

Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses

**Christian Deliverance and Healing Principles for
Overcoming Curses**

"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree,'" Galatians 3:13

"I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live," Deuteronomy 30:19

"If my people who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and I will heal their land," 2 Chronicles 7: 14

* Second Edition *

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Introduction

Intro - Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses

This book on deliverance and healing covers on breaking curses, breaking including generational curses. Curses are in the category of social matters in our lives because of their expressive nature. For curses to have any potential one of their conditions is that they have physical expression in speech or in writing.

Although social in nature they are able to affect any area of life once in operation: social, spiritual, physical or material areas.

The great news is that curses are breakable and much easier than many may assume. May you find all the answers in this book for your life and for the lives of all the people you're entrusted with.

With detailed biblical analysis the clears all the mysteries and confusion on curses. The first five chapters of the book lay the foundation:

1. What is a curse and the nature of curses?
2. Five conditions for cursing words before resulting into curses
3. What curses are not: matters that do not constitute curses
4. Three sources of curses: God, people and self-infliction
5. Can Satan bring curses? Can Satan curse people?

Then learn about the behind the scenes role angels play in the spirit realm in relation to curses and to our Christian lives in general. There is a great deal you'll learn from this book that will greatly transform your Christian life. It is empowering to say the least.

The last seven chapters focus on breaking curses, the deliverance aspects on curses. The most prominent is the one dealing with generational curses. Find out what generational curses really are, how to break generational curses, and so on. Plus more: overcoming unforgiveness curses, breaking family curses, and much more.

Background to the concept of “breaking curses” in Christian history

This book could have been more appropriately titled “Deliverance from Curses.” But we all live in a world of culture and language that have a lot of influence on people. So to bring home the biblical principles some common language concepts of our day had to be used.

The concept of “breaking curses” likely gained momentum in the body of Christ during the “Third Wave” Charismatic movement (1980's). It was

coined the “Third Wave” movement by C. Peter Wagner, one of the key architects of the 1980’s Charismatic movement.

It’s worth noting that the same period brought into Christianity a flood of false teachings that misinterpreted scripture. There were such things like mimicking animal sounds, including dog barking, in church and attributing them to the Holy Spirit. The bible almost took a secondary role since feelings (sentimentalism), hearsay, and personal opinions were the primary basis of instruction.

It’s a chapter in Church history that bible-grounded believers in the body of Christ hope is never repeated. There is more maturity in Charismatic circles today, something we can all thank God for. By the late 1990s, the time I joined the Charismatic world most of the sentimentalism and twisting of scriptures had been dealt with.

I still ended up being caught up with some false teachings, particularly on spiritual warfare. My other book on spiritual warfare deals with the areas that are permitted and forbidden spiritual territory to believers. The book is titled, *Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do’s and Don’ts of Warfare*.

Like with the false teachings on spiritual warfare, the concept of “breaking curses” was used to put believers in a position of authority against matters of the spirit realm. A Christian is literally the one breaking curses in his/her life. He confronts certain evil spirits and commands them to let go of his family, finances, career, physical health, and so on. Through this direct confrontation with evil spirits a believer assumes he’s exercising his authority against evil spirits.

I’d have liked to go into biblical details in pointing out that this is unscriptural but my other book on spiritual warfare does a better job. The most important point to make here is that we do not break curses. It is God who ultimately breaks them. He invalidates their merit or claim on any of us once we fulfill what’s required of us to render any curse illegal on us. Our responsibility is fulfilling what’s required of us for God to work on our behalf in overcoming matters that bring harm to our lives.

Thus God is the curse breaker. He is our deliverer from all evil, including from works of evil spirits and from cursing words having any power over us. This book is therefore Christ-centered, not demon-centered. The same Christ-centered principles that Christ used, the early church used, and have been applied throughout church history are being shared in this book to overcome works of the devil.

1. What is a Curse and the Nature of Curses?

What are curses?

What is a curse? The simplest way to define a curse is to say it is the opposite of a blessing. But this is so simple and would easily make some to easily label anything bad a curse.

It is scripturally true that the whole creation is under a curse or bondage from God having fallen through the Original Sin of Adam and Eve. “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned,” Romans 5:12.

“For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God,” Romans 8:20-21.

Yet the context that we’d define such a type of a curse or bondage is only in the context of the Original Sin that God brought on all creation. Outside the context of the Original Sin we’d end up labeling everything bad thing in our lives a curse. Even persecution, trials of faith, every sickness, every failure, every accident, every type of poverty, carrying the spiritual cross, and so on would be labeled curses.

Now we can define a curse in the context outside the Original Sin or outside the fallen nature. A curse, from a biblical perspective, is any undesirable matter that emerges from an utterance, statement, pronouncement, invocation, oral or written vocabulary that expresses ill will or misfortune to an individual, animal or object. This is a definition based on biblical analysis. It won’t be found in a dictionary because secular dictionaries do not use the bible for definitions.

Thus what distinguishes a curse from other unpleasant matters is in its expressive nature. It needs to be uttered whether verbally or in writing. It’s not just a bad thought, feelings of anger or hatred towards someone. Curses are not telepathic or psychical. My other book on breaking spells deals with overcoming matters on telepathy, the psychic and tapping into the spirit world. It’s titled, *Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences*.

Neither can curses be received through a dream, vision, apparition, or any spiritual phenomena. They can only be expressed in the physical or earthly realm, not spiritual realm. Until such mental or any spiritual phenomena are physically uttered whether verbally or in writing they cannot result in a curse.

The expressed words, whether spoken or written, do not constitute curses on their own. They're cursing words but they are not curses in the real sense. In general language we say someone spoke cursing words to another. However, in reality the words themselves are not curses. It's what emerges or results from the words that constitutes curses.

The spoken or written words have to pass tough conditions that God has established before they can have any power of resulting into misfortune (curses). This is the best part in guarding against curses. God has insured that cursing words do not automatically result into curses. He has established tough conditions for cursing words before they could ever materialize into curses.

The next chapter covers on the five tough conditions that cursing words must meet before they can actually result into curses. Most cursing words end up failing on at least one of these conditions. They thus end up not materializing on the person or whatever entity the cursing words were pronounced.

In addition, it's due to this physical expressive or utterance nature that neither Satan nor any of his fellow evil spirits are able to curse. Spirits do not have physical bodies. They cannot express themselves in the physical realm. That is why they seek to influence and use people to fulfill their agendas on earth.

Even the Holy Spirit seeks vessels through whom he can fulfill God's agenda on earth. We do not see Satan with his demons on the one side and the Holy Spirit with God's angels manifesting themselves physically to fulfill their respective agendas. They operate in the spirit realm through influence to fulfill their agendas on earth.

The nature and characteristics of curses

The nature and effects of a curse can be any type of unpleasant matter. This does not mean any type of unpleasant matter is a curse. It only implies that a curse can come in any form or characteristic that is undesirable.

It can be characterized by any one or more of the following: affliction, nuisance, hardship, pain, grief, despair, misfortune, punishment, condemnation, sentence, scourge, torment, torture, terror, toil, bondage, deformity, abnormality, payback, hindrance, difficulty, stumbling block, interference, holdup, predicament, confusion, chaos, and so on – anything unpleasant.

This is why some people define curses as simply the opposite of blessings – the fact that curses are characterized by matters that are opposite to blessings. But as said earlier, not all unpleasant or undesirable matters are a result of a curse. A curse is only a subset of various categories of unpleasant and undesirable matters.

1. What is a Curse and the Nature of Curses

These other categories of unpleasant and undesirable matters have their own descriptions. They include trials of faith, thorn in the flesh, the cross, persecution, storms, the fallen nature, and so on.

No Christian calls for a celebration over a trial of faith, thorn in the flesh, persecution, storm, and so on. We do not wish for them in our lives even as we know God allows them. Even Jesus at some point sought the trial of crucifixion to be removed from him. “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will,” Matthew 26:39.

We also do not celebrate over fellow believers who may be facing various categories of unpleasant and undesirable matters. We may adore their faith but not their negative experiences. Some judgmental believers may also quickly assume their experiences are due to sin or ignorance.

Thus we simply ask for the grace to endure unpleasant matters when God allows them. God’s grace enables us to endure them, face them according to his will, have peace and faith while they unfold. This is what gives us victory over them. We count it all joy that God allowed them for a reason – a good reason even if we’d prefer not to experience the matters. Satan fails to use them to his advantage to crush our faith in God or to lead us into temptation.

It is unfortunate when in the midst of storms we allow Satan to take advantage and use them to his gain. Remember that God does not control our response to unpleasant matters. We are responsible for our responses. God has given us a free will to decide on how to respond. Thus it’s worth ensuring we cooperate with him in ensuring his will reigns over unpleasant matters.

2. Five Conditions for Cursing Words Before Resulting into Curses

Conditions for cursing words to meet before resulting into curses

To further emphasize, not every unpleasant matter is a curse. The next chapter, Chapter 3 “What Curses are Not: Matters that do not Constitute Curses” covers on this topic. It’s not wise to draw easy conclusions even when an undesirable matter is being experienced after someone made a pronouncement of misfortune. There are many reasons undesirable matters happen. It takes prayer and wise discernment to connect the dots.

Needless to say that connecting the dots is not our priority. Our priority is in ensuring we’ve no grounds for receiving any curse: from God, from self-infliction, or from other people. Should any grounds exist where cursing words may be pronounced we ought to endeavor to close the legal doorways.

The expressed words of misfortune, whether spoken or written, do not constitute curses on their own. They’re cursing words but they are not curses in the real sense. It is what emerges or results from the words that constitutes curses.

The spoken or written words have to pass five tough conditions that God has established before they can have any power of resulting into misfortune (curses). This is the best part in guarding against curses. God has insured that cursing words do not automatically result into curses. Otherwise expressions of misfortune from people and negative expressions we may say against our own selves would easily materialize as curses.

God has made it tougher for such negative pronouncements to bear fruit in order to protect us from being easily harmed. Most cursing words end up failing on at least one of these conditions. They thus end up not materializing on the person or whatever entity the cursing words were pronounced

If the expressed matter of ill will or misfortune fulfils all five of these conditions it’s able to operate as a curse on a person. It gains legal entry, a license or authority to operate as a curse on a person. This only happens when all five of the following conditions apply:

1. Curse words need to be outside the Original Sin or the fallen nature
2. Curse words need to be specifically addressed to an individual
3. Curse words need expression through two avenues: speech or in writing
4. Curse words need a person deserving or having grounds for it
5. Curse words need to go through God, the ultimate Gatekeeper of words

1. Curse words need to be outside the Original Sin or the fallen nature

This is in reference to curses from God. Sometimes we easily classify undesirable matters that resulted from the fall of humanity as curses.

Curse words (statements of ill will or misfortune) from God are outside the Original Sin or the fallen nature of which the individual innocently inherited from Adam. The book of Deuteronomy has a snapshot of God's curse words for people walking in disobedience. Here is an example of God's words of misfortune on the disobedient:

“You will sow much seed in the field but you will harvest little, because locusts will devour it. You will plant vineyards and cultivate them but you will not drink the wine or gather the grapes, because worms will eat them. You will have olive trees throughout your country but you will not use the oil, because the olives will drop off,” Deuteronomy 28:38-40.

These curse words do not relate to the Original Sin as the basis for God bringing curses on people. They relate to the disobedience of people to his ways.

The whole world, including us God's children, is under the curse of the Original Sin. Such a curse is better called the fallen nature, the corrupted nature, the flesh, and so on. It is hardly ever referred to as a curse.

Obedying the fallen nature is what can result into a curse from God. The fallen nature is not by itself a curse. It's the fallen nature, period, not a curse. The fallen nature is what makes us imperfect physically in our physical health and physical looks, and spiritually in our minds, understanding and behavior.

Thus under this corrupted nature that came through the Original Sin even our understanding is not perfect. The bible says we know in part, i.e. we do not have perfect knowledge.

“For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears,” 1 Corinthians 13:9-10.

That's why we have so many denominations with somewhat different interpretations and convictions - yet following the same God. Centuries ago we used to fight over it or hang those that differed from the dominant denomination. Now we're more mature and more tolerant of each other (for the most part).

2. Curse words need to be specifically addressed to an individual

Curses are not like spells that people in the occult cast out. Occult spells can be cast to an entire geographical location with the hope that people in an area will not have some protection against the spell.

2. Five Conditions for Cursing Words to Meet Before Resulting into Curses

Just not to be misunderstood: The fact that occult spells are cast out does not automatically imply people in the occult have some superpowers. Elijah faced 950 false prophets of Bal and Ashtoreth gods. All the numerous false prophets were skilled in their occult magic and spell casting. It took only one person for God to use in defeating all 900 of them (see 1 Kings 18).

As God's children we've his protection from occult spells. Thus people in the occult can cast as many spells as they wish. What matters is not how many spells they're casting. What matters is our position in Christ. As Christians we've nothing to fear from activities in the occult world. My other book on breaking spells covers on this topic in detail. It's titled, *Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences*.

Back to the point that curses are not like spells. Unlike spells curses need to be specifically addressed to an individual, living thing or physical entity. In this case a curse needs to have a source who is its originator, and who expresses the curse to an individual. There are only three sources that qualify to curse: God, people and the individual himself/herself. Chapter 4 covers in detail on the sources of curses.

Being specifically addressed to an individual means curses on people are not random. They do not just happen by chance, or by bad luck, or accidentally occur on a person. Like mail curses have specific addresses where they are sent. It is to the person, people or entity they're addressed to that curses will affect, if all the five conditions outlined in this book's chapter are met. If one or more of the five conditions outlined in this book's chapter are not met the cursing pronouncements fail to materialize into a curse.

For example, the curses God pronounced in the book of Deuteronomy did not just randomly apply to anyone. They were pronounced on those who fell in the category of the disobedient. Thus anyone walking in obedience was automatically protected from the curses. A person walking in obedience was actually entitled to God's blessings, as you probably know from the well-known blessings and curses chapters in the book of Deuteronomy.

Another example of a curse being specifically addressed to an individual, living thing or object is Jesus' cursing of the fig tree. After Jesus cursed a specific fig tree the disciples were surprised to see the tree withered. The fig tree alone and nothing else withered. The curse was addressed to the fig tree.

Although curses are addressed to specific individuals the consequences of the curses can also affect people around each person carrying a curse. For example, a person experiencing any kind of curse (curse from God, or a self-inflicted curse, or curse from another person) will affect people around him, such as family members or workmates. Even though the family members or workmates may not be under the curse the negative effects it's bringing on the person will also affect them.

For example, if the curse is an illness the work performance of the person will be compromised. Thus his performance will affect the output of his area of work and the people he works with.

The effects on others are more evident when it's a behavioral curse. For example, a person nursing unforgiveness may be facing a behavioral curse whereby he/she is constantly fighting people. The people around him, whether family members or workmates, will be directly affected by the bad fruits of the curse on a person. They'll find it difficult relating to and dealing with the person.

Similarly, a financial curse will not only affect the individual himself but those around him/her. Even when those around him may have sufficient finances he can still pose as unnecessary drain on them. Some of the money they could have used to support worthy causes gets channeled to shouldering the person experiencing a financial/material curse.

Another example of curses being specifically addressed to particular people are generational curses. God follows a curse assigned on a family to proceeding generations. Whatever particular curse it may be only affects the family line the curse was assigned.

A generational curse therefore does not extend to relatives or relations of the family. It only affects the bloodline of the immediate family. Needless to say there's a way out of every curse. That's what this book is about - breaking curses. Curses are not permanent. They can be broken. On breaking generational curses please read chapter 10, "Breaking Generational Curses: God's Traditional & Non-T Ways."

3. Curse words need expression through two avenues: speech or in writing

Curse words (statements of ill will or misfortune) need to be uttered whether verbally or in writing by the source. A mere mental wish of ill will or misfortune cannot result into a curse. Thus curses are not telepathic or psychical. My other book on breaking spells deals with overcoming matters on telepathy, the psychic and tapping into the spirit world. It's titled, *Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences*.

