



*An Exposition of a “spirit of oppression”: Cruel and Intimidating;
Cloaked in Obscurity Study Guide*

Includes Case Studies

Jesus came, exposed oppression, and set the oppressed free (Luke 4:18).

Gwendolyn N, Davis, MPA

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By Gwendolyn N. Davis, MPA

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“Equipping Leaders to Lead”

“Equipping Leaders to Serve”

“Teach My People Truth”

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Abbreviations: New Living Translation (NLT); English Standard Version (ESV); New International Version (NIV); Berean Study Bible (BSB); Berean Literal Bible (BLB); Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB); NET Bible (NB); GOD’s WORD® Translation (GWT); World English Bible (WEB).

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Dedication

This study guide is dedicated to you as you are taking the time to read it and gain an understanding of a “spirit of oppression”. Please verify all that you read here, to the extent possible, and ask Holy Spirit to enlarge your understanding.

Preface

(Close parallel of Chapter One of the Dissertation)

The revelation and information you are about to read and study unveils a learning process; which was accompanied by an intense desire to look closer, listen attentively, and perceive things from God; things God was showing me, and saying, while enlarging my understanding. It began one Sunday morning during praise and worship as I was struggling to focus; as I was being bombarded with thoughts and ideas that rendered me incapable of even singing. When I closed my eyes and cried out to the Lord, “Help me; what is this, why is this taking place; I heard, oppression, a “spirit of oppression”. I sat down and prayed in the Spirit. After a short time I began praise and worship the Lord; my peace and joy returned.

Later in the week, I read, studied, and researched a “spirit of oppression. The examination and analysis of Scriptures help to unfold greater understanding. During a four months period, I would wake up with directions for the day. Sometimes I would go to sleep praying and meditating on God’s word.

I came to understand and appreciate what God is saying to Mankind when He says, “I am the Lord”. He is saying, “I know what is best for you; I know what is operating against you; obey Me for your own protection; obey Me because I told you to do it; you must obey Me because your place of protection against forces you cannot defeat in your own knowledge and strength is in Me. Your thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions will work against you” (Proverbs 23:7 AMP; Matthew 12:35; Luke 6:45; Philippians 2:4, 4:8; Matthew 12:36; Galatians 6:7). I have come to this place and want to dwell in His protection, and you will too.

The foundation for the study, for which we will walk through together, will begin with the following Scriptures:

I John 2:17

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 of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

John 17:17

Sanctify them by thy truth, thy word is truth.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thought and intents of the heart.

Matthew 24:35

Heaven and earth will pass away, but my word will not pass away.

John 6:63

It is the spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life.

Psalms 119:11

Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee.

Psalms 119:105

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Matthew 12:37

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

II Corinthians 10:5

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds ;) Casting 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; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

Ephesians 6:10-18

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 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. 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. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with al prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Carve out Reading and Study Time

Look, listen, and perceive what the word of God is showing you, saying to you, and gain understanding. Then examine yourself and see how it may apply to you and your life situation. Whatever you identify will come back to visit you again and again if you do not address the problems.

Deal with the manifestations, devices, ways and effects, strategies, tactics, and tentacles affecting your life, each day. “Examine yourself daily to see whether you be in the faith” Test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you; you do not want to fail the test (II Corinthians 13:5 NIV).

Know this, false and deceptive teaching and doctrines are manifestations of a “spirit of oppression”. They are devices that lead to the wide gate and broad way that leads to destruction (Matthew 7:13).

A person that lives according to the word of God will have the capability to exercise their choices, responsibly. Therefore, the knowledge of the existence of a “spirit of oppression” and what it can do, “at your words”, is not an excuse to say, “The devil made me do it”. No!!! You have free will and made the choice to do what you did.

But the one who did not know and did things deserving of blows will be beaten lightly. Much will be required of everyone who has been given much. And even more will be expected of the one who has been entrusted with more (Luke 12:48 HCSB).

When you say you are a Believer and choose to involve yourself in the areas associated with a “spirit of oppression”, noted throughout this study guide, one or two possibilities exist:

1. You are not saved, thus, you are not a Believer. You can open the door of your heart to Jesus, repent of your sins, confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus, the Son of God, died for your sins and be saved. Then receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and go on to renew your mind by the word of God (John 1:11-13; Romans 10:8-10, 13; Ephesians 4:30; (Isaiah 7:13-15; Acts 1:8; (Luke 1:35, 4:18; Isaiah 61:1; Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:23; II).

Or

2. You are saved and are living outside the word of God; He is in the light and there is no darkness in Him. Turn back to Him, repent, and ask for forgiveness. Receive His forgiveness and go and sin no more. Get in the word of God; stay in the word of God. Guard your heart with all diligence; resist temptation and fear; set a guard in over your mouth, and examine every thought to make sure it lines up with the word of God (I John 1:6-8, 9; John 8:11; II Timothy 2:15; Proverbs 4:23; James 4:7; II Timothy 1:7; Psalm 141:3; II Corinthians 13:3).

Structure of this Study Guide

This study guide can be used as a text book; it is not a work of fiction. It can also be just a study guide. You should take notes and study as you would in chemistry, physics, or advanced mathematics classes. Observe what is going on in you and around you. Consider this study guide to be “your own oxygen mask” and make sure you secure it before you attempt to help others.

Each chapter has an introduction section and an information section. The introduction section contains an overview of what is in the chapter. Pertinent ideas and insight on the subject being examined, analyzed, and explained is in the information section. Other additional subsections may be in the information section as necessary to increase understandability.

Excerpts from my dissertation findings and conclusions are in the Appendix; along with a declaration that the author recommends for daily use.

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From the Writer's Pen

(Portions from Chapters One of Dissertation)

Grace to you and peace from our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I thank God for both the assignment and the opportunity to write this study guide to impart truth to His people. During the months while writing the manuscript, I have shared this information with others and we all received deliverance from a “spirit of oppression”. You can receive deliverance, as you read, verify the information, and take steps to change.

I began the study and research on a “spirit of oppression” for one of my dissertations. Parts of the dissertation are in this study guide. This study guide was prepared and released instead of the dissertation. At some future date the dissertation may be released and it may also be a tool for study groups. So, let's continue examining the focus of this study guide and the dissertation.

There are four basics that apply to a “spirit of oppression”; they are its source, its controlling entity, its strategy, and its goal:

1. Source - Spirit Realm
2. Controlling entity - Satan
3. Strategy - Oppress Mankind; exploit Iniquity, the Lust of the Flesh, the Lust of the Eyes, and the Pride of Life (I John 2:16)
4. Goal - Death to Mankind (James 1:15)

These were important facts extracted from and confirmed in Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. The goal of a “spirit if oppression” could be restated as, “Death to Mankind by any means necessary”; the intent is to manipulate Mankind into violating the laws, commandments, statutes, ordinances, and judgments of God; essentially violating the word of God. The success of a “spirit of oppression” has been

quite high, primarily because of Mankind. Part of which has to do with a gift from God, “freewill”. Freewill has turned Mankind into creatures with a healthy propensity to exercise questionable judgment while making bad choices. Once we see and understand we are being manipulated, we may want to choose to change. Although some may encounter hindrances “Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be” (Romans 8:7).

A “spirit of oppression” is influential, powerful, and infectious with the ability to make your life miserable. Your actions will be a byproduct (ways and effects; unknowingly) of a continual downward spiral in your life. These are factors contained within a plan to cause you to lose hope. This study guide will help open your eyes to forces that have an immense influence on your very being. It will help you to take hold of and take steps to gain victory over this spirit; victory that has been the eternal plan of God; victory that Jesus Christ secured.

Access to victory is available to everyone (John 3:16-17); yet since everyone has the freedom to choose their way; it is your responsibility to make the choice (John 14:6; Matthew 10:32-33). Further, you and everything that belongs to you are “in Satan’s power; within his access”, except that which you have submitted to and committed to the Lordship of Jesus Christ (Job 1:12, 2:6; John 17:6-10, 12). You must “live and move and have your being in the One that accomplished the work of redeeming His Father’s creation (John 14:30; Acts 17:28). Otherwise your efforts will be in vain.

Several positions posited by the author and supported by Scriptures are:

- ✓ During the time in which the earth was under water “darkness covered the face of the deep”, no terrestrial life existed on the earth (Jeremiah 4:23-26).

- ✓ Exposing the dry land and its corruption was part of God’s plan of redemption for His creation (Isaiah 45:18).
- ✓ The spirit realm infects Mankind in the physical realm just as microorganisms infect Mankind in the physical realm.
- ✓ A “spirit of oppression” is the strong-arm and power of Satan. He, Satan, uses this powerful spirit with the multiplicity of manifestations, as devices. Satan attempts to control the life and destiny of people and nations without “possessing” them.
- ✓ Demons are terrestrial, disembodied beings not celestial beings (Enoch 15:10).

Know this, oppression is a spirit and its infectious and transferable tendencies have permeated the Earth and Mankind from the beginning. Mankind has contributed to being the victim of a “spirit of oppression”.

Infectious, applicable to this study guide, is to taint or contaminate with something that affects quality, or character; to corrupt or affect; to imbue with destructive, harmful, caustic belief, opinion, etc. (Dictionary). Regardless of your position, the oppressor or the oppressed, you are a victim of a “spirit of oppression”.

“The oppressed has become the oppressor” is a familiar adage. A “spirit of oppression” is on a mission to keep people in darkness and weighed down with burdens. People cannot escape the torment and burdens being imposed. Those oppressed often slip into depression, bipolar, schizophrenia, and experience other internal problems that often take on the form of sickness, disease (infirmities), and death.

A “spirit of oppression” operates anywhere it finds an opening. It is when the opening gives it access to people in positions of authority; it can bring its far reaching blow against the greatest number of people.

Wherever a “spirit of oppression” gains access to men or women in authority, it can “trickle down” onto the people. The path it takes is possibly the real meaning of “trickle down”. Read Psalm 133:2 and see the visual aspect of “trickle down”. Negative or positive, the flow is downward.

This information should serve as a reminder to use care when deciding to submit to certain people in positions of authority. Positions of authority that should concern you are when voting, looking for a church, and looking for a job. Those in positions over you can have a profound effect on you (I Timothy 2:2). Every person in a position of authority is a target of a “spirit of oppression” and people at any level will become victims (oppressor or oppressed) of a “spirit of oppression”. Always pray for the people in authority over you (I Timothy 2:1-2).

As you read history books, take time to observe current events, and then compare them with the historical events. For instance, the settlers that came to this country were trying to escape oppression. They wanted freedom and their acts were noble. They were not aware of what was working against them from the spiritual realm. Once the settlers from Europe were grounded, manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” used them as devices against themselves and Native Americans, as well as immigrants from other continents. Again, look at the atrocities against immigrants from Asia, Africa, and South America. Read your history books while remembering, the culprit, a “spirit of oppression” uses Mankind against Mankind. It is still operating, today and every day. Remember to read and walk in forgiveness.

Spiritual realities can be seen in the recent past are available to everyone whose spiritual eyes are open. It is still possible for people to walk in the freedom that Jesus purchased for His Church. There is more of this theme covered in later chapters.

One most shocking observation is the open, consistent, outspoken opposition to the President of the United States, current and past, that interferes with his ability to carry out his duties. The actions and outspoken opposition, “freedom of speech”, “party loyalty”, while disagreeing with the President is really a smoke screen of a “spirit of oppression”. In fact, open, outspoken opposition to people with authority is becoming the rule rather than the exception.

Freedom of speech, party loyalty, and open disrespect for people in positions of authority will never override the word of God. What you are seeing is the heart of the individual as it is being exposed by their actions and they have no fear of God, Who has not changed (Malachi 3:6).

A common out spoken cry is “separation of Church and State”. The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prohibits the Federal Government from making laws regarding religion and ensures freedom of religion. The moral law, one’s conduct, and knowledge of the right or wrong of their actions cannot be legislated.

Let’s examine the fifth commandment, “Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” (Exodus 20:12). If when you honor or give honor and respect, your days are long, what do you think happens when you do not honor or give honor and respect? This Scripture says honor “that your days are long”. The implication is that your days could be or will be short if you do not honor or give honor and respect.

Further, the definition for father includes ruler or chief which says we are to honor or give honor and respect to those in positions of authority. A “spirit of oppression” contributes to a person’s disobedience to this commandment. You are encouraged to conduct your own examination and study.

Consider the Archangel Michael who contended with the devil for the body of Moses. This powerful archangel, who, if dispatched by God to battle in the earth today; just him, and not the twelve legions of angel Jesus said He could ask of His Father (Matthew 26:63); he, Michael could lay waste to every living creature on this earth in no time, and with little effort. Yet, this warrior and protector of God's people, said to the devil, when contending for the body of Moses, "the Lord rebuke you" (Jude 9).

We, Mankind, might do well to follow Michael's example and give respect to those in positions of authority (Romans 13:1). There are procedures and processes that can bring wrong actions by those people in authority to the forefront. Prayer should always be your first course of action.

When one exercise freedom of speech, an implied responsibility, need, purpose, and place exist; otherwise abuse manifests out of disrespect; disrespect of yourself and others. A "spirit of oppression" manifests in causing people to be disrespectful to others and esteem themselves better than the other person (Philippians 2:3).

Haughtiness manifests out of disrespect. When acts of haughtiness are extreme, they show further evidence of the operation of a "spirit of oppression". Other manifestations cause people to act in of various forms of abusiveness. They will exert self over others, prejudices, bullying, corruption, fraud, and cause downfall of corporations and financial institutions through selfishness and haughtiness. The loss of people's savings and lifestyles, while using various schemes to benefit the few, are further examples of manifestations of a "spirit of oppression".

It is possible to escape the control of a "spirit of oppression". The way of escape is for the person to repent and turn away from the entangling sin, love the Lord, obey the Lord, and conform to His way (Hebrews 12:1). In all instances you must, *Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it* (Proverbs 4:23

NIV). Each person's thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions are their responsibility while they live in the earth.

It is not an easy walk; your duty is to walk on the path that leads to eternal life. Mankind will live forever, somewhere. The name of the place "somewhere" may be "the new Earth" where you will reign with Christ (II Peter 3:13; Revelation 22:5) or the name of the place "somewhere" may be "the lake of fire" where you will dwell with Satan (Revelation 20:15; 21:18), only you can choose your path.

A "spirit of oppression" is so pervasive; I am convinced it forms a device that grips a person and convinces him or her that "this is who they are" through and through. The founders of the various groups of Monks that isolate themselves do so for a reason. I have not done research on the matter, but from what I have learned about a "spirit of oppression", I know there is much, much more to come to know and understand.

While I am not advocating isolation, I understand their desire to withdraw from the potential for contamination. They put absolutely no confidence in the flesh; that is their choice since the flesh is the magnet and resisting is hard for many, many of the people.

I can say from experience and this research, there are powerful forces bombarding us. But none are more powerful than our God and His angelic forces. We can have confidence in the finished work Jesus Christ accomplished on the cross. We must grow to maturity by feeding on the word of God, exercising resistance in the way Jesus modeled in His life, suffering and triumph. We have the same Holy Spirit.

You will want to be ready, at all times, to take authority over words spoken to you, at you, and around you: "I bind those words and hold them to no effect in the

spirit, in the name of Jesus, and I loose the love of God, joy, and peace, in the name of Jesus” (Matthew 18:18).

Please take time to fully understand and comprehend what is in this study guide and its application to the thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions of a person. I am available to answer any questions you have. My contact information can be found on the website: www.theequippinginstitute.org

Gwendolyn N. Davis, MPA

Chapter One: Expected Outcomes of a “spirit of oppression”

Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit (Matthew 7:17-18).

Introduction

There is evidence of a “spirit of oppression” being loosed in the earth realm when Lucifer (Satan) and one third of the angels were thrown to the earth. Several outcomes expose a “spirit of oppression”. First outcome was the death, destruction, and chaos on this planet, which God contained, encapsulated in water, until He prepared it for habitation again (Genesis 1:2). Second outcome which exposes a “spirit of oppression” was the death of Adam and Eve and their expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Third outcome, which exposes a “spirit of oppression” was the death of Abel followed by his brother Cain being relegated to (homelessness), a “restless wanderer on the earth” (Genesis 4:14 HCSB).

The earth, covered with water, was “without form and void”. The light of God was withdrawn. The lights in heaven were turned off. The mountains were not standing still (Jeremiah 4:24). Mankind, the birds, the vegetation, and the cities were destroyed by the “fierce anger” of the Lord. Lifelessness! (Jeremiah 4:23-26). All are descriptions that lend validation to the operation of a “spirit of oppression”; death, destruction, and chaos on planet earth, being the first outcome, as noted earlier.

After Cain “went out from the presence of God”, the fourth male of his descendents, Lamech, murdered two men. Lamech confessed to his wife that his punishment was “seventy seven times” that of Cain’s punishment which was “seven times”. The sin act only doubled, when Lamech killed two men, one of which was a

youth (Genesis 4:23-23). The punishment was multiplied. Consider Matthew 18:21-22. Murder, destruction, and catastrophe were outcomes from the presence and operations of a “spirit of oppression”.

There is no mention of Satan, by name, or a “spirit of oppression”. Words describe the “what happened” and the people involved.

Billboard

The discussion in this section will alert you to, and help you perceive and gain understanding of the evidence that reveal a “spirit of oppression”. What it is, where it originated, its plan, and how it manipulates its victims is in other chapters. Recognizing its manifestation near you and near others is important in overcoming its divisiveness.

The research conducted led me to the conclusion that manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” are powerful, concealed strategies. These strategies against Mankind are known to God. God, from the beginning, put in place laws, commandments, statutes, and judgments to protect and deliver Mankind from this enemy. Yet Mankind is still clueless. After centuries of Mankind digging itself into deeper clutches of a “spirit of oppression”, God sent His Son, the ultimate Protector and Deliverer as promised in Genesis chapter three. Yet, Mankind continues to resort to his own ways without regards for the consequences.

There is “nothing new under the sun”; Solomon declared this truth over three thousand years ago; which was close to one thousand years before Jesus Christ our Lord, came in the flesh (Ecclesiastes 1:9; I Timothy 3:16). Individuals may experience something that is new to them, but the thing has happened before somewhere, and to someone. Verse 10 of Ecclesiastes chapter one tells us, *“Is there anything whereof it may be said, See, this is new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us.*

Information in this billboard is in the Bible and in history books. Nothing stated in the billboard should be a surprise to everyone.

There was nothing new found in the study. Failing to acknowledge a device of Satan named a “spirit of oppression” does not nullify its existence. A “spirit of oppression” as a device of Satan, though concealed, when manifested exposes what is in the heart of a person whose words triggered the manifestation.

A decision to take a course of action places the responsibility for the action on the decision maker. The consequences or outcomes are on the head of the person ordering the action and the person taking the action (Ezekiel 33:5).

Taken from a recent news story, someone in authority gained approval to build a pipeline. Property was selected for use to which they did not hold ownership or permission from the owner, owners, or legitimate stakeholders. Manifestations and devices of a “spirit of oppression” are operating today and have operated across centuries. Multiple levels of authority are involved to gain approvals for such a project. History of the United States related to Native Americans provides a long list of atrocities tied to the land on which they lived. “There is “nothing new under the sun”.

The person or persons who engage in “road-rage” is a device. The manifestations and devices of a “spirit of oppression” have been working in areas of their life for a long time. They will need to examine themselves to decide when, where, and how they opened the door.

The person who rapes and molest anyone, the manifestations and devices of a “spirit of oppression” began earlier in their life. The same holds true for the person who takes another person’s life, period, the manifestations and devices of a “spirit of oppression” came about through one or more open doors.

Iniquity, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life are devices. These devices have lured persons into being open to the manifestations of a “spirit of oppression”. Remember, a “spirit of oppression” uses devices to manifest and a “spirit of oppression” is a device of Satan. For Believers, the Scriptures state in Isaiah 53:5 ... *he was bruised for our iniquities*. More about the importance of this statement will become obvious.

One comparative analysis is, just as faith works by love, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life works by iniquity (Galatians 5:6; Psalm 51:5). Jesus stood against the temptations of the devil because His conception was not in sin but by the power of Holy Spirit; there was no iniquity in Him (Luke 1:35, 4:1-14; John 14:30).

For people who believe they are “in control”, think again. Yet solutions exist for overcoming a “spirit of oppression”. Information about the solutions is in several places in this study guide.

Fishers of Men

I was reminded that one of Satan’s devices is deception; he attempts to discredit God by blinding Mankind to God’s existence. Satan then attempts to counterfeit the gifts of God at the point Mankind achieves knowledge of God (II Corinthians 4:4). There is another counterfeit that Satan uses; it is casting a wide net and drawing men into evil.

When Jesus selected His disciples He said, “Come, follow me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19 BSB). Satan is deceptively drawing Mankind into becoming his followers. His methods include casting a wide net of destruction, using divide and conquer. These methods break up friends and families, with misinformation

even lies. Weaknesses, fears, lack of confidence, prejudices, poverty, and ignorance are exploited to give Satan an upper hand. The less knowledge a person has the more vulnerable they are and receptive to propaganda from devices of Satan, the master at counterfeit, lies, deception, and misinterpretation of truth.

It is understandable that Jesus took care to make provisions for His Church to become fishers of men (Ephesians 4:8-14). The gifts He set in place for the Church is the model He used to equip His disciples and it worked. It will produce the “greater works” when implemented (John 14:12). Believers can become mature enough to escape the snare of Satan’s device, a “spirit of oppression”.

At Thy Word

Jesus said in Luke 5:4, “Launch out in the deep, and let down your net for a draught”. Draught is *Agra* in Hebrew, which means a catching, that which is taken in hunting prey. Peter and the men with him had been fishing all night. They believed they had covered the area to which Jesus was referring. Peter said so in verse 5. However, he further responded, “nevertheless at thy word I will let down the net”. Word used in this Scripture, in Greek is *rhema* which means that which is or has been uttered by the living voice; things spoken; what one has said.

The enemy will pervert every theme in the Bible to gain an advantage over Mankind. A “spirit of oppression” is waiting to catch you and others in its net, “at your word”. There are times when you will need to speak boldly; and there are time when you will need to “Set a guard over my mouth LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips" (Psalm 141:3 NIV).

Let’s pursue a path of introduction and information that can help to lay a foundation for the rest of this work.

Chapter Two: Getting Started

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32).

Introduction

Most of Mankind is familiar quite with the word “oppression”; with a limited understanding of what it mean and what it impacts. It is a phenomenon that has been manifesting in the earth and in the lives of people of every race, color, and ethnicity. Oppression has been going on as long as civilization has existed and is contained in the histories of civilizations.

The manifestations occur through an intertwining of four areas of access in Mankind’s soul; iniquity, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Galatians 5:19-21 expresses outcomes of this interrelationship. Two translations of these Scripture provide insight into a most important outcome,

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God (NIV).

Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murder, drunkenness, revellings, 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 (KJV).

In essence, these Scriptures say those who have the behaviors, actions, and attitudes or any similar to them, will not become a partaker of the kingdom of God. They will not receive their allotted portion, or receive their assigned portion in the

kingdom of God. Knowing truth is incentive to pursue truth, yet that may not apply to everyone. Notwithstanding, the most important outcome of the acts of Mankind is inheritance in the kingdom of God.

Moving forward, history provides support for the expressions, there is and will continue be those who involve themselves in acts of oppression. There has been and will continue to be those who are under oppression (the oppressed). Most on either side, oppressor or oppressed, do not understand, they are active participants in being controlled. They are being controlled by spirit beings and forces which they can refuse to give into. Continue to read and you will come to understand why “a conscious decision” is necessary to resist being controlled.

Jesus said in John 6:63, *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.* Words, as we know them are nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, pronouns, synonyms, etc. We can use our knowledge of words to examine oppression and its associated words. Concealed wisdom and revelation will be opened and help bring to an end the actions in which we are engaged. The actions we are permitting as the oppressor or as the ones being oppressed must come to an end.

Another reason to examine oppression and its associated words is because Jesus, “the word made flesh”, used words to speak life (John 1:14). We can separate words of life or words that bring life from words that bring hurt, harm, and death (Proverbs 18:21). Further, words matter; words give names to things and actions; they are an excellent help in gaining understanding of things happening around us. We used various dictionaries along with other sources, but the Bible is the primary source of reference used in this study guide; the word of God will take preeminence. Other resources can be found in the reference section.

Paul said in II Corinthians 10:3-6,

For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh; (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds ;) Casting 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; And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when your obedience is fulfilled.

It is important to know our adversaries, which includes a “spirit of oppression” are not flesh and blood (Ephesians 6:12). Weapons invented, manufactured, and used to fight battles in the physical realm will not work. Oppression is a spirit and can manifest in various forms to carry out deeds against unsuspecting and untrained victims. You cannot kill someone and expect to defeat oppression, even if you believe the person is being used as a source of oppression against you. Oppression is a spirit; it will manifest against the next person, and could become more powerful, expansive, and widespread while oppressing the next oppressor.

Understand this; both the oppressor and the oppressed are victims. Ecclesiastes 4:1 states,

So I returned, and considered all the oppressions that are done under the sun: and behold the tears of such as were oppressed, and they had no comforter; and on the side of their oppressors there was power; but they had no comforter.

You are being oppressed or you are being used to take on the behavior of the oppressor, which means you are being used by spirit forces of evil. There is no comfort for you. The thing to do is to consider the cost and put a stop to your actions, now! It is a matter of choosing to live, to love, and respect others, to name just a few of the steps that may be part of your decision making process. There are other factors presented in later chapters. Please pray and study the Scriptures as you read.

