

Critical Adversaries

GEORGE
AKALONU

Imprint

The books in this series are the products of a unique vision of the Church of Jesus Christ as a living, loving organism where each part releases and receives grace to be complete in Christ. We give all the glory to Abba Father who, by His grace in Jesus Christ and by the power of the Holy Spirit, enables us to live in accordance with His Word.

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Prayer, Fasting and Spiritual Warfare

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PREAMBLE CRITICAL ADVERSARIES

At the heart of religion is worship of a God who is afar and has to be approached with fear and trembling in devotions that are driven by the soul and body of humans. So, people need to *go* into a physical building or engage in certain rituals, customs and traditions on certain *holy* days or hours before they gain the emotional satisfaction that they have *worshipped* God.

Yahweh, however, is looking for true worshippers who connect with Him in the realm of the spirit-man or heart!

“²³But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.” **John 4:23-24**

In John chapter 17: 6-18, Yeshua made it clear in His prayer to the Father that there are two types of people in the world: Those who are His and those who reject His redemptive assignment. It is important that we realise that

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those who reject Him are not just atheists but also those who profess to be Christians but are steeped in religious bondage. He prayed to the Father to preserve His own from the evil which rules the world.

God has ordained that His children will live fulfilled lives on earth with potential to affect their communities.

“The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.” **John 10:10**

As this scripture shows, Yeshua came to take away all constraints that are contrary to the holistic well being of saints. At the Cross of Calvary He completed the work of redemption and triumphantly declared as recorded in **John 19:30**: *“It is finished”*. The work of redemption is complete and nothing can be added to or subtracted from it! The barrier to YHWH was broken at the Cross and we have free access to relate with Him, not as a 'stranger' God but our very Father in Heaven. That is why, like Jesus, we call Him by the affectionate name, **Abba!**

All who maintain their salvation in Yeshua, by walking in intimate relationship with Him till their last breath are assured of their state of bliss with Him in the future phase of the kingdom and in eternity. However, the blessings procured at the Cross for living the abundant life in this

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present phase of the Kingdom can be enjoyed or missed.

A saint who walks in darkness of ignorance concerning who he or she is in Yeshua will suffer needlessly. A saint who is too busy to study the Word, meditate on it and apply it in everyday life will live an empty life filled with the spirit of struggle and lack. The saint who does not take time to understand the nature of opposition and constraints to wellbeing on this side of eternity will live an empty and defeated life. Ignorance can be deadly!

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.” **Hosea 4:6**

On the other hand, the saint who will diligently study the Word, meditate on it and yield the mind for a renewal by the Word; who will apply the Word to real life situations with full understanding of all the arsenal provided in it for victory in the battles of life will enter and eat the good of the earth.

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein:

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for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.” **Joshua 1:8**

“Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.² But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.³ And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.” **Psalm 1:1-3**

“If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land” **Isaiah 1:19**

This book, Critical Adversaries, is a companion to another book, Prayer, Fasting and Spiritual Warfare. Together, they provide saints with cutting edge revelation of the nature and pattern of the spiritual forces which cohere to prevent enjoyment of the abundant life King Jesus procured for them at the Cross.

From this book, saints will receive insight into the four critical adversaries they must understand and proactively

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subdue with the spiritual tools provided by our King. These four critical adversaries work independently and cooperatively to nullify the testimony of Yeshua (Jesus) in the life of the redeemed and make life hard. The four critical adversaries are:

- the self life
- the world
- the devil and
- denominationalism

Each of these adversaries will be studied in detail to enable saints gain a real life understanding which will enhance spiritual insight/discernment, enable us to pray more proactively and wage a good warfare. Saints reading this book will learn the three dimensions of man: spirit, soul and body and see how the motions of each affect us spiritually. The impact of self on true spirituality will be outlined so that the principle of Matthew 16:24-26 is properly understood.

Book Outline

In this book, we shall cover the broad range of issues including but not limited to these:

Critical Adversaries

The Self-life

- What is the self-life?
- How can it be defeated?
- What are the provisions for a self-free life of true liberty?

The World

- What is the world?
- How is it organized?
- How has the world become *churchier* while the *church* is moving in the opposite direction, more worldly?
- What bearing does this have *with* the fact that *the last* of the churches Jesus addressed in Revelation 3 is the worldly church at *Laodicea*?

The Devil

- *Who* is the devil?
- What are his main assignments?
- How does he operate?

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The Denominational Spirit

- What is it?
- Why is it an enemy of the true gospel?
- In what ways does it operate contrary to Jesus express instructions on what His church is?
- Usefulness and limits of denominations
- The Gospel of the kingdom and the post-denominational era

Special Note: A Preview of Spiritual Warfare

A Christian will succeed or fail; enjoy the glorious liberty of sonship or struggle with various constraints to the degree of his or her understanding of the nature of the factors which seek to constrain or even destroy the blessings which are ours by inheritance. Beyond understanding of these factors, the saint needs to boldly stand upon the Word of Yahweh and enforce the ordinance of Calvary in what is called **spiritual warfare**. More detail on this in a later chapter.

Therefore, let us get ready for an exposition of these four critical adversaries which Yeshua (Jesus) comprehensively defeated on our behalf. His grace is sufficient for us to

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enjoy the spoils of His war at the Cross and He has appointed a way through which those who are His, live in such a way that draws down the blessing. By His grace, we will press in to receive the ability of YHWH in Yeshua (Jesus), to walk in experiential victory over the four adversaries.

CHAPTER ONE

THE SELF-LIFE UNDERSTANDING THE TRIUNE NATURE OF HUMANS: THE KEY TO ALL UNDERSTANDING

To understand the self-life, let us recognise first that humans are created as triune beings. This truth was first established in the book of beginnings, Genesis, and amplified variously in some supporting scriptures. Rightly dividing the Word is the only way the full counsel of Yahweh can come forth for the edification of saints. Let us examine what happened on the day Adam was created:

“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” **Genesis 2:7**

In effect, Elohim formed man of the dust of the earth. This accounts for why the body mass decomposes when the spirit is taken away. Man is of the earth and is therefore earthy as it is recorded:

”⁴⁶ Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. ⁴⁷ The first

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man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. ⁴⁸As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. ⁴⁹And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.” **1 Corinthians 15:46-49**

After moulding the physical being, Elohim released a portion of His spirit into the lifeless body. The result was explosive! The sparks which flew on creation morning led to a new reality: The emergence of the human soul!

“And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.” **1 Corinthians 15:45**

See how Paul, the Apostle, now brings the triune nature of man into focus when he prayed for total sanctification in the realm of the spirit, soul and body:

“And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ” **1 Thessalonians 5:23**

The writer of Hebrews zeroes in on how the Word essentially cuts through the three realms of man to

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establish the ordinance of Yahweh.

*“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” **Hebrews 4:12***

This explains why saints who sit under ministries where they are told stories and given only words of encouragement never ever mature. They are always babies, ever needing their emotional tanks to be refilled. On the other hand, those who have the benefit of ministries rooted in the rightful division of the Word have no hiding place. If they are sincere and open, the sword of the spirit cuts through the triune nature of man to deliver the outcomes intended by Abba.

THE THREE COMPONENTS OF MAN AND THEIR SUB-DIVISIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Spirit: This is the realm of man that came directly from Elohim as the breath He exhaled into Adam on creation morning as shown in Genesis 2:7. The spirit is the place where the Holy Spirit comes to quicken at the new birth. Once dead and dark, lost in the

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sinful nature of Adam inherited at birth, the spirit-man is illuminated by the glorious light of the gospel and transitioned from the realm of Satan to the kingdom instantaneously.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new” **2 Corinthians 5:17**

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, ⁵Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and

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*made us sit together in heavenly places in
Christ Jesus” Ephesians 2:1-6*

Of course, it is not our physical beings that sit in heavenly places with Jesus, but rather our redeemed and renewed spirits which were instantaneously translated at the new birth.

¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: ¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: ¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” Colossians 1:12-14

The spirit-man is also where the Holy Spirit makes His dwelling place. It is here that the callings and gifts of Yeshua are received. The spirit-man is uni-sex: neither male nor female. Whatever is in the spirit-man will find expression through the soul and body, if those two realms are in right alignment with it. This is why the New Testament is a special covenant which essentially, at its root, breaks down the middle wall of partition which used to classify people according to race, gender, age, socio-economic status, and political persuasion. It brings us into

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the family of Yahweh and makes us citizens of His Kingdom which has no racial, class or gender distinctions.

²⁶For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. ²⁸There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise”

Galatians 3:26-29.

Yeshua came to take away those middle walls of partition so that all humans can have free access to the Father through Him. Ephesians 2:11-15.

“¹¹Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹²That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ¹³But now, in Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the

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blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; ¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace” **Ephesians 2:11-15**

When Elohim created Adam and Eve, their spirit-man ruled their entire beings. Their souls and physical bodies were subject to the motions of their spirit-man which in turn were absolutely subject to Himself. This was why Adam and Eve enjoyed intimacy with Yahweh on a personal level until that day when Satan intruded in the relationship. This intrusion, in a way, re-configured the human persona till this day through the process of procreation after kind. He obviously did not force himself upon mankind but achieved it by seducing Adam and Eve through their soul and body realm as we shall see in greater detail in the course of this book.

The absolute non-negotiable plan of the Most High is to dwell within our spirit-man by His Spirit and from there release His Presence, Nature and Power over our souls and bodies. That way, we have what the Book of Proverbs refers to as rule over our spirits, a place of safety.

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“He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls” **Proverbs 25:28**

May we all attain to this state which Yeshua has paid the price for, as long as we are willing to give up all pleasures and satisfaction that takes prime place in us so that He is enthroned in our spirit-man (heart) to the degree that He deserves. This is His desire for us which is the pathway to true and ultimate fulfilment.

CHAPTER TWO

UNDERSTANDING THE SOUL AND BODY

In the previous chapter, we examined the human spirit and saw that it came from God when the breath of life was exhaled into the lifeless body of Adam. As Genesis 2:7 says, the combination of Spirit from God and the lifeless body moulded from dust of the earth produced a new reality: the human soul. Let us now examine the soul and from there move on to see what the body is.

2. The Soul: The soul is the realm of self expression in man. The soul is the buffer between the spirit and the body of man. It conveys the needs and demands of both realms to each other by an intricate process known fully only to God! It is the part of his/her being which engages with and interprets the environment and suggests appropriate responses. The soul is as eternal as the spirit. Both of them are the inner part of man which is not seen with the human eyes. When they are in proper alignment, the soul is led by the spirit-man as God originally intended it to be. The soul itself has three distinct but inter-related components namely:

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I. Mind: This is the faculty of reasoning and intelligent analysis of what the human being sees, hears, feels, smells and touches – the carnal senses that are directly connected to the physical body through the nervous system. The carnal senses are self-driven: they interpret events and activities in such a way to protect the interest of the human being concerned. The mind affects life because humans tend to behave as they think. Whatever dominates your thoughts will manifest in your speech, attitudes and actions.

“For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee” **Proverbs 23:7**

ii. Will: This is the faculty of the soul which contains the conscience and the ability to make decisions based on what it deems best for the individual. God has made every individual to be a free moral agent with the liberty to make decisions either in conformity or contrary to His will and word.. The moral code of God is wired into the conscience and will of every human being and none is ultimately with any excuse.

“¹⁸ For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; ¹⁹ Because that which may

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*be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath showed it unto them. ²⁰ For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: ²¹ Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. ²² Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, ²³ And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and four-footed beasts, and creeping things” **Romans 1:18-23***

“¹¹ For there is no respect of persons with God. ¹² For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; ¹³ (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. ¹⁴ For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: ¹⁵ Which show the work of

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the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another;)¹⁶In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel” **Romans 2:11-16**

iii. Emotion: All humans are subject to emotion. Emotions arise from our interpretation of the things we encounter. Some elicit the emotion of happiness while others induce sadness; some inspire courage while others activate fear. When we are engaged in potential action or are contemplating what to do, certain kinds of emotion arise. This explains such concepts as love or hate; happiness or heaviness; a sense of pleasantness or unpleasantness. Emotions cannot be hidden, except by the few who have matured to the degree that their souls are fully subject to their spirit man. This is because emotions manifest as attitudes. Attitudes are the motions of the soul. Attitudes which are evident to other people are functions of emotional releases in the realm of the soul. A good attitude, invariable signifies a healthy soul, while a bad attitude signifies a wounded soul, that is, a soul which has been bruised. Emotion is also the seat of the human ego. An ego is the perception of an individual as to what he/she is worth. When that estimation is not matched with respect or appreciation from other persons, it becomes

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bruised and can develop into a disease that is more difficult to heal than a normal injury on the physical body.

3. The Physical Body: This is the aggregation of water, blood, tissue, veins, bones and general body mass that is unique to every individual. While the spirit and soul are immortal, the body was designed to expire or die, be buried and cease to exist. On resurrection morning, all saints who die in Jesus or those who qualify to be raptured shall be blessed with brand new celestial (imperishable) bodies just like that of the risen Jesus.

³⁵ But some man will say, How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come? ³⁶ Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die: ³⁷ And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain: ³⁸ But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body. ³⁹ All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. ⁴⁰ There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. ⁴¹ There is one

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glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star; differeth from another star in glory.⁴² So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption:⁴³ It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power:⁴⁴ It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.⁴⁵ And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.⁴⁶ Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.⁴⁷ The first man is of the earth, earthy; the second man is the Lord from heaven.⁴⁸ As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly.⁴⁹ And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.⁵⁰ Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.⁵¹ Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,⁵² In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the

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last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ *For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.* ⁵⁴ *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.* ⁵⁵ *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"* **1 Corinthians 15:35-55**

Skilfully and wonderfully made by God, the body of the average human is a master piece of creation. When David caught a glimpse of this intricately woven work of divine art called the human body, he gushed in admiration as we should too.

"¹⁴ I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well. ¹⁵ My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. ¹⁶ Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them" **Psalms 139:14-16**

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On its own, the body profits nothing. It is like a vessel; it is subject to and responds to impulses or instructions from each of the other two realms – spirit or soul - whichever fills it up.

“¹⁶ This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other; so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” Galatians 5:16-17

If the spirit-man which is subject to Holy Spirit is dominant, the body will be subject to it and obey instructions. The outcome will be holiness of life showing forth the fruit of the Spirit.

“²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” Galatians 5:22-23

If the soul is dominant, the body will end up doing the impulses of the soul and producing works of the flesh:

“¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication,

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uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” Galatians 5:19-21

As a medium of expression, the body therefore manifests the dominant influence and inclinations within. Let us quickly take note of this truth before we dig deeper into the subject matter. From the day of the fall of Adam and Eve, the soul of the average human (both saved and unsaved) dominates life and determines what the body does. In other words, it is in the realm of the soul that basic instructions are released to the human body. Spiritual people are saints who through submission to Holy Spirit and the Word, tap into the grace in Jesus to live and minister from the realm of the spirit-man as their dominant faculty.

“Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” 2 Corinthians 7:1

WHAT THEN IS THE SELF-LIFE?

The self-life is the life in which the soul and the body are in alignment to determine the thoughts, words, motives, attitudes and actions of one who is not born again. It is a life that does not permit the enthroned Jesus to rule from the spirit-man as it insists on making decisions of life on its own, rather than trust the leading of the Holy Spirit. In other words, the self-life is one in which the spirit-man is weak and ineffective as the leader of the human being. It is life lived in the flesh rather than in the Spirit! The word 'flesh' simply means combination of the soul and physical body. They are designed to be led by the spirit-man which in turn is supposed to be led by Holy Spirit, a theme we will touch on repeatedly for emphasis.

