

# UNDERSTANDING WARFARE

## PERSONAL ATTACKS:

### Thoughts

- through the mind

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- Word Curses
- 'Video' re-runs
- Unfulfilled Revenge

### Physical

- through the body

-

- Sickness
- Migraines
- Depression

### Outside world

- through the world

-

- Unnatural need for recognition
- Over-achiever



## Part One

### The Battleground of the Mind

The territory of the uncrucified thought-life is the beachhead of satanic assault in our lives. To defeat the devil, we must be renewed in the spirit of our minds!

#### 1. Satan's Domain: The Realm of Darkness

##### a. Preparing for Spiritual Warfare

It is essential to our basic well being that we discern the areas of our nature which are unguarded and open to satanic assault.

*Jude 6 – And angels who did not keep their own domain, but abandoned their proper abode, He has kept in eternal bonds under darkness for the judgment of the great day.*

The eternal darkness to which this Scripture refers is essentially a *moral* darkness, which does ultimately degenerate to literal darkness.

We have been delivered, through Jesus, out of the domain or “authority” of darkness.

Colossians 1:13

We are not trapped in darkness if we have been born of light.

However, wherever there is willful disobedience to the Word of God, there is spiritual darkness and the potential for demonic activity.

Jesus warned, TAKE HEED THEREFORE THAT THE LIGHT WHICH IS IN THEE BE NOT DARKNESS. Luke 11:35

There is a light in you.

Proverbs 20:27 - *The spirit of man is the lamp of the Lord.*

WHEN A CHRISTIAN HARBORS SIN, THE LIGHT THAT IS IN YOU IS DARKNESS.

*Take Note:*

**The devil can traffic in any area of darkness even that darkness that still exists in a Christian's heart!**

b. God's Thresher

An example of Satan having access to the carnal side of human nature is seen in Peter's denial of Jesus

Spiritual powers at work in the areas of darkness.

Luke 22:31-32 - *"Simon, Simon, behold Satan has demanded permission to sift you like wheat; but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail; and you, when once you have turned again, strengthen your brothers."*

Luke 22:24 - *They began to discuss among themselves which one of them... was going to do this thing.*

Luke 22:24 - *And there arose also a dispute among them as to which one of them was...greatest.*

Proverbs 16:18 – *Pride goes before a fall.*

c. Submit to God

**LET US RECOGNIZE BEFORE WE DO WARFARE THAT THE AREAS WE HIDE IN DARKNESS ARE THE VERY AREAS OF OUR FUTURE DEFEAT.**

James 4:7 - *Submit to God...resist the devil...and he will flee.*

Before God can truly use us, in one way or another we will pass through a time of threshing.

Pride is the armor of darkness itself!

The greatest defense we can have against the devil is to maintain an **honest heart** before God.

James 4:6 – *God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble.*

James 4:7 – *Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.*

***Take Note:***

**Victory begins with the name of Jesus on your lips; but it will not be consummated until the nature of Jesus is in your heart.**

Acts 3:12 – *Why do you gaze at us, as if by our own power or piety we made him walk?*

## 2. The Stronghold of the Godly: Humility

### a. Who Truly Are You Fighting?

Satan dines on what we withhold from God.

The sacrifice of Jesus Christ is a perfect shelter of grace enabling all men to look honestly at their needs.

### b. Agree with Your Adversary

Matthew 5:25-26 – *Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. <sup>26</sup> Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny.*

This parable explains God’s view of human righteousness. In the narrative, the adversary is the devil and the Judge is God. Satan, as our adversary, stands as the accuser of the brethren before God, the Judge of all. The truth Christ wants us to see is that when we approach God on the basis of our own righteousness, the adversary will always have legal ground to “cast us into prison” for our righteousness is as “filthy rags. (Isaiah 64:6)

“Agree with your adversary quickly” does not mean to obey the devil.

The key is not to argue with the devil about your own righteousness because, before God, your righteousness *is* unacceptable.

Our salvation is not based upon what we do but upon who Jesus becomes to us.

Christ is our righteousness.

Romans 5:1

Satan tries to deceive you by focusing your attention upon your own righteousness.



Hebrews 4:16

Ephesians 4:24

Satan fears virtue and he is terrified of Jesus Christ!

### 3. Pulling Down Strongholds

#### a. What is a Stronghold?

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 – *For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the [pulling down of strongholds].*

Stronghold (Apostle Paul's definition) – spiritual fortresses wherein Satan and his legions hide and are protected.

These strongholds exist in the thought-patterns and ideas that govern individuals and churches as well as communities and nations.

Stronghold (Biblical definition) – powerful, vigorously protected spiritual realities.

The strongholds we are going to expose first are those wrong attitudes that protect and defend the old self-life, which very often become the “fortified dwellings” of demonic oppression in a person's life.

2 Corinthians 10:5 – “stronghold” defined as *speculations – lofty thing raised up against the knowledge of God.*

*Self-deception* – your rebellion to God provides a place for the devil in your life.

#### b. Repentance Precedes Deliverance

The pulling down of strongholds begins with repentance.

Mark 6:12-13 – *They went out and preached that men should repent. And they were casting out many demons and...healing them.*

Repentance precedes deliverance and deliverance often leads to healing in other areas.

Luke 2:35

God will give you power to enable you to repent and receive His virtue into your life.

#### 4. A House Made of Thoughts

##### a. A Warning Before Deliverance!

*Matthew 12:43-44 – Now when the unclean spirit goes out of man, it passes through waterless places, seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, I will return to my house from which I came.*

*Matthew 12:44-45 – And when [the unclean spirit] comes, it finds [its house] unoccupied, swept and put in order. Then it goes, and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first.*

If you are going to be successful in spiritual battle, your warfare must be waged according to the Scriptures.

2 Peter 2:20

Christ must enter and be allowed to build His house of righteousness in the very area where Satan once dwelt.

##### b. Removing Satan's Armor

*Luke 11:21-22 – When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own homestead, his possessions are undisturbed; but when someone stronger than he attacks him and overpowers him, he takes away from him all his armor on which he had relied, and distributes his plunder.*

The armor upon which demons rely consists of our own thoughts, attitudes and opinions which are in agreement with evil.

2 Corinthians 10:1-4

What Jesus described as “armor”, the Apostle Paul classified as “strongholds”.

The strongholds that affect us most are those which are so hidden in our thinking patterns that we do not recognize them nor identify them as evil.

1 Peter 5:9

c. Taking Every Thought Captive to Christ

Proverbs 23:7 – *As [a man] thinketh in his heart, so is he.*

The essence of who we are is in our thought-life.

Hebrews 2:9 – *We do see Him... namely Jesus.*

Jesus Christ is the model of what God considers typical for the new-creation man.

Ephesians 4:23-24

Hebrews 2:10

Romans 8:28-29

You must learn to look objectively at any thoughts or attitudes that fail to conform to the likeness and teachings of Christ.

We must make way in us for the coming of the Lord.

We must allow the “increase of His government” to expand until we are so absorbed into His Spirit that we not only believe *in* Him, we believe *like* Him.

d. Defeat the Stronghold of Failure!

2 Corinthians 10:5 - *...taking every though captive to the obedience of Christ.*

Philippians 4:13 – *I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.*

1 John 1:9

Romans 8:29

The same Lord who conquered the devil and liberated your heart in salvation is working still to renew your mind.

2 Corinthians 3:18

e. Destroying the Stronghold of Fear!

1 John 4:18 – *There is no fear in love... love casts out fear.*

**Take Note:**

**Victory begins with the name of Jesus on our lips; but it will not be consummated until the nature of Jesus is in our hearts.**

Your thought-life must be occupied by the Person of Christ.

5. Three Sources of Strongholds

Strongholds originate from any one of three sources:

a. The First Source of Strongholds: The World

Many things influence our identity and view of life.

Many of our opinions about life are ours only because we know of no other way to think.

The only truth suitable for eternity is the truth of Christ.

Luke 6:40

John 8:41

Hebrews 13:7

Our goal must be conformity to Jesus Christ and Him only.

Hebrews 8:10

1 Corinthians 2:16

2 Corinthians 5:16-17

Revelations 2:17

2 Corinthians 5:17 – *If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

b. The Stronghold of our Experiences

We must realize that life, as we perceive it, is based upon whatever network of thoughts and opinions we are currently allowing to govern our souls.

God defines reality as the “Truth” founding His Word.

In the combined meaning of all Jesus taught, we find the reality of the kingdom of God.

Romans 3:4 - *...let God be found true, though every man be found a liar.*

The only one who has a right to shape our lives is Jesus Christ.

Who is ruling your life? God or our experiences?  
You must give yourself room to grow into new insights.

You must never surrender your faith in God’s Word!

c. The Stronghold of Wrong Doctrines

Matthew 24:4 – *See to it no one misleads you.*

We must study and know the Bible ourselves.

2 Corinthians 13:1 – *Every fact is to be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses.*

We must stay honest with God and sensitive to His love and His Word.

Every battle we face in life is over the Word and whether or not we can build our lives upon the faithfulness and integrity of God.

## HOW STRONGHOLDS ORIGINATE

If we are to discuss how demonic strongholds originate, we must first define the terms we are using.

*Webster's 21<sup>st</sup> Century College Dictionary* defines a 'stronghold' as:

***"A fortified place having strong defenses where a group having certain views, attitudes, etc., is concentrated."***

The Apostle Paul in his letter to the Corinthian Church refers to 'strongholds' as

- proud arguments
- rebellious ideas
- acts of disobedience

which must be torn down and demolished. (*2 Corinthians 10:3-6*)

In his letter to the Ephesians he warns: ***"be angry and do not sin; let not the sun go down upon your wrath, neither give place to the devil."*** (*Ephesians 4:27*)

Note the three characteristics:

1. A community of inhabitants.
2. A fortified place of defense to protect the inhabitants.
3. A shared set of ideas, beliefs, and goals.

There are two types of demonic strongholds:

### 1. Stronghold of **TEMPTATION**

A stronghold of temptation can be defined as:

***An attitude or behavior that is believed and practiced which questions or defies God's Word; thereby providing a place of protection and opportunity for demons to live and work in a believer's life.***

### 2. Stronghold of **TORMENT**

A stronghold of torment can be defined as:

***An emotional state, mental disorder or physical infirmity brought about as a result from demonic oppression or harassment in a believer's life.***

## **How Demonic Strongholds Originate**

**The Human Will is an incredibly powerful force.** The will can resist the Holy Spirit's attempts to bring to man/woman to repentance. The will can also resist the enemy's attempt to enter and bring man/woman into bondage.

