

WHO IS YOUR ENEMY?



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Introduction



One day I overheard a believer say “life ain’t fair” as they went on to say how racism and “The Man” and government are against them. As they continued to talk about how life wasn’t fair, a flashback of Flip Wilson came to mind (a comedian in the 70’s) whose famous line was “The devil made me do it”. I have heard and seen believers blame and focus their attention on everything and everybody but the true enemies. Don’t get me wrong; I believe things have to be done in the natural, but the root is in the spirit realm. Miles Munroe used to say “living by sight will kill you “. One of his points on that statement is if you only address the issues that face you with natural force, you’ll never get to the real root of the problem. Your real enemies aren’t visible. It takes spiritual discernment to identify your true enemy.

1 Corinthians 2 (Living Bible)

14 *But the man who isn’t a Christian can’t understand and can’t accept these thoughts from God, which the Holy Spirit teaches us. They sound foolish to him because only those who have the Holy Spirit within them can*

understand what the Holy Spirit means. Others just can't take it in.

John 16 (Living Bible)

33 *"I have told you all this so that you will have peace of heart and mind. Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows; but cheer up, for I have overcome the world."*

The Holy Spirit prompted me to go deeper on this topic after I wrote the book "What Just Happen", where I just scratched the surface on this subject. Spiritual discernment is needed to recognize the schemes and plots of your enemies. The way you get this discernment is by spending time with the Holy Spirit. He is longing to open your eyes. Most believers are too busy with their own agendas to spend time with the Holy Spirit. They would rather complain about how God isn't helping with this or that than find out His plan and get on board with Him. The kingdom of God has a system on which to operate. This system works for all who work it. I don't think you heard me. **This system works for all who work it.** I am doing my best to work it. I hope you too will continue or begin to work the kingdom of God's system for yourself; it's the only real hope we have.

John 15 (NIV)

5 *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."*

This is spiritual warfare; you're either in or you're not. Don't let the enemy use you or bamboozle you into thinking you're not qualified or needed. I can tell you right now that, if you're a believer, God wants you in the fight. He is not training you to just come to church on Sundays. You've been called to do something for the kingdom of God, **so get on it!** Don't let your age, your self-esteem, or anything else stop you from getting in the fight.

Hebrews 10 (New International Version, NIV)

39 *But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.*

Chapter 1

Who Is Your Enemy? Are you fighting the right fight?



**If I were to ask you who is your enemy?...
Who or what comes to mind?**

Now if you start thinking about a person or people or groups of people or the government or anything like that, as real as that may seem and as real as that may be a fact, according to the Bible there are three enemies to believers: Satan, also known as Lucifer and the devil; one spirit with three names, and his cohorts (the angels that fell with him, demons); that's the first one. Second is the flesh. The third is the world, worldly thinking, and worldly systems. One of the things the Bible teaches us is to identify and know our enemies.

2 Corinthians 2 (Amplified Bible)

11 *to keep Satan from taking advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his schemes”.*

Know this: even though it's a person who is carrying out attacks against you, the real enemy is behind the scenes in the spirit realm, getting people to do its bidding.

Here is a snapshot of how the Bible shows us these enemies.

Ephesians 6 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

¹² For we are not wrestling with flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the despotisms, against the powers, against [the master spirits who are] the world rulers of this present darkness, against the spirit forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) sphere.

Ephesians 6 (Living Bible)

¹² For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies—the evil rulers of the unseen world, those mighty satanic beings and great evil princes of darkness who rule this world; and against huge numbers of wicked spirits in the spirit world.

Matthew 8 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

²⁸ And when He arrived at the other side in the country of the Gadarenes, two men under the control of

demons went to meet Him, coming out of the tombs, so fierce and savage that no one was able to pass that way.

Galatians 5 (NIV)

16 *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. 17 For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever[c] you want.*

Galatians 5 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

16 *But I say, walk and live [habitually] in the [Holy] Spirit [responsive to and controlled and guided by the Spirit]; then you will certainly not gratify the cravings and desires of the flesh (of human nature without God).*

17 *For the desires of the flesh are opposed to the [Holy] Spirit, and the [desires of the] Spirit are opposed to the flesh (godless human nature); for these are antagonistic to each other [continually withstanding and in conflict with each other], so that you are not free but are prevented from doing what you desire to do.*

1 John 2 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

15 *Do not love or cherish the world or the things that are in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in him.*

16 *For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh [craving for sensual gratification] and the lust of the eyes [greedy longings of the mind] and the pride of life [assurance in one’s own resources or in the stability of earthly things]—these do not come from the Father but are from the world [itself].*

Romans 12 (NIV)

2 *Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.*

I will go deeper into all three of these enemies. I just wanted you to see how the Bible defines these three entities as your enemies.