As strong as all the four critical adversaries – self, Satan, the Word and denominationalism are, one particular one is in a sense, the greatest danger. The reason is this: While others are outside, this one adversary is comfortably ensconced within the human being. Many saints are unable to deal with this adversary because of lack of knowledge of what it is and how it is manipulated by the grand adversary, Satan and his agents, to make saints leave the lofty high ground of true spirituality and settle for what is essentially a lower form of life. Let us say this upfront: even the most holy of saints can fall into the self-

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life if the slightest door is opened, knowingly or unknowingly.

The self-life is the natural life. It is the life which springs out of a dysfunctional soul which dominates the spirit-man and, by implication is not subject to the Holy Spirit and the laws of the New Covenant. Consequently, instead of bearing fruits of the Spirit within the spirit-man as Galatians 5:22-23 show, the self-man produces 'works' of the flesh indicated in Galatians 5: 19-21 and 1 Corinthians 6:12-20.

As stated earlier, the spirit-man is quickened in a moment of time and translated from darkness to light at the new birth. The translation is real and the individual changes identity from sinner to saint and from a foreigner to a member of the family of God and a fellow citizen of the Commonwealth. 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ephesians 2:18-19.

This transition of the identity of the spirit-man is instantaneous and does not require any effort on his/her part other than that of faith to receive the grace of what Jesus accomplished at the Cross of Calvary. It is a free gift of grace so that no one can boast that he/she contributed anything to the process of salvation! Ephesians 2:4-9; Romans 10:5-8

When this happens, the Holy Spirit writes the Laws of the

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New Covenant into the spirit-man or heart of the saint who has just been saved. The conscience, once dead in sins and trespasses, is quickened or made to come alive. This instinctively enables the young believer to know what is right or wrong – even without any teacher!

*“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins” **Ephesians 2:1***

*“¹⁵ Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, ¹⁶ This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; ¹⁷ And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more” **Hebrews 10:15-17***

All these transactions are in the spirit-man. The physical body is still of the same weight, height and colour. In the realm of the soul, there is a new consciousness that a new lord is sitting on the throne of the heart (spirit-man).

While transition of spirit-man is automatic, the soul and body need to undergo a process in order to perfect holiness and thus be in proper alignment with it. This process is led by the in-dwelling Holy Spirit.

The point is this: the transition of the soul to allow this new

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King - that is, Jesus - who has come into the heart of the newly saved to rule without struggle is not automatic. The soul has, all these years, been playing the lead role in the life of the individual who is now a saint. If the emotions of a man are hooked to a woman and he has feelings for her, if the spirit and body yield to that impulse, the result will be an immoral relationship. If the ego in the soul of a woman desires a particular dress in order to feel superior to others and be a 'show stopper' in a party, the spirit-man which is largely passive as well as the body which is compliant, simply acquiesces.

Having ruled the life of a man or woman for many years, the soul struggles with the reality of a new life based on a spirit-man which is now quickened or made alive to the degree that it is seated in heavenly places with Jesus. Unconsciously, the soul (mind, will, emotions) desires to still play the leader. This desire brings it into a situation of conflict with the spirit-man and its active occupant, the Holy Spirit.

The result, as seen in Galatians 5:16-21, is a struggle of epic proportions which makes many saints fall into sin repeatedly – without necessarily desiring to or even loving it.

“¹⁶This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye

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shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other, so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” Galatians 5:16-17

This is the origin of besetting sins – sins that were part of the makeup of the human persona before an encounter with Jesus.

“Wherefore, seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us” Hebrews 12:1

This kind of life, which is based on what the soul (the natural mind, will or emotions) desire rather than what the enlightened spirit-man wants as it is led by the resident Holy Spirit, is what is called 'carnality'. This is derived from the word 'carnal'.

A carnal person is simply someone who lives by, is driven by, or responds to what the five carnal senses suggest. These are the senses of

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- sight - what we see: sizes, shapes of, say, men and women, things, etc
- hearing - what we hear with our ears: rumour, gossip, lies, malice, slander;
- smell - picked up by our nostrils as in perfume, body odour, food, drink –when fasting for instance etc
- taste - what our palate suggests based on how our taste buds function;
- touch - the consequences of touching things and the impulses triggered through the nervous system.

When we are born again, God does not want us to be led or driven by these carnal senses. They are in us for the purpose of understanding and connecting with our environment. Satan however corrupts them by making them the principal instruments of suggesting sinful thoughts, feelings and impulses. It was by what Satan showed Eve and the consequent suggestion that by eating, she would be like God and therefore needed liberty from Him that he successfully led her to sin: Genesis 3:1-7.

It was the same trick which Satan tried on Jesus in the wilderness. He suggested that He turn stone to bread to

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meet a physical need of the moment. Satan also quoted the Bible when he assured Jesus of security by the angels if He would demonstrate who He is by falling off the pinnacle of the temple. He also offered Jesus, a panoramic view of the kingdoms of this world in order to activate a desire for them in Him. Matt. 4:1-11

God hates carnality with a perfect hatred. The Word is very clear: No one can ever please Him by living according to the dictates and motions of the soul.

“⁵For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. ⁶For to be carnally minded is death: but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” **Romans 8:5-9**

Carnality is summed up as life which is based on lust (desires) of the flesh, lusts of the eyes and pride of life. This

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is why the warning by the Apostle John is not a suggestion but a divine commandment to all age groups and categories of people in the House of God:

“¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”

1 John 2:15-17

Beating people over the head, as certain groups do, or excommunicating them because of their sins, does not solve the problem. The need of saints is to know the truth which sets them free and act on it.

“³² And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. ³³ They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? ³⁴ Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you; whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. ³⁵ And the

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servant abideth not in the house forever: but the Son abideth ever. ³⁶ *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”*

John 8:32-36

CHAPTER THREE

HOW THE SELF-LIFE IS DEFEATED OR CHANGED

Every one of us comes into this world with a dysfunction we inherited from Adam. When the Word says we are shapen in iniquity, part of it means the dysfunction of a soul-driven life that was activated at Eden by Satan as the previous chapter has shown clearly.

The outcome of that dysfunction is that every person on earth develops a mindset. This mindset accumulates through what we acquire by family upbringing, education, other relationships, indigenous morals, lifestyles and preferences. These constitute a cultural stronghold, so to say.

When the individual is saved he/she is a new creation immediately. The spirit-man is immediately made alive into a brand new creation. But the issue of strongholds and mindsets in the soul do not disappear immediately we are born again. In the sight of God, we are righteous by reason of the faith which we exercise on the propitiatory death of Jesus Christ at the Cross of Calvary. In other words, even though there are issues in the soul related to the strongholds of worldly culture, the gift of

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righteousness is just that, a gift that is unconditionally given as an expression of the love and mercy of God which is free, unconditional grace. Grace does not say you cannot be received until the issues of your mind will and emotions are dealt with.

What grace now does to he/she who has been adopted into the family of God is to supply the desire to grow in newness of life in Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within the saint: Philippians 2:13; Philippians 1:6

The grace of God released by the Holy Spirit goes to work to reveal those hidden things of the soul (strongholds of worldly thought processes/mindset; negative emotions such as anger, rage, unforgiving spirit, offences and wrong exercise of the will) which are inconsistent with the new life in Christ Jesus. The Lord therefore takes us on a new journey of perfection in the realm of the soul to bring it to the state where it is in perfect alignment with the spirit-man which, in turn, is subject to the Holy Spirit who resides therein. The idea is to bring us to the state of irreproachability as sons of God manifesting the culture and lifestyle of the kingdom right here on this side of eternity: Romans 8:1-4; Philippians 2:12-16 1 Peter 2:9-12

HOW GOD DEALS WITH THE SOUL

How do we attain to this state of kingdom living wherein our mind, will and emotions do not have motions or

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proclivities at variance with our spirit-man which yielded easily to Jesus as Lord on the day we became born again? The answer is that God has a plan to sanctify or purify/cleanse every soul that is His, provided His children will embrace the appointed process. 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

As Jesus went to the Cross, the purpose was also to release that which is potent to sanctify mankind on the three dimensions of being: spirit, soul and body! Hebrews 13:12

The soul realm needs to be dealt with systematically and consistently until it becomes fully subject to the spirit-man which is the realm of full holiness! We trust God that this book will show us the way clearly and simply!

1. God uses the Word to deal with the soul.

The Word of God is one core instrument the Holy Spirit uses to achieve these effects on the human soul:

- through the word, the holy spirit exposes the filth within the soul. That is why the Word is called, The sword of the Spirit: Hebrews 4:12-13
- it cleanses the soul from its filthiness of thought, raw emotions, desires and ideas it clings to. Any of this filth which tries to latch onto the spirit-man is also cleansed by the Word which is the food of the

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spirit too - John 17:17 2 Corinthians 7:1

- God uses the word to renew the mind (change the way it was configured originally as a carnal faculty) by engrafting therein, the culture of the Kingdom of God to replace all old worldly cultures and mindsets. Ephesians 4:23, Romans 12:2

An example of the clash of cultures and the road map to true kingdom culture is found in the Sermon on the Mount. There, Jesus repeatedly told those who heard Him what Moses said and demanded higher standards from saints. From Matthew chapter 5, 6 to 7, we see a summary of how differently God wants His own to live here on planet earth. No one can achieve same by memorizing and trying to tackle these instructions in a religious fashion. It will take total sanctification in spirit, soul and body for saints to live the way God desires.

- Feeds the soul so that it becomes stronger until full maturity is attained: 1 Peter 2:1-3

As we grow in Christ, there should come a time when we no longer lean on our babyhood stage, always in need of words of encouragement. At this stage, the law of growth demands that we open up to strong teaching where the Word is rightly divided to enable us know God on a deeper level; and receive the fullness of His counsel on how to live

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on this side of eternity as citizens of His kingdom: Hebrews 5:12-14.

2. The blood of Jesus does not stop its work at salvation!

The ultimate purpose of God is to have sons in the earth realm. These are saints, who like Jesus the Ultimate Son, live on earth without blemish or contamination of sin. Yahweh therefore allows the power of the blood to be available for as many as will receive it to deal with realm of their souls and bodies until there is no manifestation of sinful thought, word or deed in them. Hebrews 13:12. Those who teach that saints cannot but commit sin are turning the Word upside down. The capacity to live without sin is the glorious privilege of sons as a default position and inclination of life.

“My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: ² And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world”

1 John 2:1-2

“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the

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devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil Verse 10: In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother” 1 John 3:8 and 10.

3. The positive response of the individual saint to the exposing and refining work of the Word by the Holy Spirit is a major factor in obtaining full deliverance. This response is multi-pronged:

- Accept what the Holy Spirit convicts us of without struggle or arguments whether by direct ministration or by the convicting power of the Word.

The Holy Spirit leads us into deeper waters of true spirituality by showing us what Jesus means with each Word we study, meditate and pray on. Our openness to this dimension of His work and yieldedness for Him to have His way will make the whole process easy and fast. It does not matter how terrible a person's life may have been in the past. What makes all the difference in spiritual growth and maturity is the latitude we give the Holy Spirit

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and the Word to do what is necessary in us. This is the process dimension of sanctification which acknowledges that saints are essentially 'Work-in-Progress'! It may be a life-long process for some or a medium term one for others. There may yet be a few for whom this would be a quick, short and sharp process and they are able to maintain true holiness in thought, words, and deed.

In scripture, Paul, the Apostle, confessed severally the weaknesses he battled with. What Paul said of his own quest for deeper intimacy with Jesus shows us the progressive nature of sanctification by the Holy Spirit and the Word:

“⁷ But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. ⁸ Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, ⁹ and be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: ¹⁰ That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his

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*sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; ¹¹ If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. ¹² Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. ¹³ Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, ¹⁴ I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus” **Philippians 3:7-14***

- Total surrender of the soul and body to Jesus in entire personal consecration which is consciously made as a living sacrifice from which we do not intend to withdraw.

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” **Romans 12:1***

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- Willingly accepting and bearing the cross ordained for us.

Jesus invited us to take up our cross and follow Him to the place where we die to self so that He alone lives within and manifests His life through us. This is the only life acceptable to the Father.

“²⁴ Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. ²⁵ For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it. ²⁶ For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” **Matthew 16:24-26**

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” **Galatians 2:20**

Whenever the will of God differs from and clashes with our personal will, a cross is presented to us: shall His will prevail or our fleshly will? Whenever we yield to His will, a

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cross has been successfully carried!

The cross of Jesus we bear requires us to be meek and gentle even in the face of those who accuse us or try to misuse us. It requires us not to cling to or fight for our rights. Invariably many will deem us foolish and mock or take further advantage of us. We learn to trust the providential care of Abba and rest in His vindication which may take time but nonetheless is effective.

“¹⁹ For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. ²⁰ For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God. ²¹ For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: ²² Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: ²³ Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously” 1 Peter 2:19-23

Suffering wrongfully is a divine mechanism for testing and

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purifying us. It reveals the state of the heart and indicates whether we trust God or not.

- The active process of pulling down every stronghold the Holy Spirit reveals to us.

This could be a spirit of rejection, persecution or suggestions of the enemy that we need to sin a little to be normal. Strongholds develop over the years. As we grow in Jesus we are able to assess our mental frame and have the capacity in Him to reject, renounce and pull down any way of thinking or mindset which is fleshly and self-inclined.

“³For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: ⁴(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) ⁵Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; ⁶And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled”. **2 Corinthians 10:3-6**

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- Take the shield of Faith to quench or stop all fiery darts of the enemy.

This often comes in the form of various suggestions that sin or soulish behaviour is good and there is nothing wrong with it. We also use the Truth in the Word as a belt to hold our whole armour intact in spiritual warfare. See verses 14 and 16 of Ephesians chapter 6.

“¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked” **Ephesians 6:14-16**

- Seeking first the Kingdom in all things.

The outcome of this process is a true kingdom citizen who has no joy in anything else but the reality of an intimate relationship with the King and total commitment to the kingdom.

“³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ³⁴ Take therefore no

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thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” **Matthew 6:33-34**

At this stage, the life of the saint is self-explanatory: the enjoyment of the true liberty of sonship, free from bondage to material things. He/she is not validated by the amount of material goods acquired, quantum of money stored in the bank or the size of investments made for future enjoyment. The kingdom citizen and ambassador derives greater joy from the King and the core properties of the kingdom as spelt out in the following scripture:

“¹⁷ For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. ¹⁸ For he that in these things serveth Christ is acceptable to God, and approved of men” **Romans 14:17-18**

CHAPTER FOUR

DEALING WITH THE BODY WHY WE MUST BEWARE OF THE FLESH AND WHAT IT MAY OFFER TO GOD!

By now, it should be obvious to all of us that the self-life is truly a critical adversary. Let us proceed further to examine some critical truths which will enable us to see why Paul was used by God to document the futile struggle of the flesh to please Him in any legalistic fashion.

“¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ²⁰Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ²¹I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. ²²For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver

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*me from the body of this death?*²⁵ *I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin”* **Romans 7:18-25**

INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP VERSUS RELIGIOUS WORKS

God wants to relate intimately with His own children. That is why He took away the middle wall of partition represented in Judaism by the thick veil which separated the Holiest of Holies from the people of Israel by the blood which Jesus shed. The plan of God was to bring us near - into a realm of intimate relationship whereby we will walk with Him as friends and sons who know the heart of their Father. The principle in Amos 3:3 comes into focus: two cannot walk together except they are in agreement. God is a Spirit who wants to relate with spirit-beings as the flesh profits nothing.

Man however tends to desire relationship with Him from afar since that first day when Adam and Eve lost close communion with God and ran away from His presence. They ran away because their activated soul was now more conscious of the environment than it was of their heavenly Father. Consequently, they saw themselves as unworthy of communion with Him. Till today, that has been the

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tendency of the human soul: to relate with God from afar; to try to appease Him by self effort and sacrifices. For this reason, self is the chief promoter of religion rather than relationship which is what God wants with humans who are brought into His family by the blood which was shed by Jesus.