**Therefore, demons must devise complex strategies and schemes** that slowly and subtly enslave us. But, they must first find a place of weakness or a door of entry. (John 10:1) Some gain entrance through our desires by tempting us to sin, some through a traumatic event. Some demons cause us to believe a lie in order to build a stronghold of darkness for them to inhabit.

**A stronghold can exist** in an individual, a family, a clan, or a nation. Example: Genesis 4:9 – Sons of Jacob; Mark 3:17 – James and John, sons of Zebedee (Sons of Thunder); Titus 1:23 – Paul and the Cretans. Their goal is first to gain a foothold and then through many generations to establish a stronghold.

All strongholds are not alike; some are inhabited by tempters such as greed or lust, others by tormentors such as fear and anxiety.

**The Holy Spirit may at times open our eyes** in the spirit realm (Ephesians 1:18) and allow us to see how the enemy has built his stronghold. It may be a cave of darkness resulting from a lie we have believed, a swamp of uncleanness living in lustful thoughts in our imaginations, a pit of despair and hopelessness resulting from times of hardship in our past, a wound in the emotions resulting from childhood trauma, or a prison of guilt and shame from our past sins.

### **The most common doors or entry points are listed below:**

1. Generational Curse – Exodus 20:5; Genesis 9:22-25
2. Personal Sin – Ephesians 4:27; Romans 6:16
3. Curse of Disobedience – Deuteronomy 28:15-46; Joshua 6:26; 1 Kings 16:34
4. Trauma from Abuse – 2 Samuel 13:1-20
5. Witchcraft Curse – Numbers 22:5-7; Joshua 24:9
6. Word Curse – Proverbs 18:20; Matthew 27:25
7. Soul Tie – Genesis 2:24; 1 Corinthians 6:17
8. Demonic Deception – Romans 7:11; Galatians 3:1

The generational curse is by far the most destructive weapon in Satan's arsenal.

Here's why:

- a. Any demon in the father or mother's bloodline can enter the baby in the womb or early childhood since the human will is unable to protect itself until it acquires a knowledge of good and evil.  
**Isaiah 7:16, 1 Corinthians 13:11**
- b. The mind, will or emotions can be damaged or broken even before birth.  
**Luke 4:18, Psalm 23:3**
- c. The curses of the bloodlines are mixed creating more complex bondages.  
**Exodus 20:5, Genesis 49:4-7**
- d. The sin that brought the curse is hidden from the conscious mind making identification and repentance more difficult.  
**John 8:32**

But God has a cure for each door or portal (entry point).

## 1. The Tempters

These spirits live in the mind. Their job is to tempt us to commit sin. They wait until we are at our weakest emotional state and then unleash a torrent of tempting thoughts and desires in an attempt to overpower our will and make us act.

Listed below are a few of the more common oppressions which tempt, but there are many more. These don't just specialize in this particular sin. They are synonymous with the sin. It is their one and only desire.

Pride	Mockery	Violence
Greed	Meanness	Rape
Lust	Envy	Theft
Rebellion	Deception	Alcoholism
Unforgiveness	Lying	Drug Addiction
Anger	Murder	Witchcraft
Hatred	Cruelty	

## 2. The Tormenters

This type of oppression can live in the mind, emotions, memories, or body. Their job is to torment emotionally with negative destructive feelings or physically with pain, sickness, and disease.

<i>Spirits that torment the <b>mind, emotions, and memories</b>:</i>			
Fear	Distraction		
Rejection	Forgetfulness	<i>Spirits that torment the <b>physical body</b>:</i>	
Torment	Guilt	Infirmity	Nausea
Grief	Shame	Infection	Asthma
Depression	Embarrassment	Disease	Epilepsy
Hopelessness	Pain	Self-Destruction	Allergies
Suicide	Sadness	Premature Death	Migraine
Confusion	Insanity	Pain	Anorexia
		Fever	Panic Attacks

Luke 13:11-16 – *Woman with spirit of infirmity [bent over; couldn't stand up straight] for 18 years*

## **The Origin of Doubt and Unbelief**

Is the devil real?

Genesis 3:1-5 (NLT)

<sup>1</sup> *The serpent was the shrewdest of all the wild animals the LORD God had made. One day he asked the woman, “**Did God really say** you must not eat the fruit from any of the trees in the garden?”* <sup>2</sup> *“Of course we may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,” the woman replied.* <sup>3</sup> *“It’s only the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden that we are not allowed to eat. God said, ‘You must not eat it or even touch it; if you do, you will die.’”* <sup>4</sup> *“**You won’t die!**” the serpent replied to the woman.* <sup>5</sup> *“**God knows** that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”*

Satan planted doubt and unbelief in Eve’s mind regarding:

1. Her **understanding** of God’s word – “*Did God really say that...*”
2. The **credibility** of God – “*You won’t die...*”
3. The **character** of God – “*God knows... you will become like Him...*”

He is still using the same tactics on you and I today!

How does he deal with you? Do you believe the Word of God or your eyes?!

## **How Doubt and Unbelief Enters**

As with any other spirit, doubt and unbelief must have a ‘door’ or entry point to get in.

There are 3 main doors:

1. World View
2. Generational Curse
3. Negative Childhood Experience

We will examine each of these to see how the enemy works to blind individuals, societies and nations through doubt and unbelief.

## 1. World View

Webster's Dictionary defines a world-view as:

***“A comprehensive personal philosophy or conception of the world and of human life.”***

**Every person on the planet has a world-view**; from the aborigine in Australia to the philosopher at Cambridge University. It is how we comprehend the world around us.

**If our world-view accepts without question the Bible's view of God**, Satan, angels, demons, and humanity including the spiritual battle for the souls of men, we can truly say we have a Biblical world-view.

This would be difficult for any of us to claim because our mind has been influenced by those who have gone before us and those around us.

### **The Collective Consciousness**

The “collective consciousness” is the accepted belief of any society regarding what is perceived to be true.

In 1492 all of the known world believed the earth was flat. Intelligent people accepted this without question simply because the preceding generation had said it was so.

Satan attempt to blind the ‘collective consciousness’ of a society by introducing “doctrines of demons” through the teachings of demonized philosophers.

Until the seventeenth century, the western world from kings to peasant believed in the God of the Bible. Satan inspired a demonized philosopher to challenge the collective consciousness of the Christian western world with a “Doctrine of Demons” called:

### **The Enlightenment**

“The Enlightenment” was a philosophical movement which originated in Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by the French Philosopher Voltaire (1694-1778), who was called the “Father of Enlightenment.” It was characterized by a reliance on reason and experience rather than Tradition.

**The philosophical doctrine of “Materialism”** was one of the beliefs that came out of “The Enlightenment.”

Voltaire said, *“Matter is the only reality and everything in the world, including thought, will and feeling, can be explained in terms of matter alone. Nothing exists outside the material world including God, angels, and demons. There is no life beyond the present; therefore the highest goal to strive for is comfort, pleasure and wealth.”*

Remember these – “*if it feels good, do it*” – “*free love*” What about abortion? Right to choose?

The western world of Europe and North America embraced the teaching of The Enlightenment and materialism. Today it is more plagued with doubt and unbelief than the third world countries that practice all forms of idolatry and false religions. America is without doubt the most guilty.

## 2. Generational Curse

**The offspring of Adam and Eve were born into the world bearing the curse** of their parents through no fault of their own. They did not walk with God in the cool afternoons as their parents had. There was no intimate communion, no personal presence of God to give comfort and guidance. Childbirth would be a dreaded ordeal. Food that once grew naturally in abundance would not be scarce and hard to come by. They bore the affects of the curse of disobedience.

**Though the original sin of our parents was a unique event** in the history of mankind that brought a curse on all succeeding generations, the generational curse was a law that would be set in motion every time God’s Law was broken through disobedience.

God warned the Israelites of this when He gave them the Law on Mt. Sinai.

Exodus 20:5 (NLT) – *You must not bow down to them or worship them, for I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God who will not tolerate your affection for any other gods. I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me.*

The sins of doubt and unbelief in the lives of our forefathers bring generational curses of doubt and unbelief on us at birth.

### Sins of Doubt and Unbelief

1. Embracing atheism
2. Practicing a false religion
3. Blaming God for personal tragedy
4. Renouncing the existence of God to enjoy the pleasures of sin without guilt. *They enter into a form of self-deception. (Romans 8:28)*
5. The practice of works (in the church today) – thinking to appease God through ‘giving’ – fake loyalty.

### 3. Negative Childhood Experiences

One of the strategies the enemy employs is to bring negative destructive experiences into our life at an early age.

1) **Why is this strategy of Satan so effective?**

- a. **The immature mind is easily deceived into drawing wrong conclusions.** This plants doubts regarding God's existence, His character, His integrity, His love and concern for us, His ability to help us deal with our hurts.

*"When I was a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put childish ways behind me." 1 Corinthians 13:11*

- b. **The emotions are wounded and crippled, preventing health relationships.**

*"The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me... He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted..." Isaiah 61:1 (NIV)*

# 10 Side-effects of Doubt & Unbelief

- **We are unable to please God** – *No one can please God without faith. Whoever goes to God must believe that God exists and that He rewards those who seek Him.*  
*Hebrews 11:6 (GWT)*
- **We cannot reach our full potential in God** – <sup>19</sup>*So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief. <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since the promise of entering his rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.*  
*Hebrews 3:19; 4:1 (NIV)*
- **We are robbed of God's intended blessings** – *No one can please God without faith. Whoever goes to God must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who seek him.*  
*Hebrews 11:6 (GWT)*
- **Many miracles and physical healings are forfeited** – <sup>5</sup>*And because of their unbelief, he couldn't do any miracles among them except to place his hands on a few sick people and heal them. <sup>6</sup> And he was amazed at their unbelief.*  
*Mark 6:5-6 (NLT)*
- **The Heart is hardened causing passivity, apathy and indifference toward God** – *Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.*  
*Mark 16:14 (NKJV)*
- **Unbelief is a stronghold of evil in the heart that can cause us to turn away from God** – *Take care, brothers and sisters, that none of you may have an evil, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God.*  
*Hebrews 3:12 (NRSV)*
- **Doubt and unbelief brings discouragement and loss of confidence** – *Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God...*  
*Romans 4:20 (NIV)*
- **Doubt plants suspicious in our mind and alienates us from God** – *“God knows that your eyes will be opened as soon as you eat it, and you will be like God, knowing both good and evil.”*  
*Genesis 3:5 (NLT)*
- **Doubt torments us with fear, confusion and uncertainty** – <sup>30</sup>*But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, “Lord, save me!” <sup>31</sup> And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, “O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”*  
*Matthew 14:30-31 (NKJV)*
- **We are unable to obtain freedom from demonic bondages because we refuse to believe they exist** – <sup>19</sup>*Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?” <sup>20</sup> So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief...”*  
*Matthew 17:19-20 (NKJV)*

## TOUGH QUESTIONS

**Q. *How quickly must we forgive?***

**A.** As soon as we hear God's voice calling us to! God does not require us to feel like forgiving, but that we forgive in spite of our feelings. When we obey with the will, the emotions begin the healing process.