Part of the big picture

To understand some of the things I’ll be talking about you need to see it in a big picture view. What I mean by that is, getting God’s concept of what He intended, what He did, and what He is doing now. This is just part of a big picture view but there is so much more.

When you’re born on this planet (as humans) you enter into the battle of good vs. evil. It’s happening whether you know it or

not. It's going on whether you believe it or not. It's really not a good vs. evil battle, to be accurate; it's a believer in the kingdom of God vs. any belief, system, or power that is against the kingdom of God. As a believer it needs to be clear in your mind that when the Bible says there's a devil and the flesh and worldly thinking that is against the kingdom of God, **you need to believe that they exist.** If you're not convinced of this, ask the Holy Spirit to open up the eyes of your understanding, so you can see. I know that there's a devil and a place called hell and a lake of fire and systems and powers that exist; they are against the kingdom and they are also against anybody that sides with the kingdom of God. We (humans) live in a parallel universe (meaning the spirit realm and the natural realm). What happens in the spirit realm affects the natural realm, and what happens in the natural realm affects the spirit realm. I am not going to elaborate on the parallel universe comment; I just wanted you to know that these realms exist and affect each other.

The Bible says we're not ignorant of his devices (**2 Corinthians 2:11**), which means God is showing us and telling us how this enemy works. From the beginning of mankind (Adam & Eve) Satan has made it his mission to corrupt mankind, and to get us to bow down and service him. If he can't get you to service him, then he wants you to make the same choice he did: defy God and become a "god" unto yourself. Understand that Satan has been studying us (mankind) for centuries and has been redefining his strategies and tactics. He (Satan) knows how to use our culture, our

emotions, and philosophies against us; he has set in motion belief systems and ways of doing things that have become the norm of our society. **Just because it might be common does not mean it's normal.** For instance, there's a belief in our culture (western thinking) and it goes like this: "everything's the devil" and "nothing's the devil". Some believers think that if we can just get the devil out of us we'll be alright. The opposite belief is "why are people blaming stuff on an imaginary figure (the devil)?" Neither one is accurate but if you side with one or the other you go down a path that doesn't lead to kingdom understanding. Sadly, even believers fall into both categories for lack of understanding. There are extremes on opposite ends that leave you with a false belief of reality, but the reality is that Satan is real and needs to be dealt with.

The devil: The first enemy I will identify/define.

I'll start with the most obvious enemy: the devil.

He is known as Satan (which means "accuser"), Devil (which means "adversary"), and Lucifer (meaning "Shining One.")

God created an angel and called him Lucifer. Lucifer was powerful, intelligent, had free-will, and was one of the most beautiful angelic beings; he was also one of the chiefs among all angels. He deceived himself into thinking he was on God's level

and challenged God's sovereignty, but he got his butt whooped and is still being tormented till this day.

Isaiah 14 (Amplified Bible)

12 *"How you have fallen from heaven, O [b]star of the morning [light-bringer], son of the dawn! You have been cut down to the ground, You who have weakened the nations [king of Babylon]!"*

13 *"But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the remote parts of the north.*

14 *'I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High'*

Luke 10 (The Message)

18 *Jesus said, "I know. I saw Satan fall, like a bolt of lightning out of the sky."*

Revelation 12 Amplified Bible, (AMPC)

7 *Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels went forth to battle with the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought.*

8 *But they were defeated, and there was no room found for them in heaven any longer.*

9 *And the huge dragon was cast down and out—that age-old serpent, who is called the Devil and Satan, he who is the seducer (deceiver) of all humanity the world over; he was forced out and down to the earth, and his angels were flung out along with him.*

Ezekiel 28 (Living Bible)

11 *Then this further message came to me from the Lord:*

12 *"Son of dust, weep for the king of Tyre. ^[a] Tell him, 'The Lord God says: You were the perfection of wisdom and beauty.*