Trying to do things for God; trying to please Him by observance of rules and regulations and trying to contribute to the process of salvation and kingdom-living is all part of the carnal driven desire to feel better and more secure. Unfortunately, this tendency runs counter to the fundamental principle of the kingdom: the King is all in all. He is a benevolent potentate who has measured out the size and depth of His realm. No one can add an inch or breadth to the kingdom.

It is actually contradictory for us to claim that we are “building the kingdom”. The Kingdom is a finished work which the benevolent King offers freely to whosoever will receive and walk in it, free of charge. The kingdom is received by faith and strengthened by the surrender of our will, desires, thoughts and emotions to Him who has loved us so much to be incarnated and to suffer the indignity of being crucified so that the debt of death on us will be cancelled and we can live in newness of life. Central to this teaching is the need for saints to restore the full sovereignty of Jesus as king that is seated on the throne of

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their hearts. And if He is truly seated, our will, emotions, attitudes, thoughts and speech will reflect the reality of a wholly submitted life. And if this is so, seeking first the kingdom and its righteousness becomes a lifestyle, not a struggle!

Man in his religious mindset questions in this manner: “you mean all that God requires of me is to receive His grace by faith and just hand over myself to Him completely?” Walking in an inbred religious mindset, the carnal Christian ignores this walk of faith and instead prefers to present great sacrifices to God. These may be in the form of countless rituals designed to please Him or to make self feel good.

*“²⁰Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, ²¹(Touch not; taste not; handle not; ²²Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men? ²³Which things have indeed a shew of wisdom in will worship, and humility, and neglecting of the body: not in any honour to the satisfying of the flesh” **Colossians 2:20-23***

Today, self is offering so many things to God for approval. These include:

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- 1. Building religious corporations which appear very successful** on the outside but stink before Him because the operating principle is of the adversary and the world or reeking of Mammon! It's all about making money and all things done, including scriptures quoted, are simply to set people up for milking!
- 2. Many religious enterprises have supreme heads that are not** Jesus but the 'founders' who literarily own them. They are not accountable to anyone. Therefore they say, preach and do whatever catches their fancy.
- 3. Many people are building for God with principles He will never approve of** and putting in place structures that look so good on paper but squeeze the life out of the assumed spiritual work, leaving the Holy Spirit no room to function.
- 4. Some are building elaborate physical structures and calling them 'churches'.** Well decorated, the atmosphere is designed to activate the souls of participants through sight and sound to obtain 'miracles' and feelings of the 'presence of God'. Great logic is invested to justify why so much money is used to build such gilded chariots which feed the ego of the resident preacher and his/her guest ministers.
- 5. Many in ministry do not consult God in prayer**

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and receive no direction from the Holy Spirit as to what to preach or teach. Their bellies dictate what should be preached. Competition with other preachers drives the kind of programmes they put up.

This scripture is worth reflecting on:

“¹⁰ According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise master builder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. ¹¹ For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; ¹³ Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire” **1 Corinthians 3:10-15.**

As ministers do whatever they like, invoking the name of the Holy Spirit, it is important to realize that self is not just

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self-justifying but equally dangerous and inherently rebellious. Romans 8:5-9

Knowing this, God decided to document clearly how His Church should be set up and how people should behave therein:

“¹⁴ These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: ¹⁵ But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” **1 Timothy 3:14-15**

Let us be reminded that the soul of man is powerful and creative. Man invented, among others,

- the airplanes which fly hundreds of people 40,000 feet above sea level
- the great submarines carrying enough nuclear warheads to destroy whole cities that ply the depths of seas below 20,000 feet!
- all the delightful smart phones which combine telephony and computing, and
- all the great things which make life easier.

The soul of man is powerful and can do so much. When translated into the realm of religion, the flesh (soul +

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body) can build great religious systems. What will give them away however, is the lack of true spirituality and the absence of the Jesus model of absolute love as the core operating system, simplicity, sacrifice and accessibility to all manner of people from various spectra of society to the 'spiritual leader'.

Saints, we need to mature to the point where we are not carried away by the eloquence of preachers or the dazzling glories of the great cathedrals and structures they have supposedly 'built for God'. Sons in the kingdom will be given the extra eye of discernment by the Holy Spirit to evaluate what is of their Father in heaven and what is not. This is really needed in the last days when deception will be the greatest reality of the hour.

“¹⁵ Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.¹⁶ Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? ¹⁷ Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. ¹⁸ A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.¹⁹ Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down,

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*and cast into the fire.²⁰ Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.²¹ Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.²² Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?²³ And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity” **Matthew 7:15-23.***

In some countries today, many 'ministers' visit witch-doctors to obtain charms with which to do 'miracles' which bring the crowd. In others, many ministers are members of various occult orders.

Some folks may not be building with satanic means, however their self interests, raw human ambition and self ideas are the driving force of ministerial 'activity' and 'success'. Building with self is unacceptable to Jesus who is the head of the Church!

Interestingly, God has asked us to discern and avoid their snares with smooth words and potential charismatic witchcraft which is effected by soul ties and hero worship

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based on gift projections and unfounded boasts of what they can do. Let no saint be carried away by so-called 'manifestations' of miracles, signs and wonders in the ministries of preachers.

Sons of God in the earth realm must go beyond the need to solve problems and what is projected by these ministers who have drifted away from God's order to seek out the life and pattern of Jesus in the minister and ministry. Is he/she emulating or despising Jesus in love, holiness, service, simplicity and selflessness? Is the kingdom life of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit evident? Is the preacher seeking first the kingdom and its righteousness indeed (not in mere words) or is the supposed 'kingdom' activity a cover up for the pursuit of money/riches, ambition, self-projection and other fleshly manifestations such as spirit of strife and competition?

God has not asked us to fight those who build with the flesh or even attempt to stop them physically. This is because as the Sovereign King, He is able to use even their follies to foster His divine intent.

“¹⁵ Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: ¹⁶ The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: ¹⁷ But

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the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. ¹⁸ What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice”
Philippians 1:15-18.

The day of judgement is coming when the tares of the kingdom will be uprooted and bound for their ultimate destiny in the Lake of Fire: Matthew 13:36-43

Let us never forget for a moment this glorious truth of how Yahweh wants us to live and serve:

“¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. ¹³ For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵ For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. ¹⁶ The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God”
Romans 8:12-16

CHAPTER FIVE

THE WORLD

INTRODUCTION

Now, we move away from the critical adversary that is self-life to another equally powerful one - the World. The world is the system and pattern of life outside the standards set by Yahweh, but, is rather influenced by Satan right from the day he deceived Adam and Eve.

To gain a better understanding of the world, we shall excerpt a series of revelations God granted some months ago and build on that foundation. Please study, meditate and pray on this download to arm yourself with how best to overcome an adversary which has invaded the physical Church across the world.

Let us note that the last few years leading to and peaking in 2013 can be regarded, without any question, as the period that Judeo-Christian values were jettisoned officially by many significant national governments and people groups in favour of values and systems of governance and life which can at best be described as Babylonian or 'of the World': It is part of fulfilment of

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Scriptures that in the last days, the spirit of the world will seek to invade the physical Church and essentially subjugate those who are unaware or those who are weak-willed and carnal.

God created the physical heavens and the earth as Psalm 24 states. When He planted mankind on the earth, it was to represent Him and His kingdom thereon. So the kingdom was the system of life that ruled the world until the day Adam and Eve threw it to the dust.

The fall of Adam and Eve to the seduction of Satan had a major implication for mankind: loss of the system of kingdom life and its pattern on earth which was replaced by the system of the adversary. That system of the adversary infused the world – the cosmic that constitutes the spiritual realm which, in turn rules planet earth. That system is inherently against God and opposes Jesus the Messiah who came to redeem mankind by the Blood He shed as propitiation on the Old Rugged Cross.

Even before He died on the Cross, Jesus had two instances where he acknowledged the truth of the sovereignty of Satan over this world system. The first was when He was tempted in the wilderness:

“⁸ again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory

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of them; ⁹And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. ¹⁰Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve” **Matthew 4:8-10.**

What the adversary offered Jesus, he is still offering many saints today and especially leaders in the body and prominent saints in the public domain and market place. And because they are not properly schooled to distinguish between what is kingdom and what is of the world, many have, with blurred vision, embraced the Laodecia option and are neither hot nor cold again.

Note that in Matthew 4:10, Jesus did not dispute the claim of Satan to be 'god' of the fallen world. Shortly before He went to the Cross, Jesus had this interesting thing to say about Satan and himself:

“³⁰Hereafter I will not talk much with you: for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me” **John 14:30.**

That is exactly the same type of testimony God expects from His other sons in the earth realm at all times. It gives Him great glory to see that we are outside the loop of the adversary. John, the beloved, was a man who knew the heart-beat of Jesus. He understood how toxic this world

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system was, structured as it were to make saints fall for the seductions of Satan through the five carnal senses just as Adam and Eve did. Hence the Holy Spirit used him to pen these immortal lines:

“¹⁵ Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ and the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”
1 John 2:15-17.

John spoke what he knew and said emphatically that the whole world – including the political system, economic, social, banking and financial system - were under an influence outside of God:

“¹⁹ And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness” **1 John 5:19.**

Let it be said that this does not mean saints will not engage in public service, national, state or city leadership, banking or be elevated in social affairs. It simply means that saints must depart from worldly principles and practices and trust Jesus our King, as He navigates us into our

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respective destinies by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Among humans who have lived on earth, none understood the mysteries of the kingdom more than Paul. To Him did God commit revelation of how Satan still functions on earth after the death and resurrection of Jesus because his appointed time had not expired:

“³But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them” 2 Corinthians 4:3-4.

It was for this reason that Holy Spirit used Paul to also pen these words which will continue to stand true for the remnant until King Jesus returns:

“¹⁴Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵and what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I

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will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.* ¹⁸ *And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty".* **2 Corinthians 6:14-18**

LET US TAKE NOTE OF THESE REALITIES:

No one can please God, our heavenly Father, whose heart and thoughts are latched onto the World. How then can saints, who are not of this world, deal with that which they are surrounded with? The answer is simple: they are not to isolate from it as if they live in a bubble but rather to 'engage with the world'.

He preferred not to take us away from the earth realm when He saved us but to keep us away from the spirit that rules the world so that we can complete His assignment during our lifetime. Mature is the saint who engages with the world effectively as an ambassador of the King and Kingdom without being tripped over by its insidious attempts to gain a foot-hold through the five carnal senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch.

JEWES AND GENTILES: A TYPE OF THE ELECT AND THE WORLD

From the prologue, we do not need any persuasion to see that there are two types of people on earth at any given time. In the Old Testament, that division was holistic. In the camp of God are the children of Abraham through the lineage of Isaac and Jacob, called the Hebrews (who have later come to be known by the term Israel or Jews). In the other camp are all the nations on earth who do not know and embrace God who were bunched together into a single term 'Gentiles'.

This division of Hebrews and Gentiles was so strong that even in the land of Egypt they lived separately from their hosts. Goshen, which Joseph secured from Pharaoh for them, was a nation within a nation in every regard. On the night that Pharaoh and Egypt were judged by the visitation of the angel of death, the blood on the lintel of homes in Goshen made all the difference. This lays the foundation for a paradigm of relationship between those who belong to God and those in rebellion against Him. We shall examine another paradigm in the next chapter.

After deliverance from Egypt, the Hebrews were prevented, by the letters of the Old Covenant, from having any relationship with Gentiles – whether in covenant-making issues like marriage, business relationships or, indeed, in any activity. The concern of God was to prevent

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them from being polluted by the leaven of paganism to create a state of mixture called syncretism. Hear the kind of instructions they were given as they left Egypt:

“⁴ Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. ⁵ Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: ⁶ and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel” Exodus 19:4-6.

Deuteronomy 28 and 29 were given to seal Israel unto a covenant of separation unto God as His peculiar people from the nations of the earth and any failure on the part of the people to remain separate was to be punished severely. As we know, Israel breached this covenant. Even while Moses went up the Mount to receive the Law, the leaven of Egypt which had been lodged deep in the mind (memory) of the people came to the fore. They recollected how Egyptians worshipped cattle and engaged in lewd dancing as part of their strange-fire devotions. The consequence was that they put pressure on Aaron to build them a golden calf. The man chosen to be the first High Priest of Israel did just that, showing us the power of public opinion!

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“And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.² And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.³ And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.⁴ And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.⁵ And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.⁶ And they rose up early on the morrow, and offered burnt offerings, and brought peace offerings; and the people sat down to eat and to drink, and rose up to play”

Exodus 32:1-6

Thank God for His mercies and the deep intercession of Moses by which the whole nation was not wiped out. But it is needful to take note of how powerfully the world around

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the elect of God can penetrate their psyche through the five carnal senses. This penetration is still going on till this day for those saints who do not take time to understand the world and its powerful tentacles.

Saints, get ready for the study that will equip you to understand what is about to take place on the earth and to make your salvation sure as 2 Peter 1:5-11 says.

For saints in America, let this word of truth be issued: do not let your hearts faint at the machinations of professional politicians in Washington DC! They are acting out a script that will produce the next chapter of the chequered history of the nation. Look away from government for sustenance. Look away from the markets, the media, Wall Street and the Federal Reserve. It is time to look up to the Creator of heaven and earth like never before. It is time to realise how futile it is to invest all of all your life chasing after the American dream. Begin to seek first the Kingdom and the righteousness of God. Matthew 6:19-34 screams for attention! This same principle applies to saints in Europe, Africa, Asia, South America and, indeed, all nations of the earth. There is a way of life which reflects the Kingdom and an opposite approach which represents the world. These two do not mix and where they do, the result is syncretism which God hates.

“Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our

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admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” **1 Corinthians 10:11**

Abba (God the Father) wants to teach us a little more from the experience of Israel and the world so that we can learn and apply our hearts to wisdom. In our last chapter, we examined how the things Israel learnt from the Egyptians played out in the pressure put on Aaron to build the golden calf in the absence of Moses. When they got into the Promised Land, Israel enjoyed the privilege of direct rule by God through His human assignees called Judges. They knew Him as the leader of the nation and could go to any war in confidence. Then tragedy struck again through the World: they began to desire what they had seen amongst the surrounding gentile nations. Let us read this dramatic account as recorded by the Prophet and Judge Samuel:

“⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, ⁵ And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations” **1 Samuel 8:4-5.**

LOOKING TO THE GENTILES PRODUCED SAUL AND DISASTER

A people who God had made peculiar unto Himself as a

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kingdom of priests rejected His direct rule and preferred a human monarch who would lord it over them, just like other gentile nations. That demand set the stage for the emergence of Saul, the son of Kish, a man who had all the external appurtenances of royalty but was at heart was a profane person. Look at the description of his physical features:

“Now there was a man of Benjamin, whose name was Kish, the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Bechorath, the son of Aphiah, a Benjamite, a mighty man of power.² and he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people” 1 Samuel 9:1-2.

You know the story. This same man was to disobey the express instructions of Samuel, the spiritual leader of the nation; as he sought to please men rather than God in the matter of Agag and Amalek. 1 Samuel 15:1-23

Saints, we can learn a whole set of lessons from the choice of Saul outside the perfect will of God. God does not impose Himself on the will of humans who He created. He makes known His will and expects those who are called by His name to receive and walk in the same. The highest

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expression of true worship therefore is to have a heart that is inclined to know and do the will of the Father. This inclination moves God to no end and accounted for why He chose David to replace Saul. Hear the testimony of the Word concerning the man David:

“²² And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will”

Acts 13:22

To this agrees the testimony of God Himself about this remarkable vessel, David, who was a true worshipper so much that his iniquities were blotted out by grace:

“²⁰ I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him: ²¹ With whom my hand shall be established: mine arm also shall strengthen him” **Psalm 89:20-21**

It was no wonder that when Nathan the Prophet was used by God to indict David of his sins with Bathsheba what came out of his heart was the epic words of Psalm 51. Though a king, David recognized that Nathan was the assignee of God for spiritual things and submitted to his authority when he sinned.

