENLY COURTS OF ACCUSATION.**

### **Accusation of the Believers before the heavenly courts.**

As I said previously to this, that the battle ground and warfare of the believer continues in the heavenlies. This infers that Satan is at work, accusing the believers before the courts of God in heaven. Yes, Satan still has access to heaven, under the sovereignty of God and must come before his Creator to give an account of his activities. The Book of Job is one of the greatest evidences of this. "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan, From where comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one who feareth God, and shuneth evil? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nothing? Hast thou not made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord." Job.1:6-12. "Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord. And the Lord said unto Satan, From where comest thou? And Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and shuneth evil? And still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause. And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put

forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face. And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life." Job.2:1-6.

Here we have a perfect example of the satanic power, under the sovereignty of God. This gives us evidence that Satan is an accuser of the brethren and as Job had God as his Advocate, so do we have God the Son as our Advocate. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; And he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world." 1 Jn.2:1-2. Satan will continue to accuse the believers of all ages until he is finally cast out of heaven forever. This will occur when we have been raptured to heaven and as the Bride of Christ, we will escape the terrible and great tribulation. While in heaven, we will behold that great angelic battle when Michael the archangel and his army cast Satan and his demons out, and never to return again. "And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, who deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accused them before our God day and night." Rev.12:7-10. Let me remind you that this has not happened, but has been revealed to John on the Isle of Patmos as a preview of what will happen in the middle of the great tribulation. This will trigger off the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel and confirmed by the Lord Jesus Christ. (Dan.9:27; Matt.24:15.)

This battle will continue in heaven until Satan and his demons are cast out forever, and we as believers are confronted with these evil spirit tactics continually, being accused before God the Father, and being assailed on many fronts, here on planet earth. Satan with his billions of demons is a powerful enemy of God and all that are upright before God, through the Lord Jesus Christ. The only difference between now and when Satan is thrown out of heaven is that his warfare will intensify here upon this earth during those last three and one half years of that great tribulation, which are called "The Abomination of Desolation".

### **C. THE EARTHLY WAY OF LIFE.**

#### **Sin corrupted this planet earth.**

As God created all of the heavenly beings, according to his goodness and without evil, so he created all things good upon the planet earth. "And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, it was very good." Gen.1:31a. Both the angelic hosts and the human beings were given volition or choice, rather than just an instinct, and therefore they could make a decision to obey or disobey. As I had mentioned, Lucifer and one third of God's angels chose evil rather than good and were dismissed from their duties in heaven. It was then that Lucifer who became Satan set up his domain upon planet earth. "They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man (creature) who made the earth to tremble, who did shake kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness, and destroyed its cities, who opened not the house of his prisoners" Isa.14:16-17. "Thine heart was lifted up because of thy beauty; thou has corrupted thy wisdom by reason

of thy brightness; I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. Thou has defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy merchandise; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee; it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee. All they that know thee among the people shall be appalled at thee; thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more." Ezek.28:17-19. Satan's fury against God is seen on this planet earth, where he set up his kingdom of darkness in opposition to God's kingdom of light.

The battleground and warfare that began in heaven has been extended to this earth. God's first creatures made in his likeness and image, which were placed upon this earth were attacked by this subtle Satan. "And God said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat? And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat. And the Lord God said unto the woman, What is this that thou has done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." Gen.3:12-11-13. This became the beginning of conflict of mankind with Satan and his demons. Yes, it started a continual enmity between Satan and mankind. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Gen.3:15. The Messianic seed of the woman, which is the Lord Jesus Christ has brought this great conflict into the arena of this planet earth.

#### **Divine help is needed in this warfare.**

Our adversary, the Devil, works in strange and mysterious ways with his billions of demons. In ourselves, we could not resist the Devil one second. Therefore it is necessary for us to have help from outer space to combat the wiles of the Devil. This will be dealt in detail later on, but for the present time we need to understand the problem which exists. We have many examples in the Old Testament of the difficulties which the children of the Lord faced, and their many failures. In the antediluvian days men didn't even call upon the Lord, except a very few cases like Enoch, Methuselah and Noah. "And to Seth, to him also there was born a son; and he called his name Enosh: then began men to call upon the name of the Lord." Gen.4:26. It was obvious from the total depravity of man, that God had to deal specifically with individuals like, Shem, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and other persons to protect and maintain a Messianic lineage to defeat the evil forces. We in ourselves would face defeat immediately, were it not for God's intervention.

#### **The battle continues in the realm of the spirits.**

Our whole natural life is based upon things that we can see and handle, rather than in that unseen world of the spirits. That which is not seen is more real and eternal than what we deal with in our every day life. We attempt to solve our problems with our every day natural reasoning, but this falls far short in the struggle against the spirits of darkness, which are behind the scenes. Since the final victory will be in the spiritual realm of God, we need to be mindful of our great need to depend upon Almighty God to bring constant spiritual help to maintain continual victory over the powers of evil. These are but some of the problems which we face in the Christian life upon planet earth.



## CHAPTER ONE QUESTIONS

1. **What is the position of the Christian in this world? Explain and cite Scripture.**
2. **Explain Ephesians 6:12 a.**
3. **Write about Romans 8:38-39; Ephesians 3:10-12.**
4. **How did the early church face their problems of persecution?**
5. **Write briefly on some of the later persecutions of the believers. Why did some of the religious groups refuse to let the people read the Bible, or possess it?**
6. **Contrast between eternal principalities of God and the earthly principalities.**
7. **Name some of the ways that we combat the enemy in our Christian warfare.**
8. **Write briefly on Colossians 2:14-15; Ephesians 1:17-23; and Colossians 2:9-10.**
9. **Where did the power of darkness begin? Explain with Scripture.**
10. **How do we fight against the power of darkness?**
11. **Why do we need the power of deliverance in Christ Jesus?**
12. **Does the Gospel have power? Cite Scripture.**
13. **Where is our source of power against the evil forces?**
14. **What is God's great commission?**
15. **Explain the Lord's special prayer for his own. (John 17.)**
16. **What are the Christian's problems in the battle against Satan?**
17. **How do we maintain the heavenly fellowship? Cite Scripture.**
18. **Where did sin first occur?**
19. **How did the Old Testament saints maintain fellowship with God?**
20. **How do the New Testament saints maintain fellowship with God?**
21. **Why do we need an Advocate in heaven? Write briefly.**
22. **What do we learn from the life of Job?**

- 23. Why are angels and human beings different from the other creations?**
- 24. How did the heavenly warfare come to this planet earth?**
- 25. Why do we need Divine help in this warfare?**
- 26. Where is the main battle fought against evil?**



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **THE FLESH**

#### **The way of the flesh**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

May we constantly remind ourselves that as we discuss this subject of the flesh, we are aware that we are considering it entirely from the Christian's viewpoint and not from the unregenerate's way of life. The unbeliever, being brain washed by Satan, has no scruples against living it up in the flesh. However, the Christian continually battles against the keeping the flesh under control by the newness of life in Christ Jesus. The principalities and powers of darkness use the flesh to accomplish the downfall of every believer, if it were possible. The battle is on and every Christian must use every God given resource to overcome the fleshly desires of the old man. Now that we have newness of life by the Holy Spirit, the conflict exists. "For that which I do I understand not; for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If, then, I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now, then, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in the flesh) dwelleth no good thing; for to will is present with me, but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would, I do not; but the evil which I would not, that I do." Rom.7:15-19. So, as we study the way of the flesh in several aspects of it, may we remind our-selves of that real enemy of our souls. There are three aspects of this that we need to understand, which are as follows.

- I. CARNALITY**
- II. CONFLICT**
- III. CONFUSION**

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- I. CARNALITY**
    - A. HUMAN VIEW POINT.**

The Christian is constantly subject to the human view point, since we are still in this world, even though we are no longer to be conformed to the fleshly system of this world. Our whole pattern of thought and out-look of life is different from the natural man. We sometimes blame God or our circumstances, when things go wrong in our spiritual life, but the majority of times, we should blame it on our human decisions apart from the will of God. We are prone to take things into our own hands as we always did before we became Christians. "Wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ, As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance. But as he who hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of life, Because it is written, Be

ye holy; for I am holy." 1 Pet.1:13-16. As Christians, we must be constantly alert to the pitfalls confronting us in our former natural life.

### **Made alive in Christ Jesus**

In the worldly way of life, the code of ethics was to do your own thing, regardless of others. The religious and worldly people alike have a permissive way of life, and then try to cover their trespasses and sins by doing a little good, now and then. Their idea of life is usually selfish pleasures and satisfying their ungodly lusts. "And you hath he made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins; In which in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience; Among whom also we all had our manner of life in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath made us alive together with Christ (by grace ye are saved), And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus; That in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus." Eph.2"1-7.

### **Chosen generation, proclaimed Divine Royalty**

The word of God constantly reminds us as Christians to change our whole pattern of life and fashion it according to the will of God. We are merely passing through this life, facing trials and tribulations, formulating a spiritual character for eternity. "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a people of his own, that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light; Who in times past were not a people but are now the people of God; who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy. Dearly beloved, I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, Having your behavior honest among the Gentiles, that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation." 1 Pet.2:9-12.

### **Human view point among the Christian youth**

Today with all of the advancements in science, the eternal laws of God are ignored and ungodly lusts are legalized. The youth of today are faced with all of this new technic and change in spiritual values, which becomes the downfall of many of the young Christians. It becomes difficult for them to distinguish between what is right according to God's word and what has been accepted in the trend of the day. The Christian youth of every age desires to get the most out of life, which is not wrong, providing they are established in the word of God. The world offers pleasure for a season, but God offers pleasures forevermore. "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Rom.12:2. It is so easy for the Christian youth to follow the course of this world in styles as well as popular fads of the moment. The contemporary music of the world, with its vain repetition and off beat is often transferred and adopted to Christian words. The beat is often emphasized rather than the reverence. The youth of the world are kicking against the traces



of the former and established way of the past principles and this often rubs off on to the Christian youth, who do not want to be thought of as queer. The mode of dress is another big issue, with baggy and ragged clothes, being worn in the public. This is often practiced by the Christian youth and brought into church worship. I am aware that clothes should not be the issue for attending worship services, but to lay aside clothes with dignity, bringing honor and glory to the Lord, during worship and replacing them with the styles of the world does not show reverence to Almighty God.

We realize that the youth of today are confronted with a way of life which is ungodly, being given over to drugs and a permissive life style which destroys the very character of those who practice it. The Christian youth are reminded by the Bible to flee from these youthful lusts. "Nevertheless, the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his; and Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honor, and some to dishonor. If a man, therefore, purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and fit for the master's use, and prepared unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts, but follow righteousness, faith, love, peace, with them that call upon the Lord out of a pure heart." 2 Tim.2:19-22. Such an accomplishment in the life of the Christian can only be a reality through the Holy Spirit.

### **Doing the will of God**

In this world, we are constantly confronted with human reasoning and values. As Christians we need to discover, God's reasoning and the true values in life. This battleground within the world and the kingdoms and nations are under the god of this world system, which will be dealt with in the following chapter. As Christians, our focus must constantly be fixed upon the eternal values of God. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust of it; but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." 1 Jn.2:15-17. The choice is ours, as whether we compromise with God and follow the traditions, culture and way of the world or be separated unto the Lord.

### **B. NATURAL REASONING**

There are at least two ways of reasoning, that we wish to mention that confronts the Christian. 1. the natural reasoning, by which the world views all issues, or 2. God's supernatural reasoning based upon the character of God. This becomes another battleground and warfare for the Christian. The way of the world is very simple to follow because it is based upon natural evidence, but the way of God is based upon trust and faith in what God has promised. "According as his divine power hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us unto glory and virtue; By which are given unto us exceedingly great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; And to knowledge, self-control, patience; and to patience, godliness;

And to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Pet.1:3-8. Can natural reasoning match up to what God offers to you by faith which has eternal substance and evidence. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Heb.11:1.

Yes, the world offers great gain in the temporal things, as Solomon found out and finally had to admit his wrong priorities, "Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher; all is vanity.....let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgement, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Eccl.12:8-14. Natural reasoning would say, I do what I do according to my nature, and that is just like it is. O foolish man that you are! God sets forth his own promises to deliver you out from the bondage of the evil forces, and you chose to go the way of the flesh. "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God; for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man; But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." Jas.1:13-17.

### **The way of victory**

We must recognize these various onslaughts of the world, the flesh and the Devil and realize that God always provides the necessary power to withstand these wicked attacks. We are members of the body of Christ and it is important that we face the enemy of our souls with the full armor of God. (Eph.6:11-20.) We learn to use this complete armor of God against the enemy, as we allow God the Holy Spirit to teach us. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led by the Spirit, ye are not under the law." Gal.5:16-18. May the acid test of your reasoning always be based upon the revelation from God's word, being led by God the Holy Spirit. We shall maintain victory over the evil forces by claiming the promises of God, and making full use of the armor of God, under the control of God the Holy Spirit. "As ye have, therefore, received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him, rooted and built up in him, and established in faith, as ye have been taught, abounding with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, who is the head of all principality and power;" Col.2:6-10.

### **C. WORLDLY VALUES**

It is true that there are many things in this world that have value, but let me remind you that all of the things that the world values so highly will come to an end. A statement direct from the Lord Jesus Christ is warning enough to anyone who will listen. "For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his own soul?" Mk.8:36-37. What value does the whole world have

to the man that runs the chance of losing his own soul? It is like a man who is drowning because he does not want to let go of a fortune of solid gold. It is important that we compare these temporal values in the light of the true values of God. "Riches profit not in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivereth from death." Prov.11:4.

### **The Lord provides eternal values**

Security and contentment that God offers is the only true value in this life and the life to come. "Thus saith the Lord, thy Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel: I am the Lord thy God, who teacheth thee to profit, who leadeth thee by the way that thou shouldest go." Isa.48:17. It was the Lord who said, "Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore, be not anxious saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, With what shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. Be, therefore, not anxious about tomorrow; for tomorrow will be anxious for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is its own evil." Matt.6:30-34.

It is extremely important that in this battle against the evil forces, that we do not get bogged down or deceived with the daily needs in this human life. They are very important in our life to maintain strength to do the work of the Lord. Our heavenly Father is mindful of this and has promised to provide us with our every need according to our circumstances. "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Phil.4:19.

The world's values and desires are altogether different from the ideals in Christianity. We being new creatures in Christ Jesus have eternal benefits already because of the victory that Christ has accomplished over death. We have God's word that our resurrection from this old order is guaranteed in the resurrection of the Lord. "If ye, then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory." Col.3:1-4. "But this I say, He who soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he who soweth bountifully shall reap bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give, not grudgingly, or of necessity; for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work. As it is written, He hath dispersed abroad; he hath given to the poor; his righteousness remaineth forever." 2 Cor.9:6-9.

## **II. CONFLICT**

The Lord promised us that since the world hated him, that they would also hate those that belonged to him. "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Jn.17:14 We must always remember as Christians, that the world hates us because they have all been blinded by the god of this world system. (2 Cor.4:3-4.) Let us consider various aspects of this conflict which we face from the evil forces.

- A. CONFLICT WITH THE NATURAL MAN
  - B. CONFLICT WITH SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS
  - C. CONFLICT BECAUSE OF SOUND DOCTRINE
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A. CONFLICT WITH THE NATURAL MAN

**The natural man cannot discern spiritual things.**

The natural man is possessive and desirous of the natural things in his environment. The natural man is opposed to the faith principles of the true and living God and only desire to glorify their own efforts. "Because, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful, but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man, and birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things." Rom.1:21-23. These worshippers of nature have refused to acknowledge the creator of heaven and earth, and try to solve the mystery of life in their own way. We can well ask these environmentalists, "To whom, then, will ye liken me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who created these things, who bringeth out their host by number; he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might; for he is strong in power. Not one faileth." Isa.40:25-26

We must always be on guard, as believers, to distinguish between the wisdom of natural man and the wisdom from God. This can only be maintained and explained by God the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." 1 Cor.2:12-14. This gives the natural man reason to hate us, as we walk in the Spirit and not by sight. They only know to walk according to this world system and can only come to a natural conclusion. "And you hath he made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins; In which in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience; Among whom also we all had our manner of life in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love with which he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath made us alive together with Christ (by grace are ye saved)," Eph.2:1-5. This is the reason for the conflict between the natural, the spiritual and fleshly as natural man cannot understand or accept spiritual things apart from the Holy Spirit. "The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly." 1 Cor.15:47-48. The natural man, being unable to comprehend the spiritual, has but one choice of either

accepting God's provision in the spiritual realm, or rejecting it and be in constant conflict with those who have been born of the Spirit.

### **The natural man is totally depraved**

The natural man is an easy prey for Satan, which we will eventually discuss in detail. Since God has provided an escape route from his wrath, and if that is rejected, then we know what will be the final result. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness, because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shown it unto them.....Wherefore, God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonor their own bodies between themselves, who exchange the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen." Rom.1:18-25. "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led by the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, sorcery, hatred, strife, jealousy, wrath, factions, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and the like; of which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Gal.5:17-21.

### **B. CONFLICT WITH SPIRITUAL WICKEDNESS**

Although the natural man is dead spiritually, he is under bondage to spiritual wickedness. The natural man is part of the great empire of Satan. As I have mentioned before, Satan has billions of fallen angels at his command and can easily span this whole planet earth. He even has sufficient forces to deceive the believers, appearing as an angel of light. (2 Cor.11:14.) He also accuses the brethren before the judgement hall of God. (Rev.12:10.) We can praise God for the added protection that we have by God the Holy Spirit and the Lord Jesus Christ. If it is possible for Satan to constantly try to deceive the believers, how much easier it is for him to control the unregenerate of this world. We as believers are able to resist him, steadfastly in the faith. "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world." 1 Pet,5:8-9.

The heathen lands have been under the domain of Satan for ages and wherever one travels in these heathen lands, the style of satanic worship may differ to suit the cultural differences, but the aim is the same. We are reminded of the Scripture, "Why do the heathen rage, and the peoples imagine a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." Ps.2:1-3. This is the brain washing that comes directly from Satan. Sometimes it is in a religious form of conflict with God, allowing a little truth and mixing it with deceit and false utopia. It sounds so good to say, "The Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man", as the ecumenicist claim, and then including all sorts of idol worshipers to come into their one world church. Satan is a master at misusing the Scripture to his advantage and quoting it out of context. He even

attempted to test the Lord Jesus Christ with such quotations from the Bible. Satan even encourages groups of these false religions, that they in their own power, can make a new world order, where there will be peace, and set up a one world government. This is all contrary to what the Bible teaches.

This spiritual wickedness in high places will continue to express itself under the restraint of the Holy Spirit until the Rapture takes place. As Satan controls the natural man in this world system now, it will increase a hundred fold, during the great tribulation. Make no mistake about the power of the wicked one! Satan with all of the billions of demons at his command, he intends to make havoc and continue to devour countless souls, lest they believe the glorious gospel message. We have this truth directly from the eternal Son of God. "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrow. Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall grow cold." Matt.24:7-12. This spiritual wickedness is powerful among the unregenerate, which reveals itself in many ways.

### **C. CONFLICT BECAUSE OF SOUND DOCTRINE.**

Liberal theology always has a wide range of opinions and very rarely is specific in their conclusions. However, when one accepts the whole Bible, as the Word of God and is definite as to the teaching of the Word, then the conflict occurs. There are also those who will argue that we should only preach the gospel and not teach dead doctrine. If you examine either of these groups they are usually bogged down with some strange interpretations to cover their liberalism or narrow outlook. You will find a wide range from sorting out what is written in the Bible to those who claim special rights and gifts from the Bible. "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." 2 Tim.2:15. Yes, there are divisions in the Bible and we have gone over these in previous writings. As one studies the Word of God, it is necessary to understand to whom God is writing as well as a time element. If God didn't intend that you study other doctrine beside the Gospel, he would have given us a mini-Bible. "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim.3:16-17. Perhaps it will help as we separate the various groups who would oppose you as you teach sound doctrine.

#### **Liberalism is in conflict with sound doctrine**

Liberal theology is not worth the paper that it is written on, because it denies many of the specific statements of the Bible, claiming that they were man's thoughts. Their main platform is, "Fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man". Having established this false premise, they conclude that there are many ways to attaining unto God. They reject the statement from the Son of God, "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jn.14:6. A statement could not be clearer than this as to the way to heaven. Also we have another very definite statement from the Word

of God. "Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12.

Liberalism wants to include all religions and all forms of worship in their ecumenical outreach for organized religion. Just practice brotherly love one toward another and don't disturb those who hold to different forms of worship as they approach their gods. Their moral standards may also be different, and these must not be challenged. In other words, you do not claim the righteous and holy standards of God. The Holy Spirit used Paul to instruct the many Timothys down through the ages, "O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of knowledge falsely so called, Which some, professing, have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen." 1 Tim.6:20-21.

### **Conflict with those who never go beyond the Gospel.**

When someone approaches you and is content only to understand the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, they belong to the group to which Paul spoke. "And, I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with solid food; for to this time ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able." 1 Cor.3:1-2. "Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God, and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food. For everyone that useth milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness; for he is a babe. But solid food belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil." Heb.5:11-14.

The Lord wants us to become masters in the understanding of the Bible. This gives us confidence in preaching the gospel and also help us to build up our fellow believers in the most holy faith. Stand firmly upon the promises of God in your witness. But in order to be able to do this, one must understand what the promises of God are. It is true that many Christians will go through this life with very little understanding of the Bible, but may it not be said of you. "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth. And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. For if our heart condemn us, God is greater than our heart, and knoweth all things. Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God." 1 Jn.3:18-21. Spend much time in the Word of God, so that you will be able to answer the critics of the Bible, as well as establish those that need the solid food from God's Word.

### **III. CONFUSION**

One of Satan's best attacks upon the Christians is to cause confusion and doubt. This is another area where we need to be prepared to meet the enemy of our souls. As I have mentioned before, Satan often presents himself as an angel of light distorting what God really says in the Bible. He used that tactic against Eve, in the garden of Eden, "Now the serpent was more subtle than any beast of the field which the Lord God made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden; But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it,

neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die. And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die." Gen.3:1-4. It is amazing how much Satan knows about the Bible. When Adam and Eve ate the fruit, they continued to live in the flesh, and eventually died, but the spirit died immediately. As you read on in this chapter, they did come to know good and evil but not in the same way as did the Almighty God. This is a good example of confusion that can occur in the Christian warfare. There are a few ways of approaching the battle of confusion.

- A. CONFUSION IN THE NEW WAY OF LIFE**
- B. CONFUSION IN UNDERSTANDING THE WORD OF GOD**
- C. CONFUSION FROM THE FALSE PROPHETS IN THIS WORLD OF OURS**

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**A. CONFUSION IN THE NEW WAY OF LIFE**

When one is born again of the Holy Spirit there are many things to learn, concerning the new life. Some who are born into this life, surrounded by Christian teachings, does have the advantage over those who lack a Christian atmosphere. In either case, the Holy Spirit can teach and guide through the knowledge of the Word of God. Some believers will have to remain on the milk of the Word, longer than others, and some just never are able to digest the deep things of God's Word. The evangelist is usually interested in souls being saved, and rightly so, but this must always be followed with Bible teaching. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor.17. To become a child of light after living in the darkness of Satan, is a drastic change. If Bible teaching is missing, then Satan has a great opportunity to confuse and abuse. It is the responsibility of the well established Christians to help these new born babes to become strong in the Lord. "I charge thee, therefore, before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word; be diligent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with long-suffering and doctrine." 2 Tim.4:1-2.

**B. CONFUSION IN UNDERSTANDING THE WORD OF GOD**

Sound doctrine is essential in the growth of a Christian. It is as important in the spiritual realm as it is in the professional natural world. No one would certainly not want a novice or ignorant person to perform the most minor operation. So in the field of Christian teaching would one expect the right understanding of the Word of God, if the teacher is not qualified? This does not mean that only those with degrees can teach, but rather, those who have studied under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

**Sound doctrine is essential for growth**

In every age since God has been calling human beings to come under his cloak of grace through his provision of so great salvation, there have always been Satan's tools to



deceive and counterfeit what God so freely offers. False religions of all shades of worship, attempt to confuse the ignorant as well as the wise in their own blinded minds. The Scripture certainly warns against these deceivers, in the battle for souls. "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but, after their own lusts, shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." 2 Tim.4:3-5.

The iniquity led by Satan will continue until the end of the age and will intensify as we approach the coming of the Lord to establish his thousand Year kingdom of righteousness. "For the mystery of iniquity doth already work; only he who now hindereth (The Holy Spirit) will continue to hinder until he be taken out of the way.(At the rapture) And then shall that wicked one be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming, Even him whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, That they all might be judged who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." 2 Thess.2:7-12. Because of this strong enticement by the evil forces, it is imperative that we understand sound doctrine from the Word of God.

Unless one is grounded in the Word of God, strange voices of every sort will beckon the weak and poorly established in the Christian faith. The fight is on and we must be well equipped to withstand the wiles of the devil. "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body." 2 Cor.4:8-10. In order for us to withstand all persecutions and withstand the onslaughts of Satan, we need to be grounded in the Word of God. We who know sound doctrine, do go by the Book, knowing that we in our own strength cannot withstand the devil and his demons. It is imperative that we seek out the deep things from God's Word, for from the Bible we receive our defense against the powers of darkness which often appear as angels of light. "But we all, with unveiled face be-holding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord." 2 Cor.3:18.

### **Confusion comes by refusing to study the Word**

Understanding the Word of God is our number one imperative against all evil forces. As we are reminded by the precious promises from the Bible, our confidence is established as we turn every problem and every difficulty over to the Lord. The battle is the Lord's and the promises are yours. The Lord himself has said, "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matt.11:28-30. Our fellowship with each other as believers is based upon sharing and encouraging one another in the Word of God. It is the Word of God that enlightens the soul. "The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power," Eph.18-19. The mighty power of God is

wrought through the Lord Jesus Christ, through the Word of God, which is alive and powerful. (Heb.4:12.) Study the Bible, for in God's Word we find every answer to our problems, and every resource through the Holy Spirit to stand fast in the faith.

