

**A practical guide to intercessory prayer for...**

# **Defeating**

**The**

# **Powers**

**Of**



# **Darkness...**

**in the day to day trials of life!**

*“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...”*

**Anchor Ministries International  
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# **Defeating The Powers of Darkness**

**Revised December, 2008**

**A very special thank you from the bottom of our hearts to:**

• *June MacDonald for her wonderful editing ability  
in making this booklet readable.*

• *Erwin Cherrington for the cover art work .*

**Revised January, 2004**

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# Defeating The Powers of Darkness

## Intercessory Prayer

A practical guide to help you have victory in the day to day trials of life

### Dedicated to:

- ∞ **Parents who cry themselves to sleep night after night, worrying about their wayward children.**
- ∞ **Parents whose small children defy parental authority and rebel in disrespect.**
- ∞ **Parents whose adult children and grandchildren have been estranged from them because of psychological techniques such as “Regression Therapy.”**
- ∞ **Parents who find evidences of their child being involved in the occult, drugs or alcohol.**
- ∞ **Spouses who are having tremendous struggles in their marriage.**
- ∞ **The young person who has been bruised and abused — who sobs himself to sleep in discouragement and hopelessness.**
- ∞ **The person struggling with fear and panic attacks.**
- ∞ **Those who are plagued with the terrifying psychological diagnosis given them by psychologists and psychiatrists.**
- ∞ **The person, from children to adults, who is struggling under the influence of mind altering drugs (Prozac, Ritlan etc.)**
- ∞ **Those who feel in bondage to some personal stronghold of sin, of which they feel there is no freedom.**
- ∞ **Those who believe that only Jesus and His Word can bring victory and peace.**

## Burdens That We Carry



Many who read this booklet know that we travel around this country giving seminars on the spiritual battle that rages in just about every area of life. After each meeting it is unbelievable the number of people who remain. They come to us with tears in their eyes and relate horrifying personal experiences.

When we are home our telephone rings twenty to forty times a day. For the most part these are distress calls which come from spouses who are having terrible struggles with their unbelieving partners. Men, women and young people alike are experiencing bondage to sexual sins; parents whose teenage children are out of control; Christians having suicidal thoughts; young people who are trying to break habits of drugs and sexual promiscuity. The list could go on, and on, and on!

To add insult to injury, current psychology is claiming to help these people, but they are trying to do it with men's plans—not understanding or using the tools which God has given in the Bible. For the most part the psychology we see being used both in the world and in Christian circles is psychology that was born in the pit of hell. It is candy coated with intellectual jargon that entices people into believing that it can help them when, in many cases, it does just the opposite.

Today families are being broken up and destroyed by some of the destructive therapies of psychology without realizing that psychology was not designed to cure people. A prominent pastor asked a psychologist about his cure rate. Without hesitation the psychologist said that he had no cure rate because psychology does not cure, it only helps people COPE with their problems. That would be like tossing a life jacket to a drowning man and passing on by, letting him “COPE” with the problem. It is distressing that so many Christians have fallen into the psychological trap.

Even some Christian pastors and writers are making the Gospel of Jesus complicated by integrating psychology and the theories of men into their counseling and teaching. In many situations so-called “Christian Counseling” has been the door used by Satan to bring psychology into the church. Have Christians changed gods? Dear friend, too often psychology has been Christianized so that Christianity could be psychologized!

It is time we realize that we are in a supernatural battle with unseen forces and this battle can only be fought supernaturally through the powers of heaven—not through psychological intellectualism. It is time for us to stand up for the Word of God, and to use God's method of fighting the powers of darkness—as it is outlined in the Bible.

It is our sincere desire to help each of you gain freedom from the bondage of sin in your life, and to do whatever we can to give practical Biblical tools to help you WIN in your personal struggle with Satan and his evil spirits who are working to destroy you. Victory for you can only come through Jesus, using His name and the tools of warfare as given in His Word.

It is also our desire and prayer that the information we share in this little booklet will prove a blessing to you. As you daily put the tools to work in your own situation we expect to hear many wonderful testimonies of victory. When you witness the power of heaven being exerted in your behalf, it will create a deep desire in your heart to get better acquainted with the mighty deliverer, Jesus Christ. Each day He will become more real to you. Because of this intimate relationship you will have an exciting experience to share with others.

We urge you to pray before reading this informative booklet. The powers of darkness will do everything they possibly can to keep you from getting this information. Remember, Jesus came to set the captives free! Today? YES, TODAY!

# Recognizing Demonic Influence

## In Your Home and In Your Daily Life

Several years ago we attended a Bible conference in Palm Springs, California, and happened to converse with a missionary from India. When the subject got around to spiritual warfare he stated that “the Christians in this country think all the demons are in our country, but let me tell you that there is more demonic activity in this country than in ours. The people in my country know the spirit world is real and when they learn of the power of Jesus Christ, which is stronger than the power that afflicts them, they are ready to call on His name. Your people are not willing to recognize demonic activity and deal with it the way the Bible commands.”

Many believers today recognize the warfare with the flesh and with the world, but when it comes to warfare with Satanic forces—demons—they take the attitude that this is something that goes on somewhere else in the world. They feel that Satan and his demons are at work primarily in primitive, illiterate countries where he can take advantage of the unintelligent. Even to entertain the idea that the devil is alive and well in this sophisticated, intelligent country is simply absurd. We are too smart for the devil and anyway he can’t possess or demonize Christians.

Both of these notions come directly from Satan. Christians, for the most part, have accepted these lies. In order to be able to recognize the activity of demons we must first understand that there really is a spiritual battle going on in our very own lives. Some well-known Christian authors boldly make statements such as “Nowhere in the New Testament do we find Christians possessed or demonized.” What absolute blindness! Jesus, in John 8:44 told the Pharisees, who were the leaders of the church, “You are of your father the devil.” He went on to tell them that they would do his (Satan’s) bidding. Today we would call these men pastors, conference officials and presidents—yet, Jesus said they were of their father the devil. In order to “do his bidding” they would have to be controlled to some degree by Satan.

There must have been some reason why, in Matthew 10:5-8 Jesus said “Go not into the way (region) of the Gentiles and into any city of the Samaritans... but go rather to the lost sheep of Israel” (professed followers of God). He gave them instruction not only to preach and heal the sick, but He gave them power to cast out devils. Why would He say this if Christians (believers) cannot be possessed or demonized? In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke there is overwhelming evidence that demons were active in the lives of people who, if they were living among us today, would be called Christians.

- **Mark 1:21-28 and Luke 4:31,32.** We read of the demon- possessed man in the synagogue (church).
- **Luke 8:2.** The women in this account were some of those who accompanied Jesus’ group, and supported them. Yet He had cast demons out of them.
- **Luke 13:10-21.** Here was a woman who, for 18 years, had a physical problem caused by a demon. This text says “...*this daughter of Abraham... Satan hath bound for eighteen long years.*” Today she would be considered a Christian, or follower of Jesus.

Satan and sin are attached to each other, they are inseparable, and Christians are not immune to sin. Whenever Christians willingly and willfully sin they put themselves on Satan’s ground. Under these conditions he can, and in many cases does, control them to some degree.

The word “control” seems to better characterize demonic possession or oppression. Many debate for hours in an effort to explain the difference between “possession” and “oppression.” In the Biblical account of those who were “vexed,” “troubled,” “possessed,” or “oppressed,” there was always a degree of control. Peter certainly was not “possessed” when he told Jesus that He would not have to go to the cross and suffer, but his mouth was definitely controlled, for that moment, by Satan. Yet, in this case, which was not demon possession, Jesus rebuked Satan—not Peter.

Whatever the case, when it came to demonic activity, it was always handled the same—the devil and his demons were rebuked and commanded to leave.

The bottom line is this—If a Christian is out of control in one or more areas of his life another power is in control, and, according to Biblical instruction, it must be rebuked and the power of Satan broken.

It matters not whether it is possession, oppression, troubled, or vexed. Jesus has given us (the believer in Jesus) the absolute authority, in His name, over Satan and all the hosts of hell.

Another myth or lie which some Christian pastors and writers around the country are constantly mouthing is:

**The devil and the Holy Spirit cannot be in the same place at the same time.**

Christians seem to like this concept because it gives them a false sense of security. Satan and his angels revel in this concept because then they can convince the “controlled” person of his utter hopelessness.

If this idea was true (which it is not) then the drug addict, the alcoholic, the prostitute, and the person in the occult, etc., would not have a chance. This would mean that the Holy Spirit could never work on their hearts to bring them to conviction of sin because Satan and his demons are present.

Of course it can truthfully be said that the Holy Spirit and the hosts of hell certainly do not work in harmony with each other.

However, the Holy Spirit would have to be there, even while the spirits of evil are also present and carrying on their work, in order to work on the heart and mind of the fallen person to bring him to conviction.

To simplify this, let us use a basic example of a pitch-dark-room with no light in it (representing the mind of the lost person). If a match is lit in one corner of the room, 99% of the room is still in total darkness. Then if a lamp is turned on, giving more light, there is still much darkness. So we continue lighting more lamps till enough light is emitted and eventually all the darkness is gone. But until enough light is brought into the room to banish all darkness, both darkness and light exist at the same time and in that same room. This is the way it is when the Holy Spirit begins to work in the mind of a lost person.

Today the devil knows that his time is short and he is “going about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.” The problem is that we, as Christians, do not recognize this and so we go about with the attitude that the battle we are fighting is with each other.