**Q. *Who are the jailors?***

**A.** They are demons of every kind! We allowed them in when we chose not to forgive and God will allow them to remain until we forgive those who have offended us. Unforgiveness will invite other evil spirits in (i.e. resentment, bitterness, anger, hatred, revenge, violence, and many more.) Evil spirits of sickness may come and begin to afflict our physical body.

**Q. *What is the torture?***

**A.** Continuous attacks on our mind, emotions, and physical bodies!

**Q. *Do we lose our salvation?***

**A.** No! But we lose our freedom, our joy, our peace, our strength, our friends, our abundant life, and our reward in heaven. Our lives become a prison, a swamp of poison and defilement.

**Q. *Are all the tormentors washed away when we forgive others and release the flow of God's forgiveness back into our lives?***

**A.** No, not always! It all depends on how strong and entrenched the demon became. We may also be dealing with strong demons we inherited through a generational curse that actually hindered us from forgiving others in the first place. They are rebels and will usually have to be driven out through deliverance.

### **Noticeable Symptoms of Unforgiveness:**

- Suspicious and critical of others
- Easily angered or offended
- Tendency to hold grudges
- Quick to notice others faults
- Struggle with resentment and bitterness

### **Rejection & Insecurity**

Ezekiel 28:12-16 – **God has rejected Lucifer forever** – *Lucifer held the highest position in Heaven. He was called the Guardian of the Throne. Heaven's harmony was disrupted when he betrayed God's trust and led a rebellion. God cast him out of heaven, rejecting and banishing him forever. His name was changed to Satan, meaning "The Adversary."*

Satan is the embodiment of rejection! He reeks with it to the very core of his being. He is infuriated with man because God has refused to reject and abandon him, choosing instead to provide a means of reconciliation through His son, Jesus Christ.

Satan's goal is to cause every member of the human race to experience the pain of rejection. He uses every possible means including cruelty, violence, lust, vengeance, selfishness, hardheartedness, insensitivity, carelessness and every other act of injustice to inflict the pain of rejection in men, women and children.

## **How Satan Establishes a Stronghold of Rejection**

*2 Samuel 13:1-20 – Tamar's tragic story is an example of how Satan uses the inhumanity and cruelty of man to establish a stronghold of rejection in another.*

Tamar's life was destroyed by one selfish lustful act committed by her brother, Amnon. She lived out her life as a lonely outcast buried behind closed doors in her brother, Absalom's home. Had she married and had children, her descendants would have been born with a stronghold of rejection never understanding why they struggle with feelings of rejection, insecurity, embarrassment and low self-esteem.

Every stronghold of rejection can be traced back to hurt a person or their ancestor experienced as a result of feeling rejected by another.

Parents: be careful with careless words. Young minds are vulnerable to rejection even through misunderstanding our attempt to tease.

## **How Satan Robs and Destroys Us With Rejection**

*1 Samuel 9:2 –11:15 – What would cause a man who had been crowned the undisputed King of Israel to return to his farm and the plow?*

Saul was the most handsome man in Israel. Samuel had anointed him king over all of Israel as the LORD directed him, yet Saul hid and then went back to his field.

Satan had no negative circumstance in Saul's life to work with; Saul was handsome, rich, influential, respected, admired, anointed King of Israel. Yet Satan destroyed him. With what? A voice, just a voice. The voice of the enemy called rejection.

Rejection is a liar and a thief! It blinded Saul to the truth that was obvious to others. It will blind us in the same way. It refuted and contradicted every good thing God and man said about Saul. It will refute and contradict every good thing God and man say about us.

Rejection robbed Saul of his confidence and self-esteem. It will rob you and I of our confidence and self-esteem. It robbed Saul of his God-given potential. It tormented Saul with the fear of

disapproval by others and in the end it destroyed him. His fear of disapproval drove him to disobey God's commands. God rejected him as king.

Unless you and I realize the voice speaking is not our thoughts but the voice of our enemy *rejection*, he will rob us just as he did Saul by refuting and contradicting everything God's words says about us.

## **Recognizing the Symptoms of Rejection**

Those who struggle with rejection will attempt to drown out the tormenting thoughts and feelings by developing what is called a *coping mechanism*.

Coping Mechanism: *any attitude, action or mannerism we devise to hide our true feelings from others to protect ourselves from pain of embarrassment.*

Some will seek to drown out their thoughts of rejection and low self-esteem by driving themselves to excel above their peers. They believe total independence and self-sufficiency are the cure.

These symptoms often accompany:

### ***The Over-achiever***

1. Performance oriented; determined to excel
2. Overly competitive; often feel threatened by accomplishments of others
3. Excessive talker; tend to explain themselves
4. Tend to brag, repeating their accomplishments often
5. Avoid discussing their faults and weaknesses
6. View correction from others as an attack
7. Often feel unloved and unappreciated
8. Easily offended; struggle with resentment and anger
9. Friendships never last, often ending in conflict
10. Eventually adopt a copy mechanism, an independent attitude, "I don't need anybody."

Others believe rejections' lie that they are a nobody and attempt to gain worth by becoming friends with people they admire and believe to be a "somebody."

### ***The Nobody***

1. Consider themselves worthless, a nobody
2. Tormented with thoughts of low self-esteem
3. Easily embarrassed
4. Tendency to apologize repeatedly
5. Find it difficult to accept compliments
6. Feelings of self-pity
7. Hide in the crowd to avoid drawing attention to themselves

8. Fearful of disagreeing with others
9. Feel the need to buy others love by doing or giving
10. Tend to withdraw and isolate themselves when they feel rejected

Some may experience symptoms of the *over-achiever* and the *nobody* as they find themselves in different circumstances in life.

How do we tear down the stronghold of rejection? By believing what God's Word says about us (John 8:32) and rejecting what rejection tells us. James 4:7 says, "We must resist him." We must get in his face every time he speaks. We must call him a liar, we must demand he leave.

## **Fear and Torment**

*The Righteous are as bold as a lion... for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-discipline. Proverbs 28:1; 2 Timothy 1:7*

*No fear exists where his love is. Rather, perfect love gets rid of fear, because fear involves punishment. The person who lives in fear doesn't have perfect love. 1 John 4:18 (GWT)*

Before we examine how Satan builds strongholds of fear in our lives it should be understood that fear itself is not sinful. There are some fears that are natural and helpful.

They are:

- 1. Fear of the Lord**
- 2. Fear of Danger**
- 3. Fear of Punishment**

### **1. Fear of the LORD**

The fear of the LORD is a term used 30 times in scripture and always in a positive sense. The scripture describes *the fear of the LORD* as the beginning of wisdom (Psalm 111:10). It is pure or healthy and wholesome (Psalm 19:9).

It motivates us to embrace the disciplines which brings us wisdom, humility and honor (Proverbs 15:33). Through the fear of the LORD comes knowledge (Proverbs 1:7), understanding (Proverbs 9:10), confidence (Proverbs 14:26), and comfort (Acts 9:31). It is a source of life and sets us free from the fear of death (Proverbs 14:27).

Christ advises His followers in Luke 12:5 to maintain a fear of the LORD.

*"Fear God, who has the power to kill people and then throw them into hell."*

Under the Old Covenant and the New, we are instructed to maintain a healthy reverential fear of God. Therefore **the fear of the LORD** is a natural, healthy state of mind that brings us peace and contentment.

## 2. The Fear of Danger

*“God has placed within man the natural instinct of preservation. There is then, a kind of fear that is a natural reaction to threatening circumstances and situations of impending danger. At such times, the body pumps adrenalin into the bloodstream, releasing a sudden and super burst of mental and physical energy to face and combat danger.”* Graham Powell, *Fear Free*

God has placed this same instinct of fear in the animal kingdom. When God entered into a covenant with Noah after the flood, He told him he could eat meat as well as vegetables. Genesis 9:3 says, *Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything.* (NIV)

However, He then put a natural fear of mankind in the animal kingdom that had not existed before. This natural instinct to run from danger was given to protect them from man as well as other predators.

*The fear and dread of you will fall upon all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air, upon every creature that moves along the ground, and upon all the fish of the sea.* Genesis 9:2 (NIV)

## 3. The Fear of Punishment

God has given us a natural and healthy fear of punishment to deter us from disobedience which undermines and destroys the fabric of any society, be it family, community or nation.

In the Old Testament, God warned His covenant people not to disobey His law. If they did, they would pay the price of their disobedience and the rest of the people would observe and learn to fear.

<sup>12</sup>*If anyone deliberately disobeys the priest (who serves the LORD your God) or the judge, that person must die. You must get rid of this evil in Israel.* <sup>13</sup>*When all the people hear about it, they will be afraid and will never defy God’s law again.* Deuteronomy 17:12-13 (GWT)

Those of us living under the new covenant are reminded of this eternal truth in Christ’s words to His disciples in Luke 12:5, *“I’ll tell you whom to fear. Fear God, who has the power to kill people and then throw them into hell.”*

So fear is a natural emotion given to *protect* us from danger, *deter* us from disobedience, and *keep* us in right relationship with God.

Yet He tells us in 1 John 4:18-19, ***fear cannot co-exist with love.*** <sup>18</sup>*No fear exists where his love is. Rather, perfect love gets rid of fear, because fear involves punishment. The person who lives in fear doesn't have perfect love.* <sup>19</sup>*We love because God loved us first.*

How are we to reconcile this statement in 1 John 4:18-19 with Jesus warning in Luke 12:5 to fear God? They seem to contradict each other. The confusion is solved when we understand Christ's warning in Deuteronomy 17:13 and Luke 12:5 referring to the fear of God that keeps us safe while 1 John 4:18-19 is referring to the fear that originates from Satan and is used to torment and cripple us.