### **C. CONFUSION FROM THE FALSE PROPHETS IN THIS WORLD OF OURS**

The Lord Jesus Christ's early ministry, warned against false teachers and prophets, for their own gain, and under the control of Satan. "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" Matt.7:15-16. These false teachers often come with flattering words to get one's attention and then, feed you their lies. "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! For so did the fathers to the false prophets." Lk.6:26.

The disciples also asked the Lord to explain what can be expected in the last days. Of course, this mainly refers to the time just before and during the tribulation, and particularly to Israel. "Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you; and ye shall be hated of all nations for my sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall grow cold." Matt.24:9-12. "For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if possible, even the elect. But take heed; behold, I have foretold you all things." Mk.13:22-23. These false teachers and prophets do bring confusion to those who are not well established in the Word of God. That is why it is very important that we are well grounded in the Word of God, then the Holy Spirit can give us discernment against these instruments of Satan. It is one of the gifts which the Holy Spirit can give to believers as he wills. ( 1 Cor.12:10.)

We are thoroughly warned to put the test to these strange spirits that try to confuse us, by the Word of God. "But these things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name." Jn.20:31. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. By this know ye the Spirit of God; every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God; And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; and this is the spirit of antichrist, of which ye have heard that it should come, and even now already is in the world." 1 Jn.4:1-3.

The Holy Spirit through Paul, warned against those even declaring themselves to be apostles. "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works. 2 Cor.11:13-15 The more we know about the Word of God, the better equipped we will be to discern these false teachers. They will not always be found on the outside of your assemblies, but they will creep into your fellowship in various ways, so beware. "But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who secretly shall bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways, by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they, with feigned words,

make merchandise of you; whose judgement now for a long time lingereth not, and their destruction slumbereth not. For is God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgement; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah, the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them with an overthrow, making them an example unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy manner of life of the wicked. For the righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds, The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished;" 2 Pet.2:1-9.

You can see from the Bible that there has been confusion in this world from the very beginning of time, because of sin. Satan doesn't need to bother much about the degraded, wicked hell holes in this world, but he tries to destroy God's very elect, if it were possible. The battleground is from the heavens to this old world and we need to fight the good fight of faith throughout our Christian walk. As there were false brethren that crept into the early church, so we can expect a continuation of this deceit which comes from Satan. "And that because of false brethren unawares brought in who came in secretly to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage; To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you." Gal.2:4-5.

The flesh is an easy target for Satan to attack, as we have studied. That is why it was necessary for the Holy Spirit to make us new creatures in Christ Jesus, so that we could withstand the evil attacks. Being members of the royal family of God we need to use all the forces that God has given us to defeat our enemies. "And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father. Wherefore, thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." Gal.4:6-7.

## CONCLUSION

As we conclude this chapter, concerning the spiritual battle against the flesh, do not gather around you those that teach false doctrine. As you learn more and more about the Word of God, be mindful as to how you teach the Word of God to the babes in Christ. "My brethren, be not many teachers, knowing that we shall receive the greater judgement. For in many things we all stumble. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body." Jas.3:1-2. "From where come wars and fightings among you? Come they not here, even of our lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not; ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain; ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts." Jas.4:1-3.

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## CHAPTER TWO QUESTIONS

1. **Explain Romans 7:15-19.**
2. **What constitutes the human viewpoint? Write briefly.**
3. **How does one maintain the Divine viewpoint? Write briefly.**
4. **How do we become alive in Christ Jesus? Ephesians 2:1-7.**
5. **Explain 1 Peter 2:9-12.**
6. **Name some of the problems which the Christian youth faces.**
7. **What are two ways of reasoning which confront the Christians?**
8. **What is provided for Christian victory in this warfare against the evil forces?**
9. **Compare worldly values with eternal values. Cite Scripture.**
10. **What are some of the conflicts that the spiritual Christian faces?**
11. **What is meant by "Totally Depraved"?**
12. **What empire does the natural man belong?**
13. **Name some latter day signs before the Lord raptures his church home to glory.**
14. **What is the importance for the Christian to be established in sound doctrine?**
15. **How does "liberal theology" help the satanic kingdom in this world?**
16. **Why is it necessary to study the deep things of God's Word? 1 Corinthians 3:1-2,**
17. **What is one of Satan's best methods of attack against Christians? Explain in full.**
18. **Name three fields of confusion in a Christian's life. Give examples from the Word.**
19. **Why is it necessary to thoroughly understand the Bible? Has God given us an insight of his complete plan for all ages? Explain.**
20. **What are the important elements of sound growth for the Christian? Write in detail.**
21. **Where do we find the false prophets in the Christian's life?**
22. **Write briefly concerning the warfare between the flesh and the spiritual life of the Christian in his daily walk.**



## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **THE DEVIL**

#### **THE GOD OF THIS WORLD SYSTEM**

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#### **INTRODUCTION**

The world and the flesh are intensive fields of battle for the devout Christian, but both are by far a small part of the warfare which surrounds the believer. We could cope with this warfare much easier if we did not have to deal with the evil spiritual realm. Adam and Eve would have had very little difficulty obeying God, if they were not attacked by demonic power, under cover of the beauty of nature. You will note three particular strongholds and attacks that Satan uses.

1. He relates to the present system in this world.
2. He operates under a kingdom of darkness.
3. He uses spiritual wickedness to dominate.

These are the realms which makes it very difficult for the believer to fight, and he cannot do it alone, but needs the utmost help from above. God has provided the believer with all the necessary help against this evil force, led by Satan himself.

#### **SATAN'S MIGHTY DEMONIC POWER**

There is no way that we can overcome the devil in our own power, and that is obvious from the information that we get from the Bible. Lucifer, who became the devil and satan was the highest ranking angel in all of heaven. He was appointed by God as the supreme cherub, protecting the holiness of the Godhead. Here are a few of his characteristics before he sinned against his Creator.

1. Complete wisdom. Ezek.28:12.
2. Perfection in beauty and character. Ezek.28:12.
3. Every precious stone was his possession and covering. Ezek.28:13.
4. Superb speaking voice, as clear as a flute. Ezek.28:13.
5. The anointed cherub of God.
6. Surrounded by the stones of fire in their purity.
7. Perfect in all of his ways, until iniquity was found in thee.

As a created being, he had nothing more to desire and was an outstanding angel in all of heaven. God had to remove Lucifer from his great responsibility in heaven, although God did not take away his power, but remained under the sovereignty of God. What did he become? He became God's arch enemy and declared open war upon his Creator. Perhaps one of the first exploits that Satan obtained, was to draw away one third of all of God's angels, and set up his attack upon God.(Rev.12:4.) Here is how the Bible describes this five star general of the invisible but powerful demons.

1. Filled with violence. (Ezek.28:16.)
2. Corrupted the wisdom that God gave to him. (Ezek.28:17.)
3. Defiled the sanctuaries of God. (Ezek.28:18.)
4. He made the earth to tremble. (Isa.14:16. Gen.1:2.)
5. Kingdoms upon the earth have been shaken by him. (Isa.16.)
6. The whole world became like a wilderness through Satan. (Isa.14:17.)
7. Whole cities were destroyed. (Isa.14:17.)
8. Held human beings as prisoners. (Isa.14:17.)

As we search the Scriptures, and make ourselves aware of this present invisible war declared by Satan, may we utterly depend upon the armor of God to withstand his attacks. The following subjects will help us in this very important warfare against Satan.

- I. **SATAN'S MIGHTY DEMONIC POWER**
- II. **OUR MIGHTY DIVINE DEFENCE**
- III. **OUR MIGHTY DIVINE DELIVERANCE**

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I. **SATAN'S MIGHTY DEMONIC POWER**

The proper preparation in going to war against an enemy is always the pre-requisite to approach the enemy. So, with the Christian warfare against the evil forces, we must possess the proper instruments for battle, and know how to use them. Since this warfare is invisible to us as human beings, we must be able to detect the enemies forces by an invisible help. We have listed some of the mighty power's of Satan, which have never been taken away from him, and must be dealt with.

## **The mighty demonic power**

God has not given us too much detail on what happened when Lucifer disobeyed God and committed sin, but we do know that something happened to this world which God created. We know that God never creates anything that is waste and void, as Genesis 1:2; tells us. Satan has usurped the ownership over this earth which is obvious under the great evil influence. He has established this earth as his domain. All of his subjects are brain washed and kept in darkness. "But if our gospel be hidden it is hidden to them that are lost, In whom the god of this age hath blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Cor.4:3-4. Many of these who are brain washed are also demon possessed, and take over the control of countless individuals around the world, in every age. It was Satan's intention to bring all of humanity into his evil kingdom and corrupt forever all of mankind. This would have happened, but in the sovereignty and omniscience of God, he preserved eight souls, sealing the Messianic hope.

The demonic power runs into the billions of fallen angels under the control of Satan as their leader, and some of these were so wicked and unruly that God had to put them in prison.

1. Everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgement of the great day.
2. Satan's top commander, "The Destroyer" and his great army , kept sealed in the bottomless pit, until God allows them to be released during the great tribulation. (Rev.9:1-11.)
3. The four demons under the Euphrates river with their great army of demons. These shall be loosed, during the great tribulation, and their number is two hundred thousand thousand. Over a billion people will be slain when they are released. Their time of slaughtering will be one year, a month, a day and one hour. (Rev.9:13-21.)

When you consider that Satan has drawn one angel of God for every two angels that remained faithful to God, then you can understand the countless forces against us as Christians. In no way could we array against Satan's army without help from Almighty God. This army of his is both present in the heavens and all over this planet earth. Let us take a quick look at this mighty demonic power from three time periods.

- A. **THE DEMON ACTIVITY IN THE PAST**
  - B. **THE DEMON ACTIVITY IN THE PRESENT**
  - C. **THE FINAL DEMON ACTIVITY OF THE FUTURE**
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## **A. THE DEMON ACTIVITY IN THE PAST**

### **The cause of the earth becoming waste and void**

As Satan mustered together these billions of fallen angels, and set their claims upon this planet earth, their one desire was to destroy God's creation in every way possible. The earth became waste and void as Satan set up his headquarters on the special creation called earth. What it was like when God created it, we do not know, but with this mighty force of demons, everything was disrupted. We must always remember that Satan has not been striped of his power, but only of his position before God. So powerful was he as a cherub that it took four cherubim to take his place. (Ezek.10:1-20.) You may also note that when Adam and Eve were cast out of the garden of Eden that God set up cherubim to guard it. (Gen.3:24.) Those four creatures which John saw in heaven could well have been cherubim. (Rev.4:6-9; Rev.5:6-14; Rev.6:1-8; Rev.7:11; Rev.14:3; Rev.15:7; Rev.19:4.) You will note from Ezekiel 28:16-19; and Isaiah 14:16-17. Scriptural evidence that Satan played havoc upon this earth in the past.

### **The antediluvian civilization invaded**

The demonic power was constantly prevalent from Cain to Lamech and in countless other times, the demonic deception continued and began to indwell both male and female, causing great giants in all the land. As we are well aware that angels cannot reproduce either angels or human beings, so these giants were the product of demon possession of both male and female, to become the products of satanic power. This would have ruined God's Master plan, prophesied in Genesis 3:15 and God would have been proved defeated through this infiltration by the demons. God brought it to an end by the flood.

### **Destruction of Job's possessions**

The total destruction of all that Job possessed was no light thing. God removed the protection from around Job and look what happened. (Job 1:12-22. All of Job's property was taken, and his servants and children slain. Note that a great wind came and destroyed the house. Remember that Satan is still a prince of the power of the air. (Eph.2:2.) This did not satisfy Satan, but he now wanted permission to touch the physical body of Job. This he did, and note the results. "So went Satan forth from the presence of the Lord, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown." Job 2:7.

### **The Old Testament Saints attacked**

From the time of separating the lineage for the Messiah on down through the Old Testament, there is a continual struggle against the wiles of the devil. In Seth we see God's preservation, choosing out Shem, then Abram, and Judah became the key figure in God's promise of a Messiah. It eventually seemed that all was lost in the 400 years of slavery in Egypt of the chosen race, but God's time table was being followed to the very second. Moses was raised up at a time when death was certain to all the Hebrew males, but God again overcame the evil forces. Hope of entering the promised land was lost when Satan sets up the golden calf in the wilderness, and 40 years of rebellion, followed, making it look

impossible for Israel to survive. But God in his omniscience knew the end even before the beginning. God sent his witnesses, the prophets and rulers and judges, and even to the very coming of the Son of God there was rejection and disobedience to God.

It looked like Satan was destroying God's "Master Plan" throughout the Old Testament times, Abraham was promised a great nation, but his wife Sarah was barren, then God did the impossible by giving her a son in her old age. David sinned by taking another man's wife Bath - sheba, and was greatly punished for it, but God kept the Messianic hope alive. It looked like all of the tribe of Judah would be wiped out, while in captivity, but God had Esther prepared to prevent the total slaughter of his people. The lineage of Niomi was almost cut off, but God had prepared Ruth as a chosen vessel to restore that link through Boaz, the kinsmen redeemer. God had his chosen vessels throughout those days and certainly Daniel, Ezekiel, Ezra, and Nehemiah were outstanding men of God to keep alive the chosen race, in spite of the onslaught of Satan. "But, when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Gal.4:4-5.

### **The coming of the Messiah rejected**

Down through the ages, the demons have been at work, infiltrating the human race in every way possible. Christ met this demon possession with God's wrath, during his three year ministry. They knew that he was the eternal Son of God and feared him greatly. Satan did his best to get Christ to accept the kingdoms of the world, by just bowing down to worship him, but again he failed, even as he attempted to test Christ by quoting the Word of God.

Satan's religious leaders were subtle tools to try their best to destroy the Messiah, but there wasn't a chance of the impeccable and eternal Son of God failing. The cross was not an easy judgement for the Lord to endure. Prophetically, he knew what would take place. "All they who see me laugh me to scorn; they shoot out their lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the Lord that he would deliver him; let him deliver him, seeing he delighted in him..... Many bulls have compassed me; strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, like a raving and roaring lion." Ps.22:1-13. This gives us a slight picture as to what Christ went through, hanging on the cross. This was tremendous torment which the eternal Son of God, went through, so that you and I might have the victory over the evil forces through his redeeming power. "He was despised and rejected of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed." Isa.53:3-5. The infliction which God the Father placed upon his Son has made possible complete deliverance by God, from the arch enemy to the Godhead.

### **B. THE DEMON ACTIVITY IN THE PRESENT**

From the day of Pentecost and on through to the Rapture, the future Bride of Christ will be harassed by Satan, but never possessed by his demons. God gave great signs and

wonders from the very beginning of the out pouring of the Holy Spirit upon all flesh. But for those who reject the truth and love darkness rather than light, they become easy prey for Satan's army of demons. Satan wanted to sift Peter like wheat, but the Lord placed a special protection around him. "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not. And when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." Lk.22:31-32. The new birth for Peter and the disciples and other believers took place on the day of Pentecost.

Ananias and Sapphira had to be removed because they yielded unto the evil one and lied to the Holy Spirit. This was a sin unto death, which occurs often among believers down through this age of grace. The demonic world is very active, trying their very best to destroy the Christian testimony in every way possible. These demons used the mob to attack Stephen, who became the first martyr. The invisible war continued with the slaughtering of many saints of God. Since Satan is the god of this world system, we can always expect the battle to rage against the born again believers. As Israel at times had rulers who did good in the eyes of God, so at times there are those rulers today who aim to please the living God. However, the Christian cannot expect much help in this wicked world. As we come to the close of the present era, we can expect the demonic opposition to expose itself more and more. Satanic worship is flourishing around the world in various forms. It is true that the wicked forces are controlled by the sovereignty of God and are restrained by God the Holy Spirit. This restraining power will continue until the Rapture takes place and the future bride of Christ is safely in those heavenly mansions of God. At the present time the demons that are free, along with Satan must give an account before God as recorded in the Book of Job. This will come to a complete stop when Michael the archangel and his army of angels casts Satan and all of his demons to the earth. Then will begin the mighty demonic power dedicated to the final onslaught upon earth, where Satan sets up his kingdom in defiance of his Creator.

### **C. THE DEMON ACTIVITY IN THE FUTURE**

#### **Preparation and evil development for the final demonic activity upon the earth**

The very moment that the saints are raptured, both those that died in Christ and those that are alive, the mighty power of Satan will be felt in this whole world. His capability is beyond expression and all we need to do is read Revelation chapter six and we get a glimpse of his mighty power. This world is not going to get better and already we can see the Christian influence waning throughout the world. Doors are being shut to the preaching of the Gospel, and mission personnel is on the decrease. Yes, many short time mission enterprises are being launched at a tremendous cost, and now the main mission thrust is through the printed page, which the national Christian leaders have access to. However the scene is being set for that final great and furious warfare of the complete demonic armies, led by Satan. "Let no man deceive you by any means; for that day shall not come, except there come the falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition. Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped, so that he, as God, sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." 2 Thess.2:3-4.

We do not know when the Lord will return for his own, as that is God the Father's secret. We are to be prepared for his return at any moment. That man of sin may be born

already, and could be well on his way to be the leader of a new world order which will eventual occur as stated in the Book of Revelation. "And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy." Rev.13:1. This will be the revival of the Roman Empire according to the revelation from the Book of Daniel.

There are many signs as to the nearing of the coming of the Lord to take us out from the wrath to come. (1 Thess.1:10.) Let us name a few of these outstanding signs.

1. **Israel being regathered into her land for her final punishment.**
2. **The Common market of Europe to be fully completed in 1992.**
3. **The ecumenical churches of today favor one world church.**
4. **The computer science equipped to monitor the whole world.**
5. **Socializing the commodities of the whole world.**
6. **Crime and evil has reached an all time peak.**
7. **Christian influence is waning around the political world.**

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### **The Great Tribulation of the future**

World events indicate to the Christian that time for evangelizing the world is running out. We are having to depend more and more on the national Christian leaders to be trained and sent forth to their own people. It is the period in the history of Christianity to put into print both the gospel message and the teaching ministry. "But of the day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, And knew not until the flood came, and took them away, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." Matt.24:36-39.

The Rapture, which shall take place, shall set off a terrible demonic attack upon the whole world. It will be then that as the Holy Spirit, dwelling in the believers releases his restraining power in this world that the most terrible reign of terror will take place upon this earth. The whole world system will be effected when all the Christians from every tribe and nation shall be caught up in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye! The united nations assemblies will be entirely in the hands of the unregenerate, who are tools in the hands of Satan.

As we arrive in our heavenly hope, in those glorified bodies, and all of the preliminary events take place, we will behold the opening of the scroll that becomes the count down for the tribulation to begin upon this planet earth. Read carefully Revelation chapters 4 and 5. The whole world will be deceived by the ideal of one world government

and a man which God's Word calls a Beast will be placed in power, proclaiming peace upon this whole world. It will be Satan's counterfeit, riding a white horse. (Rev.6:1-2.)

When a central power has full control over the whole world and a false peace is established, then universal war will break out.(Rev.6:3-4.) Famine always follows these terrible wars, with no one working the fields, and destruction on every side. (Rev.6:5-6.) Famine always brings countless deaths and there will be one fourth of the earth's population die, which will be over a billion people. (Rev.6:7-8.) Although all of the believers were caught up to heaven, there will be those left behind who immediately become believers and are then the tribulation saints. There will be 144,000. from the tribes of Israel and many of those will be killed during the tribulation as prophesied in Rev.6:9-11. These events represent the first five seals from that scroll which will be opened in heaven by the Lamb of God.

The following judgments to occur upon the earth will be the most terrible out pouring of the wrath of God. Men will cry out for the rocks to fall upon them and end it all. (Rev.6:12-17.) The demonic wickedness will be expressed everywhere and as three and one half years of terror are completed, then there will be the fulfillment of Daniel 9:27. This is what Christ referred to in Matthew 24:15. "When ye, therefore, shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whosoever readeth, let him understand)," Those who will be reading this will be the nation Israel as they will be told to flee to the hills for refuge."Then let them who are in Judea flee into the mountains;" Matt.24:16. What will spark off this abomination of desolation? There will be a great avalanche of demons from heaven, led by Satan. "And there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not, neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, who deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Rev.12:7-9. This will be a complete take over by Satan and his demons upon the earth for the remaining three and one half years of the tribulation.

The demons upon this earth will be countless and with great power. There will be reinforcements from both the bottomless pit and from under the Euphrates river. "And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth; (The results of the battle with Michael and his angels) and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit, and there arose a smoke out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth, and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree, but only those men who have not the seal of God in their fore-heads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man." "And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, Loose the four angels who are bound in the great river, Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, who were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand; and I heard the number of them." Rev.9:13-16. With these statements from the Bible, you can understand how terrible it will be during the great tribulation, and the Lord confirmed this. "For then shall be great

tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Matt.24:21.

The god of this world system will have billions of demons upon the face of the earth to torment and destroy, knowing his days are numbered. As you read through the whole Book of Revelation you get a terrifying picture of what is going to come upon this earth. The living of the unregenerate will suffer under devastating conditions. The Beast from the revival of the Roman empire and the false prophet in the Middle East will be used by Satan to control all of the kingdoms of the world. The unregenerate of the world will carry the imprint of the Beast, and without it no man will be able to buy nor sell. No doubt the computers will be set up internationally, controlling all commodities. The tribulation saints with the seal of God upon their foreheads will suffer under such conditions and that is why a place of refuge will be prepared for them by God, if they are able to flee to the mountains. God's 144,000 youth from Israel will care very little for their life, and be witnesses along with Moses and Elijah and the angels of God. God has clearly stated these coming terrible events upon this earth, and it behooves us to warn against the coming wrath of God. This demonic power which is revealed through the Scripture is mighty and under the control of Satan. We face part of this invisible war before the Rapture and we need to know how to deal with it, according to God's defensive provision.

## **II. OUR MIGHTY DIVINE DEFENCE**

The enemies of our soul, the world, the flesh, and the Devil, could never be defeated in our lives, if we had to depend upon our limited strength, even as believers. The Biblical examples of the failure and totally depravity of man are numerous both in the Old Testament and the New Testament. "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes; fear the Lord, and depart from evil." Prov.3:5-7. As we study the Word of God, may we ever be mindful of the weakness of the natural man, and his utter dependence upon Divine strength to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil. "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son, in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh, That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." Rom.8:3-4.

**A. CHRIST OUR SUPREME DELIVERER**

**B. THE HOLY SPIRIT OUR INWARD PROTECTION**

**C. THE PROVISION OF THE ARMOR OF GOD**

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## **A. CHRIST OUR SUPREME DELIVERER**

### **Made alive in Christ Jesus**

Man was created in the image of God for a purpose, as a forerunner of what would be possible, according to God's "Master Plan". This image of God was lost when sin was imputed upon all of the posterity of Adam. He died spiritually through his disobedience to God's command and that has passed on to all of us. Therefore, it would be impossible for us to overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil in our own strength. Being dead, spiritually we would not be able to withstand the onslaught of the evil forces. Therefore, it is necessary to be made alive in the spirit. "For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive; But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.....And so it is written, The first man, Adam, was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a life-giving spirit. However, that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven. As the earthy, such are they also that are earthy; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." 1 Cor.15:22-49.

Since our life is in the Lord Jesus Christ, the Creator, we have the heavenly resources to help us against the evil forces of this world. "For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be in life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil.1:19-21. This determines great confidence as we defend the faith against the evil forces. Our walk in the Lord is to be in newness of life, because of the resurrection of the Lord our Redeemer. "Therefore, we are buried with him by baptism into death, that as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." Rom.6:4.

"This is a manifest token of the righteous judgement of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer, seeing it is a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; And to you who are troubled, rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his might angels, In flaming fore taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ; Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power," 2 Thess.1:5-9.

### **The Spirit of Christ**

We have access to this heavenly protection and defense because we have received the Spirit of Christ, when we were born again. This present flesh of ours cannot please God, for it has been infiltrated with sin. The Spirit of Christ, dwelling within us gives us a mighty defence against the fleshly lusts. "So, then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Rom.8:8-9. It is very important for us to rely upon the Spirit of Christ as we face the world, the flesh, and the devil. Christ is to be our all in all in this warfare as believers. "Christ came, who is over all, God blessed

forever. Amen." Rom.9:5b. We have become new creatures in Christ Jesus. "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature; old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Cor.5:17. "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Rom.13:14. In order to make full use of our defence in Christ Jesus, we must allow him to reign in our lives. "For if by one man's offense death reigned by one, much more they who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ." Rom.5:17. It is in Christ that we can be sure of victory over our adversaries. "But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor.15:57. "Now thanks be unto God, who always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place." 2 Cor.2:14. May we always remember that the battle is the Lord's.

### **The power of God**

No human being can face the evil powers alone, for this battle is invisible and in the realm of the spirits. There is one message that Satan does not wish to be known, and that is the glorious Gospel message. As long as he can prevent the Gospel from getting to his prisoners, he will have them thoroughly brain washed. "But if our gospel be hidden it is hidden to them that are lost, In whom the god of this age hath blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." 2 Cor.4:3-4. That is why we read, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For in it is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith." Rom.1:16-17. The source of power for all who believe is in Christ. "But unto them who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." 1 Cor.1:24.

That will be a glorious day when the yoke of Satan is broken forever and the full potential of the power of Christ is manifested to the whole world. Because we belong to Christ, we are part of his kingdom to come. That day is coming, and here is a preview televised for John to witness. "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." Rev.11:15. John also had that televised preview of the great battle to be fought in heaven against the devil and his demons. "And that great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil and Satan, who deceiveth the whole world; he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of Christ; for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, who accused them before our God day and night." Rev.12:9-10. Knowing that the final victory is in the Lord, we should take great courage as we fight the good fight of faith in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ.