A mental picture is painted of the goal and origin of a “spirit of oppression”, the multiplicity of its manifestations, and its concealment. For those of you in the deliverance ministry, you have experiential knowledge of the strongman’s ability to push lower level spirits out and remain hidden. The strategy of the strongman is to continue its dominance over the person, from within. This Writer believes a “spirit of oppression” does not possess the person. While not possessing a person, it has been successful in its concealment because it uses the iniquity that is in the person’s heart (Luke 6:45).

Not every manifestation of a “spirit of oppression” in the Bible is written in this study guide. You can verify this powerful spirit exists and you are encouraged to do so. You will be able to recognize its manifestations in the Bible, in government, in business, in Church, in communities, in financial institutions, and on Wall Street. You will come to understand that this spirit is seeking to control the highest level of authority.

Examples are evil kings of Israel, evil kings of Israel’s enemies, the High Priest and leaders during the ministry of Jesus. Others include Hitler, Mussolini, Stalin, and Church leaders over the centuries, to name a few (read your history books). The strategy is to infect the leader and destroy the greatest numbers of Mankind (people).

This Writer has omitted naming leadership in the world today, but will say, “Know them by their fruit” (Matthew 7:16, 20). And what you allow on earth is allowed in Heaven (Matthew 18:18).

Leaders are to be examples before the people. God does not take it lightly when leaders sin. They lead the people into sin as found in I Kings chapter 12 and chapter 15.

What gives a “spirit of oppression” so much power? Consider two answers. One, its controlling entity is Satan; it has access to everything that was identified in

Lucifer. It has access to everything around you and in an unregenerate soul, pride and arrogance, froward speaking (words). It has direct access to iniquity, lust, greed, and jealousy, all of which stem from the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21).

Similar to the tentacles of an octopus, it can grab hold of these resources and bring together the most hideous of them. And as the octopus, it uses them against you, and pulls a person to destruction and death. A person can be shredded as the radula of the octopus tears away at its food and consume what remains.

The second part of the answer is Mankind continues to give power to this spirit through the words we speak, words that come from the heart, proceeding out of the mouth. Mankind's soul has five entrances called gates or doors. The mouth is the only entrance and exit gate or door. It is a powerful weapon for good or evil. The person who speak words that triggers manifestations of a "spirit of oppression", has by default given it power against others and against himself or herself.

The strategies, tactics, and tentacles, manifestations, devices, ways and effects, of this powerful, controlling spirit being are associated with words. This Writer has and will continue to pray that every facet of a "spirit of oppression" is uncovered for God's people. Whenever an unregenerate soul allows evil to fester, that person remains in darkness. When a person walks in the light, darkness is dispelled and there can be fellowship with Jesus (I John 1:7).

Chapter Three: The Significance of Words

(Portions from Chapters One of Dissertation)

Introduction

Words are the standard of communication whether verbal or written. Mankind has been tasked with having to reach a common ground of communicating since God “confused the language and scattered the people in Genesis (11:7-8). In view of that fact, various methods of translating words, to gain common understanding, have been made available over the centuries.

The approach, throughout this work, was to discover the class or nature of the word, define the word, and identify the synonyms and antonyms for the word. The benefits of the approach proved to give a much broader perspective of the depth, breadth, width, and height of the words.

Information

There are several key Scriptures for examination.

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, upholding all things by the word of his power, (Hebrews 1:3).

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned (Matthew 12:36-37).

“Every idle word” (KJV); “every careless word” (HCSB); “every thoughtless word” (NB)

Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, wither in this age or in the age to come (Matthew 12:32).

The Scriptures are clear, words are significant. Each person should be careful when and how they speak words. Every person is accountable and responsible for the words they speak. The word significance (noun) is the quality of being important; the quality of having notable worth or influence; consequence.

Word (noun) or words is a unit of language, having one or more spoken sounds or their written representation, which functions as a principal carrier of meaning (Dictionary.com). Words have power; further, words are the bases of communication that leads to knowledge and understanding. We can conclude that words are significant and the power of words spoken can create or destroy; they can belittle a person or group of people or they can build up a person or group of people.

Mankind, created in the image and likeness of God, which means we are imbued with the power of words (Genesis 1:26). Every word will accomplish the purpose for which it is sent. Mankind does not always handle words sensibly, yet Mankind will be held accountable for every word that he or she speaks (Isaiah 55:11; Matthew 12:36).

Perspective on Words from the Bible

The word “words” occurs 540 times in 523 Scriptures in the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible. While the word “word” occurs 697 times in 673 Scriptures in the KJV of the Bible (BLB).

The following Scriptures give limited insight into the significance of words from a Biblical perspective. More Scriptures on word and words are in the Scriptures Appendix.

The worlds were framed by the word of God (Hebrews 11:13).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made (John 1:1-3).

And God said Let there be light and there was light (Genesis 1:3); God used Words.

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away (Matthew 24:35).

You will be declared innocent by your words, or you will be declared guilty by your words (Matthew 12:37 God's Word).

... That your words may be proved, whether there be any truth in you ... (Genesis 42:16).

... so shall your words be verified... (Genesis 42:20).

And he said, Now also let it be according unto your words (Genesis 44:10).

More Definitions

The word *oppression* occurs 24 times in 24 Scriptures in the King James Version of the Bible (BLB). All of these Scriptures occur in the Old Testament (OT) yet, similar situations described did not cease to exist when the OT canon ended. Those situations or events uncover New Testament spiritual realities and spiritual realities occurring over the centuries since the NT canon closed.

The word *oppress* occurs 23 times in 23 Scriptures in the King James Version of the Bible. Concerning the situations or events in the OT, Kevin Conner says it best,

“The New is in the Old contained,
The Old is in the New explained,
The New is in the Old concealed,
The Old is in the New revealed,

The New is in the Old enfolded,
The Old is in the New Unfolded”. (Conner, p.1)

Information about the words, oppression and oppress will further add to a good foundation; a word based foundation for knowledge and understanding. The knowledge and understanding hopefully will persuade Mankind to stand against spiritual forces as prescribed in the New Testament.

More Information

The word *oppression*, a noun, is prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of authority control; the state of being subject to unjust treatment or control (OD). Words associated with oppression are: persecution, abuse, maltreatment, ill-treatment, tyranny, despotism, repression, suppression, subjection, subjugation; cruelty, brutality, injustice, hardship, suffering, misery.

The word *oppress*, a verb, is to keep (someone) in subservience and hardship, especially by the unjust exercise of authority; “a system that oppresses working people”; cause someone to feel distressed, anxious, or uncomfortable (OD).

Words associated with oppress are: persecute, abuse, maltreat, ill-treat, tyrannize, crush, suppress, subjugate, subdue, keep down, grind down, ride roughshod over, rule with an iron fist/hand; depress, make gloomy, make despondent, weigh down, weight heavily on, cast down, dampen someone’s spirit, dishearten, discourage, sadden, bring down, deject.

These are not just “any words”. They carry life or death, over time, in them. Repeating what Jesus said in John 6:63,

It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Each of these words and all their related words, are alive. When you think on them, or dwell on them, and act on them, they are no longer lifeless. You have given life to them and they oppress you and anyone you set out to oppress. You are then the oppressor and the person or people you act against are the oppressed. Remember, the one guarding the jail, is in fact, in jail (at least during their time on guard duty). The primary difference is the guard can go home at the end of his/her time on duty.

Unfortunately, once the door is open to spirit beings; there is no escape without deliverance; after which deliverance must be maintained. Why? Because you have a weakness, an iniquity; therefore spirit beings will exploit that weakness and look for an opening, usually from your words, through which to operate against you.

Each chapter will provide more information for you to study and decide the appropriate action you need to take. As you progress through the information. Scriptures that will be helpful during your study are at the end of this study guide. It is our prayer,

*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him;
The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,
And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power,
Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set his at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:
And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all (Ephesians 1:17-23).*

That you know Isaiah's prophecy set forth our deliverance,

To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified (Isaiah 61:3).

That you know our Lord Jesus Christ finished His work. He said,

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,
To preach the acceptable year of the Lord (Luke 4:18-19).*

Each person must own responsibility for taking action(s) to break the hold of oppression; a “spirit of oppression”. We will do our part, take our stand, and conduct spiritual warfare while using the arsenal of weapons (not carnal) available to us (II Corinthians 10:3-4). We must not give place to the enemy or open doors for further oppression and destruction.

A final point, the words in the title of this study guide and the dissertation, *An Exposition of a “spirit of oppression”: Cruel and Intimidating; Crouched in Obscurity*, are also defined.

The word exposition, noun, is a comprehensive description and explanation of an idea or theory, writing or speech primarily intended to convey information or explanation; the act of explaining something (OD). Words associated with exposition are: account, analysis, annotation, article, comment, commentary, composition, construal, construction, critique, delineation, details, discourse, discussion, disquisition, dissertation, editorial, elucidation, enucleation, enunciation, essay, exegesis, illustration, interpretation, monograph, paper, piece, position paper, presentation, report, review, statement, story, study, tale, text, thesis, tract, tractate, and treatise.

The word *oppression* is defined earlier in this chapter.

The word *cruel*, adjective, is willfully causing pain or suffering to others, or feeling no concern about it; causing pain or suffering (OD). Words associated with cruel are: abominable, agonizing, barbaric, brutish, brutal, callous, cold-hearted, dastardly, diabolical, fiendish, harsh, heart breaking, heartless, inhuman, malicious, mean, monstrous, nasty, painful, remorseless, sadistic, severe, spiteful, traumatizing, uncaring, unkind, vicious, and vindictive, without pity.

The word *intimidating*, verb, is frighten or overawe (someone), especially in order to make them do what one wants (OD). Words associated with intimidating are: threatening, unapproachable, frightening, scary, daunting, menacing, and nerve-racking.

The word *cloaked*, a noun is some that covers or conceals: a cloak of secrecy. A verb is to cover or conceal with a cloak or something that acts like a cloak (DC). Words associated with cloaked are: camouflage, disguised, veiled, masked, shrouded, coat, and covered.

The word *obscurity*, a noun, is the state of being unknown, inconspicuous, or un-important; the quality of being difficult to understand (OD). Words associated with obscurity are: darkness, dimness, shadows, gloom, murkiness, insignificance.

The word *oppression* can also be associated with pain and suffering; being willfully caused to do the will of others whose acts are concealed and hard to understand. You can link the words in various ways to understand the adversary you are dealing with. Additional manifestations of oppression are expressed as they surface, in later chapters.

Finally, the words presented in this study guide and the dissertation is not to be considered exhaustive lists, whether in the definitions or associated words lists. The lists are to bring about awareness of what is impacting you. The impact on you will affect the people around you which include your situations, your actions, and your decisions. Know this, it is you who chooses to be a victim of a “spirit of oppression when your speak words that trigger its manifestation or choose to be and live victoriously by speaking words that line up with the word of God.

Chapter Four: Languages of the Bible

(Portions from chapter one of the Dissertation)

Go, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech (Genesis 11:7).

Introduction

It was important to include the languages of the Bible in this study in order to understand, the original meanings of the words under review since some words translate into several different but related English words. It was also necessary to rely upon the work of others and their translations, into English, of Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek words. The intent was to enhance the knowledge and understanding of words that could be labeled manifestations of oppression and oppress. Additionally, there are words, manifestation, infectious, infected, and contaminated that are used to help explain things taking place in the natural or physical realm that are influenced by the spiritual realm. The definitions of words from the Bible and the resulting English translations follow.

It is important to visualize from the various words in the definitions, the number of times one word is translated into numerous English words, and related words, the amount of room there is for a person to be tricked into saying the wrong thing at the wrong time. Through having spoken words, the person becomes the originator of manifestations of a “spirit of oppression”.

Manifestation Definitions

The word *manifestation* is found in three Scriptures in the New Testament, Romans 8:19; I Corinthians 12:7; and II Corinthians 4:2. There are two Greek words for manifestation. The first occurrence of *manifestation* (G602) is *apokalypsis*,

pronounced *ä-po-kä'-lū-psēs*, which means laying bare, making naked; a disclosure of truth, instruction concerning things before unknown; used of events by which things or states or persons hitherto withdrawn from view are made visible to all; appearance, unveiled (BLB). It is translated into other English words; the number of times is shown in parenthesis: revelation (12x), be revealed (2x), to lighten (with G1519) (1x), manifestation (1x), coming (1x), appearing (1x). (BLB)

The second occurrence of *manifestation* (G5321) is *phanerōsis*, pronounced *fä-ne'-rō-sēs*, which mean manifestation and is translated manifestation. Manifestation within the context of I Corinthians 12:7; and II Corinthians 4:2 can be understood to mean, appearance, unveiled.

There are seven Hebrew words that are translated oppression and six Hebrew words that are translated oppress. Each of the Hebrew words is translated into multiple English words. This can serve to provide better understanding of the various manifestations. The information is given and you can pray, read, study, verify, and gain understanding for yourself. You will want to accept the seriousness of the existence of a “spirit of oppression”.

Oppression Definitions (from the Bible)

The Hebrew word for *oppression* (H3906) is *lachats*, pronounced *lakh'-ats*, which means oppression, distress, pressure (BLB). It is translated into other English words; the number of times is shown in parenthesis: oppression (7 xs), affliction (5 xs). Exodus 3:9 - also troubling of people; Deuteronomy 26:7; I Kings 22:27- affliction; II kings 13:4; II Chronicles 18:26; Job 30:20; Psalm 42:9, 43:2, 44:24; Isaiah 30:20. (BLB).

The Hebrew word for oppression (H7701) is *shod*, pronounced *shōde*, which means havoc, violence, destruction, devastation, ruin (BLB). Oppression is translated into other English words; the number of times is shown in parenthesis: spoil (10 xs), destruction (7 xs), desolation (2 xs), robbery (2x), wasting (2x), oppression (1x), spoiler (1x). There are variations in some of the English words in the translation as follows:

Destruction - Job 5:21-22; Psalm 12:5; Proverbs 24:2; Hosea 7:13; Joel 1:15;

Desolation - Isaiah 51:19; Ezekiel 12:1; Spoil & Violence (Wickedness) - Jeremiah

6:7, 20:8; Ezekiel 45: 9; Habakkuk 2:17; Robbery - Proverbs 21:7; Isaiah 48:3; Amos

3:10; Spoiled – Isaiah 10:14; Spoiler - Isaiah 16:4; 22:4; Wasting - Isaiah 59:7, 60:18.

(BLB)

The Hebrew word for oppression (H6125) is *'aqah*, pronounced *ä-kä*, which means oppression, pressure; constraint (BLB). (Read Psalm 55:3.)

The Hebrew word for oppression (H6233) is *'osheq*, pronounced *ō'shek*, which means oppression, extortion, injury; gain by extortion (BLB). Oppression is translated into other English words; the number of times is shown in parenthesis: oppression (11x), cruelly (1x), extortion (1x), oppression (with H6231) (1x), thing (1x). There are variations in some of the English words in the translation as follows:

Leviticus 6:4 - the thing which has been deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered to him to keep, or the lost thing which he found; Psalm 62:10 - oppression, 73:8, 119:134; Ecclesiastes 5:8, 7:7; Isaiah 30:12, 54:13; Jeremiah 6:6, 22:17; Ezekiel 18:18 - cruelly oppressed, 22:7, 22:12 - extortion, 22:29. (BLB)

The Hebrew word for oppression (H6115) is 'otser, pronounced *ō'tser*, which means restraint, coercion, barrenness (of womb); From H6113, closure, also constraint, **x** barren, oppression, **x** prison. There are variations in some of the English words in the translation as follows:

Psalm 107:39; Proverbs 30:16 - barren; Isaiah 53:8 - prison. (BLB)

The Hebrew word for oppression (H6231) is 'ashaq, pronounced *ä-shak*', which means to press upon, oppress, violate, defraud, do violence, get deceitfully, wrong, extort; to be exploited, be crushed; deceive (BLB). Oppression is translated into other English words; the number of times is shown in parenthesis: oppress (23x), oppressor (4x), defraud (3x), wrong (2x), deceived (1x), deceitfully gotten (1x), oppression (1x) drink up (1x), violence (1x). There are variations in some of the English words in the translation as follows:

Leviticus 6:2 - deceived, 6:4 - deceitfully gotten, 19:13 - defraud; Deuteronomy 24:14 - oppress, 28:29 - oppressed, 28:33 - oppressed; I Samuel 12:3 - defrauded, 12:4; I Chronicles 16:21 - to do them wrong; Job 10:3 - oppress, 40:23 - drinketh up; Psalm 72:4 - oppressor, 103:6 - oppressed, 105:14, - to do them wrong, 119:121 - oppressors, 119:122 - oppress, 146:7 - oppressed; Proverbs 14:31 - oppresseseth, 22:16, 28:3, 28:17 - violence; Ecclesiastes 4:1 - oppressed, oppressors; Isaiah 23:12 - oppressed, 52:4; Jeremiah 7:6 - oppress, 21:12 - oppressor, 50:33 - oppressed; Ezekiel 18:18, 22:29; Hosea 5:11, 12:7 - oppress; Amos 4:1; Micah 2:2; Zechariah 7:10; Malachi 3:5. (BLB)

The Hebrew word for oppression (H3238) is *yanak*, pronounced *yä-nä'*, which means to oppress, suppress, treat violently, maltreat, vex, do wrong (BLB). Oppression is translated into other English words; the number of times is shown in parenthesis: oppress (11x), vex (4x), destroy (1x), oppressor (1x), proud (1x), do wrong (1x),

oppression (1x), thrust out. There are variations in some of the English words in the translation as follows:

Exodus 22:21 - vex; Leviticus 19:33, 25:14 - oppress, 25:17, Deuteronomy 23:16; Psalm 74:8 - destroy, 123:4 - proud; Isaiah 49:26; Jeremiah 22:3 - deliver the spoils out of the hands of the oppressor and do no wrong, 25:38 - oppressor, 46:16 - oppressing, 50:16; Ezekiel 18:7 - oppressed, 18:12, 18:16, 22:7 - vexed, 22:29, 45:8 - oppressed, 46:18 - oppression; Zephaniah 3:1 - to the oppressing city. (BLB)

Oppress Definitions (from the Bible)

The Hebrew word for oppress (H3095) is *lachats*, pronounced *lakh'-ats*, which means to squeeze, press, oppress; to squeeze oneself; (figuratively) to distress, afflict, crush, force, hold fast, oppress(-or), thrust self (BLB). Note: The Hebrew word *lachats* is translated oppression (H3096) and oppress (H3095). There are variations in some of the English words in the translation as follows:

Crushed Exodus 3:9, 22:21, 23:9; Numbers 22:25; Judge 1:34 - forced, 2:18 - oppressed, 4:3, 6:9, 10:12; I Samuel 10:18; II Kings 6:32, 13:4,13:22; Psalm 56:1 - oppresseth, 106:52 - oppressed; Isaiah 19:20 - oppressors; Jeremiah30:20; Amos 6:16 - afflict. (BLB)

The Hebrew word for oppress (H3238) is *yanak* and is also translated oppression.

The Hebrew word for oppress (H6231) is *'ashaq* and is also translated oppression.

The Hebrew word for oppress (H6206) is *'arats*, pronounced *ā-rats'*, which means to tremble, dread, fear, oppress, prevail, break, be terrified, cause to tremble, feel dread, to be awesome, to regard or treat with awe, regard or treat as awful, to

inspire with awe (BLB). Oppress is translated into other English words; the number of times is shown in parenthesis: afraid (3x), fear (3x), dread (3x), terrible (2x), break (1x), affrighted (1x), oppress (1), prevail (1x), terrified (1x). There are variations in some of the English words in the translation as follows:

Deuteronomy 1:29 - dread, 7:21 - affrighted, 20:3, 31:6 - afraid,; Joshua 1:9; Job 13:25 - break, 31:34 - fear; Psalm 10:18 - oppress, 89:7 - feared; Isaiah 2:19 - terribly, 2:21 - to shake terrible, 8:12 - afraid, 8:13 - dread, 29:23 - fear, 47:12 – prevail. (BLB)

The Hebrew word for oppress (H7703) is *shahad*, pronounced *shä-dad'*, which means to deal violently with, despoil, devastate, ruin, destroy, spoil, to violently destroy, despoil, assail, to be utterly ruined, to assault, to be devastated (BLB). Oppress is translated into other English words; the number of times is shown in parenthesis: spoil (30x), spoiler (11x), waste (8x), destroy (2x), robbers (2x), miscellaneous (5x). There are variations in some of the English words in the translation as follows:

Judges 5:27 - there he fell down dead; Job 12:6 - robbers, 15:21 - destroyer; Psalm 17:9 - oppress, 137:8 - destroyed; Proverbs 11:3 - the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them, 19:26 - wasteth, 24:15 - spoil; Isaiah 15:1 - laid waste, 16:4 - spoiler, 21:2 - spoiler, spoileth, 23:1 - laid waste, 23:14, 33:1 - spoileth, spoiled, spoil, spoiled; Jeremiah 4:13, 4:20, 4:30; Jeremiah 5:6, 6:26, 9:19, 10:20, 12:12 - spoilers, 15:8, 25:36, 47:4 - spoil, 48:1, 48:8, 48:15, 48:18, 48:20, 48:32, 49:3, 49:10, 49:28, 51:48, 51:53, 51:55, 51:56; Ezekiel 32:12; Hosea 10:2, 10:14; Joel 1:10 - wasted; Obadiah 1:5 - robbers; Micah 2:4 - utterly, spoiled; Nahum 3:7 - laid waste; Zechariah 11:2, 11:3. (BLB)

The Hebrew word for oppress (H1792) is *daka'*, pronounced *dä-kä'*, which means to crush, be crushed, be contrite, be broken, be shattered, to be made contrite; to allow oneself to be crushed (BLB). Oppress is translated into other English words; the

number of times is shown in parenthesis: break (3x), break in pieces (3x), crush (3x), bruise (2x), destroy (2x), contrite (1x), smite (1x), oppress (1x), beat to pieces (1x), humble (1x).

Job 4:19 - crushed, 5:4, 6:9 - destroy, 19:2 - break, 22:9 - broken, destroyed, 34:25; Psalm 72:4 - break in pieces the oppressor, 89:10 - hast broken, Rahab in pieces, 94:5 - they break in pieces thy people, 143:3 - smitten my life down to the ground; Proverbs 22:22 - neither oppress the afflicted in the gate; Isaiah 3:15 - you beat my people to pieces, 19:10 - they shall be broken, 53:5 - he was bruised for our iniquities, 53:10 - Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him, 57:15 - to revive the heart of the contrite ones; Jeremiah 44:10 - they are not humbled even unto this day; Lamentations 3:34 - to crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth. (BLB)

The Greek word for oppress (G2616) is *katadynasteuō*, pronounced *kä-tä-dii-nä-styü'-ō* which means to exercise harsh control over one, to use one's power against on; to oppress one (BLB). From G2596 and a derivative of G1413; to exercise dominion against, i.e. oppress. (BLB)

There are variations in some of the English words in the translation as follows: Acts 10:38 - healing all that were oppressed; James 2:6 - Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

Information about Manifestations

It is essential to take care as manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” are examined; remember everyone has been exposed to and contaminated by various manifestations. Anyone who has experienced oppression is a carrier of the infectious ways and effects of oppression and can very swiftly become an oppressor. Further, the purpose of oppression is to “hold down”, therefore, when one is able to overcome or

come out from oppression, any manifestations of oppression that a person has experienced can be released to work against you (Owens, p.1). One approach is to treat the exposure as one would treat an infection and seek complete liberation through repentance, deliverance, and love. Love God, love your neighbor, and love your enemy; while taking great care not to become an oppressor.

Buildings and other structures that we see today and the people with whom we interact are all time centric, hence temporal (II Corinthians 4:18). The spirit realm has existed from the before the foundation of the world and there is no time or distance in that realm. Therefore, when the first settlers landed on this continent, they encountered spirit beings as well as territorial demons that were, associated with the North America continent; some may have come with them; spirit beings of which they were completely unaware. The people and the land were contaminated, with the forms of oppression already in the territory and forms of oppression carried by the first immigrants. They were trying to escape oppression, which they were unknowingly carrying with them, while completely unaware of being exposed to spirit beings and forces in the new territory. The United States, the people and the land, and the entire world are still contaminated with a “spirit of oppression”.

The reality of the statement can be seen through examining the swiftness of the settlers’ ability and fortitude to inflict cruelty and injustice upon the Native Americans and seize of their land. The same oppression they experienced in their lives, in a different place manifested in the new land. The words labeled manifestation below are associated with words in the definitions.