## **Demonic Strongholds of Fear**

Paul says in 2 Timothy 1:7, *God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and self-discipline.*

He lists the three traits God has given us to live a victorious life – power, love, self-discipline.

These three traits represent the three areas of our lives Satan seeks to destroy by fear. H creates the following types of fears to accomplish this:

- Fear of Failure
- Fear of Man
- Fear of Death

### **1. Fear of Failure**

When God created man He gave him a mind with explosive, creative power (Genesis 1:28). It causes him to want to explore, invent, and create. God Himself said there is nothing impossible for man to do if they work together (Genesis 11:6).

Satan uses the fear of failure to cripple and paralyze us into inactivity thus stifling our creative power. The mind then ceases to think, dream and envision opportunities and possibilities. Resignation, apathy, laziness, and indifference set in. This makes us vulnerable to feelings of worthlessness and low self-esteem.

The following is a list of some of the fears and feelings that indicate a *Fear of Failure*:

<b>FEAR OF:</b>	
Defeat	Worthlessness
Inadequacy	Embarrassment
Poverty	Humiliation
Security	Disappointment
Hunger	

We can destroy the stronghold “*Fear of Failure*” if we will reject his lies and believe the Word of God that says He has given creative power to our spirit.

Mark 9:23 says, “All things are possible to them that believe.”

Philippians 4:13 also says, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.”

## 2. Fear of People

These are fears the enemy torments us with regarding our relationships with other. How our peers accept us is one of the greatest fears we experience. Regardless of how noble our character, we prize the esteem of people. It becomes a trap to all of us.

Proverbs 29:25 states, “*A person’s fear sets a trap for him, but one who trusts the LORD is safe.*” (GWT)

### Nicodemus suffered from the “Fear of People”

<sup>1</sup>*Nicodemus was a Pharisee and a member of the Jewish council. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus one night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that God has sent you as a teacher. No one can perform the miracles you perform unless God is with him.”* John3:1-2 (GWT)

Nicodemus was a good man who later became a follower of Christ, yet his fear of his peer’s opinion of him kept him from “going public” with his belief. We are often guilty of the same sin. Here are some of the fears and insecurities we experience as a result of the “*Fear of People*”:

Rejection	Ridicule	Isolation
Mockery	Disapproval	Unworthiness
Insecurity	Low self-esteem	

## 3. Fear of Death

<sup>14</sup> *Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could He die, and only by dying could He break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. <sup>15</sup> Only in this way could He set free all who have lived their lives as slaves to the ‘fear of dying.’* Hebrews 2:14-15 (NLT)

The “*Fear of Death*” held the human race in stark terror over the grave because there was no way of knowing what lay on the other side.

Job stated, “*I know my Redeemer lives.*” (Job 19:25) David said, “*You won’t leave my soul in hell.*” (Psalm 16:10) But they still feared the unknown.

Any type of destruction, harm, or violence, whether intentional or accidental is perceived as a potential agent of death. The slightest hint of sickness or disease brings fear of what might happen. When Christ came to earth, died and rose again, He set us free by conquering the grave and our fear of the unknown. Yet if we allow Satan, he will torment us with imaginary fears. If we allow our mind to become undisciplined it will begin to run rampant with imagined fears. An article in Newsweek stated, “Phobias can be triggered by virtually anything under the sun. They can be as common as acrophobia (fear of heights) or as relatively rare as trichophobia (fear of hair)”; the types that have been listed in medical journals number in hundreds and seem to be limited only to the ability of doctors to come up with the appropriate Greek or Latin names for them.

Listed below are some of the fears that are born out of this “*Fear of Death*” and destruction:

Pain	Hurt	Violence
Rape	Heights	Attack
Germes	Sounds	Robbery
Sudden movement	Disease	

These fears are often the result of an incident we experienced that allowed a spirit to get in. It is now just a voice that torments us.

God has given us the ability to discipline our minds. We destroy the stronghold of the “*Fear of Death*” and harm by taking control of our mind. We discipline our mind by taking every thought captive. (2 Corinthians 10:3-5)

When our mind starts to imagine something harmful we must rebuke the thought for what it is, the voice of the enemy and forbid it to remain. We do it again and again commanding the spirit casting the thought to leave us. When the *Spirit of Fear* leaves, the thought he has been speaking into our mind will cease to torment us.

## ANGER

<sup>26</sup> And “don’t sin by letting anger control you.” Don’t let the sun go down while you are still angry, <sup>27</sup> for anger gives a foothold to the devil. Ephesians 4:26-27

It is necessary to clear up some misconceptions regarding the emotion of anger. Many mistakenly believe that *any* display of anger is wrong and therefore a sin. That is not what the Bible teaches.

The following passages clearly demonstrate that God experiences the emotion of anger:

*Psalm 7:11 – God is an honest judge. He is angry with the wicked every day.*

*1 Kings 11:9 –The LORD was very angry with Solomon, for his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.*

*1 Chronicles 13:10 –Then the LORD’s anger was aroused against Uzzah, and He struck him dead because he had laid his hand on the Ark. So Uzzah died there in the presence of God.*

God does not sin therefore anger is not a sin - *God is never tempted to do wrong, [sin] and He never tempts anyone else. (James 1:13)*

Jesus became angry with the religious leaders for trying to prevent Him from healing the man with the withered hand (Mark 3:5), yet He was without sin (Hebrews 4:15). A believer can experience anger and not commit sin (Ephesians 4:27).

So: God uses anger to accomplish His purpose – anger is a stronger emotion than others such as fear or selfishness or indifference or apathy. It can overcome them and enable us to accomplish the otherwise impossible. It is like spiritual adrenaline.

**The Spirit of the Lord aroused King Saul to anger** – *1 Samuel 11:6* – Nahash the Ammonite demanded the inhabitants of Jabesh Gilead to allow him to put out their right eye as the terms of peace. God used anger to stir up King Saul to push him beyond his fears and insecurities. He defeated the gentile invader and rescued the inhabitants of the town.

**Apostle Paul was stirred to anger** – *Acts 16:18* – A slave girl with a spirit of divination followed Paul and Barnabas through the city of Philippi harassing them. Paul became angry and cast out the spirit of divination.

Anger is dangerous and has the potential for destruction. The fact that it pushes us beyond our normal controls such as fear or indifference means it also put us close to being ‘out of control’ and this is where the danger lies.

Cain was the first man to experience anger. God warned him of its danger. He likened sin to a huge ravenous beast crouching behind a door waiting for an opportunity to attack and devour its victim. He warned him to keep his anger under control. “*Sin is lying outside your door ready to attack. It wants to control you, but you must master it.*” (*Genesis 4:7*) Anger opened the door to sin and Cain murdered his brother.

God show us how to keep ourselves safe from anger’s destruction:

- God is *slow* to get angry – Psalm 103:8 – so must we be slow to get angry!
- God retains anger only *momentarily* – Psalm 103:9 – so must we!

Satan uses anger to destroy people. He understands the dangers that anger presents to us. He has used anger to destroy human beings down through the ages beginning with godly Abel. He gets a foothold in an individual by causing him/her to lose control and hurt another physically, emotionally or both. He then begins to work anger into the very roots of their being.

In time the person goes from *getting* angry to *being* angry. With each succeeding generation he gains a stronger hold until it becomes a stronghold.

## **How Strongholds of Anger Originate**

<sup>1</sup> Then Jacob called together all his sons and said, “Gather around me, and I will tell you what will happen to each of you in the days to come.” <sup>5</sup> “Simeon and Levi are two of a kind; their weapons are instruments of violence.” <sup>6</sup> May I never join in their meetings; may I never be a party to their plans. For in their anger they murdered men, and they crippled oxen just for sport. <sup>7</sup> A curse on their anger, for it is fierce; a curse on their wrath, for it is cruel. I will scatter them among the descendants of Jacob; I will disperse them throughout Israel. (Genesis 49:1, 5-7 NLT)

If you study Simeon and Levi’s ancestry back three generations on their father’s side, you will not discover one act of violence in the lives of Abraham, Isaac or Jacob. Of the three men, only one account is recorded of Jacob becoming angry with his Uncle Laban for accusing him of stealing his family idols. Yet he immediately reconciled with his uncle and entered into a covenant of peace (Genesis 31:36, 44-54).

Their mother was Leah, the elder daughter of Laban. There is nothing in either mother or grandfather to indicate they had a problem with anger and violence. Laban was also quick to reconcile with his son-in-law, Jacob, upon failing to find his family idols with him (Genesis 31:32-35, 44).

Anger found a place in Simeon and Levi – Genesis 36:1-31 – records the account of the rape of Dinah, the daughter of Jacob. All of her brothers were grieved and angry (Genesis 34:7), but Simeon and Levi took revenge and through treachery and deception murdered every male and plundered the city taking the women, children, and livestock captive.

This may not have been the first time they ever gave into anger and violence but it definitely was not the last. Jacob’s prophecy seems to indicate that it became a lifestyle. They tortured animals for entertainment (Genesis 49:6b). The scriptures indicate that Reuben, the firstborn, was not in agreement with them in their plan to kill Joseph, and attempted to buy time by suggesting they throw him into a pit. He was horrified upon returning to discover they had sold him into slavery. (Genesis 38:22, 30). It is reasonable to assume the next two eldest sons, Simeon and Levi, were the ringleaders in the near murder and subsequent sale of their own flesh and blood into slavery. Anger once having gained a place in the (Ephesians 4:27) brought their descendants under a curse not only of anger and violence but division as well (Genesis 49:7).

## **How Stronghold of Anger Gain Strength**

Jesus identified James and John as sons of an angry man – Mark 3:17 NIV – *James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name Boanerges, which means Sons of Thunder).*

The word “Boangers” is a compound of two words:

*Strong's Concordance* – BeNAH (H1121) meaning “**to build**” as in a family line and is translated ‘Ben’ meaning “the son of.” Ragaz (H7266) meaning “**to quiver**” with violent emotion; anger or rage.

James and John exhibited the same tendencies.