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Between these two, Saul and David, we have the two opposite types of leadership that will be predominant in the end time. There will be those who will seek leadership based on their comeliness, height advantage, family background, education and other great features of soul and body. Consequently they will be proud in heart, not subject to authority and the very qualities they trust in will constitute their Achilles heel. Unable to repent when they err, they will seek to cling to what they think, even when the kingdom is plucked out of their hands. They will seek the approval of humans and do things to attract applause. They are the Saul type of leaders.

On the other hand, the David type will be men and women who have laboured in the back side of the wilderness, faithful in small things such as David was in tending his father's sheep. By the sovereign election of God, they will be thrust forth after completing their wilderness training. Such saints will take down the Goliaths of the world looming large against saints. Even where they stumble, because they will not argue with the Father in His Word and His Spirit at work in their hearts, the Father will undergird them with His grace to stand and overcome. They will seek His will in all things and have hearts inclined to bow down to Him who sits on the ultimate throne of Majesty.

Saints, this is a type of where the Church of Jesus is at this point in time. Unable to take in the Word as it is, great

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ministers are importing into the Church concepts from various religious and worldly traditions 'which work' and are recommending same to their gullible followers. With no questions asked, yoga, Kundilani, palm reading, horoscopes and various devices which have their roots in other religions and the occult have been embraced for their 'benefit'. Worldly ways of doing business, politics and general living are now accepted norms in ministries and congregations. Babylon has come to Church, fully dressed up! The ways of the world are now prominent features of Church in North America, Europe, many African nations and, to some extent, world-wide! How sad!

Let us pray that God will raise types of David in this season. The kingdom deserves better and will have leaders after the heart of our Father in these last days. Let us pray that the elect remnant of God on earth will be in the mode of prayer and watchfulness as the end of the age appears closer than ever before. Let us intercede that none will swallow the dangerous leaven of Babylon which has invaded the Church in a massive way.

SOLOMON AND MISPLACED GRANDIOSITY DESIGNED TO IMPRESS THE WORLD, NOT GOD!

From the time of David, Israel enjoyed rest. As a man whose heart was inclined to know and do the will of God, David was so occupied with kingdom business so much so that he had no time for himself. David was so faithful

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that he was elected to be two things to the Messiah: first the Father of Jesus, thus Jesus was addressed as Son of David and secondly, Jesus would sit on his throne in Jerusalem during the millennial reign.

Another Saul was to arise, this time in Solomon who God loved greatly and for whose purpose other claimants to the throne of David were rejected. Though he was begotten by Bathsheba, election secured for Solomon a place of honour, proving the reality that God does not consult our past to determine our future.

Solomon reciprocated by loving God more than the throne. A man who knew how to worship and invest in worship, Solomon broke all records when the Temple was dedicated by the quantum of what was offered. He also desired wisdom more than wealth and power which pleased Yahweh greatly. 1 Kings 3:1-14 (KJV)

But tragedy struck when Solomon started to marry foreign wives and looked away from the simplicity of a vibrant personal relationship with a holy Yahweh. His heart became enlarged to accommodate other things and even forbidden ones for that matter: people and objects of the world! With the benefit of hindsight, we can safely say that worldliness was the grand bane that did Solomon in. From desiring foreign wives whose background was in strong idolatry, to a desire for vain glory, Solomon began to slip down a long slope to infamy. Grandiosity always has

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a price and even in the building of the magnificent Temple called by his name, Solomon would have escaped the snare of danger, if he gave heed to the warning of God: 1 Kings 6:1-14

EMPTINESS CAN BE MASKED WITH GRANDIOSITY

Worldliness in his mindset was so much that by the time he was finished, Solomon had 1,000 wives and concubines. To compete for pre-eminence in his heart, each of those women from foreign lands enlisted the support of their gods. The man who inherited the everlasting legacy of David became a moral wreck, fit for a place in the dustbin of history. Most often, people who are empty within tend to mask that state with grandiose sacrifices and structures.

Today, there are many Solomons in the House of God. They deem the House of Jesus dull and have therefore gone to Babylon to import its whorish ways. The flesh is the object of music whose beat is purely worldly. There is a strenuous effort to build structures which people will see and hail them as great in the Kingdom. Whether it is to gather a large crowd of pew warmers who are not disciples of Jesus but their fanatical soul-tied fans or to build the most expensive church campus or cathedral; drive the posh cars of the age; wear the most expensive designer labels or install lighting and stereo systems

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which will incur the envy of night clubbers, church leaders can play Solomon when they take away the main things (worshipping God in spirit and truth out of a pure heart in love, unity and serving one another; evidently seeking first the Kingdom and making disciples of Jesus of all nations) and rather erect grandiose projects as evidence that they serve a 'good God!' They have no time to pray but every time to preach. They do not study for personal application but to get points to preach at people. They are ever so busy plotting the graph of personal manifestation with public relations consultants, courting the media and cannot wait on the King. In the process, using gifts of the Holy Spirit to make money and build personal empires become common place.

As leaders go, so are those who are soul-tied with them. The House of Jesus on earth is in great danger of the spirit of the world invading every available space.

BABYLON, HOUSE OF CAPTIVITY AND ASSIMILATION, A TYPE OF THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

To round up this survey of Israel and Gentiles as a type of the worldly-themed Church, it is fitting to consider how Israel became captive to Babylon and the principles that undergirded their relationship. Years of disobeying God came to a head when Israel was given over to Babylon as its overlord. The lesson we learn here is simple: those who

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refuse to walk with the Father in spirit and truth, separate from pollution, automatically opt for captivity with task masters that assimilate them.

About 605 BC, Nebuchadnezzar the imperial monarch of Babylon defeated Israel, ravaged the land and carried the Hebrews into captivity when their cup of iniquity was full. In Babylon, Israel was not treated like Egypt and given a separate land such as Goshen to settle. In Goshen, they were in Egypt but not of Egypt. They had the opportunity to worship God in Goshen and crossed into Egypt to labour for their task masters only to return. Babylon rather adopted the principle of assimilation. This seemingly harmless solution of absorbing them into the culture and religion of the Chaldeans was the basis of the extreme devastation Israel was to suffer for a long time, when their values and culture derived from Judaism underwent such erosion that they never really came out of it except for brief periods of time.

The nation and people who were created to be separate from all nations on earth and be a peculiar treasure unto God as a kingdom of priests who were His sent people to the nations found itself in an unusual place: within the bowels of the greatest expression of the World in their day! As the head of gold which Prophet Daniel interpreted for King Nebuchadnezzar in Daniel Chapter 2, Babylon was the greatest power on earth. It was a kingdom of the Chaldeans who were masters in sorcery, astrology, magic

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and all the evils associated with idolatry. Here was the pearl that Nimrod dreamed up as an alternative to all that is righteous and pure, satiated with gold, silver, precious stones and all the good that made it the apogee of worldliness! (Read Genesis 10: 10-12 and all of Revelation chapter 18)

It was to this bastion of all that was contrary to holiness, purity and presence of God that Israel was not only subjected to but was required to conform to. The elect people had come to be unequally yoked with the world (2 Corinthians 6:14-18.) A measure of what Israel suffered in this unholy relationship can be gleaned from what happened to Daniel who was among Hebrew youths recruited to serve the King. The Babylonian principle of assimilation required Hebrew youth to conform to culinary habits of the land and even change their identities through adoption of Chaldean names. Thank God for His grace on Daniel and his colleagues!

If you open your heart, Holy Spirit will teach you what Daniel 1:1-8 means. This will give you an understanding of why Babylon or the world is such a dangerous proposition for the elect remnant. If there is anything that wars against the soul of saints with such pervasiveness, it is the world around us to which, subtly or overtly, we are put under pressure to conform to! Let us therefore reserve till the next chapter the application and analysis of how the world, much like Babylon seeks to assimilate the Church

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and make her miss the mark. Let us be in intense intercession for the souls of all leaders whose hearts are gripped with ideas and patterns of Babylon, that the mercy of God will intervene.

CHAPTER SIX

JESUS AND THE WORLD

Let us leave the issue of the world, epitomized by Egypt and Babylon and their insidious ways for a while and move on into the new covenant. There is no better place to start than with the Author and Finisher of the New Covenant and King of the kingdom. We therefore need to examine how Jesus viewed the world and what He taught about it in relation to Kingdom citizens. We also need to see the political environment in which He lived, ministered and fulfilled His assignment.

In these evil days when 'men and women of God' are using their star power and fame to urge saints to go all out to embrace and enjoy the best this world has to offer, it makes sense to take our bearing, not from the words of mortals, but from that of the Bishop and Shepherd of our souls. And this we will do within the ambit of the grace He has given and unction of Ruach Ha Kadosh, the Holy Spirit released in and through us.

Jesus was incarnated during the reign of the first Imperial

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Lord of Rome, Augustus Caesar. Rome had replaced the Greco-Macedonian Empire of Alexander the Great as the global ruler of the day. Continuing the tradition began by Babylon under King Nebuchadnezzar, Rome made possession of Israel a prized goal which it pursued with passion and achieved in a successful military campaign. In other words, the land of Israel was a vassal state of Rome by the time Jesus was born.

Rome that ruled the world in the days that Jesus was in the body was the epitome of worldliness. Whether in terms of fashion, lifestyle, investment in public and private entertainment/amusements, construction of gigantic structures, Rome topped the charts. Its far flung colonies, including the holy land, felt the full impact of its worldly ways. It was in this environment that Jesus was incarnated, grew up, and fulfilled his ministry.

The incarnation made him to be in the world but by election and personal choice, He was not of the world. The world recognized that He came to usher in an opposite way of life and roundly rejected Him. From Herod, who sought to snuff His life out as an infant to the religious leaders of the day who clung to the veil that blinded them, Jesus was an outcast of sorts. The ultimate rejection was reserved to the very end: He was rejected, stripped bare

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and crucified on the Cross in preference of a common criminal.

In spite of the above, Jesus did not live in isolation. He rather engaged the world intensely and witnessed a good confession before them. From the religious leaders to Pilate who signed off His execution, Jesus boldly declared the truth in wisdom. He sought out Matthew at the receipt of customs, ministered to him and a career change occurred. From recording money, Matthew became His official biographer. He sought out Zacheus, near Jericho, and the man's life changed forever. That mindset of engagement was grossly misunderstood by religious leaders of the day who accused Him of being a friend of sinners. Matthew 11:16-19; Luke 5:27-32.

IN THE WORLD BUT NOT OF THE WORLD: THE CHALLENGE OF ENGAGEMENT, NOT THE COP OUT OF ISOLATION

Not one to leave saints at sea on matters of critical import, Jesus went into intense intercession for the disciples and indeed all saints. In crying out audibly to the Father, one major issue was for them and us to be kept from the prince of the world on the one hand and to be preserved from the system of this world on the other hand.

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“⁶I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word. ⁹I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine. ¹¹And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are. ¹²While I was with them in the world, I kept them in thy name: those that thou gavest me I have kept, and none of them is lost, but the son of perdition; that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹⁴I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. ¹⁶They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. ¹⁸As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world. ²⁰Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; ²¹That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and

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I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

²²And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: ²³I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me” **John**

17:6-23

Both in terms of the personal example of Jesus, His teachings and His intercession for saints, these things can be discerned rightly: that two sets of people would co-habit this earth until the day when time would be swallowed up in eternity. If we examine the content of Jesus' ground breaking teachings, including the Sermon on the Mount and Parables, it is obvious that:

1. He came to announce the long awaited Kingdom of God, teach humans its ways which are different from the religious, social and political systems they were used to. (Matthew 4:17; Matthew 13).

2. Those who would receive Him and His Words would receive power to become members of the family of God/sons like Him to live as citizens of the kingdom. This power would give them the ability to live a 'worldly life'

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which was outside the loop of Satan who rules the hearts of natural people. (John 1:11-13)

3. To that extent, they were going to be on assignment on behalf of the Father and the kingdom before the kingdoms of this world.

4. Clearly, Jesus did not teach or exemplify isolation. He demonstrated, taught and prayed for saints to engage with the world around them.

May our eyes of understanding be opened to understand these facts outlined above so that we can walk in wisdom. We are citizens of the Kingdom and its ambassadors in the earth realm! As Colossians 1:12-14 states, we have been translated from the lordship of Satan and conveyed into the Kingdom with inherent ability to live as Jesus lived on earth.

For that reason, the teaching on understanding the world as a critical adversary is not a call to run away or yearn to die when saved. It is a call to live the God type of life which is refreshingly different to the decadent ways of our communities. When we get it right, our Kingdom lifestyles will pose to the world around us striking differences between:

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- what is clean and unclean;
- what is holy and unholy;
- what is love within an environment of hate;
- what is selfless amidst selfishness;
- what is eternal contrasted with what is temporal;
- what is heavenly and what is hellish.

These contrasts, when magnified by Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of those who are outside the kingdom will have a double track effect:

a. to those appointed unto salvation, it will provide grounds for them to be convicted as they see this superior lifestyle and thus embrace the truth we offer for a better life, and

b. for those who perish, their eyes will be blinded by Satan and flesh that they cannot discern the difference or even think they are better off. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

It is the plan of God to bring about these sharp differences in lifestyle and outlook between His own and those who are outside. These scriptures make it clear that we are to live differently and yet be fully engaged with the world:

“¹³Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but

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to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. ¹⁴Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” **Matthew 5:13-16.**

“¹²Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. ¹³For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. ¹⁴Do all things without murmurings and disputings: ¹⁵That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; ¹⁶Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain” **Philippians 2:12-16**

“¹¹ For the grace of God that bringeth

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salvation hath appeared to all men, ¹²
Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and
worldly lusts, we should live soberly,
righteously, and godly, in this present world;
¹³ Looking for that blessed hope, and the
glorious appearing of the great God and our
Saviour Jesus Christ; ¹⁴ Who gave himself for
us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity,
and purify unto himself a peculiar people,
zealous of good works” **Titus 2:11-14.**

“¹¹ Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers
and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts,
which war against the soul. ¹² Having your
conversation honest among the Gentiles:
that, whereas they speak against you as
evildoers, they may by your good works,
which they shall behold, glorify God in the
day of visitation. ¹³ Submit yourselves to
every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake:
whether it be to the king, as supreme” **1 Peter**
2:11-13.

CHAPTER SEVEN

THE WORLD IS BOUND TO SELF-DESTRUCT, COME OUT!

One of the critical truths we learnt from the High Priestly prayer of King Jesus is that while we are in the world, we are not of it. This means we cannot wish away the reality of the world around us neither should we isolate ourselves from sinners because they are of the world. We must strike the balance in our relationship with the world so much so that our central focus is that of ambassadors of the Kingdom deployed to it. We are to engage with the humans and institutions of the world in a proactive manner, displaying in bold relief the superiority of what we have in **Jesus** and the Kingdom in a meek, not proud way. What this means is that we must be armed with an understanding of the scope and specific manifestations of the world so that it will not trip us over.

SCOPE OF THE WORLD

The world runs on an opposite paradigm which is contrary to the kingdom. It wars against both the kingdom and the souls of saints. The world can manifest in these dimensions:

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1. Within the thoughts and imaginations of humans: We are what we think. Somebody may not have material things but may be highly polluted with worldly thoughts and imaginations, waiting for the day of opportunity to acquire them. The Omniscient One is not fooled by external looks or what lies on the outer sphere but what goes on in the inside.

