

Spiritual Warfare Part 1

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

God created a beautiful, holy and powerful angel that is Lucifer; he was one of the most beautiful, loved, and honored beings in Heaven. He was exalted to one of the most prominent and influential positions of all the great society of Heavenly beings. But as he disobeyed God and wanted to be above God, the Lord thrown him to the earth as we can read here: ***“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!” (Isaiah 14: 12 KJV)*** Lucifer or Satan said in his heart, ***“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.” (Isaiah 14: 13-14 KJV)*** Five times said in his heart, ***“I will”***, because he has ego, pride and boasting about himself, therefore God thrown him down to the ground and allocated to him the hell, ***“15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.” (Isaiah 14:15 KJV)***

Pride is the most important foothold that Satan can use to enter our lives and destroy us. Man’s pride causes him to puff up, boast and brag. It is opposite to the humility and humbleness that God wants to see in our lives as it is written, ***“6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.” (James 4: 6 KJV)*** God’s grace would be with us as long as we are humble, and carry no pride in our hearts. Ego and pride in our personality and attitude will invite devil to enter and destroy our lives. When Satan, the devil, thrown down, he enticed man to sin against God. He enticed Eve and Adam to eat from the tree that God forbade them to eat, and from there it was the beginning of the story of man’s fall as we read, ***“1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?” (Genesis 3:1 KJV)*** Satan said to the woman, ***“Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?”*** The way that Satan deceives is to try to underrate and undermine the truthfulness of the Word of God so that you would be made susceptible to fall into temptations and sin against God. The woman answered Satan, ***“2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden: 3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.” (Genesis 3: 2-3 KJV)*** But let us read what Satan answered. ***“4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 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.” (Genesis 3: 4-5 KJV)*** By this answer of Satan, the woman’s trust in God and in His Word was shaken, even God had spoken to them clearly His Word, ***“16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.” (Genesis 2: 16-17 KJV)***

Adam and Eve knew the Word of God but what had happened is that the devil came and took away the Word from their hearts: ***“12 Those by the way side are they that hear; then cometh the devil, and taketh away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved.” (Luke 8: 12 KJV)*** Adam and Eve heard the Word of God but then they did not believe in what God had said; they disobeyed God and they lost their place in paradise. One important point we need to emphasis here, the responsibility of sinning against God was the responsibility of Adam and Eve not the responsibility of Satan. They chose by their free will to sin against God. No one had forced them to sin. Let us read what they had done, ***“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. 7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.” (Genesis 3:6-7 KJV)*** We can see clearly that they had the free will to choose not to sin against God, but their pride to be like God made them susceptible to the deceit and temptation of Satan.

God was not the one responsible of their sin nor He was the one who tempted them. ***“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.” (James 1:13-15 KJV)*** As consequences of their sin against God, their relationship with God and the fellowship with Him were broken. In addition to that there were curses upon them due to that disobedient act and as the following:

1. ***To the woman God said, “16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.” (Genesis 3: 16 KJV)***
2. ***To Adam God said, “17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; 18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.” (Genesis 3: 17-19 KJV)***

God cursed the serpent and he put enmity between the woman and the serpent, between the women’s offspring and the serpent’s offspring as we can read here: ***“14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: 15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.” (Genesis 3:14-15 KJV)*** God promised that one of the woman’s offspring will crush the head of the serpent, the devil. Truly that fulfilled when God sent His Son Jesus to be born from Virgin Mary. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. He paid the price of all mankind’s sin. Through Adam’s sin death entered the world, but through Jesus Christ life eternal brought back to mankind. Jesus defeated devil on the cross, ***“14 Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15 And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over***

them in it.” (Colossians 2:14-15 KJV) Jesus after His death on the cross, He was buried but rose from death on the third day to give eternal life to those who believe in Him and follow His steps in their lives.

Devil is not an easy thing to deal with, but God’s Word teaches us how to discern and discover its schemes and how to combat it. Paul in his letter to the church of God in Corinth warned them about that when he gave them certain instruction about how to deal with a repentant brother or sister and how to forgive them and accept them; he told them, **“6 Sufficient to such a man is this punishment, which was inflicted of many.” (2 Corinthians 2:6 KJV)** That instruction was in order to avoid devil’s destructive plan as we can read; **“11 Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.” (2 Corinthians 2:11 KJV)** Devil can confuse us and give us the impression that we are doing the right thing while we are really in the wrong path.

Let us read the following passage from the Bible so we will understand more about devil’s schemes and tactics: **“13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. 20 Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. 21 From that time forth began Jesus to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. 22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. 23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.” (Matthew 16:13-23 KJV)**

What we have found here is that Jesus was asking who do people say the Son of Man is? He got different answers but finally Simon Peter answered Him correctly, **“Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.”** Truly Jesus commended Peter for that because that was a true revelation from Heaven to Simon Peter. Therefore upon that Jesus promised Peter that He will use him to build His church as we can read here, **“18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18 KJV)** And Jesus gave to Peter authority as well as He gave this authority to those whom He entrusted His church to them.