Ephesians 6:12 clearly tells us that we are not in a battle with each other, but with vicious spiritual powers that are intensely focused on destroying every person and family who are striving to follow Jesus. In subsequent verses of this chapter in Ephesians there is evidence of this terrible battle and instruction is given as to how to put on the armor of God in order to be protected from these raging demonic forces.

So many parents cannot understand why their families are falling apart, why their children are rebelling, why their marriages are ending in divorce and chaos is taking over. Young children and teens are at a loss to understand why their “Christian” parents cannot get along and are divorcing. Christian leaders also are scratching their heads in disbelief because the divorce rate among Christians equals that of the world. Hate, anger and violence have become so prevalent that news magazines print feature articles specifically on these topics.

It is essential for us to understand that Satan is on the loose, and is on a rampage against us. We continue to avoid and ignore him at the peril of our eternal salvation. It is essentially because of this willful ignorance and blindness that Satan has so much influence and control in the lives of Christians.

*Defeating The Powers of Darkness*

Mark Bubeck, a Pastor and Christian writer said:

**“For a believer to keep himself in the dark about Satan’s person and work is a dangerous mistake.**

**If this enemy with whom we personally have so much to do in battle remains to us some mysterious, foreboding, awesome power we are afraid to oppose, we are indeed at a disadvantage.**

**From a Biblical perspective we should know all we can about Satan’s tactics and his methods of attack against us. We must also know the Biblical basis of our victory over Satan and his world of darkness.”**

Let us now consider some signs of the devil’s “foot-prints” in our lives. This is direct warfare and we must take it seriously.

- **Strife in the home.** Strife between husbands and wives, between parents and children.
- **Rebellion.** Teenagers rebelling against parental authority in the home. Lack of spiritual interest and in some cases even mocking Christian principles.
- **Absence of home discipline.** If there is no sound Biblical discipline in the home, the devil and his evil spirits will rule. You can count on it!
- **Anger.** Sudden, unprovoked anger in men and women, display of temper tantrums and angry outbursts in little children.
- **Wrong kinds of activities and items in the home.** Wrong types of music, Satanic games such as the Ouija board, evil TV programs, wicked videos movies and games, drug involvement, gross and ugly toys that portray evil as being acceptable, etc.
- **Personal appearance.** Faddish absurd hair colors and styles, clothing designed to make a person (who is created in God’s image) look ugly and ridiculous. Immodest appearance.
- **Bitterness.** Bitter and resentful feelings against a spouse, child, or parent, against some one in the church or community.
- **Deep depression and feelings of suicide.** This is so prevalent in the lives of many young people today, a feeling of hopelessness.
- **Infidelity between husbands and wives.** Today the devil is whipping up the passions, tempting men and women to be unfaithful to their spouses.\*
- **Physical attacks.** Job 2:7 is an example of how the devil can afflict physically. In Matthew 12:22 we read of a man who was demonically blind and dumb. In Mark 9:17-27 there is the account of the boy who had a demonic problem of seizures.

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*We want everyone reading this booklet to realize that we do not believe that every illness and sickness is demonic. We do believe that people give in to the temptations of the devil to get them to indulge in appetites and passions, which in turn brings on many physical problems.*

- **Physical and verbal abuse.** Loud bad language and physical attacks against a family member.
- **Premarital sexual activity.** Even among young and older teenagers the devil wants to destroy and pervert one of the most beautiful things God has given to a married couple.\*
- **Fear and panic attacks.** Panic attacks are becoming a plague these days. There must be a thousand kinds of fear through which the devil keeps Christians in bondage. One of his most effective tools is to keep people in fear of him. In this way he keeps them from rebuking him—in the name of Jesus.
- **Lust.** Engaging in various forms of fantasy, self-abuse, or pornography.\*

### **It Only Takes One**

It is very interesting that often it takes only one person in a home, who allows Satan to influence him, to break down the family unit. To save our homes we must recognize and discern this satanic influence and become warriors in the army of Jesus.

In this chapter we have briefly outlined the reality of the battle thus far, and how to recognize demonic influences in your home and in your life. God will help you recognize other areas in which the devil may be influencing your home.

Jesus Christ has given the answers in His Holy Word. The answers cannot be found anywhere else. Some of you may be caught up in the captivating therapies of psychology and so-called “Biblical Counseling.” If so, it is our hope that you will soon see how Jesus is the only one who can deal with demonic powers and the sin problem. Psychology is not the answer to your problem. Sin and demons do not exist in the thinking of the psychological world. Intellectual books, written by so-called “Christian Psychologists” and so-called “Biblical Counselors” have taken the place of the Bible truth. Christ took our sins upon Himself, and only He has victoriously overcome Satan, sin and death, so we may also have that same victory. It is time we looked to **Jesus only** for the answers.

Dear friend, please take heart! There is hope for you in whatever situation you may find yourself. It is our prayer that as you continue through the pages of this little booklet, that you will find answers that will set you free, free in Jesus!



**\* Ask for our  
booklet, *Sexual Sin and  
The Marriage Covenant*  
(*Breaking soul-ties*)**

# Are You Opening The Door To the Devil?

## A special emphasis on “forgiveness”

One of the greatest deceptions of the devil is the disastrous results of not forgiving. It is often referred to as “holding a grudge.” Most people do not realize it, but each day brings situations that could cause the spirit of unforgiveness to take hold in their lives. This is a grievous sin, and, if it is not dealt with, it could cause one to lose his salvation. It destroys like a deadly cancer.

Let us look at what Jesus had to say about it in Matthew 18. When Peter asked Him, “*How oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Till seven times?*” The Pharisees limited forgiveness to three times. Peter sought to extend it to seven times. But Jesus taught that we should never become weary of forgiving. Not “*until seven times,*” He said, “*but until seventy times seven.*”

In the parable Jesus spoke to Peter there are several points that really stand out:

- The king who forgave represents Christ.
- The debt the king (Jesus) forgave was immense, compared to the debt the servant was required to forgive.
- The whole immense debt was forgiven.
- The servant soon had the opportunity to follow the example of the king in forgiving his servant a very small debt.
- When the king’s servant refused to forgive his servant, the pardon that was given him by the king was revoked. It was cancelled because he would not also forgive.
- The king could not forgive if the servant didn’t forgive.

Matthew 18:34, 35 says—“*And in wrath his master turned him over to the torturers (jailers), till he should pay all that he owed. So also My heavenly Father will deal with every one of you, if you do not freely forgive your brother from your heart his offenses*” (Amplified Bible).

First, let us examine the meaning of the word “forgiveness.” Vine’s Bible Dictionary says: “To send away, forgive a debt, completely cancel, remission of punishment due. To bestow a favor unconditionally, to let loose, release, let go.”

Webster’s Dictionary gives this meaning: “To excuse a fault, PARDON, to absolve from payment.”

**Mark 11:25**, in the Amplified Bible gives a very good definition of what forgiveness means: “*And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him and let it drop—leave it, let it go—in order that your Father Who is in heaven may also forgive you your (own) failings and shortcomings and let them drop.*” (In other words, **DROP IT!**)

Let us now consider seven reasons why forgiveness is so important:

1. **Forgiveness is obedience to God**—He says to forgive. “*And be ye kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you*” Ephesians 4:32.
2. **Forgiveness allows faith to work**—In Mark 11:22-26 Jesus spoke about forgiveness in connection with having the faith to move a mountain. In Genesis we read of Joseph’s unwavering faith that God honored so many times. If he hadn’t been so willing to forgive his brothers for what they had done to him, his faith wouldn’t have worked. Unforgiveness destroys faith—they cannot work together.
3. **Rids us of spiritual filthiness (unforgiveness is spiritual filthiness)**— Proverbs 18:14 says “*The strong spirit of a man sustains him in bodily pain or trouble, but a weak and broken spirit—who can raise up or bear?*” Avoid weights (dirt, unforgiveness) on your spirit. We must be washed clean in the blood (Word) in the inner man.
4. **Forgiveness removes the tortures of the soul**—Unforgiveness brings on depression, lack of joy, heaviness of spirit, unhappiness, the feeling that something just isn’t right. Unforgiveness poisons the soul. It is a slow death, both physically and spiritually. To forgive removes all these things and brings peace.
5. **Forgiveness removes the blockages in our “personal relationship” with God**— Prayer life is hindered by unforgiveness. God will not forgive if we don’t forgive. Matthew 6:14 says, “*For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will forgive you too; but if you do not forgive people, neither will your heavenly Father forgive your trespasses.*” (The Modern Language Bible.) How can we expect to have a relationship with God if we have unforgiveness on our conscience. This is really being dishonest.
6. **Forgiveness gives us the ability to love**—When a person has an unforgiving spirit they cannot love properly. Husbands and wives can tell when they harbor ill feelings between each other because they have a hard time embracing before they go to sleep at night. Unforgiveness can ruin present and future relationships because love and unforgiveness are totally opposites. On the other hand, to forgive opens the door for the love of Jesus to flow through.

## 7. Forgiveness slams the door shut to the devil—

Unforgiveness opens a big door to Satan to bring in other things such as bitterness and resentment. Each of these will grow like a cancer and will contaminate the whole person.

**One Christian author stated,** “Most of the ground that Satan gains in the lives of Christians is due to unforgiveness.”

When we forgive, the devil then cannot come and torment us.