2. By the carnal realm: Through things which are seen, spoken, heard, felt, tasted: These dimensions of the soul are always seeking to dominate the hearts (spirit-man) of saints, making it impossible to be led by Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:5-16)

SPECIFIC MANIFESTATIONS OF THE WORLD

For the benefit of brethren who may want to know, there are a number of specific ways in which the world can manifest. The list here is not exhaustive but can give us a guide. Armed with this guide, we will be more sensitive to what Holy Spirit may have been trying to show us.

1. All things which feed the soul through the five carnal senses to give them pre-eminence over the spirit-man
2. The things that the world glorifies which keep it satisfied to remain outside the Kingdom of God, rejecting His salvation in Jesus include:

I. love of money which enthrones *mammon* in

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the heart of those who are subject to its control;

ii. acquisitiveness – wanting all things which appeal to your senses without necessarily needing them,

iii. pursuits which clog our hearts and minds with things that do not glorify the Father and negate our ability to be focused on the Great Commission;

iv. things and pursuits which make us selfish and self-centred, unable to manifest the nature, presence and power of Jesus;

v. addiction to particular fashion labels, consumer item labels or other superfluous quests which make saints slaves to the plans and designs of other people who may be outside the Kingdom,

vi. a lifestyle which makes us spend far more on our comfort and convenience to the detriment of investment in the Great Commission

vii. a lifestyle of 'getting' and not 'giving' which negates kingdom life.

viii. profiteering and attempts to acquire wealth through oppression of the weak and ignorant;

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- ix. political systems based on lies, exaggeration, tension and deliberate pulling down of others who occupy positions that are desired,
 - x. financial systems which lead people into debt through craftily devised credit offered to people, not to really bless but rather to enslave them. Using credit to finance ostentation and consumerism tends to worldliness,
 - xi. fashion systems which are wired to seduce men or women into immoral thoughts, language or deeds;
 - xii. amusement and worldly entertainment that subdues or negates our spiritual sensitivity as the soul realm is activated with much excitement that pours incredible amounts of hormones into the body system.
- “No man that warreth **entangleth himself with** the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier” 2 Timothy 2:4.*
- xiii. importation of liturgical practices into congregational worship which feed the five carnal senses and suppresses genuine spirituality; and

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- xiv. using worldly methods of public relations and marketing to promote ministries and congregational work.

ATTITUDES AND RESPONSES OF SAINTS TO THE WORLD

In the final analysis, only a saint knows whether the king or the world is at the innermost core of the being seated on the throne of the heart. The Biblical injunctions concerning the world are so clear and specific that saints who disregard them are without excuse. Let us read straight from the Word, what the world is and understand why we should overcome and reject its hold on us. As people who are in the world but not of the world, it is imperative that we study, meditate on and live out these scriptures:

“⁴Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God. ⁵Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? ⁶But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” James 4:4-6.

“¹⁵Love not the world, neither the things that

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are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever”

1 John 2:15-17

“¹⁴ Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you. ¹⁸ And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty” **2 Corinthians 6:14-18.**

“¹⁴ And unto the angel of the church of the

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Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; ¹⁵I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶ So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ¹⁷ Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: ¹⁸ I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. ¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me”

Revelation 3:14-20

That the world is bound for destruction is a reality too big to miss:

“And after these things I saw another angel

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come down from heaven, having great power; and the earth was lightened with his glory. ² And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. ³ For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. ⁴ And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. ⁵ For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities. ⁶ Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double. ⁷ How much she hath glorified herself, and lived deliciously, so much torment and sorrow give her: for she saith in her heart, I sit a queen, and am no widow, and shall see no sorrow. ⁸ Therefore shall her plagues come in one day, death, and mourning, and famine; and she shall be utterly burned with fire: for

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strong is the Lord God who judgeth her.⁹ And the kings of the earth, who have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her, shall bewail her, and lament for her, when they shall see the smoke of her burning,¹⁰ Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.¹¹ And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more:¹² The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones, and of pearls, and fine linen, and purple, and silk, and scarlet, and all thyine wood, and all manner vessels of ivory, and all manner vessels of most precious wood, and of brass, and iron, and marble,¹³ And cinnamon, and odours, and ointments, and frankincense, and wine, and oil, and fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and slaves, and souls of men.¹⁴ And the fruits that thy soul lusted after are departed from thee, and all things which were dainty and goodly are departed from thee, and thou shalt find them no more at all”
Revelation 18:1-14.

CHAPTER EIGHT

DENOMINATIONALISM THE DENOMINATIONAL SPIRIT

The prevailing prophetic time in the Church of Jesus the Messiah reveals that He is at work like never before to identify and dislodge all strongholds of error that saints have taken on board over the years. These strongholds produce a mindset which turns kingdom life on earth into the practice of religious rites as drawn up by humans. In His mercy, the King is releasing the power of His word to sanctify or make holy his bride so that it will be radiant and bright, ready for His imminent return.

“²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” Ephesians 5:26-27.

It is in this context that this book on Critical Adversaries must be understood and appreciated. Our King is preparing us to truly represent His Presence, Glory and

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Power in the earth realm as well as preparing us for His return. Let us receive and walk in the light of truth which is what will make us enjoy our liberty in Him.

“³²And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” **John 8:32.**

WHAT IS DENOMINATIONALISM?

The denominational spirit or denominationalism is the tendency to frame the gospel and relationship with God, our Father in heaven, from the revelations granted to humans which become exclusive perspectives that Christians subscribe to.

In other words, at some point in the course of history, a brother or sister received a revelation of God or His Kingdom. In sincerity or not, that vessel propagates that truth or revelation and other people subscribe to the same to form a denomination. Meanwhile other vessels receive other revelations of other aspects of truths concerning The Most High and His Kingdom and proceed to teach them with passion. In the course of time, people subscribe to those truths also to form another denomination.

The earlier and latter revelations are all aspects of one whole truth of the Word. Instead of these revelations

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complementing each other to give all saints a holistic view of our Creator and His Kingdom which will edify and build up all in unity of faith, when various camps emerge each holding to the little portion of truth received as ALL the truth, they create room for manifestation of the flesh and worldliness which separates saints into camps in a state of mutually assured enmity.

Another dimension of denominationalism concerns the way Christians tend to shift focus away from Head of the Church, Jesus the Messiah, who is invisible in favour of the visible human vessels He uses to nurture and lead them. When their eyes of understanding are locked into these human vessels to the degree that they cannot receive revelations and impartation from any other human vessels, there is a natural tendency for natural camps to be created in the House of God which is supposed to be one complete spiritual entity with various mutually dependent parts.

This was the basis of one of the problems that almost tore the Church at Corinth apart. People began to line up behind their favourite preachers and tension arose. In turn, this led to immaturity of the saints.

“¹¹ For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house

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of Chloe, that there are contentions among you.¹² Now this I say, that every one of you saith, I am of Paul; and I of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ.¹³ Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” **1 Corinthians 1:11-13**

“³ And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. ² I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. ³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men? ⁴ For while one saith, I am of Paul; and another, I am of Apollos; are ye not carnal? ⁵ Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man?” **1 Corinthians 3:1-5**

“²¹ Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; ²² Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are

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your's; ²³ And ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's" 1 Corinthians 3:21-23.

WHY IS IT AN ENEMY OF THE TRUE GOSPEL?

In these last days, it is the good pleasure of King Jesus to bring His Church to maturity in truth. Part of it has to do with exposing the dangers posed by the spirit which keeps the body in division so much so that many view unity as strange. Denominationalism is an enemy of the true gospel for these reasons:

1. It advances the lie that the part of revelation received by a group is the whole. To the extent that this lie is twisted as truth, it makes many remain in ignorance of other aspects of truth they did not receive and do not open up to know. An example is the revelations on water baptism; baptism in the Holy Spirit and necessity of the five fold for maturation of saints. Each of these is a powerful truth that Holy Spirit restored to the Church in a specific move of His. Each of the revealed truths is to be received and walked in by all saints, irrespective of their congregations or the covering ministries. What denominationalism has done is to make people cling to each of these truths that were received by the founder of the denomination they are affiliated with. The result is a tilt towards one but being void of any revelation of the other

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two which negates the overall purpose of the Most High which is to cause His Church to:

- * walk in full obedience by water baptism;
- * be powerful by receiving power of Holy Spirit and the gifts
- * be mature and strong as the ministry of the fivefold is received.

2. It negates the principle that Jesus alone builds His Church, using various vessels who deliver what He gives. The vessels therefore are not the issue, neither what they preach or teach. Rather, what matters is He who sent them, releasing whatever He wants through whoever pleases Him! This principle was explicated on by Paul in his letter to the Corinthians:

“⁵Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? ⁶I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase. ⁷So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. ⁸Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. ⁹For we are labourers

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together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building. ¹⁰ *According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.* ¹¹ *For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ”* **1 Corinthians 3:5-11.**

IN WHAT WAYS DOES DENOMINATIONALISM OPERATE CONTRARY TO JESUS' EXPRESS INSTRUCTIONS ON WHAT HIS CHURCH IS?

It is important that we understand that at its core, denominationalism is contrary to the essential nature and features of the Kingdom Church. Let us break this truth down into specifics:

- 1. It directly challenges the truth of the Body of Jesus as one interdependent organism that should be living and loving.** Denominationalism is what the enemy used to make the Church operate as organisations, rather than a living loving organism of various body parts which impart and impact each other.
- 2. It disowns a central pillar of the Gospel of the**

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Kingdom: Love of all saints as our King loved us. By disliking, hating and rejecting other groups of saints, those caught up with the spirit of denominationalism in effect challenge King Jesus.

“³⁴ A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.³⁵ By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another” **John 13:34-35.**

3. It disowns the second pillar of the Kingdom: Unity. The truth is that denominationalism is a major sin against the Cross. Jesus gave up His life so that through that sacrifice Jews and Gentiles (all of humanity) would find access back to Yahweh to be His one new man on earth. Jesus earnestly prayed for not just nominal unity but truly functional, organic unity of the divine quality enjoyed by Father and Son.

“²¹ That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. ²² And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: ²³ I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made

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perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me” **John 17:21-23**

Here is how Paul the apostle laid out the case for Unity

“I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, ²With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; ³ Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all”
Ephesians 4:1-6

4. It is the chief instrument Satan uses to keep the Church away from maturity and perfection. This is because the gifts and callings that Jesus planted in the body for edification of the saints are located in different ministries and congregations. Yet, He has purposed that they be instruments of synergistically impacting all saints in their cities or geographical locations so that all are equipped to maturity.

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“¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” Ephesians 4:11-16

5. It fosters religiosity and traditions of men that move saints away from the culture of the kingdom. This is because it is easier to engage in motions of the flesh and

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dead works that make the flesh feel important than to pay the price of obedience to the Word. There are many people who know the truth about dangers of denominationalism but are not delivered because of important sounding titles they have been given. The result is that they make sacrifices of rituals and many activities that do not derive from understanding the truth.

USEFULNESS AND LIMITS OF DENOMINATIONS

1. Denominations were useful at a point in history when the Holy Spirit used their leaders to forcefully advance certain truths in the Word which could have been lost.

The truths that denominations were used to restore include such fundamental ones as justification by faith, not works; necessity of water baptism; baptism in the Holy Spirit; The fivefold leadership office gifts of Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers as collective instruments of perfecting saints for the work of ministry; holiness of life, entire personal consecration and the message of the Kingdom of God which was ignored as humans built religious enterprises.

We now take these Biblical truths for granted. To the credit of the vessels that God used, there were several hundreds

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of years when these truths were lost and the Church operated in darkness. Out of the backside of the desert, God raised vessels, male and female, who were used to declare the truth so forcefully and consistently that even those who were hard of hearing later opened up to receive them. Because they dared to stand boldly on their convictions in spite of rejection by their contemporaries, those missing truths were restored.

2. At some point in history, denominations were active instruments for advancing the preaching of the gospel of salvation or proclamation of the 'lost truths' into various parts of the world.

Through their missionary agencies, they invested substantial resources to reach out to other nations and regions of the world. This dimension of how they advanced the gospel world-wide is an interesting study in how God uses all things – good, bad and ugly to His glory. In their competition for space to expand their spheres of influence, denominations basically *'planted their flags'* by very visible spiritual colonization schemes.

As they built worship centres, schools, hospitals and other catalysts of Western civilization, for instance, their presence became visible. What other denominations did was to avoid such places where their 'competitors' had pitched tents. As they veered to different parts of nations

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and regions where they made their own visible presence, the other denominations unwittingly expanded the 'Christian sphere of influence'. In this way, denominations became great instruments of both expanding their limited versions of the gospel as well as western civilization and culture. In a practical sense therefore, they and the colonialists of old worked hand in glove.

Though it now seems distasteful to consider this matter, in the days when this kind of religious rivalry took place, the adrenalin pumped into the hearts of those folks and made them go beyond borders, spending much and being spent to advance what they knew of God and the gospel.

With the benefit of hindsight and fuller revelation, their motives and methods now seem less than noble. But in the process of their rivalries, the basics of the gospel went forth and many had opportunities to hear, embrace Jesus and become saved. Some of those converts remained stuck in denominations going through the motions. Some however grew to be exposed to the full truth by embracing other revelations granted to other denominations. In the process, they were delivered from denominationalism and became instruments of preaching the full gospel of the Kingdom. By so doing, this scripture was fulfilled:

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“15 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will: 16 The one preach Christ of contention, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my bonds: 17 But the other of love, knowing that I am set for the defence of the gospel. 18 What then? notwithstanding, every way, whether in pretence, or in truth, Christ is preached; and I therein do rejoice, yea, and will rejoice” **Philippians 1:15-18**

MODERN DENOMINATIONAL TRENDS AND THE SUPERSTAR, MEGA-CHURCH TREND

If religious groups in biblical times that allowed their limited understanding of Jesus and His gospel to divide the body looked bad, the contemporary applications of denominationalism are truly odious. That Evangelicals, Pentecostals, Charismatics, fivefold and even those who purport to be 'kingdom' would consciously build denominations that hem in some saints and exclude others is frightening. That regulations were put in place to continue the fostering of divisions cannot be defended in any way.

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What shall we then say of the worst form of denominationalism which is the 'fan-based' Mega-Church movement that centres on individuals with star power, not religious organisations? If it was bad that religious organisations created such divisions, it is worse that Christians gather around fellow humans, are soul-tied to them and endorse whatever they do, including absolute degrees of worldliness, covetousness, love of money, power drunkenness and gross immorality. With no checks in place, no true accountability mechanisms, these individuals run truly personal ultra rich religious corporations which raise enough money to win a basic psychological battle: plant their faces and personalities into the hearts and minds of their awe-struck followers. In this, the displacement of Jesus as King is persistently effected. The fans end up addicted to the humanistic spins put on the milk of the word which justifies all kinds of anti-Kingdom lifestyles.

There are today, many such congregations where Christians have read every word of say 20 books written by their pastors but have never for once read through the Holy Bible and have no intention to do so. There are those who can quote many of the favourite sayings of their leaders but do not know whether the book of Haggai is in the Old or New Testament.

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What makes this perversion possible is a very simple trick: pointing saints to themselves as leaders and not to King Jesus! By massive investments in how they look and their body shape, some of which include plastic surgery, they create as it were models of themselves packaged for others to follow. From the simple to the complex, smart marketing of their image is implemented. You find this in huge billboards in which their names and faces dominate the skyline as well as television. For all manner of activity, the use of posters and flyers with their faces and names are deployed occupying more dominant space than the name of Jesus. By branding their religious enterprises after themselves rather than with the person of Jesus, a new denominationalism has been birthed with Christians in camps of fellow humans.