As the Lord Jesus Christ prayed to the Father, we become aware of the great power given to the Son by the Father. "As thou has given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou has given." Jn.17:2. God has all power and there is no other eternal power but God. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God." Rom.13:1. In other words, God is sovereign over all. Christ has been given this supreme authority. May we make full use of this power, so that we might have the victory, when we contend for the



faith. "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which is wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come, And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is the body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." Eph.1:17-23.

It is in the Lord Jesus Christ that we have been delivered from the power of darkness. "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son; In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins." Col.1:13-14. "For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, who is the head of all principality and power," Col.2:9-10. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Pet.1:3-5.

## **B. GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE WORD OF GOD**

### **The necessity of the Holy Spirit in our defense**

When Christ was about to go to the cross for the remission of sins, his prayer contained a mighty defense for his disciples. "I pray for them; I pray not for the world, but for them whom thou hast given me; for they are thine." Jn.17:9. This was very necessary as you may remember how Satan wanted to sift Peter and bring him to destruction. "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat; But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not. And when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren." Lk.22:31-32. You may also remember that after the resurrection, when the Lord appeared to the disciples that he said, "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you; as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit;" Jn.20:21-22. This was a temporary giving of the Holy Spirit, until the day of Pentecost. This protected the disciples for some 50 days before Pentecost. Why was this necessary? I must remind you that our battle is against the invisible powers of darkness, and the Holy Spirit had to give special protection until the out pouring of the Spirit, bringing a new birth to those who believe.

### **The working of the Holy Spirit in our defense**

The Lord explained the working of the Holy Spirit during the last moments of his 40 days with his disciples. "But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit is come upon you; and ye shall be witness unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Acts 1:8. Without the power of the Holy Spirit

working in and through our lives as Christians, we would be easy prey for the enemy of our souls. The mighty signs and wonders which were manifested by the disciples was the out pouring of the Holy Spirit in their lives. So we read in the Word, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit. Rom.15:13. This power comes from God and can withstand the fiery darts of Satan, for our earthen vessels would never be sufficient against the invisible demons. "But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us." 2 Cor.4:7.

### **The methods of this help from the Holy Spirit**

There is no easy short cut to using the full power of the Holy Spirit, as some Christians would like. Since the Holy Spirit is the author of the Word of God, then we cannot ignore His word, if we want to utilize his power. We must also remember that he is God on an equal basis with the Father and the Son. Our preparations for defense against all evil, is to be born of the Holy Spirit. This assures us that he now indwells us as our source of wisdom in combatting the invisible. He is the source of our wisdom. "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him," Eph.1:17. God the Holy Spirit is our teacher, and his textbook is the Bible. "Nevertheless, when he the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself, but whatever he shall hear, that shall he speak; and he will show you things to come." Jn.16:13. The Holy Spirit becomes our life, and he will remain within us for eternity. Therefore, it is necessary that we keep the flesh under the control of the Holy Spirit. "For if we live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye, through the Spirit, do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." Rom.8:13-14.

### **The message from the Holy Spirit**

There are many Christians misled into thinking that they can receive special revelation from the Holy Spirit beyond what is written in the Bible. This is absolutely a false understanding concerning the working of the Holy Spirit. Where do we find the truth, the promises and guidance? Is it not found in the Scripture? "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Tim.3:16-17. We are to be led by the Holy Spirit through the teachings from the Bible. (Gal.5:18.)

God the Holy Spirit speaks to us through his word, and will lead us into all truth. God's word is truth, and through it we receive our guidance. We can grieve the Holy Spirit, when we depart from the teaching of the Word. (Eph.4:30.) Our identification as Christians is in the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.12:13.) The Holy Spirit knows all about us and desires that we become established in the word of God. There are many things of the future which are revealed to us through the Bible and we can thank God the Father for sending the Holy Spirit to dwell with us forever. There are many deep things of God's word which can only be understood by the teaching of the Holy Spirit. "But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God." 1 Cor.2:10.

## **The special gifts from the Holy Spirit.**

Since the Holy Spirit knows our natural talents and our teaching ability of the Word of God, it is obvious that he will direct us in the use of our natural ability, and add gifts which will help us to glorify the Lord. It is scriptural for Christian leaders to desire the very best gifts available, but not to demand the Holy Spirit to provide, according to our liking. "But covet earnestly the best gifts; and yet show I unto you a more excellent way." 1 Cor.12:31. All special gifts are issued by the Holy Spirit as he so desires. "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God who worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit. For to one is given, by the Spirit, the word of wisdom; to another, the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another, faith by the same Spirit; to another, the gifts of healing, by the same Spirit; To another, the working of miracles; to another, prophecy; to another, discerning of spirits; to another, various kinds of languages; to another, the interpretation of tongues. But all these worketh that one and the very same Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he wills." 1 Cor.12:4-11.

Make special note of this portion of Scripture and study carefully 1 Corinthians chapters 12 through 14. Why do I say that? Because so many false teachers claim that everybody must have the gift of languages or else they are not baptized by the Holy Spirit. First of all they need to read 1 Corinthians chapter 12 and verse 13 very carefully. Then they need to realize that all these special gifts are according to the will of the Holy Spirit. ( 1 Cor.12:11.) Paul the Apostle had many of these gifts and he himself emphasized that he spoke in many languages. He was a gifted linguist. "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all." 1 Cor.14:18. The day of Pentecost was a special time when all the various languages were heard and understood without interpreters. Paul also clarified this tongue issue. "Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue." 1 Cor.14:19.

A very important gift to be desired from the Holy Spirit, as we battle against the evil spirits is the gift of discerning these spirits, which infiltrate into our assemblies. As we come to the close of this mystery age of grace, we are mindful that these evil spirits would even try to deceive the very elect if possible. "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect." Matt.24:24. We need Christian leaders of great courage and convictions, in these last days, who will be defenders of the faith. They must be well established in the knowledge of the Bible, as well as to be willing to be led by the Holy Spirit. God the Holy Spirit is constantly praying in our behalf. (Rom.8:26.) The reading of the Word of God is essential in this battle against the invisible, and we have the Holy Spirit to empower us for this battle through life. "Not by might, nor by power, but my Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts." Zech.4:6b.

### **C. GOD HAS PROVIDED THE NECESSARY ARMOR FOR THE WARFARE**

Preparation in fitness and capability are very necessary before one challenges and opponent, whether it be in sports, or otherwise. One has to understand thoroughly the rules and regulations as well as the tactics of one's opponent. In the warfare which the Christians

find themselves, requires much knowledge of the enemy and how he attacks. Since the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, we must be fully aware and alert to the tactics which we must use. We do not face our enemy with a natural defense, for we would fail every time, to Satan's superior weapons. God has provided ample defence against the wiles of the Devil and as we thoroughly study the Bible, we become prepared to withstand every attack from the evil forces.

Almighty God has not left us helpless to be destroyed by evil, but has provided us with his very own Son to plead our case, and God the Holy Spirit dwells within us, having given us newness of life and wisdom and guidance through this mortal life. The weapons of our warfare are well marked in the Bible, and we want to display these weapons to you, and how they can be best used. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore, take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand." Eph.6:10-13.

#### **Girded with truth, Eph.6:14a.**

"Stand, therefore, having your loins girded about with truth." Eph.6:14a. The belt which the warrior wears is an insignia and holds the sword which is the truth. We are to be girded about with the Word of God as our identification. "For the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb.4:12. Although the sword is not mentioned as part of our armor, it is inferred in the very use of the word "truth". As we use the Word of God against the enemies of our soul we are kept active for the Lord. "Thy Word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." Ps.119:11. We can depend upon God's word to be powerful against our enemies. "Is not my word like fire? saith the Lord; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock to pieces?" Jer.23:29. What greater weapon could we have against these evil forces? The Word of God is one of the most important pieces of our armor as we combat the enemy. "And the Lord shall utter his voice before his army; for his camp is very great; for he is strong who executeth his word; for the day of the Lord is great and very terrible, and who can abide it?" Joel 2:11.,

The Lord Jesus Christ when tempted and tested by Satan depended upon quoting the Word of God, and we need to do the same when the enemy attacks us with great invisible force. The Lord is our spokesman and has been declared by the Spirit to be the Word of God. (Jn.1:1.) The Lord dealt with the evil spirits by his very word. (Matt.8:16.) The evil forces cannot stand against the truth of the Word. The Lord has prayed, "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." Jn.17:17. The girdle and sword are very important in our fight against these wicked forces. It was the Word of God that sustained the early church and the influence of the word of God was rapidly spread to the regions beyond. "So mightily grew the Word of God, and prevailed." Acts 19:20.

Yes, there will be opposition, and even afflictions as we stand upon the truth of God's word. "By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left, by honor and dishonor, by evil report and good report; as deceivers, and yet true." 2 Cor.6:7-8. Regardless of what the world, the flesh and the devil

cast against us, we are ambassadors for Christ and are upheld by the Lord of glory. "Who, being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high," Heb.1:3.

### **The breastplate of righteousness, Eph.6:14 b.**

"Having on the breastplate of righteousness." Eph.6:14b. As the Holy Spirit had the apostle Paul record these truths, concerning the armor of God, he had a very vivid picture of the Roman armor. We have the description of the weapons of our Christian warfare, taken from the armor of the Roman soldier. The breastplate was more than a frontal covering of the chest, but it was a covering for the arms and down over the legs. It was the complete body armor to protect the person in battle. Praise God that we as Christians are clothed in the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ. "For ye are dead, and your life is hidden with Christ in God." Col.3:3. It is no longer our personal righteousness that clothes us, for they are as filthy rags compared to God's righteousness, but we are now clothed upon with the righteousness of the Lord God Almighty. As we fight this battle, we do not claim our own righteousness but are entirely covered by the Son of God and his righteousness. We stand firmly upon the word of God which is our righteousness.

### **Preparation of the Gospel a necessary weapon, Eph.6:15.**

"And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;" Eph.6:15. Taking the gospel into the enemy's camp is not for tenderfoot believers, but for those well established and ready to meet all op-position with the gospel. "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth;" Rom.1:16a. Preaching the gospel is a command from the Lord and not for self glory. "For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of; for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel." 1 Cor. 9:16. The gospel contains the power to overcome the brain washing by Satan among the unregenerate. (2 Cor.4:3-4.) There are many important Scriptures relating to the preaching of the Gospel, but may I just mention a few of these briefly.

#### **1. The gospel freely preached by the disciples.**

"And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans." Acts 8:25. "And when they had preached the gospel to that city, and had taught many, they returned again to Lystra, and to Iconium, and Antioch." Acts 14:21. "And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel and believe." Acts 15:7. "And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel unto them." Acts 16:10,

**2. Testifying to the grace of God through the gospel.**

"But none of these things moved me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God." Acts 20:24.

**3. Called and separated unto the gospel, by the Holy Spirit.**

"Paul a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God." Rom.1:1. "Unto which he called you by our gospel, to the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2 Thess.2:14. "That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit." Rom. 15:16. "For Christ sent me not to baptize but to preach the gospel; not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect." 1 Cor.1:17.

**4. The gospel is to be taken to the regions beyond.**

"Yea, so have I strived to preach the gospel, not where Christ was named, lest I should build upon another man's foundation; But as it is written, To whom he was not spoken of, they shall see; and they that have not heard shall understand." Rom.15:20-21. "To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth." 2 Cor.10:16-18.

**5. The gospel is not to be abused or changed to another gospel.**

For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of; for necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have my reward; but if against my will, a dispensation of the gospel is committed unto me. What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge, that I abuse not my right in the gospel." 1 Cor.9:16-18. "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another; but there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Gal.1:6-8.

**6. The gospel is God's truth and our defense.**

"And because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in secretly to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage; To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you." Gal.2:4-5. "That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ; In whom ye also trusted, after ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also after ye believed, ye were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." Eph.1:12-13. "Some, indeed, preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds; But the other, of love, knowing that I am set for the defense of the gospel."

Phil.1:15-17. "Only let your conduct be as it becometh the gospel of Christ, that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; and in nothing terrified by your adversaries, which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God." Phil 1:27-28.

#### **7. The preaching of the gospel is often with afflictions.**

"For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him but also to suffer for his sake." Phil.1:29. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou, therefore, ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner; but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God." 2 Tim.1:7-8.

#### **The shield of faith. Eph.6:16.**

"Above all, taking the shield of faith, with which ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Eph.6:16. The devil will try to convince you to doubt, especially when you are in the valley of despair, loaded down with trials and tribulations. This is when the shield of faith must be used to the fullest extent. Recall how the Lord brought you through previous trials, as you trusted him, and the fiery darts of Satan will be quenched immediately. Your shield of faith is real and has been thoroughly tested by God to withstand the onslaughts of the evil forces. We have evidence from God's records, how that men of all ages withstood the attack of Satan through faith. "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders received witness. Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear." Heb.11:1-3. "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor.4:18. Our preparations for battle against the evil forces demands a strong faith, never doubting. "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." Jas.1:6-8. This is an invisible battle against these wicked spirits and by faith, we must submit them entirely to God. Nothing that the enemy employs to penetrate the shield of faith will succeed. Let us use it constantly as we meet the enemy of our souls.

#### **The helmet of salvation. Eph.6:17.**

"And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God;" Eph.6:17. Salvation is not something of the future in the Christian's life, but is a present fact. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." Jn.3:16-17. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." Jn.3:36. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and

they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, who gave them to me, is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." Jn.10:27-30. These are strong positive statements directly from the eternal Son of God. This salvation is fully protected by the helmet of God the Holy Spirit who has sealed our salvation, based on his own word. (Eph.1:13.)

## CONCLUSION

As we conclude this phase of our mighty defense against the world, the flesh and the devil, we need not fear the enemies of our souls, if we make full use of God's provisions. The Lord Jesus Christ is our ever present help, and God the Holy Spirit is living within us, to guide and direct us. Both The Lord Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit are both offering our prayer support before God the Father. God has provided a complete armament for the battle that we face in our daily lives. These instruments of warfare are useless if we merely display them on exhibit. The full armor of God must be tested and tried in preparation to meet the enemy at all times. The preaching of the gospel is a great privilege, and never should be practiced for personal gain. "For the love of money is the root of all evil, which, while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things, and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life, unto which thou art also called and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I command thee in the sight of God, who maketh all things alive, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession, That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ; Which in his times he shall show, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see; to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen." 1 Tim.6:10-16. "I, therefore, so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air; But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway (disapproved)." 1 Cor.9:26-27. When the Lord finally beckons us home to gloryland, may we be able to say as the Holy Spirit recorded the Apostle Paul's testimony. "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith; Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." 2 Tim.4:6-8.



### **III. OUR MIGHTY DIVINE DELIVERANCE.**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

As we continue to battle against the wiles of the Devil, God has given us sufficient evidence from the past, of his mighty power to deliver from this satanic world system, the power of the lustful flesh and from the mighty power of the demonic invisible warfare. God has given us these records of the past for our encouragement and defense. God has made every provision possible for us to be defenders of the faith in this present age, and has even given us an insight into the future victory. The whole Bible is necessary for our battle against the evil forces and we consider it in three categories.

- A. THE MIGHTY DELIVERANCE IN THE PAST AGES**
- B. THE MIGHTY DELIVERANCE IN THIS PRESENT AGE**
- C. THE MIGHTY DELIVERANCE IN THE AGES TO COME**

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#### **A. THE MIGHTY DELIVERANCE IN THE PAST AGES**

##### **The rescue of Adam from the clutches of Satan**

God in his omniscience sees the end from the beginning, and as man is created to dwell upon planet earth, God knew the thoughts of Satan who already had made void this earth, and set up his kingdom of darkness upon it. The creation of man was God's way of using his creation to restore his ownership upon the face of the earth. He could have with a single word destroyed the evil forces, but that would never have solved the problem of sin, showing it's ugly head afterwards. God was ready to meet the disobedience of Adam before the foundation of the world. His eternal Son, the Lord Jesus Christ was committed to enter this world through the seed of the woman and become "The Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world." Jn.1:29b. That tremendous Word of God, Genesis 3:15. was the beginning of the count down by God to bring a mighty deliverance and victory for time and eternity! "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." At first it did not seem to have much effect upon the generations of people who followed, with so few, turning to God. However the "Master Plan" was set without any necessary changes.

##### **God's chosen, witnesses among mankind.**

It looked like the generations from Adam were all in the hands of the devil, but God has his remnant and witness, such as Seth and then men began to call upon the Lord. (Gen.4:25-26.) Enoch was a man of God and preached against this ungodliness in the world. He was one of God's early writers. Enoch's message was not accepted by many and the whole human race seemed to be indwelt by the demons and Satan thought he had

destroyed God's plans, but he was badly mistaken, for God had eight faithful souls of the household of Noah.

### **The Messianic lineage of Shem**

As God's "Master Plan" began to unfold, a lineage was chosen among the few remaining survivors of the flood, by the name of Shem. (Gen.11:10-32.) It was from Shem that we got the word "Hebrew" (Eber - Gen.11:14.) The lineage of Abram became the first complete family to be singled out for the coming of the Messiah. The tribe of Judah and the root of Jesse was definitely preserved for the coming Messiah. The Messiah's name was announced, "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isa.7:14. Further detail of this is as follows. "for unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with justice and with righteousness from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this." Isa.9:6-7. "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons." Gal.4:4-5.

### **God's mighty deliverance for his chosen race.**

The past records in the Bible give us ample proof of God's mighty hand in battle, redeeming the time, and protecting his promises. God made a great nation out of the family of Jacob as they spent 430 years in Egypt. Through disobedience, the nation Israel went into captivity many many times, but a remnant was always kept by God. God separated Judah for special training as well as discipline, as 70 years of slavery in Babylon were forthcoming. But God has his anointed servant King Cyrus named many years before he was born to restore Israel to her land. "Who saith of Cyrus, He is my shepherd, and shall perform all my pleasure; even saying to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be built; and to the temple, Thy foundation shall be laid. Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have held, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two-leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut:" Isa.44:28; Isa.45:1. The power of God was manifested all through the Old Testament, sometimes in a very unnoticeable way, and sometimes with great power. Queen Esther was an example of great power, and Ruth was used in a marvelous way to reveal the "Kinsman Redeemer". We will not go into further detail from the Old Testament for there are many examples of God's mighty power, in spite of the hopeless cases which confronted him.

God wonderfully delivered Israel from the hands of the Egyptians and brought them through the wilderness, providing everything that they had need of, and protected them from their surrounding enemies. As Joshua was to lead Israel into the promised land, having crossed the Jordan, he met up with the Divine Captain, sent down from heaven. "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked and, behold, there stood a man over against him with his sword drawn in his hand; and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay, but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to

the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant? And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so," Josh.5:13-15. This could be none other than God himself, coming forth to fight the battles for Israel. We also see in the day of Elisha, how the Lord provided armies to destroy the enemies of Israel. "And when the servant of the man of God was risen early, and gone forth, behold, an host compassed the city, both with horses and chariots. And his servant said unto him, Alas, my master! What shall we do? And he answered, Fear not; for they who are with us are more than they who are with them. And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw; and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha." 2 Ki. 6:15-17.

### **God's mighty deliverance in the New Testament**

Again, we will not go into great detail, but merely mention some of the outstanding ways in which God showed his Divine power. The birth of Jesus was a tremendous fulfillment of Gen.3:15. The substitute of John the Baptist instead of Elijah, coming to herald the King, since God in his omniscience knew that Israel would reject their king. Therefore the kingdom has been postponed, but all according to God's Master plan. The amazing crucifixion, of the Lamb of God who paid the debt for the sins of the whole world was outstanding and only God could provide. The new mystery age of Grace with the birth of the church at Pentecost was superb. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon all people, (Joel 2:28.) provided spiritual birth. The survival of the true church of God under all sorts of persecution, demonstrates the mighty power of God.. The scattering of God's witnesses to the ends of the earth is in fulfillment of the great commission. The revivals which occurred in many lands through evangelism, proves the power of the Gospel. The printing of the Bible in thousands of languages, was accomplished, to the praise and glory of God . God has sent great evangelists, especially in the eighteenth Century, to spread the Gospel among all people, in spite of the many false prophets and religions. Take a good look at church history and you will discover the great battlefield to be conquered for the Lord, by Divine power. The Christians down through almost two thousand years have suffered greatly, to preserve the glorious gospel message for us. Foxes book of Martyrs of the World, printed by Moody Press give us a glimpse as to what Believers have suffered for the cause of Christ. This does not mean that the true church has been forgotten by Almighty God, but rather what the Lord declared would happen. "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world." Jn.17:14.

### **B. THE MIGHTY DELIVERANCE DURING THIS PRESENT LIFE**

Take a good look at the seven churches of Asia Minor and you get a true picture of the church in it's various stages of growth as well as deterioration. These are not only the true immediate types of church assemblies, but also give us a cross section of the churches during this age of grace, from Pentecost until the Rapture. Here are a few things that the Lord pointed out, as to the immediate churches and an insight into the types of churches, during the church age.

1. **The church of Ephesus** = Apostolic early church - They made a true stand against apostasy, but left their first love. 1 A.D. to 316 A.D. (Rev.2:1-7.)
2. **The church of Smyrna** = The church under severe persecution. These believers were driven from their homes and scattered. Their enemies got 10% of their belongings. The devil sought to destroy the church but failed. These suffered under 10 Roman rulers from Nero to Dioclet. There were many martyred Christians until Constantine. 330 A.D. They were promised by the Lord a special crown of life. (Rev.2:8-11.)
3. **The church of Pergamum** = The church that became the religious and political domination in many parts of the world, unto this present day. It is a form of organized religion, taking control for power. They used the Christian name but denied the power. "Having a form of godliness, but denying the power of it; from such turn away." 2 Tim.3:5, Satan uses such religious formalism to deceive. (Rev.2:12-17.)
4. **The church of Thyatira** = This church is the type that depends upon works and worships idols and images and things as part of their service. Those that remain in this false belief will be left when the Rapture takes place and be cast into the great tribulation. The beginning of such a false religious system began in 500 A.D. (Rev.2:18-29.)
5. **The church of Sardis** = The church of the reformation, when Martin Luther, Knox and others revolted against Church/ State religion and preached the word of God. These followers were of mixed beliefs with some who are listed as dead. However those who had great convictions, God could name them and special white robes were made for them at their journey's end. (Rev.3:1-6.)
6. **The church of Philadelphia** = This is the period in this age of grace, when the missionary zeal began, as God set an open door before his missionaries to go to the regions beyond. This period has closed, but the missionary zeal is still prevalent in areas which have been neglected. The Lord shows his great power during this period, with great revivals and missions being established throughout the world. (Rev.3:7-13.)
7. **The church of Laodicea** = This is the final predominant church at the end of the church age, before the Rapture. The organized religion has become wealthy and no longer is in need of trusting the Lord for every need provided. Thus, they depart from the faith and with the ecumenical satanic system, they are welcoming all sorts of religious beliefs into their fellowship. (Rev.3:14-19.) The liberal theology has taken over the controls in many of the denominations. They hope to develop a one world church, allowing all sorts of practices and beliefs.

As you read these short accounts of church history in these two chapters, it was Christ who foretold exactly what would happen during these two thousand years. Satan thinks that he has defeated God's plans, but in no way is this true. The welfare false gospel is spreading rapidly around the world through these ecumenical groups, but God is raising up National Christian leaders to reach their own people with the gospel message. Bible

Institutes are being established in these national lands by the nationals, to the praise and glory of God. They may have to suffer as the Smyrna church has, or they may have great zeal as in the days of the reformation, or be similar to the Philadelphian church, but regardless of the circumstances, a crown of life will be awaiting them. "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 will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." Rev.3:20-22.)

### **C. THE MIGHTY DIVINE DELIVERANCE IN THE AGES TO COME.**

The final outcome of the believer's struggle is in the hands of the Lord. It may seem that the evil forces are winning the battle for the souls of mankind, but on the contrary, they are coming to their final end. Yes it will take over one thousand years of endurance before the devil and his demons come to their final judgement, but God is allowing the evil forces to absolutely fill it's cup of iniquity before he pours out his final wrath. God has clearly set forth his plans, even to the New heavens and the new earth. As I have said before, this planet earth is a testing ground and boot training for the believers of all generations, and we are being chosen out by God for our final positions in eternity. Our position and rewards will be according to our faithfulness to him during this life. We measure so much by time, but God is not limited by time. But the heavens and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and perdition of ungodly men. "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day." 2 Pet.3:7-8.

#### **Final preparations**

God has given us some insight as to what we as believers can expect just before the coming of the Lord to rapture us home. It certainly reveals that this world is not going to get better, but rather will be as a world wide Sodom and Gomorrah. Governments that once up-held many of the principles of the Bible, ignore or deny God's statutes. The enemy of our soul has a strong footing within Christian circles, causing the blind leaders to accept all types of religion. Mankind is tired of war and will surrender to anything that offers a new world order with the promise of peace. Israel, being re-instated as a nation in 1948 has been at war ever since. As her people return to their God given land, they are constantly persecuted. Satan desires to break the eternal covenants of God, regardless of the cost. Nations are turning against Israel for the sake of oil from the Arabic nations. Billions of dollars are being spent to balance the fighting power of the nations in the Middle East. All of this is in preparation for the battles of the Armageddon

#### **The final count down, before the wrath of God**

We have already review the various signs of the time, leading up to the rapture of the true saints of God, so we will not discuss this in detail. In God's time that trumpet will sound and the heavens will open to reveal our Lord Jesus Christ. There will be one of the greatest meetings in the air of all time! All the saints of all ages will come with the Lord

to receive their glorified eternal bodies, and we which are alive and remain shall be changed. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord." 1 Thess.4:16-17. That shout and trumpet will be heard around the world, and all believers will be taken out from the wrath to come. (1 Thess.1:10.)