*<sup>52</sup>And he sent messengers on ahead, who went into a Samaritan village to get things ready for him; <sup>53</sup>but the people there did not welcome him, because he was heading for Jerusalem. <sup>54</sup>When the disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?" <sup>55</sup>But Jesus turned and rebuked them. (Luke 9:52-55 NIV)*

Three translations KJV, Darby's New Translation, Young's Literal Translation, add the phrase: “*You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.*”

Jesus had no doubt having observed Zebedee explode on occasion. He knew a spirit was behind his behavior.

CONCLUSION: if anger is allowed to grow unchallenged it soon becomes that crouching ravenous beast that God warned Cain would destroy him. Prisons are full of men and women who will tell you in complete honesty... ***I don't know what came over me!***”

## **How to Tear Down Strongholds of Anger**

1. **Repent** of the sins of our ancestors and break the generational curse over our lives. (Exodus 20:5)
2. **Repent** of our sin that allowed anger a place in our life, take back the place you gave the enemy and surrender it to Christ (Ephesians 4:27)
3. Drive out all spirits of anger, frustration, and rage by **resisting** each temptation to yield to their demands and **commanding** them to leave every time they speak (James 4:7)

## **DELIVERANCE**

Deliverance is a process. A battle is an event. War is a process, a continuing fight. The word refers to, “*The weapons of our warfare,*” (2 Corinthians 10:4), not the weapons for a single battle. If you have tried using self-discipline and have not gained victory in a specific area of your Christian walk, there is an explanation. You have a *demonic stronghold* that needs to be destroyed.

**THE GOAL** – The goal of this training is two-fold:

1. To help you identify and destroy all demonic strongholds in your life.
2. To teach you how to drive out every demonic intruder and keep them out through the Word of God, prayer and self-discipline.

2 Corinthians 10:3-5 says –

*We are human but we don't wage war with human plans or methods. We fight with God's might weapons, not mere worldly weapons. Our weapons have power from God to destroy the devil's strongholds.*

## PART TWO

### *The Battleground of the Church*

The other churches in our cities are not our enemies! We must learn to war against the illusions and strife, the fears and jealousies that are sent from hell to divide us.

#### 1. The Lord Whose Sword is Drawn

##### a. Will You Recognize Jesus When He Comes?

*Joshua 5:13 – Now it came about when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing opposite him with his sword drawn in his hand, and Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us or for our adversaries?”*

There is something about the time just prior to a move of God that causes many to wonder if the Lord is for them or against them.

Let me reassure you – GOD IS FOR YOU!

It is His expressed purpose to release this same sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God, through your words and prayers.

Ephesians 6:17

Do not withdraw or be terrified at this new unveiling of the Son of God, for it is, in fact, the beginning of God fitting you for battle.

Revelation 12:12

*Isaiah 42:13 – The Lord will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.*

Joshua had already known the Lord in a wonderful, intimate way in the wilderness tabernacle. But here, standing before him, was a new revelation of Christ.

The time in the wilderness had prepared Joshua and the people for battle. Their time in the wilderness had conditioned them for war.

Likewise, the wilderness you have been in has not been a punishment but a time of preparation and of learning obedience.

*Joshua 5:14-15 – And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and bowed down, and said to him, “What has my lord to say to his servant?” And the captain of the Lord’s host said to Joshua, “Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.*

This new unveiling of the Lord is holy.

Through the church, Christ Himself is prevailing against His enemies!

Matthew 16:18

Ephesians 4:15

## 2. Beware of the Stronghold of Cold Love

### a. Guard Against Unforgiveness

Your Christianity is only as real as your love.

*Matthew 24:12 – Because lawlessness is increased, most people’s love will grow cold.*

A major area of spiritual warfare that has come against the church is the sphere of church relationships.

A church divided against itself cannot stand.

There is no spiritual unity, and hence no lasting victory without love.

The Scriptures warn that even a little root of bitterness in a person’s life can spring up and defile many.

Hebrews 12:15

***Bitterness is unfulfilled revenge.***

If you fail to react with love and forgiveness, if you retain in your spirit the debt the offender owes you, that offense will rob your heart of its capacity to love.

Bitterness is a classic symptom of the stronghold of cold love.

Repent of this attitude and forgive the one who hurt you.

God's answer for this pain is *love!*

As you embrace God's love and begin to walk in forgiveness, you are actually pulling down the stronghold of bitterness and its manifestation of cold love in your life.

b. Love Without Commitment is Not Love

*Matthew 24:10-12 – And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many. And because lawlessness is increased, most people's love will grow cold.*

There is no such thing as love without commitment.

The measure of your love is found in the depth of your commitment.

*Matthew 18:7 – It is inevitable that stumbling blocks come.*

As long as you live on earth, there will never be a time when "stumbling blocks" cease to be found upon your path.

*People do not stumble over boulders but over stones – little things.*

To stumble is to stop walking and fall.

To preserve the quality of love in your heart, you must forgive those who have caused you to stumble.

Every time you refuse to forgive or fail to overlook a weakness in another, your heart not only hardens toward them, it hardens toward God.

*I John 4:20 – The one who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen.*

Love is your only option.

The manifestation of God's kingdom will not come without people being committed to each other to reach God's fullness.

The kingdom of God is not based on mere doctrines, it is founded upon *relationships* – relationships with God and, because of God, with one another.

c. The Greatest Commandments

Mark 12:30-31 – *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself.*

When you love God, your love for others will be like your love for God.

The outgrowth of love and faith *in* Christ is love and faith *like* Christ's, which means we are committed, even as He is, to His people.

John 17

The people who possess the kingdom of God in its reality are people who overcome the obstacles of each other's faults.

3. The Gift of Discernment

a. To Discern, You Cannot Judge

If we will move in divine discernment, our view of life must be purged of human thoughts and reactions.

The beginning of true discernment will not come until we crucify our instincts to judge.

1 Corinthians 2:16 – the mind of Christ.

John 12:47 – *I did not come to judge the world, but to save the world.*

This sums up the heart and love of Jesus.

Spiritual discernment is the grace to see into the unseen.

It is a gift of the Spirit to perceive what is in the spirit.

Out of the grace which we have received, we can compassionately minister to others.

Christ's goal is to save, not judge.

Luke 12:10 – *Everyone who will speak against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him.*

Jesus was prepared in His heart to forgive men before they ever sinned against Him.

He knew His mission was to die for men, not condemn them.

We are called into Christ's mission as well.

John 17:18 – *As Thou didst send Me into the world, I also have sent them.*

Before our perception develops, our love must develop until our normal attitude is one of forgiveness.

If we do not move in divine forgiveness, we will walk in much deception.

Matthew 7:1-3, 5 – *Do not judge, lest you be judged. For in the way you judge, you will be judged; and by your standard of measure, it will be measured to you. And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, "Let me take the speck out of your eye," and behold, the log is in your own eye?... You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye.*

Repentance is the removal of the "logs" within our vision; it is the true beginning of seeing clearly.

b. The Goal is to See Clearly

The judgmental carnal mind always sees the image of itself in others.

The way we help is not by judging but by seeing clearly!

We must consistently demonstrate an attitude that does not judge.

To help people, we must see clearly.

If you seek to have a heart that does not condemn, if you truly crucify your instinct to judge, you will have laid a true foundation for the gift of discernment.

#### 4. Eliminating False Discernment

God does not speak to us until we slow down, tune out the static and give Him our attention. To walk in true discernment, our hearts must be quiet before God. We must learn how to listen.

##### a. Cease Striving and Know

Psalm 46:10 – *Be still, and know that I am God.*

All true discernment comes through a heart that has ceased striving, a heart that knows, even in the fiery trial of its personal struggle, that the Lord is God.

Our *thoughts* and *reactions* block us from hearing God.

John 5:30 – *I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge.*

Learn to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit.

As we stop striving, as we hear, we judge and discern.

##### b. Abounding Love Brings Discernment With It

Philippians 1:9 - *...that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment.*

Discernment comes from abounding love.

Abounding love is a love that leaps out from us toward others.

It is motivated by long-term commitment; it is anointed by sacrificial charity.

True discernment is rooted deeply in love.

False discernment sees the *outside* of the person or situation and pretends it knows the *inside*.

Godly discernment comes from having godly motives; godly motives are those rooted in God's committed love.

John 7:24 – *Do not judge according to appearance, but judge with righteous judgment.*

Righteous judgment is the direct result of love.

Love precedes peace and peace precedes perception.

c. Peace Must Rule Our Hearts

True discernment emerges out of a tranquil and pure heart – one that is almost surprised by the wisdom and grace in the voice of God.

Our thoughts are always colored by the attitudes of our heart.

Matthew 12:34 – *Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.*

Mark 7:21 – *Out of the heart of men, proceed the evil thoughts.*

Matthew 5:8 - *...the pure in heart...shall see God.*

Proverbs 4:23 – *Out of the heart are the issues of life.*

The gifts of the Spirit must pass through our hearts before they are presented to the world around us.

If our hearts are not right the gifts will not be right either.

Colossians 3:15 - *...the peace of Christ rule [act as arbiter] in our hearts.*

Ecclesiastes 4:6 – *One hand full of rest is better than two fists full of labor and striving after wind.*

If we want discernment we must become aggressively calm.

This is not a passive state of mind, but an expectant, focused, waiting upon God.

Discernment comes from our sensitivity to Christ in the realm of the Spirit.

Love is our motivation, peace is in our hearts, and we have a poised and waiting attitude of mind toward God.

5.Repairers of the Breach

Isaiah 58:12 – *Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; You will raise up the age-old foundations; And you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell.*

a. The Gathering Together of the Saints

Jeremiah 23:3-4 – *I Myself shall gather the remnant of My flock...and they will be fruitful and multiply. I shall also raise up shepherds over them and they will tend them; and they will not be afraid any longer...nor will any be missing.*

b. Do Not Criticize the Breach, Repair It!

Ezekiel 13:3-5 – *Thus says the Lord God, “Woe to the foolish prophets who are following their own spirit and have seen nothing. O Israel, your prophets have been like foxes among ruins. You have not gone up into the breaches, nor did you build the wall around the house of Israel to stand in the battle on the day of the Lord.”*

Mark 9:35

Matthew 23:11

Do not come with an attitude to teach or lead, but to love and serve.

c. You Be the People

You do not have to go to college to find fault with the church.

You do not need skill to find fault.

You have to be an intercessor who “stands in the gap.”

**The “gap” is the distance between the way things are and the way things should be.**

You be the men and women that others are looking for.