13 *You were in Eden, the garden of God; your clothing was bejeweled with every precious stone—ruby, topaz, diamond, chrysolite, onyx, jasper, sapphire, carbuncle, and emerald—all in beautiful settings of finest gold. They were given to you on the day you were created.*

14 *I appointed you to be the anointed Guardian Angel. You had access to the holy mountain of God. You walked among the stones of fire. ^[b]*

15 *"You were perfect in all you did from the day you were created until that time when wrong was found in you.*

16 *Your great wealth filled you with internal turmoil, and you sinned. Therefore, I cast you out of the mountain of God like a common sinner. I destroyed you, O Guardian Angel, from the midst of the stones of fire. [5]*

17 *Your heart was filled with pride because of all your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. Therefore, I have cast you down to the ground and exposed you helpless before the curious gaze of kings."*

Are you willing to fight?

This information is to open up the eyes of your understanding so you can see what is going on and to prepare you to fight. In **Matthew 15:13** Jesus makes a statement that the ***"very plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be torn up by the roots"*** He's talking about mindsets, systems, and ways of doing things that Satan has set in motion and will be up rooted and discarded. It's important for today's believer not to be like the type of believer Jesus describes in Matthew 13.

Matthew 13 Amplified Bible, (AMPC)

12 *For whoever has [spiritual knowledge], to him will more be given and he will ^[c]be furnished richly so that he will have abundance; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.*

13 *This is the reason that I speak to them in parables: because ^[d]having the power of seeing, they do not see; and ^[e]having the power of hearing, they do not hear, nor do they grasp and understand.*

14 *In them indeed is ^[f]the process of fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah, which says: "You shall indeed hear and hear but never grasp and understand; and you shall indeed look and look but never see and perceive."*

God is saying the believer must grasp the word and ways of God to conduct spiritual warfare; you must see things the way God sees things. You gain this perspective by seeking the word, studying the word, and praying. Then you put it into action by working the word, start speaking (with faith) to things that are off in your life and others. Working the word is how God moves on our behalf.

How Satan works

There are many ways in which Satan works, more ways than I will point out here, but here are some of the strategies and tactics he uses.

First, his names tell us who he is and what he is about: Satan (which means ‘accuser’), Devil (which means ‘adversary’), and Lucifer (which means ‘Shining One’). In **Ephesians 6:11** it talks about the wiles of the devil, telling us that he is crafty and smart. Also in **Ephesians 6:12** it tells us of his power and strength. Here God is pointing out that believers must operate in the kingdom of God to defeat Satan; you can’t do it in your own strength. The Bible also shows us how he works behind the scenes through people, animals, nature, systems, and governments. In **Isaiah** he is whispering in the ear of the king of Babylon and in **Ezekiel** he’s controlling the king of Tyre. In the Garden of Eden he uses a snake. In **Job** he uses the wind to wipe out Job’s family and lightning to kill Job’s livestock. **2 Corinthians 11** talks about Satan and his demons masquerading as angels of light and righteousness, meaning Satan appears as if he is doing good but that illusion lasts only a short time and the truth comes out in the end. In **John 10** Jesus makes it clear that the enemy comes to **steal, kill, and destroy**. Jesus also makes it clear that the enemy is a liar. In **John 8:44** Jesus says that there is no truth in him. It takes discernment to see how and what the enemy is doing. The last point I want you to

see is the word strongholds; that's what many of the systems and ways of doing things are, Satan has already set them in motion; this is what the Bible calls strongholds. Strongholds are ideas, thoughts, and systems that are half-truths or lies that one believes are true. Dealing with strongholds usually requires the understanding of strongholds and getting the power of God on the situation.

2 Corinthians 10 (Amplified Version)

⁴ For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds.

⁵ [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One).

The Bible exposes Satan and his ways throughout the old and the new testaments so that we, the believers, will always have the upper hand in every situation and circumstance; but this only happens if we act on what we know. We have a part to play.

Do you want to fight?

NOW! Let me share with you some responses, mindsets, and strategies we believers should be operating from.

First, don't let fear creep in on you.

2 Timothy 1 (Amplified Bible)

⁷ For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control.