### **The wrath of God poured out upon planet earth.**

From Revelation chapter six through chapter eighteen, we have a summarized picture of the out pouring of God's wrath upon this planet earth. We have thoroughly discussed this before, and we will but mention a few things concerning God's judgement upon all ungodliness. It will last for seven years, according to Daniel's account, as well as recorded in the Book of Revelation. The first part of this great tribulation will start out with great environmental upheavals. There will be the preaching of the Gospel of the kingdom during these seven years, under great persecution and death. God will provide a place of refuge for the Jews to flee for protection. The youth of the Jews will not flee to the hills but 144,000 of them will preach the gospel of the kingdom. They will be joined with Moses and Elijah and even the angels during the second phase of the tribulation.

The second part of the tribulation will consist of the final three and one half years, which is described as, "The Abomination of Desolation". This has been described by Daniel and the reason for it is found in Revelation chapter nine, when Satan and his angels are forever thrown out of heaven. The battle is described in Revelation chapter twelve, and verses seven through seventeen. All the combined forces of the demoniac world break loose upon this planet earth. This is described by Christ to be the most terrible onslaught of all times. "And the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. When ye, therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place (whosoever readeth, let him understand.) Matt.24:14-15. Praise God, we as believers will be safely gathered together in our heavenly home, but this message is for the tribulation saints that will eventually come out of this terrible tribulation. "And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, Who are these who are arrayed in white robes? And from where did they come? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they who came out of the great tribulation, and have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb." Rev.7:13-14.

### **The great deliverance to come.**

As this great tribulation comes to the end, The Lord himself will come forth from heaven with the armies of heaven, as well as the saints of all ages. God in his mighty power stands alone against all of the armies and demons which Satan could gather. The heavens will open and the Lord himself will descend, riding to victory. (Rev.19:11-21.) By the word of the Lord Jesus Christ, all of these forces gathered together will be destroyed, and Satan and his demons will be thrown into the bottomless pit for the duration of the thousand years. (Rev.20:1-3.)

### **The kingdom of righteousness established.**

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them; and I saw souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and who had not worshiped the beast, neither image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years." Rev.20:4. This will be the kingdom of righteousness about which Christ taught, when upon this earth. Righteousness will be enforced by the Lord with a rod of Iron and great power. All the saints of God will have their glorified bodies and will be sent around the whole world to rule and reign with the Lord in perfect righteousness. There will be millions of children born during this thousand year reign, from those who will be chosen as sheep and will be the earth dwellers during the kingdom age. (Matt.25:31-46.)

### **The last battle to be fought.**

There will be a great increase in the population throughout the world, due to nature being restored, no diseases, and mankind living hundreds of years in perfect health. The original earthly kingdom subjects will be those destined for eternity with God, but their children will either accept Christ as their parents did, or reject him, since they will have a continuation of volition. We know that many will reject the Lord God almighty and will be easy prey for Satan when he is released for a season. Satan and his demons will be set free from the bottomless pit and deceive the nations once again. ( Rev.20:7-10.) Although Satan will have armies in number as the sands of the sea, they will be as nothing when God pours out fire from heaven and devours this great multitude. The two beasts will be cast alive into the lake of fire and be tormented forever and ever.

### **The last of Satan and his demons**

"And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever." Rev.20:10. This will be the end of all satanic power forever, and sin will never show it's ugly head again.

### **The final judgement day.**

"And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away, and there was found no place for them." Rev.20:11. We do not know exactly the time when the earth and the heavens will be burned with fervent heat, but we do know that it will happen. "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat; the earth also, and the works that are in it, shall be burned up." 2 Pet.3:10. The one who will sit upon this great white throne of judgement will be the Lord Jesus Christ. "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son;" Jn.5:22. "And yet if I judge, my judgment is true; for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me." Jn.8:16.

The unregenerate dead of all ages will be raised from the grave and stand before the Son of God, as they behold him they shall fall upon their faces and confess that he is the very God, bending their knees before him. "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father." Phil.2:10-11. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and hades delivered up the dead that were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev.20:12-15. This will be the final judgement to take place after the thousand year kingdom of righteousness, and sin will never appear again, challenging God's perfect righteousness. "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon the holy City, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy." Dan.9:24. What a glorious day that will be when this evil world, the depraved flesh and the devil are forever removed and sealed off somewhere, never to escape, but be in torment forever and ever as a second living death.

### **The eternal glorious age to come**

"But it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit; for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God." 1 Cor.2:9-10. We are by faith waiting upon the Lord to bring to pass all things new, according to his word. "Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, in which dwelleth righteousness." 2 Pet.3:13. This new heavens and new earth has been prophesied and declared, as we have previously studied. The actual description of all things being made new are found in Revelation chapter twenty one and twenty two. Almighty God will dwell with the redeemed mankind forever and ever. All death and sorrow will be forever removed. We in our glorified bodies shall drink of the living waters forever, and enjoy the presence of God for eternity. The Old Testament saints, the Bride of Christ, the Tribulation saints and the kingdom saints will live on forever, glorifying the true and living God. Regardless of the old beauty which we once enjoyed, it will never compare to the new paradise with the shikinah glory of God as we behold the Lord Jesus Christ, face to face. "And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no lamp, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign forever and ever." Rev. 22:4-5.



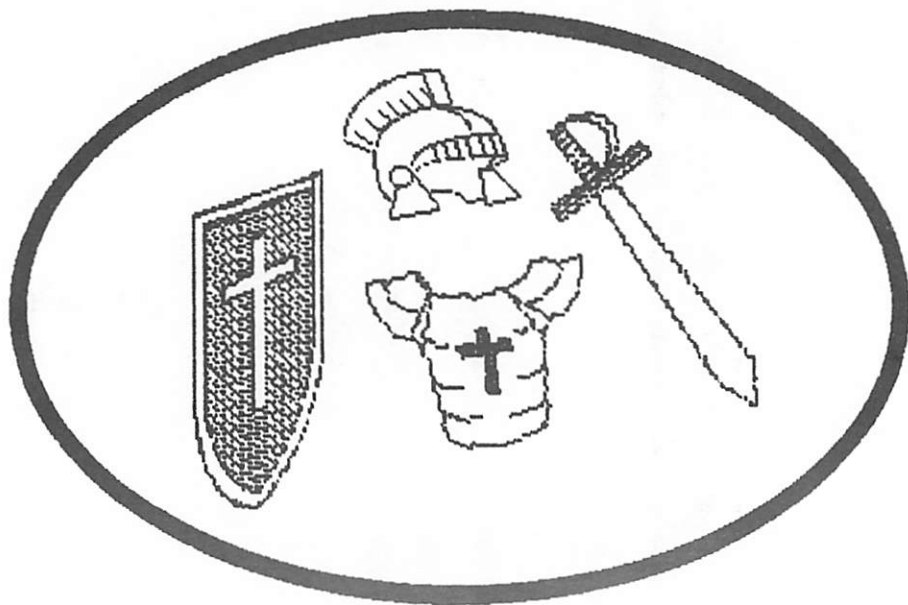
### **CHAPTER THREE QUESTIONS**

- 1. Explain 2 Corinthians 4:3-4.**
- 2. Which do you consider the hardest realm to overcome? The world, the flesh or the devil? Give Scripture.**
- 3. How does Satan operate?**
- 4. Name the three strongholds and system of attack from Satan.**
- 5. What is meant by Satan's demonic power?**
- 6. Name the characteristics of Satan before and after the fall. (Ezek.28; Isa.14.)**
- 7. Does Satan have to give an account of his activities, before God? Give a Scriptural example.**
- 8. When will Satan demonstrate his full power and fury against God? Cite Scripture.**
- 9. Give in brief the activity of the evil forces in past, present and future.**
- 10. Explain which force of Satan will be the most severe. Cite Scripture.**
- 11. Give seven signs, indicating that coming of the Lord to rapture us home is drawing near.**
- 12. Explain briefly the great tribulation.**
- 13. Give three great defenses that the Christians can depend upon.**
- 14. Write briefly on being made alive in Christ Jesus.**
- 15. Explain Romans 8:8-9; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Romans 9:5b; Romans 13:14; 1 Corinthians 15:57; 2 Corinthians 2:14.**
- 16. Why do we need the power of God in this battle against the evil forces?**
- 17. How does God the Holy Spirit help in our defense?**
- 18. Why are special gifts given to some believers and seem to lack in others?**
- 19. Explain briefly each piece of armor for Christians to be used in defending the faith.**
- 20. What help is the whole Bible to us in defending the faith?**
- 21. Name some of God's early witnesses.**

- 22. What was the purpose of specially mentioning Shem in the lineage of the sons of Noah?**
- 23. Write a brief essay on God's mighty power in the Old Testament.**
- 24. Name some of the mighty deliverance by God in the New Testament.**
- 25. Give a brief survey of the final preparations for the final onslaught of Satan.**
- 26. Write a brief essay on the final count down before the wrath of God is poured out during the great tribulation.**
- 27. Write a brief essay on the wrath of God, recorded in the Book of Revelation.**
- 28. What is the final test that God requires during the kingdom age?**
- 29. Explain the final Divine deliverance that is recorded in the Bible?**
- 30. When and where will all of the unregenerate finally bow their knee before the Lord Jesus Christ according to Philippians 2:9-11?**

## Chapter 4

# The Weapons of our Warfare



## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **THE WEAPONS OF OUR WARFARE**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

It is very important that the Christian understands the weapons which we are to use against the world, the flesh and the devil. It is also imperative that we know how to use these weapons which the Lord has provided for us as we continually face the enemies of our soul. The Lord has fully warned us that the world system will hate us as it did him, while he spent his few years upon this earth. "I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." Jn.17:14-17.

- I. THE WEAPONS ARE NOT CARNAL.**
    - A. SPIRITUAL REALM**
    - B. INVISIBLE WEAPONS**
    - C. INVISIBLE ENEMY**
  - II. MIGHTY THROUGH GOD**
    - A. HEAVENLY RESOURCES**
    - B. SUPERIOR FORCES**
    - C. VICTORY ASSURED**
  - III. THE POWERFUL SPIRITUAL REALM**
    - A. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**
    - B. THE UNITY OF GOD**
    - C. THE AUTHORITY OF GOD**
-

## **I. THE WEAPONS ARE NOT CARNAL**

### **A. THE SPIRITUAL REALM**

"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds, Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;" 2 Cor.10:3-5. Our method of warfare with the adversaries is entirely different from the way the people of this world deal with their problems. Carnality exalts self and has strange imaginations, not based upon the word of God. When believers are carnal Christians, they try to fight the battles and problems in their own strength and become utter failures. The laws of God are spiritual and Christ became the fulfillment of the law, because we were sold under sin. "For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I understand not; for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If, then, I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now, then, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me." Rom.7:14-17. So, if we are desiring help from God to fight the good fight of faith, we must allow our new nature to be under the mighty power of God and let him have the predominant control of our lives.

#### **Carnality is Enmity against God.**

"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed, can be. So, then, they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Rom.8:5-9. The gospel which we preach, and when accepted by the hearers, takes the believer into the spiritual realm, where God has provided a full defense for their protection and faith. "If we have sown unto you spiritual things, is it a great thing if we shall reap your carnal things?" 1 Cor.9:11. Carnality in the Christians is enmity against God, and one who practices such is an easy prey before the wicked forces of this life. This does not mean that we are entirely free from this carnal life, for there are necessities in the material realm for our sustenance. We have a good example of the necessity of material things mentioned in the Bible. "For it hath pleased them of Macedonia and Achaia to make a certain contribution for the poor saints who are at Jerusalem. It hath pleased them, verily; and their debtors they are. For if the Gentiles have been made partakers of their spiritual things, their duty is also to minister unto them in carnal things." Rom.15:26-17.

#### **Carnality is an indication of being as a babe in Christ**

Indications of carnality in the Christian is their overall attitude, one toward another, as well as a sign of immaturity in the believer. "And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with solid food; for to this time ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. For ye are carnal; for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions,

are ye not carnal, and walk as men? For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? " 1 Cor.3:1-4. Strife, envy, divisions, and jealousy, in many of the Christian assemblies, is not this a sign of carnality? As long as this continues, you become an easy prey for Satan to destroy your testimony and witness for the Lord. In defending the faith, make sure that you do not offend the faithful!

## **B. THE INVISIBLE WEAPONS**

### **Spiritual Weapons are of utmost important**

In this warfare against all evil on planet earth, we need to recognize that the enemy is spiritual wickedness and must be confronted with spiritual weapons. Being born of the Holy Spirit, we are thoroughly equipped to fight the good fight of faith. The spiritual gifts which we receive from the Holy Spirit are to establish us and to give us confidence in the battle to maintain God's righteousness. As we have knowledge of the word of God, we also are able to share this knowledge with one another and be established in spiritual power. "For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gift, to the end ye may be established." Rom.1:11. The spirit of this world is but a passing event and usually based upon carnal things, but we who are grounded in the word of God, impart spiritual things with each other. "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Spirit teacheth, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God; for they are foolishness unto him, neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.:" 1 Cor.2:12-16. God the Holy Spirit is willing to impart to every believer sufficient spiritual gifts, so that the wiles of the devil will not penetrate or confuse. There are always untaught Christians who are seeking special gifts of their own liking, rather than what the Holy Spirit wills for them, and this brings confusion and false teaching. One of the greatest gifts that we could desire is the gift of spiritual discernment. This is a great asset to the established believer in helping to restore a weak saint of God. "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye who are spiritual restore such a one in the spirit of meekness, considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. If any man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself. But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another. For every man shall bear his own burden. Let him that is taught in the word share with him that teacheth in all good things." Gal.6:1-6.

### **God's Word reveals the Invisible Weapons of our Warfare**

These spiritual weapons are available to all Christians and are clearly identified in the Word of God. Every believer has been blessed with all spiritual blessings, but to the majority of believers, they are rarely used. These blessings are available through our heavenly Father. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Eph.1:3. There is no

excuse whatsoever, for the believer not to be able to defend himself against the evil forces. It is important that we as Christians uphold one another in prayer to this extent, desiring that our fellow believer makes full use of these spiritual weapons available for the battle. "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God; strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness;" Col.1:9-11.

### **Invisible Weapons**

1. **God the Holy Spirit dwelling within the believer Jn.14:16-17; Jn.14:26; Jn.16:7-11.**
2. **The spiritual gifts from God the Holy Spirit 1 Cor.12,13, & 14.**
3. **The truth of God is our mighty weapon Eph.6:14.**
4. **God has covered us with his righteousness Eph.6:14; Rom.5:17-18.**
5. **Our battle guarantees peace through the Gospel Eph.6:15.**
6. **Our faith quenches the fiery darts of the wicked Eph.6:16.**
7. **The sword of the Spirit is sharper than all Eph.6:17; Heb.4:12.**
8. **The combined prayers of God the Son and God the Holy Spirit Jn.17:15-22; Rom.8:26; 1 Jn.2:1-2.**
9. **Keeping in fellowship with the Godhead. 1 Jn.1:7-9.**

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### **C. THE INVISIBLE ENEMY**

#### **Testing every spirit**

Our battle in this Christian life is primarily invisible, even though the enemy of our souls uses the tangible materials. This occurred in the garden of Eden as Satan indwelt one of the most beautiful animals in the garden, and deceived Eve. Since our weapons of warfare are spiritual, so we must try every spirit that we come in contact with, to discern whether it is of God or of the evil forces. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. By this know ye the Spirit of God; every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God; And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; and this is that spirit of antichrist, of which ye have heard that it should come, even now already is it in the world. Ye are of God, little children, and have

overcome them, because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world. They are of the world; therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. We are of God. He that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. By this know we the spirit of truth, and the spirit of error." 1 Jn.4:1-6.

In this spiritual war with the evil, we need to constantly try our ways of battle. "Let us search and test our ways, and turn again to the Lord. Let us lift up our heart with our hands unto God in the heavens." Lam.3:40. This does not mean that we lift up our hands in despair, but rather we lift up our hands to the Lord, from whence cometh our help. "Behold, the eye of the Lord is upon those that fear him, upon those who hope in his mercy, To deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine. Our soul waiteth for the Lord; he is our help and shield." Ps.33:18-20. Without the divine help, we could never defeat the enemies of our soul. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will we not fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;" Ps.46:1-2.

### **Contentment in the Lord gives Victory**

As we face the enemy, we need to constantly remind ourselves that the Lord is our ever present help. This spiritual warfare is mainly behind the scenes, desiring to cause distress, so that we take our eyes off of the source of our help. "Let your manner of life be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have; for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." Heb.13:5-6. Yes, there will be fiery trials which come your way as a Christian, but we must learn to lean heavily upon that inward strength which comes from the Lord, rather than depending upon sedatives. "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to test you, as though some strange thing happened unto you, But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings, that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you; on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified." 1 Pet.4:12-14.

### **Ways in which the enemy attacks Christians**

1. **Getting them to conform to the world's image Rom.12:2.**
2. **Sending false spirits to deceive them 1 Jn.4:1-6.**
3. **Coming as wolves in sheep's clothing Matt.10:16; Acts 20:29; Matt.7:15.**
4. **Coming as an angel of light 2 Cor.11:14-15.**
5. **False ministers, teaching liberal theology 2 Cor.11:13-15.**
6. **Evil spirits sent to harass believers, since they cannot possess them 1 Cor.12:13; Eph.1:13.**
7. **Christians out of fellowship become easy prey. 1 Pet.5:6-9.**



## **8. Babes in Christ with little knowledge of the word of God. 1 Cor.3:1-3.**

### **The Invisible Enemy**

As we conclude this very important issue, we must be aware of the subtle attacks of Satan upon Christians. One of his great temptations is getting the believers involved with worldly affairs, and deprive them of a complete study of the Bible. Satan's great question is always similar to the question that Eve was asked, "Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden"? Gen.3:1b. It is an interesting factor that Satan does not deny the existence of God, but rather dwells on the interpretation of what God has said. He doesn't mind these liberal theologians splitting hairs over what the Bible says, as long as he can keep them occupied with insignificant and trivial matters. Remember that there are billions of demons commuting between heaven and this earth and we would never be a match for Satan's deceit and counterfeits. We need to be thorough Bible students to withstand these fiery darts of the devil. God has given us sufficient resources to stand against the devil as he often will use his children of darkness to take the Scripture out of context. The world and the flesh are both used by Satan to deceive and corrupt the Christian's testimony. We need to hide God's word in our hearts that we might not sin against the Lord. If you have physical weaknesses, he will try to keep your attention on these, so that you are distracted from the promises of God. "Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." Jude 24-25.

## **II. MIGHTY THROUGH GOD**

Since this warfare is of an invisible status, we are very dependent upon Almighty God to bring victory. We as Christians are dealing with a very subtle enemy who uses all the resources possible against us with great deception. However, we do not retreat from these wicked forces, as you will recall, the armor which God has provided does not cover the back. We are to face the enemy, claiming the promises of God, who is sovereign over all. The Lord Jesus Christ has conquered sin and death and is our ever present help. "Who, being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high." Heb.1:3. Since the Lord himself is seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high and has made possible our new birth, he certainly will make available all the heavenly resources in this battle against evil.

### **A. HEAVENLY RESOURCES**

When we consider that we have already been blessed with all spiritual blessings, in heavenly places, (Eph.1:3.) we need not fear the world, the flesh and the devil. We must use these heavenly resources, rather than depend upon our personal determinations to withstand these powerful evil forces. It takes the very wisdom of God to combat these wicked powers in this world. The Lord Jesus Christ has made possible for us to come into the very holy of holies with our petitions. God knows all about our encounters with the

ungodly and is always ready to give us sufficient wisdom to withstand every temptation. "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord. A double-minded man is unstable in all his ways." Jas.1:5-8. As long as we depend upon help from above, the Lord knows all about the battle that is waging here on earth and is now our main resource in heaven. "And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loveth us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us a kingdom of priests unto God and his Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." Rev.1:5-6.

The Lord Jesus Christ has great concern for us as we face the world, the flesh and the devil. God the Father hears and answers the requests of his eternal Son, because he is well pleasing in his sight. "While he yet spake, behold a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Matt.17:5. The Lord is our Advocate before the Father and is constantly pleading for us. As has previously been mentioned, the devil accuses us day and night before God the Father. ( Rev.12:10.) But praise God, our resources in heaven through the Lord Jesus Christ are sufficient to cope with our adversary the devil. (1 Jn.2:1.)

God the Holy Spirit who is also dwelling in heaven is also dwelling within us giving us sufficient strength to overcome the evil forces. "Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord." Zech.4:6b. We also depend upon the Holy Spirit's heavenly prayers as a great heavenly resource. (Rom.8:14.) The demons are constantly confronted with the Holy Spirit and are unable to indwell the Christians, which is great comfort to us from the Comforter.

These resources are certainly sufficient to withstand the enemy, but God has also sent special ministering angels to every believer, protecting and ministering to those who are heirs of salvation. These angels have been sent forth from heaven to us, as an added protection. "But to which of the angels said he at any time, Sit on my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool? Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" Heb.1:13-14.

## **B. SUPERIOR FORCES**

As powerful as Satan may be, and we know that he is very powerful, the heavenly resources of ours as Christians, is far superior to all the evil forces combined. The Lord Jesus Christ who is our Redeemer, is the Creator of both heaven and earth. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made." Jn.1:1-3. "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and in-visible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers; all things were created by him, and for him." Col.1:16. There is nothing or no power greater than what we have in Christ Jesus. All judgments are placed in his hands. "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son;" Jn.5:22. "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory; And before him shall be gathered all

nations: and he shall separate them, one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats." Matt.25:31-32.

The Lord has fully equipped us for the battle against the world, the flesh and the devil, both with superior heavenly resources and with God the Holy Spirit, dwelling within us. "Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he that is within you, than he that is in the world." 1 Jn.4:4. Let us take great courage and trusting faith in God's superior resources, as we press on toward victory.

### **C. VICTORY ASSURED**

Our warfare is not carnal, but mighty through God and all of the strongholds of Satan will be pulled down and destroyed. The plan of God is complete and never will have to be changed, or altered. "Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begot he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of first fruits of his creatures." Jas.1:16-18. Victory is assured and praise God, we are sealed forever by God the Holy Spirit. We are reminded that this victory is not for personal glory or because of our effort, but mighty through God to the defeat of Satan. "For whatever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 Jn.5:4-5. "But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord." 1 Cor.15:57-58. "Watch, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." 1 Cor.15:13. The task is great, but our God is greater and has promised us victory. "And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap if we faint not." Gal.6:9. Victory is ours in the Lord Jesus Christ who has conquered sin and death. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that he, by the grace of God, should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all one, for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee." Heb.2:9-12.

#### **Eternal victory in the Lord Jesus Christ**

Regardless of the constant attacks by the world, the flesh and the devil, we are safely secured in the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit has given us a new birth, (Jn.3:5.) We are identified by birth and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. (1 Cor.12:13; Jn.14:16-17.) We are eternally sealed by God the Holy Spirit. (Eph.1:13.) We are securely held by God the Son and God the Father. (Jn.10:27-30.) "Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? Shall God that justifieth? Who is he that condemneth? Shall Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us? What shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these

things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord." Rom.8:33-39.

### **The great "Air Lift" promised**

We have but a slight view and record in the Bible of this great "Air lift" into outer space, being brought into the very presence of God. It was heralded by the two men in white apparel. "And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Who also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into head-en." Acts 1:10-11. The Lord himself had told the disciples that he would come again. "Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there ye may be also. And where I go ye know, and the way ye know. Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not where thou goest; and how can we know the way? Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jn.14:1-6. This great event will be the rapture of the saints of God, going home to glory in their glorified and eternal bodies.

The saints of all ages have been waiting for this grand reunion in the heavenlies, and the Lord Jesus Christ is the only one who can make it possible. There are many signs of the times that point to that great event, which makes it imminent. Victory has been promised to us, and the battle is the Lord's. That trumpet of God will sound and Michael the archangel will give forth a shout that will be heard throughout the heavens and around the earth. "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them who are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also who sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not precede them who are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore, comfort one another with these words." 1 Thess.4:13-18. "Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor.15:51-57. This should cause each of us as Christians to fight the good fight of faith, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds." 2 Cor.10:4.

### **III. THE POWERFUL SPIRITUAL REALM**

The mighty acts of God have been manifested in ages past and that omnipotence shall continue forever. "The fool has said in his heart, there is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good." Ps.14:1 "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth his handiwork." Ps.19:1. "Why do the nations rage, and the peoples imagine a vain thing? The kings of earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the Lord, and against his anointed, saying, Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He who sitteth in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall he speak unto them in his wrath, and vex them in his great displeasure. Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree: The Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the nations for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel. Be wise now, therefore, O ye kings; be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice with trembling. Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish from the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed are all they who put their trust in him." Ps.2:1-12.

#### **A. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

#### **B. THE UNITY OF GOD**

#### **C. THE AUTHORITY OF GOD**

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#### **A. THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD**

The history of mankind is "His Story", regardless of the enemies of God. God is in no way limited to time, because he is from everlasting in the past and to everlasting forever! God knows the end of all things in this period of time, from the very beginning of time. There is nothing hidden from God, and he will always be sovereign over his eternal domain. Every thought and deed of God's enemies, is known to God, even before they are schemed and planned by the wicked forces. In this warfare which we find ourselves, we would be helpless and disabled to withstand the evil forces, but God has placed the believers in a special category, with complete provision and protection against all of these powers of darkness.