But when Jesus started to explain to His disciples about God’s plan for Him that He must go to Jerusalem to suffer and to be killed and on the third day to be raised from death, He got a different response as we can read, **“22 Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.” (Matthew 16:22 KJV)**

Now for the first impression what we can see that Peter loved Jesus and that was why he got angry because he did not want Jesus to suffer and die. But let us read the reply of Jesus to him, **“23 But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.” (Matthew 16: 23)**

Now Peter loved Jesus and his emotion was with Jesus, but what he said to Jesus was not God’s will or the plan of God. If the Lord Jesus Christ would not suffer and die on the cross then there will be no salvation and no eternal life for human kind. His death on the cross was mandatory for the atonement for our sins. And His resurrection from death brought the hope of salvation to all man’s kind as we can read here, **“11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” (Romans 8:11 KJV)**

Therefore what Peter spoke to Jesus when he refused that Jesus would suffer and die was not from God but from the devil. Peter did not speak out of God’s wisdom. And in this regard we want to point out that there are two types of wisdom, one is Heavenly and from God, but the other is not, **“15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.” (James 3:15 KJV)**

A. Earthly wisdom: This wisdom comes from the world; what the people practice and follow. But who says that what the people are doing is right. People they follow blindly others without studying the Word of God or try to find out the will of God and His plan in their lives. The Word of God tells us not to share the sins of others. **Please do not follow the crowd in doing wrong. And don’t be afraid to say, ‘No’ to people’s customs, practices or tradition. Do things to please God and not people.**

B. Sensual wisdom: Peter in what he said to Jesus although it seems good but that was not the true love of God, but that was the emotional love. And that emotional sensual love many people they live their lives practicing it but it is emotional and foolish love. It is a spoiling love. Parents can spoil their children if they don’t discipline them. Families would be broken and destroyed if husband or wife follows their emotions and not the Word of God in their lives. **Many people they practice wrong love, but not the true love of God. We advice you here, ‘Don’t be one of them.’**

C. Devilish wisdom: Satan is subtle, can make something almost like the original in order to trick you. **“1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;” (1 Timothy 4:1 KJV)** **Don’t let demons deceive you or lead you out from true faith in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Therefore we need to be careful about what we are speaking: **“2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.” (James 3: 2 KJV)** The tongue is one of the body parts that can be used mightily to glorify God. We can use the tongue to tell the truth and describe precisely what is God’s will His plan and what His Word teaching us. As well as the tongue can be used to proclaim God’s Word, His wonders and powers to other.

The tongue should be used to proclaim the good news of Jesus to others; the plan of salvation, that God had made it possible for mankind to reach Heaven and spent eternity with Him. The Word of God tell us what the Lord Jesus Christ had said, ***“7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me, 8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart. 9 I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest. 10 I have not hid thy righteousness within my heart; I have declared thy faithfulness and thy salvation: I have not concealed thy lovingkindness and thy truth from the great congregation.” (Psalm 40:7-10 KJV)*** And in another place, ***“22 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee.” (Psalm 22:22 KJV)*** We find clearly that the Lord Jesus Christ had used His mouth and lips to proclaim God’s Word and His righteousness to others. The tongue can be used in effective way to glorify God. But it is also can be used in a wrong way by Satan to bring damages to the person himself and to the people around him and ultimately to God. Let us go now through some Scriptures to take warning and learn what wrong uses of the tongue that we should avoid in our life and ministry.

1. *“11 Ye shall not steal, neither deal falsely, neither lie one to another.” (Leviticus 19:11 KJV)* Lies is the vocabulary of Satan. Satan is the liar and the father of lies. ***If you lie you would become one of Satan’s children.*** The Lord Jesus Christ said to those who opposed Him and did not believe in Him, ***“44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.” (John 8:44 KJV)*** Small lie or a big lie is the same; it will bring destruction into your life and into the lives of other people around you.

2. *“16 Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour; I am the LORD.” (Leviticus 19:16 KJV)* A slanderer or a talebearer is to tell something not true about a person. It is like a stabbing knife at the back. Satan is using this instrument to bring destruction into the community of believers. Lets us read what the Word of God tells us, ***“15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.” (Galatians 5:15 KJV)*** What is meant here in biting and devouring each other is not the physical one using the teeth, but using the lying lips and the deceitful tongues. The Word of God teaches us that there are six categories that should not be among the believers in the church, and as the following: ***“11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.” (1 Corinthians 5:11 KJV)*** A railer here is one of the categories that they should not be there inside the church, and is like a slanderer who speaks bad about people and link them with things wrong that they did not do.