Isaiah 58:12 – *Those from among you will rebuild the ancient ruins; you will raise up the age-old foundations; and you will be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets in which to dwell.*

## 6. God's Army of Worshipers

When Scriptures refer to the “heavenly host” we usually think of “choirs of angels.” The word “host” in the Bible meant “army” (Luke 2:13). Let us perceive that the hosts of heaven are worshiping armies. Indeed, no one can do warfare who is not first a worshiper of God.

### d. The Central Issue in Tribulation: Worship

**KEY**

One does not have to penetrate deeply into the Revelation of John to discover that both God and the devil are seeking worshipers.

Revelations 14:7; 7:11; 13:4; 14:11

Time and time again the line is drawn between those who “worship the beast and his image” and those who worship God.

A scale of worship: in the midst of warfare and battles, to whom will we bow, God or Satan?

Exodus 5:3, 7:16

Exodus 4:31 - ...*bowed low and worshiped.*

The enemy has easy access to the soul that is not protected by true worship of God!

For what we bleed when we are wounded by satanic assault or difficult circumstances is the true measure of our worship.

What comes out of our hearts during times of pressure was in us, but hidden, during times of ease.

If you are a true worshiper, your spirit will exude worship to God no matter what battle you are fighting. In warfare, worship is a wall around the soul.

### e. Protecting Your Heart Through Worship

The soul is a combination of our “mind, will, and emotions.”

When the enemy comes against the church, he targets any of these three areas.

Generally speaking, the essence of who we are is made of events and how we responded to those events.

Who we are today is the sum of what we have encountered in life and our subsequent reactions.

Our reaction to each event, whether that event was positive or negative, is poured into the creative marrow of our individuality, where it is blended into the nature of our character.

What we call memory is actually our spirit gazing at the substance of our soul.

With a few exceptions, those events which we remember the most have shaped us the most.

The reason our natural minds cannot forget certain incidents is because those experiences have literally become a part of our nature!

Luke 9:62 - *...forget...what lies behind.*

Philippians 3:13

Although the events of our lives are irreversible, our reactions to those events can still be changed.

As our reactions change, we change.

Romans 8:28 – *And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God.*

Psalm 84:5-6 – *How blessed is the man whose strength is in Thee; in whose heart are the highways to Zion! Passing through the valley of Baca [weeping], they make it a spring, the early rain also covers it with blessings.*

f. Worship: The Purpose of Creation

We were created for God's pleasure.

It may seem that the worshipers are often "smitten of God, and afflicted" (Isaiah 53:4). Yet to God, they are His beloved.

One would think that God would protect them. Instead they are marred more than other men. Indeed, the Lord seems pleased to crush them, putting them to grief.

In the midst of their physical and emotional pain, their loyalty to Christ grows pure and perfect.

## 7. Casting Down the Accuser of the Brethren

The kingdom will be seen in a love-motivated people who know the power of prayer.

### a. How the Kingdom Comes

*Revelation 12:10 – Now the salvation, and the power, and the kingdom of God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.*

There are God-ordained procedures to initiate correction within a church.

*Galatians 6:1 - ..you who are spiritual...in a spirit of gentleness...looking to yourself, lest you too be tempted. ...restore such a one.*

I Timothy 5:19

These witnesses are *eye-witnesses*, not the so-called “spirit witness” someone receives apart from hard and visible facts.

All too often, these alleged “witnesses” are sent by hell to destroy the harmony of a church with rumors and gossip.

Hebrews 7: 25

Romans 8:34

### b. Is the Devil at the Throne of God?

*Ephesians 2:6 - ...with Christ in the heavenly places.*

Our spirits have been brought into direct fellowship with Christ in heaven.

From this point we can boldly approach God’s throne of grace and we can enter through prayer and worship into the true holy place of God.

Hebrews 4:16; 10:19-20

Matthew 5:8

Colossians 3:1-4

Where then is Satan? Jude tells us that the devil and his demons are imprisoned, spiritually chained with “eternal bonds” to “darkness [reserved] for the judgment” (Jude 6).

Satan is imprisoned under darkness.

1 John 1:5 - *...in [whom] there is no darkness at all.*

The thought that the Heavenly Father would countenance the devil intruding upon the eternal worship, accusing the very church for whom His Son had died, is unimaginable.

The word “heaven” is used to describe the sky; i.e., when the Bible says that Satan is in the “heaven” or the “heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12; Revelation 12:11; Luke 10:18), we believe it is with reference to the *spirit realm*.

This “heaven” is the spiritual “territory” from which Satan seeks to control the world.

It is from here that Satan releases his war against the church.

We have wrongly assumed that our whispers, spoken in darkness, remained hidden even from God.

Hebrews 4:13 - *...all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him with whom we have to do.*

Luke 12:3 - *...whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light.*

God, who is Light, hears the voice of the accuser, even in the guarded confidences spoken to a spouse.

c. Guard Your Tongue

Much of what the Father supplies to the body of Christ is furnished through our confession.

This is not simply our positive, premeditated confession expressed in prayer; it consists of everything that comes out of our mouths.

Matthew 12:36

We will be judged for “every idle (or careless) word” that we speak.

Our words are the overflow of the condition of our hearts.

### **Hebrews 3:1**

Christ, as the “High Priest of our confession” takes our words, whether in faith or unbelief, and allocates back to us eternal life in proportion to our words.

James 3:6 – our confession “*sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.*”

We must come to understand that each of our thoughts, and even our most intimate conversations with men, are prayers we are offering to the Father, who sees all things continually and in secret.

Our words about one another, as well as our words to one another, should carry with them the same sense of reverence as when we speak with God.

#### d. Other Tongues or *Flaming* Tongues

Isaiah 6:5 – *Woe is me, for I am ruined! Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips.*

Isaiah’s lips were cleansed by a burning coal from the altar of God.

The issue is not speaking in “other tongues”, but tongues which have been purified by the fire of God from the altar, tongues that are cleansed of fault-finding and criticisms.

#### e. Casting Down the Accuser

Revelation 12:11 – *And they overcome him because of the blood of the Lamb and ... the word of their testimony, and they did not love their life even to death.*

- **The Blood of the Lamb.** One blood spiritually flows through us all, literally making us one body, sharing one Source of cleansing and on Source of life. One blood makes us family: blood bought and blood relatives. The blood pays for our redemption and in the attack of the accuser, disarms his accusations. The blood establishes us in an

attitude of meekness rather than self-righteousness, for the shedding of the blood declares our common need of Jesus.

- **The Word of their Testimony.** Revelation 19:10 – *The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.* To truly overcome the enemy we must see each other as God sees us, seeing the “end from the beginning”, animated by lives of vision, confessing our faith for one another. Knowing and speaking the Living Word of God enables us to overcome the illusions of the enemy (1 Timothy 1:18).
- **Loving not our lives, even unto Death.** Acts 10:24 – *I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course.*

The accuser must be cast down first *in our minds!*

We cannot tolerate fault-finding and accusations.

The kingdom of God and the authority of His Christ will be seen in a people who are terminally committed to love-motivated prayer.

## Part Three

### *The Battleground of the Heavenly Places*

The last frontier of battle is the heavenly places, the dimension known today as the spirit realm.

#### 1. The War Over Reality

*The essence of spiritual warfare is in who shall define reality: the Word of God or the illusions of this present age.*

##### a. What We Agree Upon

What is reality?

The dictionary defines reality as “that which is real; an actual thing, situation or event.”

Such is reality in terms of objective analysis.

There is also a subjective or personal side to reality which is rooted in our feelings, attitudes and beliefs.

From this perspective life is “*done to us as we have believed.*” Matthew 8:13

*Whatever a society agrees upon and establishes through consent, compromise, and constant use will ultimately define reality to them.*

Scriptural example: “And the Lord said, Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language; and this is only the beginning of what they will do; and now nothing they have imagined they can do will be impossible to them.”  
Genesis 11:6 (Amplified)

If a man’s mind can imagine it and he can get other to believe in it, their spirits can accomplish it.

And with few exceptions, nothing will be impossible, even for as small a group as two or three, once they believe a thing can happen.

This is exactly what the warfare is centered upon in the church today: the devil wants us to accept Christianity *as it is*, as though division, sin, and spiritual impotency were the ultimate reality God has provided for believers on earth.

Our agreement must be with God's plan for a holy, undivided, powerful church!

Ephesians 5:27 – *That He might present Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.*

b. War in Heaven: The Principle of Displacement

Revelations 12:7-8 (Amplified) – *Then war broke out in heaven, Micheal and his angels going forth to battle with the dragon; and the dragon and his angels fought, but they were defeated and there was no room found for them in heaven any longer.*

The war against principalities involves displacement: Christ filling the spiritual territories once held by Satan.

All spiritual warfare is waged over one essential question. Who will control reality on earth; heaven or hell?

The battle rests not in physical weaponry but in the *power of agreement* between mankind and the spirit realm.

Ephesians 6 tells that “principalities and powers” occupy the “heavenly places” (v. 12).

Ephesians 1:10 – the Father's expressed purpose is to sum up all things in Christ, “*things in the heavens and things upon the earth.*”

Ephesians 3:10 reveals God's glorious plan, that “through the church” God has purposed to make known His manifold wisdom to the principalities and powers “in the heavenly places.”

When the church on earth is aggressive in its agreement with the will and Word of God, then the Presence of God increases in the spiritual realm, proportionally displacing the influence of hell on earth.

**AGREEMENT**



We must see that our prayers, attitudes, and agreement with God are an integral part of establishing the reality of the kingdom of God on earth!

c. The Devil Is A Liar

Satan is unmasked in scripture as “*a liar, and the father of lies*” – John 8:44.

His realm of operation is the spirit world that immediately surrounds and blankets the consciousness of mankind.

This realm is known as the “heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

Satan works to corrupt and control the mind of man through illusions built from mankind’s carnal desires and fears.

The lie of the enemy appears most powerfully when men believe that this world, *as it is*, is the only world we can live in.

The truth is that God is establishing His kingdom and ultimately every other reality will submit to and be ruled by that kingdom!

Hebrews 12:26-28; Revelations 11:15

The weapon God has given us to combat the lies of the enemy is the Word of God, which the Scriptures refer to as the “sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17).

Jesus said His words “*are spirit and are life*” – John 6:63. The substance or meaning in Christ’s words represents an actual reality: the living Spirit of the kingdom of God.