**How do you know if you have unforgiveness in your life?** An unforgiving, bitter spirit keeps score. Every time someone offends you, you immediately remember all the other times they offended you. It is called the “Play it Again Sam” syndrome. Unforgiveness, which breeds bitterness and resentment, is truly one of the greatest tools the devil uses against Christians.

This is not to negate the fact that many people are wounded—almost beyond endurance. The devil likes to add to it and make it worse by whispering to them so that the nail of bitterness and resentment is driven in deeper and deeper.

Of course, Satan’s desire is to get them to be angry at God, which many times turns into hate. The ultimate is to depress a person to the point of hopelessness, and then his next step leads almost effortlessly toward the ultimate destination—suicide.

Look about you and see for yourself how clever and successful the devil is in using situations in even your own daily life, or the life of some loved one, to bring on unforgiveness.

Oh dear friend, please don’t fall for this dreadful deception of Satan. In the event we believe we have a right to be unforgiving toward another person, let us look at the life of Jesus for a moment. When we catch a glimpse of what He went through just before His crucifixion, our own picture looks very different.

In Isaiah 50 it tells how evil men plucked out Christ’s beard, how they insulted Him and spit on Him. Isaiah 53 records how He was despised and rejected, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; how He bore the anguish of all the hurts and burdens of sin.

In the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John there are graphic pictures of the last few hours before Christ’s death. We see Him there in Gethsemane where the cup shook in His hand. His humanity was crying out under the burden of our sins. The burden was so intense that He sweat “as it were” great drops of blood.

The picture does not end there. He returns to the disciples only to find them asleep. His “prayer support group” has failed Him. Then the sound of the angry mob is heard as they come to take Jesus “with swords and clubs” to the hall of injustice.

There we find Peter being challenged and denying that he even knew Jesus. This must have caused Jesus much anguish.

False witnesses came forward and accused Jesus. The crowd became so worked up they started chanting “Crucify Him, Crucify Him!” Then the soldiers took Jesus and “gathered the whole company of soldiers around Him.” They stripped Him and put a scarlet robe upon Him. A crown of thorns was placed on His head, a reed was put in His hand, then kneeling before Him they spat on Him and mocked Him. After that they led Him off to Calvary. On the way to Calvary His strength failed Him and He fell under the weight of the cross. Reaching the place of execution they stretched Him out on the wooden cross and proceeded to nail Him to it. Picking up the cross, strong men dropped it into the ground—tearing the flesh of the Son of God. Again they wagged their heads and mocked Him and challenged Him to save Himself and come down from the cross. Bear in mind that many of these people He had reached out to in loving kindness, healing them, teaching them, casting devils out of some of them. Yet they rejected Him.

The devil and all his host of hell were there taunting Jesus. They were most likely speaking tormenting words in His ears, such as: “These people who claim to be your friends, who claim to be spiritual above all others, have rejected you. Your own disciples who listened to your instruction have betrayed you. All will forsake you. The people standing around this cross hate you, they aren’t worthy of your death, they are dogs. Why die for them? Come down from that cross, bow down to us and we will give you anything you want.” In fact, these are probably very mild words compared to what they really said to Jesus. They were trying to get to Jesus through basic human emotions—rejection, bitterness, resentment, hate, doubt, unforgiveness, retaliation, anger—they just wanted to overcome Him before He died so that all humanity would be forever lost.

As if all this wasn’t enough, Jesus felt His Father turn His back on Him. In His human emotions He cried out “My God, why hast thou forsaken Me?” Everyone seemed to be against Him, yet He looked down on those evil men who were possessed with demons and said, “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.”

Dear friend, please remember Jesus when you are tempted to be unforgiving. No matter how badly we may have been offended we can always say, “we haven’t been crucified on a cross yet,” and “Father forgive them for they don’t know what they are doing.” Don’t let Satan steal your salvation through unforgiveness.

When he comes and whispers to you, telling you to get even, to snub another person, or show unkindness because of being offended, tell him—“In the name of Jesus, get thee behind me, Satan. You are an offense to me. I will no longer accept your lies, now go.”

If there is unforgiveness in your life, whether it be with family members or acquaintances, ask God to help you have a forgiving spirit. May God help us to have a forgiving spirit.

### **Steps that will help you forgive and put it in the past:**

- Tell God you choose to forgive the person who offended you.
- Ask God to forgive you for the temptation you succumbed to—the sin of unforgiveness, bitterness, resentment, anger, etc.
- Ask God to help you see that person, or incident, through the eyes of Jesus. Jesus hates our sin, but oh, does He ever love us. He promises to forgive us of all our sins if we will do the same for our fellow men.
- When the devil comes back and tries to tempt you into believing that you haven't been forgiven, or that you haven't forgiven the other person, be quick to rebuke the devil when he wants you to "Play It Again Sam." Tell him that you gave that to Jesus—go talk to Him about it. Read Scripture texts out loud, sing a Jesus song, and these feelings will begin to lift. Keep doing it until they do and you will find that your heart also will be changed.
- When the devil tries to recall or recount all the past unforgiveness' you have had towards someone, tell him "everytime you come back this way, I am not only going to rebuke you in my behalf, but I am going to pray and bind you up in someone else's life." This is what we call the "double whammy."
- When your actions have displayed unforgiveness toward the person who offended you, go to that person and ask their forgiveness, except when it would injure them or someone close to them.

# How To Control Your Thoughts Against The Attacks of Satan

A little boy enters a grocery store and his eyes land on a bright red, juicy apple. All of a sudden his hunger pains are overwhelming. He looks at the apple and immediately wrong thoughts along with right thoughts begin to flood his mind. Notice:

“Boy I’m hungry, but I don’t have any money. I wonder if I could get that apple in my pocket without anyone noticing?”

“But this isn’t right, that would be stealing.”

“Just this once, who would know the difference?”

“Don’t do it, it isn’t right. It belongs to someone else.”

“Oh, go ahead, just this once, move a little closer and take a look. No one will ever know.”

“I’d better not do it. I will regret it forever.”

“Just think how good that beautiful, juicy apple would taste. After all, doesn’t the Bible say it is all right to eat when I am walking through someone else’s property? Go ahead!”

“Please don’t do it. Jesus won’t like that.”

“I have big pockets, there is no one around, who would see me. Go ahead, do it.”

This is a hypothetical situation that is very typical in the battle that goes on in the mind of every Christian, every waking hour of the day. This example is very simplistic, but the battle that goes on in the mind of the Christian often has eternal life and death consequences. And because the word “I” is used, the person thinks it is his own thoughts. The sad thing is that most Christians do not realize or understand where this battle is coming from.

Have you ever wondered why your thoughts wander so much during prayer? Sometimes these thoughts are of an evil nature. You might say, “I can’t keep my mind directed in the right place, even while praying.” That “wandering of the mind” may not be your doing. The Apostle Paul tells us that Satan has the ability to attack our minds in much the same way that he seduced Eve: *“But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ”* (2 Cor. 11:3).

Have you ever considered that when a thought appears suddenly in your mind it may not be your own? Remember, Satan can manipulate you through suggestions. **Notice the following example:**



Knowing this, you will begin to treat the things that run through your mind with a healthy skepticism.

Satan is a liar. He lied to Eve with distracting evil suggestions. Today he seeks to do the same to you—especially when you are attempting to reach out to God in prayer. The Christian will have poor success in his spiritual life until he recognizes and rejects the thoughts that the enemy injects into his mind. In 2 Cor. 10:4-5, Paul states, *“The weapons of our warfare are not fleshly, but mighty through God to pull down mental strongholds, to cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and to bring every thought captive to the obedience of Christ.”*

It is very possible that Satan assigns specific spirits to every believer to keep his mind from operating and resting in the things of God. Your thought life is the battlefield. If you don't believe this, try sometime to keep your thoughts pure and on Jesus for just two or three minutes. You will quickly find yourself in a thought war. The spiritual war is won or lost in the battlefield of the mind. Until a person realizes this, takes action to resist these evil spirits and clean up the thought life, all other spiritual activities will be futile.

In the Bible the psalmist says that God desires those who serve Him to have pure hearts. *“Who shall ascend to the hill of the Lord or stand in His holy place? He that has clean hands and a pure heart; who has not lifted up his soul to vanity.”* Ps. 24:3-4

Satan's typical method of attacking the thought life generally involves nothing more than well-timed suggestions. He is highly skilled at this since he is generally familiar with ones' particular weaknesses and vulnerabilities. His carefully timed suggestions can trigger dangerous results. Satan is a master at presenting a suggestion at just the right moment to incite a person's passions and appeal to his weaknesses. Consider the little boy who saw the apple in the grocery store. The devil knew he was hungry and he saw where his eyes went. At just the right moment he injected well-timed suggestions.

How about the elder of the church who walks into the church board meeting and sees another elder, with whom he hasn't had a good relationship, over in the corner of the room talking privately with the Pastor before the meeting starts. The devil injects a well-timed suggestion, “He must be scheming something up with the Pastor behind my back.” This then starts a whole train of thoughts that could continue through the entire board meeting.

Now, the devil knew how this elder felt about the other elder. He had been watching their interactions over a period of time. In fact, he (the devil) had been feeding these two men thoughts against each other long before this meeting, and he saw that they were buying his injected suggestions by their words and body language.