Neither can curses be received through a dream, vision, apparition, or any spiritual phenomena. They can only be expressed in the physical or earthly realm, not spiritual realm. Until such mental or any spiritual phenomena are physically uttered whether verbally or in writing they cannot result in a curse.

Thus curses can only be expressed in the physical or earthly realm for them to have any weight. This expression is in the form of curse words, spoken or written.

4. Curse words need a person deserving or having grounds to receive it

“Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest,” Proverbs 26:2.

This condition together with condition number 5 (God as the Gatekeeper of words) are the most challenging for curse words. It is through these two conditions that we gain the most protection from curse words made by other people against any of us.

For every curse word to have any effect on an individual it needs to find a person having one or both of the following factors:

1) A person in a position of deserving it,

Deserving it implies a person did something wrong intentionally or ignorantly and the curser (source assigning the curse) is justly proclaiming punishment and holding the person accountable for the wrong.

2) A person having grounds or a legal doorway to receiving it,

Having a legal doorway to receiving a curse implies a person is not directly responsible or accountable for a wrong but has a liability for it. He/she has an avenue of access for a curse to bear fruit. This liability poses as a risk factor. Liabilities include having not received the gift of salvation and walking in sin.

Thus a person that's not born again is an open vessel for certain curses bearing fruit. These include curses from people and self-imposed curses. If you're not yet born again and would like to receive God's free gift of salvation there is plenty of hope. You can contact any local bible centered church, a committed Christian you know, or access a "Prayer of Salvation" at our website, JesusWorkMinistry.com. To easily locate the "Prayer of Salvation" at JesusWorkMinistry.com you can type in the words "prayer of salvation" in the search bar. It can also be accessed through the link: "About Jesus Work Ministry." All glory be to God for drawing you to himself through this book.

Walking in sin also opens grounds or legal doorways to receiving curses in some areas. The major source of curses from walking in sin is God (curses from God). Self-imposed curses can also have an effect on a person since walking in sin creates grounds or legal doorways for various negative matters.

“Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps whatever he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit will reap eternal life,” Galatians 6:7-8.

5. Curse words need to go through God, the ultimate Gatekeeper of words

God is the ultimate Gatekeeper or Judge over all words, including curses words. “To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue,” Proverbs 16:1.

“Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails,” Proverbs 19:21.

Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology says, “The curse is totally under Yahweh's control. It is his power, not magical forces, which brings about the curse. His sovereign decision alone decides who merits being cursed (1 Kings 8:31-32). He cannot be forced into action by proper wording or ritual. Thus a curse could not be used capriciously as a weapon against one's personal enemies.”

God invalidates curse words that are undeserving and assigns the punishment for those that are deserving or have a degree of liability. He also chooses to exercise mercy on whoever he pleases to be spared even when deserving it. God therefore, has the final say over curse words. He acts as the Supreme Judge in his heavenly High Court or Supreme Court.

It is also forbidden to curse God (Exodus 22:28), parents (Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9; Proverbs 20:20, 30: 11), and the helpless deaf (Leviticus 19:14). Thus no matter how vigorous one may express curse words to any of the above groups they merely constitute insults and empty words of ill will.

Thus children have no heavenly right to curse parents even if they merit being cursed. God invalidates curse words that are addressed to parents and thus do not materialize as curses.

For any parent to knowingly curse his child is a shameful act and a testimony of ignorance. This is under normal circumstances, not a child who goes out on murderous rampage. We therefore cannot use the scriptures of some biblical parents who cursed their children to justify cursing our children. Most of these people that may be referenced had a grade one level of education. They were “brainless,” with no understanding of God's principles of seed-time and harvest-time on words, thoughts, and deeds.

Some parents actually curse their children not out of ignorance but out of hatred. While our parents are loving in spite of their imperfections a small percentage of parents exists that are hateful towards their children. It's an uphill battle for children under the care of such parents or guardians. The children are constantly under cursing words, destructive and unhealthy nurturing environments. Needless to say God has a way out even for such hindering cases. Please read chapter 12, “Deliverance from Family Curses: Breaking Family Curses.”

Chapter summary on five conditions for cursing words

All five of the above conditions must apply for a curse to harvest or bear fruit. Thus if a curse qualifies in any four of the five above factors it still fails to harvest or bear fruit over an individual.

You can see that cursing words or statements of ill have a tough journey to travel. Before they can receive their license or permit to affect a person they have tough conditions to meet. God created a tough journey for them in order to protect people from being unfairly affected by malicious words of others. It is also to protect us from most careless words we utter against ourselves.

Thus curses have a basis, rather than being random afflictions. If a person is addressed a cursing expression and does not deserve it the curse words do not bear fruit—they don't result into a curse. The curse dies since the individual is innocent. The curse words merely constitutes empty statements of misfortune. The curse words may even return to harm the person that uttered them. "I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse," Genesis 12:3.

In such a case it is God who returns the curse. We have no role to play on the cursing side. The only role we can play is on the forgiving side. We can ask that God does not treat the people as they deserve for being mean or malicious in their intentions and words.

Like Jesus, we pray to God saying, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing," Luke 23:34.

In the New Testament we're even admonished to bless those who curse us or pronounce words of misfortune on us. Their cursing words won't materialize anyway so we ought to have an easy time to bless them even when they're hostile.

"Bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you," Luke 6:28.

"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. . . Do not repay anyone evil for evil," Romans 12:14,17.

"When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it; when we are slandered, we answer kindly," 1 Corinthians 4:12-13.

Thus our duty is to avenge or retaliate to people of mean hearts with love, not equal meanness. They may say the worst of words and pronouncements against us but we show them Christ's love. Their malicious words won't have any legal entry in our lives anyway.

We even feel sorry for them because God sometimes can end up punishing them in a sad way even when we forgive them. He's the one who ultimately decides what to do with those that hatefully work against us. The bible says vengeance is his. It's not our responsibility to return evil to others.

Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses

“Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: **‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’** says the Lord. On the contrary: ‘If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.’ **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good,**” Romans 12:19-21 (emphasis added).

3. What Curses are Not: Matters that do not Constitute Curses

Types of unpleasant and undesirable matters besides curses

Just covered in the previous chapter were five conditions curse words must meet before gaining any legal entry to operate on a person. Having an understanding of these conditions enables one to easily know what falls in the category of curses and what does not. This chapter goes a step further to identify matters that do NOT fall in the category of curses.

It was said earlier that curses are only a subset of a category of unpleasant and undesirable matters. The common factor in this set of matters is the unpleasant experiences, undesirable and in some cases distressful experiences.

In this set of unpleasant matters each sub-category has its own description or identity. The identities of each sub-category include curses (the theme of this book: breaking curses), trials of faith, thorn in the flesh, the cross, persecution, life's storms, the fallen nature, and so on. Below is a summary of each of these sub-categories of unpleasant, undesirable, and in some cases distressful matters:

- 1) Curses (topic of this book: Breaking curses)
- 2) Trials of Faith
- 3) Thorn in the Flesh
- 4) The Cross
- 5) Christian Persecution
- 6) Life's Storms
- 7) The Fallen Nature (Within its Context)

1) Curses (topic of this book: Breaking curses)

Chapter 1 defined what curses are. Chapter 2 gives conditions curse words must meet before gaining any legal entry to operate on a person.

2) Trials of Faith

“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil,” Matthew 4:1.

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything,” James 1:2-4.

Notice the One who originates trials. It is God not the devil. We have believers who’re preoccupied with Satan over any little unpleasant matter. God allows the devil to cause trouble in our lives for a reason – a very good reason if they are trials of faith. It’s therefore God himself we’re to deal with, not Satan, when going through trials. The devil is just an agent or messenger in this case, even when he thinks he’ll outsmart God.

When we deal with trials of faith God’s way the bible says good comes out of it. We come out of the fire better, not bitter, and not obsessed with the devil. Dealing with trials of faith God’s way includes submitting to God, seeking his will to reign over matters we may be experiencing and focusing on the big picture or the long-run outcome, not the short-run circumstances.

Focusing on the big picture or the long-run outcome, not the short-run circumstances enables us to see victory from whatever current circumstances. That’s why the scripture given above in James says “consider it **pure joy**, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds...”

It then goes on to give some (not all) reasons why we should be joyous even during times we’re going through unpleasant experiences: “...because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything,” James 1:2-4. Apart from developing perseverance there are many other rewards or outcomes when we face trials God’s way. We refuse to run for shortcuts.

3) Thorn in the Flesh

“There was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me,” 2 Corinthians 12:7.

No Christian wants a thorn in the flesh. A thorn in the flesh is a demonic attack that is illegally operating against a Christian. It is illegally operating or stealing from a believer because doors of its legal access were closed.

A thorn in the flesh may even look like a curse. And it’s not something that is associated with spiritually young Christians. Even the most mature Christians can receive it. In the bible we have Paul, the spiritual giant of all among early apostles, if not the mightiest in all Christian history.

Like with trials God originates thorns in the flesh, not the devil. Paul was never preoccupied with Satan over his thorn. God allows the devil to cause trouble in our lives for a reason and it’s him we’re to deal with. In my other books on deliverance I cover on these reasons. They are called doorways of access for demonic influence and other unpleasant matters in our lives.

The four doorways are: 1) deception, 2) ignorance, 3) sin, and 4) storms of life (when not responded to correctly). A thorn in the flesh is the category of

3. What Curses are Not: Matters that do not Constitute Curses

storms of life. It has been separated here just to expand on the nature of a thorn in the flesh.

In dealing with the demonic thorn in the flesh Paul turned to God instead of confronting Satan nor the ranks of principalities he identifies in Ephesians 6. He turned to God, not once but, “Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me,” Corinthians 12:8.

Ultimately God, not Satan and other fallen angels, had the final say over Paul’s torment. “He said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me,” (verse 9). God delivered him in a non-traditional way, by giving him the grace to endure his affliction.

Paul informs us the reason God assigned demonic interference against him in a specific area of his life. God wanted to keep pride from growing in him due to the many exploits God did through him. God did many exploits through him. Paul also ascended through visions to the third heaven and received revelations God said were just for his consumption. His writings constitute a third of the New Testament!

With such a massive list of achievements and opportunities he was very vulnerable to become conceited (proud or arrogant). God hates the sin pride so he devised a way to stop it for Paul’s sake to ensure it does not end destroying him spiritually.

“To keep me from becoming conceited because of these surpassingly great revelations, there was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me,” 2 Corinthians 12:7.

In his sovereign will God may allow strange attacks from Satan for a season, for a situation or for an entire lifetime like with Paul. God is on our side over attacks against formed us that are not as result of our own doing. They are not like the attacks that come through falling to sin or through walking in ignorance. Such attacks are as result of our own doing. In the attacks that are not as result of our own doing we’re being innocently attacked –like Paul was.

When we deal with such attacks God’s way we come out victorious. God gets the glory even where Satan would have loved to get some attention. We come out of the fire better and not bitter, victorious and not defeated. Neither are we obsessed with the devil when God is our focus.

4) The Cross

This is the most important area of our Christian life.

“Anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it,” Matthew 10:38-39

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?" Matthew 16:24-26

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me," Luke 9:23.

There are three main things Jesus was saying in these passages. The first is that it's a choice to follow him: "If anyone would come after me." We're called into salvation but what follows later is an act of individual choice weather or not we want it, to what level, and so on. It's not imposed upon us. We appropriate God's free gifts once given by doing our part of choosing and making necessary commitments.

The second is that of self-denial: "he must deny himself." Following Jesus means we choose to make him Lord or the boss over our lives. We dethrone ourselves and seek him to rule over us. Self-denial involves sacrifice of one's interests and in place pursuing the interests of another. This is not always easy and many times is not pleasant.

Self-denial is not a pleasant thing since we naturally want to be in charge of our lives, do whatever we like, live wherever we like, and so on. Who wants to be bossed around by someone else? It feels like bondage being under constant orders. But it's not so with Christ. There is a great prize awaiting each of us for being under his lordship and denying our own instincts for independence.

In the meantime while the prize awaits us it's still challenging and burdensome to deny interests. Interestingly Jesus never promised us that self-denial would be easy. Neither did he say it'd be a joyride.

Our interests include personal goals, ambitions, dreams, wants, comforts, rights, welfare, and so on. These are expected to be subordinated at the least level and to be completely abandoned at the highest pursuit for Christ.

The third matter Jesus was saying is that of carrying the cross: "take up his cross daily." Carrying the cross seems like the worst part, because it's painful, humiliating, and runs completely opposite to our personal desires in life. However, it has a major purpose as you'll see shortly.

The cross, introduced by the Roman Empire in their Jewish colony was one of the most cruel forms of execution. It was meant for the most notorious criminals in Jesus' day. It was therefore a punishment for certain criminals. After receiving brutal lashes they had to carry their cross in public. Then finally they were mounted to it using nails at their crucifixion. It was a painful way to die.

Jesus received the sentence of a criminal and went through the worst form of public humiliation and painful death. He didn't deserve it. Yet in this death there was a great reward that he chose to bear this lynching. The reward

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was not for him but for others: the sins of all humanity. This is the major purpose for carrying the cross. It is self-sacrifice for the sake of others.

“He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed,” Isaiah 53:5.

He said to his disciples that if they wanted to follow him they ought to pick up their crosses. Like with Jesus their crosses were not for their own gain but for the benefit of others. The cross therefore constituted the highest form of self-denial they could give for the sake of others.

The lives of Jesus’ disciples show that they steadfastly answered to this call – all except Judas Iscariot. Most of them actually died as martyrs.

The same words were addressed to all who would want to be disciples of Jesus, all who would want to be Christians. For the sake of others we’re to put aside our interests, flesh desires, and put theirs first.

Christianity is not a call to a party and self-gratification. It’s a call to serious business. The spiritual lives of others are at stake and God is counting on us to lay down our lives for their sake. It’s a call to self-sacrifice, not literally, but in its deepest spiritual meaning. It’s not easy and it’s among the most prominent matters our fallen nature finds very unpleasant.

There can be days when one may feel like it’s a curse carrying the cross of self-denial for the sake of others. Yet there is nothing as valuable as this discipline for any Christian. The reward awaiting each faithful servant of Christ is beyond any words can explain.

“No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him,” 1 Corinthians 2:9.

Who are these people that God calls us to lay down our lives for?

They are in two categories: A) the Body of Christ (fellow Christians), and B) the Harvest Field (unbelievers, the unconverted). Our Christian work differs for each group because each has its unique needs. Each group’s unique needs are as follows:

A. Every Christian's work/responsibility in the Body of Christ:

To Empower or Equip

To Enlighten

To Encourage

B. Every Christian's work/responsibility in the Harvest Field:

To Evangelize

To Emancipate (deliverance from bondage, mainly spiritual)

To Exemplify

My other book, *Hearing the Voice of God and Fulfilling God’s Purpose for Your Life*, has a detailed chapter on each of the above Es.

Carrying the cross is not a pleasant thing. Neither is it easy. That’s why it’s a daily commitment, not a one-time pledge. “If anyone would come after

me, he must deny himself and take up his cross **daily** and follow me,” Luke 9:23.

It’s not easy carrying the cross because the discipline runs contrary to our sinful fallen nature. It’s like swimming towards where the river is flowing from. The easy flow is towards the fallen nature. It’s instinctively woven in us.

The sinful fallen nature says we’re to serve our own interests first and last. Others are only to be considered if there’s a reward for it or if they’re in our inner circle – of family, community, country, race, language, and so on. The rest can hang themselves if they wish.

Not so for Christians says Jesus. Though the gentiles or unbelievers may live by this self-centered principle instinctively it’s not to be so with us. Needless to say there are so many unbelievers whose selfless lives can shame many Christians.

The Christian formula is to put others first, consider their needs and interests first. It’s not easy but very possible with God’s Holy Spirit at work in our lives. If there are so many unbelievers who live selfless lives, putting others first, how much more the Holy Spirit filled Christian? So it’s more than possible to deny our own interests of personal goals, ambitions, dreams, wants, comforts, rights, welfare, and so on.

Carrying the cross is also not a pleasant thing but bearable with God’s Holy Spirit at work in our lives. Again if there are so many unbelievers who endure putting others first, how much more the Holy Spirit filled Christian?