Words labeled manifestations - oppressor:

Abuse, afflict, affliction, assail, barrenness (of womb), beat in pieces, beat to pieces, break, break in pieces, bruise, brutality, cause (someone) to feel distressed, cause to tremble, constraint, coercion, closure, cruelly, cruelty, crush, extortion, deceitfully gotten or get deceitfully, deceive, defraud, deject, desolation, despoil, despotism, destroy, destroyer, destruction, devastate, devastation, distress, do violence, dread, fear, force, gain by extortion, grind down, hardship, havoc, ill-treatment, injury, injustice, keep down, maltreat, maltreatment, oppress, oppressing, persecution, press, press upon, pressure, prevail, prison, proud, regard or treat as awful, repress, repression, restraint, ride roughshod over, ruin, rule with an iron fist/hand, smite, spoil, spoiler, squeeze, subdue, subjection, subjugate, subjugation, suppression, terrible, tyrannize, to assault, to crush, to deal violently with, to distress, to do them wrong, to exercise harsh control over one, to humble, to oppress one, to use one's power against one; treat violently, tyranny, vex, violate, violence, violent, waste, wasting, wrong. (TC)

Words labeled manifestations - oppressed:

Afraid, anxious, be broken, be contrite, be crushed, be shattered, be terrified, deceived, defrauded, dejected, despondent, destroyed, dread, fear, feel dread, drink up, laid waste, maltreat, misery, oppress or thrust self, oppressed, pressure, proud, robber, robbers, ruined, suffering, to allow oneself to be crushed, to be devastated, to be exploited, to be made contrite, to be robbed, to be utterly ruined, to rob, to squeeze oneself, to shake terrible, to tremble, to violently destroy, sleeping disorders, to be utterly despondent, tremble, vexed. (TC)

Words labeled manifestations - situations:

Break in pieces the oppressor; hast broken, Rahab in pieces, the thing which has been deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered to him to keep, or the lost thing which was found; deliver the spoils out of the hands of the oppressor and do no wrong; he was bruised for our iniquities; neither oppress the afflicted in the gate; regard or treat as awful, smitten my life down to the ground; to crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth; to inspire awe; to the oppressing city; to revive the heart of the contrite ones; they break in pieces thy people; they are not humbled even unto this day; they shall be broken; Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; you beat my people to pieces; to exercise dominion against; healing all that were oppressed; Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?; a system that oppresses working people. (TC, BLB)

There are over 78 words and phrases identified under oppressor; over 29 words and phrases identified under oppressed; and 25 phrases under situations. Again these are not exhaustive lists; however, there can be no doubt there is considerable evidence that oppression is operating in all levels of human life. Consider examining your life and situation to determine if you are oppressing or being oppressed or both. Where can you start?

1. How many of these associated words (manifestations) have you experienced and under what circumstances?
2. How many of these associated words (manifestations) have you exacted on others and under what circumstances?
3. What outcomes can you recall in 1 and 2 above?

4. How did you feel during and after the situation(s). Please be honest with yourself; no one will see your answers unless you share them.
5. Did you take time to examine yourself and actions before, during, and after the situation?

Chapter Five: Origin of a “spirit of oppression”

Introduction

This chapter conveys revelation information, to enlarge your understanding of the origin of a “spirit of oppression” and evil, in general. The Bible gives specific information on the origin of Satan, iniquity, and evil, therefore, any attempt to address evil stemming from Satan would, out of necessity, be limited to what we can glean from the Bible. Therefore, the approach chosen was to speak to some of the attributes of God and proceed to illustrate that everything that is opposite of God is evil. Then, a synopsis of several events, in the Bible, was explored in order to gain further understanding of the enormous sphere of a “spirit of oppression”.

Information

The Bible tells us that “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:14). The Bible further states that “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love” (I John 4:8). To further describe love, the Bible says,

Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in right. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends... (I Corinthians 13:4-8a).

The God of love did not allow His creation to be completely destroyed after Lucifer and one third of the angels were expelled from heaven, but rather encapsulated the contaminated earth in water. The corruption of the earth resulted from the massiveness of the destruction that came from the expulsion. The impact on the earth and the planets near the earth and the entire universe show signs of the destructiveness of the expulsion. It has been speculated that the entirety of God’s creation was

impacted. The extent to which the fall affected the worlds, which included one third of the heavenly host, cannot be measured by man (Ezekiel 28:14-15). The iniquity that was found in the “anointed cherub that covereth” and the forces behind the expulsion was, undoubtedly, at least one catalyst for the events that led to the earth being “without form and void” and covered with water.

The iniquity is evil; it is sin, and the opposite of God. Again, God’s creation became contaminated with the expulsion of Lucifer and his followers; corruption that needed to be contained in a flooded earth (Genesis 1:2). The length of time the earth was covered with water is unclear; however, the earth in its state of devastation and chaos is referenced in Jeremiah 4:23-27,

I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light. I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly.

I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of the LORD, and by his fierce anger. For thus hath the LORD said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.

What is clear is that God said in Isaiah 45:18, “I did not create the earth in vain, I formed it to be inhabited”; although, according to Genesis 1:2, “the earth was without form and void”. An examination of verse 18, added another level of understanding to the condition of the earth and God’s perspective about His creation.

For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; he that established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else.

The words and phrases examined were:

Lord, God, formed, the earth, and made, he hath established, created, not in vain, to be inhabited.

- Lord in Hebrew is *Yēhovah* (H3068), pronounced *yeh-hō-vā* which means “the existing One”; the proper name of the one true God; self-Existent or Eternal.
- God in Hebrew is *'elohiym* (H430), pronounced *el-ō-hēm'* which means rulers, judges, divine ones, the (true) God.
- Formed in Hebrew is *yatsar* (H3335), pronounced *yä-tsar'* which means to form, fashion, frame; pre-ordain, plan (fig. of divine), purpose of a situation.
- The earth in Hebrew is *'erets* (H776), pronounced *eh'-rets* which means land, earth, ground.
- And made in Hebrew is *'asah* (H6213), pronounced *ä-sä'* which means to do, fashion, accomplish, make, work, produce, to appoint, ordain, institute, to bring about.
- He hath established in Hebrew is *kuwn* (H3559), pronounced *kün* which means to be firm, be stable, to be established, be restored; to exist, to be; to set up right, hence to confirm, to establish, to maintain.
- Created in Hebrew is *Bara'* (H1254), pronounced *bä-rä'* which means to create, shape, form; of heaven and earth.
- Not in vain in Hebrew is *tohuw* (H8414), pronounced *tō'-hü* which means formlessness, confusion, unreality, emptiness; nothingness, empty spaces; that which is empty or unreal; wasteland, wilderness, place of chaos. (This means that the state of the earth being formlessness, covered with water chaotic was not God's plan for the earth when it was created.

- To be inhabited in Hebrew is *yashab* (H3427), pronounced *yä·shav'* which means to dwell, remain, sit, abide; have one's abode; to sit down. (God created the earth for habitation not chaos or emptiness.
- "I am the Lord and there is none else".

The Lord God, Yohovah Elohyim, single and plural, fashioned the earth entirely, set it in place, accomplished it, and finished it, to maintain it. It was not created formless, empty, in confusion, and chaos. It is a dwelling place to be inhabited, occupied and remain as such (sit down). He said, "I am the Lord, Yohovah, and there is no other beside Me. It will be as I have ordained and established."

The chaotic earth, described in Genesis 1:2 was not created in that state. The Lord God was not pleased with the condition of the earth, at that time. Again, there is no timeline evident in the Scriptures that indicate how long the earth stood encapsulated in water. After the period of containment, God began the process of restoring the earth (Genesis 1:3-25).

The Restorative Process

God restored light to the earth and separated the light from the darkness and gave them the names day and night, respectively. He then established a firmament to hold the waters above the earth from the waters below the firmament. The waters below the firmament, called Seas, were gathered to expose dry land, which God called Earth.

This Writer posits that during the period of time in which the earth was under water, "darkness covered the face of the deep", no terrestrial life existed on the earth. The corruption was contained; encapsulated under the water in the physical realm. The spirit realm and the microbiotic realm existed and their effect on the condition of the

earth is undetermined. This Writer further posits that exposing the dry land and its corruption was part of God's plan for the redemption of His creation and set in motion the restoration of and potentially repopulating the earth by Mankind (Jeremiah 4:25).

The earth retained the corruption from the catastrophic event between Genesis 1:1 and 2. Therefore, when Elohim formed Adam "out of the dust of the ground", contaminated ground, He (the Godhead) breathed Himself into Adam. Adam received the life of God inside and out. The blood flowing in Adam was "life" giving and "life" sustaining (while in obedience to God). Adam was immunized against all properties of corruption; those properties were rendered harmless to him. The life of God was in Adam.

It is also evident that Adam received gifts from God in the 'breath of life'. The gift of wisdom and the gift of knowledge were demonstrated as Adam named the animals God brought to him; God was pleased and the name Adam gave to each animal is the name that animal retained (Genesis 2:19-20). God was in Adam and with Adam; if Adam had deviated from the name that God had ordained for the animal, God would have corrected him.

From Life to Death

Adam and Eve were immunized from the corruption when God breathed life into Adam, "the breath of life" (Genesis 1:27; 2:7). The blood that flowed through Adams's body came from God, his Father, like the blood in Mankind, today, is from the father. Although the earth was still contaminated; it was not until Adam and Eve partook of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that they lost their immunization and shield (Genesis 3:6-8; Psalm 28:7). There was still a plan and a

process. The Psalms of David shows that he tapped into knowledge and received revelation beyond what many of us can comprehend today.

Process

First, a review of Galatians 5:1, *Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage*. The Greek word for made us free (G1659) is *eleutheroō*, pronounced *e-lyü-the-ro'-ō*, which means to make free; set at liberty; from the dominion of sin. To be set free from another's control (John 8:32, 36).

Jesus needed to set us free from another's control because we, by default, with our mouth, actions, and inherited sin, fall under the control of a "spirit of oppression". That is correct; He liberated us from bondage; from the dominion of sin. Who controls sin? In whom was iniquity, (evil, injustice, and unrighteousness, wrong, violent deeds of injustice, wickedness, perverseness, unjust), first found? The answer is Lucifer (Satan). With this understanding we can now look at what took place in the Garden of Eden.

Satan manifested in the form a serpent, questioned words that God had spoken; and injected his poison, iniquity, through the words he spoke to Eve:

- "Hath God said"... (v. 1)
- "Ye shall not surely die"... (v. 4)
- "God doth know... your eyes will be opened... you shall be gods, knowing good and evil." (v. 5)

Verse six gives Eve's reaction in three points:

- "The woman saw... (lust of the flesh)
- "Pleasant to the eyes... (lust of the eyes)

➤ “To be desired to make one wise... (pride of life)

The women “saw” the fruit through a different set of eyes than in Genesis 2:5. When Adam and Eve looked at each other, before the serpent had spoken to them, lust could not manifest. As Satan’s manifestation (the serpent) was questioning God’s word, “which is God”, the work of iniquity was immediately manifesting the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. As long as Adam and Eve were obedient to God, the three lusts had been rendered ineffective (Genesis 2:21-23, 25). Again, it was not until the word of God was questioned that the door was opened to “sin”, iniquity, and the three lusts. Later in Genesis 4:7 look closely at what God said to Cain about sin.

A single suggestion that was heard and entertained, and gave visual stimulation (a deadly trio to the soul) led Eve to veer from what God said and take Adam with her (Genesis 3:1-7). It was disobedience. God cannot lie (Numbers 23:19), therefore they lost the immunity imparted to them from God, the shield God was for them, and they lost the presence of God (death). Stated another way, Adam and Eve lost the continual flow of life from the presence of God, in them and around them. They were cut off and death began to manifest in their mortal bodies. From that point forward, Mankind has been affected by the corruption of evil that was already in the earth. It is the finished work of Jesus that has granted Mankind access to His immunization.

Believers are new creations, our old man was crucified with Christ (II Corinthians 5:17). Therefore sin has no control over us, unless we choose to give in to sin. When we were raised with Christ, like Him, death has no dominion over us. Sin and death no longer rule us and we can live for God. The immunization that Adam and Eve surrendered has been extended to the Believer through Christ. It is effective when we live our lives “In Christ”. When we step outside our hedge of protection the

“serpent” is waiting to bite us; the same “serpent that bit Adam and Eve and the end is death (Ecclesiastes 10:8).

Let us continue with the restorative process. It was God’s design that after He restored light and life to His creation He would then make man in His own image (Genesis 1:3-25). Man’s purpose was and still is for God to have a “body” in the earth that will be in unity and that will rule and reign with His Son (II Timothy 2:12).

Remember, the blood that flows through your body comes from your father, after the flesh. Hence you must be born again after the Spirit (John 1:12-13). The corruption of the earth by evil still exist, but just as Adam and Eve were shielded from evil while they walked in obedience to God, so too can we be shielded from the works of evil through the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ and our position in Him (Luke 10:19). Our place of protection is, *For in him we live, and move, and have our being:* (Acts 17:28).

It is a reasonable premise that a “spirit of oppression” originated with the fall of Lucifer and brought about the corruption of the earth by evil (Ezekiel 28:15-16; Isaiah 14:12). Hence, evil was in the earth before the fall of Adam and Eve. A “spirit of oppression” was working in the temptation and fall of Adam and Eve. Their fall brought that corruption into Mankind, their descendents, until Jesus completed the work for which He was sent to earth (John 17:4).

The blood that flowed through Jesus was from God (Luke 1:35). Therefore, He was immune to the evil that contaminated the earth, unless He had made a conscious decision to disobey His Father God; the temptations from the devil were designed to do so but failed (Matthew 4:1-11, 26:52-54). The iniquity that is in the human bloodline is a powerful magnet for sin; *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me* (Psalm 51:5).

Yet Jesus conception differed from the typical human conception, having been conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, His blood was not contaminated, although His body was human (Luke 1:35; Hebrews 10:5). The humanity of Jesus is recorder through the genealogy of Joseph back to Adam and sealed His legal right to be in the earth. His genealogy through Joseph and Mary, back to Abraham sealed His legal right in the earth to the throne of David (Luke 3:23-38; Matthew 1:1-16). Both the royal and priestly lineage came together, for the last time, through Joseph (Royal) and Mary (Priest).

God is love (I John 4:8), love covers a multitude of sin (I Peter 4:8) and “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:36). Oppression is the opposite of love and its outcome is bondage and death.

Chapter Six: Strategies, Tactics, and Tentacles

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 (I John 2:16).

Introduction

The strategies, tactics, and tentacles are ultimately intended to destroy you and bring about your death in the earth before you know truth (John 8:32). The three “lusts” are interrelated; interconnected through the body and soul of a person. Therefore, according to James 1:15, *Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.* Your death is the desired outcome regardless of your role, oppressor or oppressed.

Strategies, the plural of *strategy* are defined as a plan, method, or series of maneuvers or actions designed to achieve a specific goal or result. Associated words: action, approach, blue print, cunning, design, method, plan, program, scheme.

Tactics, the plural of *tactic* is defined as any mode of procedure for gaining advantage or success. Associated words: approach, campaign, course, device, maneuver, method, move, ploy, scheme, technique.

Tentacles the plural of *tentacle* is defined as power or influence that reaches into many areas. Associated words: antenna, appendage, arm, barbell, feeler, grip, grasp, limb, outgrowth, process

Information

We first encounter the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life in Genesis 3:6, when Satan brought the fruit of the “Tree of the knowledge of good and

evil to Eve's attention. The examination in this section begins with the lust of the flesh, starting with Genesis 3:6, which states,

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.

Adam was commanded, by God, not to eat from the tree of the knowledge good and evil. In fact, Adam could eat from every tree of the garden except the one tree. Eve was in Adam at the time the command was given. After Adam passed the knowledge test, Eve was removed from Adam while he was in a deep sleep (Genesis 2:19-23). When Eve received knowledge of God's command is outside the scope of this study guide. Understanding the manifestation of oppression, the strategies, tactics, and tentacles, the devices used by Satan, and the ways and effects, are within the scope of this study guide. The acts that can be categorized as the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life were the next oppression related areas examined.

First, the Bible is clear that the device Satan used was deception; he brought God's word into question. He asked Eve what God has said about the trees in the garden (Genesis 3:1). Although questionable, Eve answered the serpent (v. 2-3) and his response to her was, "You shall not surely die" (v.4). Once that door was opened the hedge of protection was broken and the serpent bit them (Ecclesiastes 10:8). Second, the way or path to disobeying God's command was also opened. The strategy was long term, the death of Adam and Eve. The tactics was to focus her attention of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, its benefit to their flesh (food), their eyes (looked good), and their pride (desire to be wise). God had given clear instructions on

what would happen to them but His command was overridden through deception and the three lusts. Ignorance and disobedience can and will cause death, even today.

Adam and Eve had a covering that protected them. Evidence to substantiate that statement can be found in Genesis 2:25, “where they saw that they were naked, yet they were not ashamed”. They had eyes but the eye gate to their soul was not open. They talked with their mouth, listened with their ears, touched with their hands and possibly even used their nose. It was not until the deception was implemented and acted upon did Adam and Eve become open to death. It also gave an entity other than God access to their soul. Further examination of each of the lusts was warranted and necessary.

Lust is a noun and a verb. The noun is defined as a passionate desire for something; very strong sexual desire; a sensual appetite. The verb is defined as to have a very strong sexual desire for someone; to feel a strong desire for something. Associated words: desire, crave, craving, covet, want, wish for, long for, greed, passion,

Pride is defined as a high sense of one's own proper dignity or value; self-respect; an excessively high opinion of oneself; conceit; arrogant or disdainful conduct or treatment; haughtiness. Proverbs 16:18 states, *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall*. Destruction is a manifestation of oppression as in haughtiness.

Lust of the Flesh

The lust of the flesh entails unhealthy desires for things that the world suggests will satisfy obsessions that are sometimes tied to immorality, sometimes tied to excessive appetite and addictions. Things that are thought to bring satisfaction,

pleasure, and hopefully some level of fulfillment. The body, the heart, the appetite, and various levels of indulgences come together and the end is death (James 1:15).

Adam and Eve failed the test of the lust of the flesh. The last Adam, after He has fasted forty days, in the wilderness, was tempted by the Devil. We should remember the words Jesus spoke in Matthew 4:4, *It is written. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.* This example gives us assurance that obedience to the word of God and speaking the word of God in the situation will deliver the protection needed against the tactics of the Devil.

Lust of the Eyes

The lust of the eyes is a desire to possess things that are beyond our means, which leads to debt and an open door to temptations that can open other doors. The lust of the eyes causes us to latch on to material things, jewelry, cars, houses, travel, and possessions that sometimes are intended to impress others; things that are pleasurable. Coveting is a large part of the “lust of the eyes” and the commandment in Exodus 20:17 tells us we are not to covet anything, Again, our desire for something can become extreme and beyond being satisfied; the extremes varies from person to person, and can be linked to life styles, and geographical locations.

The temptations aroused by “the lust of the eyes” are all around us, television commercials, billboards, and other advertisement methods are enticements to feed into and create extremes. They are successful only when we yield to them. They are of the world and not of God.

Adam and Eve failed the test of the lust of the eyes. The last Adam, after He has fasted forty days, in the wilderness, was tempted by the Devil. The second temptation presented to Jesus was “all the kingdoms of the world with their splendor”

(vv. 8-9). Jesus said, “Get behind me Satan” (v. 10). We are to worship the Lord, our God and only serve Him. Our eyes are not to drive our desires for things. We would do well to follow the example Jesus set for us and not yield to this temptation under the guise of “prosperity”.

The Pride of Life

The pride of life exhibits itself in boasting, arrogance, haughtiness; usually are those who “think more highly of themselves than they should (Romans 12:3). It is worldly and is not befitting of Believers.

Adam and Eve also failed this test. The last Adam, after He has fasted forty days, in the wilderness, was tempted by the Devil. The third temptation presented to Jesus by the Devil was that He could jump off the pinnacle of the temple with the knowledge that God would not allow Him to die in doing so. Again, the response from Jesus said, “It is written”. No one has authority to tempt the Lord our God (v. 7). Equally important is the power delegated to Jesus by His Father was to be used in completing the mission for which He was sent. He glorified the Father by not being tempted to use those powers to impress.

Jesus remained true to His mission through the three major areas of temptations for Mankind. We tend to stay the course for a season and then begin to stray, a little here and a little there until we realize we have gotten off course. Know this, God is not taken by surprise and has already set in place everything we need to get back on course (I Peter 1:3).

Iniquity

Iniquity occurs 278 times in 262 Scriptures in the KJV of the Bible.

It is said of Lucifer, *Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, til iniquity was found in thee* (Ezekiel 28:15). The Hebrew word for *iniquity* (H5766) is `evel, pronounced *eh'·vel* which means injustice, unrighteousness, wrong; violent deeds of injustice.

Translated: iniquity (36x), wickedness (7x), unrighteousness (3x), unjust (2x), perverseness (1x), unjustly (1x), unrighteously (1x), wicked (1x), wickedly (1x), variant (2x). (BLB)

It was further said of Lucifer,

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 (v. 28).

The Hebrew word for *iniquities* (H5771) is `avon, pronounced *ä·vōn'* which means perversity, depravity, iniquity, guilt or punishment of iniquity, evil; crimes to be punished.

Translated: iniquity (220x), punishment (5x), fault (2x), Iniquities (with H1697) (1x), mischief (1x), sin (1x). (BLB)

What can be done?

The lure of the world is always present and is becoming more intense. It was the Son of God's desire to obey the Father and complete the mission for which He was sent to the earth. His mission, the reason His Father sent Him to earth was always in the forefront of the mind of Jesus. We must have that same resolve. Four questions can help us examine our motives: (What am I doing? Why am I doing this? Why do I want this? What am I saying?). These four questions will lead you to further check your

motives and help you to “examine yourself” (II Corinthians 13:4). It is an exercise that can be easily worked into your decision making process.

Chapter Seven: Concerning Manifestations

Introduction

The people that migrated to America, the “new land”, were seeking a new life; and freedom from various forms and manifestations of oppression. Many were said to be seeking religious freedom. Noted in a later chapter, religion is a manifestation of a “spirit of oppression” which was already in the “new land”. People were already living in the land; nations of people who looked and dressed differently from the newly arrivals, who we identify as “Settlers”. The new arrivals did not take long to begin to impose their beliefs, values, and standards on the native people in the land.

The prevailing interpretation of Matthew 28:19-20 and the approach to making disciples operate from the heart of the person. We can agree that we only have accounts in history books and conclude that the people probably meant well. They “knew not” what was operating against them.

Please understand a “spirit of oppression” found openings and opportunities to use the people who were trying to escape oppression, to launch a strategy of oppression against the Native American people and later, the African people, and the Mexican people. The Native American people and the Mexican people had land while the Africans were taken from their land and brought to a foreign land into servitude (manifestation of oppression).

History will confirm that there was oppression among the Native Americans in the new land, same with the Mexicans in the new land, and the Africans, in Africa, as well. Hence, all of the people, those already in the land and those that came to the “new land” were exposed to and had been participants in various forms of oppression manifesting itself over the centuries.

Just as addiction starts with the opening of a door by using a substance, so too does oppression start with an open door. The door that is opened falls under one of four categories, “iniquity, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life” (I John 2:15). These doors are exposed, for examination, in the context of the Scripture:

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. 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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever.

Scripture clearly states that the “lusts” that are described here are of the world and not of God. There is further clarity in that those who love these “lusts” do not love God. We can conclude that God does not support any decision we make to pursue these “lusts”. We can further conclude that they are opposite of God as we are not to love the world or the things of the world. Chapter six provides a closer look at “iniquity and the lust” doors as strategies, tactics, and tentacles.

There is evidence that when we truly love the Lord our God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength, it is not hard to love our neighbor as ourselves (Matthew 22:37-39); it then becomes easier to “love our enemy”, and “do good to those who spitefully use” us (Matthew 5:43-44). It is also true that when we love, it is difficult to lie, steal, kill, or covet our neighbor’s things, possessions or spouse. Love then truly covers a multitude of sins (I Peter 4:8; James 5:20). But when we are without love, it usually start with a lack of love for ourselves; which leads to despising oneself and leaves both the front door and the back door open resulting in a truly appalling state of affairs. A “spirit of oppression” is then free to without restraint, manifest as severely as possible; the outcomes can become overwhelming and deadly.

Manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” have been taking place with Mankind since the fall, yet, there is very little said about this spirit and certainly nothing taught about it. The evil that is taking place can be easily described by the words that give it a name. However, the people’s hearts have “become calloused; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, hear with their ears, understand with their hearts and turn, and God would heal them” (Matthew 13:15 NIV).

Actually, we see what we want to see, hear what tickles our ears, and believe that which is convenient. We are perfectly set up for being controlled by a “spirit of oppression”. But Jesus said,

You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me (John 5:39).

God told the serpent in Genesis 3:15, “I will put enmity between you and the woman and between her seed and your seed”; this is the promise of the Savior of the world, the Deliverer from everything that is opposite of God. Now look at Psalm 40:7 and Hebrews, 10:7, “I come; the entire Book is written about Me; I do the will of God, My Father”. Satan believed God and attempted to destroy the plan of God every time the sign indicated a major player in God’s plan was to be born. One child died when Abraham was born; hundreds even thousands when Moses was born and shortly after Jesus was born.

Manifestations of cruelty, death, destruction, do wrong; manipulation, murder, threats, and treating violently give names to the actions of the people carrying out the atrocities. You can add to the list as necessary. All are evidence of a “spirit of oppression” in operation.

Chapter Eight: Devices of Oppression

Introduction

A device can be used for good and for evil; can be neutral when dormant; and can be used to accomplish the end for which it is intended, legal or illegal. Not all devices have the same purpose or function so it is important to gain an understanding of the devices of oppression and how to identify them.

A device (noun) is an object, machine, or piece of equipment that has been made for some special purpose; a weapon that explodes; something that is done in order to achieve a particular effect; something in a book, play, poem, movie, etc., that is used to achieve a particular effect. Consider the words in the next paragraph; as you read each word, think about what is going on around you, what you have heard and witnessed in the actions and interactions of people, and apply your own analysis. Remember, there is a legal aspect to oppression with respect to laws enacted by government that are enacted to maintain civil obedience. The need for such laws is the direct results of the iniquity in Mankind and a propensity to sin.

Information

What is the difference between a device and a manifestation? Consider a Carpenter preparing to build a cabinet. The finished cabinet will be considered the manifestation; the work and materials together yields a cabinet. The Carpenter will use various devices, hammer, saw(s), nails, glue, wood that is shaped into the cabinet; even the Carpenter is a device in the manifesting of the finished product. The cabinet can be used by generations of owners and still, eventually, be reduced to ashes blown away by the wind.