I've been a believer for forty plus years and have heard many different pastors preach on so many different topics; but when they talked about the devil, it sounded to me that fear was present when they shared their views. I don't think the fear was in me but it seemed like the pastors didn't want to identify or even say his name in church. They said things like "I don't want to give him (the devil) any glory in my message", or "I don't talk about the devil often". In my early years as a believer I thought we're not supposed to talk about the devil as if you may be glorifying him if you gave him credit for the bad things that happen or things not working out in your favor. But thank you, Jesus, I've got more insight and understanding now on how to deal with my enemies. Understanding God's word is what keeps fear out.

In **1 John 4:18** it says when you love God there's no fear in the atmosphere or your mind, so get to know the word of God; it will have you full of confidence and boldness.

Second, it's crucial that you approach Satan and his cohorts from this mindset: **Satan is a defeated foe!** Jesus has already defeated him; he is supposed to be under your feet (meaning you rule him), and it is your responsibility to put him under your feet.

Luke 10 Amplified Bible

18 *"He said to them, "I watched Satan fall from heaven [like a flash of] lightning]."*

19 *Listen carefully: I have given you authority [that you now possess] to tread on ^[d]serpents and scorpions, and [the ability to exercise authority] over all the power of the enemy (Satan); and nothing will [in any way] harm you.*

20 *Nevertheless do not rejoice at this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are recorded in heaven."*

God is telling us we have authority. We must exercise our authority by telling the devil to get away, to flee, to leave the situation because we have authority to do so. However, I want you to know, just because he left does not mean he won't try to come back, so you have to stand guard. When you recognize he is trying to get back in, step up and use your power.

The question is: Are you going to use your authority?

The Bible tells us **to resist** the devil and he will flee. Here are a few ways to get you started on this. Out of your own mouth tell him to get out of here; say, "I rebuke you, devil and I plead the blood of Jesus on the situation" he has to go. (I usually tell him to go back to the pit and never return). One of our best weapons, is resisting, is found in **1 Peter 5** and **James 4**, which both talk about the power of resisting. But don't forget to do the first thing these verses say to do; to submit to God you must be in the kingdom of God and doing things the way God does things. One of the things I ask the Holy Spirit regularly is to help me see the way God sees, and I want to hear the way God hears, I want to perceive the way God perceives, I want to act and react the way God acts and reacts. This is how you recognize the enemy and know when to exercise your authority. I call this the mind of Christ. In **1 Corinthians 2** it talks about this mindset and the way to this mindset is through the Holy Spirit. Once you get in the kingdom of God, the idea from God's plan is to grow and turn into the person he needs you to be. That's why you have to submit your life for the life he has for you. He has a purpose for you. You discover your purpose as you seek your purpose.

Jeremiah 1 ⁵Amplified Bible

It says:

⁵ "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you [and approved of you as My chosen instrument], And before

*you were born I consecrated you [to Myself as My own];
I have appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

Jeremiah 29 Amplified Bible

11 *"For I know the plans and thoughts that I have for you," says the Lord, "plans for peace and well-being and not for disaster to give you a future and a hope."*

I want you to know that God has got you. You need to trust him in your development as He molds you into who you need to become. Part of walking in your authority is learning to resist the enemy; the other part is to be bold enough to use your authority.

Chapter 2

The spirit realm is voice activated



Here is another weapon I want you to be aware of: it is the power of your words. There are many, many, many places in the Bible where God tells us to beware of what is coming out of our mouth. Words are so powerful.

Psalm 39 Amplified Bible

¹ *"I will guard my ways that I may not sin with my tongue; I will muzzle my mouth while the wicked are in my presence."*

King David is speaking here and he is saying this because, in the spirit realm, angels and demons move on our words, whether you know it or not. So your words can help you or hinder you. I want you to start paying attention to your speech and catch yourself. If you know that what you are about to say does not line up with the kingdom of God, then don't say it. Being aware of your speech is one of the processes you go through to get your speech to line up with the kingdom. Satan has set up so many negative sayings that

generation after generation keep repeating. Here are some examples: I am “dying to go”; “that cost me an arm and a leg”; “that joke had me dying”; “if it looks too good to be true it probably is.” “Tomorrow’s not promised.” I know you might say these words are just meaningless, but the Bible says every idle word is judged. This is how they’re judged: your angels can’t move on the negative words you speak and demons are using them against you. The examples above have created strongholds in people’s minds. I also want you to become aware of other people’s speech, when you’re conscious of others’ speech you’ll start to notice how often people’s words are hindering their efforts. For example: I have prayed for healing for someone and they said they agreed, but the next thing I hear them say are words that are contrary to what we just prayed for. They start claiming that sickness, as if it’s theirs, by saying words such as “I don’t think I will ever get rid of this”, or “we prayed and I’m still sick.” Your words have to line up to God’s word (the Bible) in order for Him to get involved with what you’re working on. Understand that many times it is a process when working the word of God. It’s not always instant, matter of fact God usually works through the process so you will grow in the process.