Ancient Greeks had no word for “reality”. To the “truth” and “reality” were the same essence.

In our war over who controls man’s world, the singular weapon God has given the church is His Spirit-empowered Word. The Living Word of the Spirit is the truth.

Paul taught that spiritual warfare deals specifically with the “pulling down of strongholds.”

What are those strongholds? They are the lies the devil has sown into our thought processes which, as we accepted and believed them, became reality to us.

We do not *fall* in sin as much as we are *seduced* by it; every sin is cloaked in some measure of deception.

As these lies are uncovered and destroyed, as our thought-processes are freed from illusions, we will discover the blamelessness, perfection, and truth of Christ in us, the hope of glory (Colossians 1:27).

d. Standing Upon the Word of God

To be successful in battle, we must know the Word of God.

2 Corinthians 10:4 – 5

Ephesians 5:8-13 – Expose and confess your sins.

I John 1:9 – Confess your sins; God is faithful and just to forgive.

2 Corinthians 2-14 – There is victory because Christ is in you.

2 Timothy 1:7 – Do not fear Satan’s threats.

Hebrews 2:14-15 – Use the name of Jesus and the Word of God to break the power of Satan’s lies.

Romans 8:28 – Be conformed to the image of Christ.

Luke 10:19 – Jesus has given us His authority of ALL of Satan’s power.

1 John 3:8 – You have been set free!

Ephesians 6:18; James 4:7; Isaiah 42:13; Isaiah 53; Isaiah 54:11-17;  
Romans 10:8-9

2. Exposing the Spirit of Antichrist

a. More Than Just A Man

The spirit of antichrist stands firmly in opposition against the unfolding restoration of the church of Jesus Christ.

As this demon’s name is, so is he – he is simply “anti” or against Christ.

He uses whatever means necessary to keep independent, local churches from becoming the “armed and dangerous” *united* body of Christ.

2 Thessalonians 2:4 – this individual ”*opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.*”

This spirit of antichrist has been prevalent in the church since the first century.

1 John 2:18 – *Children, it is the last hour; and just as you heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen.*

1 John 4:3 – *Every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God; and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world.*

To the first-century saint, to “confess Jesus” meant more than simply mentioning His name after a prayer. Essentially, it was to speak from a state of oneness with Him, enabling His actual Spirit to be manifested. (Matthew 10:32) They confessed the *Person* of Jesus, not just the name “Jesus”.

1 John 4:6-8

An individual or church that thinks God is pleased with them, yet they do not walk in love, may actually be serving the spirit of antichrist.

John 13:35

This display of the Antichrist is far more subtle and much more subversive than what may take place when the “man of sin” is openly revealed.

The antichrist spirit hardens the heart, keeping it from love. It nurtures unforgiving attitudes, causing those under its influence to splinter from a church due to various criticisms and minor doctrinal differences.

b. Deliverance from Antichrist on a Personal Level

Each of us has thinking processes, strongholds in our minds, which have been shaped and conditioned by the spirit of antichrist.

Let us expose them and see them defeated.

How do you know if the lack of love you feel toward other churches is only your flesh or if it is a stronghold for the spirit of antichrist? Repent for rebellion. Then audibly pray against the antichrist spirit. You will immediately discover a distance between you and the enemy and a closeness between you and the Lord.

c. Christianity Without the Antichrist Influence

The unique way the antichrist masquerades, as *God in the Church* is this: there is a natural, religious reverence men have toward death.

The Almighty it not the God of the dead but of the living and true reverence is that which is accompanied by awe, joy and thanksgiving.

You can discern antichrist in a congregation that is reverent toward its deadness. The atmosphere is not filled with holiness but hollowness.

*It is the same essence that lingers in an empty funeral home.*

The stronghold of antichrist thinking is an “acceptable” condition of the church.

The antichrist spirit literally *opposes* truth, especially new truth that unmasks its nature.

It resists any movement in the body of Christ toward life.

d. Understanding the Citywide Church

God sees the church community as one body fused together in the fire of Christ’s love.

The citywide church, as God sees it, would be free from jealousy, “sheep stealing” and personal ambition. It would truly be one body.

Come as servants together and look to bless one another.

3. Discerning the Spirit of Jezebel

a. Understanding the spirit of Jezebel

Revelation 2:20 – *But I have this against you, that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, and she teaches and leads My bond-servants astray, so that they commit acts of immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols.*

Jezebel – the source in our society of obsessive sensuality, unbridled witchcraft, and hatred of male authority.

The first mention of Jezebel is seen in the rebellious, manipulative wife of King Ahab.

It is this spirit, operating through Queen Jezebel, which had caused millions of Israelites to bow to Baal – 1 Kings 19:14-18.

This one spirit was almost totally responsible for corrupting an entire nation.

Jezebel is fiercely independent and intensely ambitious for pre-eminence and control.

The name *Jezebel*, literally translated, means “without cohabitation” which means she refuses “to live together” or “co-habit” with anyone.

The spirit, which produced Jezebel, existed before its namesake was born.

This spirit is without gender – however, while men in leadership are the main targets of most principalities, Jezebel is more attracted to the uniqueness of the female psyche in its sophisticated ability to manipulate without physical force.

Jezebel targets women who are embittered against men, either through neglect or misuse of authority and operates through women who, because of insecurity, jealousy or vanity, desire to control and dominate others.

**Control** is what is sought, using the power of sexual passions for the purpose of possessing men.

b. The Battle has Expanded

The **access** the devil has to the souls in our world has increased through the mass communications media and literature.

John wrote in Revelations 12:15 – *And the serpent poured water like a river out of his mouth after the woman, so that he might cause her [the church] to be swept away with the flood.*

Water symbolizes “words” in this context.

Our world exists in a flood of *words* and *visual images* coming out of the mouth of Satan.

Satan has always been “*the prince of the power of the air*” – Ephesians 2:2.

Not merely the wind; we see that in our world this power uniquely includes the electronic airwaves which carry radio and television signals.

We must discern exactly where the satanic inroads are in our own lives and ***cut them off.***

We cannot worship God Sunday morning and then tolerate Jezebel through immoral entertainment in a movie Sunday night.

God continually “*searches the minds and hearts*” – Revelations 2:23, for it is in the inner sanctuary of our private soul-life where tolerance to Jezebel begins.

c. Set the Captives Free!

This spirit of Jezebel was sitting in the church in Thyatira when the Holy Spirit exposed it nineteen hundred years ago (Revelations 2:19-29).

It holds captive men and women in the church who are deeply ashamed of their sexual bondages and sensual desires.

Anyone who is hit by this spirit needs, first of all, to repent deeply of their sympathetic thoughts toward it, and then *war* against it!

Do not waste days and weeks under condemnation – separate yourself from the Jezebelian thinking which was fostered upon you in your youth, pick up the sword of the Spirit, and war against the principality of Jezebel!

d. Likely Targets

Church leaders should take heed – this spirit will seek to maneuver itself into leadership positions.

Prayer leaders, church secretaries, worship and song leaders, pastors and their wives, are all especially targeted by this spirit.

e. What Jezebel Hates

Jezebel’s worst enemies are the prophets; her worst fear is that the people will embrace repentance. It hates humility.

*A true ministry is willing and eager to be submitted and accountable to other ministries.*

Spirituality is measured in meekness, not power.



Jezebel hates prayer – intercessory prayer pries her fingers off the hearts and souls of men. It sets people free in the spirit.

Jezebel's ultimate hatred is against God Himself.

## 14 CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JEZEBEL SPIRIT

*Here are some of the characteristics that accompany the work of the Jezebel spirit. Please keep in mind that a person heavily influenced by this demonic spirit may do many of the following, at one time or another, although not necessarily in the order described. Furthermore, a single characteristic does not indicate that someone has a “full-blown” Jezebel spirit. It may simply mean that the person is still spiritually and emotionally immature. When a combination of several of the fourteen characteristics exists, however, there is a strong indication that an individual is influenced by a Jezebel spirit. Also remember that one characteristic may be clearly noticeable, but other traits may be hidden and yet profound. A prolonged manifestation of any of these traits warrants a closer look at the individual and the situation.*

1. While it is almost unrecognizable at first, such individuals are **threatened by a prophetic leader**, who is the main target of concern. Although such people will seem to have prophetic gifts, their aim is to actually control those who move in the prophetic realm.
2. To increase their favor, such individuals often zero in on a pastor and church staff, and then seek to find the weakest link in order to subdue them. Their eventual **goal is to run the church**.
3. **Seeking to gain popular and pastoral endorsement**, such individuals will form strategic affiliations with people who are perceived by others to be spiritual or influential with others.
4. To appear spiritual, such individuals will seek recognition by manipulating situations to gain an advantage. Such individuals often **conjure up dreams and visions** from their imaginations, or they borrow them from others.
5. When these individuals receive initial recognition, they often **respond with false humility**. However, this trait is short-lived.
6. When confronted, these individuals **become defensive**. They justify their actions with phrases like, “I’m just following God” or “God told me to do this.”
7. These individuals often **allege having great spiritual insight** into church government and affairs, but they will not appeal to proper authority. Rather they *first* appeal to others.
8. Having impure motives, they seek out “disciples;” they **need constant affirmation** from others.
9. Desiring to **avoid accountability**, these individuals prefer to pray for people in isolated situations – in a corner or in another room. Thus, innuendoes and false “prophetic” words cannot be easily challenged.
10. **Eager to gain control**, these people will gather others and seek to teach them.
11. Deceiving others by soulless prophecy or by giving words that someone wants to hear, these individuals **seek to gain credibility**. They prophesy half-truths or little known facts, as though they were from God.
12. Although the “laying on of hands” is biblical, these individuals like to impart a higher level of spirit – or break down walls that have held someone back – by the “laying on of hands.” However, **their touch is actually a curse**. Instead of a holy blessing, an evil spirit may be imparted.
13. Masking poor self-esteem with spiritual pride, these individuals **want to be seen as the most spiritual** ones in the church. They may be the first to cry, wail or mourn – claiming a burden from God. However, they are no different from the Pharisees who announced their gifts in order to be seen by men.
14. Usually such individual’s **family life is unstable**. These individuals may be single or married. If married, their spouse is usually weak spiritually, unsaved, or miserable. They begin to dominate and control everyone in the family.

#### 4. Elijah, Jehu, and the War Against Jezebel

##### a. To the Victor Goes Our Nation

Elijah represents the interests of heaven: the call to repentance and the return to God.