Hence, the difference between a device and a manifestation is directly related to the state of the person, at the time, and the intended product or outcome. Therefore devices and manifestations can be transformed to camouflage the control and the strategy. For instance, deceit can be used by the deceiver (oppressor) for the purpose of some form of gain. Deception is a device used by the deceiver while the deceiver is a device being used by a “spirit of oppression”. The gain for the oppressor is the manifestation. If the gain (to the few) leads to the fall of a financial institution, the people with substantial losses will be the oppressed; the few are the oppressors.

It is further evident that manifestations, devices, ways and effects are all intertwined in a network that is more controlling, divisive, and devious than anything known to man or that, with our limited knowledge, may be considered comparable. It is quite understandable why so many schemes over the last few decades have been extremely complex, hard to uncover, and even harder to prevent. See Examination of the Book of Job in chapter eleven.

Words labeled devices:

Abortion, abuse, assault, bait, beating, beguile, belligerence, belittle, bias, bullying, chains, conflict, credit, deceit, demean, deregulate, discrimination, diseases, disrespect, domestic violence, entice, false accusations, false religion, force something upon, grudges, hallucinogenic drugs (LSD, marijuana, to name a few), handcuffs, hanging (lynching), harassment, hostility, lying, impose, ignorance, intimidation, manipulation, mind games, mistreatment, molest, murder, obesity, occultism, pornography, poverty, predator, ropes, religion, sex, shackles, stealing, threats in any form, transgression, trickle down, unbalanced scales, violence, wars. (TC)

Each of the above words can be defined and examined. A few examples are as follows:

The word *abortion* (noun) is defined as the deliberate termination of a human pregnancy, most often performed during the first 28 week of pregnancy; the termination of a pregnancy after, accompanied by, resulting in, or closely followed by the death of the embryo or fetus; spontaneous expulsion of a human fetus during the first 12 weeks of gestation; induced expulsion of a human fetus. Associated words: Aborticide, feticide, misbirth, miscarriage, termination.

The word *assault* (verb) is defined as make a physical attack on; a threat of bodily harm coupled with an apparent, present ability to cause harm; the act of forcing a person to engage in sexual activity and especially intercourse; the act or action of setting upon with force or violence.

Associated words: Rape, ravishment, sexual assault, violations, aggression, attack, attempt, blitz, charge

Chapter Nine: Ways and Effects

Introduction

Manifestations and devices of a “spirit of oppression” were covered in chapters seven and chapter eight respectively. Manifestations help to identify what is present and operating. Devices are what are being used to achieve an outcome. Ways and effects is the residual and can provide the evidence of what has taken place over a period of time; that which remains in the physical realm. The soul and the body will bear the scars of manifestations. The devastation or aftermath of a tornado is a good example.

The clouds, weather conditions, and other indicator are predictive, however, the actual tornado is the manifestation; the varying directional winds/drafts are the devices. The debris and devastation are the ways and effects.

When the ways and effects of oppression are examined, there are commonalities that surface. It is not unexpected that the commonalities exist since manifestations and devices were found to be dependent upon the state of the person, at the time, and the intended outcomes. Ways and effects can be observed in mannerisms, traits, infirmities, and character flaws; the results of an onslaught of devices, manifestations, strategies, tactics, and tentacles.

Ways, the plural of *Way* is defined as direction or manner; method or style or manner; characteristics or manner of behavior or expression; a means of entrance or exit from somewhere.

Effects, the plural of *Effect* is defined as change that is a result of or consequence of an action or other cause; the result or impact of something, and outcome; to produce or cause to come into being; influenced by.

Ways and effects encompass the manner of behavior, methods, and characteristics; the results, outcomes or consequences brought about when the devices of oppression and the manifestations have run their course. They are intertwined and repetitive unless and until deliverance, a way of escape is accepted and implemented.

Information

Words are used to describe the manner of behavior, methods, and characteristics of a person, a people, a community, and a nation. These cannot be viewed through the eyes of prejudice because you are then being used by a “spirit of oppression”. Consider the words as describing the outcomes or observable actions, habits, even characteristics that must be eliminated. The list can and should be expanded when you have studied the material in this study guide and the dissertation.

Words labeled ways and effects:

Addictions, biases, bipolar, cancer, diabetes, debilitating diseases that renders the body/person incapable of normal functions (Multiple Sclerosis, birth defects, paralysis, blindness, rheumatoid arthritis, excessive eating/eating disorders), depression, enabling tendencies, facilitating tendencies, improper testimonies, incarceration, infirmities, insanity, prejudices, rage, rudeness, suicide,

Ways and effects may also, in some settings, be residuals left from various manifestations and devices of oppression, The oppressed, at the time of deliverance, may have become complacent even reliant upon certain behaviors or characteristics. It is each person’s responsibility to decide to stand against manifestations of a “spirit of oppression”. No one can shake another person loose from the underlying control. If the person is unwilling accept a way of escape and stand in freedom, prayer is always

recommended to seek God to intervene. Keep the person in prayer until there is a release.

Chapter Ten: Possessed Vs. Oppressed

Introduction

The Bible states in I Corinthians 13:9, *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away with.* This is a declaration of the limitation of any knowledge Mankind professes; said knowledge is limited by time. One excellent example is the belief, during a time in history, that the earth was the center of the universe. But that changed with Nicolaus Copernicus development of his heliocentric model, in the 16th century. Knowledge about the universe is still increasing and will continue to increase because Mankind will always, “know in part”. Know, too that Jesus told us we would have access to truth when the “Spirit of truth” is come (John 12:3) because we must be mature enough to handle truth.

So, what we can do is, apply what we know to the full extent of our current knowledge. Then go on to use what Mankind has uncovered, about a knowledge area over the centuries, extrapolate, explain, and apply the results. This was the method used to gain understanding of the differences in the manifestations of possessed vs. oppressed.

Possessed

Possessed (adjective) is defined as (of a person) completely controlled by an evil spirit; (of a spirit, especially an evil one) to occupy, dominate, or control (a person) from within. The word *possessed* occurs 39 times in 39 Scriptures in the Bible (KJV); 24 of which are in the OT. Possessed in the OT speaks to possessing the land and the kingdom. The first 11 occurrences of possessed in the NT speak of being possessed

“with devils”(4), “of the devils”(1), “with a devil”(1), “of the devils”(2), “with the devil” (3). Possessed with devils, of the devils, with a devil, of devils, and with the devil (G1139) is *daimonizomai*, pronounced dī-mo-nē'-zo-mī, which means to be under the power of a demon.

What does it mean to be under the power of a demon? What is a demon? How can one come under the power of a demon? There are Scriptures that provide insight and answers to some of these questions. The word demon does not appear in the KJV. The word demon is part of the definition of devil. The word devil is a synonym for the word Satan.

The word *Satan* occurs 55 times in 49 Scriptures in the KJV; in the Hebrew (H7854) is *Satan*, pronounced *sä-tän'* mean adversary, one who withstands; superhuman adversary. The relationship between demons and Satan is further examined in the origin of demons.

The Origin of Demons

Many articles, papers, and books that provide information about demons were reviewed. It was not an exhaustive review, however, a sufficient review was conducted and there was an overriding premise; that premise being demons are fallen angels. The premise is not consistent with Scripture as delineated below.

The Bible addresses two situations about angels that violated their appointed status. The first reviewed was the angels that followed Satan in the rebellion (Revelation 12:4); and the second was the angels that “kept not their first estate” (Jude 1:6; Genesis 6:1-4). Both of these situations identified acts of rebellion in regards to one third of the heavenly host being cast down to earth, while a portion of that group cohabitated with the Mankind females. The inference is drawn from Book of Enoch,

that not all of the angels that were on earth participated in the cohabitation. What we do know is the angels that “left their first estate” are reserved in everlasting chains under darkness until the Day of Judgment (Jude 6). These angels are restricted from movement in the spirit realm, hence rendered unable to possess Mankind.

Further examination of Scriptures regarding the subject, angels are celestial and Mankind is terrestrial (I Corinthians 15:39-40). Angels, whether good (God’s) or evil (Satan’s), have a need to be mobile; they would need to be able to move around in the spirit realm and carry out commands (Job 1:7, 2:2; I Peter 5:8). It is a generally accepted belief that in order to possess Mankind, demons must enter the body/soul of the person. The Book of Enoch was used during the research and analysis of the origin of demons.

Enoch is not included the authorized Canon of the Bible, the 66 Books. However, Enoch provides insight into his dreams and conversations with celestial beings; Enoch being asked to intercede for the angels who “left their first estate”, and the conversation between Michael and Raphael about the punishment inflicted on the angels in chains under darkness (Enoch 12-16; 68). Therefore, it is reasonable to speculate that angels would not subject themselves to the same punishment as the angels who “left their first estate” by attaching themselves to Mankind.

Another area that was examined and analyzed was the hierarchy of angels. According to the Orthodox Teachings on angels, there are nine orders of the angels that are divided into three hierarchies. Each hierarchy is divided into three orders: the highest, the intermediate, the lower.

The highest in the hierarchy are Seraphim, Cherubim, and Thrones. The intermediate in the hierarchy are Dominions, the Virtues, and the Powers. The lower in the hierarchy are Principalities, the Archangels, and the Angels. The angels here, regal,

powerful celestial beings, are most likely the angels sent, by God, to minister to His people (Hebrews 1:14). Michael, an archangel, is the protector of God's people.

Lucifer is called, "the anointed cherub that covereth". It was the designation given to him by God and it has not changed, although iniquity was found in him and he is in a fallen state (Romans 11:29). Michael recognized Satan's rank when he was contending with him for the body of Moses, and said, "The Lord rebuke thee" (Jude 9). Finally, Hebrews 2:6-7, lets us know the esteem God has for Mankind by setting him over His work. Yet the angels know their place, their celestial place, even the ones that do evil. So, the field has been isolated to terrestrial since Mankind is terrestrial.

Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, sometimes called the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9, 8:2; I Peter 1:11; Galatians 4:6) is legal in the earth because He resides in the spirit of Mankind who is made in the image of God, and born again by the will of God (John 1:12-13). The spirit of man is in man, flesh and blood, and is legal in the earth by right of birth.

Again, the Book of Enoch provides the answer to the origin of demons. Mankind is terrestrial; therefore, whatever possesses Mankind will have a terrestrial origin. The inference can be drawn from the Book of Enoch that the demons that afflict Mankind are the evil spirits born out of the cohabitation of angels and women. They are terrestrial and are forced to remain terrestrial, even after death.

And the spirits of the giants afflict, oppress, destroy, attack, do battle, and work destruction on the earth, and cause trouble: they take no food, but nevertheless hunger and thirst, and cause offences (Enoch 15:10).

This certainly helps our understanding of the request the demons made to Jesus when He was casting them out the man in the Gadarene. *The demons begged Jesus, "If you drive us out, send us into the pigs"* (Matthew 8:30-37; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:27-

38). Demons once had a terrestrial body and can “overwhelm” a person when they find an opening; such was the case the Gadarene (Luke 5:9). The demons (devils) were of such a number and strength that the mind and the personality of the person had been overtaken by the ‘legion’. A Roman legion could have between 5,000 and 6,000 men; the actual number varied over the centuries. That number of spirit beings in the body and soul of a person would most assuredly render the person unable to fight to victory. The person was not saved.

Study Points

- Celestial beings are powerful, obey God, and do His bidding (Psalm 103:20).
- Celestial beings do not have flesh and blood bodies, which would limit their mobility and strength.
- Celestial beings, those who obey God and those who are evil, excel in strength and would not trade their strength and mobility for a flesh and blood body. There is no evidence in the Bible to support the possibility of celestial beings taking on a terrestrial body.
- Demons are beings that are both celestial and terrestrial beings born from the cohabitation of angels and Mankind females. They were the giants and descendents of giants in the earth. They can neither be considered celestial nor terrestrial but are condemned to wander on the earth.
- Demons are territorial, confined to the territory in which they lived.

- Demons had a flesh and blood body, still desire to have a flesh and blood body, and will occupy a flesh and blood body whenever they can do so.
- Demons are ground level troops that can be used by evil celestial beings against Mankind from afflicting, bringing destruction, possessing, etc.; while doing the bidding of higher ranking levels of evil.

Celestial beings (never had a physical body) and the beings confined to earth (currently without a body), have a military order and hierarchy. Just as in the military, disobedience can result in death. Further, the celestial beings, those obedient to God, witnessed God the Word, Lord Sabaoth (the Lord of hosts), humble Himself, take on a Body, and was obedient to God the Father (John 1:1; Romans 9:29; I Timothy 3:16; Hebrews 10:5; Philippians 2:8). Angels, both good and evil were able to observe Him take a Mankind Body. The One more powerful than themselves, was observed as He suffered death in perceived weakness and reproach; and they were ever on alert to come to His aid, if told to do so. Yes, these mighty, powerful, fearless celestial being would have obeyed God, but they would not just step down from their “first estate” without being commanded to do so.

Iniquity was found in Lucifer, leading to his fall to being Satan. It is not a reasonable idea that any of his army would adapt humility. And according to Enoch’s description of demons (earthbound spirits), it is demons that are more likely to take over the body of Mankind, than any other spirit being. The information in this study guide is not addressing the state of the person; whether the person is saved or not.

Several Scriptures are shown under the Scriptures headings below.

Origin of Demons Scriptures

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. There are also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another (I Corinthians 15:39-40).

Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word (Psalm 103:20).

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation (Hebrews 1:14).

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; (Matthew 13:41).

But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? or the son of man that thou visitest him? Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: (Hebrews 2:6-7).

And now, the giants, who are produced from the spirits and flesh, shall be called evil spirits upon the earth, and on the earth shall be their dwelling. Evil spirits have proceeded from their bodies; because they are born from men, and from the holy Watchers is their beginning and primal origin; they shall be evil spirits on earth, and evil spirits shall they be called. As for the spirits of heaven, in heaven shall be their dwelling, but as for the spirits of the earth which were born upon the earth, on the earth shall be their dwelling. And the spirits of the giants afflict, oppress, destroy, attack, do battle, and work destruction on the earth, and cause trouble: they take no food, but nevertheless hunger and thirst, and cause offences. And these spirits shall rise up against the children of men and against the women, because they have proceeded from them (Enoch 15:8-11).

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: (Ezekiel 28:14a).

Study Points Scriptures

That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning-there were all the dead bodies (II Kings 19:35 NIV).

Isaiah confirms the account in chapter 37:36.

Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word (Psalm 103:20 NIV).

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God (John1:1).

And as Esaias said before, Except the Lord of Sabaoth had left us a seed, we had been as Sodoma and been made like unto Gomorrhah (Romans 9:29).

Behold. The hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord Sabaoth (James 5:4).

Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me: (Hebrews 10:5).

And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Philippians 2:8).

Chapter Eleven: Examination of the Book of Job

Introduction

The extent to which man will go to oppress is documented in the Bible, the history books, and current events (history is in the making), and there is still an overall unawareness of what is behind the actions. When we start in Genesis with Abraham receiving a word of wisdom and prophecy from God in chapter 17, we can believe what God says He will do. There are places, people, and situation throughout the Bible where manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” can be found. One book with the numerous occurrences of and evidence of oppression being manifested is Job.

Recognizing the manifestations of oppression in the Book of Job is fairly straight forward after having gone through the process employed in earlier chapters of this study guide. There are 42 chapters in the Book of Job; however, it is not necessary to conduct an exhaustive study for you. There are only three chapters specifically referenced in this study guide in which manifestations of oppression are identified and exposed for your benefit. You are encouraged to look at the Book of Job in more detail as well as examine other books of the Bible for manifestations of oppression. You are also encouraged to identify tool of oppression, strategies, tactics, and tentacle, and ways and effects in other books.

The Book of Job tells you God knows you character; He knows:

When you can stand; under what circumstances you can stand; what you can stand; and how long you can stand. Job chapters one and two are visual representation of Paul’s message in Ephesians 6:12. Job’s ability to stand in the face of destruction, affliction, ruin, disaster, murder, scorn, and complaints from others is the standard for “and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore,” (Ephesians 6:13b-14a).

Information

Chapter one of Job gives the reader insight into the man and his godliness, his family, his possessions, his fears, and his worship discipline. Then the reader is given information and opportunity to visualize actions in and experience a conversation taking place in the spirit realm. The setting is the presence of God where the sons of God (angelic beings) along with Satan came to present themselves before God. There is implication that, at least with Satan, there is a requirement to give an account of the things they are involved with in the natural realm. Other glimpses into the spirit realm recorded in the Bible can be found in Genesis 28:12-15; II Kings 6:15-17; and II Corinthians 12:2-4.

It is clearly stated from God's perspective, Job was blameless (perfect and upright), and God told Satan those very words. Satan's response was to accuse God of placing a hedge around Job, his family, his possessions; blessing the works of his hands, and giving him increase (vs. 9-10). Satan further tells God Job will curse Him, to His face, if He put forth his hand and touch everything that belongs to Job (v. 11). God gave Satan permission to use his power against Job but set a boundary to what He allowed Satan to do to Job; Satan could not touch Job (v. 12).

When Satan left the presence of God, what he released against Job were manifestations of the "spirit of oppression. The next ten Scriptures describe the manifestations and how havoc was wreaked against Job through his house (children) and his possessions. Yet there is no further mention of Satan until chapter 2. It is absolutely essential to examine the last ten Scriptures in chapter one and understand oppression and possession are all tied to manifestations of a "spirit of oppression".

Take a few minutes to return to chapter seven and read the information on manifestations. You will find destruction, devastation; ruin, wasting, and spoil are listed as manifestations of oppression. Further, this study guide does not purport to include an exhaustive list of manifestations. Each word in each of the list can be examined and can reveal additional words that can be describe manifestations.

Destruction is defined as the act or process of causing so much damage to something that it no longer exist or cannot be repaired; the action or process of killing or being killed; to cause someone's ruin; demolition, devastation.

Associated words: abolishing, abolition, annihilation, assassinating, blight, carnage, crashing, crushing, disintegrating, disrupting, dissolving, downfall, elimination, end, eradication, extermination, extinction, extinguishing, extirpation, havoc, invalidating, invalidation, liquidation, loss, massacre, murder, overthrow, ravaging, ruin, ruination, sacking, shattering, slaughter, slaying, subjugation, subversion, subverting, undoing, wreckage, wrecking.

Chapter One

The scene in chapter one changed from the spirit realm to the natural realm because execution of Satan's strategy has to be carried out by Mankind and forces that occur in the natural realm; Job lived in the natural realm. The forces behind Mankind are from the spirit realm and the forces behind catastrophic events are from the spirit realm. Why? Because spirit beings are not legal in the natural realm, only human beings (flesh and blood) are legal in the natural realm; only wind, rain, earthquakes, etc. happen in the natural realm. Therefore, spirit beings use devices, strategies, tactics, and tentacles to achieve the manifestations needed to bring about their goals in the natural realm. The ultimate goal is death of Mankind and destruction of God's creation.

Next we read that the Sabeans and Chaldeans, a lightning storm, and a great wind were the devices used to carry out stealing the oxen, donkeys and camels; murdering the servants with the sword; burning up (slaughtering, slaying) the sheep and (murder, slaying) more of Job's servants; and striking down the house in which the children were feasting, causing the walls to fall on and kill Job's children. All of these tragedies happen in such a way that as one servant was reporting one situation to Job, another, then another, and then another servant came to give a report of more destruction. The devastation, ruin, and wreckage certainly brought distress to Job causing "cruel and unusual" mental and emotional punishment to be inflicted (vs. 13-19).

Job's actions and response in Scriptures 20 and 21 is consistent with God's initial assessment of his character;

Then Job arose, and rent his robe, and shaved his head, and fell upon the ground, and worshipped. And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return, the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Job's words indicate he believed God had "taken away", yet Job did not sin and he did not blame God for the things that happened to him; Job did not speak foolishly concerning God (v. 22).

Job did not know; did not have even a slight inclination that Satan had met with God and God had given Satan permission to use his power against him. Again, the caveat was Satan could not touch the person Job, his body (v. 12b).

In a similar state of affairs that impact so many, centuries after the Book of Job was written, how often do we conveniently attribute misfortunes to God? We have open access to God when we develop a relationship Him through, repentance, praise,

worship, prayer, studying the word, and spending time in His presence. We can ask Him concerning whatever we are facing. Job did not have that knowledge in chapter one; but we know that Jesus is the way and He gave us the access we need.

Chapter Two

Chapter two present a similar view of the spirit realm as chapter one. When God speaks to Satan about what he is doing on the earth and where he has come from; Satan's response was the same as in chapter one. Then for the second time, God presented an inquiry about Job to Satan,

Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil? He still holds fast his integrity, although you moved me against him, to destroy him without cause (v. 3 RS).

Satan's response was predictable since God had not permitted him to touch Job in the first encounter. Satan was given power over all that belonged to Job including children, house, servants, and livestock. Satan used his best and strongest and Job's character held strong.

Satan held that if God would permit him to touch Job body's, Job would willingly surrender all that he has and would curse God "to His face". God gave Satan permission to use his power against Job with another boundary; Satan could not take Job's life. Verse 7 states,

So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord, and afflicted Job with loathsome sores from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head (RS),

Interestingly five of the most used versions of the Bible have translated the action Satan orchestrated against Job as smote (KJV), afflicted (RS), infected (AMP), and

afflicted (NIV). Each of these words can be found to be a manifestation of a “spirit of oppression”.

This Writer posits that a “spirit of oppression” is the strong-arm of Satan and using this powerful spirit, with the multiplicity of manifestations, Satan can control the life and destiny of a person, a people, and a nation of people without “literally possessing” them. Mankind is “sharpen in iniquity” (Psalm 51:5); iniquity was found in Lucifer leading to him becoming Satan (Ezekiel 28:15); Satan is the expert on iniquity and knows how it can be used against Mankind. Iniquity is a door that expands at the will of Satan in the person that is without strong, unmovable character (I Corinthians 15:58).

I challenge you to further examine Job to find the manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” in the conversations between Job and his friends. When Job cursed the day he was born, look closely at his words and compare them to the manifestations list. All in all, God knew Job, He knew Job’s character, and knew that Job could stand the harshness and viciousness of Satan’s attack. Job came through and received blessings from God.

Mankind is sometimes, unknowingly, vessels that are yielded to evil. We become vessels yielded to evil when we violate the moral laws of God. We are either with God or against God. There is no in between.

Actions of People Where the Manifestation of a “spirit of oppression” Operates

This list is intended to encourage a closer look at what God has given us in His word. The words have been extracted from the manifestations list as well as other related lists. You are encouraged to expand this list.

Arrogance, violent, rapist, ravishment, sexual assault, aggression, attack, persecution, abuse, maltreat, ill-treat, tyrannize, crush, suppress, subjugate, subdue, keep down, extort, deceive, defraud, liar, schemer, controlling, threatening, remorseless, sadistic, spiteful, traumatizing, uncaring, unkind, vicious, vindictive, without pity.

You may find that as a parent, you don't want your children to go through situation when you know the lessons you have learned may be of great value to them. Although you may take time to share with them, they are still responsible for the choices they make. Since God gave Mankind the ability to think, He knows we will make choices and He want to be involved in our decision making.

You will find that the laws God gave to Moses, set in place protection from the microbiotic realm as well as the spirit realm. The laws dealt with the manifestations in the natural realm when the cause was from the microbiotic realm and the spirit realm. Refrigeration did not exist and salt was used over the centuries to preserve food. One example is Leviticus 22:8, which states, "He must not eat anything found dead or torn by wild animals, and so become unclean through it. I am the Lord". We know several things today: One, the animal may have been diseased, infected, or the person may not know the length of time the animal had been dead. Bacteria from the microbiotic realm would have begun to multiply and possibly cause the death of the person that eats the animal. Two, the body fluids from the animal could infect the person handling carcass. And three, God was saying, "I know what is best for you". It would be centuries later that the microbiotic realm through the development of the microscope would be discovered, yet it existed before it was "discovered".

When Israel obeyed God or cried out to God, His warrior angel fought the battles against the spirit forces that were using nations to bring war against Israel. He is

a loving God; He is a protecting God; and He knows that we, Mankind, are no match for the power wielded against us from the spirit realm; He has given us countermeasures through Jesus Christ and His finished works.

Chapter Twelve: Generations of Teachers in the Bible (Learn from Them!)

Introduction

The decision Adam and Eve made to succumb to a “spirit of oppression” is covered in Chapter five. You are encouraged to read it, study it and determine if any of it applies to you and how. This chapter will present the subtle yet deadly acts to avoid in your journey to leadership. Some of the acts are recorded in the Scriptures, some of which are presented here to offer a perspective that can be easily understood, analyzed, and applied to your situations. Generally the statement “he did evil” or “he made Israel to sin” encompasses the deadly acts that need to be avoided or shunned.

Information

It was always God’s intention that His people be led by Him with His designated man in place who would hear, obey, speak to the people, and govern the people in righteousness. Instead, there have been many who decided to go away from His presence, choose idol gods over Him, disobey His commandments, statutes, and ordinances, and live and they choose without regard for anyone else. Still, it is not God’s will that any should perish but He is patient, faithful, and longsuffering (II Peter 3:8-10).

There has been and there still are a people who are imperfect yet willing to be instructed in the Lord and His ways; to obey His commandments, statutes, and ordinances, and to live according to His prescribed ways. Generation after generation from Adam to Abraham; from Abraham to Moses; from Moses to Samuel; from Samuel to Jesus have experienced walking in righteousness as well as falling into

sinful ways. The law required punishment for sin but grace and truth through Jesus Christ set us free from the law of sin and death (John 1:17; Romans 8:2).