The prophets of old were given special revelations, and sometimes they were given the final results, by giving the details leading up to the final victory. Others were limited to the immediate events that will follow in their day. Daniel was given the complete history of the nations to come, not knowing all of the detail, but having the key to the final Book of Revelation. God, through Daniel's prayer and other fellow believers, revealed to Daniel amazing events, down the corridor of time. "Then was the secret revealed unto Daniel in a night vision. Then Daniel blessed the God of heaven. Daniel answered and said, Blessed

be the name of God forever and ever; for wisdom and might are his, And he changeth the times and the seasons; he removeth kings, and setteth up kings; he giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to those who know understanding; He revealeth the deep and secret things; he knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with him. I thank thee, and praise thee, O thou God of my fathers, who hast given me wisdom and might, and hast made known unto me now what we desire of thee; for thou hast now made known unto us the king's matter." Dan.2:19-23. Note that Daniel and his fellow believers united together in joint prayer, and he gave credit to all for their part in this great revelation.

### **God's "Master Plan" sustained**

As we search out the wonder working power of God, which has been revealed to us in the Bible, we are amazed at it's accuracy. To us, as mortal beings, it looks hopeless at times, but in the fullness of time, the plan of God remains. It is marvelous that we of the family of God, can claim the promises of God, which never change. God is the same, yesterday, today and forever. We sometimes wish that the Lord would hurry up and deliver us out from the presence of sin and the ungodly, but as the word says, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Pet.3:9. I am certainly glad that the Lord waited till I was born again, and became a partaker of his eternal kingdom of righteousness. Daniel made a significant statement to Belshazzar, concerning the hand writing on the wall. "The Most High God ruled in the kingdom of men, and that appointeth over it whomsoever he will." Dan.5:21b. There is nothing that can remove the perfect plan of God from coming to pass! Down through the ages, Satan has tried his best to thwart the cause of Almighty God, but all to no avail. God will have the final word, though all the evil forces try to prevail against him.

### **The Lord God Almighty shall reign forever**

The song of Moses is a good example of the mighty power of God. "Then sang Moses and the children of Israel this song unto the Lord, and spoke, saying, I will sing unto the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation; he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name.....The Lord shall reign forever and ever." Ex.15:1-18. During the tribulation a song of Moses will be sung by the tribulation saints who will get the victory over the beast. "And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee. O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy; for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest." Rev.15:3-4. There will also be a great song from the 144,000 who will be God's witnesses during the tribulation. "And they sang, as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four living creatures and the elders; and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, who were redeemed from the earth." Rev.14:3. We of the redeemed, during this age of grace, will also have our own song of praise, to the King of kings and Lord of lords. "And they sang a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us

to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And has made us unto our God a kingdom of priests, and we shall reign on the earth." Rev.5:9-10. There will also be great voices from heaven pronouncing the coming of the eternal reign of God. "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." Rev.11:15.

The kingdoms of this world are in the hands of Satan as the great usurper, but the Lord reminded us, "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now is my kingdom not from here." Jn.18:36. That is why we are admonished, not to be conformed to this world's system. (Rom.12:2.) This is another indication of our warfare being against these wicked principalities and powers. Eph.6:12. Satan tried his best to have Christ accept these kingdoms, by just bowing down and worshipping him, but failed. (Matt.4:8-10.)

It may look as if Satan has everything going his way, but on the contrary, he is becoming more desperate as his time, as a roaring lion, going to and fro upon the face of this earth is drawing to a close. "Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen." 1 Pet.5:8-11.

When the Lord comes to set up his kingdom, he will establish it by his own power. The Lord is not frustrated or in a hurry to accomplish his Master plan. "And I saw heaven opened and, behold, a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in his righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood; and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies that were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations, and he shall rule them with a rod of iron; and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords." Rev.19:11-16.

"The Lord reigneth; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof." Ps.97:1; "The Lord reigneth; let the peoples tremble. He sitteth between the cherubim; let the earth be moved." Ps.99:1. "Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in justice." Isa.32:1; We patiently wait for that great day when the Lord will have removed sin forever and bring in everlasting righteousness. "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy." Dan.24. "And there shall be no night there; and they need no lamp, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign forever and ever." Rev.22:5.

## **B. THE UNITY OF GOD**

### **Old Testament Evidence**

One of the outstanding verses of Scripture in the Old Testament to show the singular and plural Triune Godhead is Deut.6:4. "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God is one Lord." In this single verse we have both the singular use of God and the plural, and they are all three one supreme God. The creation of the heavens and the earth, we are aware who created these things according to John 1:1-2. Then in Genesis chapter one verse two we read, "And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." There are many indications in the Old Testament of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. One of the earliest indications of a unified plural God is Genesis 1:26. "And God said, Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth." A definite reference to God the Holy Spirit is found in Genesis 6:3. "And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh; yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years."

There is a very special portion of God's word, referring to God in three persons. Abraham was sitting by the door way of his tent, when he looked up and supposedly saw three men approaching. "And the Lord appeared unto him by the oaks of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, lo, THREE MEN stood by him: and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, and said, MY LORD, if now I have found favor in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant. Let a little water, I pray you, be fetched, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree." Gen.18:1-4. This is a very special revelation of the Triune God, for Abraham would only bow before the living God and never before men. May we also see the unity of the three, and also say as Abraham said, "My Lord".

In Psalm two we note that a reference is made to the Lord and his Anointed. " Ps.2:2. We also have reference to the one who is to come to this earth as the Redeemer, who is the very God. "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, THE MIGHTY GOD, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace." Isa.9:6.

There is a very important revelation, given to a Gentile king called Nebuchadnezzar, when Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, were thrown into the fiery furnace. "And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar, the king, was astounded, and rose up in haste, and spoke, and said unto his counselors, Did not we cast three men, bound, into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True, O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like a son of the gods." Dan.3:23-25. The Old Testament has sufficient evidence of the Triune God and in perfect unity.

### **The Branch**

This is a very special term used in the Old Testament, referring to the Lord Jesus Christ in his hypostatical union with man. "In that day shall the Branch of the Lord be



beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and splendid for those who are escaped of Israel" Isa.4:2. This reference refers to the return of Christ in all of his glory, when Israel is restored to her full fellowship with God. "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of glory." Matt.25:31. "And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord." Isa.11:1-2. As you read on in this passage it is obvious that this will take place when the Lord sets up his kingdom of righteousness. This will be the eternal King of the Branch of David. "Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the earth." Jer.23:5. "In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness to grow up unto David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land." Jer.33:15. This is a clear revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ as the second person of the Trinity. "Hear now, O Joshua, the high priest, thou, and thy fellows who sit before thee; for they are men wondered at; for, behold, I will bring forth my servant the BRANCH. For, behold, the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes; behold, I will engrave the engraving of it, saith the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of the land in one day. In that day, saith the Lord of hosts, shall ye call every man his neighbor under the vine and under the fig tree." Zech.3:8-10. "And speak unto him, saying, Thus speaketh the Lord of hosts: saying, Behold, the man whose name is THE BRANCH; and he shall grow up out of his place, and he shall build the temple of the Lord; Even he shall build the temple of the Lord; and he shall bear the glory, and shall sit and rule upon the throne; and he shall be a priest upon the throne; and the counsel of peace shall be between them both." Zech.6:12-13. These are certainly interesting and important references to the Lord Jesus Christ, of whom Daniel calls the STONE. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that THE STONE was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter; and the dream is certain, and the interpretation of it is sure." Dan.2:44-45.

The Old Testament reference to THE STONE is of great importance and is thoroughly referred to in the New Testament, as we shall see. "Open to me the gates of righteousness; I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord, This gate of the Lord, into which the righteous shall enter. I will praise thee; for thou hast heard me, and art become my salvation. THE STONE which the builders refused is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." Ps.118:19-23. This STONE is very important in the prophetic realm, for it is not only to some a stone of offense, but to others it is A ROCK of defense. "And he shall be for a sanctuary; but for a STONE of stumbling and for A ROCK of offense to both the houses of Israel, for a trap and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem." Isa.8:14. "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all peoples round about, when they shall be in siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a BURDENSOME STONE for all peoples; all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all nations of the earth be gathered together against it." Zech.12:2-3. Regardless of what the nations

legislate against God's people Israel, that **STONE** shall grind them to powder! "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation A **STONE**, a **TESTED STONE**, A **PRECIOUS CORNERSTONE**, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste. Justice also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet; and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place." Isa.28:16-17.

### **The New Testament Declaration "The Stone"**

There are two important factors revealed in the Old Testament in connection to the Son of God who shall come and rule upon this earth. He is called both **THE STONE**, and **THE KING PRIEST**. "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the Scriptures, **THE STONE** which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner; this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth fruits of it. And whosoever shall fall on **THIS STONE** shall be broken, but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Matt.21:42-44. This revelation from the Old Testament is confirmed by the Lord Jesus Christ in this passage and the other Gospels, which is a definite reference to himself. This **STONE** is a stumbling block to Israel and offensive to them. They would not accept a Messiah who would first of all be the sacrifice as well as the sacrificer. They failed to accept what is written in Psalm 22 and Isaiah 53, and to this day they will not accept such a Messiah. The builders of Israel rejected God the Father's Eternal Son as their corner Stone.

When Christ answered Peter's declaration, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." Then the Lord Jesus Christ answered him, "Upon this **ROCK** I will build my church, and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it." (Matt.16:16-18.) Since the day of Pentecost the true church of God has as the foundation, **THE ROCK** Christ Jesus. Christ is both the foundational **STONE** and the Head of the corner. "For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." 1 Cor.3:11; "And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner **STONE**, In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; In whom also ye are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph.2:20-22. Then the Holy Spirit continues this revelation through Peter. "To whom, coming as unto a **LIVING STONE**, disallowed indeed of men but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a **CHIEF CORNERSTONE**, elect, precious; and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you, therefore, who believe he is precious, but unto them who are disobedient, **THE STONE** which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a **STONE** of stumbling. and a **ROCK** of offense, even to them who stumble at the word being disobedient; whereunto also they were appointed." 1 Pet.2:4-8.

We have already seen from the revelation in the Book of Daniel, that this same **STONE** will crush all of the Gentile Empires. (Dan.2:34; Rev.16:13-16; Rev.19:11-21.) The leaders of Israel from the offering of the Messiah to them in person, until this present day, they have stumbled and faltered over the issue of the Messiah, and have been punished for

their rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and eventually will be extremely punished during the tribulation. The church is built upon this solid rock, and the Gentile nations which have also rejected Christ, will be crushed to a fine powder. God the Father and God the Holy Spirit are unified in this great position of the Lord Jesus Christ as the solid rock, foundation and corner stone.

### **Christ the King / Priest.**

According to the Levitical law, it would be impossible for one to be both king and priest, unless that one was both of Judah and the Levitical lineage. However the Lord Jesus Christ is of the tribe of Judah in his kingly position, and not of Levi. God never breaks his laws, and so there must be some other identification recorded to give the Lord the right to be both King and High Priest. "And Melchizedek, king of Salem, brought forth bread and wine; and he was the priest of the most high God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth; And blessed be the most high God, who hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And gave him tithes of all." Gen.14:18-20. Abram gave tithes to Melchizedek of that which he recovered from the kings which attacked Sodom and took Lot and his family captive. "For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins;.....So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest, but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, today have I begotten thee. As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek;.....And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him, called of God an high priest after the order of Melchizedek." Heb.5:1-10. "For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him, To whom also Abraham gave a tenth of all; first being, by interpretation, King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like unto the Son of God, abideth a priest continually. .... And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, paid tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchizedek met him. If, therefore, perfection were by Levitical priesthood (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchizedek, and not be called after the order of Aaron?....And it is yet far more evident; for after the similitude of Melchizedek there ariseth another priest, Who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment but after the power of an endless life. For he testifieth, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek.....(For those priests were made without an oath, but this with an oath by him that said unto him. The Lord swore and will not repent, Thou art a priest forever after the order of Melchizedek), By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament." Heb.7:1-22.

### **The United Trinity**

It is very important that we use every reference to the Old Testament, as we study the New Testament, for by so doing, we discovered the importance as in the case of Melchizedek. We have discovered that both God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are clearly mentioned in the Old Testament. God the Holy Spirit mentioned some 86 times. in

the Old testament and he is mentioned continually in the New Testament. The voice of God the Father and the descending of God the Holy Spirit upon Jesus as he was being baptized by John are very important. "And John bore witness, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and he abode upon him. And I knew him not; but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he who baptizeth with the Holy Spirit. And I saw, and bore witness that this is the Son of God." Jn.1:32-34. "And Jesus when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water; and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him. And, lo, a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Matt.3:16-17. We have another very important event that took place during Christ's earthly ministry. "And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John, his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain privately, And was transfigured before them; and his face did shine like the sun, and his raiment was as white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elijah talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here; if thou wilt, let us make here three booths; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah. While he yet spoke, behold a bright cloud overshadowed them; and, behold, a voice out of the cloud, which said, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Matt.17:1-5.

If ever there is one particular verse that contains the Trinity it is as follows. "But the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said unto you." Jn.14:26. This is as a result of Christ's prayer. "And I pray the father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Jn.14:16-17. Christ's whole life was in a submissive will of the Father, and led by the Holy Spirit. The unity of the Triune God is also seen as the Lord speaks to the people. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, who gave them to me, is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." Jn.10:27-30.

As the Lord Jesus Christ prayed to the Father, just before he went to the cross, we again can see the perfect harmony in the Godhead. "These words spoke Jesus, and lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, Father, the hour is come; glorify thy Son, that thy Son also may glorify thee." Jn.17:1. Then as the Lord is about to die on the cross, he cries out to the Father, "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, he said, Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit, and having said this, he gave up the Spirit." Lk.23:46.

The unity of the Godhead is clearly referred to in the Scripture and we should have no doubt in our minds with the "Master Plan" of God. God the Father planned so great a salvation, God the Son, provided for this eternal salvation, and God the Holy Spirit proves this eternal life, through the new birth. In unity there is strength, and we have been united in Christ, with victory accomplished by Christ. Search out in the New Testament the mighty power of Christ that God the Father has made possible in and through the believers. That great power of the Lord will be manifested when he returns to set up his kingdom. "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven; and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power

and great glory. And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." Matt.24:30-31.

### **C. AUTHORITY OF GOD**

We are reminded from the Scripture that the Father has placed in the hands of his eternal Son, all authority and power. "And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Matt.28:18. We as believers will stand before the judgement seat of Christ, to receive the rewards for faithful service, or see our self glorifying good works burned with fire, as wood, hay, and stubble. "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son. That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father, who hath sent him." Jn.5:22-23. "Concerning his Son, Jesus Christ our lord, who was made of the seed of David according to the flesh, And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." Rom.1:3-4 "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:33. The authority and power was established in Christ Jesus. "But unto them who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." 1 Cor.1:24.

This power of the Lord Jesus Christ has become our newness of life. "And what is the exceeding greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power. Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in that which is to come; And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all." Eph.1:19-23. We as believers are complete in the Lord Jesus Christ, to whom God the Father gave all power for time and eternity

#### **In Christ we have the fullness of the Godhead**

God's immutable plans of all ages are absolutely flawless and never have to be altered or changed. They are based upon the character of the Triune God and are all inclusive. Our finite minds cannot comprehend the depth of the riches that we have inherited in Christ Jesus. "For in him dwelleth all of the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him who is the head of all principality and power;" Col.2:9-10. We are not alone in this battle against evil forces, but Almighty God is our ever present help. All authority rests in our Sovereign God! Our old manner of life should be replaced by our new creation in Christ Jesus. "That ye put off concerning the former manner of life the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness." Eph.4:22-24. "Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, unto which thou art also called and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. I command thee in the sight of God, who maketh all things alive, and before Christ Jesus, who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession, That thou keep this commandment without spot, unrebukable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ; Who only hath

immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see; to whom be honor and power everlasting. Amen." 1 Tim.6:12-16.

## CONCLUSION

As we conclude this discussion on the powerful spiritual realm in which we are partakers, make full use of this spiritual power against the foes of God. We must depend upon God's every provision, as we continue this invisible fight against the kingdom of darkness. "Thou, therefore, endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life, that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier." 2 Tim.2:3-4. "I charge thee, therefore, before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the living and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the word; be diligent in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with long-suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine but, after their own lusts, shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry." 2 Tim.4:1-5. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men. Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present age, Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior, Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a people of his own, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee." Tit.2:11-15.

As the evil forces of the universe come closer to their final clash with Almighty God, they will become more desperate, especially with the household of faith. Fellow believers, use every source that God has provided to fight this good fight of faith. As you go forth among those whom the Lord has made you responsible, "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, showing all meekness unto all men. For we ourselves also were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another. But after the kindness and love of God, our Savior, toward man appeared, Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Spirit, Which he shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ, our Savior. That, being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Tit.3:1-7. Remember, as you go forth with the Word of God, that you are not alone. "Go ye, therefore, and teaching all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen." Matt. 28:19-20.

## CHAPTER FOUR QUESTIONS

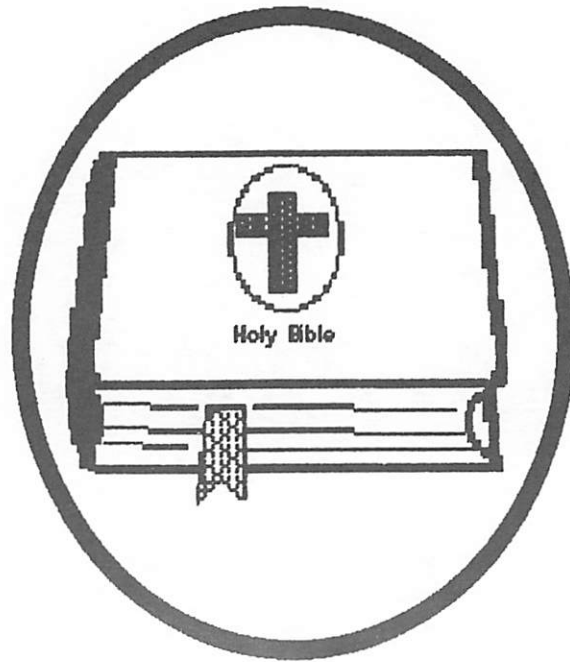
1. Give a survey of Ephesians 6:12-17.
2. Why must we be prepared to fight the enemy with spiritual weapons? Cite Scripture.
3. What is carnality in the Christian's life?
4. Why is it necessary to grow spiritually as a Christian? Cite Scripture.
5. Give a contrast between "The World and the Flesh" and "The Devil".
6. What are our invisible weapons? Cite Scripture.
7. How do we test every spirit, as to whether they are of God or the devil? Cite Scripture.
8. When facing the enemy, what should be our approach? Cite Scripture.
9. What are some of the methods in which the enemy attacks Christians?
10. Explain why we need to depend chiefly upon God for victory. Cite Scripture.
11. What are our present heavenly resources? Cite Scripture.
12. Write a brief essay on Satan's strategy and power. Give references from the Bible.
13. How is victory in the Christian life assured? Cite Scripture.
14. What happens to the believers just before the great tribulation? Explain with Scripture.
15. Explain the sovereignty of God with Scripture.
16. How often does God have to change his "Master plan" for all ages?
17. Give Old Testament examples of the Triune God. Explain Deuteronomy 6:4.
18. Explain, "The Branch" and give Scripture references.
19. Explain, "The Stone" and give Scripture references.
20. How does The Lord Jesus Christ qualify to be both King and High Priest? Give Scriptures.

21. **Give at least one New Testament reference of the Trinity mentioned in one verse of Scripture.**
  22. **Write an essay on the Authority of God.**
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# Chapter 5

# The Word of God



**CHAPTER FIVE**  
**THE WORD OF GOD**  
**INTRODUCTION**

The Word of God is often spoken of as the "Sword of the Lord". It is classified in Ephesians 6:17; as "The Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. "For the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb.4:12. The Word of God is one of the most important weapons with which we have to fight against the evil forces. We stand upon the promises of God and there is nothing that our enemies have, as great as the Word of God. There are three special aspects which we want to study concerning the Word of God.

- I. SPIRITUALLY ALIVE**
- II. SUPERNATURALLY ALERT**
- III. SUPERIOR IN WEAPONS**

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- I. SPIRITUALLY ALIVE**
    - A. SPIRITUALLY BORN**

Being born of the royal family of God, gives us a tremendous advantage over our adversaries. Our new birth has been accomplished through the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord being in the Godhead as the Eternal Son of God, gives us the supreme advantage over every enemy. Although we have not attained our glorified bodies, we nonetheless, already have the newness of life through God the Holy Spirit, who indwells us for time and eternity. We have received the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior, which made possible, being born of God. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the children of God, even to them that believe on his name; Who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God." Jn.1:12-13. "That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." Jn.3:6. Through the Lord Jesus Christ we have been made joint heirs with him. Having God the Holy Spirit within us, we confront the enemy with all the forces of God. "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God; And if children, then heirs - heirs of God, and joint heirs with Christ - if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together." Rom.8:14-17 This new relationship which we have in Christ has been through the Holy Spirit, and by the Word of God. We are made heirs according to promise (Gal.3:29.), and

that by the grace of God. "That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." Tit.3:7.

### **Victory in Divine birth**

Every believer has a continual battle within himself, as the carnal flesh keeps exercising its past rights, and the spiritual nature must constantly fight to keep in control. This is a continual struggle, until we receive our glorified bodies. "And now, little children, abide in him, that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before him at his coming. If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that everyone that doeth righteousness is born of him." 1 Jn.2:28-29. "Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him, and he cannot sin, because he is born of God." 1 Jn.3:9. On the surface of this statement, one could gather that Christians cannot sin. That is not what this is referring to, but rather it compares the unregenerate's willful sinning, which the Christian does not do, to the weakness in sinning which does happen in our Christian walk.. The Holy Spirit used John to also write, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." 1 Jn.1:8. There would also be no necessity for First John chapter one and verse nine. Since we are born of the Holy Spirit, we cannot willfully sin as the wicked. "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?" 1 Jn.5:4-5. "We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not, but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not. And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness. Let us take great pride in this marvelous and glorious birth into the family of God. Our heavenly birth should supercede the earthly past. "As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy; and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of god; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption." 1 Cor.15:48-50.

### **B. SPIRITUALLY AWARE**

To be carnally minded is enmity with God,(Rom.8:7.) and we need to be aware of reverting back to that old life , which we have been saved out from. As we see the signs of the time and the closing of an era of some two thousand years, let us be mindful of the coming of the Lord. "Watch, therefore; for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Matt.24:42. "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." Matt.26:41. "Watch, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." 1 Cor.16:13. "But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. God the Father alone knows when he will send forth his Son to rapture us home, and may we constantly be aware of the task which lies ahead of us, and thoroughly do the will of God. "Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame." Rev.16:15.

## **We are God's Watchmen**

We have an ideal example in Ezekiel, as God's chosen watchman as he ministered to the tribe of Judah in the land of Babylon. "Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore, hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me." Ezek.3:17. Ezekiel took that great responsibility and warned his people against wickedness. The Lord God gave him specific instructions. "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turns not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." Ezek.3:18-19. God expects us to be aware of the coming wrath of God, upon all wickedness, and we are his watchmen, to point the way of salvation to the lost and dying. We are left here to manifest the love of God to the world, which should be manifested in our lives. "Love worketh no ill to its neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us, therefore, cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in immorality and wantonness, not in strife and envy. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts." Rom.13:10-14.

### **C. SPIRITUALLY PREDOMINANT**

#### **Besetting weights**

The Lord Jesus Christ wants us to constantly be aware of the high calling that we have and the urgency of breaking the strangle hold that Satan has on precious souls. We have been reminded to put on the whole armor of God and not just part of it. We never know just when and how the enemy will attack and we must be ready at all times. In order to put on the whole armor of God, we must remove those extra weighty and carnal things. "Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." Heb.12: 1-2.

Sometimes our daily cares of this present life absorb most of our time, with very little time and effort for the things of the Lord. The Lord left his home in glory, sacrificing all for you and me, therefore, we also ought to be willing to lay aside the less important cares of this temporal life, that we might glorify the Lord, as his witnesses. "For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal." 2 Cor.4:15-18. In this battle against the evil forces, we must keep our priorities according to the will of God.

## **Besetting priorities**

God the Father has granted the prayer request of God the Son to send forth God the Holy Spirit to us to be our comfort guide and protection. Being born and indwelt by the Holy Spirit, we have a great advantage over the wiles of the devil. Since this battle against the ungodliness of this world system is in the spiritual realm, we are solely dependent upon the Holy Spirit to withstand the onslaughts of the devil. This, the Holy Spirit cannot do if your life is filled with merely the daily cares and commitments. It is of the utmost importance that we as Christians spend much time in learning what the Bible teaches. This is the way that the Triune God, gets to talk to us, through the established Word of God. There has never been a man who has lived upon the face of this earth, who has had a complete knowledge of the Bible. We spend a life time in studying the Bible, and we merely touch the fringe of what God has recorded for our benefit. "Oh, the depth of the riches both of wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath know the mind of the Lord? Or who hath been his counselor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things; to whom be glory forever. Amen." Rom.11:33-36. "For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God." Eph.14-19.

## **Our Inheritance is Secured**

The victory by our faith has already been attained, as members of the Royal family of God. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Pet.1:3-5. God has guaranteed this inheritance in and through his eternal Son, in whom he is always, well pleased. God the Holy Spirit has given us this guaranteed through our new birth and indwelling. "And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them who are sanctified." Acts 20:32. This is also mentioned again, as the Lord appointed the Apostle Paul, "To make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in which I will appear unto thee; Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee, To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them who are sanctified by faith that is in me." Acts 26:15b-18. The Lord is gathering together into one body, his future bride, from all races and people throughout the world. God the Father has so ordained this, "That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are on earth, even in him; In

whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will, that we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ;" Eph.1:10-12. Then God goes a further step and makes this inheritance secure, by sealing us with the Holy Spirit. Eph.1:13. It is Almighty God the Father who has accomplished this in and through his Son. There is not one of us who could accomplish this in ourselves. "Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints of light;" Col.1:11-12.