The unpleasant matters of selflessly serving others include the lack of appreciation, empathy, understanding, compassion. Not all but a few among those being served will behave this way. A handful naysayers can be enough to give up with less inner strength and without the Holy Spirit.

The unpleasant matters get worse when serving unbelievers. The above was in reference to serving those in the body of Christ. Unbelievers are the primary source of persecution. Sometimes it’s like God made them to make life hard for us. Not so. They are that way because the flesh is their master. They do not yet have the crucified nature that comes through salvation and the inner filling of the Holy Spirit. In addition being outside Christ they’re easy vessels Satan can use to hinder us.

With God’s Holy Spirit at work in our lives we’re to see beyond their nature. Like Jesus who loved the lost we’re to love them enough to overlook their faults. God through each of us wants to reach out to them. He could have sent angels to preach Christ and salvation to them but God chose us. For their sake we each carry our crosses of self-denial and put their eternal identity ahead of our temporal interests.

Each of us will answer before God what we lovingly gave up for the sake of others. A cross is not something like giving someone a spare computer, giving an offering, a cheap prayer, serving some spare time on a church mission, and so on. As worthy as these are they’re far from a cross.

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A cross is sacrificing something so important to one's interest for others in exchange for nothing. The blessing or reward may not be in this lifetime yet the driving motivation is that others are blessed through the sacrifices. It becomes a worthy burden to serve them.

5) **Christian Persecution**

This is another area we're to endure in our Christian lives. It is extensively covered in Chapter 10 "Christian Persecution: A Deliverance Exception," in my book *Major Christian Deliverance Principles: Keys for Self-deliverance and Ministry*.

6) **Life's Storms**

Storms of life are unpleasant experiences that befall us out of no fault of our own. They are the Joseph experiences. God allows them to happen but does not plot them against us. He only does not stop them.

Depending on how we handle such matters storms of life can be our stepping stones to our promotion (like with Joseph) or they can be our downfall. They can be assets the Holy Spirit can use to our good or they can be assets Satan can use to block us from moving forward.

Whatever storms of life one may have faced or maybe facing, spiritually, socially, materially or physically, they are not intended to be obstacles. At least from God's point of view. The devil wants them to be obstacles and destiny killers. But they cannot stop God from fulfilling all that he purposed to accomplish through each of us. God is able to transform the experiences to eventually work to our good if our focus is on him rather than our limitations.

The evil may not work to everyone's good, but, as the Bible says, it certainly does for God's children. How God does it could be another book. Please read through the following passage. It's an awesome passage on God's sovereignty, love, and power in the midst of all experiences in our lives:

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

"What, then, shall we say in response to this? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all--how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen?

"It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died--more than that, who was raised to life--is at the right hand of God and is

also interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we face death all day long; we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.'

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord," Romans 8:28-39.

7) The Fallen Nature (Within its Context)

The next chapter, Chapter 4 defines what the fallen nature is. It's in the section dealing with the curses from God. It is God's curse from the Original Sin. However, such a curse is appropriately classified in the bible as the fallen nature, the corrupted nature, the flesh, and so on.

4. Three Sources of Curses: God, People and Self-Infliction

Three Sources of Curses: God, People and Self-Infliction

Where do curses come or originate from? There are three sources of curses:

- 1) **Curses from God: Using his law and from the Original Sin,**
- 2) **Self-inflicted or self-induced curses** – through negative talk, utterances, words, and confession that is self-directed,
- 3) **Curses from people** - through outward expressions that include face to face dialogue, written statements, and prayers.

Notice that Satan is not among the sources of curses. Some people like Rebecca Brown believe Satan curses people. This is not biblical. No wonder such people are so obsessed and preoccupied with Satan. They are constantly on the defensive over his assumed powers and trying to directly fight him with their own assumed authority. My book on spiritual warfare, titled *Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare*, covers on such matters.

Satan cannot curse. He can only influence us to fall under God's curse or fall under a curse from fellow people. Above I outlined the barrier Satan has on directly being able to curse people. I said spirits do not have physical bodies. They cannot express themselves in the physical realm. Curses have to be physically expressed orally or in writing.

1. Curses from God: Using His Law and from the Original Sin

There are two broad categories of God's curses:

- 1) Curses from the Original Sin (appropriately classified in the bible as the fallen nature, the corrupted nature, the flesh),
- 2) Curses from the breaking his law (the curse of the law).

Understanding the difference of the two types of curses from God is key to ensuring we do not easily label some unpleasant and undesirable matter as a curse from God.

The nature from the Original Sin is what we innocently inherited from Adam. God cursed Adam and consequently all humanity after he sinned in the Garden of Eden. The whole world, including us God's children is under the curse of the Original Sin. Such a curse is better called the fallen nature, the corrupted nature, the flesh, and so on.

It is hardly, if ever, referred to as a curse. The fallen nature is what makes us imperfect physically in our physical health and physical looks, and spiritually in our minds, understanding and behavior. Thus under this corrupted nature that came through the Original Sin even our understanding is not perfect.

Accordingly we now can bury the issue about the fallen nature being a curse. It is among the seven unpleasant and undesirable matters covered in the previous chapter. We can now move on to God's valid curses that are brought upon us through our own input, not through Adam. Such curses are normally called the curse of the law.

For God to pronounce curses may be a bit of a puzzle. It may seem so since one of the conditions for a curse to operate is that it needs to find expression in the physical realm, verbally or in writing. God is Spirit and thus has confined himself to the spirit realm.

How then is God able to pronounce his curses in the physical realm? God had to find a physical vessel to express his blessings and curses. Being God he could still overrule whatever conditions he sets. But he chose to operate within his rules of operation even on curses.

So he found physical vessels to express his blessings and curses. He used his human servants, particularly Moses, to put his words in writing. The main contents of his words on blessings and curses are found in the Books of the Law. These are the five books of Moses (Genesis to Deuteronomy). The Jews refer to them as the Torah, which means teaching or instruction. In this case the teaching is the teaching of the law. Orthodox Jews (Traditionalist Jews) like in the ancient days still read portions of the Torah every Shabbat (Jewish Sabbath). They follow the following instruction from God:

“Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go,” Joshua 1:8-9.

Thus God's curses are based on his written law or covenant he made to us. They are not just random curses God throws out. They are based on violations of his word. His blessings and curses are according to all that is written in the Book of the Law – God's word. The book of Deuteronomy has the major details about God's law with consequences on each side - good consequences for following it and bad consequences for violating it.

In this respect a curse is a punishment for violating God's instructions. Thus for committing a sin God brings a curse or an unpleasant and undesirable matter into a violator's life. Anything that is harvested as a result of committing a sin can be appropriately called a curse.

This does not mean God loves this game of placing curses or unpleasant and undesirable matters into people's lives. For Christians and unbelievers alike

4. Three Sources of Curses: God, People and Self-Infliction

the unpleasant and undesirable matters are intended to capture their attention to seek to remedy the problem. They are his rod of discipline.

It's like an illness. When a person is ill he/she won't just sit by and endure the sickness, particularly if it's serious enough. He will seek medical attention to resolve or cure the illness. In God's eyes this is what unpleasant and undesirable matters in form of curses are for. They're intended to inform us to make amends or changes over our wrongs (sins). In fact God does not go on a cursing rampage over every wrong we commit. Please read the following scripture about God's love:

“He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust,” Psalm 103:10-14.

God's curses are primarily called the curse of the law because the curses are assigned in connection with breaking the law or God's word. The curse of the law comprises of numerous curses from which God selects and assigns an individual who has violated some of his laws. God's curses are sometimes called the curse of God because God is the one that assigns the curse.

The individual who willfully chooses not to follow or ignorantly fails to follow God's statutes in his word finds himself in a trap. It's therefore not an arbitrary curse that God assigns just because he feels like placing it on someone. It is based on an individual's obedience or disobedience to God's statutes.

Someone may say we have been freed from the curse of the law. This is very true. We have been freed from all its ritualistic regulations and the animal sacrifices we had to make to pay for our sins.

Jesus became our one-time sacrifice and paid the price for the consequences of being under it. And so on. More on Christ's work is covered in Chapter 7 “Breaking Curses from God: No.1 Source of Curses.” This chapter focuses on the curses from God and their consequences even on believers.

Being freed from the burden of being under the Old Testament law did not mean we now received a license to sin with no consequences whatsoever. The bible is clear about this. That's why we received the Holy Spirit to help us live holy lives. When we reject the promptings of the Holy Spirit not to sin we move into a risky area.

The bible says, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps whatever he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit will reap eternal life,” Galatians 6:7-8.

So what we can say about the Old Testament law is that though it may not apply to us in its strict sense its principles still apply to us. The rituals,

sacrifices and condemnation it carried no longer apply to us. But its principles of sowing and reaping still apply to us.

The Old Testament law was actually a shadow of the things that were to come. What was to come was Jesus and the resulting law of the Spirit written in us:

“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a **shadow of the things that were to come**; the reality, however, is found in Christ,” Colossians 2:16-17 (emphasis added).

Jesus came and for those of us born again we now have the unseen law of the Spirit at work in us. “Through Christ Jesus the **law of the Spirit** of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, **in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us**, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit,” Romans 8:2-4.

Why was the old law done away with? The answer is right above: “**In order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us**,” Romans 8:4. So the **righteous** requirements of the old law are still required by the new law. The requirements for righteousness in the old law failed to be fulfilled by us. All humanity did was perform endless rituals without being convicted to live uprightly.

The story changes with the new law. Through the Holy Spirit who empowers us we are now able to fulfill requirements for righteous living. The old law being a shadow of the new has a lot of similar attributes to the new. We can still look to the old to piece together how this unseen law of the Spirit works.

This new law is now written in our hearts not on tablets of stone. The Holy Spirit who leads us to all truth illuminates this law in our hearts:

“Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them,” Romans 2:14-15.

The Gentiles in reference here were Christian converts who were non-Jews. These non-Jews were not required to submit to Jewish laws that required circumcision of males, restrictions on eating certain foods (particularly pork), observance of Jewish holidays, and so on. The new law written in their hearts by the Holy Spirit and governed by God’s written word showed that these traditions were not necessary.

In the old law God gave us a choice and thus left it up to us to have a key say on the course of our lives. “This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses

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against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live,” Deuteronomy 30:19.

Deuteronomy 28 is the famous blessings and curses chapter where God summarizes how he he'll bless us if we obey him and how he'll bring curses on us if we disobey him.

On God's blessings obedience is his key word. He says, “All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God: You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country. The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock--the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks...” Deuteronomy 28:2-4.

On God's curses disobedience is his key word. He says, “You will sow much seed in the field but you will harvest little, because locusts will devour it. You will plant vineyards and cultivate them but you will not drink the wine or gather the grapes, because worms will eat them. You will have olive trees throughout your country but you will not use the oil, because the olives will drop off,” Deuteronomy 28:38-40.

2. Self-inflicted curses

“The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit,” Proverbs 18:21.

Remember a curse is an outward expression of ill will or misfortune. And who is a bigger expert at making ill statements more than people to their own selves? In fact, this is a far bigger cause of problems among people than curses from people. The number one source of curses remains God.

This does not sound nice but that's his way of responding to sin. It's his way in the Old Testament and in the New too as was covered above. The beauty about being in the New Testament (New Covenant) era is that through Christ we don't have to go out and sacrifice animals to pay for our sins. In addition the sacrifices were insufficient to provide atonement or payment for the sins committed (Hebrews 10:4-10).

Now “there is no longer any sacrifice for sin,” Hebrews 10:18. In the New Covenant Jesus became our sacrifice, our one time sacrifice. This means when someone sins or wrongs God all that God requires is repentance with no animal sacrifices.

In addition God did more for us to enable us not to keep sinning. He put his law in our hearts. “I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” Hebrews 10:16. But more on this in Chapter 7 “Breaking Curses from God: No.1 Source of Curses.” Let's move on to this section's topic on self-inflicted curses.

Nobody in their right mind would knowingly wish ill on themselves. Thus when someone assigns a curse on himself/herself it's nearly always as a result of ignorance. The person assumes he/she is just uttering mere words. In the realm of the spirit there are no mere words. That's why we'll be judged not just by our actions but even over the words we said.

"But I tell you that men will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned," Matthew 12:36-37.

Through negative talk, utterances, words, and confession that is self-directed people curse themselves. God made our words to have creative powers. Just as he created everything from nothing by speaking it into being he assigned the same power over our words.

We were therefore created in the image and likeness of God. The power of thought and confession are two major privileges God has given us to work in his likeness. We'd be wise not to misuse our God like powers and use them in cooperation with his will over our lives.

"I said, 'You are "gods"; you are all sons of the Most High,'" Psalm 82:6

The power of our words is usually underestimated. Don Gossett, in his book, *What You Say is What You Get*, shows from a Biblical point of view how every word we say either contributes to the making or breaking down of our lives. Whatever we say is binding in the spirit realm particularly when mixed with our belief in it.

Scripture says, "From the fruits of his mouth a man is satisfied; he is satisfied by the yield (harvest) of his lips. Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit," Proverbs 18:20-21 (emphasis added).

A lot of what we experience and become in life is a product of what has been said by our lips. God has given the tongue much power that Scripture says death and life are under its influence.

Every word we speak is either adding more life or more death to the matters we talk about. These include areas of physical health, spiritual growth, family and marriage, occupation, prayer requests for others and for ourselves.

Again and again God's Word cautions us not to underestimate the power of the tongue by looking at its size. Our bodies are so large compared to it, yet the words that it produces steer the whole course of our lives.

"Take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants it to go. Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell," James 3: 3-6.

4. Three Sources of Curses: God, People and Self-Infliction

“From the fruit of his lips a man enjoys good things,” Proverbs 13:2. Thus it is not the hands that primarily bring good things to us. It is what we say. The work of our hands only facilitate the process of receiving the good things. That is why people who talk negatively about their lives usually eat the results of their talk no matter how hard they work.

Scripture says, “A fool’s mouth is his undoing (ruin), and his lips are a snare (trap) to his soul,” Proverbs 18:7. And “A man’s own folly (foolishness) ruins his life, **yet his heart rages against the Lord,**” Proverbs 19:3 (emphasis added).

It’s interesting that our rage (anger) tends to turn against God when things go wrong. “Why me Lord?” And God says, “I am only being faithful to my word regarding the covenant of seed time and harvest time: you’re reaping from your own seeds of folly.”

“As surely as I live, declares the Lord, I will do to you the very things I heard you say,” Numbers 14:28.

“He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity,” Proverbs 21:23

“To man belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the reply of the tongue,” Proverbs 16:1.

Don’t feel too condemned. There’s plenty of room to overcome the wrong and to cooperate with God in fulfilling the good that he desires for each of us. This is covered in Chapter 8 “Breaking Curses from Self-infliction: No. 2 Source of Curses.”

3. Curses from People

The curse from people is just as it says - curse originating from people. It comes through outward expressions that include face to face verbal dialogue, written statements, and prayers.

A person uttering a curse may be a known person to the individual, an unknown person, or even someone in the occult. The motive for uttering the curse may vary. It may include a deliberate desire to wish evil against a person, it may be as a result of a conflict and misunderstanding. It may also stem from carelessness and ignorance of the “curser” who assumes he/she is just uttering mere words.

Whoever the source of the curse is and whatever the motive for cursing the five conditions outlined in the previous chapter must all apply for a curse to have any effect on the victim.

Thus curses from people are based on outward expressions of ill will or misfortune towards someone. They are not just bad thoughts, feelings of anger or hatred towards someone. Curses are not telepathic or psychical. My other book on breaking spells deals with overcoming matters on telepathy, the psychic

and tapping into the spirit world. It's titled, *Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences*.

Neither can curses be received through a dream, vision, apparition, or any spiritual phenomena. They can only be expressed in the physical or earthly realm, not spiritual realm. Until such mental or any spiritual phenomena are physically uttered whether verbally or in writing they cannot result in a curse. Curses have to be expressed in the physical realm for them to have any weight.