Adam to Abraham

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell. And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him. And Cain talked with Abel his brother: and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him (Genesis 4:1-8).

Disobedience opened the door to sin. Adam and Eve had received instructions from God of these things He required from them. They disobeyed Him in one, and all of Mankind was affected. Careful examination of words in Scripture provides evidence that Cain and Abel were taught God's instructions. Our God is a just God and the more we know, the more is expected of us (Luke 12:48). It is therefore evident that Cain could have bartered or in some way negotiated with his brother Abel for an appropriate offering to God, if his heart was toward pleasing God.

What influenced Cain to do the opposite of what God required? An examination of the words can lend insight to the answer to this question. The words and phrases in this examination are "And the LORD had respect", "Cain was very wroth", "sin lieth at the door", "shall be his desire", "thou shalt rule over him", "rose up against", "slew him".

The word *respect* in the Hebrew (H8159) is *sha`ah*, pronounced *shä-ä'* which means to look at or to, regard, gaze at or about; to blaze up, of anger, zeal, jealousy. *Sha`ah* is translated into seven additional English words; look, dismay, turn, regard, spare, be dim, depart.

The word *wroth* in the Hebrew (H27340) is *charah*, pronounced *khä-rä'* which means to be hot, furious, burn, become angry, be kindled. *Wroth* is translated into ten additional English words; angry, burn, displeased, fret, grieved, hostile, hot, incensed, indignant, and kindled.

The word *door* in the Hebrew (H6607) is *pethach*, pronounced *peh'.thakh* which means opening, doorway, entrance. *Door* is translated into six additional English words; entering, entry, gate, in, openings, place.

The word *desire* in the Hebrew (H8669) is *těshuwqah*, pronounced *tesh-ü-kä'* which means longing, craving; of beast to devour.

The word *rule* in the Hebrew (H4910) is *mashal*, pronounced *mä:shal'* which means to rule, have dominion, reign; to exercise dominion. *Rule* is translated into seven additional words; ruler, reign, dominion, governor, ruled over, power, indeed.

The phrase *rose up* is treated as a word in Hebrew (6965) is *quwm*, pronounced *küm* which means to rise, arise (hostile sense), stand, and stand up. *Rose up* is translated into numerous additional English words.

The phrase *slew him* is treated as a word in Hebrew (H2026) is *harag*, pronounced *hä-rag'* which means to kill, slay, murder, destroy, murderer, slayer, out of hand. *Slew him* is also translated into to smite with deadly intent, put to death, make (slaughter).

Cain and Abel

When Cain and Abel brought their individual offering to the Lord, the Lord looked at, considered, and accepted the offering from Abel and not the offering from Cain. The Lord does not change; He is the same “yesterday, today, and forever”. Therefore, the sacrifices and offerings given to Moses, in the law, were always in the mind of God (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8, 9:22).

Cain became angry because the Lord rejected his offering; he also became angry and jealous of Abel because Abel’s offering was accepted by the Lord. Cain failed to heed the warning from the Lord and did not apply the solution given to him. Specifically, the Lord told Cain that when his actions were not correct he opens a door, a gate to cravings that wants to devour him; but Cain could take dominion over it. The choice was given to Cain.

The uncontrolled hostility, anger, rage, indignation, jealousy, and wounded pride brewing in Cain allowed the devices of a “spirit of oppression”, iniquity, lusts of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life to overpower him. In doing so, he succumbed to its power and killed (murdered) his brother and destroyed, devastated his family. He added murder to the iniquity in Mankind and the disobedience of the parents had escalated into murder since the expulsion from the Garden of Eden.

Cain was the third person that did not follow the instructions and ways of the Lord. He received a mark from the Lord, went out from the His presence, and formed a community in a place called Nod (Genesis 4:15-16). It was the descendants of Seth that passed down through the generations, the instructions and the ways of the Lord; not all of Seth’s descendants were obedient. The wickedness in the earth overshadowed the

righteousness and Noah was selected to build an ark to save Mankind and animals selected by the Lord (Genesis 6:1-22, 7:10)

Take some time to examine the core of what God said to Cain and determine how it can apply to your life, while recalling two immutable facts: one, God cannot change; He “is the same yesterday, and today, and forever”; and two, “when the enemy shall come in like a flood, God will lift up a standard against him” (Hebrews 13:8; Isaiah 59:19).

And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him (Genesis 4:6-7).

The core of what God said is, “when you disobey, and you will; when you believe, at the time, you gave your best; when you believe you have been treated wrong; even when your belief is wrong, manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” is waiting and desires, for you to open the door. And to make sure you open to its will, it will use its devices, strategies, tactics, and tentacles against you. It desires to get into your sphere of control. But you do not have to give in to, surrender to, or be fearful, because I have already prepared a way out for you; I have already raised a standard for you and you can take dominion over all the works, ways and effects, and walk in freedom. You make the choice; I will continue to love you (Jeremiah 17:9-10; Luke 22:31; Psalm 23:4; Isaiah 41:10; I Corinthians 10:13; Isaiah 59:19; Deuteronomy 30:19; John 3:16; II Peter 3:8-10).

This examination is without a doubt beyond what we have considered in times past. I know it was for me as I began to write after much searching, defining word, and being still. You will find many turning points set before persons in the Bible; when you

search the Scriptures. This examination will not go away and I call upon you to examine your every thought before any one of your thoughts turn into actions.

Know this, our God expects us to learn and grow and be aware of what took place in previous generations. He does not change, what He says to one, He says to all (Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8; Mark 13:37). We are expected to be teachable, to teach our children, and be examples in the earth, every day, in every situation (Deuteronomy 6:7; 11:19; Matthew 5:13). There is more to come, therefore, read and study as you read this study guide.

Noah and his Family

Noah, his wife, his three sons, and their wives were the new beginning for Mankind (Genesis 7:13). Noah built the ark according to the specification given to him by the Lord. At the completion of the ark and it started to rain, Noah and his family went in along with the animals selected by the Lord (Genesis 7:1-10). The rain continued for forty days and nights, the waters subsided and the ark rested on Mount Ararat (Genesis 7:17-24, 8:1-5).

Noah's first actions after leaving the ark was to build an altar, sacrificed the clean animals saved for that purpose; offered acceptable worship to God (Genesis 8:20-22). It was not until Noah and his family returns to routines of living and consuming the fruit of their labor that manifestations of a "spirit of oppression" began again. Noah drank too much wine and Canaan, the fourth son of Ham was cursed because of a violation; Ham "saw the nakedness of his father, and informed his brothers" (Genesis 9:20-27). The manifestation and the resulting ways and effects led to the destruction of a nation of people, the Canaanites (Deuteronomy 20:17-18).

The “wickedness of the human race” was not eradicated by the second flood, and was not intended to do so. The source of the wickedness is a different realm. The words that were spoken to Cain were keys to God’s provisions in the face of any manifestation of a “spirit of oppression” (Genesis 4:6-7). So, from this point forward, to the birth of Abram, Mankind had been allowed to experience the plan of God progressing toward the manifestation of the Messiah in the fullness of time.

Abraham to Moses

Abraham’s early life should be examined in the Book of Jasher which is referenced in Joshua 10:13 and II Samuel 1:18. The Book of Jasher reveals that Abram, his Mother, and servants were hidden in a cave for ten years; after which he spent thirty nine years with Noah and Shem, learning about the Lord and His ways (Jasher 9:5).

Manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” can be seen the night of Abram’s birth. Nimrod’s “wise men, his conjurors” went to Terah’s house to celebrate with him; as they were leaving they saw and interpreted the signs in the heavens. They told Nimrod the child would, “will grow up and be fruitful, and multiply, and possess all the earth, he and his children for ever, and he and his seed will slay great kings, and inherit their lands” (Jasher 8:1-4). To that prophecy, Nimrod commanded Terah to sell Abram to him to be put to death. Terah’s refusal angered the king but Terah finally took another child that was born to him on the same night as Abram. “The Lord was with Terah in this matter, that Nimrod might not cause Abram's death”; Nimrod killed that child (vs. 14-16, 33-34). Much of the rest of the Book of Jasher parallels accounts in the Bible.

A “spirit of oppression” manifestations, devices, ways and effects, strategies, tactics, and tentacles were within the accounts given of Abram’s early life: cruelty -

being forced to sell a child to satisfy the king's insecurities, forced Terah to make a decision to sacrifice a child, murder, slaying of the child, threatening, intimidation, fear - the king inflicting fear upon the people (v.31), dealt violently with the child (v. 34), maltreat, pressure, to be robbed (of a child). Further examination can reveal more. The intent here is to present information and encourage you to search the Scriptures and gain additional understanding.

God was pleased with Abram; when Terah, his father died, God called him to leave his country and family and go to another place (Genesis 12:1-3). It was not until Lot, his nephew was separated from him that God made a covenant with Abram (Genesis 15). It is a theme that can be found throughout the Bible, God desiring to separate His people from ungodly influence and corruption.

Abraham and Sarah, determined to assist God with giving them a child, gave her servant to her husband; a servant acquired while they were in Egypt during the famine of 1891 B.C. From conception of the child until God told Abraham to listen to Sarah and put the bondwoman and her son out, there was contention in the household (Genesis 16:4, 21:10-14). God was faithful to Abraham and told him Ishmael would be a nation (21:13). Isaac, the son of promise was blessed with two sons; two nations (Genesis 25:21-23). The birthright and blessing went to Jacob, the second born, whose name was changed to Israel Genesis 27:21-29, 32:24-28). God confirmed to Israel that the family should go into Egypt (46:1-4). So, Israel took his family into Egypt at the request of Joseph, his son who had been sold into bondage by his brothers. Joseph had distinguished himself with Pharaoh by interpreting his dreams. In doing so, he was set over all the land of Egypt; only Pharaoh had more power and authority (Genesis 37:13-28; 41:39-46).

Israel would remain in bondage in Egypt for over four hundred years, just as God had told Abraham (Genesis 15:13). When Moses, the leader, ordained by God was prepared, God sent him to the Pharaoh to secure the release of the nation of Israel (Exodus 3-12:41).

Judges to Kings

From Moses to the crowning of Saul, the first king of Israel, God's chosen people were led by God through leaders chosen, selected, and appointed by Him. Israel was different from other nations, God instructed the leaders and the leaders spoke to the people on behalf of God. Although Joshua led Israel across the Jordan as they faced their first challenge at Jericho, they were not aware of what they really had to face and did not know how much they needed God to instruct them and protect them. It was, is, and will, most likely continue to be, Mankind's words and actions that open the door to a "spirit of oppression".

Saul disqualified himself from being king through disobedience, words, and actions. David was anointed king before Saul completed his forty year reign. From the time David was anointed king until Saul's death; he persecuted David, desired to kill him, and attempted to do so several times. David disqualified himself from building God an earthly dwelling place because of the blood of Uriah, Bathsheba's husband.

When Solomon ascended to the throne of David, his father, he was concerned that he lacked the ability to be a good king. He asked God for help that was specifically focused on serving God's people. In I Kings chapter 3, we are given insight into a visitation from God, in Solomon's dream. When God asked Solomon, "Ask what I shall give thee" (v. 5). Solomon's response was that he was just a child and did not know how to go out or come in (v.7). His specific request was to ask for:

- “An understanding heart to judge the people;
- To discern between good and bad: (v.9).

With Solomon asking God to give him these things so he would be able to lead God’s people; according to Solomon, “so great a people”. The request pleased God; it was an outward focused request. Obviously, Solomon was concerned about being as effective a leader as his father David. In response to Solomon’s unselfish request, God gave him what he requested and added riches and honor and long life (vs. 12-14).

Solomon had married Pharaoh’s daughter before God visited him (I Kings 3:1). Certainly an alliance with Egypt was intended to secure peace for Israel. An unnecessary act when God was Israel’s protector; it became the beginning of acts by Solomon that resulted in a divided kingdom (I Kings 11:9-14). The Bible says “King Solomon loved many strange women”. These women were from nations that God had forbidden Israel from taking as wives. He further chose to join himself to them in their idol worshipping (I Kings 11:1-8). Solomon forgot words God had spoken to him (I Kings 3:14, 6:11-13).

So what happened? Solomon loved the Lord and followed Him as David. But Solomon did something David did not do; “he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places (I Kings 3:2-3; II Chronicles 1:2-6). Solomon went up to the “high places” in Gibeon, the location of the Tabernacle of the congregation of God that Moses built in the wilderness. Solomon went back to what was in place before the Tabernacle of David. Further, the blood of Adonijah, Abiathar, and Joab shed at the start of Solomon’s reign became an open invitation to a “spirit of oppression” (I Kings 2:13-33). Although Solomon’s intent, in the killing of Joab, was to avenge the innocent blood of Abner and Amasa, he took on God’s role. Review the chapters on

manifestations, devices, ways and effects, strategies, tactics, and tentacles and you can confirm that the downward spiral of Solomon into idolatry was secured by that spirit.

Solomon was the third king of the united Israel after Saul and his father, David. Solomon was the first king of Israel that never went to war; God gave him rest from wars and he was charged with building the temple. But examine what Solomon said in I Kings 5:4, “But now the Lord my God hath given me rest on every side, so that there is neither adversary nor evil occurrent.” Occurrent means happening, chance, incident, and event. God put a protective shield around Solomon and all of Israel. So what went wrong? Solomon made unwise choices in worship, women, and wealth; these choices turned his heart away from God. Solomon allowed his wives to worship their gods and they later turned his heart after their gods (I Kings 11:4-8, 11:1,11:3, 10:1-29). Solomon’s house that he built for himself and his wives was larger than the house he built for God (I Kings 7:1, 6:2-38). The consequences of his bad choices paved the way for a divided kingdom and diverse kingships that left God out and drew the people away from God, and ultimately into captivity.

An examination of the manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” will give insight into the real culprit Solomon and Israel had to deal with: Adversary, to afflict, idolatry, mischief, and near destruction of a kingdom; albeit, God secured the bloodline and His promise to Abraham.

After Solomon, the kingdom was divided just as the words the Lord spoke He would do; He spoke and His word was settled in heaven and He knows the end from the beginning (Psalm 119:89-90). The Northern kingdom, called Judah, was made up of two tribes, Judah and Benjamin (Praise and Son of the right hand). Judah was ruled by nineteen kings and one queen, twelve of which were evil and eight were good, Asa, Jehoshaphat, Joash, Amaziah, Azariah, Jotham, Hezekiah, and Josiah.

Chapter Thirteen: Generations of Teachers from Church History (Learn from Them!)

Introduction

There is a considerable amount of history of the early church, too much to be fully detailed in this study guide and the dissertation. However, there are certain parts of church history; specifically those parts that pertain to manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” will be discussed in brief; without delving into Constantine’s position on religious in the world that he governed.

We will begin this examination with the definition of papal bull, discovery, doctrine, and bull while continuing the position of the significance of words. The definitions are as follows:

Papal bull is an edict issued by a pope; it is a particular type of public decree, letters patent, or charter issued by a pope of the Roman Catholic Church. It is named after the lead seal (bullae) that was traditionally appended to the end in order to authenticate the document.

Discovery is the action or process of discovering or being discovered; something discovered. Related words are finding, location, uncovering, unearthing.

Doctrine is a belief or set of beliefs held and taught by a church, political party or other group. Related words are ideology, tenet, principle, precept.

Bull (verb) is to push or drive powerfully or violently. Bull is also short for “bull xxxx”, or “bull crap”, meaning rubbish.

There is a list of papal bulls, although considered to be incomplete, noted in the References section of this study guide. Before you start to read the list, you must guard your heart (Proverbs 4:23). You may become righteously indignant. But it could go

beyond that to something you do not want to take root in your heart. Therefore, protect yourself and pray in advance of reading the information. It will also help to say, “Father, I forgive each of the popes, for they did not know what they were doing; or the lasting manifestations they were unleashing in the earth. God knew the atrocities they would ordain at the hands of men. Only God and God alone can judge. Say, “in the name of Jesus, I ask You to protect me. Amen”. Further, we do not know all the facts of the conditions in which they were operating; even with reading history, we still “know in part”. We are to examine what we can research, read, and analyze.

Information

Authority and rights must be exercised responsibly. Why? As noted earlier in this study guide, a “spirit of oppression” prefers to manifest at the level it can inflict harm to the greatest number of people at one time. Therefore, leaders are targets and the admonition to “pray for kings and all those in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty” can be your prayer of protection (I Timothy 2:2). The implication here is that if we do not pray for those in authority, life may not be quiet and peaceable. Let’s examine a scenario.

A person in leadership who make use of stubbornness and rebellion is actually being used as a device of a “spirit of oppression. At some point, before the action, a manifestation of a “spirit of oppression” has happened. It probably occurred shortly after the thought incubated and formed an attitude that was acted up with words; then came the action.

When a person who is elected to represent a state; is a leader of his or her party stands before a nation and declares that nominations to fill a vacancy will not be accepted from the current president, “Houston we have a problem”, a problem

orchestrated from the unseen realm. He or she is openly rebuking the authority of the sitting president. It is a sin against God, the people, the president, and the party. He or she unleashed multiple manifestation of a “spirit of oppression”. The various manifestations would be enormous and widespread because of the level of authority he or she has.

There are two visuals that came to me; now you consider them. The first can be seen in Psalm 133:2, the oil on Aaron’s head ran down on to his beard and his robe. It indicates that position Aaron held affected his office and his office affected the people and the nation. It is worthy of repeating, “Authority and rights must be exercised responsibly”.

The second visual came from a commercial about a person coughing and a greenish bluish mist spread out from the person who was coughing. Think about that mist being evil spewed out across the people, the land, the nation, and the world. When we really come to understand that our words and actions trigger manifestation from another realm, we will be quick to listen, quick to examine our attitudes, and slow to speak.

Now, I must insert something I read a few days ago; I don’t think the speaker fully comprehended what he was saying or the magnitude of its application. When Malcolm X said, “this is what he does”, he probably thought he was talking about a human being, but prophetically he was speaking about a “spirit of oppression”. What he said was this,

“Oh, I say and I say it again, ya been had; ya been took, ya been hoodwinked, bamboozled; lead astray; run amuck; (I add “hijacked”); this is what he does”.

This is exactly what (he) a “spirit of oppression does, it causes us to look at the other human being, when (he) is operating behind the scene; using our words and actions against us and others.

The words and actions of the person at that level of leadership did not take God by surprise, He is Omniscient. God’s word will not change and 1) every idle word spoken must be accounted for; 2) every seed sown will yield according to the seed sown and the ground in which it is sown; and 3) out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks. Remember, we have already established that character and the heart are one.

So the outcome from that leader’s words and actions would play out across the nation; manifested in time, what God knew before the foundation of the world, yet He still has a plan. There were numerous other courses of action that could have been taken to achieve the outcome of having the new president make the appointment to any vacancy.

That person will need to repent to God, the people, the previous president, his or her party, and the new president. It may never be clear the number of doors opened and manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” that were unleashed upon the people, the land, this nation, and the world. There is evidence of actions by others against organizations in the United States; the number and the extent of the actions may never be known. One thing we do know, even the dynamics of the 2016 election was unlike anything known to people born in the 20th or 21st century.

Now, let’s look back in time before the discovery of America and examine some things that took place, in light of the research on a “spirit of oppression”. I examined a list papal bulls dating back to 1059. Papal bulls authorizing the torture and burning of “heretics alive”; some advocated turning on the Knights Templar whose

possessions were confiscated and given to the Knights Hospitallers. History may hold explanations for these actions; investigation of which was not within the scope of this study. Some of the papal bulls allowed the Jewish people to own their own homes but they were not allowed to eat with Christians. They were not allowed to build a new synagogue; and were expelled from Vienne.

The list of papal bulls goes on and on providing affirmation that authority and rights must be exercised responsibly. The popes had no knowledge of a “spirit of oppression”, words and actions that trigger manifestations, nor did they appear to follow the model of leadership used by Jesus. Jesus took authority against the powers that were holding people captive, which is the same approach we are to use. When we exercise authority in the name of Jesus, the people can then be free to make their own decision for Jesus.

Remember, “no one can come to Him, unless Holy Spirit draw them; Holy Spirit knows the mind of the Spirit” (John 6:44; Romans 8:27). We are to make disciples not “trigger manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” in order to make them “disciples”; whatever we do must be according to the word of God and the will of God as directed by Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20; Luke 14:22-24).

If they choose some another god, we are not to enslave them. If we do, we are a device used by a “spirit of oppression”. God loves them and want them to choose Him; He sent His Son to make the path back to Him straight (John 3:16).

Regarding Pope Nicholas V, who not only condoned discrimination, but authorized discrimination against Jewish people while revoking the privileges of Spanish and Italian Jews. He further authorized actions to reduce Muslims, pagans, and other unbelievers to perpetual slavery; and allowed for enslavement of natives of Africa.

The Bible tells us that Israel was enslaved in Egypt and it was in God's plan that they would grow from a family, when they entered Egypt, into a nation. It was fear, the Pharaoh's fear, which led him to speak words that triggered manifestations of a "spirit of oppression" (Exodus 1:8-14). Ignorance of God's plan, fear, greed, etc. causes Mankind to become devices Satan uses against Mankind. You can see it throughout the Bible.

Continuing with Church History

This Researcher was challenged when reading the list of papal bulls. Although I was praying, I could find nothing associated with Jesus and the Great Commission in what I was reading. I believe we are to teach, preach, and make disciples while demonstrating or living the gospel as the love and light of the Lord flows through us to others. A "spirit of oppression" had consumed many in authority, including the popes and they were unknowingly, spewing out infectious poison across the then known world.

A brief note about beliefs; what we believe and the foundation for what we believe drives what we say, how we say it, and what we do. Therefore, we must take care to be sure that what we believe is "truth". Not a personal interpretation of "truth", but the only truth that can sanctify (John 17:17). Another statement worth repeating, "each person will stand before the judgment seat of Christ or the great white throne and give account for every word spoken and every deed done while in this body, in the earth" (II Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-15).

After a brief hiatus from examining papal bulls, I continued to examine the list starting with the papal bull *Romanus Pontifex*; issued in 1455 by Pope Nicholas V, it is one which notably affects the United States. The Dutch who brought the first Africans to America in 1619 believed they had the right to ownership of the Africans based on

that papal bull. The papal bull, *Inter caetera*, issued in 1493 by Pope Alexander VI granted to Spain the right to claim the lands Christopher Columbus “found”. This gave the Settlers the belief they had the right to disenfranchise the Native Americans and take what they wanted from them since the Native Americans were unbelievers. That is this Researcher’s analysis of what took place while perceiving various operations of a “spirit of oppression” was in control.

There have been numerous court decisions based on the premise that those who issued the papal bulls were right and had the authority to do so. We certainly cannot assess the condition of the heart or anyone living or dead. Except, if one holds to the premise that out of the heart words are spoken and actions are taken (Psalm 14:1; Proverbs 4:23; Proverbs 10:11; Proverbs 21:2; Proverbs 24:12; Ezekiel 11:21; Ezekiel 16:30; Matthew 12:34; Luke 6:45). That being said, our attitude must be one of forgiving the popes, the kings, and others, while examining ourselves daily to make sure we are not a device being used by a “spirit of oppression”.

The impact of decisions from early Christian Church History was found to be considerable and extended into the Civil Rights and other movements, and into events taking place today. Restating what Malcolm X had to say brought to light, the Scripture, *For we know in part, and we prophesy in part* (I Corinthians 13:9). He knew there was a force operating against Black Americans (he knew in part), but he did not know the true source of that force, which means he did not fully comprehend what was behind his statement or the magnitude of its application. Malcolm X prophesied in part without knowing that the statement, “this is what he does”, did not apply to a human being, but prophetically he was speaking of a “spirit of oppression”. Now read what Malcolm X said, in light of this revelation, “Oh, I say and I say it again, ya been had; ya been took, ya been hoodwinked, bamboozled; lead astray; run amuck; (I add

“hijacked”); this is what he does”. This is exactly what a “spirit of oppression does, (he) causes Mankind to look at the other human being, when (he) is operating behind the scene; using our thoughts, attitudes, words and actions against ourselves and others (Ephesians 4:31-32).

The very words that trigger manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” are the devices in thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions that fuel its power; by Mankind, against Mankind. (Hatred, prejudices, murder, deceit, vindictiveness, shunning another person, abuse, bullying, control, dictating, fear, and greed are a few). See other list provided throughout this work). Any thoughts, attitudes, words, and actions that renders outcomes (ways and effects) against another human becoming a captive, when “Jesus set the captives free”, is manifestation of a “spirit of oppression” (Isaiah 61:1-3; Luke 4:18).

Chapter Fourteen: Mankind Can Choose

And so it is written, The first Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit (I Corinthians 15:45).

Introduction

Mankind is faced with choices; choices that will determine the quality of life lived here on earth, the outcome of their life, and their eternal home. One approach to explaining this statement is, there are two men in the earth, the first Adam and the last Adam Who is Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:45; I Timothy 2:13). There will be only one man in the earth, eventually. There are also voices in the earth, the voice of the Lord, the voice of Satan, and the voice of the Believer, are the primary voices. The language barriers contribute to the other voices (I Corinthians 14:10). Why is this information important? It is important because the choices you make identify which of the two men you are in and which of the voices have the most influence over you.

Jesus said in John 8:32, *If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.* The people responded, “We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?” (v. 33) Jesus then responded,

Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you (v. 34-37)..

The people to whom Jesus was speaking were unaware of the bondage of oppression under which they were functioning. That is the nature of oppression and the reason it is cruel and intimidating and cloaked under obscurity. It is hidden in plain

sight, when you know how to identify it. More about the leaders of Israel that rejected Jesus is covered in chapter thirteen.