They could borrow a line from John the Baptist who had this to say of Jesus and himself when some of his disciples complained that more people were flocking to the One he baptized:

“²⁶ And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him. ²⁷ John answered and said, A

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man can received nothing, except it be given him from heaven. ²⁸ Ye yourselves bear me witness that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. ²⁹ He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled. ³⁰ He must increase, but I must decrease. ³¹ He that cometh from above is above all: he that is of the earth is earthly, and speaketh of the earth: he that cometh from heaven is above all. ³² And what he hath seen and heard, that he testifieth; and no man receiveth his testimony. ³³ He that hath received his testimony hath set to his seal that God is true. ³⁴ For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him. ³⁵ The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand. ³⁶ He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" **John 3:26-36.**

MEGA IS NOT THE ISSUE BUT THE METHOD THAT FOCUSES ON HUMANS, RATHER THAN JESUS!

Let it be said clearly that King Jesus does enlarge His Church. Growth is of and by Him. It is His will that His Church will multiply through three broad approaches. The first is by conversion which turns people from sinners to saints as the gospel of salvation is preached. The second is by discipleship as saints are systematically taught the full counsel of the New Covenant and the Word at closely engaged quarters. Thirdly is the training, equipping, activation and release of those disciples which processes them into the royal priesthood walking as sons of the Most High, God, just as Jesus walked. For this to happen, all ministries and congregations need to be intentional in making Jesus the King not humans, the focus of their life and ministry. Outreaches need to be consistent while the teaching ministry needs to be structured in such a way that no one gets lost in the crowd. Above all, it is the responsibility of leaders of mega-Churches to consciously allow those in the fivefold who are gifted differently from them to find space to release their gifts and callings so that the ministries and congregations are processed into kingdom communities of mature saints, according to the model decreed by heaven:

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*“¹¹ And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; ¹² For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: ¹³ Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: ¹⁴ That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: ¹⁶ From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love” **Ephesians 4:11-16***

These remedial steps that would have matured the saints and thus unleash them as kingdom citizens and ambassadors are the very things that the mega-Church movement has consistently fallen short of. To fail to do this

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but rather deliberately keep saints on a leash as fans and cash-cows to be milked to finance this kind of gospel is to bring Babylon to Church.

CHAPTER NINE

THE KINGDOM GOSPEL AND THE POST-DENOMINATIONAL ERA

We cannot realise the horrible monster that denominations are until we have a fuller insight into the Kingdom of God and what the Church of Jesus, is on earth. Our Father has one single kingdom, comprising all beings that are subject to His sovereign rule. These include all His holy angels and all saints in all the ages until the consummation of all things. They constitute His dominion and domain until the day when the kingdoms of this world will be handed over to King Jesus who will rule as sole potentate (Revelation 11:15; Revelation 20:1-6).

Jews and Gentiles were graded separately by heaven until that day at Golgotha, place of the Skull, when (Jesus the Messiah) after a remarkable earthly manifestation for thirty three and half years, paid the supreme price to atone for the sin of Adam and Eve and opened the life gate for as many as would respond to the love of the Father in Him and enter the Kingdom. Both Jews and Gentiles who embraced the love of the Father were given power from above to live as His sons and His one new man on earth.

“¹² But as many as received him, to them

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gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name” **John 1:12**

“¹¹ Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; ¹² That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; ¹⁵ Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; ¹⁶ And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: ¹⁷ And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. ¹⁹ Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God; ²⁰ And are built

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upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; ²¹In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord” **Ephesians 2:11-21**

The Church therefore came into being, not as a religious organisation subject to a thousand divisions or physical buildings that are subject to decay but rather as the very Body of Jesus, with each saint uniquely wired to express the glory, presence and power of divinity to the dark lost world around. In this kingdom model, the Church is one and transcends all the physical and social barriers known to mankind. In other words, all who are truly redeemed by the Blood are the Church of Jesus and are so, irrespective of where they find themselves in terms of congregation or location. You just cannot put the Church in a humanistic box of any type.

That singular entity united in Him but diverse in an organic way as a living loving organism that is alive by the power of Holy Spirit has been the object of sustained satanic attack. Satan and his cohorts know that when saints walk in the proper understanding of the Church and realise that proper alignment to the Head and each other as one indivisible entity comprising various functional parts, there is a congruence and release of synergy at which darkness cannot but bow.

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“¹⁰ To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God” **Ephesians 3:10**

Unable to stop her from being activated on the day of Pentecost, Satan and his fallen angels have unleashed the full force of their infernal powers to keep the saints who collectively constitute the Church from realising the fullness of manifestation.

A REMNANT IN EVERY GENERATION

The truth is that in every generation, God has a remnant of faithful saints who walk in understanding of His Supreme purpose. This remnant is not limited by colour, geography, socio-economic realities or indeed any other issues which divide them. You can find the remnant in every country on planet earth. You can find them within the rank and file of various congregations and ministries. At heart, they are persuaded that divisions of men and Satan cannot be sustained. Their spiritual antennae therefore are always alert to pick up the tell-tale Spirit of love, unity, holiness and service that God vested in those they encounter. Whereas in the days of Elijah, he and the other remnant did not know each other and he fainted, those of our generation have the added advantage of divine help and resources, including technological facilities such as facebook and other social media to connect and align with others of like faith.

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“⁵Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace” **Romans 11:5.**

DISENTANGLEMENT FROM THE ODIOS RELIGION THAT DENOMINATIONALISM REPRESENTS

The remnant therefore has the truth about unity wired into the very core of their beings. They may be located in denominations by no fault of theirs. They could have been born into 'churches' or gone into one in search of fellowship. Marriage or any of the needs of life may have led them to be entangled into denominationalism unaware.

There however comes a time when in the mercy and providence of God, they get into a crises experience based on heightened awareness that the disfigured thing they got mixed up with is not the bride of Jesus, but an impostor! Knowing the truth sets them free. If that is you, these steps are very useful:

1. Search the scriptures diligently and be personally persuaded by Holy Spirit that there is only one Church on planet earth. Being a spiritual entity, it is everywhere, comprises all those truly saved and walking in obedience, worshipping Abba in Spirit and in truth.
2. Repent of any way you permitted the denominational

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spirit to make you accept divisions as a way of life. Repent of any way you discriminated against saints on the basis of denomination, relying on the Blood of the Lamb for cleansing.

3. Renounce in its entirety, that spirit of division. Bind and cast it out of you by the authority in the name of Jesus.

4. Love all saints irrespective of where they worship. Reach out to those you ignored in the past and begin to walk in love and unity. Ephesians 5:1-2.

5. Recognize that Holy Spirit may lead you to physically come out from among them and be separate from their pollution or He may permit you to remain nominally to be a catalyst of change from within. Whichever way He leads you, just yield.

Ahead of His imminent return, King Jesus, Head of the Church is pouring out fresh unction through His Word as the principal means of refining the Church. Denominationalism is part of what He is taking away as the 'other such things' besides the spots of sin and wrinkles of traditions of men.

“²⁶That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,²⁷ That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such

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thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” Ephesians 5:26-27

CONCLUSION

Denominationalism is a spirit that is firmly opposed to true kingdom unity. It is an enemy of Jesus and cannot be patched up. It represents humanistic attempts to build mutually religious exclusive empires and present same to God for endorsement. This is an impossible proposition!

Just as those in the flesh cannot please God (Romans 8:5-9) and friendship with the World is enmity with Him (James 4:4-6), those who walk in the denominational spirit are in rebellion against King Jesus, Head of the one, indivisible single Church which is His Body. To walk in any of these three dimensions of enmity against God is bad enough; to walk in two is terrible, but to walk in all three is a spiritual disaster equalling the rebellion of Lucifer. They that do such, even if they never committed a single act of immorality or ever lied or stole are engaged in dead works of religion that can never gain divine approval. How sad, so sad!

THE SNARE OF ECUMENISM

As we are warned of the spirit of denominationalism, there is an equally greater danger in the spirit of ecumenism which is a humanistic concept of unity that is gaining

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traction worldwide. Ecumenism is the gathering together of humans to build a religious tower of Babel that is not centred on intimacy with God our heavenly Father, or pursuit of His Kingdom. As those who believe the word of Jesus that He is the only way, truth and life congregate and co-habit with those who believe in other mediators between them and 'God', there is a mixed multitude which may seem good but utterly odious to heaven.

True saints love all humans, notwithstanding their religious practices and backgrounds. True kingdom life does not discriminate against people because of their beliefs. However, kingdom life does not make room for alliances that are based on humanly engineered religious platforms which are to serve religious, political, social and economic purposes.

Whereas Unity of the Faith is organic, wired into every remnant because of the principle in Ephesians 4:1-6, ecumenism is organisational, trying carnally to get together 'Churches' through humanistic efforts. For this reason, saints need to be aware that this teaching note does not in any way endorse the ecumenical movement or its wider variant, the Inter faith movement. Their agenda will lead followers away from the simple, true gospel!

CHAPTER TEN

THE DEVL/SATAN

We have so far studied three critical adversaries, namely: the self-life or flesh, the world and denominationalism. Now, we will zoom in on the grand adversary who stirs all of them up. Ultimately, he presides over various instruments and beings responsible for seducing saints out of a vibrant personal relationship with Yahweh (God) and each other so that they miss the mark set for them. That is the Devil, otherwise called Satan.

WHY IS SATAN A CRITICAL ADVERSARY?

1. It is Satan who seduced mankind through Adam and Eve, out of the divine inheritance and enjoyment of the Kingdom of Yahweh (God) in the earth realm.

Temptations/Seductions to cause saints to sin and thus be outside of the will of Yahweh (God) - have been redefining things to offer perversions that may seem enjoyable but lead to spiritual death and physical pain and shame. These include redefinition of sex, sexuality and Marriage.

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It is important to understand this being is officially an adversary of Jesus our King as well as all those redeemed by the Blood He shed!

WHO IS THE DEVIL?

We must avoid two extreme positions when it comes to the Devil or Satan. Ignorance of who he is and how he operates can be deadly because saints easily become his victims. On the other hand, we must avoid tendency to promote him out of context, making him out to be what he is not. Knowledge of who the Bible says Satan is becomes the wisest course to take. That is what we will do here.

Satan is a created being who once was Lucifer the archangel (a chief angel with responsibility over other angels). He worked very close to God as worship leader that served right at the Throne of Grace as the anointed Cherub who covered the divine presence. Filled with wisdom and beauty, he was wired to produce music. Pride and vaulting ambition caused him to err and seek to seize the Throne from God, leading to his transmutation from Lucifer to the Devil. Because he was an archangel, he had access to much of the mysteries of life and in his fallen state has twisted them for dark purposes to make men to switch loyalty from God to himself. Isaiah 14: 12 – 17 tells us the origin of the fall of Lucifer while Ezekiel 28: 11 – 19

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goes further to describe how Lucifer was when he was created and assigned as chief worship leader of the heavenly choir.

“¹² How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! ¹³ For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: ¹⁴ I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. ¹⁵ Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. ¹⁶ They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; ¹⁷ That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?”

Isaiah 14:12-17

The 'I principle' in which Lucifer allowed himself to be projected beyond measure can be seen in verses 13 and 14 where his ambitions were projected five times. Self-life propels ambition like nothing else.

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“¹¹Moreover the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ¹² Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. ¹³ Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. ¹⁴ Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁵ Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. ¹⁶ By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire. ¹⁷ Thine heart was lifted up because of thy

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beauty, thou hast corrupted thy wisdom by reason of thy brightness: I will cast thee to the ground, I will lay thee before kings, that they may behold thee. ¹⁸ *Thou hast defiled thy sanctuaries by the multitude of thine iniquities, by the iniquity of thy traffick; therefore will I bring forth a fire from the midst of thee, it shall devour thee, and I will bring thee to ashes upon the earth in the sight of all them that behold thee.* ¹⁹ *All they that know thee among the people shall be astonished at thee: thou shalt be a terror, and never shalt thou be any more”* **Ezekiel 28:11-19**

Just as Satan was created and has license to roam about at this time, one day, he will be bound in the bottomless pit and ultimately, he will one day be destroyed:

“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² *And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years,* ³ *And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that*

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he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season”

Revelation 20:1-3.

“⁷And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, ⁸And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog, and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. ⁹

And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.

¹⁰And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever”

Revelation 20:7-10

Satan tries to suggest otherwise but he does not have the immutable attributes of God. He is not omnipotent, omnipresent or omniscient. However, because he is the master of deception and lies, he has organised his dark kingdom in such a way that his agents represent him at all

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strata of life so effectively that the unwary are led to believe that he is everywhere. It is critically important to Satan that the saints have a distorted view of who he actually is and the true extent of his power and operations. Once you underestimate Satan, you are set up for him to deal with you. If you overrate him to the degree of ascribing to him qualities that belong to God alone, you open a door of oppression to yourself.

For this reason, we must pray for revelation to have a proper understanding of this enemy of Jesus and of our souls. The truth is that Satan is not everywhere at the same time, a quality ascribable to God alone!

THESE ARE VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH SATAN OPERATES:

He wanders throughout the whole earth.

“Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.² And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the

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earth, and from walking up and down in it”

Job 2:1-2.

He also walks about like a roaring lion seeking who to devour.

“⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour” **1 Peter 5:8**

In so doing, one of his chief methods is to create occasion to accuse saints before God.

“¹⁰ And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night” **Revelation 12:10**

Sin is another strategy Satan uses seriously against saints. Once committed, sin makes saints filthy and gives Satan room to resist prayers, negating the presence of God.

“And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and

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*Satan standing at his right hand to resist him.
2 And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: is not this a brand plucked out of the fire? 3 Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel” **Zechariah 3:1-3.***

Therefore: in James 1:13-16, the Bible warns us

*“13 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: 14 but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. 16 Do not err, my beloved brethren”
James 1:13-16*

Like a thief, he is constantly seeking who and what to steal, kill and destroy.

*“10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” **John 10:10***

CHAPTER ELEVEN

SATAN AND HIS EVIL KINGDOM: THE MYSTERY OF UBIQUITY

In this chapter, God our Father wants us to understand how Satan seems to be everywhere wrecking havoc. Satan achieves his seeming ubiquitous presence with the availability of his vast army of cohorts spread across the world, covering every being, family, unit of society and spheres of influence.

“¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” **Ephesians 6:12.**

On the day of his fall, Satan was able to deceive multitude of angels to follow him in his rebellion. It is estimated that as much as one third of the angels were part of that rebellion. Revelations 12: 3-4 has long been subject to arguments and debates. One thing that can be deduced however is that we can understand that Satan successfully

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seduced one third of the angels in heaven to join him in his rebellion:

“³ And there appeared another wonder in heaven; and behold a great red dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. ⁴ And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born” **Revelation 12:3-4**

Satan subsequently organised them into a powerful, well-knit kingdom of darkness with each disciplined officer holding down a specific territory and representing him as his agent. Some demons (fallen angels) have specific assignments over individuals while others are assigned to families, communities as well as specific cultural heights of society (family, schools, arts/literature, culture, media, government/politics business/the professions the military) to supervise their activities and lead them to flow according to his pattern and will. Let us examine his evil hierarchy in detail.

KINGDOM OF DARKNESS: LEVELS OF AUTHORITY AND CIRCUMFERENCE OF OPERATION.

We learn that while Satan is at the apex of the kingdom of darkness, there are other levels of authorities who work with him to steal, kill and destroy. Let us gain more insight into what these spirit -beings are:

1. Principalities: These are ruling territorial demons which have charge over large areas and a vast number of people. Principalities are assigned to enforce the ordinances and plans of Satan in their spheres of influence. They are also assigned to ensure that people in those areas have a distorted view of God and see no need for Him in their affairs. Just as there was a prince of Persia trying to hinder the prayers of Daniel, there are Princes of nations and territories today. (Daniel 10:1-21). It is interesting that the Prince of Greece was also mentioned in that scripture (Daniel 10: 20). The nature and characteristics of principalities often rubs off on naturally people within their spheres of influence. Principalities are also assigned to people groups, races and tribes to make them cling to cultures and norms which are at variance to the culture of the Kingdom.