Proverbs 12 (NIV)

18 *The words of the reckless pierce like swords, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*

You can't afford to be casual with your words; there's too much on the line. Using your words recklessly can leave you frustrated at God, because you don't understand why things aren't going your way, and your mouth is the culprit. My last point on words is to make sure you're not putting word curses on yourself and others. In **James 3** it talks about controlling the tongue and it mentions word curses. Just like we can speak a blessing over people and build them up, we can also speak curses over people's lives, negative words that bring hurt, pain, and destruction. Gossip is one of the main sources of word curses. It's a supernatural force that is real and you must break the word curses that have been spoken over your life. Unfortunately, many times word curses come from people who are close to us - parents, teachers, family, and friends. The curses sound like these: "You're going to be just like your daddy." "You're ugly." "You aren't ever going to be good enough." Here is how these word curses work: when the victim believes them, they get in their memories and their soul and taunt them continually. Evil spirits also attach themselves to them. Many times word curses turn into strongholds. You break word curses by first recognizing you're under a word curse. Denounce what was spoken over you, tell any evil spirits that they've got to go in the name of Jesus, and plead the blood of Jesus over yourself. The last thing is to start building yourself up with positive reinforcement in that area that had you down. Speak positive words over yourself and use pin up signs and notes to see yourself and the situation in a different way.

Use the power that is in your mouth, your words. Build yourself up with positive words, and self-talk your way to victory.

Two last things I want you to see about the devil is, first, he uses deception and second, he uses distractions. He intertwines these two all the time. He wants to distract you and break your focus, using deception to do that. His objective is to get you to focus on and magnify any and everything but God. Did you hear that I said **any and everything but God?** He knows he's a defeated foe. His hope is that you won't walk in the power that has been given you. This is another area where it takes discernment to recognize the traps of deception and distraction. Many times it is subtle things that can keep you in the same mindset or get you going down a path you had no intention to go down. These distractions usually come from people who are closest to us, they interrupt by breaking your focus or intentions when you're in the process of working the word or working on kingdom stuff. So I say, rise up and be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.

Ephesians 6 (Amplified Bible)

10 *In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].*

You need to know that nothing is too hard or impossible with God on your side. Stand your ground; don't let even one more day

go by without you walking in your power and authority. God wants you fully convinced of who you are and who you represent: you represent the kingdom of God. There are more for you than are against you; always remember that! You have all of heaven backing you up. Be bold and do the works of Jesus; God will manifest through you.

My wife shared with me something the Holy Spirit told her. "Victory is the act of defeating the enemy for I (God) am victory. I have given you the keys to the kingdom, so use them. Never act like you're helpless or incapable of combating any acts of the enemy." "Know that I have given you success to triumph, to conquer the enemy in every way that he tries to come against you". "Know this: If you walk with me you will always win!! for I have NEVER lost a battle!"

The Flesh: The second enemy I will Identify/define.

This enemy, the flesh, came when Adam defied God and ate from the tree of knowledge (also called the tree of good and evil in **Genesis 3:6**). When he did that it brought mankind into rebellion and it's something that is inherently in all of us. Even though it's our nature to rebel against authority; this rebellion, a deeper rebellion, takes place when we rebel against God and the things of God. This rebellion takes place in your soul. Remember you are a three part being: you are a spirit, meaning you possess a soul (your

soul is made up of your Mind, Will, Imagination, Emotions and Intellect.) and you live in a body. The body is what you are; your spirit is who you are. Here's how that system works. The soul receives from the senses (seeing, hearing, touching, tasting, and smelling) and makes deposits into your spirit. Your spirit then tells your soul if it's edifying or not. If you have been saved you have the Holy Spirit in your spiritual man, telling your soul what is righteous. If you're not saved then you can only live from your flesh (your five senses). The information you receive from your senses is what feeds your soul and if it's not spiritual or kingdom of God information, knowledge, or wisdom, then your spirit (or spiritual) man **does not** get fed. It takes spiritual food to feed your spirit. Reading the Bible, listening to kingdom information, hearing from God - those build up your spirit man. That's why Jesus said the following.