If you will not submit to the will of God, you will be oppressed and you will be used to oppress others. When your will is submitted to the will of God you are able to stand the test of the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life as did Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11; I John 2:16).

Further, the Bible states in Proverbs 11:9, *A hypocrite with his mouth (words) destroyeth his neighbor, but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.* Knowledge is available; once we have the Spirit of Christ and His grace imparted, we are encouraged to take steps to go on to maturity. Some of these steps, to name a few, are:

Romans 12:2

Be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of you mine, that ye may prove what is the good, acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Romans 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, the he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

II Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the work of truth.

Acts 17:11

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scripture daily, whether those things were so.

Hebrews 6:1

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on onto perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, an of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and o laying on of hands and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do, if God permit.

I Thessalonians 5:17

Pray without ceasing.

Philippians 1:13-14

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, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

When we continually and diligently take steps to grow and mature, we will not be “tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:14).

Information

We are surrounded by the spirit realm. It cannot be seen with the physical eyes; sometimes called the natural eyes. Nonetheless, there is Biblical evidence and proof of the existence of other realms, dimensions, and levels (Leviticus 20:16; Deuteronomy 18:11; I Samuel 28:3, 28:9; II Kings 21:16, 23:24; Isaiah 8:19, 19:3; Hebrews 12:1).

Just as we have good and evil active in the physical realm in which we live, there is both good and evil in the spirit realm.

When unseen realms are considered, it is easier to accept the microscopic realm, most likely because of the development of the microscope and all the innovations since the first microscope. One can use the microscope to view microbes that cannot be seen with the natural eyes. That is not necessarily proof that the spirit realm exists but it certainly serve as a reminder that there are potentially other realms that evades common knowledge. Anything that you cannot see can still render you helpless if you do not know how to defend yourself against it. This statement has been proven time and time again as new ways of fighting diseases caused by microorganisms are discovered.

Another point to remember is that microorganisms can also become a device, a strategy, a tactic, and tentacles used by a “spirit of oppression”. The forces in the spirit realm must use a thing that is legal in the realm that has been targeted for their purpose.

We have been given power in the natural realm, to “tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt us” (Luke 10:19). The power Jesus spoke of in Matthew 28:18 is available for Believers to carry out the work for the kingdom. Therefore, we have the authority and can overcome anything that is not of God.

We are overcomers and as such we have to and will continue to follow the examples we learned from Jesus. We choose to be “under His influence”. So what can we do as we operate under His influence?

We follow hard after Him (Psalm 63:8); we seek His face (Psalm 27:8); we pray without ceasing (I Thessalonians 5:17), and those called to be apostles, prophets,

evangelists, pastors and teachers, equip and help God's people mature and do the work of the kingdom (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Prayer Declaration

Lord, You are my refuge from the oppressor. Deliver me from the wicked that would oppress me and from my deadly enemies that would surround me. I rebuke and cast out (cast down) all spirits of oppression, sorrow and anything attempting to bring me low in the name of Jesus. I am established in righteousness, and I am far from oppression.
(Chriamamag)

Chapter Fifteen: There is a Way Out

No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it (I Corinthians 10:13 NIV).

Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers (Galatians 6:10 NIV).

No one has ever seen God: but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us (I John 4:12 NIV).

And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thought on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise (Philippians 4:8 NLT).

Introduction

There are several precursors to finding a way of escape; first, there must be knowledge that a way out or a way of escape exist; second, there must be a desire to pursue the way of escape, once it is known. Therein stands the first hurdle, the need to choose to take whatever actions are necessary to grab hold of what is available to you. Once you make the choice, the second hurdle is getting on the path and staying the course; doing what is necessary and making the sacrifice to get away from and stay away from oppression in any form.

Information

Anyone, everyone can be tempted to act contrary to the word of God, even contrary to their knowledge of what is right or wrong. It happens all the time. Further, there can be times when your actions are reactive responses to perceived motives and actions of another person. Whatever the cause, it is absolutely essential that everyone

exercises their responsibility to think; to consider the consequences of their actions or reactions. In other words, you must never overstep your ability to “think” to “reason” (Isaiah 1:18). That is a gift from God that, hopefully, you have developed, over time and choose to exercise, at all times.

The moral law in the word of God is still in place and applicable to life, love, fellowship, and relationships. God’s desire is for Mankind to live together in unity, yet He has given Mankind the ability to choose their life preferences. The first commandment is that you are *to love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind* (Matthew 22:38). The second commandment is that you are to love your neighbor as yourself (v. 39). Verse 40 says that all the law and the prophets hangs on these two commandments.

Now the strategy of the enemy seems to be to keep man from focusing on the simplicity of what God has said about these two commandments. Instead of coming together embracing these commandments, we open ourselves up to the three lusts and close-up the fruit of these two foundational commandments. The consequences of which opens the door for manifestation of a “spirit of oppression”; an infectious and contagious spirit.

What happens next is the cycle of oppressor, to being oppressed, to oppressor is repeated, over and over, again and again. Breaking the cycle is a matter of choice by forming a strategy for escaping the cycle, by submitting to the will and the word of God, and allowing Holy Spirit to guide you. He is ready to help you in every detail.

Each person is unique and does not face the same challenges, therefore, a step by step “to do” list is not an appropriate recommendation. However, the Bible is full of examples and is the best roadmap I have found applicable in every situation that I have encountered. I heard Rabbi Daniel Lapin say that the Bible will not give you details

that you can figure out. (Not an exact quote). I believe the essence of that statement is true, in other words, God has given you a gift; the ability to think and reason; He will give you wisdom when you ask for wisdom (James 1:5). He has given you His word to live by, and He has given you Holy Spirit to guide you and help you in every way. There is no excuse for anyone to make the choice to live a life perpetuating evil; the cycle of oppression is evil personified.

Everyone is a leader of at least one person, self, and has authority at the level corresponding to their level of leadership. The higher the level of leadership you attain, the greater is the corresponding level of authority. Know that you are targeted by a “spirit of oppression”. You know whether you are the oppressor or the one being oppressed. You also know that you have been infected and need deliverance, a way of escape. It is up to you to choose this day the direction you will pursue for the rest of your life, in the earth, which will dictate your place in eternity. Choose wisely. Your political savvy, whether in government, private industry, nonprofit, community, church, or family will not help you; wherever you are or whoever you are, you must think and reason!!!

Politicians

Many politicians say whatever the people responsible for their campaign have determined to be ‘politically correct’ in order to be elected. Then they listen to advisors, say and do what they think will get them re-elected. Some repeatedly say things and do things according to “the party line” in order to acquire power. Those politicians are a “bulls eye” for a “spirit of oppression”. In fact, they were selected in early phases of their lives and in the early stages of the decision making process focused on whether to run for an elected office. They became oppressed and are now the oppressor. Examine yourself, analyze your situation; only you and God really

know. Embrace the truth as only you can choose to change those things that pertain to your situation.

Know this, every politician is targeted by a “spirit of oppression” because the greater the authority, the greater the potential for the spread of oppression. Not every politician has totally succumbed to oppression; some may have found and followed the way of escape. God knows, the individual politician knows; others can also know when they have embraced truth and their eyes are opened to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:14).

Leaders

Lead with your character (Matthew 7:16, 20). Regardless of your leadership position in government, private industry, nonprofit, community, church, or the family, a “spirit of oppression” can strip you to the core if you allow it to do so. Character is that which is on the inside. How strong is your character? Under what circumstances has your character been tested? How did you measure up? I recommend you read: *What’s In Your Heart? (A Study of Character; the Mirror of the Heart)*. The book was written for The Equipping Institute Leadership Training, Growth and Development series. Copies are available from the organization.

Ascension gifts leaders must know where he/she is and know the strength of their character. The Book of Job is primarily about character and some rather harsh circumstances under which character can and will be tested. We continually pray for you as you equip the saints for the work to which they are called (Ephesians 4:12).

Scriptures and Prayers

Several of these Scriptures and prayers were beneficial while raising my children and a few have been added over the years. A commitment to praying and

speaking the word of God will always serve you well. God will intervene in the situation by changing you or changing others or both. Your prayers give Him access through you as a vessel. Speak aloud; be justified by your words (Matthew 12:37); live the life, stand, and decree a thing (Job 22:38). Five versions of the Scripture from Job are given here to emphasize the importance of knowing what you are permitted to do, according to the word of God. Make sure the life set forth in Job 22:23-27 is in place.

Job 22:38

Thou shalt decree a thing and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways (KJV).

When you make a decision, it will be carried out ... (HCSB).

You will also decree a thing, and it will be established for you ... (NASB).

What you decide on will be done ... (NIV).

You will succeed in whatever you choose to do, and light will shine on the road ahead of you (NLT).

James 4:10

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up (NIV).

Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up with honor (NLT).

Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and he will exalt you (BLT).

Pray over your children daily

Pray for your children continually; cover them with a blanket of prayer. Write prayers as you are led by Holy Spirit. Teach your children to pray as soon as they can understand what you are saying.

Numbers 6:22-27

God told Moses to tell Aaron to speak these words over the children of Israel:
(vs. 22-23)

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace (vs.24-26).

They shall put my name upon the children of Israel, and I will bless them (v. 27).

I spoke these words over my children every day as they were growing up. I still speak these words over them as adults; I speak them to the four winds. Believe me; the words arrive at their destination as I am speaking them.

Perimeters

It is your responsibility to establish boundaries; a perimeter around all for which you are responsible; your person, your family, your possessions, physical and financial. Set a prayer covering over all and ask Lord Sabaoth to dispatch warrior angels to enforce the perimeter. Know that everyone within the perimeter must abide by the integrity of the perimeter (Ecclesiastes 10:8). This means that anyone who will not live according to the integrity of the perimeter is at risk and will put others within the perimeter at risk. The perimeter is irrespective of physical location.

Prayer before Leaving Home

Father, I will seek after You and I daily seek Your wisdom. Today I ask You to hide me in Your pavilion: in the secret of Your tabernacle. Send Your angles before me; set Your angles to encamp round about me as a hedge of protection; that they keep me from hurt, harm, and danger as I travel and when I arrive at

my destination. Help me to live peaceably with all men, as far as possible to do so. Open my eyes to the way of escape and enable me to walk away as I humble myself in Your eyes and under Your mighty hand; help me to be still and quiet my soul to hear Your voice, in the Name of Jesus, our Lord, Amen (Psalm 27:4-5; Job1:10; Romans 12:18; I Corinthians 10:13; James 4:10; I Peter 5:6; Psalm 46:10; I Kings 19:12).

Prayer when Returning Home

Father, thank You for Your protection, Your peace, Your provisions, and for being able to safely return home. You are my refuge and my fortress; my dwelling place in which I live and move and have my being. I ask you to secure the perimeter and encapsulate all over which you have given me stewardship. Let this place be a safe haven and a blessing to everyone that enters and abide, or is just passing through, in the Name of Jesus our Lord, Amen. (Psalm 91:1; Acts 17:28).

Prayer against a “spirit of oppression” operating in your life

The word vile (adjective) means extremely unpleasant, morally bad; wicked; wretchedly bad; disgusting.

You vile “spirit of oppression”, with your manifestations, your devices, your ways and effects, your strategies, tactics, and tentacles have no power over me. You are no longer controlling, directing, and manipulating my life and the lives of my family, near and far. I will continue to “humble myself under God’s mighty hand”, and “live and move and have my being” in Christ every day (I Peter 5:6; James 4:10; Acts 17:28). Jesus has borne my grief and carried my sorrows; out of love, respect, and admiration I follow hard after Him Who was

smitten of God and afflicted for me. He took upon Himself wounds for my transgressions (all my sins and wrong doings); He took the punishment that would be so terribly painful for me and with every bruise, every wound, and every blow I am healed and restored to right standing with my Father (Isaiah 53:4-5). In Christ Who established a perimeter around me and my family and the possessions He has given me, of which I am made a steward, I am no longer within the sphere over which you have power. I ask God, right now, in the name of Jesus, to dispatch His warrior angels, who harkens to the voice of His word, to do battle against you, your manifestations, your devices, your ways and effects, your strategies, tactics, and tentacles, and render everything pertaining to you and your controlling source of non effect in my life, in the life of my family, near and far, and in the lives of those we touch. It is so, according to the power that worketh in me (Psalm 103:20; Ephesians 3:20).

When you don't know what to say

These are times you will know, on the inside, something is not right. You have been praying, meditating, and studying, but you are not getting clear insight. Ask the Lord to, “pull the covers”.

I began to ask the Lord to “pull the covers” concerning the 2016 elections, concerning specific members of congress, concerning specific governors, and concerning the high death rate of our young people. I was humbled by the net that was spread and revealed some unknown actions; yet consistent with the word of God.

For there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open (Luke 8:17 NIV).

And this word, Yet once more, signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which cannot be shaken may remain (Hebrews 12:27).

If you recall, in describing the operations of a “spirit of oppression”, it seeks the highest levels of authority in order to afflict the greatest number of people. It manifests and uses the person as a devices against others, while the person is, unknowingly being oppressed. Well, there is evidence surfacing that the opioid epidemic in the United States may be the ways and effects of decision made in high levels of authority.

When we pray, expect God to move on our behalf. The kingdom of God will prevail because He said so! (Matthew 16:18)

Consider these Scriptures:

Brothers, if someone is caught in any wrongdoing, you who are spiritual should restore such a person with a gentle spirit, watching out for yourselves so you also won't be tempted. Carry one another's burdens; in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone considers himself to be something when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But each person should examine his own work, and then he will have a reason for boasting in himself alone, and not in respect to someone else. For each person will have to carry his own load (Galatians 6:1-5 HCSB).

Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a man sows he will also reap, because the one who sows to his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So we must not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, we must work for the good of all, especially for those who belong to the household of faith (Galatians 6:7-10 HCSB).

Scriptures

These Scriptures are reminders that “the way up is down”. A quote that can sometimes escapes us when we are enthralled in situations, especially heated situations,

when things can escalate. Temperance and self control is essential components for escaping the wide breadth of a “spirit of oppression”.

James 4:10 (See three translations on page 117)

I Peter 5:6

Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Proverbs 16:7

When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Proverbs 16:32

He that ruleth his spirit is better than he that taketh a city.

Self control surfaced as a level of maturity that should be desired by the Believer. One quote was found to support that premise as follows:

“Temperance is true self-government. It involves the grace of self-denial and the spirit of a sound mind. It is that poise of spirit that holds us quiet, self-possessed, recollected, deliberate, and subject ever to the voice of God and the conviction of duty in every step we take. Many persons have not that poise and recollected spirit. They are drifting at the impulse of their own impressions, moods, the influence of others, or the circumstances around them. No desire should ever control us. No purpose, however right, should have such mastery over us that we are not perfectly free” (Simpson, p. 123).

When the Son has set you free, you are free indeed (John 8:36). Choose to walk and live in that freedom; choose today, stay the course.

Chapter Sixteen: Prognosis

The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9 NIV).

Introduction

This is a self improvement chapter, from Scripture. It is not too late; it is never too late to turn from our wicked ways, while we are in our earth suit, our body. The stage has been set; information has been given; what you do with it is your decision. Choose wisely, this day. I recommend that you search the Scriptures and ask Holy Spirit to guide you into truth (Acts 17:11; John 16:13).

Jesus came to set the captives free (Luke 4:18). If you choose to be one who is attempting to undo the work He completed, then you have set yourself in opposition to His work; you are “anti” the finished work and have therefore defined your own end. My prayer is that you seek, for yourself, the direction you should take. It is not the will of God that anyone should perish (II Peter 3:8-10). It is not God’s will for you to be oppressed; again, Jesus came to set the captives free. Study, research, examine, and analyze for yourself; draw your own conclusions. This process can only be done as you are being led by Holy Spirit.

Jesus gave Keys

We know that Jesus said “the gates of hell shall not prevail against” His church (Matthew 16:18). That includes His people who are His church and with the keys of the kingdom He gave us, we will stand together against the works of the devil. We know that “whatever we bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever we loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven” (Matthew 16:19).

If you are or have been oppressed or have experienced any of the words defined and described in any part of this study guide; any of the devices; or any part of this study guide that you can identify with, it is up to you to choose not allow any of those evil things to continue.

The Bible is full of example after example of the way you should live and make wise decisions. It is also filled with examples of bad decisions and their consequences. You can and must help yourself first (“secure your own oxygen mask”). If you are being used as the oppressor, know that your path must be one that leads to change.

If you have been the oppressed, step up, stand, and know that the Lord is on your side; you do not need to become an oppressor. You must know to use the weapons He has given you; weapons that are not carnal/worldly; but they are mighty when used under His power and authority (10:3-6).

Be strong, be vigilant, learn and know the strategies of the enemy; they have not changed throughout the centuries. This statement is worth repeating again and again, the enemy is doing the same things in the same ways and achieving the same results; results that are costing you your inheritance in Christ. Decide to remove yourself from the equation by not contributing to the oppression of anyone, starting with you!

You are free in Christ as “you live and move and have your being in Him” (Acts 17:28). You must know that you cannot live to your own will and expect to live free. You must be conformed to image of Christ (Romans 8:29). It is your choice and God will love you, because He is love (I John 4:7-8).

So the challenge today is to give no place to a “spirit of oppression” in your life. Do not allow, which is to give permission to that spirit to operate through you. Do not allow, which is to give permission for that spirit to operate against you. Bring your

thoughts in line with the word of God; “take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ” (II Corinthians 10:5). When your thought life is under control, the words that you speak and the actions that you take will be in obedience to the word of God.

When you love the Lord your God with “all your heart”, with “all your mind”, with all your soul, and with all your strength; and love your neighbor as yourself; you will find that you walk in a new level of freedom in your life and obedience to God (Luke 10:27; I Samuel 15:22).

You will be able to love your enemies and bless them that curse you (Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27-28); this is a level of freedom that is beyond measure. You are strong, the chains of captivity have been destroyed because Jesus finished His work and gave you the way to deliverance; He set the captives free (Luke 4:18). You are FREE!!! Stand in that freedom.

Where are you right now? What things must you do to get on the right path? What two people, praying people, can you get to stand with you, become part of your strategy to get free and remain free? (Ecclesiastes 4:12). And when you have studied and confirmed the truth by the leading of Holy Spirit, then allow Him to use you as a catalyst for change. Make sure you set strong parameters of accountability with the people who are praying with you and standing with you. You should be able to call on them in times when the need for prayer is intensified.

This Writer will not set forth a formula for your course of action. II Peter 1:3 says, *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.* You have everything you need when you know Jesus. Your Helper, Holy Spirit, is right here, right now to help you in every detail. He knows you, He knows your call, He

knows your purpose, and He knows your destiny on the earth; submit to Him, give Him preeminence in your life and He will get you to the right path and keep you on it.

Chapter Seventeen: The Believer's Growth and Development

Not that I have already attained this – that is, I have not already been perfected – but I strive to lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus also laid hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself to have attained this. Instead I am single-minded: Forgetting the things that are behind and reaching out for the things that are ahead, with this goal in mind, I strive toward the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus (Philippians 3:12-13).

Introduction

This chapter is intended to provide insight into the catalyst for growth and development supplied in the Bible. Jesus said, *Sanctify them by thy truth, thy word is truth* (John 17:17). Then, Peter said, *As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby* (I Peter 2:2). It is the word of God, like the food we eat daily, that will help us to grow. The only truth we will ever know is the word of God. Everything else that pertains to knowledge is only temporal, at best.

Information

Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ; 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: 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; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ (Ephesians 4:8-15). 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).

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth (II Timothy 2:15).

Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (John 5:39).

Read Hebrews 6:1-2, 10:24; I John 4:7).

So I say, walk in the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates? (II Corinthians 13:5).

These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so Acts 17:11).

When Jesus began preparing the disciples, as the time was approaching for Him to leave them, He gave them insight into what they could expect after His mission was completed and after He had returned to the Father. It was a methodical yet tedious process.

The disciples were with Him, throughout all phases of His ministry, as He endured the questions and accusations from the leaders during three years of teaching, demonstrating what He had taught, and equipping them to spread the gospel of the kingdom. The leaders were used as the primary source of opposition against Jesus. The people listened and received but the leaders were protective of their positions and the laws and doctrine; they wanted no change.

Yet, Jesus knew the disciples had more growing up to do; He even told them, *I have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now* (John 16:12). He knew they were not able to sustain, carry the burden that would be left to them without the supernatural Help of Holy Spirit. In the next three Scriptures, Jesus explained what Holy Spirit would do for them (John 16:13-15). Jesus knew He had equipped them and He also knew they would face great obstacles when He returned to His Father. His words were to comfort them and give them assurance He would send the Comforter Who would not leave them alone and return to the Father, as He had to do.

Then, when we look at Paul, the Believers that he encountered and those he converted were filled with Holy Spirit. Yet Paul said similar words to the followers of Jesus Christ, in his time, as the words Jesus spoke to His disciples:

Brothers, I couldn't speak to you as to spiritual, but as fleshly, as to babies in Christ. I fed you with milk, not with meat; for you weren't yet ready. Indeed, not even now are you ready (I Corinthians 3:1-2 WEB).

Both Jesus and Paul were excellent teachers with sound Scripture knowledge, anointed, appointed, and sent to complete their respective mission. A paraphrase of what Jesus said is, "I know what you are going to face and I will make sure you have all the help you need; you will need to learn more and grow more. But more important, it is your Helper, Comforter, Keeper, and Guide, Holy Spirit that will be with you, as you continue to grow and fulfill your call."

A Closer Look at Paul

Paul had knowledge of the law yet needed scales to be removed from his eye (Acts 9:17-18); symbolic of opening his eyes to spiritual insight. He was converted eight years after Pentecost, yet when he returned to Jerusalem he had the same truth as

the disciples who spent time with Jesus. After he was rejected by the Jewish people he was sent to the Gentiles; God's plan for Paul.

Now Paul, who was full of the Holy Ghost established churches and taught the people, and yet 28 years after Pentecost, he was forced to tell them the truth, "I have to deal with you as I would deal with "babies". Basically, he was saying to them, "I have deeper truths, strong meat that I need to give you, but you are not ready for what I have to say" (I Corinthians 3:2).

Then, 36 years after Pentecost, Believers were still slow to grow,

Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. For when for the time ye ought to be teacher, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God, and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil (Hebrews 5:11-14).

Spiritual growth is continual, progressive, and requires effort, discipline, and a desire to grow in the Lord. It is a greater level of "love for the Lord" and there is much feeding involved, progressive feeding (John 21:15). Do you have experience with trying to potty train an undisciplined child? Apply that thought to what Paul said in Acts 9:17-18 and your understanding will be enlightened. We must grow up, go up, and lift others up; albeit, the others must be willing to grow.

The message has not changed, were are to love God, love our neighbor, love our enemy, pray for those who persecute you, walk in the spirit in order to 'bring to a close' the things of the flesh, and go on to grow, mature, and skillfully handle strong meat and truth (Matthew 22:37, 39, 5:44; Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 4:14-15). Further, as you identify, develop, and exercise your gifts, you will be able to "discern both good

and evil” while steering clear of the devices of oppressions used by a “spirit of oppression”. The prince of this world will find nothing in you as you “live and move and have your being”, in Christ (John 14:30; Acts 17:28). It should be impossible for a “spirit of oppression” to manifest and use a Believer as a “device”. But we know it is still happening.

God is not going to stop His work because Mankind does not agree with Him, understand what He inspired the scribes to write, misinterpret what was written, while mixing kingdom doctrine with pagan doctrine, or even lies (from a lack of knowledge) that proceed from the mouth of some. No, absolutely not! He has a plan. It is His plan. He does not need contingencies but every contingency imaginable to man, has been factored in. So rest assured, His plan has already been completed; the manifestation in time is the hope to which we hold on.

The gifts Jesus gave to men, the ascension gifts, are intended to ensure structure and growth for the Body of Christ; growth to maturity. Man’s belief that the office of the apostle ceased when the last apostle in the Bible died will not make the truth of God of none effect. Truth will always be truth and truth will stand the test of time.

Knowing that His Church, the Body of Christ, has not “come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God; has not become a perfect man (come to a full grown adult); and has not overcome iniquity, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; the five ascension gifts are still in place and necessary.

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: (Ephesians 4:13).

It is with certainty the Body of Christ has not fulfilled Ephesians 4:13 and as such need the ascension gifts Christ gave to His Church. It takes all of the gifts to get

us to maturity. The apostle and the prophet can be compared to the “old school” family structure which includes granddaddy and daddy in the household. (It is this writer’s way of providing a simple comparison.) Do not permit the current structure of households to get you off; it too is the “ways and effects” devices of a “spirit of oppression”.

The framework for the growth and development of the saints, prescribe by Jesus, if it is properly implemented, will work well for the Church. Jesus as Apostle (laid the foundation for the kingdom), as Prophet (spoke to the people, prophetically), as Evangelist (gathered the people), as Pastor (nurtured and shepherded the people), and as Teacher (taught kingdom principles and truths to the people).

The disciples are included with the people in these discussions. Since Jesus is the chief cornerstone, the Chief Apostle (Ephesians 2:20), we would do well to make use of the ascension gifts and framework for growth and development of the saints. Follow Jesus and compare His life to your life, while remembering everything He did and everything He said in the earth was by the power of Holy Spirit (John 5:19, 12:49). We have the same Holy Spirit.

Conception

Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost (Luke 1:35). The Blood that flowed through His veins was Divine, having been given to Him by His Father. His blood was never mingled with His mother’s blood. Mary, a virgin, blood line is reported on back to Abraham; giving Him the legal right to the throne of David (Matthew 1:1-16). Jesus, the Christ, humanity is reported back to Adam, the son of God. He (as was supposed) the son of Joseph (Luke 3:23-38); giving Him the legal right to live on the earth.