3. *“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 KJV)* Satan is the accuser who brings false charges against you and against others. **** You need to be careful about that. Certain times it is not the Holy Spirit who is speaking to you but it is the evil spirits, demons and Satan, who are speaking to you and putting in your mind wrong thoughts and ideas. It might be also accusation for something you have done right and Satan would try to push you to do the wrong. * You need to weight of what you listen with the Word of God. If***

what you listen is not in harmony with the Word of God then think about it as a thought that comes from Satan and reject it in this way as you says, ‘I reject this thought in the name of Jesus.’ * Be also aware that Satan may speak to you through the Word of God but he brings to you a wrong meaning because Satan know how to twist the scriptures.

Satan as the accuser of the brethren may use certain people to bring accusation against certain brothers and sisters inside the church. But the Word of God teaches us how to avoid that and how to deal with accusation. ***“This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established.” (2 Corinthians 13:1 KJV)*** So two or three people must be there to be as witnesses. Also ***Matthew 18:15-17*** decrees the following: ***“15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.”*** We learn from the Word of God that if someone sinned and you had discovered that, you have to face him. But if he is not willing to listen to you, then you need to involve other spiritual brethren and finally the church. Also the Word of God teaches us the following: ***“19 Against an elder receive not an accusation, but before two or three witnesses.” (1 Timothy 5:19 KJV)*** Don’t entertain accusation against a worker if not two or three persons brought your attention to it; you should have a good ground to face the offender; you cannot accuse anyone and there is no real prove in your hand.

My Dear and Beloved: Be self-controlled and alert. Satan is subtle, malignant, wants to destroy you. Have full trust in God and His Word. Carefully obey all the commands of God. Don’t break any law and don’t be trapped by any temptation from the devil. Therefore, ***“7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.” (James 4: 7 KJV)*** * Humble yourself and ask God to give you Heavenly wisdom. Resist the devil, do God’s will and His plan in your life, and the devil shall flee from you. * The Word of God teaches you Satan’s schemes and how he works to destroy you and God’s work. So be in your guard about what you hear, and use your mind to analyze before you speak and take an action. Let us pray ...

My Prayer: Father God, I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins and rose from death to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that teaches me more about the schemes of the devil and how to resist the devil and avoid falling in its temptations. Lord thank you for all your blessings to me and for all the wonders and miracles that you are doing in my life and for all your deliverance to me from the evil ones. Lord thank you for all the teachings, the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

Repent and renounce all your sins. Renounce your disobedience, your doubts in the Word of God and your lack of faith and trust in God. Repent of your stubbornness and your delay obedience. Repent of your pride, boasting and showing off. Repent of your emotional and foolish love. Repent of following the worldly practices and imitating people and putting aside the Word of God. Repent of your earthly, sensual and devilish wisdom. Repent of your anger and non forgiveness to others who repented of their sins. Repent of your envy and jealousy, greed, your worldliness and your love for material things. Repent of your lies, gossips,

slanders, accusing others falsely, cheating, stealing, fornication, lust, immoralities and the rest of the works of the flesh. Repent of doing your own will and plan. Repent of your yoke with non believers, friends and wasting your time on the Media, games and News. Repent of your lack of prayers and reading your Bible. Repent of your non willingness to speak God's Word and declare His will. Repent of your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord I repent, forgive me, I renounce the following sins _____ .

Lord I humble myself in your hand. Make me more alert to discern and avoid devil's schemes. Lord I ask you to give me your Heavenly wisdom, and self-control to resist the devil and its temptations. I come against all the schemes of the devil and cast them out from my life and ministry in the name of Jesus. Lord give me discernment and teach me more; guide me and guard me against Satan's schemes, and teach me how to combat that. Lord take away any evil desire and cleans my life and make it pleasant to you. Lord I commit myself to live in holiness and away from sin. Lord bless my ministry and make me more fruitful and effective in my service unto you. Lord protect me, deliver me from the evil ones, and provide all my needs. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.

Lord thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins, and willing to go along the good plan that you had prepared for them. Lord cleanse them from all their emotions and all the footholds of the devil in their lives. I bind all the works of Satan and demons in their lives and cast them out from their lives in the name of Jesus. Lord protect them, deliver them from the evil ones, provide for them and make their lives good testimony to others to follow you. Lord use them to serve you and make their ministry fruitful and effective.

Lord bless us as your church, lead us by your Holy Spirit in your ways to accomplish the ministry that you wants us to do for you. Lord we commit ourselves to achieve that. Lord refill us once again with your Holy Spirit, and lead us to evangelize and reach new people and serve them, to make new disciples and train new workers, planting new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord prepare us for your coming to go with you when you come. Lord we pray for more people to get water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God', Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus, and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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