***Defeating The Powers of Darkness***

Suppose it is time to go to church and you are busy getting ready when all of a sudden a thought pops up, “I'm really tired. It's been a hard week and I need to rest.” That may sound like your own thought, but it isn't. It most likely comes from evil spirits.

Or, maybe someone in church walked by you and instead of speaking they just nodded a greeting. You begin thinking, “I'll bet they are mad at me. Why didn't they show me more attention?” Again, that's a selfish thought inspired by the enemy. You see, Satan's suggestions usually come packaged through the desires and cravings of the self.

There is a progression that takes place when a person doesn't understand where the temptations are coming from, and buys into the thoughts (suggestions) that are injected into his mind. You see, it is through our thought process that the devil injects his temptations. In connection with our thoughts he perverts the God-given imagination, and uses it in the area of fantasy. He gets a person to live out the temptation in his mind before he outwardly yields.

**Here is the progression:**

**(See Thought Chart on next page)**

- **Thought > Temptation > Fantasy**
- **Fantasy > Single Act > Habit**
- **Habit > Compulsion > Possession or Control**

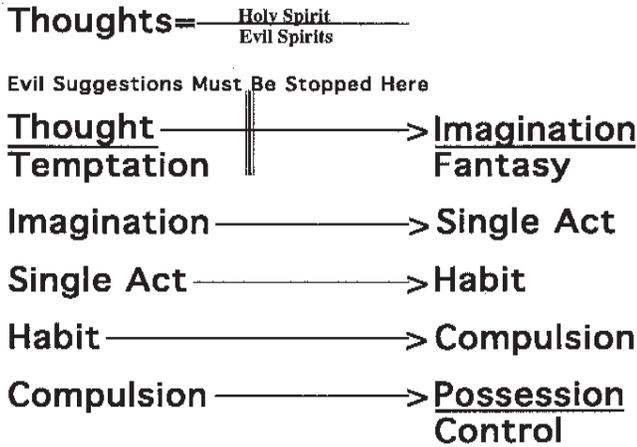
Here he works on the imagination until the person yields to the temptation and commits the single act. Satan knows that once a person has fallen to a particular situation it will be easier and easier for him to commit that sin again and again. He (the devil) makes sure his evil spirits are on hand to take advantage of every situation to which a person is vulnerable until that single act has turned into a habit.

Soon the sin has become so common place that the person is not doing it because he wants to, but through the habit of indulging he has given up his ability to choose—or the devil has stolen a good share of his will. Now it is a compulsion and he is compelled to do it because he has lost most of his will to choose. He continues to listen to the devil's well-timed suggestions, and acts on them until the devil soon has total control of one or more areas of his life. This is called “possession,” but the word “controlled” explains his condition much better. Now this all originated in the mind, the thoughts, before it was acted on. In every step of the progression downward it still took place in the mind until the devil possessed, or controlled, that person.

It is because the battle in the mind is not understood that so many fall, in the thought process, to sin. This is the avenue by which the devil can take possession, or control, of even a Christian. A person can call themselves a “Christian,” but if he does not restrain his thoughts, and bring those thoughts back onto Christ and all good things, he most surely can and will be controlled by the evil powers of darkness.

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## THOUGHT CHART



### HABIT

~~H~~ABIT

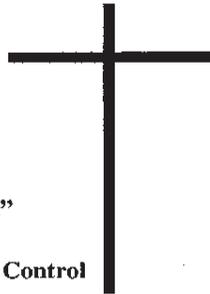
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Remove the "I"  
(Self)

And The Cross Is In Control



At this point you might be asking the question, "How do I restrain or control my thoughts and feelings." Let us look at some of the weapons of our warfare against wrong thoughts:

- We must first avoid putting anything into our minds that is evil.
- When we recognize thoughts that are not from God, we then rebuke the evil spirits in the name of Jesus, and tell them to take those thoughts and get out! "In the name of Jesus" call on the angels of heaven to come fight the battle for you.
- Pray for God to replace those bad thoughts with good thoughts and place your mind under the blood of Jesus
- Quote or read Scripture, when possible this should be done out loud.
- Sing a good Christian song. "Power In The Blood" is a good one.
- Fill your mind with praises to God for all His blessings—be specific.
- Consciously focus your mind on the power of Jesus instead of reacting to the thoughts that are being put in your mind.

May God help each of us to clean up our minds, so that the Holy Spirit will not be ashamed to come and dwell there. *(Drawings by Jack Chick)*



# Confession and Repentance

Ann tried to keep her mind on the important message she was to deliver to her friend, Elaine, but the pin Elaine was wearing kept distracting her. It was a round lapel pin like the ones people wear at election time, but this one was so ugly! It looked as though a child had dropped several colors on it then smeared them into an ugly mass. Intrigued by the distasteful art, Ann wanted to know what it meant.

“Oh That?” said Elaine, “that’s a maze. That’s what my life was like before I turned it over to Jesus.” Then she gave a short, beautiful testimony of what Jesus meant to her, and how He had changed her life.

Do you wonder what a maze is? Webster’s Dictionary says it is—“a confusing, intricate network of winding pathways.” Does that describe the life of someone you know?

Every day children are being born into dysfunctional homes where sinful living is a way of life. No wonder they grow up with little understanding of right and wrong. Many with whom we associate feel trapped, living in a maze, and they see no way out. This confusing life may not be at all apparent to the casual observer. It is like an internal furnace waiting to be ignited. Is there a way out? The answer is yes.

No matter how tangled a life becomes there are two important things to know—the afflicted person had help getting where they are, and they will need help getting out. They are not alone in their dilemma—“*All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*” Romans 3:23.

It is sin that allows Satan to take advantage of us. Recognizing sin, what it does to us, and how to deal with it is what this little booklet is all about. Until we understand this we will not be in a position to do what we must to move outside of Satan’s maze.



## The Importance of Confession of Sin

You may say, “My life is so mixed up I want out! I’ve gone to therapists for years and it hasn’t helped. I am worse now than ever and, if no one can help me, I will find my own way of escape.” The result of that kind of thinking is what fills the news media today. So what is the answer? It is so much easier to think of being healed than to think of being “delivered.”

So, what can we do to escape living in such a maze? We have to realize that lives filled with confusion, despair, depression, anger, fear, anxiety and a endless list of “phobias” are brought upon us by an unseen artful enemy. These are his weapons of war.

*Defeating The Powers of Darkness*

When we do not realize we are in a war, we will be unaware of the effective weapons at our disposal which we must use to win this war.

No matter what brought you into a life of despair, Satan has been behind it, and you must call upon the only One who has been victorious over Satan—Jesus Christ. The powers of evil work deceitfully, under cover, so we don’t know who they are or what they are doing to us. Jesus placed the answer to deliverance from Satan in His manual, the Bible. The Bible is the Word of God. It is not **just** a place to start, but **the** place to start, so let us examine what He tells us in His Word.

*“If we confess our sins. He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness”* 1 John 1:9.

Put another way — “If we do not confess our sins, **He is faithful and just** not to forgive us our sins or to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” Either way, **He is faithful and just**, and He never changes.

Although confession is very important, it is not always done with a right motive. One person may confess because it will otherwise cost them financially. Caring much about your relationship with another person is a strong motive to confess and do whatever it takes to preserve that relationship. There are many reasons for confessing, but we will concentrate on one that changes our way of thinking, and our actions as well.

It is our sins that separate us from God, and only by confessing and asking Him for forgiveness will the breach be healed. That’s how important confession is. It brings Christ into the battle and terrifies Satan’s kingdom.

The word “confess” in I John 1:9, according to Vines Bible Dictionary, means “To confess by way of admitting oneself guilty of what one is accused of, the result of inward conviction. So confession basically means to admit whole-heartedly, from deep conviction, to declare, admit to, or acknowledge.” Here John seems to imply that excuses or self-justification of sin is not relevant.

The most important thing is coming to God and humbly admitting, whole-heartedly acknowledging that we have sinned.

In every day words— to confess means to “fess-up,” come out in the open, tell the truth, face the consequences, and make things right. Then you will find peace in a wonderful relationship with your best friend, Jesus Christ.

## The Importance of Repentance

Martin Luther once said that the Christian life should be one that is in a constant mode of repentance. But there must be a difference between confession and repentance. The Apostles knew the difference. John the Baptist did not say, “Confess for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.” He said “repent!” Also at Pentecost Peter did not say, “Confess and be baptized, every one of you.” He said, “repent!”

*Strong’s Concordance* says “repent” means “to transform, to think differently, to turn away from.”

*Vine’s Bible Dictionary* is even more specific: “In the New Testament the subject has reference to ‘repentance’ from sin, and this change of mind involves both a turning from sin and a turning to God.” If a man is honest a “change of mind” demands a change of action. Repentance must involve both a change of mind and a change of action. A man may change his mind and come to see the reality of his sin, but may love his old ways so much that he will not act on that change.

The message of John the Baptist to Israel was that they were to ready themselves for the Messiah by making a decision to turn from evil ways back to holiness. Jesus preached repentance, “...*unless you repent you will all likewise perish*” Luke 13:3 (NKJV). The Complete Jewish Bible reads this way, “...*unless you turn to God from your sins, you will all die similarly.*” The message to us today is the same as it was for Israel. We are to ready ourselves for the return of the Messiah by turning away from evil ways, and turning to holiness.

Repentance requires teamwork—you and Jesus Christ enter a new relationship. This relationship becomes stronger and more exciting as you witness what happens when Jesus enters the battle—yes, in your behalf!