Until such mental thoughts are physically uttered they cannot result in a curse. This outward expression includes face to face dialogue, written statements, prayers of ill will or misfortune against someone. Prayers of ill will are directed to God, seeking him to punish a person(s) or object. This was common in the Old Testament where they had physical enemies around them. They would pray to God to punish their physical enemies. It was "Love your neighbor and hate your enemy," Matthew 5:43.

In the New Testament it is, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you," Matthew 5:44. There are exceptions, though exceptions do not invalidate the rule.

For example Jesus made proclamations of ill will against the Pharisees for their hypocrisy. Mathew 23 for instance is the chapter of the seven woes: "Woe to you teachers of the law and Pharisees..."

In another example, Paul had Hymenaeus and Alexander among others "handed over to Satan, so that they will be taught not to blaspheme," (1 Timothy 1:20). He did not go to Satan and say "here are these guys, you can have them." He prayed to God to have them be tormented by Satan.

It's possible that this was for a season after which Paul prayed for their deliverance. It says, "so that they will be taught not to blaspheme." Paul's motives were pure: to have them learn not to blaspheme. Once they leant not to blaspheme God it is likely they were rescued.

The issue of praying against others ought not to be entertained in the body of Christ. Neither should we be making proclamations of ill will against others and calling them "woes." It's not fitting to use exceptions in scripture and make them the norm.

In the late 1990s while in Nairobi, Kenya I went to a church that I later discovered used such teachings. They prayed against their enemies, seeking God to reign terror on their lives. On the day I woke up I went to seek help over family conflicts—had major differences with siblings. A prominent person there said my enemies will scatter because God says he curses those who curse us. Wha-a-a-t!! I wished for peace and understanding in my family not woe and destruction against them!

That was the last time I ever set foot there – after three years of zealous dedication and military style submission. God did later resolve the family conflicts in a loving way. And I got my brains back. Never again will I blindly accept teachings without using the mind of Christ inside of me.

4. Three Sources of Curses: God, People and Self-Infliction

The bible says we have the “the mind of Christ” (1 Corinthians 2:16) powered by the Spirit of God who lives in us. If we just swallow everything others say whether in church, in books, and so on without any inner analysis we could easily fall for erroneous teachings. My lesson is being shared with the burden to equip fellow believers in growing to exercise their personal responsibility in their Christian lives.

If you’re in Nairobi, Kenya you may be curious what church this could be that I had a good lesson from. It’s my hope and prayer that they’ve now aligned themselves with scripture on this area. The church is called Winners’ Chapel. During the three years with them they were also heavy on the out of context prosperity gospel. As a young newly saved Christian such teachings matched so well with a business degree (MBA) I was studying at the time. Never questioned their obsession with material wealth until this cursing experience.

Their headquarters is now in London, UK, once in Lagos, Nigeria. They’ve many branches in many African countries and a few in North America. Some have labeled Winners’ Chapel as a cult implying they worship Satan. Such statements only show spiritual immaturity, arrogance and disregard for church history.

Christian history is littered with shocking misinterpretations of scripture worse than those embraced by the likes of Winners’ Chapel. Think of slavery, denial of basic (and biblical) rights to women, abusive church authority, oppression of non-Christians, including oppression of the Jews, and so on. Where these churches that embraced teachings that misinterpreted scripture all cults worshipping Satan?

Deceived: yes. False prophets: some. Devil worshipping: no. Even today the body of Christ is so diverse that with a judgmental mentality we’d easily label each other cults over differences and misinterpretations on minors.

We largely have common ground in the body of Christ over the major doctrinal areas: the divinity of Christ, Trinitarian nature of God, the Holy Spirit, and other fundamental doctrines of Christianity. My book *Major Christian Deliverance Principles: Keys for Self-deliverance and Ministry* covers this topic. See the book’s Chapter 1 “The Fallibility of the Church (Body of Christ).”

Just as there is deliverance and healing from curses originating from God there is deliverance and healing from people originated curses. In fact, curses from people are dependent on loopholes in our walk with God. As God’s children, saved through Christ’s work on the cross the bible says:

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.” He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit,” Galatians 3:13-14.

For believers Jesus invalidates the fourth condition for a curse to apply: an individual needs to be in a position of deserving it or having a legal doorway to receiving it. Once we're saved we take on the redeemed or delivered nature since Jesus took all our curses upon himself. We're considered righteous or blameless in God's eyes.

If someone utters or sends a curse the curse does not bear fruit because we do not deserve it. The curse dies since we are innocent, righteous or blameless in God's eyes.

Salvation is therefore the key to overcoming curses from people. The only exception is the area of the family. This is covered in Chapter 12 "Deliverance from Family Curses." Needless to say there is an open door to overcome any family curse. There are no curses that are permanent afflictions to bear. There are no unforgivable curses. Once the needed matters to break or remove the curse are applied the curse ends.

5. Can Satan Bring Curses? Can Satan Curse People?

Satan's physical limitation on curses

Chapter 2 showed that one of the five conditions to enable a curse to operate is that it needs to be uttered whether verbally or in writing by a source in the physical or earthly realm. A mere mental wish of ill will or misfortune cannot result in a curse. Thus curses are not telepathic or psychical. My other book on breaking spells deals with overcoming matters on telepathy, the psychic and tapping into the spirit world. It's titled, *Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences*.

Neither can curses be received through a dream, vision, apparition, or any spiritual phenomena. They can only be expressed in the physical or earthly realm, not spiritual realm.

The physical expressive nature of curses makes Satan and any of his fellow evil spirits unable to curse. Spirits do not have physical bodies. They cannot express themselves in the physical realm. That is why they seek to influence and use people to fulfill their agenda on earth.

Even the Holy Spirit seeks vessels through whom he can fulfill God's agenda on earth. We do not see Satan with his demons on the one side and the Holy Spirit with God's angels manifesting themselves physically to fulfill their respective agendas. They operate in the spirit realm through influence to fulfill their agendas on earth.

As Christians we're vessels through whom the Holy Spirit works to fulfill God's work on earth. Satan, with his fellow fallen angels, also endeavor to affect matters on earth through demonic influence, particularly in form of temptation. He also has human vessels that have fully dedicated themselves to his service. These are people in an occult category known as Satanism. My other book on breaking spells has lots more on this topic.

Satan's role on curses: his external and indirect role

Thus Satan is not in the picture of being directly involved when it comes to curses. He is not among the sources that have the physical ability to curse.

His only involvement is through temptation and deception in his attempt to influence us to fall under God's curse, fall under a curse from fellow people and curses of self-infliction. Temptation and deception is his bait or carrot in

trying to influence us to fall whether into a curse or any other type of bondage. His role on such matters is external or indirect in nature.

That's what he did to Adam and Eve. They were lured into a lie they ended up believing Satan's word against God's. When they took the lie and committed the Original Sin, God, not Satan cursed them. Satan did his job of facilitating a situation that would cause God to bring a curse on Adam and Eve. Since he's unable to directly curse people he finds indirect ways that would facilitate people to be cursed.

As Christians our main concern is to ensure condition number 4 for curses is working to invalidate any potential curses against us, whether from God, from other people, or from our own selves. Condition number 4 is that curse words need a person deserving or having grounds to receive it. When we're not deserving or having grounds to receiving a curse it means we close any doorways that are indirect avenues Satan works through.

“What abouts” and the importance of contextual biblical analysis

What about when “Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head,” Job 2:7? And much more than this happened to Job. Does this not look like a confirmation that Satan can bring curses?

The answer here is a big no. The key to ensuring one does not draw out erroneous assumptions from scripture is keeping all scripture in its context. Real estate developers say the three most important things in real estate are location, location and location. Well, we can also say in biblical analysis the three most important things are context, context and context. This is in reference to biblical analysis with the Holy Spirit in you, rather than just any person not born again.

Context is the big picture that gives meaning to the little pieces in the picture. It is defined as the set of facts or circumstances that surround a situation or event. It includes the political, social, historical, psychological, institutional, and aesthetic factors that shape the way we understand the event. Such analysis is called contextual analysis – in our case contextual biblical analysis.

Take the context out of any matter and you'd easily come up with so many interpretations (or more correctly misinterpretations). The main context of Job's many afflictions Satan brought on him is how Satan got the legal authority to afflict Job. We know it all started when the Accuser of the Brethren (Satan) showed up in heaven. Please read the first chapter of the book of Job. It's short.

Satan therefore received permission from God to afflict an innocent person. We know he was innocent mainly because there was a hedge around Job that prevented Satan from accusing him before God. So already one of the

5. Can Satan Bring Curses? Can Satan Curse People?

conditions for a curse to qualify on Job fails. He was not in a position of deserving a curse or having a legal doorway to receiving it.

“Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest,” Proverbs 26:2.

This is just one area to show that Job’s predicament (and eventual deliverance) was not a curse. It was a severe affliction on him but this does not necessarily imply that everything unpleasant and undesirable is a curse. A curse is only a subset of various categories of unpleasant and undesirable matters. These other types of evil and undesirable matters have their own descriptions. This was addressed in chapter 3, “What Curses are Not: Matters that do not Constitute Curses.”

The description for Job’s troubles is trial of faith. Even Job himself in all his pain and lamentation did not describe his situation as a curse from God. On one occasion he did curse himself, wishing he were not born. God did overlook such self-inflicted words. We know this because Job did not die but was later delivered from the trials and God blessed him abundantly.

Satan as an angel, a fallen Angel

God and Satan are not equals, and are nowhere as almost equals. God made Satan as his angel. His created angel rebelled and out of God’s prerogative or choice he allowed him to continue existing. He could have destroyed him or disciplined him and taken him back, but he chose none of these options. He allowed him to live and to exercise his limited abilities in rebellion.

Some fellow Christians in the body of Christ see God and Satan as almost equals. They deny it when you ask them but their preoccupation with what the devil is up to shows it. Anything one is preoccupied with or obsessed with controls him/her.

Christianity is not meant to be devil-centric. It is meant to be God-centric, Jesus-centric and Holy Spirit centered. My book on spiritual warfare, titled *Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do’s and Don’ts of Warfare*, covers on such matters. Some have taken spiritual warfare to imply being preoccupied with or obsessed with Satan.

If you’re from some of these circles that I was once in you know what I’m talking about. Before church service starts the devil must be bound and chased away to avoid any interference. Any little problem the devil is said to be up to something –let’s all yell out to stop him. You may also have read their devil-centric books as well, if you were once in such congregations.

However, they’re still our beloved siblings in the massive body of Christ. They’re not cults, worshipping Satan. They just have a wrong perspective of Satan. They make him bigger than he is and devote so much time being preoccupied with him.

Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses

In regard to curses, if Satan can curse then all other angels too can curse. This includes God's angels and all the fallen angels now on Satan's side. So here again the whole concept confirms the invalidity of assuming Satan is able to curse people. Satan did not take on more powers when he rebelled. And he never had the ability to curse before he rebelled.

The next chapter deals with the nature of angels – both God's angels and fallen angels.

6. The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels

This chapter deals with the nature of angels – both God's angels and fallen angels. It answers critical questions regarding the nature of angels. Who are angels? What do they do? Do the angels from the different camps (God and Satan) have different abilities? Do they have any powers that are independent from God's restrictions? And so on.

The chapter highlights the behind the scenes role angels play in the spirit realm in relation to curses and to our Christian lives in general. In regard to God's angels it's an uplifting chapter for understanding the ministry of his angels to God's children.

In regard to fallen angels it's also an uplifting chapter for understanding how outnumbered, outmatched, and outperformed, they are when compared to God's angels. Fallen angels are basically constrained and limited in fulfilling their wishes. They're under God's full watch with his angels overcoming them where it's needed.

God's angels and fallen angels

Isn't Satan able to bring about outcomes in the physical realm in spite of being a spirit being?

The answer is yes. However none of his outcomes include curses he originated. As said earlier, he is unable to originate curses because of his limitation to express his evil intentions in the physical realm. There would be more chaos than we have today if Satan had the ability to come into the physical realm and curse people. Thanks be to God he's not able to. We've enough problems already as a result of his indirect influence.

Just as God's angels have limited authority or permission to carry out affairs or events in the physical realm Satan too has this limited permission. Remember that Satan is also an angel, only a fallen angel. His angelic abilities were not stripped from him after he rebelled.

All the fallen angels have the same abilities before their rebellion in heaven. Their demotion came in the form of being cast out of glorious heaven. Now they're using their abilities for evil purposes. But they're no match against God's angels. Fallen angels are outnumbered by a 1 to 3 ratio by God's angels.

Let's now look at the nature of all these angels (God's angels and the fallen angels):

1) Angels are spirit beings created by God

Angels were created by God and were created separately from human beings. Thus they're not human beings who have died and gone to heaven.

“For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy,” Colossians 1:16-18

“You alone are the Lord. You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it, the seas and all that is in them. You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship you,” Nehemiah 9:6.

Thus even Satan himself was created by God. He just rebelled and now remains in the category of fallen angels.

2) Angels' nature is superior to the human nature

“What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet,” Hebrews 2:6-7

3) Angels have no gender & other human physical features

Angels do not have human earthly features of gender, race and other human physical appearances. However they can use these features when appearing in human form. In other ways they can take the form of human beings once God allows them to appear in the earthly realm.

“The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels,” Luke 20:34-36.

Every time gender is assigned to an angel in the bible, it is male, with a “he, him, etc” male reference. Even fallen angels have such references. And the names we know of relating to some angels are masculine: Michael, Gabriel and even Satan the fallen angel.

However this does not mean that angels are male. Angels do not procreate (have children) and thus do not have characteristics that would give them gender

attributes. The male gender references to angels are merely descriptive. Such language also helped in bringing what would have been mysteries to a level of human understanding. There is consensus in the body of Christ on the genderless nature of angels.

4) Angels do not get old, sick, or die

“...they can no longer die; for they are like the angels,” Luke 20:36

“And the devil, who deceived them, was thrown into the lake of burning sulphur, where the beast and the false prophet had been thrown. They will be tormented day and night for ever and ever,” Revelation 20:10.

5) Angels are invisible

This is self-explanatory. God made us unable to see spirit beings in the spirit realm with our human eyes. In rare instances he opens the spiritual eyes of some of us. Remember how God opened the eyes of Elisha's servant to see in the realm of the spirit?

“Don't be afraid, the prophet answered. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them... Then **the Lord opened the servant's eyes**, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha,” 2 Kings 6:16-17 (emphasis added).

Also in rare instances he allows angels to manifest themselves with physical attributes – as the sections below show.

6) Angels among certain ranks can appear before God

In the bible Jesus says God's angels assigned to look over his disciples are able to see God's face in heaven. “See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven **always see the face of my Father in heaven**,” Matthew 18:10 (emphasis added).

Daniel received a vision of God whom he referred to as the “Ancient of Days.” God was in his courtroom surrounded by countless angels. It is presumable they were God's angelic cloud of witnesses in his heavenly court:

“Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened,” Daniel 7:10.

This may surprise some: Satan too is able to appear before God. It's in the bible. This is because God kept Satan's privilege of being able to see him even after Satan fell. Remember before Satan fell he used to be an archangel, that is, among the highest ranking angels like Michael and Gabriel. He was

called Lucifer which means “light,” something bible scholars assume meant light-bearing angel.

Thus although he was stripped off his importance and position in heaven his share of being able to meet with God was not taken away. God, not Satan, chose to have it remain that way. He could have banned Satan from ever meeting with him but he did not.

Satan was among the few angels who had permission to spend lots of time in God’s presence on his holy mountain: “You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones,” Ezekiel 28:14.

Satan’s current access to God is how he seeks for permission to fulfill his evil schemes. Why does God allow Satan to cross the line of his legal limits? God is sovereign and in his infinite wisdom he is able to even use Satan to fulfill his own divine purposes. Thus Satan still ends up losing in the long run after being allowed to cross his legal limits.

The worst that happened to him was when he influenced the people to crucify Jesus. God allowed him to have Jesus killed knowing that the outcome after Jesus died and resurrected would be worse for Satan. In such matters the key words to note are that Satan acts as a tool that God uses for his own purposes. Satan **always** acts as a tool that God uses for God’s own purposes in matters that Satan is allowed to cross the line of his legal limits.