Being joint heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ is a tremendous out pouring of the love of God toward us. It is a reward based upon the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, because we by faith acknowledge him as the eternal Son of God, who became our Redeemer. May we as the Lord's servants in this present life, be his witnesses with a hearty zeal! "And whatever ye do, do it heartily, as unto the Lord, and not unto men, Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Christ." Col.3:23-24. This inheritance which is promised to us, is an eternal inheritance. It cannot be attained by animal sacrifices, and can be only offered through our eternal high priest, the Lord Jesus Christ. "And for this cause he is the Mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they who are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance." Heb.9:15.

Let us therefore, make our witness and testimony sure, letting the world know that we belong to the Lord and the Lord belongs to us. Allow the Holy Spirit to keep on filling your Christian life for every good work, well pleasing in the sight of God. Give the Lord Jesus Christ the predominant place in your life. We, as members of the body of Christ should allow Christ to have the pre-eminent place in our lives, being led by God the Holy Spirit. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, but made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil.2:5-8. "And he is the head of the body, the church; who is the beginning, the first-born from the dead, that in all things he might have the pre-eminence." Col.1:18.

## **II. SUPERNATURALLY ALERT**

Since we have been made alive spiritually in Christ Jesus by our new birth in the Holy Spirit, let us keep alert as members of God's family. Let us walk as members of the King of kings and Lord of lords. We were once children of darkness, but now are God's children of his glorious light. "For ye were once darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord; walk as children of light. For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth, Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but, rather, reprove them." Eph.5:8-11. God has made possible, because of our acceptance of his Son, three very important commodities in our Christian lives.

- A. SUPERNATURAL ELECTION**
  - B. SUPERNATURAL PROTECTION**
  - C. SUPERNATURAL DESTINATION**
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#### **A. SUPERNATURAL ELECTION**

The subject of election is often very confusing to some believers, for to them it seems to verge on fatalism. However, this is not the case of God's election. Always when you come to such a difficult issue, always refer back to the character of God. In this case we need to remember that God is always fair and just and is not a respecter of persons. "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons;" Acts.10:34. "For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without the law shall perish without the law; and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law." Rom.2:11-12. "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done, and there is no respect of persons." Col.3:25. This certainly should help us to understand that every person is dealt with before God either in personal merit, or in the merit of the eternal Son of God. There are very important aspects of election which we want to enlarge upon. There are many proofs from the Bible that election is without respect of person, and we would like to point out a few of these to you.

#### **Election is Foreknowledge of God**

Election is difficult for us to understand, because we do not have foreknowledge like God possesses. Foreknowledge sees everything before it takes place, understanding the choices which will be made to bring about the final decisions. God knows every free choice that we will make and our reasons for doing so. The pivotal point in election is in the one who can make possible this election. Therefore, the election is maintained in the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is your choice to accept it or reject it. Your choice is not hidden from God, who is omniscient.

#### **The Elected Angels**

Before that dreadful act of Lucifer, when he sinned against God, it was clearly known by God what he intended to do. In God's omniscience, in fact he knew the outcome of Satan before he was ever created. That does not mean that God forced Satan to sin, but rather that God knew the intentions of Lucifer, having been given the freedom of choice by his Creator. God also knew every single angel that Lucifer was going to convince to help start his kingdom of darkness, as in opposition to God's kingdom of light. God also knew which angels were going to resist Lucifer and of their own free choice were to be numbered among the elected angels. It is very important as to what the Holy Spirit led Paul to say to Timothy. "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality." 1 Tim.5:21. There is no preferential treatment before God and we too are to

practice the same in our witness for the Lord. Whether it is among the elected angels or the elected Christians, it is always based upon that inward faith. When Paul was led to write to Titus, he used a very important expression. " Paul, a servant of God, and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect, and the acknowledging of the truth which is after godliness, In hope of eternal life, which God, who cannot lie, promised before the world began." Tit.1:1-2. There is nothing hidden from God, and as his word says, he knows our every thought and intent and therefore he was fully aware of actual sin and rebellion taking place in heaven. But he also knew that two out of every three angels would refuse to sin, with complete faith and trust in their Creator, and thus became the elected angels.

### **Our Election is Secured by Faith**

Our election as believers was based upon our belief and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and what our choice was going to be was fore known by God. This election is not secured in the individuals, but is established in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Jn.3:16b. "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." 2 Pet.3:9. If you think that God is prejudice, then you must ignore the Word of God, or make God out to be a liar. There is nothing that will take away our election, for it is secured in Christ Jesus. "What shall we say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? Shall God that justifieth? Who is he that condemneth? Shall Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." Rom.8:31-34. We must always remember that the possibility of election is not in us, but rather is in the Lord Jesus Christ. By faith we step across the thresh-hold and enter into Christ's election, of "whosoever will may come". No matter what Almighty God offers to some unregenerate people, they refuse to accept and are disobedient to the call of God. Therefore, they refuse their election in the Lord, by rejecting him as their saviour. In God's omniscience, he is aware of what they are thinking and nothing is hidden from him.

### **Supernatural Belief**

The sum total of election is in our belief, recognizing the Divine supernatural provision that God has made for those who believe. There is nothing fatalistic about this, but the satanic powers would battle with the unregenerate minds and try to make out to them that God was unjust. This is one of the battlegrounds that we face as we present the unsearchable riches of Christ Jesus to a world, brain washed by Satan.

### **B. SUPERNATURAL PROTECTION**

As we battle against these invisible forces, we must depend entirely upon the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We will constantly be harassed by Satan's demons, but praise God Christians cannot be possessed by these demons. Our protection comes from God the Holy Spirit who indwells us, and will not tolerate demons as his fellow companions in our lives. I have observed demon possessed humans and those bodies of theirs become the



property of the demons, regardless of the number that may indwell them. An Asian brother of mine in the Lord has the gift of dealing with these demons and has saved many a person out from this terrible enslavement. He has no fear of these demons and will challenge them all the way. When they refuse to leave the person, brother Harry would quote Scripture verses, and sing hymns. He has the gift of discernment and would use the following, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world. By this know ye the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God; And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God; and this is that spirit of antichrist, of which ye have heard that it should come, and even now already is it in the world." 1 Jn.4:1-3. Immediately when the demons leave the person, they usually become very weak, but brother Harry would stay with them and keep on praying, singing and quoting the Word of God. Finally, after a period of time, Brother Harry would plead with that one, to accept Christ as the personal savior and be born of God the Holy Spirit. Unless this is done, it is useless to deal with those possessed of demons. God the Holy Spirit alone can give us that supernatural protection. That one becomes safe in the arms of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a very important Biblical truth which we constantly need to remember, otherwise many false voices will confuse you, and often relate your various illnesses, as being a sign of demons. This can never happen to those who are born of God the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us forever and ever. There is nothing that can separate or annihilate us from the love of the Lord Jesus Christ, shed abroad in our hearts. (Rom.8:35-39.) As we draw nearer to the end times, the demonic powers will be more prevalent and we must constantly be aware of them. The whole armor of God has been provided for every Christian, and we are commanded to put on this whole armor to withstand the fiery darts of the Devil. As we obey the Word of God, and allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, we are guaranteed the protection and victory in our daily Christian walk.

### **C. SUPERNATURAL DESTINATION**

God has given us everything necessary in the Bible for us to know the way, the truth, and the life, and leading us to our final and eternal destination. The more we study of the Word of God, the greater becomes our confidence, knowing what the future holds. Great preparations are being made by God for this new creation. The final home coming of all of the saints will be a glorious event, with sin eradicated forever from Almighty God's domain! Those of our loved ones are also waiting for that trumpet of God to sound, and we all will receive those glorified bodies that will stand the test of eternity. The "Master Plan" of God is clearly set forth in the Bible, and it is not necessary for Believers to be confused or ill informed. May I briefly mention the destination of the believers, according to what the Bible teaches.

- 1. The saints of all ages that have died, are now in a heavenly paradise awaiting the resurrection of their bodies, to become glorified. (Ps.68:17-19; Lk.23:39-43; 2 Cor.5:8.)**
- 2. Resurrection and glorification of the bodies of those that have died, when the Rapture takes place. (1 Thess.4:16;)**

3. **The Christians who will be living when the Rapture takes place will be changed into their glorified bodies. (1 Cor.15:51-57; Jn.14:1-6; 1 Thess.4:17.)**
4. **God's faithful believers will receive rewards before the judgement seat of Christ. (2 Cor.5:10; 1 Cor.3:12-15.)**
5. **The friends of the Bridegroom of all ages will be invited to attend the marriage of the Lamb. ( Matt.25:1-13; Jn.3:29.)**
6. **The great marriage of the Lamb with the true church of Christ from Pentecost until the Rapture. Rev.19:7-9.)**
7. **The saints of God dwell in the heavenly Father's mansions for seven glorious years. (Jn.14:1-6.)**
8. **The saints of God from all ages, return to planet earth and rule and reign with Christ for one thousand years. (Rev.19:11-16; Rev.5:10.)**
9. **God's eternal kingdom of righteousness will be established forever and ever in the new heaven and the new earth. (Rev.21:1-27; Rev.11:15.)**
10. **The saints of God shall dwell in the new paradise upon the new earth forever and ever. (Rev.22:1-5.)**

Our destination is secured forever in Christ Jesus, and this gives us great courage and confidence as we use our weapons of warfare against the evil forces. We are also assured that the Lord will never leave us, nor forsake us. "Ye are of God, little children and have overcome them, because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world." 1 Jn.4:. We can depend upon the mighty power of God for victory as we face our enemies. Praise God, the Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to defeat the world, the flesh and the devil. "And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true; and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen." 1 Jn.5:20-21.

### **III. SUPERIOR IN WEAPONS**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

Our battle, as Christians is against the World, the flesh, and the devil, but surprisingly enough, our weapons of warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds. Since the enemy behind the scenes is the devil, our weapons are in the spiritual realm in order to match our opponent with his subtle attacks through the demonic hordes. We need to discuss the superior forces and power at our command to achieve that daily victory. Defeat against these demonic foes comes only when we fail to use the resources which the Lord has provided for us. We must constantly be aware that the enemy of our souls has a tremendous advantage over us from the human view point,

but if we make full use of the Divine provision, then we can be assured of victory, moment by moment. However there are conditions to be met, in order to have access to our spiritual armory.

- A. SUPERIOR FORCES**
- B. SUPERIOR POWERS**
- C. SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

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**A. SUPERIOR FORCES**

The Lord has provided superior forces for us as members of the royal family of God. These forces do not depend upon great numbers, but rather upon great capability and authority from Almighty God. God has ways of showing his force, past our understanding. As God brought Israel out of Egypt, he used strange forces, against which the enemy could not cope. God sometimes used the natural and other times he used the super-natural to accomplish his goal. The journey through the wilderness for some 40 years could never have been accomplished without the hand of God. "The Lord is my strength and song, and he is become my salvation; he is my God, and I will prepare him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt him. The Lord is a man of war; the Lord is his name. Pharaoh's chariots and his host hath he cast into the sea; his chosen captains also are drowned in the Red Sea." Exod.15:2-4. When you consider the tens of thousands of men woman and children that had to be provided for, and for the tens of thousands that would be born in the wilderness during those 40 years, who but God could accomplish it? There is nothing too hard for our Almighty God. "Thy raiment grew not old upon thee, neither did thy foot swell, these forty years" Deut.8:4. Here are some of the mighty forces of God, which worked in the past centuries.

- 1. The flood. Gen.6:1-7:24.**
- 2. The confusion of languages. Gen.11:1-9.**
- 3. The preservation of a chosen nation for the Messianic hope. Gen.3:15; Isa.7:14; Isa.9:6-7. Book of Exodus.**
- 4. God's provision of Judges and kings. The Book of Judges, and first and second Chronicles, and first and second Kings.**
- 5. The provision of prophets. The Book of Isaiah through Malachi.**
- 6. God's protection of the kingly lineage in preparation for the Messiah. The Book of Esther, The Babylonian Captivity, The Book of Daniel, God's anointed shepherd King Cyrus.**

7. **Boaz the Kinsman redeemer. The Book of Ruth.**
8. **The prepared Virgin. Matt.1:1-25; Lk.1:26-38; Lk.2:1-7; Jn.1:2,14.**
9. **The protected Messiah. Matt.2:13-15.**
10. **The ministry of John the Baptist as the spirit of Elijah. Matt.3:1-17; Mk.1:1-8; Lk.3:1-20; Jn.1:6-8,15-37.**
11. **The Commission of the Son of God, as Savior, fulfilled. Gal.4:4-5.**

These are but a few of the important forces which God used in defeating the adversary as well as confusing him. There are lessons for us to be learned as we study these events, causing us to realize the sovereignty of God. "Behold God is mighty, and despiseth not any; he is mighty in strength and wisdom. He preserveth not life of the wicked, but giveth right to the poor. He withdraweth not his eyes from the right-eous;" Job.36:5-7a.

The superior forces which God has provided for us during this age of grace are designed for each individual believer. The world, the flesh and the devil are no match for God's provision toward those who have placed their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. The forces of God are always powerful and mighty but the approach is through individuals, who have become the temple of God. (1 Cor.3:16.) These bodies of ours are very weak apart from God, but when we submit to the Lord, we become strong in the Lord. As one reads Hebrew chapter 11, we are reminded of the strange ways that God would bring victory out of chaos. "And what shall I more say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon, and of Barak, and of Samson, and of Jephthah; of David also and Samuel, and of the prophets, Who, through faith, subdued kingdoms, wrought righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, Quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens." Heb.11:32-34. We are continually reminded of the mighty force of God! "Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men." 1 Cor.1:25. The Apostle Paul was constantly attacked as to his authority, which was a definite attack from Satan, here is what the Holy Spirit said through Paul. "Since ye seek a proof of Christ speaking in me, who toward you is not weak, but mighty in you. For though he was crucified through weakness, yet he liveth by the power of God. For we also are weak in him, but we shall live with him by the power of God toward you. Examine yourselves, whether you are in the faith; prove yourselves. Know ye not yourselves how Jesus Christ is in you, unless you are discredited?" 2 Cor.13:3-5.

We need to continually remind ourselves in this warfare against these evil forces, that we are utterly dependent upon God to provide sufficient force to overcome the wicked forces. Paul desired to have the thorn in his flesh removed, as he battled for the Lord, but the Lord answered Paul in this manner. "It is not expedient for me, doubtless, to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord. And I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell; God knoweth). How he was caught up into Paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. Of such an one will I glory; yet of myself I will not glory, but in my infirmities. For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth. But now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he

seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me. And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure. For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me. And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee; for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore, I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distress for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then am I strong." 2 Cor.12:1-10. Paul's ailments remind us of the Old Testament saint by the name of Job. This should remind us that there are infirmities that come upon believers, for the exaltation and glory for the Lord Jesus Christ. Now let us look at some of these mighty forces behind the scenes, which protect us in our weaknesses.

## **1. God the Holy Spirit**

Our greatest force that we can depend upon is God the Holy Spirit, dwelling within us. Being sovereign as the third person of the Trinity, there are no forces able to combat with him. Being born of the Holy Spirit, we have a special protection, second to none! Since the Trinity is an absolute unity, we have sufficient force to claim the victory by faith. However, we are to put on the whole armor of God and be in that necessary fellowship with God, to experience the Divine victory over the evil forces. This requires Divine guidance and wisdom, and this is obtained, when we yield to the Divine view point. After the baptism of Jesus, the Holy Spirit led him into the wilderness, strengthening the Lord Jesus Christ to combat the temptation for forty days and forty nights. (Matt.4:1.) Being the eternal Son of God, there was not a chance that the Lord would yield to all the temptations that Satan could throw at him. The Lord Jesus Christ was and always will be impeccable.

### **Fervent in the Holy Spirit**

When we as believers realize that our great resource of strength against the demonic forces is the Holy Spirit, we stand upon the promises of God with a fervent purpose. This does not mean that all that is necessary is zeal, but we must combine our zeal with a solid foundation and well established in the Word of God. "And a certain Jew, named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and, being fervent in the spirit, he spoke and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue; whom, when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly." Acts 18:24-26. This should be a reminder to us, that we must have as thorough knowledge of the Bible as possible in order to expound the Word of God.

### **Purpose in the Holy Spirit**

This is essential in our Christian walk, to be led by the Holy Spirit, and we then know that we also can purpose according to the leading of the Holy Spirit. Paul the apostle was able to defeat the evil forces at Ephesus, through the wisdom of the Spirit, and being prepared by the Spirit, purposed to go to Jerusalem and eventually to Rome. "Many of

those also who used magical arts brought their books together, and burned them before all men; and they counted the price of them, and found it fifty thousand pieces of silver. So mightily grew the word of God, and prevailed. After these things were ended, Paul purposed in the spirit, when he had passed through Macedonia and Achai'a, to go to Jerusalem, saying, After I have been there, I must also see Rome." Acts 19:19-21. If Paul had taken the human viewpoint, he certainly would not have purposed to go to Jerusalem, where he became a prisoner of Rome. "For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither, indeed, can be." Rom.8:5-7. Spiritual wisdom far exceeds the worldly wisdom, and that is why we need to be led by the indwelling Holy Spirit. "But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also give life to your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you." Rom.8:9-11. (1 Cor.3:16.) "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." Gal.5:16-17. The enemy of our souls is very subtle as well as clever, and we need to purpose in our hearts to submit our entire lives over to God. "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him. The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding great-ness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places." Eph. 1:17-20.

## **B. SUPERIOR POWER**

Having the authority and power of God to combat the enemy, we need not fear the wicked foes. During this age of grace, we have the Holy Spirit as our ever present help against the wiles of the Devil. There will be no special revelation to you but through the Word of God. As we study the Bible, we become equipped with the greatest weapons from God. The early disciples were given special power as a sign to the unbelieving. "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick." Lk.9:1-2. They were not to go to the Gentiles, but only to the house of Israel, as they were sent to present the kingdom to Israel. The Lord has maintained within the Gospel tremendous power,(Rom.1:16.) but as we reach out to every tribe and kindred in this world, we are not promised that all of the sick will be healed. Paul and timothy are good examples of that. Power over the demons is directly in the hands of the Triune God, and we can claim victory over these demons in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. However, it must be remembered, that those delivered from demons must accept Christ lest they be subjected to a greater influx of demons. "When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. Then he saith, I will return into my

house from which I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there; and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation." Matt.12:43-45.

The early church had great unity as they fulfilled the great commission of the Lord. "And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus; and great grace was upon them all." Acts 4:33. Peter declared this great power to the Gentiles and proclaiming that it was through God's anointing his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ with this special power. "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him." Acts 10:38. The Lord Jesus Christ is God's eternal Son, and all power is given unto him. "And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." Rom.1:4.

### **God's eternal power**

We must realize that God is sovereign over everything and even the higher powers in this world are restrained and controlled by God. "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God; the powers that be are ordained of God." Rom.13:1. That does not mean that when the powers that be do evil, that God approves of this. On the contrary, God only allows these governments to go so far in their volition and then he removes them. As long as we are in this world, we are subject to laws and regulations, and as long as we can preach the Gospel, witnessing for the Lord, we must bear witness as good citizens of heaven. "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Spirit." Rom.15:13. May we always recognize that this power is not in ourselves, but it comes directly from God. "But unto them who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God." 1 Cor.1:24. "Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints of light; Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us unto the kingdom of his dear Son;" Col.1:12-13. This inheritance is eternal and incorruptible in the Lord Jesus Christ. "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to his abundant mercy, hath begotten us again unto a living hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." 1 Pet.1:3-5.

Since we are secure in the Lord Jesus Christ, sealed by God the Holy Spirit, and given God's Word of promise, whom shall we fear? May we use the authority and power of God in and through our lives to defeat the power of darkness. May we continually fulfill that great commission from the Lord, knowing that he is our source of power and will never leave us nor forsake us in the battle against these wicked forces.

### **C. SUPERIOR ACHIEVEMENTS**

As we draw closer to the rapture of the saints of all ages, we need to behold the fields that are white unto harvest and the laborers are so few. May we continue to witness to the saving grace of our loving Lord, who gave his all that we might be delivered from

the power of darkness. Now that we are children of light, let us share this glorious gospel light with others. It is true, that just a few will accept the good news, and others will reject the truth, preferring to believe the lies of Satan. "Now thanks be unto God, who always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savor of his knowledge by us in every place. For we are unto God a sweet savor of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are a savor of death unto death; and to the other, the savor of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things? For we are not as many, who corrupt the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ." 2 Cor.2:14-17. I briefly wish to list some of the achievements which are made as we continue on the battle ground for the Lord.

1. **Deliverance from the power of Satan. (Col.1:13.)**
2. **Salvation of precious souls, causes the angels to rejoice.(Lk.15:7.)**
3. **Precious souls are snatched from the eternal lake of fire.(Jn.3:18,36; Rev.20:15.)**
4. **Deliverance from the indwelling of demons. (Jn.7:37-39; Lk.8:2.)**
5. **Every believer receives a ministering angel. (Matt.18:10; Heb.1:13-14.)**
6. **We fulfill the great commission of the Lord Jesus Christ.(Matt.28:18-20; Mk.16:15-18; Lk.24:46-48; Jn.17:18.)**
7. **Rewards to be given for faithfulness to the Lord. (1 Cor.3:9-15; 2 Cor.5:10.)**
8. **We gain victory over the wiles of the Devil, using the whole armor of God. (Eph.6:11-17.)**
9. **We expose the lies of Satan as we proclaim the truth. (Jn.8:44-47.)**
10. **We become a sweet savor unto God. (2 Cor.2:14-17.)**
11. **Our faith in the finished work of Christ brings victory. (1 Jn.5:4.)**
12. **We become well pleasing to our Lord Jesus Christ. (Jn.17:8-10.)**
13. **Our eternal character is built as we remain faithful to the Lord and we remain fruitful in the Holy Spirit. (Gal.5:22-26.)**
14. **We maintain a sweet fellowship with fellow believers. (1 Jn.1:7-9.)**



## CONCLUSION

As we conclude this chapter, may we as Christians be aware of the necessity for us to be spiritually alive. It is not sufficient for us to just enjoy our salvation and never grow in the knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ, through the Bible. We need to assemble together for Bible study and feast upon the precious promises of God. We also need to make our stand against the world, the flesh, and the devil. God has provided us with the whole armor to combat these evil forces, and we stand firmly against wickedness. God has provided us with the weapons of our warfare, and may we be ready to use them at all times. God could have sent his angels to fight this battle against his arch enemy, but he chose to equip us with this special armor, which becomes mighty through God to the pulling down of the strongholds of Satan. "Unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul. O my God, I trust in thee; let me not be ashamed, let not mine enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed; let them be ashamed who transgress without cause. Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths. Lead me in thy truth, and teach me; for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day. " Ps.25:1-5.

## CHAPTER FIVE QUESTIONS

1. **Explain Hebrew 4:12.**
2. **What is meant by being "spiritually alive"? Cite Scripture.**
3. **Why is it necessary to be born of the Holy Spirit? Give Scripture.**
4. **Explain Matthew 24:42; Matthew 26:41; 1 Corinthians 16:13; Revelation 16:5.**
5. **How are we God's watchmen? (Ezekiel 3:18-19.)**
6. **Explain the phrase, "Besetting weights".**
7. **As Christians, what priorities should we have in our daily life?**
8. **How do we know that our inheritance is secured? Give Scripture.**
9. **Explain Ephesians 5:8-11.**
10. **Explain election and predestination.**
11. **Give some evidence as to how Christians are protected.**
12. **Give 10 truths concerning the destination of the saints of God.**
13. **How are we superior in weapons as Christians? Cite Scripture.**
14. **What forces from God can we depend upon?**
15. **Name seven or more of God's forces, contained in the Old Testament.**
16. **Name three or more of God's forces contained in the New Testament.**
17. **Does God allow us as Christians to ever be tested as to our faithfulness? Give an example from the Scripture.**
18. **How do we best overcome the evil forces? Cite Scripture.**
19. **What are the Christian's greatest forces in combatting the evil forces? Cite Scripture.**
20. **What does it mean to be fervent in the Holy Spirit?**
21. **What does it mean to "Purpose in the Holy Spirit"?**

- 22. Write briefly as to the Christian's "Superior Power".**
  - 23. Write briefly on the subject of "God's Eternal Power".**
  - 24. Name some of the "Achievements" accomplished when Christians witness for the Lord.**
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## Chapter 6

# The Captain of our Salvation



## CHAPTER SIX

### CAPTAIN OF OUR SALVATION

#### INTRODUCTION

The warfare to which we are committed with the proper weapons, is entirely based upon the finished work of The Lord Jesus Christ. Without the Lord, we would be defeated by the wicked forces. God has made every provision for the saints to withstand the fiery darts of the devil. We have already studied concerning the weapons of our warfare, as well as the importance of the Word of God, as the Holy Spirit guides and directs us in our study. Now we are ready to study the Bible in greater depth, in understanding how God the Father removed the barrier of sin, which stood between the sinner and God. We desire to discuss three phases of God's provision through our Redeemer. These are important for us to thoroughly understand.

- I. CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK
- II. CHRIST THE CONQUEROR OF THE ENEMY
- III. CHRIST THE VICTOR FOREVER

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#### I. CHRIST THE SOLID ROCK

##### The Rock of the Old Testament

In order for us to thoroughly understand the illustration of Christ being the Rock, we must go back to the wilderness journey of Israel. They were thirsty and complained to Moses, and Moses then spoke to the Lord. "And the Lord said unto Moses, Go on before the people, and take with thee of the elders of Israel; and thy rod, wherewith thou smotest the river, take in thine hand, and go. Behold, I will stand before thee there upon The Rock in Horeb; and thou shalt smite The Rock, and there shall come water out of it, that the people may drink. And Moses did so in the sight of the elders of Israel." Ex.17:5-6.