### In Conclusion

To confess our sins means to acknowledge or admit that we have sinned (missed the mark) before God. When we do this, the Bible says “...*He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness*” (unright doing). At this point the slate is clean, God has forgiven us and cleansed us from all unrighteousness. This is God’s part, now what is our part after we have confessed and have been cleansed? Our part is to repent. This means we are to have a change of mind or thought which brings about a change in direction. Stop doing those things that are sin. How do we do this? This is a very big order because we have a ruthless enemy the devil and his evil spirits who make it their job to tempt us to fall and fall and fall.

How do we have the victory over these sins that continually plague us? How do we overcome these inherited tendencies or leanings to sin that grow into strongholds that bind us like ropes of steel? In the chapters of the Book of Revelation concerning the seven churches, Jesus over and over again uses the phrase “*he that overcometh.*” This is very important, especially since overcoming sin is something that is talked about very little in the Christian world.

The spiritual battle is for the command center—THE MIND. The Holy Spirit will not give us peace while living in what we know is sin. The mind tells us we are in deep trouble, and we might even tell some friend our concern—but that is not repentance. So far, it is merely wishful thinking. We can be sorry, but not sorry enough to put on the armor and enter the battle in our own behalf. We may secretly love our lifestyle and not be willing to turn away from it.

This little booklet is all about overcoming our sinful ways, turning away from sin and no longer falling. This means continually turning away from an old way of life, through the mighty Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. It is time that the children of God put on His armor and join efforts with the Holy Spirit and the mighty angels of heaven, and together fight their way to freedom.

**There is victory in Jesus, He came to set the captives free! Read on to have the victory in your life.**

*(Note: When someone tells you they cannot forgive themselves, what they are really saying is they have not accepted the forgiveness of Jesus in I John 1:9. We cannot forgive ourselves, if we could we would not need a Saviour. This idea of “forgiving ourselves” is a psychological pagan idea that makes man his own saviour.)*

# In The Name Of Jesus

“I hate you! I hate you!—My name is Hate!” These venomous words, in an evil male voice, poured from the mouth of a young woman in her mid 30’s. She had been talking with us for at least an hour about the demonic harassment she had experienced a good portion of her adult life. She decided she wanted to take the problem to Jesus.

We had a printed spiritual warfare prayer that we handed her just a few moments before. She started reading it silently. Then very quickly she crumpled it up and threw it on the floor. Her eyes turned into narrow slits and were very black. She got up right into our faces and then the words, “I hate you, I hate you, my name is ‘Hate’” came out of her mouth.

We then quietly rebuked this demon in the name and the authority of Jesus Christ, and told him to get out! There was a struggle inside her and then he had to go. We prayed with her for about an hour as more demons would manifest themselves and then leave. This took place about five years ago. As far as we know, this dear woman is still free and witnessing for Jesus.

Authority, in the name of Jesus! For the most part, in the Christian world today, this authority is no longer recognized. Oh yes, there are a few denominations and groups who claim to believe, but by and large this authority of the power “*in the name of Jesus*” has been forgotten. It has been replaced by psychological jargon, and programs such as The Twelve Step Plan, Self Esteem Workshops, Temperament or Spiritual Gifts Analysis that ultimately make man his own savior. These are counterfeits to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Men’s ideas are being used in place of the principles of the Bible.

We see all around us today the stamp of Satan’s character on the faces and in the lives of more and more people. The world is getting worse instead of better. How can this be when there are more therapists than the world has ever seen before? There are more people in the body of Christ who claim to be Christian counselors and therapists than ever before. Yet, problems in the Christian realm are increasing instead of decreasing. What is wrong? Only the Bible can give us the answers. Only Jesus can bring freedom. No psychological theories will do!

In the Bible the phrase “*in the name of Jesus*” is mentioned at least seven times. Jesus Himself used the phrase, “*in my name*” at least seventeen times in the four gospels. The name of Jesus must be very significant.

Why is His name so important? The power to fulfill the gospel commission is in the name and the authority of Jesus Christ.

A good analogy would be the traffic policeman and his relationship to the state he represents. The policeman has little power in himself. An automobile could run over him and snuff out his life in a moment, but his authority is respected because the power of the state is behind him.

We, as followers and witnesses of Jesus, have no power in ourselves, but we have the authority in the name of Jesus. The hosts of hell have to respect that authority because it carries with it the power of heaven. Jesus plainly stated this authority in the following promise:

*“And he said unto them, ‘Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils... they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover’”* Mark 16:15-18 (KJV).

Here Jesus gave us the authority over Satan and his demons. When we give Satan a command “*in the name of Jesus*,” the power of the Holy Spirit and heavenly angels are brought into action. Satan must be bound up under the power of Jesus in order for his evil traits to be destroyed in a person’s life. Jesus explains this in the following Bible verses:

*“But if I cast out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come upon you. Or how can anyone enter the strong man’s house and carry off his property unless he first binds the strong man. And then he will plunder his house”* Matthew 12:25-29 (NASB).

*“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”* Luke 11:21,22 (NASB).

Here in this analogy it appears that the “*strong man*” is Satan, and the “*someone stronger*” is the Holy Spirit. The “*house*” is the person where Satan is exercising his power. His “*property*” or his “*goods*” as the KJV says, are the attributes (or strongholds) of Satan. In this Bible passage Christ is saying that the influence, attributes or strongholds of Satan cannot be taken away or broken until Satan is first bound in the person’s life. Then his (Satan’s) weapons can be disabled.

What are some of Satan’s weapons? His weapons can hit us in the form of discouragement, depression, doubt, anxiety attacks, turmoil in the home, mental torment, deception, guilt, feelings of hopelessness, temptation and sin, etc. Satan knows he can bind us up in our emotions. A good example is fear. He can paralyze us with fear.

When he can engulf us in wrong habits and compulsions, wrong thoughts and actions, he knows we will be disabled. It is only through the delegated authority “*in the name of Jesus*” that Satan can be bound in our lives and his strongholds be broken.

Many people have no idea they are under attack, so they go everywhere trying to find relief. Some go to psychologists, try drugs, hypnotists and any number of other “cures.” It is vital that we recognize that we are in a tremendous life and death battle with principalities and powers of darkness. The only way out is through the power there is available “in the name of Jesus.”

Be assured that when calling on the name of Jesus to come against the devil, you are declaring war. The battle will get more intense, but if we do not give up, the angels of heaven will continue and prevail. This is not a quick fix, yet it is not complicated. It is calling on the powers of heaven to come to our aid. The power “in the name of Jesus” is the key that puts everything in motion.

The very heart of the gospel is the power that is available— “*in the name of Jesus.*” The Bible record gives ample examples of what happened when Christ’s followers used the powerful name of Jesus.

**In that name:**

- Peter told the cripple to rise and walk.
- Paul preached and cast out demons.
- Peter told the people to repent and be baptized.
- Many people were healed by the followers of Christ.

That name was so effective in preaching the gospel that the high priests commanded the disciples on at least two occasions not to speak in that name.

We have no problem praying and ending our prayers “*in the name of Jesus.*” But when it comes to telling the devil to get out “*in the name of Jesus*” we balk. The devil has been very clever in keeping people in fear so they will not take authority over him “*in the name of Jesus.*” He knows he must respond when the name of Jesus Christ is used against him.

For some reason it is very difficult for Christians to rebuke the devil. Some people think this is one of the Spiritual Gifts, therefore it is not for everyone to do. This is a false concept. Taking authority, is not a Spiritual Gift. It is part of the commission given by Jesus to all believers. He said, “*if you believe*” you have authority over the devil “*in my name.*”

A pastor once handed us a paper he had written on intercessory prayer. It was a very good paper until it came to the part of asking the Holy Spirit to do the rebuking. This idea is not Biblical. Nowhere in the Bible do we find Jesus giving us authority over Satan and then having us give that authority back to Him to do.

Rebuking Satan is much more than praying, it is taking authority “*in the name of Jesus.*” It is demonstrating that we truly believe that the power of God is greater than the power of Satan. In this unseen battle with Satan and his demons, Jesus knew that physically and mentally we cannot win; therefore He gave us, in love, a weapon wherein we can come against all the forces of evil.

The world would refer to such a weapon as an “equalizer.” A small man with a hand gun can wield a lot of power, right? Jesus actually gave us power over all the power of the enemy. What a loving God! He does not expect us to take Satan on physically or mentally, we fight by taking authority, in His name.

Dear friend, this is not fanaticism. If it is, then Jesus was a fanatic. Jesus knows how viciously Satan works against His witnesses. Christ wants His people not only to have victory in their own lives, but also help others have that same victory. The power in the authority “*in the name of Jesus*” is two fold:

- A. Victory over temptations and problems personally, as Jesus experienced over the temptations in the wilderness.
- B. When ministering to others as Peter did when he told the cripple on the temple steps to rise up and walk “*in the name of Jesus.*”

What an awesome privilege Jesus gave us, when He told us we could have power in His name, against all demons, even the master demon Satan himself.

In the final chapter of this booklet “The Weapons of Our Warfare,” we will continue this topic. You will learn the practical use of the weapons God has given us to use against all the host of hell. We will share testimonies of people who have exercised their delegated authority over Satan and have been victorious.

We must always remember that we are not fighting each other, but are in a conflict with supernatural forces. The battle must be fought supernaturally (Eph. 6:12).