“One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them. The Lord said to Satan, Where have you come from? Satan answered the Lord, From roaming through the earth and going to and fro in it,” Job 1:6-7 (*in this passage (Job 1) Satan seeks permission for Job’s wellbeing and is granted permission to attack Job*).

“The accuser of our brothers (all believers on earth), who accuses them before our God day and night...” Revelation 12:10 (emphasis added)

“Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers,” Luke 22:31-32.

The rest of activities that he knows he has no permission he seeks to gain legal grounds to be able to do his evil work. Legal grounds are his immediate permit to do his evil work.

7) Angels are very powerful, with superhuman strength

Angels are very powerful, with superhuman strength including over the weather and the environment (land, water, air).

Angels cannot just exercise their physical powers on earth at their own will. They have to receive permission or request from God – whether God’s angels or

fallen angels. When they have God's permission they can fulfill astronomical physical events (good and bad)

“Bless the Lord, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word,” Psalm 103:20

“My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king,” Daniel 6:22

“About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the other prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the prison were shaken. At once all the prison doors flew open, and everybody's chains came loose,” Acts 16:25-26

“Yet even angels, although they are stronger and more powerful, do not bring slanderous accusations against such beings in the presence of the Lord,” 2 Peter 2:11

“As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpets, they raised a great shout, and the wall (Wall of Jericho) fell down flat; so the people charged straight ahead into the city and captured it,” Joshua 6:20

“Then panic struck the whole army— those in the camp and field, and those in the outposts and raiding parties (Philistines) — and the ground shook. It was a panic sent by God... They found the Philistines in total confusion, striking each other with their swords,” 1 Samuel 14:15,20

8) Angels are wiser and more intelligent than humans

Angels are wiser and more intelligent than humans for two reasons. The first is that they have been alive since creation – over six thousand years. The second is that God made them more intelligent than us.

“But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ,” 2 Corinthians 11:3.

“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve,” 2 Corinthians 11:14-15.

However angels are not all knowing or omniscient. Only God is omniscient. For instance, if fallen angels were omniscient they would not have plotted the crucifixion of Jesus –bringing total defeat upon themselves.

Some people join cults including Free Masonry in order to understand secrets and mysteries of life. These mysteries are assumed to help them become more powerful, influential, prosperous, etc. They are able to yield themselves to Satan to the point of tapping into the spirit world to receive so called “secrets.” Many receive their earthly rewards BUT they end up losing their souls to hell.

Smaller cults too promise worldly gain of power, wisdom, fame, wealth and so on. They claim to offer “secrets” that would make the recipient outperform others. Many cults offer charms and spells for business, for marriage/relationships, for politics, health, “wisdom,” and so on. Most differ in methods they use. The methods also differ for each area of “need.” My other book on breaking spells covers on this topic in detail. It’s titled, *Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences*.

And guess what? Many people in many of these higher occult groups succeed in their secular areas of interest. Satan and fallen angels who have devised their own evil methods to bestow earthly glory use these cults to trap people. They include diverse types of rituals and sacrifices. It’s amazing how willingly people sacrifice eternity for earthly glory.

Some lowest level cults have less of these Satanic “secrets.” That’s why they’re not as successful as higher level cults. How many ordinary witches, wizards, tarot card readers and psychics have you heard of that are successful even by worldly standards? Most are poor and have a cheap earthly status.

It’s the opposite with the highest level cults. These ones have more of the Satanic “secrets” and through these “secrets” have succeeded in deviously controlling this world. Collectively they control the major wealth of this world and political power in nearly all the highest places in this world. Be not afraid. It’s all under God’s watch (observation). God has allowed Satanic influences to gain such dominance over people for a brief season.

These highest level cults or secret societies have the same goals of dominating this world and work together worldwide. This is how Satan rules this world. He’s not here physically but exercises his rule through those that have given themselves to his schemes. The Antichrist will emerge from the highest level cults.

About Satan’s evil methods to bestow earthly glory Jesus was offered the same bargain. This was while being tempted in the wilderness. “The devil led him up to a high mountain and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and power, for **it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish. So if you worship me, it will all be yours,**” Luke 4:5-7 (emphasis added).

Satan wants to be worshiped and obeyed in order for him to bestow his earthly glory to people. This is exactly what people in the higher level occult do. We worship God while they worship Satan.

And note in the above passage that Jesus didn’t disagree with Satan that he had the ability to bestow authority and power upon people. Satan was after all the “ruler” or “prince” of this world (John 14:30). Jesus didn’t take the offer because he worshipped only the true God, not the “god of this age” (2 Corinthians 4:4).

Also note in the above passage that Satan says, “It has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I wish.” So Satan does NOT have the title to this

6. *The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels*

world on his own merit or power. It was given to him. Who gave it to him? Obviously God gave it to him. It cannot be another angel created by God.

How did God give it to him? Obviously God did not just give it to him to mess up his own creation. Satan received it through the fall of Adam and Eve. The Original Sin in the Garden of Eden made Adam and Eve surrender their birthright: the earth.

The statement by Satan is actually more appropriately a theft rather than a rightful entitlement to the earth. He deceived Adam and Eve into surrendering their birthright. He did it in a dishonest way by telling lies to them. It would therefore be more correct if he said "I stole the wealth and glories of this earth from Adam and Eve and now you, Jesus, can receive a piece of it from me."

By worshipping Satan Jesus would have received the authority and power Satan promised. But this last Adam did not accept Satan's offers. Jesus as you know from the scriptures is our last Adam (1 Corinthians 15:45). He refused to sacrifice eternity for earthly glory.

And you know what Jesus received from God after refusing Satan's earthly offers!! He lived a less privileged life here on earth with followers (disciples) who mostly came from humble backgrounds. When he finished his earthly mission his reward was more than any earthly glories he could have received. He received ALL authority in heaven and on earth!!

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age," Matthew 28:18-20.

"Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth," Philippians 2:9-10.

Jesus is our example. Let us not sacrifice the rewards awaiting us in eternity for earthly glory. It's not worth it. As deceptive and cleverly packaged earthly gains look they are not worth our higher calling. The title of this element on the nature of angels is that angels are wiser and more intelligent than humans.

And fallen angels being cast down to earth are able to exercise their limited access to us through temptation and deception. They are very clever at this game. We'd be fooling ourselves trying to outsmart creatures that have lived for over six thousand years. It's not in our human ability, power and intellect to outsmart them at their game.

It's true we've been given authority to cast out evils spirits (fallen angels) from those demon possessed. However this authority does not mean we're any wiser than fallen angels. A police officer who has the authority to arrest anyone breaking the law does not make him/her any wiser than law breakers. A law breaker may even be a Nobel Prize super genius yet the police officer can

still arrest him/her. So it's unwise to assume something when biblical analysis clearly says something else. In the area of their intellect they are indeed smarter or more intelligent than us.

This is why people that are not yet saved can easily fall for Satan's schemes. The people Satan is using in the occult higher places innocently fell to satanic lies and later grew to love the earthly rewards they began to receive. Before long they were too drunk with Satan's evil ways they neglected what's ahead of them.

If you've ever been drunk in your unsaved days you'd have first hand knowledge of what it means to be drunk. I used to be a drunkard myself in my teenage years and early twenties. A drunkard has a different sense of reality. He's in a world of his own. That's the same with those blinded by the schemes of Satan. They're in their own world of lust for power, wealth, fame, and so on. It takes God to bring them to balance their short-sighted reality with the long-term reality after death.

Satan's so-called deep secrets in the occult and secret societies are only "secrets" to destruction. As the church, the body of Christ, we're better staying far from their earthly success doctrines. "Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned **Satan's so-called deep secrets**, I will not impose any other burden on you," Revelation 2:24 (emphasis added).

The church in Thyatira represented a church body that had some believers who polluted themselves with worldly ways and false teachings. Some did charitable works that Jesus commended. However he was against embracing worldly ways and false teachings taught by Jezebel. Jezebel is a spirit or fallen angel seducing believers into worldly ways and false teachings and influencing unbelievers into immorality.

Among believers this fallen angel uses some in prominent church circles to teach doctrines contrary to scripture – false teachings. Teachers of false teachings are referred to as false prophets. They are said to be in partnership with a "woman Jezebel."

The church in Thyatira is among the seven churches in the book of Revelation. These churches symbolize the types of churches and believers serving God at any point in time. Chapters 2 and 3 have many closing statements: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches," Revelation 2:7, 2:11, 2:17, 2:23, 2:29, 3:6, 3:13, and 3:22.

There were other believers in Thyatira who chose not to pollute themselves with worldly ways, false teachings and Satan's so-called deep secrets. To these Jesus says, "I will not impose any other burden on you," (verse 24).

So much is debated on the nature of Jezebel or the Jezebel spirit. Being a female reference some have gone to confine their understanding that Jezebel represents women in authority and any woman with a strong personality. This is

shallow thinking and it does not have any sound scriptural or theological analysis.

Some also consider the reference of the passage on fornication and sexual sins to literally refer to these sins. While these sins are serious to God they are not the only adulterous sins. Friendship with the world and its ways is considered adulterous in God's eyes. The rightful term for such adultery is spiritual adultery. God is jealous when this happens (James 4:5).

"You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?" James 4:4-5. It also makes him angry.

In the book of James a feminine noun is also used. Bible scholars relate this kind of references as continued metaphors from the Old Testament times. In the Old Testament God is described as joining himself to Israel like a husband and wife unite in a marriage. Through his law and statues brought through Moses he entered into a covenant relationship with the people of Israel. The people of Israel are the female side. When the people of Israel broke the covenant and went out to follow other lifestyles they were said to be committing adultery.

The most vivid matter God used to explain that Israel was committing adultery was the experience of Hosea with his wife, Gomer. It is a strange experience because the Jews were at the time very harsh on unfaithful wives far more than cheating husbands. Prophet Hosea endured his wife, Gomer's unfaithfulness over and over again. God commanded Hosea to marry a wife with unfaithful inclinations (Hosea 1:2). You'd feel very sorry for him yet through it God wanted to make a point on a level that it would be understood.

About the book of Hosea *Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology* says, "The details of Hosea's marriage begin the book but are quickly dropped as the focus shifts away from the personal life of Hosea to the relationship between God and Israel. Immortalized in this event that transcends culture are the message and emotions of God. The love, care, and feelings of God for his people as he calls for their return in the face of imminent judgment are a major part of Hosea's theology.

"Fueling the symbolism of Hosea's marriage was the covenant, which provided a legal form for the expression and governance of the relationship God desired with his people. For Israel it provided a blueprint for the historical foundation of their faith and gave tangible evidence for God's requirements. At the same time it provided God with an acceptable witness to their loyalty and love.

"The Book of Hosea is a commentary on that relationship. It moves from the heights of an intimate knowledge, symbolized by marriage and paternal love, to the depths of anguish and despair over Israel's apostasy and idolatry as pictured by the adultery of Gomer.

“The love of God for his people is more graphically portrayed by Hosea than any other Old Testament prophet. Refusing to give up on Israel, God continued to seek their return even in their apostate condition. Judgment and exile would come but restoration and future hope were always in sight. Israel would not be annihilated like the cities around Sodom but preserved,” (*Baker’s Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*, “Hosea, Theology of”).

Hosea’s story continues in the New Testament with God pursuing his wife. This time his wife or bride broadens from Israel to the entire humanity. On this change Anthony Selvaggio says, “The New Testament tells us that the church is betrothed to Christ. Jesus spoke of his ministry as that of a bridegroom coming for his bride (Matt. 25:1-13, Mark 2:19-20). The apostle Paul also connects Christ’s relationship to the church with the marital relationship (Eph. 5:25). However, the New Testament speaks of a two-stage process in the church’s marriage to Christ. In this present age, the church is betrothed to Christ (2 Cor. 11:2) and it is only after the return of Christ that our marriage will be fully consummated (Rev. 19:7-9)...

“However, if you think about it, Jesus went even further than Hosea. Hosea was required to go into the marketplace and pay for Gomer, but Jesus, when he came for us, paid a much higher price, at a much greater personal cost. He gave himself as the price!...

“Hosea paid fifteen shekels and ten bushels of barley, but the cost to Jesus was his very life!...Greater yet, Jesus did something that Hosea could never do for his bride; Jesus bore the sins of his bride and gave her his righteousness: ‘God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God’ (2 Cor. 5:21). Jesus is the faithful husband who transforms the harlot — you — into a wife who is holy and blameless,” (Anthony Selvaggio, *The Prophets Speak of Him: 12 Perspectives on Christ from the Minor Prophets*, Chapter 1 “Incomparable Love: Hosea”).

Herein lies the subject of the Jezebel spirit and anything to do with Jezebel in the end times. It has to do with spiritual adultery and not the physical gender of people. Once Christians are preoccupied with studying women as a way of exploring the Jezebel spirit we go out of context of its underlining meaning.

There are certain matters we can say women in our days have adopted that are unscriptural. In the same way there are certain matters we can say men in our days have adopted that are unscriptural. Both these camps of matters that are unscriptural constitute spiritual adultery when practiced by Christians. Spiritual adultery is not gender specific but applies to anyone that commits it.

Each one of us Christians is a bride of Christ. On the last day we’ll all be measured by our level of faithfulness to our husband, Jesus Christ. This can be seen from Jesus’ Parable of the Ten Virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). Five of the virgins were wise and five were foolish. The oil is symbolic to the anointing

work of the Holy Spirit as we submit ourselves to the will of God. We are the lamps.

The five virgins who were foolish took it lightly to always be lit and bear light to others. Their running out of oil illustrates running out of zeal for Christ for various reasons: cares of this world, sins, unable to shoulder the cross, losing hope and faith due to trials and trouble, etc. At the end when death or judgment comes the virgins considered foolish are unprepared to face their bridegroom –Jesus. As a result they are excluded from the feast or God's reward. Thus we're always to be ready for our bridegroom.

As God's children we have the Holy Spirit to enable us to outsmart the clever temptations and deceptions of Satan. Without the Holy Spirit the clever tactics of Satan are difficult to resist. This is a creature that's over six thousand years old. That's why we need to submit to God in a deeper way in order to flee the clever tactics of the devil. The Holy Spirit who has power and awareness over activities in the spirit realm is our defender against clever schemes of fallen angels.

That's why it's written, "'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty," Zechariah 4:6. Let us cooperate with the Holy Spirit as he enlightens us on the deceitful tactics of Satan against us. As we walk deeper with God we'll know what's worth it and what's not. We'll also increasingly appreciate that our sacrifices of earthly glory are worthwhile for the rewards awaiting us in eternity.

"What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul?... For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory **with his angels**, and then **he will reward each person according to what he has done**," Matthew 16:26-27 (emphasis added).

"Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done," Revelation 22:12.

9) **Angels can see and observe events on earth**

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us," Hebrews 12:1

"Likewise, I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents," Luke 15:10.

10) **Angels like humans have a will**

Angels have the ability to exercise their discretion and choice. That's how Satan and other angels he convinced chose to rise up against God.

Having this ability of choice does not mean they also have the power to fulfill their wishes. Angels were created with limited authority.

If they had unlimited authority Satan would have destroyed this world long ago – if God’s angels chose not to intervene. Or on a better note God’s angels would have easily decided to capture all the fallen angels and put them away in a secluded area. This will happen at the end of time as God has decided.

So both categories of angels though having a will do not have the power to fulfill their wishes. God’s angels follow God’s orders and fulfill his will.

Fallen angels work along lines of their limited authority. Their authority is established where sin and violation of God’s will is established. It means the hedge of God’s protection has been lifted and they now have access to attack. Violation of God’s will, even in ignorance creates doorways for attacks from fallen angels.

“And that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will,” 2 Timothy 2:26

However even in situations someone is trapped into Satan’s schemes through sin or ignorance God can exercise his mercy and block Satan from lashing out his evil works. God can block Satan from profiting from the doorways. God’s mercy through Jesus is greater than his judgment (James 2:13)

11) Angels like humans angels have geographical limitations

Each angel can only be in one place at one time, not several places at the same time. They are finite beings unlike God and his Spirit who is infinite and omnipresent.