Jezebel represents that unique principality whose purpose is to hinder and defeat the work of repentance.

Elijah was the head of the school of prophets – literally hundreds who proclaimed the work of the Lord.

Jezebel had viciously and systematically murdered all of God’s servants until only Elijah remained – 1 Kings 18:22.

Elijah challenged the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Asherah to a demonstration of power: their gods against the power of the Lord.

These 850 men were the most powerful, demonized individuals that the hosts of darkness could produce.

King Ahab sent a message to the nation of Israel to come witness the conflict between the God of Elijah and the demigods of Jezebel.

1 Kings 18:24, 27

1 Kings 18:38-39 – *The fire of the Lord fell, and consumed the burnt offering... And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces; and they said, “The Lord, He is God; the Lord, He is God”.*”

Elijah put the prophets of Baal to death.

Immediately after this powerful witness, Elijah came under spiritual warfare.

Jezebel, in a fit of rage, released a flood of witchcraft and demonic power against Elijah that put fear into his heart.

Elijah ran – he wished to die!

***When you war against the principality of Jezebel, even though you stand against her lusts and witchcrafts, you must guard against the power-demons of fear and discouragement, for these she will send against you to distract you from your warfare and your victory!***

b. The Drama Continues

John the Baptist was to go, *“as a forerunner before [the Lord] in the spirit and power of Elijah” Luke 1:15-17.*

Like Elijah, John proclaimed the need for repentance wherever he saw sin.

One such area was in the adulterous lives of King Herod and his wife, Herodias.

As Elijah’s spirit ministered through John, so Jezebel had surfaced through Herodias.

What Jezebel did to Elijah in the wilderness, Herodias did to John; Jezebel hurled fear and discouragement, which leads to self-doubt and confusion, against the servant of God.

John asked if Jesus really was the Messiah – Matthew 11:3.

c. Elijah is Coming!

Jesus stated that the ministry of Elijah is not over.

Matthew 17:11 – *Elijah is coming and will restore all things.*

Malachi 4:5-6 – *Behold, I am going to send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and terrible day of the Lord. And he will restore...*

Seeing Jezebel so blatantly manifest herself only confirms that the spirit of Elijah is also here bringing repentance and raising up warring prophets throughout our land!

God destroyed Jezebel through Jehu, the newly crowned king of Israel.

2 Kings 9:31-33 – *“Had Zimri peace, who slew his master?” And he lifted up his face to the window, and said, “Who is on my side? Who?” And there looked out to him two or three eunuchs. And he said, “Throw her down.” So they threw her down; and some of her blood was sprinkled on the wall and on the horses: and he trode her under foot.*

Jehu had no mercy, no hope for reform, no compromise or sympathy whatsoever toward this demonic spirit and neither should we.

We must refuse to settle for a false peace based on compromise and fear, especially when the Spirit of God is calling for “War”!

*Even now, we wash ourselves in the Precious Blood and having been cleansed from any defilement of sin, we bind and plunder the stronghold of Jezebel.*

5. Strategy Against the Spirit of Jezebel

a. Our War Against Jezebel

You cannot defeat the enemy simply with prayer. To topple Satan’s empire we must be transformed into Christ’s likeness.

The church that successfully wars against Jezebel will be a church that shows a visible outward glory, a symbol of hidden, inward purity.

It will be a church in which the gift of healings is an integral part of their body ministry – Revelations 2:26-28.

***Victory begins with the name of Jesus on our lips; it is not consummated until the nature of Jesus is in our hearts.***

We must allow the Holy Spirit to expose where we are tolerant and sympathetic to the ways of Jezebel.

*We cannot be successful in the heavenly war if we are not victorious in the battlefield of our minds.*

Our victory in every battle begins in our “minds and hearts”.

Our concept of church must expand beyond buildings into a way of life we practice everywhere.

It is in the routine things of daily living where the strongholds of Jezebel must be confronted and destroyed.

b. It Takes an “Ahab” to Tolerate Jezebel

There is a spirit that works with Jezebel.

The effect of this demon is that it floods the soul of a man with weakness and fear.

Its name is Ahab; his nature is “one who *gives* his authority to Jezebel.” The Ahab spirit occupies the areas of tolerance within a man’s mind.

To win against, Jezebel, one must conquer the nature of Ahab.

The essence of Ahab is a title, “husband” and a position, “head”, but the man has no real authority.

Authority is simply delegated responsibility. The emphasis is not on being the boss but being responsible.

The structure upon which divine authority comes is divine love.

Headship in the home is simply the man taking loving responsibility for the condition of his family.

Our objective is to replace Jezebel’s concept of security with the security a woman receives when she is tenderly loved by her husband.

Thus, the man wins the war against Jezebel by becoming Christlike.

The woman overcomes the haughtiness of Jezebel by seeking the meekness of Christ. She pursues a “gently and quiet spirit” – 1 Peter 2:23-24, which is natural to Christlikeness.

What we become in Christ, *as His people*, must be the exact opposite of the spirit of Jezebel.

We must live a crucified life in the purity of Christ, full of love and faith for our vision.

c. Corporate Warfare against Satan’s Power

Acts 4:24 – *They lifted their voices to God with one accord.*

Corporate prayer is the united intercession of the church against the powers of darkness.

- **Worship should be part of warfare.** With great variety, worship and praise should be integrated into warfare. Keep your eyes on Jesus and stay thankful!

- **Intercession should be Spirit led.** This is more than “praying in tongues.” It requires we learn to listen. It requires that we be responsive to the subtle changes of the Spirit as He guides the group into creative agreement. As individuals we seek to keep our prayers short (2-5 minutes); we address one need at a time, leaving the door open for others to pray in agreement.
- **Seek to remain consistent to scheduled prayer times.** This may sound like we are seeking to control the Holy Spirit, but the more predictable the schedule, the more people can commit themselves to it.
- **Do not become presumptuous.** In fact, if someone resorts to calling the devil names, “daring him to fight”, etc., instruct him that he is out of order. In prayer, use the Word, the Spirit, and the name of Jesus; anything more than these is fleshly.
- **Keep all talk to a minimum.** Save all but essential conversation for after prayer.
- **Those who engage in warfare should be trained and approved by church leadership.** Every church should have a “warfare team” as well as a “backup team” which prays for those on the front lines. The backup team should consist of those in training or those who feel called only to pray.

## 6. God will Judge Your Judgment

### d. Identifying the Spirit of Babylon

*The spirit of Babylon is the spirit of compromise with the world. Wherever there is compromise in our hearts with the devil, that compromise places us on the back of a beast that ultimately seeks our destruction!*

The spirit of Babylon epitomizes self-exaltation and self-exaltation is the source of compromise.

Babylon was originally a *religious* city. To understand this gives us great insight into the nature of this enemy.

Genesis 11:4 says that the common intent of its people was to build for themselves a city, “**and a tower whose top will reach into heaven.**”

Their pride was in their religion – their desire to “reach into heaven” through man-made religions has proliferated in every nation.

This spirit is ambitious to “**make for ourselves a name.**”

Solomon observed this part of human nature in Ecclesiastes 4:4, “...*every labor and every skill which is done is the result of rivalry between a man and his neighbor.*”

The church takes on this ‘spirit’ when it “settles down” and stops pressing on.

Recognize the influence of Babylon in any people or church that offers lip service to a God far off, a deity whose dwelling place is not with men.

In contrast, Jesus is our Emmanuel, “God is with us”! The very essence of true Christianity is Christ in us, the hope of glory.

e. Babylon Will Be Destroyed

Those who have compromised with this spirit – Revelations 17:3 – ... *a woman sitting on a scarlet beast. Upon her forehead a name was written, Babylon the Great, the mother of harlots. (vs. 5).*

Pride is the first sign – Genesis 11:4 *Let us make for ourselves a name.*

Then, worldliness – Revelations 17:4 *The woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls...*

Finally, lust for pleasure - ...*in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality.*

God’s command is “*Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues.*” Revelations 18:4

We are called unto Christlikeness – meekness, moderation, and purity of heart.

f. Those Who Conquer

Revelations 18:20 – *Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, because God has judged your judgment of her.*

The Lord Jesus not only wants us separate from this spirit but to be warring against it.

We are not fighting flesh and blood but the powers of darkness that hold people captive.

The church is to become an army that hates wickedness and loves righteousness, and army that, as it follows Christ, *initiates* spiritual warfare against the various gates of hell.

g. Jesus: Our Warrior King

Jesus is not returning as the “meek and mild” Lamb whom the world crucified – he is returning “*to be glorified in His saints... and to be marveled at among all who have believed*” 2 Thessalonians 1:10

Isaiah 42:13 – *The Lord will go forth like a warrior, He will arouse His zeal like a man of war. He will utter a shout, yes, He will raise a war cry. He will prevail against His enemies.*

7. Discerning the Nature of the Enemy

a. Hitting the Heart of Your Adversary

In the realm of the spirit the *name* of an entity always corresponds to its *nature*.

Each of the many revealed names of the Lord in Scripture have a deeper revelation of His nature (Genesis 22:14; Exodus 3:14)

The same is true in discerning the activity and purpose of evil spirits.

To defeat the rulers of darkness we must know their nature – what to expect, what their tactics are, and how they apply those tactics against our weaknesses.

The term “unclean spirit” is a generic term used in the Bible to draw a distinction between angelic spirits and evil spirits.

But if you want to bring deliverance, you need to know the *nature* of a specific unclean spirit; that is, whether the unclean spirit is a spirit of fear or sexual lust, etc. You do not need to ask it any more questions once you know its nature.

How do we defeat the enemy? *Victory begins with the name of Jesus on our lips; it is consummated by the nature of Jesus in our hearts.*

b. Follow the Lamb!

It is very important to **not** charge ahead, attacking principalities in warfare without having strategies and without people praying for the protection of those doing warfare.

The proper balance in warfare: *the armies which are in heaven... were following HIM. Revelations 19:11-16*

The armies which are in heaven **follow!** And who do they follow? **Jesus!**

Be very conscious and very careful to be followers of the Lord.

The difference between being taught and being *trained*: reading this book is being taught; being personally led by the Lord Jesus is being trained.

Psalm 18:34 – *he trains my hands for battle, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.*

What you will learn in confrontational warfare and obeying the Lord on the actual battleground will far exceed that which any book teaching will provide.

Your confidence must be securely in the Lord!!!