**Prayer:**

Heavenly Father, You know my trials, my struggles and temptations. Help me to be willing to understand and believe in the power and the authority “*in the name of Jesus,*” and to be willing to call on that power. Thank you, Jesus, for hearing and answering this prayer. In the name of Jesus I ask it. Amen

# The Weapons Of Our Warfare

*“For the weapons which we use are not earthly weapons, but of the might of God by which we conquer rebellious strongholds” 2 Cor. 10:4 (Lamsa’s Translation from the Aramaic).*

Why are our weapons not earthly, or of human devising? *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places,” Eph. 6:12 (KJV).*

*“For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood—contending only with physical opponents, but against the despotisms, against the powers, against (the master spirits who are) the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere” Eph. 6:12 (Amplified).*

Many people don’t want to accept the fact that we are involved in a tremendous spiritual battle. It is so much easier to believe we are in conflict with each other. We don’t like to think that evil spirits could have their influence in our lives.

Whether we like it or not, accept it or not, we are in a war with the powers of darkness—Satan and his evil angels. They once walked in the heavenly courts as beautiful, loving angels. No longer are they beautiful and loving, but ugly, vicious angels who have one purpose in mind and that is to destroy, destroy our connection with Jesus, destroy marriages, family relationships, and our young people. These evil demons are bent on destruction and confusion.

1 Peter 5:8 says, *“Be vigilant and be cautious, because your adversary, the devil, like a roaring lion walks about seeking whom he may devour”* (Lamsa’s Translation). (“devour” equals the work “drown” in Greek.)

This spiritual war we are involved in is much more intense and vicious than any physical war that has ever been fought. Therefore we must learn to fight this battle the way God intended. Such a loving God has not left us helpless against an enemy we cannot see! In this chapter we want to explore some of the weapons God has given.

## **These weapons have been given for two purposes:**

- A.** Our personal daily battle against the powers of darkness.
- B.** For ministering to others who are frequently in conflict with the powers of darkness.

It is our desire to give you practical Biblical weapons that you can use from this day forward.

*Defeating The Powers of Darkness*

Let us now consider some of these weapons:

- **The Armor of God**
- **The Sword— The Word of God**
- **Rebuke and Bind Satanic Powers**
- **Prayer**
- **Personal Testimony**
- **Praise to God**
- **Singing**



## **The Armor of God — Putting on Jesus Christ through the study of His Word**

Ephesians 6:11 says, *“Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* (KJV)

No matter how we resist Satan, we must daily take time to study God’s Word. The best time is at the beginning of the day. It is best to put on our spiritual clothes the first thing in the morning. God’s Word is our manual for daily living. It is through the study of the life of Christ in God’s Word that we are able to pattern our lives after Him.

When we fill our minds with God’s Word, then the devil’s evil thoughts and temptations which he places in our minds will be exposed. The light of the Word of Truth pushes out the darkness of Satan’s lies.

It is well to note that all the pieces of the Armor of God are defensive except one, and that is the Sword of the Word. It is offensive. It is an attack weapon, but it is essential that it be sharp. It is up to us to keep that weapon sharp. This is done through continued study of God’s Word and making it a part of our lives. This is one way to put on the Armor of God.

## **Using The Sword — The Word of God**

God has given us His Word, referred to in the Bible as the Sword of Truth, to be used against Satan and his evil hosts. Passages of Scripture should be memorized and quoted out loud during times of temptation, demonic harassment or torment.

Reading the Bible out loud is powerful. This effective weapon has been used in all types of situations with fantastic results. Jesus Himself quoted Scripture to Satan in the wilderness.

People who have had problems with panic attacks, with so-called Multiple Personality Disorder, depression, memories of the past, anger, hate, etc., have used the Word of God in the above manner and have had victory. So can you!

An elder of a church who had terrible bouts of depression decided to try this weapon.

The next time depression came he said, "Satan, if you are behind this depression directly or indirectly, and are tormenting me, I am going to read the Word of God out loud to you, and when you get enough you will have to go." He then began to read out loud from the Bible. He said that in a matter of minutes the depression lifted.

I myself, at times, have been tormented in the early hours of the morning with guilt feelings because of my lack of Christian direction in raising my children. That was back in a time when I was living in rebellion. Often the torment is unbearable. When this happens, I get out of bed and go into another room, take out my Bible and then I tell Satan, "If you are behind all of this torment, I resist you in the name and in the authority of Jesus Christ. You take your torment and go. I am now going to torment you by reading the Bible out loud to you, and when you get enough of it you will have to leave."

I then begin to read the Bible out loud. Sometimes I have to read for only fifteen or twenty minutes, sometimes an hour. But in all instances the torment has lifted and I then go back to bed, in peace.

A young man called us with a problem of "panic attacks." He would have panic attacks so severe that he would be seized with terrible fear just to think about going outside his home. Soon after he started reading the Word of God out loud, his panic attacks became less and less until they were no longer a problem.

During family turmoil in the home, many times a family member has found a quiet place, rebuked Satan, and commanded him to get out of the home. Then they read the Word of God out loud. In a short time things begin to settle down.

We must understand that all the powers of evil hate the Word of God. Do not hesitate to use it. Jesus didn't hesitate when He was accosted by Satan in the wilderness. He said, "*It is written.*" Every member of the family should learn to do this. It is so very effective in closing the doors of the home to the evil powers of darkness.

### **Rebuke And Bind The Powers of Darkness**

For more in-depth information concerning the authority we have to rebuke Satan in Jesus' Name, refer to the chapter, "*In The Name of Jesus.*" Satan has to acknowledge the name of Jesus. Jesus gave us the authority, in His name, to tell the devil to get out of our lives, out of the lives of our children, out of our homes and, yes, out of our churches.

The first thing we need to do according to Matthew 12:29 is to bind Satan. This text says that Satan has to first be bound before his strongholds, or influence in a person's life, can be broken.

Of course this must be done in the name of Jesus. This binding then gives the free use of the will to make the right choices. Some have asked, "Just how do you rebuke Satan and his evil spirits?"

In Mark 1:25 Jesus rebuked by saying, "*Hold thy peace, and come out of him.*" Jesus rebuked the evil spirits in the man of Gadara by saying, "*Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit.*" Jesus told the demon possessing the young boy, in Mark 9:25, "*...Thou dumb and deaf spirit, I charge thee, come out of him...*"

In Mark 16:17 Jesus said, "*...In my name shall they cast out devils.*" Paul, in Acts 16:18 said, "*...I command thee in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.*" So, if you put these texts together, Jesus gave us the authority to say, "Evil spirits, come out, in the name of Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus gave that authority, whether a person was possessed, harassed, vexed or troubled by Satan or his evil spirits. When in doubt say, "Lord, I don't know if Satan has his hand in this problem, but if he does, I'd like to have authority over him according to Mark 16:17." Then say, "Satan, if you are doing this, I take authority over you in the Name of Jesus Christ, and I order you to leave me alone."

**CAUTION— At this point we feel we need to speak a word of caution. The pendulum never stays in the middle. It always swings to the right or to the left. When people begin learning to battle in this manner, some will not rebuke at all or will have a tendency to become fanatical—they rebuke everything that goes wrong, even human error or mistakes such as stubbing their toe or slamming the car door on their hand.**

**Never, never assume anything when it comes to problems you feel might be demonic. God is the only one who knows whether it is demonic or not. Never carry on common talk or conversation with demons, this becomes a séance. Always follow Jesus' example in the Bible.**

**Other folks would like to believe that this is a quick fix, and that's the end of it. The walk of salvation is on-going. We have years of habits to break. We must learn to act instead of react. We must be aware that this spiritual battle between good and evil will only intensify as we near the close of this world's history. These weapons must be used until Jesus puts a stop to Satan and the hosts of darkness, and forever silences their evil mouths by destroying them.**

## Prayer

Prayer is our communication with heaven. It is the avenue by which we receive strength for the day. It is the key that gives God permission to come to our aid in times of torment and harassment. Many people have whispered a prayer for help in times of temptation, harassment, oppression, and torment.

Prayer is the way we intercede for others who may be sinking in the mire of sin. God hears those prayers and will always send the help needed.

The following are some sample prayers that you can adapt to your own situation and needs. These prayers incorporate many of the other weapons listed.

### Prayer For Yourself

Dear Heavenly Father, today I submit myself to You and Your will for my life. I ask, Father, that You will forgive me for my sins and mistakes, according to Your promise in 1 John 1:9. (Be specific here if You know of specific sins that are unconfessed.)

I realize the powers of darkness are real, but I realize that I can have victory over all the hosts of hell through the weapons of our warfare which you have given in Your Word.

Right now I am struggling with (state your struggle). Father, I don't know if the devil has his hand in this or not, but in the event that he does, I ask You for authority over him and his evil hosts according to Matthew 12:29 and Mark 16:17. Thank You Father, for these promises.

Satan, if you have your hand in this problem of \_\_\_\_\_. I resist you in the mighty and powerful name of Jesus of Nazareth. In the name of Jesus Christ I bind you, Satan, and command you to leave me alone. You and all your evil demons have to leave. You have no rights to me. I belong to Jesus and I am covered under His blood. I claim that blood to be placed between me and any evil power that may be harassing me at this very moment.

Father, I ask that You will now send a host of Your mighty angels to fight for me. I ask also that your Holy Spirit will come and give me spiritual discernment as I study, and fill my mind with Your Word. Help me each day through the study of Your Word to represent Jesus.