2. Powers: These are ruling demons that exercise

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influence over all thrones from which human rulership is exercised. Assigned to every throne on planet earth is a demon or demons which seek to cause the human rulers to forget that they are ministers of God who should do righteously and rule with a consciousness that they will appear before Him on the last day as asserted in Romans 13:1-8. With this deception, such human rulers go into the delusions of grandeur and forget that they are created beings, until it is too late when sicknesses, rebellion, overthrow by coup, loss of elections or death cut them down. Have you not known some people closely and could vouch for their humility yet within a few months or years of being in political office, you can hardly approach, counsel or vouch for them again? Now you know what is at work! Rather than complain and moan, deal with this demonic power and you can then recover the affection of your friend or relative.

3. Rulers of the darkness of this world. These are demons whose principal assignments are to inflict all manner of pain, suffering and crises upon mankind. The idea is to make people, in the heat of intense pain, to “curse God and die” as the wife of Job suggested in Job 2:9. There are demons which instigate wars, release and spread diseases, cause people to forget important appointments, occasion wrong speech, occasion

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misunderstanding of intent, rouse people into stubbornness and insubordination, make children headstrong, self-willed and wild, cause people to be prone to criminality and indeed engage in all kinds of evil. The natural is engineered from the spiritual. For this reason, virtually every imaginable evil that can come upon mankind has its roots in the infernal hearts of agents of darkness.

4. Spiritual wickedness in high places. These are religious demons whose chief assignments are to cause humans to worship false gods and to draw their hearts away from the only true Creator. They promote the myriads of false religions that litter the universe. They appear as angels of light to cause men to receive extraordinary 'light' from above which draw multitudes towards hell while believing they are serving God. Even within the Christian faith, these demons are responsible for all the 'falling aways' that have occurred since the days of Jesus, when out of 500 that saw Him ascend bodily into heaven, only 120 heeded His instruction not to go forth until the Church was officially birthed at Pentecost.

Every false doctrine including that which in the name of 'grace' causes Christians to live carelessly, oblivious of the imminence of the return of King Jesus and tendencies to

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eat and drink and forget the Great Commission are instigated by spiritual wickedness in high places. These demons twist divine prosperity out of context to promote covetousness as the prosperity message with saints piling up treasure for generations to come while the kingdom needs within their localities and other parts of the world are unmet.

Today, these demons have penetrated the kingdom message movement to promote a false and toxic gospel which depreciates the person of Jesus the Messiah to be a mere (undefined) King and not divine. At the same time, these demons have twisted scripture out of context to tell saints that they are of equal rank with Jesus, since He is only our senior brother, so that they will no longer hold him in awe and give Him the glory that is due him. The demons on assignment study the scriptures and turn their essential meanings upside down in order to blind the eyes of those they deceive. The most outstanding assignment of these demons is to cause men to walk in ignorance of who Jesus the Messiah is. As the pivot of the salvation of man, inability to grasp the reality of His Divinity implies rejection of the plan of salvation.

“³Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth

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Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost” 1 Corinthians 12:3.

“³But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: ⁴In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them”. 2 Corinthians 4:3-4

By denying the only King that bought them, some of these folks have embraced a reprobate state.

5. Human agents. In addition to these spirit beings, there are humans who are inclined to evil and thus lend their vessels to Satan to possess and use to think, say and do evil.

“² And that we may be delivered from unreasonable and wicked men: for all men have not faith” 2 Thessalonians 3:2.

They do not have to plan evil. Their imaginations and actions are evil continually! In this, they simply demonstrate the reality of what is in control of their lives.

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That is why we are not to focus on the vessels but on their 'bosses'.

These include:

- people who intermingle with the occult in various forms;
- those who consult with mediums and operate with magical powers;
- people who accept the spirit of witchcraft with capacity to cast spells on fellow human beings and lead them into evil as witches (feminine) and wizards (masculine); and
- preachers who are drained of the Holy Spirit but recourse to satanic powers with which to manipulate their followers to do their bidding.

If we focus rightly, we can have compassion on the vessels and deal with the spirit at work through them. Better still, as Paul instructs, we can hand over the battle to God whose Spirit possesses us. He generally does a better job in spiritual warfare.

CHAPTER TWELVE

NATURE OF THE SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Our heavenly Father is gracious to have armed us as He has done with information on these mortal enemies who cannot be placated and will never back down from evil. The thoughts and actions of Satan and his demons are evil continually and nothing good can ever come out of them for saints on earth.

THE DUAL MANDATE OF SATAN AND HIS AGENTS

Knowing their fixed end in perpetual torment in the lake of fire and brimstone, Satan and his cohorts are actually on a dual mission.

The dual evil mandate is:

- a) to tempt, seduce or drag as many humans as possible to end up in the lake of fire with them, and
- b) to make life as miserable, difficult and hard as possible for those who are redeemed. The idea is to cause lives of saints to be a reproach or to cause some to seek solutions from satanic sources.

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A. Tempt, Seduce Or Drag As Many Humans As Possible To End Up In The Lake Of Fire

This satanic objective must be clearly understood so that we can successfully negate the same and war for the eternal end of the souls of those we love and as much of humanity as possible. Within this ambit, these activities of Satan and his demons are unleashed against humanity:

1. A negative operating environment which is inherently opposed to righteous living: From the day Adam and Eve handed over the mantle of ruling this earth to Satan, he moved rapidly to wire it in such a way that is opposed to the life of the Spirit. In other words the operating environment of the world system is oppressive and inherently opposed to the Kingdom life of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. Whereas the 'Adamic' world in Eden was spiritual and had unbroken relationship with God at the highest level possible, the world thereafter became carnal and therefore fleshly. John the beloved captured this re-defined world whose basic operating system is opposed to spirituality when he warned saints in his first epistle:

"For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" 1

John 2:16.

Look at verse 16 carefully. It says in plain English that all things in the world are wired and intended to activate these

Nature Of The Spiritual Warfare

carnal impulses and tendencies in humans.

1.1. Lust of the flesh: activate a desire to gratify the flesh nature. What we see, hear, experience all around us have great potential to make saints get out of spirituality (a life in which the redeemed spirit-man that is subject to and absolutely led by the Holy Spirit) and rather give room for the soul (mind, will, emotions) and Physical body to make decisions on how to respond! This was a major factor in making Eve succumb to the temptation of Satan at Eden. Satan suggested that eating the fruit would make her independent of God so that her life would no longer rotate around divinity but be enjoyed independently.

1.2. Lust of the Eyes: This was also one major factor in the capitulation of Eve as Genesis 3:7 captured in graphic detail. What she 'saw' of the fruit was so attractive that she could not resist.

1.3. Pride of Life: This is the tendency to feel greater or better than other people because of certain qualities including what one thinks he/she is; what one has as physical assets such as race, gender and family name or educational attainment; These assets could also be material such as wealth and properties or even spiritual such as spiritual gifting and calling. The tendency to be conscious of these assets enlarges the heart and brings about pride which The Most High hates and even resists as

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James 4: 6 says. Eve finally caved in when it registered in her mind that she could be like her Creator.

Let us examine the fall of man again and see how Satan activated these three principles right from the day Adam and Eve lost the kingdom mantle on this side of eternity. Take a careful look at what Satan suggested in verse 5 and what happened to Eve in verse 6:

“⁵ For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. ⁶ And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat” **Genesis 3:5-6.**

Though saved, if Christians leave the high ground of spirituality and begin to live by their five carnal senses of sight, hearing, tasting, smelling, feeling, they are in the bag of Satan. If their lifestyles and devotions are carnal based as is now a global norm with secular humanism replacing the gospel, the great danger is that though 'in Church', many may actually be living out a lifestyle that saints are warned will make them enemies of Yahweh, in spite of loud professions of faith and multiplied religious activities.

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“⁵For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.⁶ For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. ⁷Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. ⁸So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” **Romans 8:5-9**

B. Attack, torment and instigate circumstances to make life hard, difficult and not worth living to cause a reproach or lay foundation to drive such Christians to seek solutions outside of God.

King Jesus captured the essence of Satan's evil designs on saints when He issued this notice of why He came:

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” **John 10:10**

In a real sense therefore, we can generally deduce satanic attacks when saints are not experiencing the abundant life of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit as a

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result of things that war against their overall well being.

Listed below are some issues and circumstances which may indicate attacks of Satan or assignments of his demons. The incidence of these issues does not automatically indicate spiritual attacks which occasion warfare. Their causes may be 'natural' or 'accidental'. But if by discernment or systematic assessment, you come to the conclusion that the source is spiritual, it is best to begin to pray. Where necessary, fasting may be added to prayers. Thereafter, there may be the necessity to wage spiritual warfare. At times, all three responses need to be simultaneously activated, if the Holy Spirit prompts in that direction. If the issue persists, humble yourself, no matter how '*great*' or '*big*' you are to seek deliverance or support from a vessel that is anointed for that purpose. Ensure that such a person lives right. There are cases where many so-called 'deliverance ministers end up imparting their own spiritual baggage into the souls and bodies of those they lay hands on.

In this regard, let us take note of the scope of activities of Satan and his agents which are purposed to make life difficult for those who are outside his loop.

1. Generational curses: This is when there are proven cases of evil spells upon your lineage which limits ability of those born therein to enjoy the abundant life Jesus

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promised in John 10:10. This may include pre-mature deaths and conditions of real limitation that most people in the family seem to experience as a 'normal life'. If you are truly part of the Kingdom of God, you can enforce separation of yourself because you are translated from the kingdom of Satan into the Kingdom of God by the Blood that was shed by Jesus on the Cross. Enforce it by faith in the name and power of the Blood of Jesus and count it a done deal. Never confess association with that evil influence in the bloodline again- Colossians 1:12-14; Hebrews 10:23.

Be sincere with yourself and God when you seek deliverance from generational curses. If you are enjoying the 'assets' such as houses or other inheritance passed down the line from a progenitor who amassed wealth through evil and say blood guiltiness, you may also have been given the spirits that worked in him/her or those sent on 'vengeance' missions from victims room to attack or oppress you. You cannot just enjoy assets and refuse consequent liability. What needs to be done in such cases is to redeem those assets with the blood of the Lamb by faith. However, do not clutch at them, no matter how valuable, if the Holy Spirit expressly instructs you to give them up in acts of restitution.

2. Systemic Poverty: Poverty can be a function of a bad national economy or laziness. It can also be an attack of

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demons assigned for that purpose. Deal with it on all fronts, including spiritual warfare. The attacks which Job faced reveal that Satan or his agents can attack finances and wealth.

3. Medical Cases: Some medical conditions are a function of careless intake of food or drinks that are not suited for your body. Some are a result of normal wear and tear. Some sicknesses are also of demonic origin as the case of Job revealed. Do not relax or give the enemy room to take you out! Resist him and his agents by faith. Jesus often went to the root of medical conditions to detect, bind and cast out the evil spirits responsible. The maniac of Gergesenes was assumed to be a lost mental case until the demons were cast out and he became whole. Deliverance produced clear normality Matthew 8:28-32. When deaf and dumb spirits were cast out, their former victims began to hear and speak.

4. Lack of favour with people which leads to closed doors and unnecessary labour.

5. Near Success Syndrome. When things you seek that seem close to breakthrough slip off your hands only for you to start all over again, it may be evidence of satanic opposition.

6. Inability To Connect With A Suitor In Marriage: The person may be unnecessarily distracted by assigned

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demons or may see negative masks that are projected by demons.

7. Physical Barrenness, Infertility or miscarriages: Can be induced by attacks of demons

8. Being involved in many cases of inexplicable accidents in various places: Could be at home, in the office, on the road or anywhere else.

9. When there are strong hindrances to growth of your ministry, in spite of doing all that you are led to do and you are not living in sin which opens doors to oppression.

10. When children are given to rebellion or resistance to authority due to demonic manipulation. Satan may be on standby to try to accuse you with the Bible that you are not fit to preach and minister. Beware of whose report you listen to at moments like this.

11. When brethren in congregations you lead do not seem to 'get it' in spite of repeated attempts to teach and preach the truth.

12. When those you bless pay you back with evil speech, attitudes and actions.

13. Leaking pockets: where monies you have are inexplicably not accounted for.

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14. Repeated destruction of material assets through various means – freak weather, fire outbreak or accidents.

15. Low Self-Esteem, worldliness et al: Let us remember that Satan uses all the other critical adversaries including the Self-Life, the World and Denominationalism to tempt saints to miss the mark by disobeying the voice of Yahweh. In this regard, issues like low self-esteem, worldliness and operating in a spirit of denomination are also manifestations of satanic activity.

Note: This list is not exhaustive! By discernment, you will be able to know what is at work in your peculiar circumstance! You have known the truth that sets free. Do not walk in bondage again as John 8:32, 36 say.

“32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free... 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”

FURTHER INSIGHTS INTO THE ISSUE OF A NEGATIVE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT

The final word on this section is this: since the day Adam and Eve fell, this earth and the world thereon have been out of sync with God's original purpose. After thousands of

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years, the earth which has drank so much blood and the atmosphere which has witnessed so much evil on earth are groaning, yearning for the ultimate day when all things will be new and when sons of God will walk on earth under the sovereign rule of Jesus the Messiah as King. Though often quoted as being relevant for the present time, the full application of Romans 8:17-25 actually relates to the time to come.

Until that day comes, many things on earth may not work as perfectly as you want all the time. Majority of women will still have hard labour, though redeemed by the Blood. Many men will still work 9-5.00pm jobs to earn a living, though born again. Many deceivers will still appear at various times. Many people will make promises and not keep them, though spirit-filled. Great ministers will still give room to sin and the flesh and fall, shaking the faith of many. Though born again and spirit-filled, saints will still age and transit via death to the other side of eternity. The sum is this: the world will remain generally imperfect until Jesus returns to restore all things. When you face some of these life situations, the right response is not to run from pillar to post seeking 'deliverance' but to first understand what is at work in your particular circumstance.

If you need to change your lifestyle, diet, and attitude, take responsibility and do so. If there is something or someone you need to release and let go such as a simple act of forgiveness in order to sleep well and take out the toxins

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which hate releases that may spark a health situation, be brave and do it expeditiously. If your heavens seem closed and Holy Spirit reveals that it is because you spoke or did evil against spiritual authorities He used to bless you, eat humble pie and go and apologise to them.

If you have not blessed your natural parents or any vessel God uses to invest in your spiritual development and consequently your finances are permanently in the red, be smart enough to reverse the situation by blessing them and see both Ephesians 6:1-3 and Galatians 6:6-9 work for you.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN

VICTORY OVER SATAN AND HIS COHORTS

As we continue in this detailed study, it is important that we re-emphasise the truth that to underestimate Satan, denying the reality of his active presence with fallen angels on earth is to live in denial. On the other hand, to overestimate him and virtually ascribe to him attributes that belong to God his Creator is to walk into his lies. The key, in discussing Satan and his cohorts, is to stay within the realms of revealed truth documented in the Holy Scriptures with additional insight offered by the Holy Spirit, exercising faith in them.

No matter what he does on earth as 'god' of this corrupt world system, it is gratifying to know that we as saints have the victory over him which is guaranteed by the blood that Jesus shed on our behalf.

We shall now discuss how saints can walk in this victory on a consistent basis.