Mark 4 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

24 *And He said to them, "Be careful what you are hearing. The measure ^[h][of thought and study] you give [to ^[i]the truth you hear] will be the measure ^[j][of virtue and knowledge] that comes back to you—and more [besides] will be given to you who hear."*

What Jesus is saying is **YOU** choose what you're hearing because it's going to have an effect on your life. Again, if you're saved then your spirit can filter what the soul receives and make a

decision about what is done with information. That's why the Bible says after you are saved, the rest of your life is about renewing the mind (**Romans 12:2**). God's intent is to get us to be more like Jesus, the example of sonship.

The Bible makes clear what the flesh is. **Romans 8:1-17** explains this in detail but first I want to show you the list of ways we experience the flesh in Galatians 5.

Galatians 5 (Amplified Bible)

19 *Now the doings (practices) of the flesh are clear (obvious): they are immorality, impurity, indecency,*

20 *Idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, anger (ill temper), selfishness, divisions (dissensions), party spirit (factions, sects with peculiar opinions, heresies),*

21 *Envy, drunkenness, carousing, and the like. I warn you beforehand, just as I did previously, that those who do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*

What the Bible is pointing out here are the characteristics, attitudes, and mindsets that will keep you from a relationship with God. Understand that when you were saved the flesh didn't die or go away. This is part of the spiritual battle that goes on daily in all of our lives. Some of the things on the list aren't even a temptation

while other parts of it can be a constant battle. It's God's desire that you submit to the Holy Spirit so you can then rule your flesh.

I like to use another word for the flesh: selfishness. This makes it all about you, which is what the objective of the flesh is about; it is you being on the throne of your heart instead of Jesus. You have to make it your priority to put Jesus in His place, on the throne of your heart. This is your responsibility; the Holy Spirit will help you but you have to want it. I like what it says in Proverbs 16:3.

Proverbs 16 (Amplified Bible)

3 *Roll your works upon the Lord [commit and trust them wholly to Him; He will cause your thoughts to become agreeable to His will, and] so shall your plans be established and succeed.*

When you were saved, you invited God into your life and it is a **must, a prerequisite, an imperative** that you change. He needs to turn you into the person He needs you to be so you can represent the kingdom of God properly and fulfill your purpose, but your old nature is warring against it. Again it's important that you recognize that you're in a battle; this battle has a different enemy than what I described earlier; this one is in your mind. I want you to believe that you're going to win; winning determines how you will live. You can walk around defeated, powerless, and depressed or you

can live a confident, powerful, and victorious life in Christ Jesus. God wants and needs you to be His hands extended on the earth; to do that means you think like He thinks, acts, and reacts. He needs you to speak to the evil around you so He can get involved in the situation. Whether it's your situation or others, He wants you to execute your authority. Remember that your power is in your mouth; use your God given authority to **SPEAK UP**; use the word of God!

Ruling the flesh

Here are some strategies we believers can use to rule the flesh. First, you must be saved, a born again believer. If you're not saved, be saved by confessing and believing the sinner's prayer. Now I am going to give you some practical things to do to have victory over your flesh. One of the first things you have to do is get your soul out of the flesh and into the kingdom of God.

You must start programing yourself with a kingdom mindset; submerge yourself in Bible study, listening to sermons, praying, and hanging out with like-minded people. You have to drown out the old way of thinking and perceiving by bringing in the kingdom's way of seeing and hearing.

Romans 10 (Living Bible)

***17** So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

Let me make it plain: the type of movies and TV shows you watch, how much news you watch, what types of games you play, the music you listen to, where you go to church, the information you're getting from Facebook, social media, the internet, and the people you are around - they **all matter**.