Thank You so much for loving me and giving me a way of escape from Satan and his evil angels. I now put my life in Your hands. I thank You and praise You for the freedom that You are giving me and for answering this prayer. In Jesus' Name, Amen

We suggest, after you have finished this prayer, that you follow up with some of the other weapons that would seem appropriate to use at the time. (Reading the Bible out loud, singing, praising God, etc.)

## Prayer For Someone Else

Dear Heavenly Father, Today I submit myself to You and Your will for my life. I ask, Father, that You will forgive me for my sins and mistakes, according to Your promise in 1 John 1:9. I offer my praise to You for allowing me the privilege of interceding for someone else in prayer.

Father, I come to You today in behalf of \_\_\_\_\_. (he/she) does not realize it, but (he/she) is in the midst of a spiritual battle. I want to intercede for \_\_\_\_\_ today. I ask that You place a hedge of thorns about \_\_\_\_\_ as You did in the Bible for Hosea's wife, Gomer.

I ask that this hedge of thorns be placed so that Satan and his hosts of demons cannot have their way in \_\_\_\_\_'s life.

In the name of Jesus I bind you Satan so that your influence will not prevail, and I command you to take the scales from \_\_\_\_\_'s eyes so they may see there is a better way.

If there are people in \_\_\_\_\_'s life that Satan is using to influence them the wrong way, I ask Father that this hedge of thorns be placed so that they cannot stand to be in each other's presence.

Father, I ask that Your Holy Spirit will work in a powerful way upon \_\_\_\_\_'s mind. Draw \_\_\_\_\_ to you before it is forever too late.

I thank You for hearing this prayer and answering it. In Jesus' Name I ask it, Amen

### Prayer For A Young Child

Father in Heaven, I come to You in the precious name of Jesus. I ask, Father, that You will forgive me for any unconfessed sin in my life. I claim the promise in 1 John 1:9. I want nothing in my life to hinder Your answering this prayer.

I come to You, dear Father, in behalf of this dear child. I believe that evil angels are having their influence in \_\_\_\_\_'s life. In Mark 16:17 Jesus promised me authority over Satan and his evil angels.

I want to claim that authority now in the event that the powers of evil are harassing \_\_\_\_\_. Now Satan, and any of your evil spirits listen— I claim this child for the Lord Jesus Christ. I resist you in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, and, if you are doing anything with this child, I command in the name of Jesus to take your hands off (him/her).

If you are trying to influence \_\_\_\_\_'s life with your rebellion, bitterness, resentment, anger, violence, etc., you have to go. I place this child under the blood of the cross of Jesus. You have no rights— get out!

Father, I ask now that You will back up this rebuke with the power of the Holy Spirit and Your mighty angels. I ask that Your sweet Spirit engulf this dear child. I put this child in Your hands, dear Father. May Your Holy Spirit teach \_\_\_\_\_ Your ways.

I ask that You instill in (his/her) mind heavenly things so that Satan cannot destroy \_\_\_\_\_ with the evil he has prepared against (him/her).

Oh Father, I plead for this dear one this day. May the peace of heaven now be in (his/her) heart. Thank You for hearing this prayer and answering it, because I ask it in Jesus' Name, Amen.

We could fill many pages with personal testimonies of how we have prayed this kind of prayer in behalf of our grandchildren when they have spent time in our home. Marvelous things have happened. We also pray during the day and ask God to put a hedge of protection around these children at school or wherever they might be.

Other parents may come to you with a child who might be out of control in some area of their life. You can pray this type of prayer in behalf of that child. You will see results right before your eyes. Jesus honors His Name!

Dear friends, understand that when you pray these types of prayers things will happen. This is putting wheels on your prayers. God wants us to be specific in our prayers. After praying a prayer in behalf of yourself, another person, or a child, you may notice that the battle will get more intense. Many times it does because Satan will certainly resist.

But be persistent, continue to use the weapons and relief will come. God has promised!

### **Personal Testimony**

The Bible says in Revelation 12:11, "*And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony.*" There is great benefit in sharing with others how the power of God has changed our life. Satan hates a personal testimony for Jesus. Every time we give our testimony for Jesus, it strengthens our hold on Jesus and increases our faith. Other people are greatly affected by personal testimony. It gives them hope that they, too, can be helped.

Now, this does not mean that we go back and dig up all the old, sinful things we used to do and share them. NO! It means that we share what God has done, how He rescued us from the pit of sin.

It is interesting that Jesus told the man of Gadara, after He freed him from the demons that possessed him, "Go and tell what I have done for you."

This is exactly what the man did, and when Jesus returned, several thousand came to listen to him, all because of this one man's personal testimony.

Tell others what Jesus has done for you, and you will be amazed what it will do for you and for those with whom you share.

### **Praise To God**

Praise is one of the most powerful weapons that can be used against the enemy. It is such a blessing to pour forth praises to God. I personally can attest to the use of this weapon.

One day I was feeling particularly overburdened, I really felt that Satan was trying desperately to discourage me. I had a little over an hours' drive down the beautiful Columbia River Gorge. In the lyrics of a Christian song, playing on the radio, there was a suggestion to praise God for everything. I decided to do just that.

I began praising God for my wonderful wife, for the family He had given me. I praised Him for the beautiful secluded home He had given us, with a creek running across the property, and the beautiful trees. I praised Him for the good neighbors we have. I praised God for the gorgeous waterfalls, and the magnificent mountains providing us with such wonderful scenery. I also praised Him for good friends. I praised Him for giving us a chance to have a small part in helping people.

I just went on and on praising, as I believe the Holy Spirit kept bringing things to mind for which I could offer praise. And the hours' drive passed so quickly. When I reached my destination I could not believe how the cloud of burden had lifted. This was several years ago, but I still comment to my wife how that experience gave me one of the most peaceful days of my life.

David's writing of the Psalms portrays a good example of praising God. Try it and you will find that in all situations, praise to God will lift the cloud of darkness. God works wonders through the weapon of praise, which He has given to us.

### **Singing**

Singing good Christian songs is another very effective weapon against the enemy. Songs that have a message about Jesus are very offensive against the powers of darkness. It is evident by the kind of music Satan is promoting in the world today that he hates good Christian music.

Psalm 59:16 says, "*I will sing of thy power, yea I will sing aloud of thy mercy in the morning; For thou hast been my defense and refuge in the day of trouble.*"

About twelve years ago, when we were first learning about the spiritual battle and how to use these weapons, we had an occasion to find out how this worked. In the middle of the night one of us was being terribly harassed by the powers of darkness. We could feel their evil presence right there in our bedroom.

We sat up in bed and rebuked these evil powers, in the name of Jesus. Then we began to sing the song "Power In The Blood."

Can you picture us at 1:00 o'clock in the morning, sitting up in bed singing? Soon a wonderful peace came over our bedroom. No longer could we feel the presence of evil. There was no more harassment that night.

Many of you remember Collette's testimony she gives in the last meeting of the seminars we hold. She tells how she sings when harassment comes. Her battle song is "Jesus Loves Me."

Whenever I hear her singing this song I know she is battling something, so I begin to intercede for her as well. It works!

If you feel burdened, or if you feel a heavy darkness all around you, start singing a good Christian song. You will soon be surprised how the darkness will go and the sunshine of heaven will fill your soul.

All of these weapons are so powerful against Satan and his evil host:

- **Putting on the Armor of God—(Study of His Word)**
- **Using your Sword— The Word of God, against the enemy.**
- **Prayer**
- **Rebuking the powers of darkness**
- **Your personal testimony— Sharing what God has done for you.**
- **Praise to God**
- **Singing good Christian songs.**

You might be dealing with depression, feelings of hatred or anger, turmoil in the family, panic attacks, being overburdened with stress, guilt, compulsiveness, or having strongholds of sin in your life. Whatever the situation may be, Jesus and His plan are all you need. By using the Biblical weapons which God has given, you do not need talk therapy, but rather the weapons of The True Witness—Jesus.

These weapons, as given in God's Word, are the only medicine we need for problems of thoughts and behavior. We don't need mind-altering drugs. Nor do we need the poisonous theories of so many so-called "Christian Counselors" who have laced their manuals with so much psychology that it turns man into his own savior.

What we need is Jesus! Jesus created our minds, and He is the only one who can help us with problems of thought and behavior, especially since these are the areas that Satan attacks. How can we use Satan's psychological theories to battle his (Satan's) attacks?

We are living in a world so permeated with psychological mindset that there has to be some program to work through. When they are finished working through all the steps in the program they will be helped. This idea has come through psychology, and for the most part the Christian world has bought it.

We know people who have been in "counseling" for over 20 years and believe they are being helped. Yet, they are still going from program to program, therapy to therapy, looking for answers. It is distressing to witness these situations. It is even more difficult when the victim refuses to accept freedom from the only source available—through the power freely given "*in the name of Jesus!*"

It is time we get back to the only real help, and that is Jesus and the weapons of our warfare which He has given. It is time for us to start reading and incorporating the Biblical truths into our daily lives. The gospel of Jesus is good news because it brings life; it brings peace; it brings joy and, most of all, it brings VICTORY!

**Victory in Jesus! Jesus came  
to set the captives free!  
Amen!**

# Prayer and The Christian Soldier

Paul, in Ephesians 6, gives a very thorough and complete picture of the Christian soldier. Here the Christian warrior is seen as always being in conflict—not just once in a while, but all the time.