The bible shows angels traveling from one place to another. Even Satan runs “to and fro” the face of the earth. Angel Gabirel when he needed help had to seek angel Michael who was not present at the time. Presumably he sent a fellow angel from God’s kingdom to call Michael to come over.

“The prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia,” Daniel 10:13.

Satan is included concerning angles being finite or limited geographically. If archangels like Gabirel and Michael can be finite how much more Satan? Before Satan fell he was equal in rank with the likes of Gabirel and Michael.

Satan is therefore a limited being. That is why he needs the help of his fellow fallen angels in fulfilling his evil work. Had he been the only one that rebelled against God and got cast out he would not have accomplished the current level of corruption in this world. The major cause of evil would be

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humanity out of our free will choosing to do evil instead of good. It still would not be as bad as having the added influence of demons.

Satan would have been nowhere near the spotlight of being the cause of evil in this world. He can only influence one person per time and in one place per time. As he labors on the one person the rest of the people would have no pressure to sin. This world would have a far less magnitude of violence, greed, exploitation, immorality, and so on.

Satan ended up with a lot of helpers after he managed to convince one third of all the angels to rebel. It's these other fallen angels that we call by their various names, such as demons, devils and evil spirits, that are doing most of the evil work. Satan shares the names ascribed to the other fallen angels. It's only that he is their leader that he has more prominence in the bible. In Mark 3:22 he is called "the prince of demons" (NIV) or "the prince of the devils" (KJV).

Thus all fallen angels, including Satan, share the same names or references that include devils, demons, evil spirits, unclean spirits, principalities and powers, and so on. The words devil and demon are interchangeable according to *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*. Jesus uses the words devils, demons, and evil spirits interchangeably when casting them out of people. This can easily be seen when reading the gospels in older bible versions like the KJV and ASV.

It is therefore fitting to look at activities by evil spirits as coming from any source among the fallen angels. Even where Satan's name comes up it is fitting that the reference can also mean it is addressing the work of any evil spirit among fallen angels.

As said earlier, Satan, like any other fallen angel, God's angels and all other created beings, is limited geographically. With spatial or geographic limitation he can only be at only one location at any given time. He is not omnipresent. Omnipresence is only the ability of God in his Trinitarian nature (the Father, Son and Holy Spirit).

We often attribute all kinds of evil works to the devil. We say the devil is engineering the violence, greed, exploitation, immorality, and so on in this world. While this is true the devil directly behind all these works in the various regions is not just Satan himself. It is devils in plural at work. It is Satan and all his team of evil spirits spread all over the world.

The good news is that fallen angels are outnumbered by God's angels on a ratio of one to three. Read on to for more info and the good news for God's children.

12) Angels when allowed by God can appear in visible form

Angels can appear in their angelic or non-human physical form in the physical world.

Appearance in any physical form (human or non-human) is always as a result of receiving permission or request from God – whether God’s angels or the fallen angels. Usually it’s God’s angels that are given this permission not fallen angels. An exception we see in scripture is where Satan is allowed to appear physically to Jesus in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11).

As for God’s angels being given this permit to appear physically scriptures have numerous accounts. Notable New Testament accounts include:

“Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him,” Matthew 4:11 (the angels came to strengthen and comfort Jesus after his ordeal with Satan in the wilderness).

“But Mary stayed outside the tomb weeping. And as she wept, she bent over into the tomb and saw two angels in white sitting there, one at the head and one at the feet where the body of Jesus had been...” John 20:11-15

"The very night when Herod was about to bring him out, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison; and behold, an angel of the Lord appeared, and a light shone in the cell; and he struck Peter on the side and woke him..." Acts of the Apostles 12:6-10

13) Angels affect matters in the earthly realm

This area of angelic activity is more prominent and ongoing than their physical appearance and activities in visible form. Both God’s angels and fallen angels are busy affecting matters in the physical realm even though they are unseen. We’re able to see them only when God allows us to see them in this form – such as when God allowed Elisha’s servant to see the vast army of angels protecting them (2 Kings 6:17).

Some people are predisposed to seeing in the spirit realm. Believers with such a makeup are said to have the gift of discerning of spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10). When this ability is out of place people are able to see foul and ugly spirit beings on a regular basis. It can be distressing rather than comforting.

My other book covers on how and why some people have a natural and others an acquired inclination of tapping into the spirit realm. The book is titled, *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit: Dealing with Root Causes*.

For every activity there is God’s permission preceding it, particularly when it has no legal grounds. Fallen angels use legal grounds to gain access in

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performing their activities. Sometimes God gives fallen angels permission outside legal access –like when Job was brutally stricken by Satan.

This area does answer some of the problems going round the world – environmental, diseases, accidents, and so on. Not all are caused by angelic activity but many can be attributed to activities of angels.

The good events, such as when people are protected from disaster and misfortune are always products of God's angels. The bad events, such as when disaster and misfortune strikes are predominantly products of fallen angels. God's angels however do bring disaster and misfortune as the scriptures below show.

In whatever matter Christians ought not to fear because God is in control of our lives. Whatever he allows (desirable or undesirable) to come our way is filtered through his perfect will for each of us. To him it's not a random or accidental experience.

Neither is any undesirable matter in Christians' lives a random work of Satan or fallen angels. Their evil work is filtered through God's perfect will for each of us.

"My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, O king," Daniel 6:22

"When the Lord goes through the land to strike down the Egyptians, he will see the blood on the top and sides of the doorframe and will pass over that doorway, and he will not permit the destroyer to enter your houses and strike you down," Exodus 12:23 (in this passage the "destroyer" is also called the "destroying angel" or "angel of death").

"That night the angel of the Lord went out and put to death a hundred and eighty-five thousand men in the Assyrian camp. When the people got up the next morning--there were all the dead bodies!" 2 Kings 19:35

"So the Lord sent a plague on Israel from that morning until the end of the time designated, and seventy thousand of the people from Dan to Beersheba died. When the angel stretched out his hand to destroy Jerusalem, the Lord was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was afflicting the people, 'Enough! Withdraw your hand'" 2 Samuel 24:15-16.

"...The Lord said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head," Job 2:6-7.

"There was given me a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me," 2 Corinthians 12:7

"Simon, Simon, Satan has asked to sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers," Luke 22:31-32 (Peter's sifting was granted to Satan after God gave him permission)

“Immediately, because Herod did not give praise to God, an angel of the Lord struck him down, and he was eaten by worms and died,” Acts 12:23

“Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn’t believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born,” Luke 1:19-20

“And whenever the tormenting spirit from God troubled Saul, David would play the harp. Then Saul would feel better, and the tormenting spirit would go away,” 1 Samuel 16:23

14) Angels can appear in dreams, visions and in circumstances

Angels can appear in dreams, visions and in circumstances only visible to one person or a few people.

Like in the previous account some people are predisposed to seeing in the spirit realm. Believers with such a makeup are said to have the gift of discerning of spirits (1 Corinthians 12:10). When this ability is out of place people are able to see foul and ugly spirit beings on a regular basis. It can be distressing rather than comforting.

My other book covers on how and why some people have a natural and others an acquired inclination of tapping into the spirit realm. The book is titled, *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit: Dealing with Root Causes*.

“Behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit; she will bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins." Matthew 1:18-21

“Last night an angel of the God whose I am and whom I serve stood beside me and said, `Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.” Acts 27:23-24

“Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to give him the name John,” Luke 1:11-13

“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve,” 2 Corinthians 11:14-15.

15) Angels fight each other from the different camps

They fight each other from the different camps - God's angels verses the fallen angels

This is where the real spiritual warfare is waged.

“Then war broke out in heaven; Michael and his angels battled against the dragon. The dragon and its angels fought back, but they did not prevail...” Revelation 12:7-9

“The prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia,” Daniel 10:13

It is strongly believed, among many bible scholars, that Goliath died from an unseen blow of an angel. The scriptures hint at this: “Then David said to the Philistine, ‘You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied,’” 1 Samuel 17:45.

16) Angel worshipping or idolizing is forbidden by God

We're forbidden from worshipping or idolizing angels even when God opens the spiritual eyes of any of us to see them.

The typical response was to fall on their faces in fear, awe and adoration when people in the Bible saw an angel. They usually appear glorious when God enables us to see them in their angelic nature.

“I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. But he said to me, Do not do it! I am a fellow- servant with you and with your brothers the prophets and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!” Revelation 22:8-9

“Do not let anyone who delights in false humility and the worship of angels disqualify you for the prize. Such a person goes into great detail about what he has seen, and his unspiritual mind puffs him up with idle notions,” Colossians 2:18.

Thus although it's good to know about the activities and nature of angels it is not biblical to worship them, pray to them or to communicate with them in their unseen realm. Our focus ought to be on the Godhead: God the Father, Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. We're to give all honor, glory, service and praise to God even over the work he fulfills through his angels. Angels are God's servants working to fulfill his will as he pleases. We worship the Master not the servants.

17) Angels are numerous, possibly in trillions

I'm just estimating here about numbers but wouldn't be surprised if there were trillions or more of angels. This part on their numbers is a very gray area that we can afford to speculate on without undermining the scriptures.

Daniel received a vision of God referred to as the "Ancient of Days," over his courtroom surrounded by countless angels. It is presumable they were God's angelic cloud of witnesses:

"Thousands upon thousands attended him; ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him. The court was seated, and the books were opened," Daniel 7:10.

For those that love biblical math ten thousand times ten thousand is one hundred million (100,000,000). One hundred million angels attended God's courtroom alone. God's courtroom can be compared to our earthly supreme courts or high courts. How many attend Supreme Court sessions in our respective countries? Probably a handful.

For instance in USA there are currently nine Supreme Court Justices (judges) that debate a case - at the time of writing this book (2008). (Congress can whenever needed increase (or decrease) the number of Justices – usually influenced by population growth metrics). Thus nine Supreme Court Justices convene at the highest court in USA. The only any other persons there if allowed are journalists and law school students (usually from nearby Georgetown University).

In contrast to our human supreme or high courts God's highest court alone has one hundred million beings – God's angels. What more all the angels in the various departments of God's heavenly government? There are likely one hundred million there, five hundred million somewhere else, and so on. The numbers are staggering. So that's how I came up with trillions. Angels could even be more than this: quadrillions, quintillions, and so on!

18) Angels of God outnumber fallen angels by a 3 to 1 ratio

Fallen angels are no match against God's angels. God's angels outnumber fallen angels by a 3 to 1 ratio. When Satan rebelled he somehow persuaded one-third of the other angels to join him.

"Then another sign appeared in heaven: an enormous red dragon with seven heads and ten horns and seven crowns on his heads. His tail swept a third of the stars out of the sky and flung them to the earth," Revelation 12:3-4.

"Don't be afraid, the prophet answered. Those who are with us are more than those who are with them... Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he

looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha," 2 Kings 6:16-17

It's great to see that two thirds of all the angels are on God's side. Someone would have to be brain-dead not to understand who is more powerful between the two categories of angels. Yet we still have some brain-dead siblings in the body of Christ who're so obsessed with the fact that the devil is fighting them. They forget the vast armies on their side fighting their battles.

Above all, on our side we have the God who created all things, including all angels themselves. "If God is for us, who can be against us? ...in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord," Romans 8:28-39

19) Angels have identities that distinguish them from each other

The bible gives us a few names and identities of angels, mainly the prominent ones (good and bad prominent ones). In one exorcism Jesus asked the name of the demon afflicting the person. It turned out to be more than one:

"For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area," Mark 5:8-10

The good prominent names we have in the bible include Michael the warring angel and Gabriel the ministering angel.

The prominent names we have of evil angels include Satan with lots of other names, Abaddon or Apollyon called "angel of the Abyss" (Revelation 9:11)

At times the angels are identified by the work they do or are fulfilling. For instance God's angel sent to bring destruction is called the destroyer or "destroying angel" Exodus 12:23;

More common identifications along "job description" are among fallen angels. These include spirit of dizziness (Isaiah 19:14); spirit of despair or of heaviness (Isaiah 61:3); spirit of prostitution (Hosea 4:12); spirit of impurity (Zechariah 13:2); spirit of stupor (Romans 11:8); spirit of timidity (2 Timothy 1:7); spirit of the Antichrist (1 John 4:3); spirit of falsehood (1 John 4:6); dumb spirit (Mark 9:25); deceiving or seducing spirits (1 Timothy 4:1),

Some of this identification of fallen angels or fallen spirits has led to into all kinds of erroneous teachings in the body of Christ. Some have assumed

evil spirits or fallen angels have to be identified by name before they can be confronted.

And the confrontation they assert is direct confrontation. A believer is to identify each spirit then directly confront each spirit in order to overcome it. It may sound like I'm just kidding. A book like *Pigs In The Parlor* by Frank Hammond is just one example.

Does the bible say we're to do some research and identify these spirits then launch an attack against them? Have we forgotten that in the spirit world are not only evil spirits (fallen angels) but also God's angels, the good spirits? Do these good angels just sit around all day watching poor human mortals being pounded by evil angels?

Have we forgotten our "simple" but powerful Christian disciplines of prayerfulness, love, charity, obedience, and so on, that close the legal doorways and facilitate God's part of putting his angels to work?

Some even go further to say being obsessed with what Satan is plotting against us puts us on the offensive. They say we're to be on the offensive not the defensive end in our spiritual warfare. We're to outsmart these fallen angels that are over six thousand years old. But does the actually bible say any of this even when looking at the scriptures they erroneously use?

Our obedience to God is what automatically puts us on the offensive in the spirit realm. The opposite happens when walking in sin. Walking in sin gives legal grounds to attacks from Satan and his fellow fallen angels. Once Satan gains legal access a believer walking in sin is on the defensive, preoccupied with the mess Satan is causing.

On the other hand, walking in obedience to God enables us to overcome Satan's works against our lives. The Holy Spirit is able to effectively work in and through us. Walking in sin grieves the Holy Spirit making us more vulnerable while walking in obedience allows him to effectively deal with evil forces. Walking in obedience to God also enables God to effectively use us in overcoming evil forces working against those we're entrusted with—family, community, outreach group, etc.

Obedience is therefore a weapon of righteousness that brings freedom from Satan's legal attacks. It enables God to fight our battles in the spirit realm. It gives God the legal claim over us that Satan ought not to touch us. God's angels do the rest of protecting us.

Obedience to God is our offensive weapon though indirect in nature. Attacks Satan wages outside any legal claims are insignificant because if God allows them, they in the long run, only end up working to our favor individually or corporately in the body of Christ.

The bible says, "We will be ready to punish every act of disobedience once (when) your obedience is complete," 2 Corinthians 10:6 (emphasis added). We're able to punish more illegal or disobedient acts of the enemy the stronger our obedience to God is.

Disobedient acts of the enemy in our callings, ministries, families, health, society, finances, and so on, are punishable through our high level of obedience to God. It's not that an easy life will result. Rather it's that obedience enables us to effectively deal with hindering matters in our callings, ministries, finances, health, society, etc.

20) Angels have ranks and levels of authority

Both God's angels and fallen angels have ranks and levels of authority. However it's more among God's angels that this is more important. There is order in God's heavenly government. Fallen angels try to copy this order with Satan as their leader. These are angels that once served God so they already know why and how order needs to be in place.

Among fallen angels we have a clue to their order in one important scripture:

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

So they are quite well organized in their evil schemes. This does not make them better organized than God's heavenly government. It shows us that they are not just scattered aimlessly but are organized in their work. If fallen angels can be organized how much more God's angels with God as their boss? We'd be amazed if we saw how God's angels are organized in perfect order.

At the highest level of God's heavenly government are archangels. Notable ranks among God's archangels are Michael the warring angel and Gabriel the ministering angel.

Any affairs of battle in the spirit world or even on earth Michael is in charge. Any affairs of relating with humans and other key communication matters Gabriel is in charge. Each of these angels has myriads of angels under him.