It is important that we listen carefully to God, through the Bible, as we have a good example of this with Moses. The second time that there was a need for water, God spoke to Moses, not to smite The Rock but rather to speak to The Rock, but Moses disobeyed and smote The Rock twice in anger. For this reason he was deprived from entering into the promised land. "And the Lord spoke unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou and Aaron, thy brother, and speak ye unto The Rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth its water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of The Rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. And Moses took the rod from before the Lord, as he commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before The Rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of This Rock? And Moses lifted up his hand, and with the rod he smote The Rock twice; and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank,

and their beasts also. And the Lord spoke unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring the congregation into the land which I have given them. This is the water of Mer'ibah; because the children of Israel strove with the Lord, and he was sanctified in them." Num.20:7-13. Moses was therefore punished for several reasons, 1. Moses did not give God credit for the flow of water. 2. He smote The Rock twice in his anger instead of speaking to it. 3. The children of Israel were called rebels in his anger. 4. He was not sympathetic with the need for water. 5. He personally took the credit for bringing forth the water. 6. He failed to bring glory and honor to the Lord, sanctifying him before the people. 7. This was a rebellion against God and both Aaron and Moses suffered from this.

The important thing for us to remember in the case of water from The Rock is, That Rock was the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ was struck once at Calvary and we are reminded that Christ cannot be crucified twice. "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." Heb.6:4-6. You may be puzzled with this truth from God's Word, but what we learn here is exactly what Moses learned in the wilderness when he struck The Rock twice, making a total of three times The Rock was struck. Christ was crucified once and only once, and those who merely taste of the Lord and are not partakers of the Lord, cannot demand that Christ be crucified again. This thought is also recorded, concerning Christ as our high priest. "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; Nor yet he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world. But now once, in the end of the age, hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." Heb.9:24-26.

The Holy Spirit reminds us of just who was That Rock in the Old Testament. "Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did eat the same spiritual food; And did all drink the same spiritual drink; for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and That Rock was Christ." 1 Cor.10:1-4.

### **The solid Rock Christ Jesus**

In the song of Moses, we are reminded through the testimony of Moses before the people, that The Rock in the wilderness was the very God himself. "He is The Rock, his work is perfect; for all his ways are justice; a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he." Deut.32:4. For further proof of this read, also Deuteronomy 32:15-37. As Hannah prayed, the Holy Spirit gave her a revelation of the solid Rock of God. "There is none holy like the Lord; for there is none beside thee, neither is there any rock like our God." 1 Sam.2:2. King David also verified this fact. "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, and his word was in my tongue. The God of Israel said, The Rock of Israel spoke to me, He who ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God." 2 Sam.23:2-3. "The Lord is my Rock, and my fortress, and my Deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the Lord, who

is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies." Ps.18:2-3. "The Lord liveth; and blessed be my Rock; and let the God of my salvation be exalted." Ps.18:46. "He only is my Rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved." Ps.62:2. "Be thou my strong habitation, Whereunto I may continually resort. Thou hast given commandment to save me; for thou art my Rock and my fortress." Ps.71:3.

### **Building our fortress upon the Solid Rock Christ Jesus**

Since no one has seen God the Father at anytime, it is obvious that the Lord Jesus Christ made the continual appearance before the Old Testament saints. As Christ appeared often in the form of the Angel of the Lord, his mighty power was being manifested throughout all the ages. This body of Jesus was prepared before the foundation of the world, that we should be chosen in him."According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him, in love," Eph.1:4. "Wherefore, when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me;" Heb.10:5.

Christ is our fortress against the attacks by the world, the flesh, and the devil, for all other buildings are built upon sinking sands. "Therefore, whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, who built his house upon a rock. And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, and it fell not, for it was founded upon a rock." Matt.7:24-25.

### **Christ is the Rock and Cornerstone of the true church**

During the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ, his teaching was entirely devoted to the establishment of the kingdom. John the Baptist heralded the king and prepared the people to identify themselves with the kingdom and the Messiah. All of the prophecy was fulfilled, to the very triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, and suddenly through the rejection of the Messiah by Israel, the kingdom was postponed. However, in the omniscience of God, it was no surprise to God, but was expected. That is why John the Baptist was sent instead of Elijah, who must come before the kingdom can be established. Christ did not refer to the building of the church, except that one time. "When Jesus came into the borders of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Who do men say that I, the Son of man, am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist; some Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But who say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jo'na; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father, who is in heaven. And I say unto thee, That thou art Peter (Stone), and upon this Rock I will build my church, and the gates of hades shall not prevail against it." Matt 16:13-18. For almost 2,000 years, the Lord has been building his true church upon that famous statement of Peter. "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God".

The Lord speaks to Job concerning the cornerstone and his great creation. "Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? Declare if thou has understanding. Who hath laid the measures of it, if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are its foundations fastened? Or who laid its cornerstone. When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?" Job.38:4-7. Christ being that

cornerstone, was rejected, and God in his fore-knowledge prophesied that this would happen. "The Stone which the builders refused is become the head of the corner. This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes." Ps.118:22-23. Yes, God the Father laid that corner stone of his very own Son. "Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold I lay in Zion for a foundation a Stone, a tested Stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; he that believeth shall not make haste." Isa.28:16. This great Stone is again affirmed by the Holy Spirit through Daniel the prophet. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the Stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold, the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter; and the dream is certain, and the interpretation of it sure." Dan.2:44-45.

This was also confirmed by the Lord Jesus Christ, and we need not flounder about as to what it all means. "Jesus saith unto them, Did ye never read in the Scriptures, The Stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner; this is the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits of it. And whosoever shall fall on this Stone shall be broken, but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder." Matt.21:42-44. (Mk.12:1-10; Lk.20:9-19; Isa.5:1-7.

We also have Peter declaring this same truth before the rulers and elders and scribes, as well as the high priest. "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised up from the dead even by him doth this man stand before you well. This is the Stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:10-12. This was reaffirmed by Peter as he wrote to the saints of God of all ages. "To whom, coming as unto a living Stone, disallowed indeed of men but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as living stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you, therefore, who believe he is precious, but unto them who are disobedient, the Stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a Stone of stumbling, and a Rock of offense, even to them who stumble at the word, being disobedient; whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a people of his own, that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light;" 1 Pet.2:4-9. Paul also as he wrote to the faithful in Christ Jesus, "Now therefore, ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner Stone, in whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord; In whom ye also are built together for an habitation of God through the Spirit." Eph.2:19-22.

Christ is our solid Rock, and defense against the world, the flesh, and the devil. We can trust him to be our ever present help, and he will never leave us nor forsake us. The battle is the Lord's and by faith we conquer our foes. Each of us as saints of God need to be well established in the knowledge of God's word. Remember that the word of God is



alive and powerful, as we confront the enemies of our soul. "Ye therefore, beloved, seeing that ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen." 2 Pet.3:18.

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## II. CHRIST THE CONQUEROR OF THE ENEMY

As we have reviewed some of the references to Christ the Rock, and Stone in the Old Testament, we also observed that as such, he becomes our defense and high tower against the wicked forces. We belong to the Lord Jesus Christ and are called the "Body of Christ". Therefore we are established in the royal priesthood of God the Father, and can claim protection from the wicked. Christ is the Captain of our salvation, who has sent God the Holy Spirit to dwell within us forever and ever. We are told to cast our ever care upon the Lord Jesus Christ. "Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time, Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you. Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walketh about, seeking whom he may devour; Whom resist steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after ye have suffered awhile, make you perfect, establish, strengthen, settle you. To him be glory and dominion forever and ever, Amen." 1 Pet.5:6-11.

### The Divine Conqueror and Captain

When Joshua was given the command of leading Israel into the promised land, it was reaffirmed to him just what territory God gave to Israel to possess. "Moses, my servant, is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou and all this people, unto the land which I do give them, even to the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your border. There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee; I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee. Be strong and of good courage; for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land which I swore unto their fathers to give them." Josh.1:2-6.

As Joshua prepared to take Jericho, he beheld an unusual sign from the Lord God. "And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked and, behold, there stood a man over against him with a sword drawn in his hand; and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay, but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto his servant? And the captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe from off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so." Josh.5:13-15. Moses beheld the burning bush, but Joshua beheld the very Son of God, who came to help defeat the adversaries. Both times the land was declared holy ground, because God himself was

present. If the Lord went forth to battle for Israel, and he did, so also we know that he is our ever present help, we being declared the body of Christ. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honor, that he, by the grace of God, should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one, for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren." Heb.2:9-11. We are reminded that nothing can separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. No matter what the situation may be, our victory is in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. "Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us." Rom.8:37.

### **Strengthened in the Lord**

As children of God, we are dependent upon the mighty strength of God, to withstand all wickedness and temptations that confront us as we go through this present life span. God is immutable and his strength has been made available, to his own, in all ages. "I will love thee, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God my strength, in whom I will trust; my shield, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower." Ps.18:1-2. May we have great confidence in the Lord, for we belong to him and he belongs to us. "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Ps.27:1. Sometimes we fail to realize that this battle through life, is the Lord's rather than ours, and he wants to be our ever present help, causing us to rejoice. "Blessed be the Lord, because he hath heard the voice of my supplications. The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusted in him, and I am helped. Therefore, my heart greatly rejoiceth, and with my song will I praise him." Ps.28:6-7. There is nothing that the evil forces can imagine against us, that will hinder God from giving us the victory. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;" Ps.46:1-2. Salvation comes from the Lord, and not of works of righteousness which we have accomplished. "In God is my salvation and my glory, the rock of my strength; my refuge is in God. Trust in him at all times, ye people; pour out your heart before him. God is a refuge for us." Ps.62:7-8. May we completely commit our every praise and problem to the Lord, for it matters to him, concerning us. "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer." Ps.19:14.

### **Jehovah, the great "I Am" conquers our enemies**

When the Lord Jesus Christ declared to the religious leaders that, he was from everlasting, declaring, "Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am". Jn.8:58. They knew exactly what he was talking about, as he declared himself to be God. Yes, Christ is Jehovah, and took upon himself a form of man apart from sin, and became our savior. "Behold, God is my salvation; I will trust, and not be afraid; for the Lord, even the Lord, is my strength and my song; he also is become my salvation." Isa.62:7. God in his omniscience, prepared this salvation, even before the earth was created. God had set his time for redemption and in the fullness of time, Christ was sent forth.

(Gal.4:4-5.) "For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man some would even die. But God commendeth his love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." Rom.5:6-8. "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God. Strengthened with all might, according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness; Giving thanks unto the Father, who hath made us fit to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints of light;" Col.1:9-12. We have become more than conquerors through Christ Jesus, and may we be strengthened in the inner man with the knowledge of God's precious Word.

### **III. CHRIST THE VICTOR FOREVER**

God has been declared the Victor over the world, the flesh, and the devil, when the Son of God paid the debt of sin in full, upon the cross. It was God's Holy Arm that made victory possible. "Oh, sing unto the Lord a new song; for he hath done marvelous things; his right hand, and his holy arm, have gotten him the victory. The Lord hath made known his salvation; his righteousness hath he openly shown in the sight of the nations." Ps.98:1-2. It is amazing the comparison that the Bible sets forth as to creation and salvation. The creation of the heavens and earth show forth God's handy work. (Ps.19:1.) But when it came to saving precious souls, it cost God the Father the sacrifice of his eternal Son. "The Lord hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God." Isa.52:10. God has never lost sight of that Messianic hope which he declared when Adam and Eve sinned. "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; he shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel." Gen.3:15. Note two important statements in this challenge of God. Satan's seed, which consists of both demons and the unregenerate, and her seed which points to the Lord Jesus Christ, as it was Christ who bruised Satan at the cross. The Lord came to save sinners, and God the Father doesn't wish that one soul should perish. God claims the victory, and will bring judgement upon all evil forces. "A bruised reed shall he not break, and a smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth justice unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust." Matt.12:20-21. God will destroy all opposition and establish justice forever and ever. "Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O Lord, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee." Isa.26:8. "And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. He will swallow up death in victory, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from all the earth; for the Lord hath spoken it." Isa.25:7-8. "So, when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Cor.54-57. The Lord has provided victory and we obtain our daily victory, by faith in the one who has promised. "For whatever is born of God overcometh the world; and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the

world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood; and these three agree in one." 1 Jn.5:4-8. We can easily understand the three witnesses in heaven as the Triune God, which gives us the clue for the three upon earth. The three are united in one, which also refers to the Triune God. The water of life comes from the Father because God the Son was willing to shed his blood for the remission of sins.

We need not ponder on the total victory that God will bring about, if we study the Bible. Even as God will send forth the final seven last plagues upon the earth, with his final wrath, the tribulation saints will declare victory over the beast and all of his evil forces. "And I saw, as it were, a sea of glass mingled with fire, and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having the harps of God. And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou king of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy; for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest." Rev.15:1-4. This gives us a foresight into what God will do as he will pour out his wrath upon the ungodly. During the great tribulation, Satan will make a final attack against God, before he is imprisoned for the thousand years. (Rev.20:1-3.) This again reveals to us the sovereignty of God. The beast and the false prophet will be cast into the Lake of Fire, without further trial and remain there forever and ever, in a living death of torture. (Rev.19:20.)

As the Lord God had promised, "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord, and his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever." Rev.11:15. What a day of rejoicing that will be! It is established by the Word of God that the eternal righteous kingdom of God will have the final victory. As the saints who will come out of the great tribulation, will have the victory over the evil forces, the saints of all ages will be delivered from death and sin forever! The next glorious event that we presently look for is the Rapture, to deliver us out from the wrath to come. (1 Thess.1:10.)

The kingdom age of righteousness will continue for a thousand years, and we will have the privilege of teaching the nations the Word of God, in our glorified bodies. We will be well equipped for this, after spending 7 years in heaven, with the greatest seminar of all times. We all will be well prepared in Bible training to re-enter planet earth with the Lord, becoming a kingdom of priests. (Rev.5:10.)

### **The final victory.**

At the close of the thousand year kingdom of righteousness, we will enter into a new phase of the complete victory over all evil forces. Satan and his demons will be loosed from the bottomless pit, and they will lose no time in going throughout the world, gathering the children of darkness as their followers. You may say, but how can there be children of darkness after the Lord has ruled and reigned for a thousand years? You must remember one thing, and that is, those subjects of the Lord (the earthly people), who were found worthy for the kingdom, being separated from the goats (Matt.25:31-46.), will continue to

bear children, because they will still be in their earthly bodies. We, as those who are the saints of all ages, will be in our glorified bodies, and as the angels, we will not be subject to the earthly customs and replenishing the earth with children. These children of the earthly people, will have to make their choice of accepting the righteousness of Christ, or rejecting. Since Christ will be ruling with a rod of iron (Ps.2:9; Rev.19:15.), they will not be able to rebel during those thousand years, but will secretly oppose Christ within their minds. But when the thousand years are completed, and Satan and the demons are released from the bottomless pit, they will be ready to follow his wickedness and join his armies, against the Lord. "And when the thousand years are ended, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, and shall go out and deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle; the number of whom is as the sand of the sea." Rev.20:7-8. Satan will have no problem gathering recruits from around the world, because the natural man is totally depraved, and under the best of conditions will fall short of the glory of God.

The final battle will be fought in the Middle East, as the enemies from the whole world, surround Jerusalem and think that they can destroy the Lord Jesus Christ with a coup. The saints of all ages, as we are gathered in Jerusalem, the capital of the world, will behold these countless millions of the unregenerate, ready to move in and destroy Jerusalem and take Christ prisoner. We will be aware of what the Bible teaches, and our attention will turn to the heavens above. "And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever." Rev.20:9-10. One flame of fire by Almighty God, was all that it took to destroy the millions of these rebellious children, who came out of the thousand year kingdom.

### **The final judgement**

As I had previously mentioned, every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Phil.2:9-11.) There is but one time that this is possible and that is when all the unregenerate are raised from the dead and are judged out of their books of works. God has kept a record of every person in the world, and those files will be opened before the great white throne, upon which Christ will be seated. "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heavens fled away, and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and hades delivered up the dead that were in them; and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." Rev.20:11-15. It will be then that all the unregenerate will cry out confessing that the Lord Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God. They will bow their knee before the King of kings and Lord of lords. Their final destiny will be the lake of fire and brimstone, and will be tormented day and night forever and ever. Sin will then be eradicated from God's realm forever and ever. "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon

thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy." Dan.9:24.

### **All things become new and remain forever**

When the final victory is accomplished, and all evil forces will forever be destroyed, then will God create a new heavens and a new earth. We do not have the details on this new creation, but it will be far greater than anything of the past. We will dwell with the living God in a utopia, rejoicing in the Lord forever and ever. Sin will never show its ugly head again, for it will be put down and sealed off in distant space. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write; for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things, and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and fornicators, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone, which is the second death." Rev.21:4-8.

### **The Eternal Holy City**

The Middle East has been the battle ground for centuries and will continue, until the fullness of God's time. It is the key point of Satan's attack against God's chosen people. God, regardless of opposition is regathering Israel back in their land. Nothing will stop this process, even though all nations are gathered together against her. (Zech.12:1-3.) There is a two fold purpose in regathering Israel, besides the revelation of the event. 1. Israel must be back in her land during the great tribulation. (Matt.24; Dan.9:27.) 2. Israel will be ready for the coming of the Messiah to set up his kingdom with Jerusalem as the capital. (Matt.26:63-64.) This will all be preliminary and precede the eternal establishment of the New Jerusalem, the Holy City which shall come down from the throne of God. "And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Having the glory of God; and her light was like a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;" Rev.21:10-11. This will be a magnificent sight to behold, in that day when Almighty God makes all things new. For the complete picture of this city read Revelation chapter 21, verses 1 through 27. This is but more evidence that Christ has accomplished the victory over all evil forces.

### **Paradise found**

Our finite minds cannot fathom the depths of this eternal Paradise described in the Bible. There will be no need of a temple to worship God, but the Lord Jesus Christ will be dwelling eternally with man. "And I saw no temple in it; for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it." Rev.21:22. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be established in this wonderful Paradise, prepared for the saints of God. The living water will come forth from the throne of God, and will provide these living waters for delicious fruits

along the banks of the river. Even the leaves will be for the healing of the nations. The curse of sin will be removed forever and ever. "And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall serve him; And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no lamp, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light, and they shall reign forever and ever." Rev.22:3-5.

## CONCLUSION

Because the Lord Jesus Christ has procured victory for us, we are victorious forever and ever. There are battles to be fought as we wait upon the Lord, and it is imperative that we put on the whole armor of God, so that we might stand firmly upon the promises of God. There are precious souls to be reached with the Gospel, and the Lord is depending upon the saints to remain faithful to him. As we review these marvelous things to come, we become homesick to experience all of these blessings prepared for those who love the Lord. However, there is work to be done for the Lord, who has not left us alone to face the world, the flesh, and the devil. May we conclude this study with a thorough study of our Protectorate, even God the Holy Spirit.

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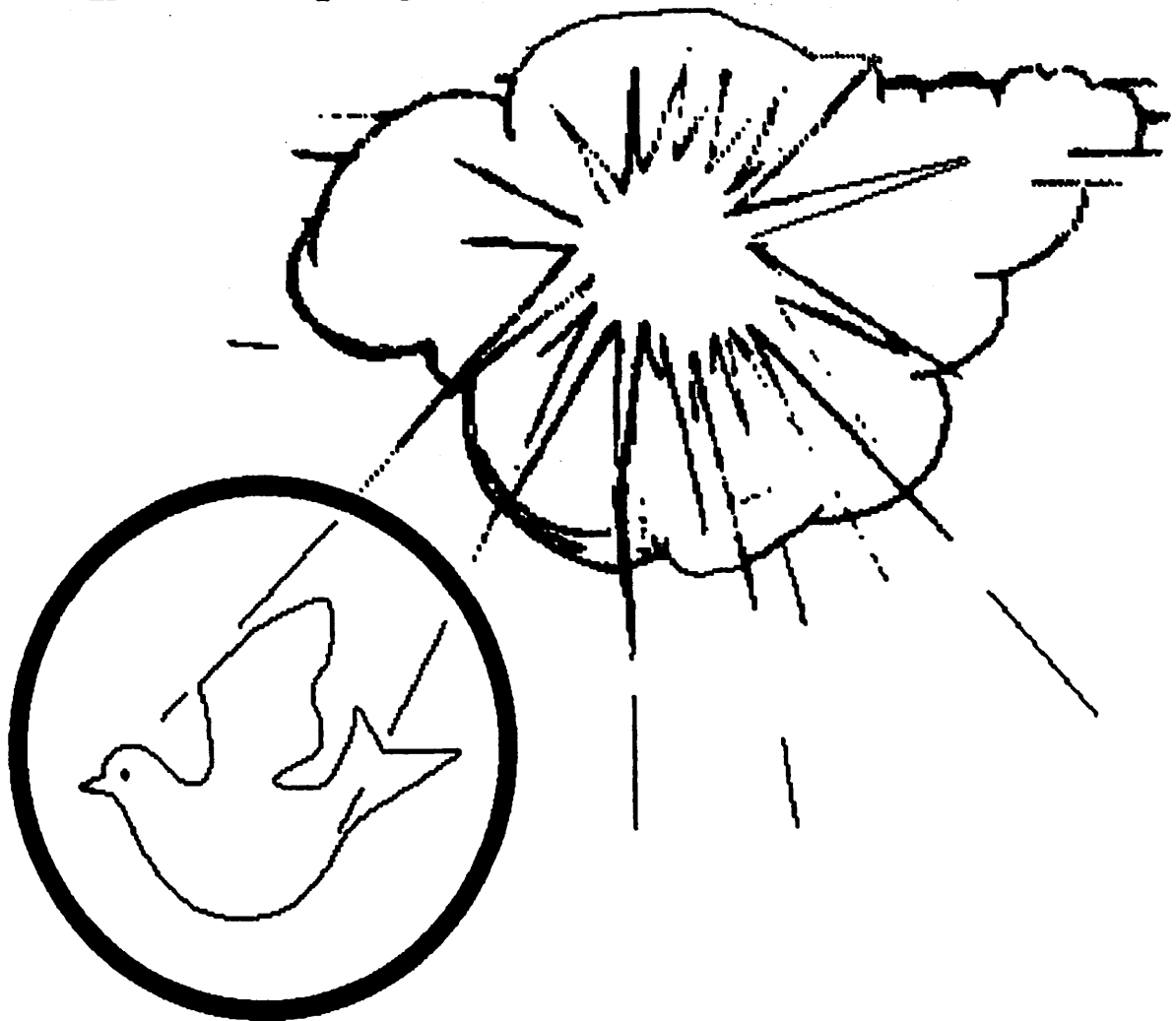
## CHAPTER SIX QUESTIONS

1. How was the barrier of sin removed by God? Cite Scripture.
2. Give examples from the Old Testament of Christ the Rock.
3. Why was Moses only to speak to the Rock the second time that Israel needed water? Give seven failures of Moses, when he struck the Rock twice. Exod.17:5-6.
4. Explain the following. Hebrews 6:4-6; Hebrews 9:24-26; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4.
5. Give some references in the Old Testament of God being our Rock and defense.
6. What purpose does The Rock represent in building our fortress against the evil forces?
7. Explain Matthew 16:13-18.
8. Explain Job 38:4-7.
9. Who was that Stone which the builders rejected? Who were the builders?
10. Why did Christ only mention "The Church" once during his earthly ministry?
11. Explain Matthew 21:42-44; Mark 12:1-10; and Isaiah 5:1-7.
12. Explain 1 Peter 5:6-11.
13. Explain Joshua 1:2-6. Why was this Captain not a created angel?
14. What are some things mentioned in the Bible that makes us more than conquerors? Romans 8:37.
15. Give references from Psalms that teach us that our strength is in the Lord.
16. Write briefly on the subject, "Jehovah, the Great I Am".
17. Explain and compare the following references. Psalm 98:1-2; Psalm 19:1; Isa.52:10.
18. Write briefly on God's final victories as found in Revelation chapter 19 and 20.
19. Write briefly on God's final victory.
20. Write briefly on God's final judgement.
21. Write briefly on the new things which God will create.



**Chapter 7**

**The  
Holy Spirit's  
Protection**



**CHAPTER SEVEN**  
**GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**OUR PROTECTION**

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**INTRODUCTION**

As has been mentioned before, we as believers could not withstand the fiery darts of satan and his demonic world, if we did not have the Holy Spirit. This satanic war mainly consists of invisible conflicts, which are in the realm of the life of these evil spirits. They are invisible and in order to make themselves known, they do indwell many of the unregenerate and come as angels of light to the believers. That is why the Bible clearly states, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but test the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world." 1 Jn.4:1. We are aware of the Holy Spirit, as believers, being born again. God the Holy Spirit is our ever present help and dwells within us forever. This is a great consolation to us as we combat the world, the flesh, and the devil. In the following studies, let us consider three main areas, concerning the Holy Spirit as our protection in this invisible warfare. Although the battle against the world's wicked system and the lustful flesh, they are secondary, for our greatest enemy is behind the scenes in the spirit world. Therefore God was aware of our vulnerable position, and provided the third person of the Trinity to give warnings against the deception of Satan and his billions of demons. God the Holy Spirit who dwells within every Christian, can be considered as that special hedge about our lives. We will consider the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives, as our Divine Guard against Satan, our defense in the spiritual realm, and our spiritual position, safe and secure in the Lord Jesus Christ.