A. Walk in the understanding of some settled truths

The truths stated here are settled. Those who embrace

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them are secure:

1. Jesus was incarnated to pay the price for our deliverance from bondage to Satan

“¹⁰ For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹⁴ Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;¹⁵ And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”
Hebrews 2:10, 14-15.

“⁷⁴ That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, ⁷⁵ In holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life”
Luke 1:74-75.

When Yeshua (Jesus) encountered Satan in the wilderness and overcame the three fold temptation: lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes and pride of life that victory was for us as well.

2. Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil and

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declared on the Cross 'It is finished' which is our bill of liberty.

“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil”

1 John 3:8

3. Because we are in Jesus and He in us, our lives are hidden and secure if we totally submit our will to His sovereignty. This is the essence of true holiness which sets us apart for His exclusive holy use.

“If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. ²Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. ³For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God” **Colossians 3:1-3**

4. We win when we release our minds to the ministry of the word to dislodge all strongholds and are engrafted with the mind of Jesus our King. This secures our minds and thought life from the ability of his fiery darts to penetrate and degrade. We are thus able to release the word that is already made flesh in us. (The Word is potent when we are united with it).

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever

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things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” **Philippians 4:8**

“This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success”
Joshua 1:8

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”
Romans 12:2

“and be renewed in the spirit of your mind”
Ephesians 4:23

5. We win when we live in the presence of the most High through praying without ceasing

“¹⁷Pray without ceasing”

1 Thessalonians 5:17

“He that dwelleth in the secret place of the

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*most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. ² I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. ³ Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. ⁴ He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler” **Psalm 91:1-4***

6. We win when the essence of our entire lives is seeking first His Kingdom and righteousness. When this is so, we are effective ambassadors of heaven on earth.

*“³¹ Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? ³² (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. ³³ But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. ³⁴ Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” **Matthew 6:31-34***

7. We win when we exercise our right to wage effective Spiritual warfare using all the tools that are given to us as follows:

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1. Wear the whole armour of God always. Recognising the pervasive presence of Satan and his agents at various spheres of influence in this fallen world, we are proactive in not exposing our beings carelessly for them to decimate.

“¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹² 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. ¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; ¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God: ¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”
Ephesians 6:10-18

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It is our responsibility to constantly check up to ensure that every piece of our spiritual armour is in place and intact.

1. We win as we submit ourselves in humility to God and resist Satan steadfastly using the authority of the name of Jesus the Messiah.

“And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues”

Mark 16:17

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son” **John 14:13**

“⁶ But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble. ⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸ Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded” **James 4:6-8**

“⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may

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devour: ⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world” **1 Peter 5:8-9**

3. We win as we release our faith in the Blood of Jesus to overcome Satan.

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death”

Revelation 12:11

4. As we rejoice continually in the awesome completeness of our deliverance, in spite of anything we encounter and live in love of God and fellow humans, we are fortified from defeat in any way. An attitude of thanksgiving for the victory at Calvary is a key in effective spiritual warfare.

“⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand. ⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God”

Philippians 4:4-6

5. The statute of limitation. We also win when we walk in the reality that our lives are not happenstances and God did not beget us to abandon us to our own strength on

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earth. For this reason, the redeemed of the blood has a guarantee that if they love God and are truly His, all things about their lives will work together for good. Look at the attitude of Paul:

*“²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. ²⁹ For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. ³⁰ Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified. ³¹ What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? ³² He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? ³³ Who shall lay anything to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. ³⁴ Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us. ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
³⁶ As it is written, For thy sake we are killed*

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all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷ *Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.* ³⁸ *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come,* ³⁹ *Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord”* **Romans 8:28-39**

In this regard, even the works of Satan and his attacks will at the end of the day be found incapable of negating the divine purpose.

Understanding the Statute of Limitation in Spiritual Warfare

The statute of limitation placed upon Satan as a created being whose activities would ultimately work together for the manifestation of the supreme will of God. The Supreme Ruler of the Universe on whose table all bucks stop is God! In this regard, even the works of Satan and his attacks will, at the end of the day, be found incapable of negating the divine purpose.

“¹⁰ That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:¹¹ In

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whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:¹² That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ” **Ephesians 1:10-12.**

The legal axis of this lifestyle is this: Jesus is head of Satan and all principalities and powers and we are complete in Him.

“¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: ¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: ¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins: ¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: ¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might

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have the pre-eminence” Colossians 1:12-18

Saints need to hide in Jesus. To live in victory, saints need to walk in the full understanding that we have an enemy and host of evil forces intent on undoing what God has done for us. Saints should desire discernment to understand the nature and mode of operation of demonic spirits functioning in their spheres of influence and know that those who are redeemed by the blood that Jesus shed, who abide in Him and allow His word to abide in them have passed from death to life; are transited from victims to victors as long as they set their affections on things above and seek first the Kingdom of God. This gives them double protection insurance that Satan cannot touch.

”If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.² Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.³ For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory” Colossians 3:1-4.

This is why God wants to rejoice in our Saviour, Jesus always, knowing that we have been made partakers of divine life in and through Him. With that reality, we have escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. This is why a vital place of safety we have is to desist from

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pre-mature satisfaction or looking back at the world from where we were delivered. Rather, a place of safety is to continually press forward into the fullness of He who called us.

“³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. ⁵ And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; ⁶ And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; ⁷ And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. ⁸ For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁹ But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins. ¹⁰ Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: ¹¹ For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of

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our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” 2 Peter
1:3-11

Saints, above all else, let us walk by faith, not by sight. Carnality (walking by the five carnal senses) is a great snare that Satan exploits greatly to afflict and oppress saints. Let us stand on the finished work of the Cross continually and walk in the consciousness that we are His. Our King, Jesus, did not live by the five carnal senses but by the will of God the Father in all things. No wonder He was victorious when Satan tried to tempt Him with the same principles that Adam and Eve were tempted with. Matthew 4:1-11. We are to emulate He who secured victory for us at the Cross and said 'It is finished'.

MORE ON SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Spiritual warfare is the act of standing on the finished work of Calvary to war, in the name of Yeshua and at the prompting of the Holy Spirit, against the devil and his evil forces; and in so doing, enforce the ordinances and purposes of Yahweh on planet earth (land, water, first and second heavens). Take note that spiritual warfare is not against human beings, even when they are his willing or unconscious human agents, but against Satan and the kingdom of darkness.

“12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of

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this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” Ephesians 6:12.

Spiritual Warfare is not an activity exclusively reserved for a few superstars in the kingdom. It is not an activity steeped in secret codes. It is the lifestyle of spiritual alertness and militancy to stand upon the written and revealed Word and insist that Satan and all powers of darkness give way for the purpose of the King to be fulfilled in all circumstances.

Spiritual warfare can take many forms. These include:

1. Binding and Loosing. Matthew 16:19. Luke 11: 21 – 22. Here, we receive the assign of Jesus Christ to bind every demonic spirit at work in every circumstance before us. In the same way, we loose people and situations from demonic oppression which may manifest as sicknesses or other forms of disorder. We do not engage in this spiritual war on our own merit and ability. We do so in the name of Jesus Christ at which every knee shall bow in all realms of existence. Matthew 18:19, 20 Mark 16:17 Philippians 2:9, 10 Revelation 3:7. Note that Satan is not yet due for binding. He has license to roam around at this present time. You can successfully resist and overthrow his devices but have no legal ground to bind him. Binding Satan therefore is a meaningless activity. You can however bind his works and effect of his presence, in the name of Jesus Christ. A day is coming in the future when just one angel will bind Satan and lock him away for 1000 years – Revelation 20:1-6. Many saints are there whose present problems are neglecting this truth and railing against Satan or lying against him by attributing their carelessness

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or even discipline of the Father to him. We are warned that even Michael, the Archangel, did not rail against Satan when two of them were contending for the body of Moses. Michael rather invoked the authority of Yahweh who sent him on that assignment. (Please read Jude verses 8-10).

2. Casting out evil spirits – Luke 11: 14 – 24. We have the authority to discern, bind and cast out evil spirits that are the root causes of problems. Jesus most of the time, identified the nature of the demons at work and addressed them by name. By the gift of discernment of spirit, we too can know and bind them by name – 1 Corinthians 12:10.

3. Resisting the devil from every negative activity with steadfast or unwavering faith so that he has no option than to flee as we submit ourselves to God. James 4:7 1Peter 5: 8, 9. We need to do this also in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Overthrowing the works of Satan by the Blood of the Lamb backed by the testimony of our lives as witnesses of Christ. Revelations 12:11. Do not ever try to deal with Satan when there are un-confessed and unrepentant sins in your life. You can end up as the seven sons of Sceva.

5. Passing decrees that are prompted by the Holy Spirit or derived from the Word of God against any situation or the demonic powers that are behind them. Job 22: 27, 28. John 14: 12-14. These decrees are not to be issued lightly but as inspired by the Holy Spirit. That is why it is wrong to use prayer books in spiritual warfare. Every activity and circumstance is different. At the grave of Lazarus, Jesus passed a decree for him to come forth, after worshipping

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the Father. John 11: 38 – 44.

6. Angels of God can be called forth, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, to fight unseen spiritual wars, when you exhaust your capacity. Daniel chapter 10 offers an interesting account of angelic intervention. Angels are spirit-beings assigned by God to wait on us and enable us fulfil the divine assignment. Hebrews 1:14.

Take note that the Word of God is a critical resource in spiritual warfare Matthew 4:1-11; Luke 11: 27 28

DEFENSIVE SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Spiritual warfare is defensive when we lay hold of the right spiritual equipment to hold what belongs to God and His kingdom which is assigned to us, individually or severally to keep. Jesus gave an express assurance to the Church (which is us, rather than an organisation) that the gates of hell cannot prevail over His Church. Matthew 16:18.

A careful examination of Ephesians 6:10-18 reveals that all the weapons except one: the Sword of the Spirit (The Word of God) are for defensive purposes.

“¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.¹¹ Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.¹² For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers,

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against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.¹³ Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.¹⁴ Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;¹⁵ And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;¹⁶ Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:¹⁸ Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints”

Ephesians 6:10-18

Examples of defensive spiritual warfare.

1. Battling for the destiny God has unfolded for us which the enemy and his agents seek to plunder or deflect.
2. Fighting to prevent Satanic attempts to take over the hearts and minds of children through worldly amusements, drug and substance addictions.
3. Fighting to safeguard such core institutions as the

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marriage, family and the church from the onslaught of the enemy.

4. Fighting to defend by faith the health, finances and general well-being of saints of God from onslaughts of the wicked one. This is where saints know what was purchased for them by Yeshua, Jesus, at the Cross of Calvary and stand their ground in faith to receive them. Having received them, saints refuse to allow the enemy to take them away.

“¹⁰The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly” **John 10:10.**

“²Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth” **3 John 1:2.**

“But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him” **Hebrews 11:6.**

“Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward” **Hebrews 10:35.**

Saints, please diligently search out the Holy Scriptures to understand all the promises of God for saints generally and for you in particular. Believe God for them, meditate

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and confess them to yourself, at the enemy and his agents when they rear their heads. Stand your ground with the shield of faith and absolute trust in God. Let Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3 and Colossians 3:16 propel you on.

Our victory was won when Yeshua paid the full price for the Sin of Adam and Eve and us at the Cross and He declared 'It is finished'

WHEN TO FIGHT

This is the grand secret that explains why many saints seem to make Satan happy by their loud groaning over what they are going through. It is interesting that rather than study to show themselves approved to overcome Satan and his evil set up, many saints prefer to loudly advertise their woes. In so doing, they close the door to the hearts of many who become unable to receive the good news from them.

Our King, Yeshua did not live by the five carnal senses but by the will of Abba in all things. No wonder He was victorious when Satan tried to tempt Him with the same principles that Adam and Eve were tempted. Matthew 4:1-11. We are to emulate He who secured victory for us at the Cross and said 'It is finished'.

Still on the subject matter, we need to know that something absolutely ground breaking happened the day we received Yeshua, Jesus into our hearts. We were yanked off the world and conveyed into the Kingdom where He rules.

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¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: ¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: ¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins” **Colossians 1:12-14**

³² And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment” **1 Chronicles 12:32.**

¹¹ And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

¹⁴ But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof” **Romans 13:11-14.**

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“¹⁴ Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.¹⁵ See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,¹⁶ Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.¹⁷ Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.

*¹⁸ And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;¹⁹ Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;²⁰ Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;²¹ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God” **Ephesians 5:14-21.***

PRAYER, FASTING AND SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Of the things Abba shared with us on spiritual warfare, these things can be deduced:

1. Satan is real as are demons who are fallen angels subject to him in a total sense.
2. To ignore the reality of the existence of Satan is to live in denial. Since ignorance is not a virtue, the one who denies this reality is, from a spiritual point of view, blind.
3. On the other hand, exaggerating the person and powers of Satan to the degree of counting him to be equal and

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opposite of Elohim, his creator is to succumb to his lies. This can open up the saint who believes the lie to greater realms of oppression and possible possession.

When Yeshua paid the Supreme Price for the redemption of humanity, He proclaimed 'It is finished'. By that decree, the legal power of Satan to smite and torment saints at will was taken away as they were translated from his grip into the Kingdom of Yahweh! By so doing, Yeshua was not founding a religious organisation but rather opening the life gate for those who would to become members of the Family of Yahweh and citizens of His Kingdom on earth.

“¹²Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light:¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:¹⁴ In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:¹⁵ Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:¹⁶ For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:¹⁷ And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the

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firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.¹⁹ For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;²⁰ And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.²¹ And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled²² In the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:²³ If ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister;²⁴ Who now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up that which is behind of the afflictions of Christ in my flesh for his body's sake, which is the church”
Colossians 1:12-24

Even in the old covenant, the Statute of limitation was at work. Satan had to take permission from Yahweh before he could oppress Job. Even in granting that permission, Yahweh set a limit to what Satan could do: he was not permitted to kill Job (See Job 1 verse 12).

“⁶Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.⁷

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And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.⁸ And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?⁹ Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?¹⁰ Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.¹¹ But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

¹²And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

¹³And there was a day when his sons and his daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: ¹⁴And there came a messenger unto Job, and said, The oxen were plowing, and the asses feeding beside them: ¹⁵And the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. ¹⁶While he was yet speaking, there came also

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another, and said, The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee. ¹⁷ *While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.* ¹⁸ *While he was yet speaking, there came also another, and said, Thy sons and thy daughters were eating and drinking wine in their eldest brother's house: ¹⁹ And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.*

²⁰ *Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, ²¹ And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.* ²² *In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly”* **Job 1:6-22**

The statute of limitation forcefully advances the Biblical thesis that no matter what Satan and his agents do to true saints such attacks will ultimately work together for their good, though there may be some pain along the line.

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Subsequent permission sought by Satan led him to inflict more pain even on the physical body of Job to the degree that his friends stumbled. At the end of the day however, here was the testimony of Job:

*“¹⁰ And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before.¹¹ Then came there unto him all his brethren, and all his sisters, and all they that had been of his acquaintance before, and did eat bread with him in his house: and they bemoaned him, and comforted him over all the evil that the LORD had brought upon him: every man also gave him a piece of money, and every one an earring of gold.¹² So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning: for he had fourteen thousand sheep, and six thousand camels, and a thousand yoke of oxen, and a thousand she asses.¹³ He had also seven sons and three daughters.¹⁴ And he called the name of the first, Jemima; and the name of the second, Kezia; and the name of the third, Kerenhappuch.¹⁵ And in all the land were no women found so fair as the daughters of Job: and their father gave them inheritance among their brethren.¹⁶ After this lived Job an hundred and forty years, and saw his sons, and his sons' sons, even four generations.¹⁷ So Job died, being old and full of days. **Job 42:10-17***

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Saints, it is not over until Yahweh says so! Job ended better than he started and the works of Satan strengthened and expanded him.