"There was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven," Revelation 12:7-8

"But the prince of the Persian kingdom resisted me twenty-one days. Then Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, because I was detained there with the king of Persia," Daniel 10:13

"Even the archangel Michael, when he was disputing with the devil about the body of Moses, did not dare to bring a slanderous accusation against him, but said, "The Lord rebuke you!" Jude 1:9

"And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision," Daniel 8:16

“In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you...,” Luke 1:26-38

“Then the angel said, “I am Gabriel! I stand in the very presence of God. It was he who sent me to bring you this good news! But now, since you didn't believe what I said, you will be silent and unable to speak until the child is born,” Luke 1:19-20

Satan before he rebelled used to be an archangel. He was called Lucifer which means “light.” He used to have a very important position in heaven. He was among the few angels who had permission to spend lots of time in God's presence on his holy mountain:

“You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones,” Ezekiel 28:14

This is huge, to have such a privilege. Satan had so much going for him. But he wanted more.

“You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. Through your widespread trade you were filled with violence, and you sinned. So I drove you in disgrace from the mount of God, and I expelled you, O guardian cherub, from among the fiery stones,” Ezekiel 28:15-16

21) Angels are territorial, seeking claims to “their” territory

Angels whether God's angels or fallen angels are territorial in nature. Territory to angels ranges from people, geographical regions, type of behavior or activities (good and bad), and so on. Here is an applicable definition of territorial:

- a) A behavior related to acquiring a territory,
- b) A pattern of behavior used to defend a specific area,
- c) Relating to territorial claims, jurisdictional limits,

This territorial aspect brings fear among believers who have a devil-centric Christian outlook. On the other hand, it is one of the most comforting truths about angels among those with a God-centered outlook. It is faith recharging. It is one of my major faith energizers.

Let's start with what may rouse fear among some. This is the fact that fallen angels are territorial in nature. Here are some scriptures that show this:

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

6. The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels

“When an evil spirit comes out of a man, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, ‘I will return to the house I left’... Matthew 12:43-45.

“The prince of the kingdom of Persia was withstanding me for twenty-one days; then behold, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I had been left there with the kings of Persia,” Daniel 10:13.

“When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils,” Luke 11:21-22.

“For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you evil spirit!” Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs,” Mark 5:8-13.

We can now have a breakdown of the definition:

*** Territorial definition part a): A behavior related to acquiring a territory**

Angels whether God's angels or fallen angels want more territory to administer. God's angels are assigned territory by God and by senior angels having more authority. As we know Jesus is the highest head of the angels (Ephesians 1:19-23). Like God the father he is the Lord of hosts. Hosts is another name primarily used to refer to angelic beings, mostly God's angels.

Fallen angels it would appear also try to have some order in distributing territory. Ephesians 6:12 talks about principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world, spiritual wickedness in high places. This shows a structure of authority.

The good news is that God has a better structure of authority and better means of *acquiring territory*. With two thirds of angels at his disposal fallen angels don't stand a chance to compete.

God also has his Holy Spirit who is drawing people to God regardless of the strength of territorial claim fallen angels may have. The Holy Spirit is using legal entry into people's lives that was secured by Jesus on the cross. More on this will be covered in this territorial section. The worst of sinners and stiff-necks are converting to Christianity every day, worldwide!!

In addition to his spiritual might God also uses us his children in overcoming the works of Satan on earth. Through us God is able to overcome the worst atrocities fallen angels are bringing on humanity. As we proclaim God's word in the various ways the Holy Spirit works in the spirit realm to fulfill his role of overcoming the rights fallen angels had. God's angels also play their role

in securing God's newly claimed territory. The new convert(s) is God's newly claimed territory.

Christians are not just wimps caught in the crossfire between angels. We've a powerful role to play in bringing God's kingdom to pass. My book *Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare* has more on this topic.

"The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work,"
1 John 3:8

"As the Father has sent me, I am sending you," John 20:21

"His disciples asked him privately, 'Why could we not cast it (the demon) out?' And he said to them, 'This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer and fasting,'" Mark 9:28-29, Matthew 17:21 (KJV, ISV)

"When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command locusts to devour the land or send a plague among my people, if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land. Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayers offered in this place," 2 Chronicles 7:13-15

"Submit to God and be at peace with him... ***You will pray to him, and he will hear you...*** He will deliver even the one who is not innocent, who will be ***delivered through the cleanness of your hands,***" Job 22: 21,27,30

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter-- when you see the naked, to clothe him, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the Lord will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I,"
Isaiah 58:6-9

**** Territorial definition part b): A pattern of behavior used to defend a specific area***

Once territory is acquired it needs to be defended since it has rival forces fighting to acquire it. Since the battle is constant the one who prevails per time claims the territory.

Everyone is naturally born a sinner from the sin of Adam and Eve. Thus everyone is born already under the influence of fallen angels. The Original Sin by Adam removed God from his influence over humanity and brought in Satan in as the leader. With Satan as the leader the whole creation has been subjected to his evil and oppressive rule.

6. The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels

“Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned,” Romans 5:12.

“For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God,” Romans 8:20-21

That's the bad news. The good news is that God did not allow Satan's victory in the Garden of Eden to be permanent. He already had a plan as Adam and Eve took on the curse from the Original Sin. God prophesied that redemption would come through Eve's offspring, through the birth of a Son. This birth of a Son was actually a curse on Satan from God:

“So the Lord God said to the serpent, ‘Because you have done this, ‘Cursed are you above all the livestock...And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel,’” Genesis 3:14-15.

Four key matters can be drawn from this scripture:

- a) “And I will put enmity between you and the woman..”
- b) “...and between your offspring and hers...”
- c) “...he will crush your head...”
- d) “...and you will strike his heel...”

Let's look at each statement of God cursing the serpent (Satan).

- a) “And I will put enmity between you and the woman..” Genesis 3:15

This is not the dull jock that women hate snakes. It's more serious. It refers to the enmity between Satan and humanity. If it only referred to women then men would be friends with Satan. If it only referred to Eve then the other passages where the woman is pursued would not apply.

In one passage Satan through Pharaoh killed all the male children born to Israelites. He sensed a savior for the Israelites would be born –after 400 years in slavery. God in his wisdom saved the savior child –Moses.

During the time Jesus was born Satan sensed something again. Through Herod he sought to have all the male children two years old and under to be killed (Matthew 2:16). God in his wisdom again saved THE Savior child –Jesus.

There's another passage in Revelation where a child is born and so much takes place:

“When the dragon (Satan) saw that he had been hurled to the earth, he pursued the woman who had given birth to the male child... But the earth helped the woman,” Revelation 12:13,16

“Then the dragon was enraged at the woman and went off to make war against the rest of her offspring- those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus,” Revelation 12:17

This other male child is not Jesus. Jesus at this end-time will be coming to bring judgment on Satan and all the rebellious. Many bible scholars believe this child is the last Elijah who is to come “before that great and dreadful day of the Lord” (Judgment Day):

“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse,” Malachi 4:5-6.

This last Elijah is yet to come. John the Baptist was the second Elijah. Another, the last one is on the way. William Branham a pastor that had an amazing gift of healing at one time declared he was this last Elijah. But he turned out to be our modern day example of a false prophet.

We’ll know the last Elijah’s coming from the events with Satan intensifying his “war against the rest of her offspring- those who obey God’s commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus,” Revelation 12:17.

It will be a difficult time for the body of Christ. However with God allowing it to be so he will give much grace to endure the times. In non-Christian fundamentalist nations that hate Christianity there are Christians already enduring such hardships. We can all learn from them if the hardest times happen during our lifetime.

b) “...and between your offspring and hers...” Genesis 3:15

This says there are two kinds of offspring: Satan’s offspring and God’s offspring. And God has put enmity between Satan’s offspring and his. Satan’s offspring is purely in a spiritual sense. This is just to clarify in case someone may assume the devil bears children on earth. Satan is an angelic being who cannot physically reproduce in the flesh (Mark 12:25).

The spiritual offspring are those influenced by Satan and his fellow fallen angels. Jesus referred to some of his own Jewish people that were living disobedient lives that they were Satan’s children. Satan was their father:

“You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father’s desires,” John 8:44.

“The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels,” Matthew 13:38-39.

“This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother,” 1 John 3:10

Scripture says God has put enmity between Satan’s offspring and us his children. It’s war, a battle for territorial influence and control. We have God’s agenda, Satan’s vessels have theirs.

It's been said territorial influence ranges from people, geographical regions, type of behavior or activities (good and bad), and so on. In the spirit world the primary territorial battle is over people, their spirituality, beliefs and lifestyles. It's all out spiritual war and enmity between the two entities. No time for ease and indulgence. And certainly no room for appeasements and political correctness.

c) "...he will crush your head..." Genesis 3:15

This one refers to a person, one person, who will crush the head of Satan. This person is Jesus. Only Jesus secured the righteous grounds to take on Satan in the spirit world. Jesus is the "stronger man" that gained access to the "strong man's" house and took away all that the "strong man" claimed to be his goods: humanity.

Some bible versions use "bruise" the serpent's head in place of "crush." The two words as you can tell bring somewhat different meanings yet both scriptural. This means they both have reliable backing and reference from secondary passages in the bible. "Crush" will be adopted here which is used by bible versions such as the NIV (New International Version), NLT (New Living Translation), and BBE (Bible in Basic English).

Crushing the serpent's head is destroying Satan's power to cause harm completely. If you've ever watched a snake being killed the head is the target. Once the head is crushed the rest of the body is of no threat.

We know Jesus has not yet destroyed Satan's power to cause harm completely because he's still around us. In fact Jesus referred to Satan's current status as the "ruler" or "prince" of this world (John 14:30).

This spiritual world ruler has many offspring, some who are willfully living in rebellion, others because they've not heard the gospel. So he has a lot of spiritual territory under him. He strives to defend his spiritual real estate to ensure it doesn't end up in God's hands. As events unfold for the rise of the Antichrist more and more governments will be under the influence of this unseen "prince of this world."

This why the bible says, "Our citizenship is in heaven," (Philippians 3:20). Our identity is from another world – God's kingdom. We ought not to get caught up with affairs of this world that have little or nothing to do with our heavenly government.

"In that day the Lord will punish the powers in the heavens above and the kings on the earth below," Isaiah 24:21

"Then I saw three evil spirits that looked like frogs; they came out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet. They are **spirits of demons** performing miraculous signs, and they **go out to the kings of the whole world**, to gather them for the battle on the great day of God Almighty," Revelation 16:13-14.

“We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of Satan,” 1 John 5:19.

“The Lord is at your right hand; he will crush kings on the day of his wrath. He will judge the nations, heaping up the dead and crushing the rulers of the whole earth,” Psalms 110:5-6.

Are Christians under the authority and rule of this spiritual world ruler with his government of fallen angels? In other words are Christians in the territory of Satan’s rule or under his subjugation? Not as the bible says. I’ve covered more than enough by now to show where Satan is in relation to Christians, God’s offspring.

But because this book is written for every Christian it’s worthwhile to accommodate Christians who may be beginners in bible comprehension. This could be due to different factors. They include being recently born again, due to having a different language background, and so on. Those highly privileged in biblical comprehension please bear with any repetition. Christians in between may have less problems with some repetition.

We actually learn by repeating things – something the secular news media does very well, be it secular left, middle or right wing. It becomes propaganda when it has behind-the-scenes political intentions. We’re seeing lots of this in our end-times as God allows events facilitating the rise of the Antichrist.

So Christians are not under the authority and rule of Satan, the spiritual world ruler with his government of fallen angels. Jesus said, “The ruler of this world is coming. **He has no power over me,**” John 14:30 (International Standard Version (emphasis added)).

Regardless of what Satan tried to do against him he had no power over Jesus. Jesus was God’s offspring, sealed by the Holy Spirit and with God’s angels defending his heavenly identity. Satan could try to tempt Jesus, trying to make him sin, like he tried in the wilderness, but that’s as far as he could go. He could not take the eternal destiny and mark placed on Jesus as God’s son, God’s offspring.

That’s exactly the same over each of us God’s offspring. We are sealed as God’s children in the body of Christ. Being tempted does not mean we’re under Satan’s dominion. It only shows that we’re still in this fallen world where Satan has been allowed to roam around and to fight for his sinful agenda.

Even when for lack of self-control a Christian falls for Satan’s temptation it doesn’t indicate the Christian is now Satan’s child. He/she is still God’s child. The Christian has direct access to God, his Father, to receive grace and mercy for his wrong. That access is through Jesus who paid the penalty for sin and Satan’s claims.

The Christian if he continues in willful sin will limit his reward in heaven. However to cross the territory and get to become a child of Satan takes so much deliberate rebellion against God without any repentance. It takes so much deliberate resistance against the Holy Spirit who constantly strives to stop

this before it ever happens. God's angels also strive in the spirit realm to stop fallen angels from achieving their agenda.

In the final analysis it's the person who willfully decides to reject God. God does not force his will upon us. It happened to Judas Iscariot over his love for money (Matthew 26:15-16). Needless to say there's still room for such fallen believers to return to God.

So all this activity by Satan shows that Jesus has not yet crushed his head. His works over humanity have not been totally stopped. However this will be so soon in god's time. "The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet," Romans 16:20.

What Jesus did on the cross was to take away the authority Satan had over humanity ever since Adam sinned. "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross," Colossians 2:15.

What is this authority that Satan had over humanity that Jesus now has? It is the authority to be under him, to be his children, to be in his territory of evil, condemnation and spiritual death.

"Just as the result of one trespass was condemnation for all men, so also the result of one act of righteousness was justification that brings life for all men. For just as through the disobedience of the one man the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man the many will be made righteous," Romans 5:18-19.

Here's an explanation of this verse:

The disobedience of one man, Adam, brought condemnation and sin to all humanity. One act of sin, the Original Sin, brought ALL these problems we're facing in this world. The wages of sin is death, eternal separation from God. God cast humanity out of the Garden of Eden, his territory and protected area into a territory that was not protected by him. Sin gave birth to or opened legal grounds for Satan's rule over humanity.

Once Satan had this kind of unprotected access to humanity he took over. With his easy access to men (people) he had enough room to influence humanity to give birth to more sins. These sins would in turn bring more problems over humanity.

Fortunately God had a solution to this problem. Just as one man brought all the sin and decay to the world he needed one man, not two, three, and so on to solve the problem. The one man he had in mind is Jesus Christ.

The one man he needed would serve to be a sacrifice, an atonement or payment for the sins of humanity. The person needed to have no sin because only a perfect sacrifice could atone or pay for the Original Sin. It had to be a human being because the first man that disobeyed was a human being. So God couldn't just have a spirit being like an angel do the work.

Thus God sent his only son, Jesus Christ, to pay for the sins of humanity. He came to act on behalf of all humanity. Jesus came into the world through

sinless seed, by the Holy Spirit. He was thus the only possible option for a sinless or righteous sacrifice.

He lived a righteous life and was crucified on a cross that symbolized a curse (Galatians 3:13). Jesus, a sinless man, was cursed and it is this curse placed upon him that removed the curse on humanity. He took upon himself the sins of humanity. The curse placed upon humanity was removed from humanity and placed on Jesus.

God placed on Jesus what we deserved: curses, condemnation, isolation from God, bondage to Satan, and so on. In turn we received from Jesus what he deserved: righteousness, peace with God, adoption into God's family, deliverance, and so on.

Is Jesus still cursed and condemned today? No. He died on the cross as a condemned person and died as a result of it. However death could not hold him "because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him," Acts 2:24. Death could not hold a righteous man.

Thus Jesus could be killed and die in condemnation but by the time he dies death spits him back to life. The moment he got back to life the sin was already paid for and Jesus was a risen new person. This new person is the one who not only conquered sin and the curse on humanity, but also conquered death. God resurrected him three days later into glory with all power, authority and honor bestowed on him. He got his great reward while we too received ours through him.

Resurrected into glory Jesus now has authority and power over **everything**, including over Satan and all his kingdom of fallen angels:

"Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And **God placed all things under his feet** and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way," Ephesians 1:20-23.

Thus through Jesus the legal hold Satan had over humanity was broken. Anyone Jesus draws to himself is released or freed from Satan's ownership. Jesus overcame Satan's legal hold over humanity to the point that he took all the keys Satan had in his evil territory known as Hades or hell. Jesus has unrestricted access to the territory where fallen angels live. This is heavy as you will see shortly.