A Believer was conceived and born of parents legal in the earth. David said, *Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me* (Psalm 51:5). Iniquity, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life are devices through which a “spirit of oppression” can gain access to and use against you.

Birth

The birth of Jesus, the circumstances of His conception and location of His birth was prophesized centuries before He was born (Genesis 49:10; Isaiah 7:14; Micah 5:1-2).

As a Believer, you were born again when you confessed, out of your mouth, the Lord Jesus, believed in your heart that God raise Him from the dead, and received Him as Lord of your life (Romans 10:9-10). When you first, believed on His name you were given power to become a child of God. You were *born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God* (John1:12-13).

Early Growth

Jesus, at age twelve, spent four days in the temple, listening to and asking the “doctors” questions. The Bible account says, “All that heard were astonished at his understanding and answers”. (Luke 2:42-47). The Scriptures further says He was obedient to His earthly parents; and He “grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man” (Luke 2:51-52).

The account of Jesus learning and growing is a model that Believers can implement in their daily lives, regardless of their age at their rebirth. A newborn Believer is as vulnerable as a newborn baby and requires nurturing and guidance to the right path in which to grow.

Call

Jesus had a thorough understanding of His call. As early as age twelve, when He remained in Jerusalem for four days after His family had left, He responded to Mary and Joseph's question, *How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?* (Luke 2:48-49). Mary and Joseph only knew in part, but Jesus was fully aware of His call and His purpose for being in the earth (John 3:16-17; I John 3:8).

Every Believer has a call and has a purpose and "has been given grace according to the gift of Christ" (Ephesians 4:7). The ascension gifts, in the Church family, will accomplish what Christ intended when He ascended and "gave gifts to men" (Ephesians 4:8). It is therefore essential that every Believer become thoroughly knowledgeable of his/her call, purpose, and mission. You are not here for your own pleasure, prosperity, and enjoyment, as some believe. You are here to do the will of the Father, just as Jesus.

The Church must mature, grow into unity; an intimate relationship with the Lord is absolutely essential. This means that each Believer must mature, and have an intimate relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ (Ephesians 4:16). Jesus never missed the opportunity to be alone with His Father. In fact, He took the time to go to a quiet place to spend time with His Father; He retained strength through the close relationship, once He took on humanity (Mark 1:35; Luke 5:16; Psalm 28:7).

What Must I Do?

... Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope you have. But do this with gentleness and respect (I Peter 3:15).

Private Victory

“Lord prepare me, to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true
And with thanksgiving, I'll be a living, sanctuary, for you.”
(John Thompson and Randy Scruggs)

Believe

Receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit
“Be transformed by renewing your mind”

Pray; Study; Be Still

“Walk in the Spirit”
Love the Lord
Love your Neighbor
Love your Enemy
Do good to them that hate you
Bless them that curse you
Pray for them that despitefully use you

Public Outreach

“The weapons of our warfare are not carnal ...”
“God is with you”
“No weapon formed against you will prosper”

Witness

“You know and have seen something.”
“Like John, bear witness of the Light”
“His love, His light flows through your lifestyle to others”
“Tell others about the love of God”
“Be steadfast”

Scriptures

John 1:11-13; Romans 10:8-10, 13;
Ephesians 4:30; (Isaiah 7:13-15)
Acts 1:8; (Luke 1:35, 4:18; Isaiah 61:1)
Romans 12:1-2; Ephesians 4:23; II
Corinthians 5:17-18
Romans 8:26-27; I Thessalonians 5:17; II
Timothy 2:15; Psalm 46:10
Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 2:1-6
Matthew 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27
Matthew 22:39; Mark 12:31;
Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27; Ephesians 4:32
Luke 6:27; Ephesians 4:32
Luke 6:28; Ephesians 4:32
Luke 6:28; Ephesians 4:32

II Corinthians 10:3-6
Isaiah 41:10-13
Isaiah 54:17

Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18
John 1:7
Matthew 5:14-16;
John 3:16; Romans 5:5; II Corinthians
5:14
I Corinthians 15:58

My Commitment

I, _____ commitment to the following:

I will spend one hour, minimum, per day in prayer, Scripture reading and meditation, being quiet and still before the Lord: 15 minutes Scripture reading and meditation; 15 minutes being quiet and still before the Lord; 30 minutes in prayer; and I will memorize Scripture, at least one verse each day.

I will share my commitment with two other people and ask them walk with me and to hold me accountable for keeping this commitment (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

Signature

Date

Chapter Eighteen: Manifestation of the Sons of God

As Many as are led by the Spirit of God they are the Sons of God (Romans 8:14).

For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God (Romans 8:19).

Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of Go: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not (I John 3:1)

Introduction

Every Believer was chosen and selected and given “power to become the sons of God” (I Peter 2:9; John 1:12). So what is hindering the “manifestation of the Sons of God”? Paul wrote to the Galatians (5:7), asking a similar question in four translations:

You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth (NIV)?

Ye did run well: who did hinder you that ye should not obey truth (KJV)?

You were running well. Who prevented you from obeying the truth (HCSB)?

You were running well. Who agitated you to disobey the truth (ABPE)?

You were doing so well. Who stopped you from being influenced by the truth (GWT)?

There were numerous moves of God in the nineteenth century that I have studied, and numerous moves of God in the twentieth century in which I have participated and studied. During the writing of this study guide, I began to see how the

devices, ways and effects, strategies, tactics, and tentacles of a “spirit of oppression” creped in. God was not surprised!!! Things we experience can help us grow stronger, especially when we are able to go to the other side (Mark 4:35-39; Luke 8:22-26).

One of the great tests, if not the greatest test in the twentieth century was the prosperity movement. We do not know who passed the test and who did not pass the test. Only the individual can examine themselves. God’s reconciliation is always in place when we turn to Him. For the individual who knows he/she passed the test, much strength, hope, and faith in God was imparted.

For future reference, no matter what is taking place in your life, you can establish your own litmus test from the Bible. Look at II Timothy 3:16-17; it says you can use what is in Scriptures for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. In doing so, you help yourself become sound and equipped to do good things. You may want to test, among other things, four particular areas: iniquity, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. Anything that comes your way and tickle these four areas, take time to seek the Holy Spirit for guidance and directions.

Temptations are common to man, but God, Who is faithful, will not allow, any temptation, to come at you that is too strong for you to resist; He will make a way of escape (I Corinthians 10:13). It is your choice to take the way of escape offered, otherwise, by default, you choose the way of a “spirit of oppression”. Yes, you can repent and He has promised to forgive your sins (I John 1:9). However, take time to consider the cost and consequences of your actions that may result in sin or from sin; for you or someone (s) else (James 1:15); avoid them at all costs. Remember, we are to “abstain from all appearance of evil (I Thessalonians 5:22).

Jesus said in Matthew 24:24,

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

One of the devices of a “spirit of oppression” is deceit; deception.

Information

The Book of I John, written by the disciple John who was close to Jesus has been elevated to top of the list of recommended reading. Chapter 3 provides insight into Believers being “called the sons of God”.

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law. And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him. Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous. 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.

God was manifested in the flesh, to experience the draw of sinful flesh, was tempted and still was sinless (Hebrews 4:14). Nearing the end of His earthly ministry, Jesus said in John 14:30,

... The prince of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me (BSB).

... The ruler of the world is coming. He has no power over Me (HCSB).

... *For the Prince of the world is coming and he has nothing to use against me* (ABPE).

... *For the prince of this world is coming,. He has no hold over me* (NIV).

One example from technology may help add some light to what Jesus said over 2000 years ago. When data (documents, pictures, etc.) is saved on a storage device, it is in most instances digital, therefore, the act of deleting that data simply removes the location address so that access to that data is no longer available to an application. The physical data is still on the device and a good technician can retrieve that data. Satan and his operatives are the original technicians.

Jesus had absolutely no sinful data in Him. We, on the other hand have stored sinful data that we don't even know is stored; our eyes passed over something and the brain stored it; or we momentarily thought something and the brain stored it. Worse still, we did or said something, years ago; we've forgotten it, but it was stored, now you've been hacked, and your files are being accessed by the enemy. For your information, time is a fish bowl in eternity. Celestial beings can see enough to help or hurt you; based on the level of access they are given. Some are ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation and some are used by the enemy Hebrews 1:14, 12:1; I Peter 5:8).

Recommended Meditating

This writer finally posits that certain books were omitted from the Bible canon because the people of God were not mature enough to handle truth, and the Church has not yet matured.

A child is not able to process the principles of physics, yet those principles operate on and around the child. Both Jesus and Paul spoke about desiring to say more,

but they knew the people could not handle what they needed to say. Jesus went on to say that things would change with the arrival of Holy Spirit.

Paul, on the other hand came to ministry after Holy Spirit was in the earth, yet he could not feed the people strong meat. What does that say about the people's growth? Please locate and read these Scriptures in multiple translations (John 16:12-15; I Corinthians 3:2-4). Where are you? What must you do to mature? Are there apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers "equipping the saints" in your Church? Do you believe you must wait until you die to be declared a saint? Hint! Mother Theresa and Mother Angelica were saints long before they laid down their earth suit (body) (Acts 9:13, 26:10; Romans 8:27, 16:15; II Corinthians 1:1; Ephesians 1:18, 3:8).

You are a saint when your life lines up with the word of God. There are almost 100 Scriptures about saints, most of them living, at the time. Read the Bible for yourself! Think for yourself! Verify information! If you are a Believer, in Christ go to the Lord with questions you have concerning any issue. He will answer; Holy Spirit will lead you to truth (Isaiah 1:18; John 16:13). Love God and do things His way.

So what is hindering the "manifestation of the Sons of God"? The answer to this question is, almost 37 years after Paul wrote Romans 8:19, John said in I John 3:2, "Beloved, now are we the sons of God." So, we are the sons of God, now, by adoption, through grace, and faith in Jesus Christ. The Spirit also testifies that we are the son of God (Romans 8:16). We don't look the part nor do we always act the part. Meaning we do not always walk in obedience and righteousness. We do not do the works that Jesus did, as we should. But when we see Jesus we will be like him and when we come to our Father's house, we will be introduced as sons of God (I John 3:2).

All that will come to pass is in the timing of God. Each Believer can choose the ways of God, as prescribed in His word, and forsake the ways of the world. Can we do it? Yes! When do we plan to get started? Now! How do we do it? We stay the course!

Jesus has already overcome the world (John 16:33). So our steps can be ordered to comply with the will of God; “as it is in heaven, so let it be in earth” (Psalms 37:23; Matthew 6:10).

“Lord Jesus, when we received You, You gave us power to become sons of God; it is because of Your love that we are to be called sons of God. Help us embrace Your grace. We know that as sons of God we walk in that grace and live in accordance with Your word”,

Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. 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. For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another (I John 3:9-11).

Chapter Nineteen: Cities under Siege

What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun (Ecclesiastes 1:9 NIV).

Introduction

This chapter is to encourage you to study, research, verify information, and draw conclusions based on your findings. We know in part and should earnestly desire to learn and grow in grace and in the knowledge that has been made available to us (I Corinthians 13:9; II Peter 3:18).

Please conduct your own research and comparative analysis of 20th and 21st century events to cities under siege in the OT, Samaria and Jerusalem (II King 6-7, 13, 17, 21, 24, and 25). The opposing king in the OT could be governmental persons in authority in the 20th and 21st century. The opposing generals in the OT could be lower level governmental employees or contractors, appointed or assigned to carry out a specific job for a specific time and purpose in the 20th and 21st century.

There is nothing new under the sun. Mankind is still laying long term strategies and imposing their will on others to achieve their own selfish goals. While I offer truth about what is taking place, remember what has been revealed to you about a “spirit of oppression”. You will very quickly recognize the operational strategies.

The people perpetrating the deeds are still devices of a “spirit of oppression” and there is a need to closely examine, analyze, and compare the operations in the 20th and 21st centuries with the OT. You will find that death, destruction, devastation, deception ends up being the ways and effects (outcomes).

Examine the state of the following cities, over the last 80 plus years; include the ethnic mix, population, pension funding, leadership and leadership mix. Then examine

what is said about their decline and compare it against what you have read about a “spirit of oppression”: City of Chicago, IL, City of Detroit, MI, City of Flint, MI, City of Milwaukee, WI, City of New York, NY, City of New Orleans, LA, and City of Philadelphia, PA.

You can choose one city or elect to study all the cities; you can also add other cities, if you choose to do so. Make every effort to be as thorough as possible. Always verify information before you began to analyze the data or information you gathered. Make sure the information source is credible. Please share your findings.

A few points in your comparisons: (1) Cities in the OT were under siege from external forces; devices of a “spirit of oppression”. (2) Cities in the 20th and 21st centuries are under siege from external and internal forces; devices of a “spirit of oppression”. (3) It is absolutely essential that you keep an open mind and closely follow the flow of information.

The following case study is incomplete. It can be used as an example. Completing the study will take more time than I can invest this year, although I do plan to finish the work.

Cities under siege Case Study Example

Detroit, Michigan

Detroit, Michigan is in the Midwestern part of the United States. The first African American Mayor was elected in 1974 and served for twenty years. The population decline, which began in 1960s, continued throughout his terms in office. Future mayors experienced varying percents of decline over the years.

1945 - 1960 The Detroit Expressway and Transit System

Mayor Edward J. Jeffries appointed the seven member committee that prepared the master plan for the City's transportation system which resulted in homes and businesses of African Americans being demolished after being evicted to build a freeway. They were evicted, given 30 days notice to move, and given no assistance. The area slated for redevelopment was called "Black Bottom". The Chrysler Freeway was the freeway built under the Federal Highway Act.

The urban renewal project took the remaining areas determined to be "blighted", as defined by the city planners, affected 90,415 dwelling units and redevelop 7,928 acres. The wisdom, motive, and strategy in what took place may or may not be worth a closer look. There is always a difference in perception of those affected and those in power.

The mayors of the City of Detroit during the development and implementation of the Expressway and Transit System plan and the Urban Renewal Project are:

Edward J. Jeffries 1940 – 1948 After serving on the City Council from 1932 until 1940, Jeffries was elected mayor in 1939 and ran four more time and won three times. He lost to Eugene Van Antwerp, in part because of the 1943 riots.

Eugene Van Antwerp 1948 – 1950 After serving on the City Council from 1932 to 1948, he served and mayor for one term.

Albert Eugene Cobo 1950 - 1957 After serving as a financial consultant from 1933 to 1935, he was elected Detroit City Treasurer; he campaigned for mayor, against the "Negro invasion" of white neighborhoods, and was elected in 1949, 1951, and 1953.

Louis Miriani 1957 - 1962 – He was elected to the City Council in 1947 and was Council President from 1949 to 1957; he became mayor after the death of Albert Eugene Cobo. He was reelected and served until 1961 when he lost to Jerome

Cavanagh who had the African American support. Louis Miriani was elected to the City Council in 1965. He was convicted to tax evasion and served less than a year in jail.

1967 Riots

This Researcher could not understand why or how a people could burn down buildings and destroy businesses in their own neighborhoods. It was not until I learned to identify the strategies, tactics, tentacles, manifestations, devices, and ways and effects of a “spirit of oppression” that it all became crystal clear. This is how it worked.

“The result was 43 dead, 1,189 injured, over 7,200 arrests, and more than 2,000 buildings destroyed. The scale of the riot was surpassed in the United States only by the 1863 New York City draft riots during the American Civil War, and the 1992 Los Angeles riots “.

External Siege (Strategically cut the city’s revenue and takes over the city)

1. Revenue sharing from the State of Michigan has not been properly distributed to the City of Detroit (Michigan Municipal League).
2. City residence requirement eliminated; reduction in income tax revenue.
3. State of Michigan attempted to take over the Detroit Pension; when the voters turned it down; the State took over the City of Detroit and the Detroit Board of Education.
4. Retirees’ pensions were cut; the cost of living increase, from the previous year, was taken back along with the cut.
5. City Jewels (Coleman A. Young’s classification) were conveniently taken away; not sold.
6. Dates, other specific data, and information must be applied to each of these items.

Points to consider from earlier chapters:

1. A “spirit of oppression” is seeking to control the highest level of authority in order to afflict the greatest number of people.
2. Just as the Jewish people were targeted by heathen Kings (devices) in the OT, there are certain ethnic groups targeted in the 20th and 21st century.
3. Death, destruction, devastation, even murder may be found during your research.

There is considerably more work to be done; the years from 1970 to today must be carefully reviewed. Keep in mind, if you do not guard your heart, set a guard in front of your mouth, and do not value others more than yourself, you can be a device of a “spirit of oppression”. It is a daily walk.

No matter what we find, we must forgive them; they (those in authority) did not know and still do not know what forces are at work against them and the people. God knows and has already provided a way of escape for “everyone”. It is up to each person to choose the way of escape.

Chapter Twenty: Case Studies

Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith (Galatians 3:24)

Introduction

The purpose of these case studies is to provide opportunity for review and analysis of situations, examples, and experiences to gain additional understanding of the manifestations, devices, ways and effects, strategies, tactics, and tentacles of a “spirit of oppression”. The case studies will help enlarge our appreciation for doing things God’s way; the only way that will last eternally.

These case studies will assist you in assessing your own thoughts, attitudes, words, decisions, and actions. They are not intended to be used to diagnose another person or their situation. Only you are held accountable to God for your thoughts, attitudes, words, decisions, and actions; no one else. Remember what God told Cain in Genesis 4:7. The core of what Cain needed to deal with is, “when you disobey, and you will; when you believe, at the time, you gave your best; when you believe you have been treated wrong; even when your belief is wrong, manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” is waiting and desires, for you to open the door. And to make sure you open to its will, it will use its devices, strategies, tactics, and tentacles against you”. It is very important that you carefully control your thoughts, attitude, words, decisions, and actions. Examine the source of your thoughts.

Know this; Judas had one purpose or mission which was to get Jesus to the cross. He may have held jobs or performed and completed other work; he was, however, born to betray Jesus. Judas certainly had other choices he could have made but did not do so. There was and still is an anti Christ spirit that fosters a “spirit of

oppression” It opposes Christ and exalts itself (II Thessalonians 2:4). Submit to God and resist everything that is against God, His word, and His character.

Information

There are three words you are encouraged to apply to your evaluation of, study of, and assessment of the case studies presented to you in this chapter. The words are plum line, measure, and standard.

- The Plumline: Word of God
- The Measure: Truth
- The Standard: Rightly dividing the word of truth

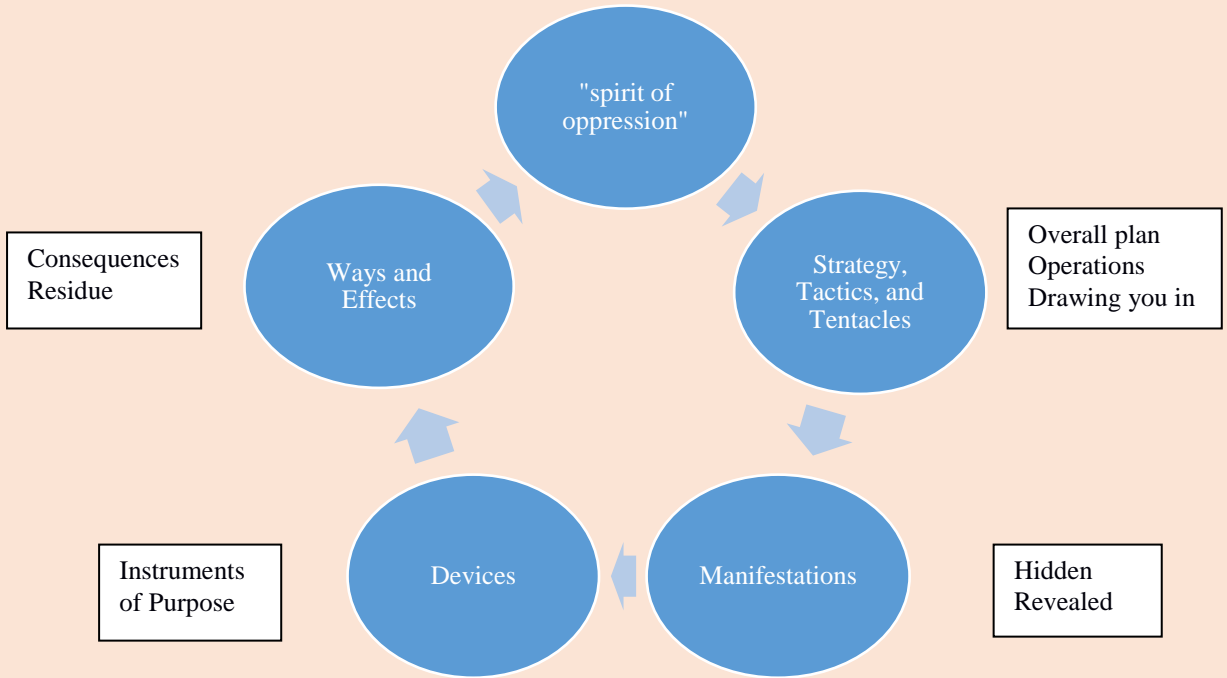
In order to embrace the plum line, the measure, and fully accomplish rightly dividing the word of truth, one must go beyond reading various versions of the Bible. The *Strong Exhaustive Concordance* is an excellent tool that will enlarge your understanding of the original language and the many words in the English language into which a word may be appropriately translated. The rules of context must be applied when rightly dividing the word of truth. There are other tools listed in the reference section of this study guide that will also offer meaningful contribution to your studying the Bible.

The case studies are taken from the Bible, situations in government, the community, and situations described to the writer by persons involved. Only the identity of participants from Scripture will be true. All other identities are fictitious, only the situations are true. All case studies require that you evaluate “Manifestations vs. Devices vs. Strategies, Tactics, and Tentacles vs. Ways and Effects”.

Each scenario will provide the context of the problem, the situation, and the outcome. You are asked to evaluate the situation and consider what you would do if

faced with a similar dilemma. Respond to the questions. Raise additional questions and answer.

Continual Cycle of a “spirit of oppression” A Conceptual Framework



Case Study One

Anger, Greed

John was heavily involved in purchasing homes that were in foreclosure and exploiting short sales. He had competition but seemed to regularly beat out the competition. Most of the times, it was because he managed to get to the struggling homeowner with a compelling win-win offer, before the competition. However, he had just missed out on a third home and came to realize the same person had successfully negotiated with the owners of all three homes. John became angry, wrath, and indignant and his anger was growing stronger. The more he thought about the situations and the gains he had failed to realize, the stronger and more intense his anger grew.

Then John remembered “be angry and sin not” and allowed the word of God to come to life in him (Ephesians 4:26). The manifestation subsides. Sin was ‘at the door’ but he took dominion. He elected to or decided to take the way out. He began to refocus and search for other properties.

- ✓ Examine what took place; how would you have been able to handle the situation; what other things could have been done; and what else would you have done?
- ✓ Speak to the manifestations, devices, strategies, tactics, and tentacles, and ways and effects potential is this situation.
- ✓ How did anger and greed lose?

Case Study Two

Anger, Greed

John was heavily involved in purchasing homes that were in foreclosure and exploiting short sales. He had competition but seemed to regularly beat out the competition. Most of the times, it was because he managed to get to the struggling homeowner with a compelling win-win offer, before the competition. However, he had just missed out on a third home and came to realize the same person had successfully negotiated with the owners of all three homes. John became angry, wrath, and indignant and his anger was growing stronger. The more he thought about the situations and the gains he had failed to realize, the stronger and more intense his anger grew.

John either did not have the word of God inside or he did not think about the word of God, or the word of God was overridden by his flesh. He began rehearsing words to himself and then speaking those words. The door to sin was opened and the iniquity in him; bitterness, “how dare he do this to me”, “I’m going to get back at him”, took its course. So, John began to think more and more about what happened and solicited “buy in” from his friends and associates. The situation takes on its own life fueled by words and John’s actions. While John had numerous options to turn the situation around, he chose to put negative information about his competitor on the Internet. John defamed his competitor, exhibited jealousy, envy, and acted out of spite.

The outcome of John’s actions affected his competitor, his competitor’s family, his competitor’s associates, and his competitor’s financial investors. But John’s actions also affected himself, his family, his associates, and others around him. Once the door was opened, escalation was inevitable.

The starting place in this situation would be the devices. Once the device is rendered ineffective, manifestations, strategies, tactics, and tentacles are null and void, and ways and effects will be of no concern. John could have taken the entire day to bring his anger under control. If there are no devices for the enemy, there cannot be an escalation or growing of the anger.

- ✓ Examine what took place; how would you have been able to handle the situation; what other things could have been done; and what else would you have done?
- ✓ What are some of the devices that could have been rendered ineffective?
- ✓ Speak more about the manifestations, devices, strategies, tactics, and tentacles, and ways and effects in this situation; other ways they could have been rendered ineffective.
- ✓ How did anger, greed, jealousy, envy, and spite take their course?

Case Study Three

Good Causes

The Issue

One of your supervisors works with homeless children in the City, USA area, devoting extensive non work time to alleviating a developing social problem. Authorities in the city have found that homeless adolescents commit a significant percentage of city crimes. The program has made a difference, and as his manager, you have supported his efforts.

Now he has come to you with a request that you approve a function at the Convention Center--a meeting for what he is calling the UN of "Your City". He has at long last persuaded the leaders of three rival teenage gangs to sit down together at a social function, but he must get you to sign a form declaring the activity is an official County function. Without the signed form, the Convention Center supervisor will not allow the activity to proceed.