1 Corinthians 15 (Living Bible)

***33** Don't be fooled by those who say such things. If you listen to them you will start acting like them.*

1 Corinthians 15 (NIV)

***33** Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character."*

It's not just the people you're around; it is also those things I just mentioned that can cause corruption. Now I want you to know that you're not alone in this process; the Holy Spirit is working with you on renewing **your** mind but you have to make some adjustments in those areas. Understand this: the objective is to be on the same page as the Holy Spirit. The Bible also tells us that fasting and praying is how we can subdue our flesh. Go to the product page on this site; there's a whole teaching on fasting and

praying to help you do that. My last point on overcoming the flesh is found in **Romans 8** and **Galatians 5** where it says we are to walk in the spirit. The key to victory over the flesh is learning to operate from the mind of Christ.

Philippians 2 (Amplified Bible)

⁵ Let this same attitude and purpose and [humble] mind be in you which was in Christ Jesus: [Let Him be your example in humility:]

Walking in the spirit is intentional; it starts with that being your aim.

Two verses come to mind on how to do this.

Proverbs 4 (NIV)

²³ Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Guarding your heart is what I just spoke about two paragraphs ago, deliberately choosing what your five senses encounter.

Philippians 4 (New King James Version)

⁸ Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever

things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things.

⁹ The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

Meditating on the word of God so it is at the forefront of your mind means it will eventually become your natural way of thinking. Remember God wants this so much He is going to be assisting you along the way. Make sure you're paying attention to His leadings. This is a learning and growing process so don't be too hard on yourself in the process. Make sure you start and stick with it; the Kingdom of God is with and backing you all the way.

Chapter 3

Worldly thinking: The third enemy I will Identify/define.



If you're not familiar with these terms - being worldly, acting worldly, or thinking worldly - as you study the word of God you will see them and you will also hear them in sermons. The point is there should be a difference between the believer and the world. That difference should show up in your objectives, how you act, how you respond, your character, your morals. and what and how you speak, just to mention a few.

Now when I talk about being worldly or thinking worldly, I am saying it's a mindset or a pattern of thinking or a system of deduction on how you come to conclusions. The world wants to give you its beliefs, its value system, basically its philosophy - the way and how you should think. This worldly thinking is designed to keep people from God, to make them feel there is no need to think about God because you are your own god; that's what being worldly is. Another way to view being worldly is as corporate flesh;

it involves Godly purity, morals, and standards all are pushed aside and that mindset feels good. But if we do that, our conscience is seared (meaning things that once made us feel guilt don't even bother us) or it's the sin all around us that masquerades as normal; that and more is what worldly is.

James 4 (Amplified Bible)

⁴ You [are like] unfaithful wives [having illicit love affairs with the world and breaking your marriage vow to God]! Do you not know that being the world's friend is being God's enemy? So whoever chooses to be a friend of the world takes his stand as an enemy of God.

How it happens

Earlier I said being worldly is like corporate flesh, and I also showed you a list of what the Bible calls the flesh in **Galatians 5**; you could sum up most of that list as desires. **The world plays on our desires and affections to infiltrate our thinking.** This is done through marketing of products, ideals, lifestyles, and philosophies. Some of this is done unintentionally and some is intentional but all of it is intentional by the enemy, and not all people know that they are being used by the enemy.

1 John 2 (Living Bible)

15 *Stop loving this evil world and all that it offers you, for when you love these things you show that you do not really love God;*

16 *for all these worldly things, these evil desires—the craze for sex, the ambition to buy everything that appeals to you, and the pride that comes from wealth and importance—these are not from God. They are from this evil world itself.*

17 *And this world is fading away, and these evil, forbidden things will go with it, but whoever keeps doing the will of God will live forever.*

The world is constantly trying to woo us with things, emotions, and philosophies. The objective is to get you so inebriated with the desires of the world that you lose your desire for the things of God. Many times this is done so subtly that you don't even realize that you were on the wrong path until God sends someone to wake you up to what you're doing.

Remember the devil is a masterful deceiver. He is skillful in the art of deception; he will play with your imagination. He will distort and twist the truth; his aim is to get you to accept the lie as the truth. He specializes in “planting suggestions” wrapped in doubt, fear, and half-truths. They are crafty negative thought

patterns that form strongholds in the mind. They are placed there to get you to embrace a belief that doesn't line up with the word of God. This wrong belief holds you and binds you to a lie and prevents you from receiving the truth. When people are held by strongholds, their perceptions are off. They're not able to comprehend the truth because they are viewing "it", whatever it is, through a wrong lens.