There are times of victories and defeat, prosperity and adversity, but during all these times he must continually fight the battle. This is why he must pray always and in all seasons. He is never to be without the full armor of prayer. If the Christian soldier intends to win, he must pray much. A divine direction has been given to him in Ephesians 6:18— *“Praying always with all prayer.”* This is a clear statement of the dire necessity of prayer, the only way to win out over his foes.

The Revised Standard Version puts it this way: *“Pray at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication... for all the saints, and also for me, that utterance may be given me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains; that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.”* Eph. 6:18-20

It should be said over and over again that the Christian life is warfare, an intense conflict that will never stop until Jesus comes. It is fought against supernatural invisible foes who never sleep, who are constantly seeking to entrap, deceive and destroy the souls of men.

The Bible does not portray this battle as a nice little picnic or holiday. No, it says to *“be sober, be vigilant”* against this enemy because he *“walketh about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”* 1 Peter 5:8 It is not a primrose or rose scented path. From beginning to end it is a deadly battle! From the time the person professes the name of Jesus, the battle becomes even more intense!. He must keep his sword ready to use against this ruthless enemy.

The Christian life is so misunderstood when it comes to the character of the spiritual conflict. He seems to be ignorant of what must be done in order to win the battle against this vicious foe. He doesn't seem to realize that this enemy will defeat him utterly— unless he gives himself to constant vigilant prayer.

The attributes of being a warrior are not easily comprehended. The discipline, self-denial, enduring hardship—the determination to win— often these are lacking in the Christian warrior's life. Yet it is a war all the way and without vigilant prayer there will never be a victory.

The Christian warrior must pray, pray, pray in times of peace and in times of conflict. He must never neglect for a moment the avenue of prayer. The Christian soldier must be as intense in his praying as he is in his fighting. His victories will depend more on his praying than his fighting.

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Fervent, sincere appeals in prayer must supplement the armor of God. This is the price of victory. The Christian warrior must be continually on the watch and persevere in every activity of the battle, especially prayer.

The Christian's armor will avail him nothing without prayer. This is the connecting link, so to speak, or the glue that holds the armor together and renders it effective. Prayer is so all-important and essential to victory. Prayer should be so prevalent in the warrior's life that every breath becomes a petition, every sigh an appeal. If it is true that the Christian soldier must be constantly fighting, it is a necessity to be always praying. The careless, half-hearted, sometime-praying Christian will never be victorious. Matthew 26:41 says, *“Watch and pray lest you enter into temptation.”*

Watchfulness and alertness are companions and safeguards of prayer. Paul wrote in Colossians *“Continue in prayer and watch in the same with thanksgiving.”* Col. 4:2 The Christian soldier must thoroughly learn this two-fold lesson, that in order to be victorious he must give himself to unsleeping watchfulness and unceasing prayer. This is a battle with unseen forces and must be fought with supernatural power from heaven, These powers from heaven will not be received without prayers of invitation. The aim is to destroy the dominion of Satan, and in its place erect the kingdom of God, which is *“righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”* Romans 14:17

Without prayer, no matter what else he has, the Christian soldier's life will be feeble and ineffective. Without prayer he is easy prey for his spiritual enemies. If prayer does not hold an important place in his life, his experience and influence will be powerless.

How can the soldier of the cross hope or dream of victory unless he is a praying soldier, fortified by its power? Prayerless men have never become soldiers and cannot be used by the Great Warrior, Jesus Christ. Paul was one of the most valiant warriors in the Bible. Paul was a man of prayer. All through his writings he speaks of prayer. He made it a habit and major part of his life. He started his career with Christ with prayer, while he was yet blind, *“Behold, he prayeth.”* Acts 9:11 Without this prayer connection with his Heavenly Father he would have never become the warrior that he was.

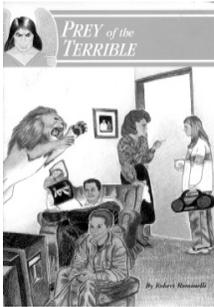
Paul needed strength each day for the battle, and he got it through his prayer connection. Enemies had to be faced and conquered. New fields had to be won for Christ. Just like the apostle Paul, the Christian soldier must pray, pray, pray. He must have a persistence in prayer that will cause the dominion of hell to tremble. And then he will be victorious and can help someone else have victory!

**Defeating The Powers of Darkness**

## Bible Texts for Further Study

- **I Samuel 16:23** — The distressed spirit afflicting Saul would depart when music was played
- **I Chronicles 21:1** — Satan moves David to count Israel, God was displeased
- **Job chapters 1 & 2** — Satan afflicts Job
- **Isaiah 14:12-15** — The pride of Lucifer (satan)
- **Matthew 4:1-11** — Satan tempts Jesus in the wilderness
- **Matthew 6:13** — The Lord's prayer, deliver us from the evil one
- **Matthew 8:16** — Jesus healed the sick and cast out evil spirits
- **Matthew 9:32-33** — Jesus heals man demonized by demon of dumbness
- **Matthew 10:5-8** — Gospel commission to the 12 disciples
- **Matthew 12:22-32** — Man demonized by dumb and blind spirit — Jesus accused of casting out demons by the power satan — the unpardonable sin
- **Matthew 12:31-32** — Unpardonable sin in connection with casting out evil spirits
- **Matthew 13:38-39** — Tares sown by the devil
- **Matthew 12:43-45** — What happens when an unclean spirit comes back after being cast out
- **Matthew 17:14-18** — Jesus casts out demon causing seizures (epileptic)
- **Mark 1:21-27** — Jesus casts out an unclean spirit
- **Mark 3:10-11** — Evil spirits identify the Son of God
- **Mark 3:14-15** — The gospel commission to the disciples
- **Mark 5:1-20** — The demonized man of Gadara
- **Mark 6:12-13** — The twelve disciples go out to preach, heal and cast out demons
- **Mark 7:25-30** — The woman with the demonized daughter
- **Mark 8:32-33** — Jesus rebukes satan who speaks through Peter
- **Mark 9:17-27** — Jesus heals boy with deaf and dumb spirit
- **Mark 9:38-40** — John asks Jesus about someone who was casting out demons
- **Mark 16:15-20** — The gospel commission expanded to include all who believe
- **Luke 4:1-13** — Satan tempts Jesus in the wilderness
- **Luke 4:18-19** — Jesus states his commission
- **Luke 4:33-36** — Demonized man in the synagogue
- **Luke 7:21** — Jesus heals and casts out evil spirits
- **Luke 10:17-19** — The seventy disciples rejoice over power over demons
- **Luke 13:10-13** — Jesus casts out demon from a woman bent over for 18 years
- **Luke 22:31-32** — Satan wants to sift Simon like wheat
- **John 8:44** — The character of the devil
- **John 13:2 & 27** — Satan put thought in Judas' mind — then he entered into him.
- **Acts 5:1-3** — Satan enters the heart of Ananias with selfishness causing him to lie to the Holy Spirit
- **Acts 8:5-8** — The miracles of Philip, preaching, healing the sick and casting out unclean spirits
- **Acts 19:13-16** — The seven sons of Sceva, exorcists, try to cast demon out — end up naked
- **Acts 16:16-18** — Paul casts out demon of divination from slave girl who was harrasing him
- **Ephesians 6:10-18** — We are not fighting flesh and blood — must put on the armor of God to win
- **I Peter 5:6-8** — The devil like a roaring lion walketh about seeking whom he may devour
- **II Peter 2:4** — Evil angels reserved until the judgment
- **James 4:7-8** — Resist the devil and he will flee from you
- **I John 3:8** — He that commits sin is of the devil — Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil
- **Revelation 12** — The war in heaven between Christ and satan
- **II Corinthians 11:13-15** — Satan transforms himself into an angel of light

## Other Spiritual Warfare Materials Available From Anchor Ministries International



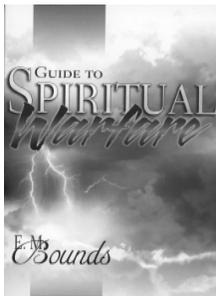
### Prey of The Terrible

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This book is designed to assist in the deliverance of those suffering from demon influences and demon control.

Every Christian is the “prey of the terrible”. Satan and his evil host of demons are the “terrible.” Only Jesus of Nazareth can set us free from being the “prey” of this vicious enemy.

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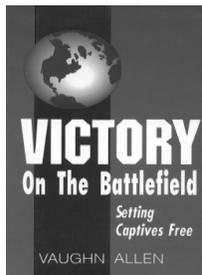


### Campmeeting Series on Spiritual Warfare

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**Sexual Sin  
and  
The Mar-  
riage  
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## ***Our Mission***

*It is our purpose to direct our focus where we see Satan at work in the lives of husbands, wives, parents, young people—enslaving them in sin, keeping them from the influence of the gospel, hindering their spiritual development, preventing the gospel from having its full influence, bringing discouragement, depression, and moral failure. Most of all it is our ultimate purpose to teach and preach the mighty victory of Christ over Satan and the powers of darkness; that the believer's victory comes and stays through union with Christ; to proclaim in every home, in the work place, and especially in the privacy of the Christian life where besetting sins, Satanic lies, and spiritual attacks are taking their toll, that **Jesus Christ is still Lord and Savior.***

**Al & Collette Martin are available for seminars and workshops in your area.**

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