Your director is on vacation and unavailable for advice or approval. You reflect on the fact that there has been cracking down on the misuse of County facilities, especially misuses carrying a price tag. The supervisor's efforts are strictly private and non-County related.

The supervisor has emphasized that the UN meeting will probably make or break his efforts to straighten out kids in his program. The Convention Center, he says, is the only neutral ground he can use. He asks you with great intensity, "Will you sign off on this for me? It is for the kids!"

How would you answer?

The Analysis

You are to examine the impact of integrity on a decision of this nature. How should core leadership and ethical principles be applied to this situation? After some discussion, work through the questions below, having asked each person to record a position first. Try to get members of the group to identify and articulate their reasoning for their responses to the five statements.

Questions:

- ✓ What are some extenuating circumstances that can justify signing the form?
- ✓ What are some reasons for not signing the form?
- ✓ Who, in authority, should be brought into the situation?
- ✓ What are other factors that should be considered, such as law enforcement?
- ✓ What devices may be found lurking in the background?
- ✓ What could manifest?
- ✓ What other questions should be asked and examined?

Case Study Four

Assault, Molestation, and Rape

The Issue

Most if not all insurance companies have a Qualifying Life Event (QLE) provision. The QLE will trigger a Special Enrollment Period and will allow changes to be made to your health insurance policy outside the annual Open Enrollment Period. A QLE is a change in your life situation and can be getting married, the birth of a baby, or losing health coverage etc. ([HealthCare.gov/glossary](https://www.healthcare.gov/glossary/)).

Similarly, a Determinant Life Event (DLE) can open a door to Jesus or to the antichrist spirit, a “spirit of oppression”. It can be a traumatic event such as rape, molestation, abortion, or a violent act against you in which you feel helpless, etc. (See devices of oppression). A DLE can also be words spoken out of your mouth that will act as a trigger. Read Matthew 27:25 and follow the events and atrocities perpetrated against a nation of people, unjustifiably to us, over the centuries. The words spoken by the “leaders”, gave a “spirit of oppression” free course to operate, at will, against the people. God has assigned His angels to do battle on behalf of His people; who He has given the keys of the kingdom. But the people have refused to accept them and use them (Matthew 16:19; Romans 7). Ultimately, God’s plan and His promise to Abraham will prevail. Read Hebrews, starting with chapter 11.

Repentance is an essential tool for asking God to close doors that have been opened by your thoughts, words you have spoken, actions you have taken, and decisions you have made. He is faithful and just to forgive you; the ways and effects will need to be dealt with. There is no cookie cutter formula to consider. You, the word of God, and the word rightly divided by you are the participants.

The Analysis

You are asked to look at and consider information throughout this study guide that will aid in your analysis of the problem faced by Skybloo. This name was chosen because it is not the name of a person and you are to consider only yourself in these case studies.

The Problem

Skybloo was living his parents, going to school, playing with friends, and had an uneventful life. That is until he was twelve years old; a relative stopped by his home after school, while his parents were at work, and sexually molested him. Skybloo did not tell his parents, he did not withdraw, change his habits, nor did his grades drop. It was not until he was arrested, fifteen years later, that he told detectives about being molested by a relative. Skybloo was accused of being a serial rapist. While his true story is incomplete and the parts he chose to share are told from his perspective.

He was involved in church all of his life and actually participated in Bible study classes a good portion of the time after graduating from high school. He struggled with fully grasping the love of God and how it was possible for someone, a relative, to molest him and act like nothing happened. He tried talking to ministers by asking questions, yet not really revealing the deep seeded problem that would not go away. Nothing and no one seemed to be able to help. Skybloo is waiting to be tried as a serial rapist.

Remember, the DLE Skybloo experienced when his relative molested him, it involved manifestation of a “spirit of oppression”. The relative was a carrier and was a device of Satan and was a device Satan used against Skybloo. Skybloo was infected by the relative and the outcome (ways and effects) appear to lay dormant. Although there

may surface facts, during his trial, that will reveal dormancy did not exist. It is clear that the ways and effects and the need to violate others as he was violated; while oppression was growing more powerful.

- ✓ Formulate discussion items and questions for this scenario.
- ✓ You may want to address how unaddressed issues can conceal devices and manifestations of a “spirit of oppression” and further its strategies, tactics, and tentacles, and ways and effects.
- ✓ Allow the discussion to help you enlarge your understanding of a “spirit of oppression”.

Case Study Five

Discrimination, Jealousy, Malice

This is the place where you write a scenario. The scenario should be in the format of the first four case studies and lay a foundation to examine, analyze, and discuss, discrimination, jealousy, and malice. If you encounter difficulty combining all three, then you are free to write more than one scenario. As you are writing, consider questions that will help in analyzing the situations.

Chapter Twenty One: Application of I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Introduction

It is important to “rightly divide the word of truth” (II Timothy 2:15). To do so, it is equally important to review Scriptures in context and in its entirety. It may be necessary to read Scriptures before and after the Scripture you are trying to understand. I have encountered times when I needed to go back one even two chapters to make sure my thinking was on par with the writer through whom God was speaking. This holds true, especially, with I John 1:9. It cannot be taken out of context with other Scriptures in I John chapter 1; it cannot be taken out of context with Scriptures in James chapter 1; and it cannot be taken out of context with the entire Bible.

Let me explain. Over forty years ago I wrote computer programs in a language of which most of you have no knowledge, it may now be extinct. In the language, we used English words that were compiled into machine language as instructions for the computer. We were able to establish conditions under which data could be processed after passing those prescribed conditions. Well, when I read I John 1:4-10, I see a nested “IF” statement. My memory of the language is not as sharp as it was, however, I can use the concept to structure and convey an understandable point.

The appropriate starting point is the entire first chapter of first John. Reading and meditating on the first chapter help me see and understand the “big picture”. Overall, this epistle says the gospel is Jesus Christ; Who being God and man, and from the beginning He is the Word, He is Life itself, and He is eternal life manifested in the flesh. Further, much can be gleaned about the life and obedience of the Believer.

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. (4) And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

v. 4-5 “And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full ... God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”

If we say we have fellowship with him <and>
If we walk in the light as he is in the light

Then

We have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Else

If we walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: <and>
If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

Then

If we confess our sins he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Else

If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

END IF

As you can see, this is an interesting way to reveal conditions that must be met in order for our joy to be full. How dare you form words to say, “a programming language is inappropriate for Scripture” when “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). He is the owner of everything in this earth and much can be done to enlarge our understanding.

Meditate on I John 1 for yourself, then ask Holy Spirit to enlarge your understanding, and “walk in the light as He is in the light”.

Chapter Twenty Two: Next Steps

The author is prayerful that this study guide has fulfilled its purpose: to open your eyes, enlarge your understanding, and make you aware of what is controlling you and compelling you to try to control others. We talk about the “spirit of Jezebel” as being a “controlling spirit”, further examination reveals that even Jezebel was oppressed by a “spirit of oppression”. That has to be explored in another book.

What is within the scope of this study guide is this, making you aware of thinking you are in control, does not make it so; you are not in control. However, I trust you will, after reading this study guide, humbly submit yourself to the Lordship of Jesus Christ; not with lip service, “having a form of godliness but denying the power there in”, but totally submit to Him. Diligently guard your heart; put a guard over your mouth by asking Holy Spirit to help you control what goes forth out of your mouth, and walk circumspectly (Proverbs 4:23; James 4:7; Psalm 141:31; James 3:8; Ephesians 5:15).

We know in part and we will always need each other to gain full understanding of any matter (I Corinthians 13:9; Ephesians 4:16). Remember, Lucifer was the only “anointed cherub that covers”; one of a kind and iniquity was found in him (Ezekiel 28:15). God will not permit us to destroy ourselves by following the path taken by Lucifer. Lucifer lusted after all that was, that is, and that is to come, all that belongs to God. Lucifer lusted after everything of God’s creation and is seeking to destroy man who is made in the image and likeness of God.

The iniquity that was found in Lucifer has been a problem for Mankind since Adam and Eve allow it into the human race by submitting to Satan. The lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life began to work by iniquity.

Read, study, search the Scriptures, research, analyze, evaluate, and ask question in order to know for yourself. You have God's permission to think and reason (Isaiah 1:18). Doing so in no way nullifies your faith and trust in God (Hebrews 11:6; Proverbs 3:5). You and only you will stand before the judgment seat of Christ or the great white throne; you will stand for yourself, by yourself (II Corinthians 5:10; Revelation 20:11-13). You have an Advocate Jesus, Who is with the Father on your behalf, and a Helper Holy Spirit, Who is with you to help you right now (I John 2:1; John 14:26). No one should tell you anything that you do not confirm for yourself, especially when it is your right to choose. So, stand against even the appearance of evil.

Know this, we cannot legislate morality; God gave us the moral law, He and He alone will enforce it; He has an unobstructed view into each heart, and He and He alone is the Righteous judge who sees beyond what Mankind can see (Exodus 20:1-17; I Samuel 16:7; James 4:12; Jeremiah 23:24). All authority was established and set in place by God and we are subject to the governing authorities; that include local, state, and federal government. (Romans 13:1). We submit to God, obey Him, and obey the laws of the land, and if they are oppressive, pray to God concerning them. Submit to Holy Spirit for guidance and He will keep you on a straight path. His leading and guiding you will never violate the word of God.

The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give your peace (Numbers 6:24-26).

Word Vocabulary

Each word in this vocabulary list can be defined and other related words evaluated and added to the vocabulary list. The more we review the words, observe them and their outcomes in the case studies and situations, you can see and fully understand what is taking place. Your stand is to make sure you are free and stand free. Then and only then can you help someone else.

Remember, “God has not given you a spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind” (II Timothy 1:7); and “you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).

Manifestations, Devices, Ways and Effects, Strategies, Tactics, and Tentacles

Accidents, bondage, fear, deaf and dumb, heaviness, infirmity, jealousy, perverse, divination/familiar spirit, whoredom (harlotry), pride, lying, anti-Christ spirit, seducing, deceiving, unclean, lethargic, detracting, Jezebel, rebellion, stubbornness, unbelief, death, sickness and disease, anger, un-forgiveness, strife, division, foul spirit, depression, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, pride of life, temptation, clamour, evil speaking, malice, guilty spirit and fascism, and mind binding.

Oppression

Persecution, abuse, maltreatment, ill-treatment, tyranny, despotism, repression, suppression, subjection, subjugation; cruelty, brutality, injustice, hardship, suffering, misery

Oppress

Persecute, abuse, maltreat, ill-treat, tyrannize, crush, suppress, subjugate, subdue, keep down, grind down, ride roughshod over, rule with an iron fist/hand; depress, make

gloomy, make despondent, weigh down, weight heavily on, cast down, dampen someone's spirit, dishearten, discourage, sadden, bring down, deject.

Cruel

abominable, agonizing, barbaric, brutish, brutal, callous, cold-hearted, dastardly, diabolical, fiendish, harsh, heart breaking, heartless, inhuman, malicious, mean, monstrous, nasty, painful, remorseless, sadistic, severe, spiteful, traumatizing, uncaring, unkind, vicious, vindictive, without pity.

Intimidating

Threatening, unapproachable, frightening, scary, daunting, menacing, nerve-racking.

Destruction

Abolishing, abolition, annihilation, assassinating, blight, carnage, crashing, crushing, disintegrating, disrupting, dissolving, downfall, elimination, end, eradication, extermination, extinction, extinguishing, extirpation, havoc, invalidating, invalidation, liquidation, loss, massacre, murder, overthrow, ravaging, ruin, ruination, sacking, shattering, slaughter, slaying, subjugation, subversion, subverting, undoing, wreckage, wrecking.

Words labeled manifestations of being the oppressor:

Abuse, afflict, affliction, assail, barrenness (of womb), beat in pieces, break, break in pieces, bruise, brutality, cause (someone) to feel distressed, cause to tremble, constraint, coercion, closure, cruelly, cruelty, crush, extortion, deceitfully gotten or get deceitfully, deceive, defraud, deject, desolation, despotism, destroy, destroyer, destruction, devastation, distress, do violence, dread, fear, force, gain by extortion, grind down, hardship, havoc, ill-treatment, injury, injustice, keep down, maltreatment,

oppress, oppressing, persecution, press upon, pressure, prevail, prison, repression, restraint, ride roughshod over, ruin, rule with an iron fist/hand, squeeze, subdue, subjection, subjugate, subjugation, suppression, terrible, tyrannize, to assault, to deal violently with, to distress, to do them wrong, to exercise harsh control over one, to use one's power against one; treat violently, tyranny, vex, violate, violent, wasting, wrong.

Words labeled manifestations of being oppressed:

Afraid, anxious, be broken, be crushed, be shattered, be terrified, deceived, defrauded, dejected, despondent, destroyed, dread, fear, feel dread, drink up, laid waste, maltreat, misery, oppressed, pressure, proud, suffering, to be devastated, to be exploited, to be robbed, to shake terrible, sleeping disorders, to be utterly despondent, to squeeze oneself, ruined, tremble, vexed.

Words labeled manifestations in situations:

Break in pieces the oppressor; hast broken, Rahab in pieces, the thing which has been deceitfully gotten, or that which was delivered to him to keep, or the lost thing which was found; deliver the spoils out of the hands of the oppressor and do no wrong; he was bruised for our iniquities; neither oppress the afflicted in the gate; regard or treat as awful, smitten my life down to the ground; to crush under his feet all the prisoners of the earth; to inspire awe; to the oppressing city; to revive the heart of the contrite ones; they break in pieces thy people; they are not humbled even unto this day; they shall be broken; Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise him; you beat my people to pieces; to exercise dominion against; healing all that were oppressed; Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?; a system that oppresses working people.

Words labeled devices:

Abortion, assault, bait, beating, beguile, belligerence, belittle, bias, bullying, chains, conflict, credit, deceit, demean, deregulate, discrimination, diseases, disrespect, entice, false accusations, false religion, grudges, hallucinogenic drugs (LSD, marijuana, to name a few), handcuffs, hanging (lynching), harassment, hostility, killer, lying, ignorance, intimidation, manipulation, mind games, mistreatment, molest, murder, obesity, occultism, pornography, poverty, predator, ropes, religion, serial killer, sex, shackles, stealing, threats in any form, trickle down, unbalanced scales, violence, wars.

Abortion

Aborticide, feticide, misbirth, miscarriage, termination

Assault

Rape, ravishment, sexual assault, violations, aggression, attack, attempt, blitz, charge

Word labeled ways and effects:

Addictions, biases, bipolar, cancer, diabetes, debilitating diseases the renders the body/person incapable of normal functions (Multiple Sclerosis, birth defects, paralysis, blindness, rheumatoid arthritis, excessive eating/eating disorders), depression, enabling tendencies, facilitating tendencies, improper testimonies, incarceration, infirmities, insanity, prejudice, rage, rudeness, suicide.

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www.thesaurus.com (TC)

Scriptures

Each Scripture should be read and reread, in the context in which it appears, as often as necessary to enlarge your understanding.

Oppression:

Occurs 24 times in 24 Scriptures in the KJV

Exodus 3:9; Deuteronomy 26:7; 2 Kings 13:4; Job 35:9, 36:15-16; Psalm 12:5, 42:9, 43:2, 44:24, 55:3, 62:10-11, 73:8, 107:39, 119:134; Ecclesiastes 4:1, 5:8, 7:7; Isaiah 5:7, 30:12, 33:15, 54:14, 59:13; Jeremiah 6:6, 22:17; Ezekiel 22:7, 29, 46:18

Oppress, Oppressed, Oppressors, Oppreseth, and Oppressing:

Oppress occurs 23 times in 23 Scriptures in the KJV

Exodus 3:9, 22:21, 23:9; Leviticus 25:14, 25:17; Numbers 10:9; Deuteronomy 23:16, 24:14, 26:7, 28:29, 28:33; Judges 2:18, 4:3, 6:9, 10:8, 12; I Samuel 10:18, 12:3, 4; II Kings 13:4, 22; II Chronicles 16:10; Job 3:18, 10:3, 15:20, 20:19, 27:13, 35:9; Psalm 9:9, 10:18, 12:5, 17:9, 54:3, 56:1, 72:4, 74:21, 103:6, 106:42, 119:122, 146:7; Proverbs 3:31, 14:31, 22:16, 22, 28:3, 16; Ecclesiastes 4:1, 5:8; Isaiah 1:17, 3:5, 3:12, 5:7, 9:4, 14:2, 4, 16:4, 19:20, 23:12, 30:12, 33:15, 38:14, 49:26, 51:13, 52:4, 53:7, 54:14, 58:6, 59:13; Jeremiah 6:6, 7:6, 21:12, 22:3, 25:38, 30:20, 46:16, 50:16, 33; Ezekiel 18:7, 12, 16, 18, 22:7, 29, 45:8; Hosea 5:11, 12:7; Amos 3:9, 4:1; Micah 2:2; Zephaniah 3:1; Zechariah 7:10, 9:8, 10⁴; Malachi 3:5; Acts 7:24, 10:38; James 2:6

Siege: occurs 17 times in 17 Scriptures in the KJV.

Deuteronomy 20:19, 28:53, 55, 57; I Kings 15:27; II Chronicles 32:9, 10; Isaiah 29:3; Jeremiah 19:9; Ezekiel 4:2, 3, 7, 8, 5:2; Micah 5:1; Nahum 3:14; Zechariah 12:2

Besiege: occurs 11 times in 10 Scriptures in the KJV.

Deuteronomy 20:12, 19, 28:52; I Samuel 23:8; II Samuel 11:1, 20:15; I Kings 8:37, 16:17, 20:1; II Kings 6:24, 25; 16:5, 17:5, 18:9, 24:10, 11, 25:2; I Chronicles 20:1, II

Chronicles 6:28; Ecclesiastes 9:14; Isaiah 1:8, 21:2, 37:25; Jeremiah 21:4, 9, 32:2, 37:5, 39:1, 52:5; Ezekiel 4:3, 6:12; Daniel 1:1

Besieged: occurs 23 times in 23 Scriptures in the KJV.

2 Samuel 11:1, 20:15; I Kings 16:17, 20:1; II Kings 6:24, 25, 16:5, 17:5, 18:9, 19:24, 24:10, 25:2; I Chronicles 20:1; Ecclesiastes 9:14; Isaiah 1:8, 37:25; Jeremiah 32:2, 37:5, 39:1, 52:5; Ezekiel 4:3, 6:12; Daniel 1:1

Love occurs 310 times in 280 Scriptures in the KJV

The Love Dare is a 40 Days Love Journey focused on marriage. It is worthy of a walkthrough for singles. It will encourage you to seek to love, above all; a lifestyle everyone needs: Try it, go to www.shenzhoufellowship.org

Word occurs 697 times in 673 Scriptures in the KJV.

Words occur 548 times in 523 Scriptures in the KJV.

Appendix

(Excerpts from the Dissertation Findings and Conclusions)

Findings

Validations may be a better designation since everything found and documented in this study was already in the Bible. A better designation is clarity, for much of the subject matter stood out in the light. That being understood, the clarity will hold the term findings.

Words, which carry meaning, also carry power; the power of words spoken can create or destroy; they can belittle a person or group of people or they can build up a person or group of people. Since words are the bases of communication, Mankind can garner knowledge and understanding by stringing words together. Therefore, words are significant and since Mankind is “made in the image and likeness of God”, the words that we speak will accomplish their spoken intent. This finding is validated by the following Scriptures:

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned (Matthew 12:36-37).

Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, wither in this age or in the age to come (Matthew 12:32).

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, upholding all things by the word of his power, ... (Hebrews 1:3).

Forever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven (Psalm 119:89).

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it (Isaiah 55:11).

Words are important, also, because they are infused with life or death at their release (Proverbs 18:21). They give names to things and situations. They can be released to build or to destroy. They trigger manifestations of “a spirit of oppression”. They point out strategies, tactics, and tentacles, devices, and ways and effects of a “spirit of oppression”.

Moreover, words are prophetic; they also bring “edification, exhortation, and comfort” (II Corinthians 4:18; Romans 4:17; I Corinthians 14:3). Simply stated, words are part of the problem and part of the solution. One must think before one speak (James 1:19).

Conclusion

- A “spirit of oppression” as a device of Satan, though concealed, when manifested tends to expose what is in the heart of a person.
- A “spirit of oppression”, can be found operating in the lives of people in the Scriptures in every Book of the Bible; words are determined to be the key to identifying it (Exodus 1:22; Matthew 2:7-8, 16). Paul said, *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices* (II Corinthians 2:11). From evidence, in Scripture, a “spirit of oppression” is one of, if not the most powerful of, Satan’s devices.
- A “spirit of oppression” is both a device used by Satan and it uses devices that are given power by words spoken by Mankind that invoke its manifestation(s). Its powers in no wise come close to the power of God. However, it gains it

power from Mankind's disobedience to God, flagrant misuse of words, lusts, and an unregenerate soul.

- The “spirit of oppression” at the time of manifestation is a “spirit of oppression”, which mean its manifestation corresponds to the word or words used to call it forth; while demonstrating its multifaceted ability to come out of hiding without really exposing itself.
- The oppressor, one used to oppress others, is another of the devices of a “spirit of oppression” used against Mankind; hence the oppressor is also being oppressed; albeit, it was determined that it is out of ignorance of the existence of this spirit. Numerous examples from history came to mind during the research: organizations that promote hate, bias, discrimination, destruction, prejudice, injustice, separatism, murder, and mayhem are all devices used by a “spirit of oppression”. In other words they are both the arms and victims of Satan.
- It was also determined that it is the strategies, tactics, and tentacles of a “spirit of oppression” that blind Mankind to a loving God who will not accept their actions and permit such actions to position them to spend eternity with Him (I Corinthians 6:9; II Corinthians 4:4).
- Just as one of Satan's strategies is to discredit the word of God by blinding Mankind before he draws them into his scheme, so it was determined that it is one of his strategies to camouflage a “spirit of oppression” by drawing Mankind into invoking manifestations of this spirit (Genesis 3:1, 4; Matthew 2:7-8, 16). The list is quite large and there is much room for expansion and greater understanding.

Although Paul said, “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood”, a “spirit of oppression” can be rendered immobile and ineffective in a Believer’s life through a conscious decision by the person. The choice must be made to embrace the things of God, daily (Deuteronomy 28:1-14; Joshua 24:14; Isaiah 7:15).

- The areas of operation and enticements by a “spirit of oppression” are iniquities, lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life; Jesus resisted the targeted attack from this spirit and won, decisively (Luke 4:1-13).
- One comparative analysis is, just as faith works by love, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life works by iniquity (Galatians 5:6; Psalm 51:5). Jesus was able to stand against the temptations of the devil because He was conceived by the power of Holy Spirit and no sin was involved; therefore there was no iniquity in Him (Luke 1:35, 4:1-14; John 14:30).
- The Believer’s place of protection from a “spirit of oppression” is in Him; abide there and the prince of this world will find nothing in you (Acts 17:28; John 15:4, 7, 14:30). The message from God is, He love His creation and has already given the Believer everything that pertains to life and godliness (II Peter 1:3).

Sin is always crouched at the door like a lion, waiting to spring through and victimize the Believer. The words spoken and the actions taken are the hinges that will open the door to a “spirit of oppression”, leading to death (Genesis 4:7). Jesus stands at the door and knock, He announced the fact that He is standing there; a person must choose to open the door to life in Him (Revelation 3:20).

Declaration

Isaiah 54:17: No weapon that is formed against me shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against me in judgment I shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD.

2 Samuel 22:33: God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect.

2 Samuel 22:34: He maketh my feet like hinds' feet: and setteth me upon my high places.

2 Samuel 22:35: He teacheth my hands to war; so that a bow of steel is broken by mine arms.

2 Corinthians 10:3: For though I walk in the flesh, I do not war after the flesh:

2Corinthians10:4: (For the weapons of my warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds ;)

2 Corinthians 10:5: Casting 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;

2 Corinthians 10:6: And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, when my obedience is fulfilled.

Ephesians 6:13: Wherefore I take unto myself the whole armour of God, that I may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

Ephesians 6:14: Stand therefore, having my loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;

Ephesians 6:15: And my feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Ephesians 6:16: Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith I shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

Ephesians 6:17: And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Ephesians 6:18: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

James 5:16b: The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

About the Author



Gwendolyn N. Davis is the founder and CEO of The Equipping Institute, a leadership training and development organization ordained by God “to equip leaders to lead”/“to equip leaders to serve”/”to teach My people truth”. She has been responsible for leadership training and development for organizations in Detroit, Michigan and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She has conducted conferences in Florida and Alabama and has been a conference speaker in Michigan, Florida, Georgia, and Alabama.

During her tenure while working for a local county government, she designed and facilitated the leadership training and development program for the department. She also trained facilitators to administer the training program. She conducted a Saturday Bible Study and a Leadership Focus Group in her home and has written and distributed newsletters in the United States.

Gwendolyn holds a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Detroit College of Business and has earned credits toward a Masters in Bible and a Doctors of Divinity at Faith Evangelistic Christian Schools. She has also earned credits toward a Doctor of Ministry at the Detroit Extension of Faith Baptist College and Seminary, and the University of Fort Lauderdale. She received a Masters of Public Administration from Nova Southeastern University in Davie, Florida. She has also completed coursework toward a Doctor of Public Policy and Administration with a concentration in Nonprofit Management and Leadership.

Gwendolyn was Associate Director of Christian Education at Holy Ghost Full Gospel Baptist Church and she was ordained a Minister of the Gospel at Greater Works Ministries, both in Detroit, Michigan.