- I. **OUR GUARD AGAINST THE ONSLAUGHTS OF SATAN**
  - II. **OUR DEFENSE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM**
  - III. **THE BELIEVER'S POSITIONAL SECURITY IN CHRIST**
- 

- I. **OUR GUARD AGAINST THE ONSLAUGHTS OF SATAN**

**The sword of the Lord**

God the Holy Spirit is the author of the Bible, and we can depend upon him, using the Word of God as the helmet of God and the sword of the Spirit, exercising our shield of faith. We maintain our guard against the onslaughts of Satan by living in the Word of God. In this manner, the Holy Spirit can block off any attacks by the evil forces. The more we understand of the Bible, the better we are protected against Satan's evil tactics. "As for

God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is proved; he is a shield to all those who trust in him." Ps.18:30. We are constantly alerted by the Holy Spirit, as to the deceit of Satan. "For the word of the Lord is right, and all his works are done in truth." Ps.33:4. "Thy word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against thee." Ps.119:11. The kingdom of darkness can only bring confusion and stress, but praise God for his word that upholds us, and provides awareness of the evil forces. "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.....Thou art my hiding place and my shield; I hope in thy word.....Uphold me according to thy word, that I may live; and let me not be shamed of my hope. Hold thou me up, and I shall be safe; and I will have respect unto thy statutes continually." Ps.119:105-117.

As the Holy Spirit maintains a guard over our lives, he constantly uses the Word of God to make us strong in our resistance against Satan and his demons. Satan will often come as an angel of light, and even quote the Scripture to try to deceive us, but the more that we know of the Scripture the less Satan will deceive us. Satan will also try to convince us that since God has offered us all these things by grace, therefore you can live as you please. The Holy Spirit warns us against such an attitude. "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound: God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer in it?" Rom.6:1-2. "We, then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I helped thee; behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation, Giving no offense in any thing, that the ministry be not blamed, But in all things commending ourselves as the ministers of God, in much patience, in afflictions, in necessities, in distress, In stripes, in imprisonments, in tumults, in labors, in watch-ings, in fastings; By pureness, by knowledge, by long-suffering, by kindness, by the Holy Spirit, by love unfeigned, By the word of truth, by the power of God, by the armor of righteousness on the right hand and on the left," 2 Cor.6:1-7.

The Word of God is used by the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us , not in the thoughts of men, but in the wisdom of God. If you fail to study the Bible as you should, then the Holy Spirit has little to guard you against the onslaughts of Satan. May each of us walk worthy of this high calling in Christ and allow the word of God to be used by the Holy Spirit to guard against these evil forces. "That ye would walk worthy of God, who hath called you unto his kingdom and glory. For this cause also thank we God without ceasing because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it, not as the word of men but as it is truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe." 1 Thess.2:12-13. It is imperative that we understand the importance of the Word of God in our Christian lives. God's Word is boundless and is powerful! As Paul was a prisoner of Rome, yet he was free through the Word of God, reaching out to countless souls, even to this very day. "Consider what I say, and the Lord give thee understanding in all things. Remember that Jesus Christ, of the seed of David, was raised from the dead according to my gospel, For which I suffer trouble, as an evildoer, even unto bonds; but the word of God is not bound. Therefore, I endure all things for the elect's sake, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." 2 Tim.2:7-10.

### **The comforting work of the Holy Spirit**

As the Lord was preparing to return to heaven after his resurrection from the dead, he realized that his disciples would be in a dangerous situation during those final 10 days

before the out pouring of the Holy Spirit. You remembered how he prayed for Peter that Satan would not destroy him, so he was mindful of all of the disciples, as he bid them farewell. "Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you; as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit;" Jn.20:21-22. This was an important event, for had he not covered them by the Holy Spirit, they would have definitely been attacked by Satan. On the day of Pentecost they not only got the covering by the Holy Spirit, but they were then indwelt by the Holy Spirit. As God the Father sent forth God the Holy Spirit by the request of God the Son, may we realize the tremendous importance of having the third person of the Godhead to be our guard against all sorts of attacks by the enemy of our souls. "Seeing that ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently, Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever. For all flesh is like grass, and all the glory of man like the flower of the grass. The grass withereth, and its flower falleth away, But the word of the Lord endureth forever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you" 1 Pet.1:22-25. God's Word is used extensively by the Holy Spirit to ward off attacks by Satan, as he guards us in our Christian walk. "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away." God has placed in the Bible some very special promises to the saints. May we study the Word of God, led by the Holy Spirit, so that no evil force will get the victory in our lives.

## **II. OUR DEFENSE IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM**

As we are constantly exposed to the wiles of the devil, so the Holy Spirit guards us day and night, plus the ministering angels which are ever by our side. Satan can rightfully accuse us before the Father, but Christ is our defense, as our Advocate at the right hand of God the Father. God the Holy Spirit is our constant defense, here on earth, undergirding us and strengthening us continually. Since the Triune God is equal with all attributes, nothing is hidden from them, and every attack by Satan and the demons, sets up a mighty Divine defense for us. We are admonished by the Word of God, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov.3:5-6. We as the saints of God need to remember that we cannot defend ourselves against the mighty wicked forces, and we are entirely dependent upon the Lord.

King David was a mighty man in battle and was fearless against his enemies, but listen to what he says. "Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end, but establish the just; for the righteous God testeth the minds and hearts. My defense is with God, who saveth the upright in heart." Ps.7:9-10. "But I will sing of thy power; yea, I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning: for thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of my trouble. Unto thee, O my strength, will I sing; for God is my defense, and the God of mercy." Ps.59:16-17. "Truly, my soul waiteth upon God; from him cometh my salvation. He only is my rock and my salvation; he is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved." Ps.62:1-2. May we realize that our defense comes directly from God, and he is our ever present help. Being born again by the Holy Spirit, and indwelt by him, the world, the flesh, and the devil can be defeated.

## **Requirements by the Holy Spirit**

In most of the situations in this world, one must abide by rules and regulations. So, in the spiritual life, there are conditions to be met, to get the supreme benefits. It is very easy for a Christian who has accomplished great things in the past, to depend upon those past laurels and drift along. May this not be said of us, but rather let us keep on keeping on, for the glory and honor of the Lord. "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor that which is evil; cling to that which is good. Be kindly affectionate one to another with brotherly love, in honor preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing diligently in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them who persecute you; bless and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits." Rom.12:9-16. We as Christians have never been promised an easy life, in the service of the Lord. God has certain requirements for us to grow in grace and in the knowledge of his Word, so may we just list some of these special requirements which are necessary in an established Christian life.

1. **Being born of the Holy Spirit. Jn.3:3-7.**
2. **Sanctification by the Holy Spirit. 1 Cor.12:13.**
3. **Do not grieve the Holy Spirit. Eph.4:30.**
4. **Depend upon the power of the Holy Spirit. Zech.4:6.**
5. **Allow the Holy Spirit to teach you the word of God. Jn.16:13.**
6. **Be willing to let the Holy Spirit guide and direct you. Rom.8:14.**
7. **Be willing to let the Holy Spirit comfort you. Jn.14:26.**
8. **Desire the best spiritual gifts from the Holy Spirit, as he wills. 1 Cor.14:1.**
9. **Confess your sins before God, so that ye may be constantly filled by the Holy Spirit. Eph.3:19.**
10. **Spend time listening for that still small voice speaking to you. 1 Ki.19:12.**
11. **Thank the Holy Spirit for being willing to indwell you, and continually offer up prayer to the Father in your behalf. Jn.14:16-17; Rom.8:26.**

## **CONCLUSION**

The Triune God has done all that is possible for us as we face the enemy of our soul. The Almighty God is constantly wanting to be our ever present help against these evil forces. "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Ps.46:1. May we be

prepared to stand firmly against the world, the flesh, and the devil. "Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Eph.6:11. Let us by the strength of Almighty God, listen to his Word, taught by the Holy Spirit. May our prayer life be one of a continual attitude of prayer. "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;" Eph.6:18. "As ye have, therefore, received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him, rooted and built up in him, and established in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding with thanksgiving." Col.2:6-7.

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### **III. THE BELIEVER'S POSITIONAL SECURITY IN CHRIST**

#### **Eternally secure**

It is very important that we understand the terminology of the Bible and especially understand the past, present and future tenses mentioned in the Scriptures. For those who put a doubt in their minds as to our position before the Lord, become a direct target for Satan. I want to clearly state the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is exactly as it is called, "Good News"! It certainly would not be good news, if we did not have a guarantee from God as to what our eternal position would be. There are a few basic truths to be considered, as to our security in the Lord Jesus Christ. They are as follows.

- 1. Christ was crucified for the sins of the whole world, once and forever.**
- 2. There is no termination of salvation, when eternal life is granted.**
- 3. Salvation is not based upon our individual works.**
- 4. Salvation is offered by grace.**
- 5. Good works are maintained for rewards.**
- 6. For the holy Spirit dwells in believers forever.**
- 7. We are elected and secure in Christ forever and ever.**

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- 1. Christ was crucified for the sins of the whole world, once and forever.**

The sin question was dealt with at the cross, once and forever. The Lord Jesus Christ became the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world.(Jn.1:29.) The penalty and barrier of sin has been removed as a condition for salvation, and the issue became, "What will you do with Jesus"? The unpardonable decision is the rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Redeemer sent forth from the Father. God has provided the pardon for our sins, making this possible by paying the debt in full for our sins. "For God so loved the world,

that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved." Jn.3:16-17. It is as simple as that, providing a guaranteed salvation. There may be some who will say, "I knew a person who was a Christian and then returned to his old life again". In the first place, that person may have merely tasted a little of the Christian life, and looked like a Christian. That can be possible, and the Word of God relates such a case. "For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the age to come, If they fall away, to renew them again unto repentance, seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." Heb.6:4-6. This clearly states that such a person could absorb so much of Christianity that, although he was not born again by the Holy Spirit, he was able to put on such a bold front that the Holy Spirit was still dealing with him, but not indwelling him. It would be utterly impossible for that person to be born of the Holy Spirit and then lose his spiritual birth. A true believer is promised the Holy Spirit to dwell within him forever. (Jn.14:16-17.) Christ has become both the high priest and the sacrifice for our sins. He has entered into the Holy of Holies, once and forever. "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are figures of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; Nor yet that he should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world. But now once, in the end of the ages, hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself." Heb.9:24-26. If one could be saved, and then lost again, that would amount to saying, the sacrifice of Christ did not hold out, and therefore it would necessitate Christ having to be crucified again, which is impossible.

## **2. There is no termination of salvation, when eternal life is granted.**

Here we need to make sure that we understand the tense of God's statement. "He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." Jn.3:18. Condemnation to those who believe is forever gone, and will never be the issue again. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." Jn.3:36. Please note, that eternal life is something that never ends, and it begins immediately, when one becomes a believer, and shall never terminate. "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, who gave them to me, is greater than all, and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." Jn.10:28-30. There may be some that would say, "Yes, but", somebody may go into terrible sin and take himself out of the hands of God the Father and God the Son. That would also mean that a person could drive out the Holy Spirit from him and kill his new spiritual birth, making that one greater than Almighty God who holds him in his hands. Which sin would dissolve your eternal salvation? It would be like saying one can drink a little poison, but not a large amount of poison. Either one will kill. As to sin in believers, yes that occurs constantly and that is why the Lord had to make provision for all sin in our lives as believers. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins,

he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and the truth is not in us." 1 Jn.1:8-10. Some of these false teachers try to describe some sins as mere mistakes, but all is listed in God's Word as sin, and the debt has been paid, and God is justified to forgive these sins based upon the death of Christ upon the cross. Then there may be some Christians who will say, It is the gross sins that would terminate your salvation. They fail to realize that sin is sin, regardless of being great or small. What would they do with this? "For whatsoever is not of faith is sin." Rom.14:23b.

### **3. Salvation is not based upon our individual works.**

Let me remind you, that although salvation is not based upon our individual works, I am not inferring that our individual works do not have a place in our Christian life. The Word of God clearly states, "Wherefore, by their fruits ye shall know them." Matt.7:20. It is also important for us to realize that these good works which we desire, must be wrought in and through the Lord, in the bonds of the Holy Spirit. "Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me." Jn.15:4.

Salvation is provided by Almighty God and Christ has redeemed us from the penalty of sin, and curse of the law, taking our place and paying the debt in full. "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree;" Gal.3:13. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God- Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them." Eph.2:8-10. This salvation is an unmerited gift from God, to those who believe. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord." Rom.6:23. There is nothing that we can add to or take away from God's so great salvation. "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him. God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with diverse miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will?" Heb.2:3-4.

### **4. Salvation is offered by grace**

As Christians we must constantly be aware of the world and the flesh, with their glorification of achievements. Much of the stardom of the world centers around movie stars, athletes and other temporary accomplishments. "Know ye not that they who run a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown, but we, and incorruptible. I, therefore, so run, not as uncertainly, so fight I, not as one that beateth the air; But keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway." 1 Cor.9:24-27. The word "Castaway" does not mean destroyed, but rather has the Greek meaning of "Disapproved". Yes, our works can be disapproved, as we will find in further study, but our salvation is based 100% on grace through our loving Lord Jesus Christ.

What is understood by the word "Grace"? It is important for us to understand "The Grace of God". It manifests mercy and forgiveness, based upon righteousness and justice



being satisfied. Christ is God the Father's satisfaction, and pleasure that makes possible his out pouring of manifold grace. "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; And he is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. 1 Jn.2:1-2. God the Father's love cannot be compared with the greatest of human love that we could encounter. "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." 1 Jn.4:9-10. "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God, Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness, that he might be just, and the justifier of him who believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? Of works? Nay, but by the law of faith. Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law." Rom.3:23-30. Faith is therefore, based upon what God has done by grace without any human merit. God the Father is satisfied (propitiated) that the sin problem is removed with the full penalty being met by his Son in whom he is well pleased.

## **5. Good works are maintained for rewards**

Every Christian should continually be active with good works, which are well pleasing in the sight of God. These good works should not be confused with adding to our salvation, but rather, expressing to the Triune God that we wish to return a measure of love to them for their part in bringing us into the household of faith. We must differentiate between two kinds of good works, which the Christian is susceptible in doing. The Christian's popular type of good works are paraded in front of others for personal glory and position. They usually want the fore-most seats and special recognition, exposing their good works for various personal reasons. The Word of God calls such good works as "wood, hay, and stubble". The other type of good works are maintained for the glory of God, and unannounced. The Lord gave several illustrations of these two types of good works. "Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen by them; otherwise ye have no reward of your Father, who is in heaven. Therefore, when thou doest alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth. That thine alms may be in secret; and thy Father, who seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly." Matt.6:1-4. Moreover, when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance; for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But thou, when thou fastest, anoint thine head, and wash thy face, that thou appear not unto men to fast, but unto thy Father, who is in secret, shall reward thee openly." Matt.6:16-18. "And Jesus sat opposite the treasury, and beheld how the people cast money into the treasury; and many that were rich cast in much. And there came a certain poor widow, and she threw in two mites, which make a farthing. And he called unto him his disciples, and saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, This poor widow hath cast more in than all they who have cast into the treasury; For they did cast in of their abundance, but she of her want did cast in all that she had, even all her living." Mk.12:41-44.

At times, all Christians have their weak moments when they practice showmanship, rather than giving the glory to the Lord. We need to be led by the Holy Spirit, in producing good works that will stand the test of God. You may ask the question, When will these rewards be given out to the saints of God? Let us turn to the Bible and see, when this will take place. "For we are all laborers together with God; ye are God's cultivated field, ye are God's building. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid a foundation, and another buildeth on it. But let every man take heed how he buildeth upon it. For other foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble- Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall test every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built upon it, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet as by fire. Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?" 1 Cor.3:9-16. By this scripture, we know that there will be a day of testing our good works, as to whether they are of gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, or stubble. We are aware what the fire will do to wood, hay, and stubble, as there will be nothing left but ashes. The question is, When will this take place? It will have to take place when we are all gathered together in the presence of God. "For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that everyone may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." 2 Cor.5:10.

In understanding the sequence of events as recorded in the Bible, this judgement seat of Christ, will take place when all the saints of God are caught up into heaven, known as the Rapture. It will be a time when we receive our glorified bodies and our position of authority as a member of the kingdom of priests. These works are divided into good works and bad good works, according to our motive in performing them upon this planet earth. Sin will not be the question, as that was taken care of at Calvary. Some saints of God will be saved so as by fire, having all of their bad good works destroyed. Others will pass the test and their good works shall be purified by the fire of God, and receive supreme authority and responsibility for the kingdom of righteousness upon the earth.

As saints of God, we can avoid some of these bon fires in heaven, by confessing them to the Lord now, and remove them before the judgement seat of Christ. (1 Jn.1:9.) This will also act as a reminder to us to exalt the Lord Jesus Christ as we serve him among the sheep. Do our good works as unto the Lord, rather than for self praise and desiring special seats of authority for personal glory.

## **6. God the Holy Spirit dwells in believers forever**

As members of the body of Christ, and children of the royal family of God, there is but one way that we have obtained this Divine family relationship, and that is, being born of God the Holy Spirit. Every member of the body of Christ has been baptized by the Holy Spirit, receiving the new birth. "For by one Spirit were we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Greeks, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit." 1 Cor.12:13. No one has been left out among the Christians, even those who will be saved so as by fire. This is of great importance to us as we fight the good fight of faith against the world, the flesh, and the devil.

Christ's prayer in our behalf is being answered. "And I will pray the father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." Jn.14:16-17. "But the Comforter, who is the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatever I have said unto you." Jn.14:26. This all happened on the day of Pentecost in fulfillment of Joel 2:28 as well as the words of the Lord, to his disciples. This out pouring of the Holy Spirit began the formation of the body of Christ, which is called the true church. The Christian era had started, preparing a special bride to be for Christ. It will culminate when the Rapture takes place, and we are adorned in heaven for that great marriage of the Lamb. (Rev.19:7-10.) The out pouring of the Holy Spirit was also verified, including the following groups.

**A. The Jewish disciples in the upper room.**

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven like a rushing mighty wind, and filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Acts 2:1-4.

**B. The Samaritans also receive the Holy Spirit.**

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spoke, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did;.....But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.....Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.....And they, when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, returned to Jerusalem, and preached the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans." Acts 8:5-25.

**C. The out pouring of the Holy Spirit for Africa**

"And an angel of the Lord spoke to Philip, saying, Arise and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert. And he arose and went; and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Can'dace, queen of the Ethiopians, who had charge of all her treasure and had come to Jerusalem to worship, Was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Isaiah, the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran there to him, and heard him read the prophet, Isaiah, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest? And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he besought Philip that he would come up and sit with him.....Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water; and the eunuch said, See, here is water. What doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the

chariot to stand still; and they both went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, and the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing." Acts 8:26-39.

#### **D. The Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit.**

"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons; But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.....While Peter yet spoke these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all of them who heard the word. And they of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then asked they him to tarry certain days." Acts 10:34-48.

#### **E. The living Old Testament saints receive the Holy Spirit.**

"And it came to pass that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper borders came to Ephesus and, finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there is any Holy Spirit. And he said unto them, Unto what, then, were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people that they should believe on him who should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve." Acts 19:1-7.

#### **7. We are elected and secure in Christ forever and ever.**

As we conclude this study of the important part that the Holy Spirit has in our security, we face a very controversial issue as well as a very important truth, concerning our eternal position in Christ. There has been much speculation and great theological writings on "Election", and "Predestination". It should always be remember, that as we study the Bible and we come up against any problem, we immediately refer back to the character of God. If we will do this, then we can by the help of the Holy Spirit, understand the "Divine Viewpoint". Since God has foreknowledge of all things from the beginning and down through the corridor of time, he has absolute perfect information of his whole creation. If God knows of the falling of a sparrow, certainly election and predestination is clearly understood. This should not give us the impression of "Fatalism", for both angels and human beings have always had volition and the freedom of choice.

The important issue that we face in election is, Where does election rest? Certainly it is not in the angels or in human beings, and therefore it must culminate in the mind of God. Since God is omniscient, immutable and impeccable, there is nothing hidden from him. Since the Triune God, three persons in one, are equal in all characteristics, then we

must conclude that this election is not in us, but rather in the Lord Jesus Christ, who is the eternal Son of God. Therefore, our election is in Christ, and whosoever will may come to the Lord. The crossing of the threshold by faith concludes our security in Christ Jesus and we are immediately sealed by God the Holy Spirit. (Eph.1:13.) The Godhead does not wish that one soul should perish and that all should come to the knowledge and acceptance of Christ as their Savior. However, in the foreknowledge of God, there are countless souls, brain washed by the god of this world system and love darkness rather than light, and by their own choice will reject God's provision for them. If God can envisage thousands of years of activity and as he has already done, write it out in detailed prophecy, it is certainly a simple matter for him to know who will accept Christ as his personal Savior and who will reject him. "Finally, brethren, 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 there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do, and the God of peace shall be with you." Phil.4:8-9.

## CONCLUSION

As we conclude this study of the Battleground and warfare of the Christians, may we not merely have statistical knowledge of these Biblical truths, but above all, may we allow these living truths to be assimilated into our hearts, and allowing them to mold and make us according to the will of God. May the Lord have his way in our Christian life, seeking to do his perfect will. "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith." Rom.12:2-3.

"Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen." Heb.13:20-21.

Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God, our Savior, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen." Jude 24-25.

## CHAPTER SEVEN QUESTIONS

1. **Why is the Holy Spirit very important in our battle against the evil forces?**
2. **How important is the word of God as we face Satan in battle?**
3. **Why was King David a mighty man in battle?**
4. **Name and explain the 11 requirements for the Holy Spirit to be effective in our lives?**
5. **Explain why and how the Christians are secure in the Lord. Cite Scripture.**
6. **Why isn't sin the issue, now before God. Cite Scripture.**
7. **Explain John 3:16-17; Hebrews 6:4-6.**
8. **Explain thoroughly Hebrews 9:24-26.**
9. **Explain thoroughly what God means by "Everlasting Life", according to the Scripture.**
10. **When does the eternal security start for the believer?**
11. **Why aren't our good works included toward salvation? Cite Scripture.**
12. **Explain "The Grace of God", and what all is involved in God's mercy toward us.**
13. **Why should Christians maintain good works?**
14. **When do we have to stand before the Judgement seat of Christ according to 2 Corinthians 5:10; and 1 Cor.3:9-15.**
15. **What does it mean when a Christian is saved so as by fire. 1 Cor.3:15?**
16. **When are we who believe, baptized by the Holy Spirit? Cite Scripture.**
17. **Explain John 14:16-17; and John 14:26.**
18. **Give an essay on,"The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit". Cite Scripture and name the various ethnic groups mentioned in the Scripture.**
19. **What was the purpose of John the Baptist heralding Christ?**
20. **Why did John the Baptist's converts have to receive the baptism of the Lord?**

# Publications

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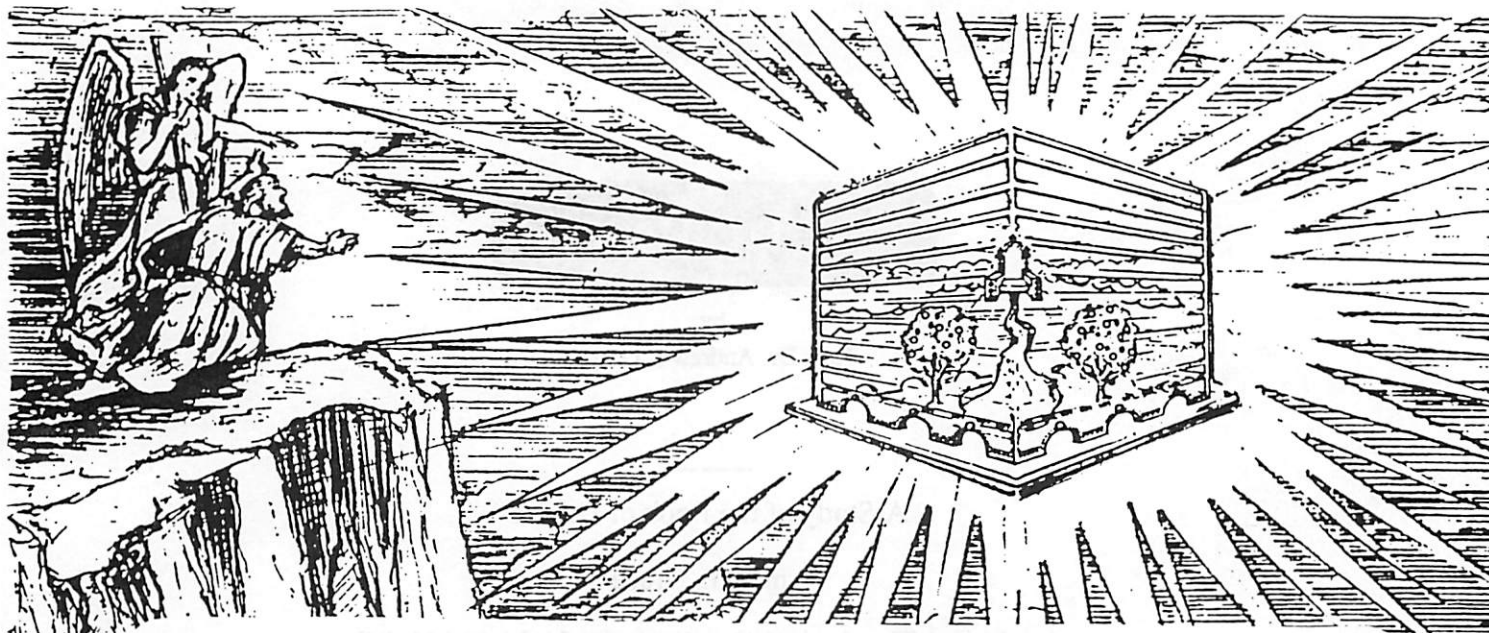
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**"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from GOD" – Revelation 21: 10**

**Author: Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier**

**Missionary in Africa since 1938, established the first of the Christian Literature and Bible Centers in Kenya, East Africa in 1952. Since then, over a billion pieces of FREE CHRISTIAN LITERATURE have been distributed throughout Africa in approximately 50 different languages. The overwhelming response of African Christian leaders to the WORD OF GOD, inspired Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier to write this book.**

**JESUS said "I am ALPHA and OMEGA"**

**Revelation 1:8**