2 Corinthians 4 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

⁴ For the god of this world has blinded the unbelievers' minds [that they should not discern the truth], preventing them from seeing the illuminating light of the Gospel of the glory of Christ (the Messiah), Who is the Image and Likeness of God.

Don't be fooled; the attack is and has always been about our minds: how we see, what we see, how we think, what's important. Satan has many smoke screens in the world trying to keep people preoccupied with false symptoms and beliefs. His objective is to get us to major on minor things and never get to the root to resolve the issue.

Colossians 2 (King James Version)

⁸ Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.

Colossians 2 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

8 *See to it that no one carries you off as spoil or makes you yourselves captive by his so-called philosophy and intellectualism and vain deceit (idle fancies and plain nonsense), following human tradition (men's ideas of the material rather than the spiritual world), just crude notions following the rudimentary and elemental teachings of the universe and disregarding [the teachings of] Christ (the Messiah).*

If he (Satan) can get you to first take the thought, embrace it, then rehearse it in your mind, then he knows that eventually, your mouth will begin to speak all the negative stuff you have been thinking. Ultimately your life will follow your words and begin to align with the words that you have spoken. Remember your power is in your mouth! Be conscious of what you're speaking!

Matthew 15 (Amplified Bible, Classic Edition)

18 *But whatever comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this is what makes a man unclean and defiles [him].*

The Solution: Don't allow the enemy to get in your head!

The word clearly instructs us to give the enemy NO PLACE!
The Bible makes it plain.

Ephesians 4 (Amplified Bible)

***27** And do not give the devil an opportunity [to lead you into sin by holding a grudge, or nurturing anger, or harboring resentment, or cultivating bitterness].*

2 Corinthians 10 (Amplified Bible)

***5** casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*

We must become masters of identifying the origin of our thoughts. Is this thought from God or was it sent for my demise, is the question. Getting the kingdom of God perspective on life is what differentiates us from the world. In order to walk that out you must know the word of God (the Bible) and understand the big picture view. (**Side Note:** If you don't know much of God's word at the moment, don't let that stop you; start studying and be bold). Ask the Holy Spirit to open up the eyes of your understanding so you can see; this is so very, very important. Even if you think you're not hearing His voice, keep asking and you will begin to

recognize His voice in the Bible, in media, in things going on around you, in your own conversation. The more you get to know the Holy Spirit the sharper your hearing will be. (**Side note:** I ask the Holy Spirit to open my eyes several times throughout the day; I want to respond correctly and make the right decisions.) Getting this kingdom philosophy is going to guide you through life. It shows you what to agree with or not, it determines how you see life, how you make decisions; it encompasses every area of your life. All of us should be in pursuit of the kingdom of God philosophy. It's the main thing Jesus preached: the kingdom of God. Do a study on what Jesus preached and you'll see it's the kingdom of God.

One more heads up on a big picture view. Understand what Satan is doing: he is trying to rob you before you realize who you are and what is already yours. Gaining understanding in this area of knowledge is what allows you to walk in your authority. The more you get this down in your spirit, the bolder you'll get.

Colossians 3 (New King James Version)

² *Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.*

Closing



When Holy Spirit told me to write this, I knew it was going to be good for me to get my thoughts focused on all of the tricks of the enemy and how he works. It has awakened me to what the enemy was doing and trying to do in my life. The Holy Spirit revealed how I opened the door and how I was allowing him to operate. I can tell you this: I have been more vigilant against these strategies of the enemy more than ever before in my life. I see where they try to get in and I see traps the enemy sets. My radar is always on.

2 Corinthians 13 (Amplified Bible)

⁵ *Examine and test and evaluate your own selves to see whether you are holding to your faith and showing the proper fruits of it. Test and prove yourselves [[a]not Christ]. Do you not yourselves realize and know [thoroughly by an ever-increasing experience] that Jesus Christ is in you—unless you are [counterfeits] disapproved on trial and rejected?*

I hope this book has helped you to see and understand who your enemy is. It's easy to get caught blaming people as your enemy and not seeing the enemy behind the veil. This spiritual battle the Bible talks about is real and going on all around us; we must be on guard at all times, ready and willing to respond in both the natural and spirit realms. Armed with this understanding, my hope is that you continue to study to be well prepared mentally and spiritually to be God's hand extended on the earth.

God Bless.

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