"I hold the keys of death and Hades," Rev. 1:18.

The enemy doesn't have any keys even to his own house!!

Our Lord has access to his territory through the cross he disarmed the principalities and took all their authority away. Jesus who has access to hell can go there at will and overcome forces behind certain people and matters. Since he took their authority away he is able to overcome even their legal claim over the

people and matters. He has a mighty army with his angels from God's heavenly government.

Scriptures say Jesus can open and close any door he pleases. "These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut," Rev 3:7-8.

He is able to open doors for us to fulfill his work regardless of the enemy's legal claim over the people and matters we're assigned to. Thus as much as Satan may have some people in his territory he does not have the power to keep them there. Hallelujah!

"I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it," Matthew 16:18.

d) "...and you will strike his heel..." Genesis 3:15

This means Satan won't get crushed without some retaliation. God said the serpent will strike the heel of the woman's offspring. This offspring we know of is Jesus.

And we know how Satan pounced on Jesus: "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed," Isaiah 53:5.

Satan infiltrated the minds of the religious and political elite who went on to have Jesus crucified on the cross. He was crushed to the point of death. Satan thought he'd won the battle. He thought Jesus was crushed for ever. But Satan only worked to fulfill the scriptures of having Jesus bruised for a special purpose and to resurrect into glory.

Jesus' resurrection showed the crush of death was only a bruise. He still has the scars to show how it all took place (John 20:20). The scars that show where he was wounded are a testimony of the price he paid for all humanity—for all who receive him.

However the wounding of Jesus by Satan did not end with Jesus. Satan now has gone out to work against those who belong to Jesus: Christians. We're called the body of Christ. "Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it," 1 Corinthians 12:27.

When Satan finds room to attack us it's not because we're such excellent people. It's due to our spiritual connection to Jesus. Before Paul got saved his ministry was attacking Christians. He was so militant in his ministry that Christians had quite a hard time with him. Then Jesus appeared to Paul, then known as Saul, asking why he was attacking him. Jesus didn't ask why Saul was attacking Christians.

Jesus said, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied," Acts 9:4-5. Fortunately enough, Paul received salvation, not judgment from Christ.

Thus Satan is now working to bruise the heel of Jesus by attacking Christians. He does this by trying to trap us into sin and by trying to influence people to work against us.

Whatever bruising each of us may experience from his attacks we're to be mindful that it is only to the extent that God allows. Satan does NOT have an unrestricted license over us nor over his entire ministry of evil. This has been said many times hope it's well understood.

Jesus is our Head. We are his territory. He watches over his body and does not carelessly allow the serpent to bruise him. Our focus ought to be on the owner of the body and not the serpent. He takes care of the serpent very easily. We don't have to see it in the spirit realm to believe it. It's in his word numerous times.

**** Territorial definition part c): Relating to territorial claims, jurisdictional limits***

Territorial claims is act of establishing ownership of particular territory. For instance the USA, India and Zambia have territorial claims to their respective lands. Jurisdictional limits establish the legal claims to each country's territorial claims.

For instance Zambia has beacons in areas that rivers are not available to separate borders with neighboring countries. There was a story of farmers from Malawi, its eastern neighbor, who in need of more land decided to move the beacons (see *Times of Zambia*, May 18, 2006). The two countries then sought to resolve this problem. Thus we can see that there's order and respect for territorial claims even in the secular world.

Going back as recently as early last century respect for territorial claims was determined by military might. It was the law of the jungle. In need of more land and resources as they grew different ethnic and linguistic groups fought wars to acquire more land from other groups. This happened worldwide and among all peoples.

By last century most of Europe had graduated from the law of the jungle. Hitler tried to overturn this but failed miserably. However some European countries transferred this jungle strategy when dealing with other regions. That's how the country borders in Africa (except for Ethiopia), Asia (except for Russia and Japan) and America were defined – by colonial conquests.

Someone may try to say, "Such acts could only be done by people from Europe." Such statements only show arrogance, ignorance of the fallen nature of humanity and disregard for history of humanity itself.

Any group of people given military equipment more advanced than others, a fallen nature and a motive to conquer others could have done exactly the same. The Egyptians did it, so did the Persians (Iranians), Turks, Japanese, Zulus, you name it. The bible says, "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" Jeremiah 17:9.

6. *The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels*

This is why humanity so desperately needs the heart of God. People remain vulnerable to sinful ways without the heart of God. God's spiritual heart comes through salvation and through the inner filling (anointing) of the Holy Spirit.

"I will give you a **new heart** and put a **new spirit** in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And **I will put my Spirit in you** and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws," Ezekiel 36:26-27 (emphasis added).

People without a new heart and God's Spirit remain vulnerable to the influence of evil spirits (fallen angels) and to the human fallen nature. Some would collapse from shock if I were to chronicle the wickedness in many of the world's highest levels of politics, business, the media, and other influential areas. But the right time for much hidden matters will be at the end of time when all things will be revealed to us. Everything including our own lives and the deep secrets of those in high places.

"There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs," Luke 12:2-3.

The territorial events in this world are only an imperfect shadow of what takes place in the spirit realm. In the spirit realm territorial claims are known. It is well known what belongs to God and what Satan acquired through the fall of Adam and through sins of humanity.

"The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels," Matthew 13:38-39.

"This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother," 1 John 3:10

God's children in the spirit realm are in God's territorial claims and jurisdiction. This is awesome!! Being in God's territorial claims he assigns them his angels to protect them from any unjustified invasion from fallen angels.

This is so exciting. It means us God's children in God's territorial claims and jurisdiction in the spirit realm have angels assigned to each of us. To each of us God assigns angels to work on his behalf in protecting us. This is how the concept of guardian angels came up. Guardian angels are said to be angels assigned by God to minister or attend to our needs.

There is debate in the body of Christ regarding guardian angels. Group one says particular angels are assigned to each believer on a permanent basis. Group two says different angels are assigned to each believer depending on the need, like when traveling, when fighting an illness, persecution, trials, etc.

Group three says there's no such thing as guardian angels. God sends his angels on a once in a while basis to minister or attend to our needs.

Group one and two are within scriptural analysis. Group three is ignoring what the bible says. Here's one of them: "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?" Hebrews 1:14.

God's angels are sent by God to minister to our needs and our affairs on earth. This does not make them **our** angels. They are **his** angels, **his** employees so to say, under his "payroll." There are some strange books on angels out there claiming they're our servants. You'll find in bookstores titles such as "Put Your Angels to Work," "Take Charge of Your Angels," and so on.

"For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways," Psalm 91:11

"You're out of your mind, they told her. When she kept insisting that it was so, they said, It must be his angel," Acts 12:15

"The angel of the Lord, who encamps with them, delivers all who fear God," Psalms 34:8

"For God commands the angels to guard you in all your ways. With their hands they shall support you, lest you strike your foot against a stone." Psalms 91:11-12

"I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star," Revelation 22:16.

All children have God's angels over them. In their age of innocence children are in God's territory. The following scripture would also apply to children. "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven," Matthew 18:10.

In our teenage years God's angels must have been quite busy over some of us hyperactive people. For many of us it's by God's grace to survive teenage years without any major scars. Prayers over children by parents and guardians are never in vain.

We have a part to play in ensuring God's angels protect us and fallen angels have no access into our lives. Our responsibility is to focus on God, consolidate our righteous walk with him. Our righteous walk with God and abiding in Christ is what closes legal doorways that Satan uses to gain access into our lives. It also enables his angels to have full legal protection over us.

When we walk in sin God's angels lose their legal authority to protect us in areas where our sins have given grounds of access to fallen angels. It is like their hands become tied and they become unable to protect us in areas of sin.

Thus although God assigns his angels to have full protection over us it is up to us to do our part in ensuring our walk with God is healthy. No matter

6. *The Nature of Angels: God's Angels and Fallen Angels*

how much we pray to God asking him to have his angels to guard us it is of no good if we're not doing our part.

In case some see this as a gospel of works let's try to balance it a little. The gospel of works were it all depends on us is not healthy. However it's still better than what I call the "**do nothing gospel**" and many other gospels out there. The do nothing gospel cherry picks scriptures so soothing and itchy to the ears saying all is well with us. It says there's nothing we can do to earn God's love so let's do nothing worthwhile in this life since we're heaven destined anyway.

This do nothing "gospel" is so unhealthy to Christianity that it leads some to hell. It also shows apathy or lack of concern for the burdens the body of Christ has to shoulder: evangelism, charity work, disciple work (empowerment) on believers, and so on. It's receiving God's grace in vain. That's why some call it the "all grace and no works gospel."

It's like being freely given vast fertile land to cultivate and then sit by just looking at it. Remember the parable of the talents in Matthew 25:14-30? What happened to the do nothing servant? His master said, "Throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth," Matthew 25:30.

Jesus said "Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 5:20.

"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to," Luke 13:24.

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it," Matthew 7:13-14.

Paul is our great example of a believer who did not take God's grace in vain. "But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them—yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me," 1 Corinthians 15:10.

"As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain," 2 Corinthians 6:1.

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age," Titus 2:11-12.

"Continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose," Philippians 2:12-13.

Then there is the **prosperity gospel** that's material wealth centered, the **deliverance gospel** that's centered on fighting demons (fallen angels). It says demons are to be fought in environments (called territorial warfare), at home, work, school, and even to be cast out of fellow Christians. You'll notice that my

books on deliverance and spiritual warfare endeavor to enlighten believers on the dangers of deliverance gospel teachings.

There's also "**name it claim it gospel**" that says ordain your destiny through positive confession of what you want to be fulfilled in your life. Very little room, if any, is given for God's sovereignty and will for our lives.

Then there's the **liberal or lukewarm gospel**. This says God accepts everyone no matter their lifestyle including drug traffickers, thieves, pimps, swingers, homosexuals, you name it.

God's love for humanity is not the same as his acceptance of humanity. Yes it's true that God loves us all, that's why he sent his Son, Jesus. Once each of us receives his Son we're compelled to follow lifestyles that God accepts and endeavor to forsake what God rejects. There are lifestyles God rejects. He would not have sent his Son Jesus if he accepted us unconditionally.

Thus if someone receives Jesus and he/she continues his unacceptable lifestyle he's risking his salvation. God loves everyone unconditionally but only accepts transformed people. The liberal gospel is therefore wrong in trying to say God accepts everyone unconditionally.

While the liberal gospel is left-wing in nature it ought not to be confused with left-wing political parties. For example, in USA the left-wing parties include the Democratic Party, Libertarian Party and Green Party. A Christian having a preference for any left-wing party does not necessarily imply he/she follows the liberal gospel.

People have party preferences for many reasons including historical, family influence, church influence, support for particular policies, etc. There's more on political parties in my book, *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit: Dealing with Root Causes*. It may surprise you.

Apart from the gospels identified above there are so many other gospels. So the gospel of works is not so bad after all. It puts steam into a believer to play his role. I'd rather have this than all other gospels out there.

However, we're to preach the true gospel only, balanced on every side with sound biblical doctrine. In regard to ensuring God has his angels effectively working for us the true gospel says it's by both grace and works.

On the side of God's grace his work in protecting us with his angels falls outside requirements of our input. Thus there is one part were God protects us regardless of our input. This is the grace part.

On the side of works (our input) his work in protecting us with his angels falls inside requirements of our input and role. Thus there is one part were God's level of protection over us is dependent on our input. This is the works part.

The two do not contradict each other. Both grace and works smoothly work hand in hand. It takes God's grace to get saved, remain saved, and to receive his burdens. However it takes works, doing our part, in fulfilling God's work in the harvest field.

Otherwise we'd all just say a prayer with no evangelism work and people would get saved. And we'd say a prayer and physical needs of people like food would drop from the sky. So yes indeed both grace and works are needed to work hand in hand.

There's more that could be said. The subtopics below have a little more on the unique abilities of the angelic groups that set them apart from each other.

It is hoped that Satan as a fallen angel has been put in perspective by covering on the nature of all angels (God's angels and fallen angels). It can be seen that the evil work fallen angels do is just an imitation of the work of God's angels. Both have similar abilities. The only difference is what they use their abilities for: one camp for good works and the other for evil works.

Unique Abilities of God's Angels

1) God's angels cannot possess or own faculties of people (physical or mental faculties)

Possession of faculties of people (physical or mental faculties) among Christians is done by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, not angels influences us believers from within. God's angels can only influence us believers from an external position – whenever God allows.

In addition it appears that the role of sending messages from God has diminished for angels now that the Holy Spirit has taken on this role. This does mean they are less active in our lives. It only means they are less directly in touch with us now that the Holy Spirit is now fulfilling this direct role.

2) God's angels can appear in human form in the physical world, when permitted by God

Angels cannot just appear in human physical form at their own will. They have to receive permission or request from God. Only God's angels are given this permission not fallen angels.

We have no account in the scriptures where Satan is allowed to appear physically in human physical form. He appeared to Jesus in physical form in the wilderness but in non-human form (Matthew 4:1-11). His physical form was that of a beast rather than that of a human being.

Scriptures have numerous accounts on God's angels being given this permit to appear in human form. This is particularly so in the Old Testament, including God's own appearance. Better know this unless you don't read your bible.

Bible scholars interpret God's own physical appearance on earth as angelic beings that represented God. This is because the scriptures say no one has

ever seen God the Father, except Jesus. Moses, who was intimate with God, once asked to see Him. God responded: “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live,” Exodus 33:20.

The only thing God permitted Moses was to see his back (Exodus 33:23). God’s assumed appearance to people, including to Abraham, is characterized by theologians as being either Jesus’ transformation into human flesh, or an angel’s transformation into human flesh directly acting on God’s behalf.

For instance, one of the three men that appeared to Abraham in Genesis 18 is said to be God. Abraham dined with the men and washed their feet. Bible scholars argue this is not God the Father, but God’s personification in one of the two options above. I agree with this analysis though it’s not worth going into all the details here.

Jesus said “No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father’s side, has made him known,” John 1:18. Can’t imagine God, the Holy, Holy, Holy of holies appearing to a mortal being who is in Adam’s fallen nature and the person surviving in God’s presence. That’s why God responded to Moses that, “you cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live,” Exodus 33:20.

Adam and Eve may have seen God the Father when they were in the Garden of Eden. This was before the fall of humanity during the time Adam and Eve had a pure nature. Their pure and holy nature qualified them to see God. After they fell through sin and disobedience humanity took on the corrupted nature. That is why since their fall no one has ever seen God the Father or could survive in his presence.

The people may have seen representatives of God that represented him yet it was not God himself. It was God’s angels or Jesus transformed in human form. We will be able to see God in heaven when we get crowned with the uncorrupted nature. “Blessed are the pure in heart for they will see God” Matthew 5:8.

Let’s get back to God’s angels appearing in human form:

“In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you...,” Luke 1:26-38

“Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it,” Hebrews 13:2.

“An angel of the Lord said to Philip, Go south to the road— the desert road— that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza. So he started out, and on his way he met an Ethiopian eunuch, an important official...,” Acts 8:26-27

“When Abram was ninety-nine years old the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless, that I may make my covenant between me and you, and may multiply you greatly.” Then Abram fell on his face,” Genesis 17:1-3.

“And the Lord appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the door of his tent in the heat of the day. He lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, three men were standing in front of him,” Genesis 18:1-2.

Unique Abilities of Fallen Angels

1) Fallen angels can possess or own faculties of people (physical or mental faculties) without being seen

Among angels this is exclusively done by fallen angels. Possession or ownership of people's faculties (physical or mental) is also as a result of receiving permission from God. Otherwise every person that's not born again would be demon possessed.

Demon possession can also happen as a result of certain levels of involvement in the occult. The Beast or the Antichrist is said to be a man possessed by Satan. He won't just be any fallen angel's vessel but a vessel of Satan himself.

“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing,” 2 Thessalonians 2:9-10.

In addition only unbelievers are liable or have legal doorways to experience demon possession. Christians are not liable. Chapter 6 “Can a Christian be Demon Possessed?” in my book *Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare*, covers on such matters.

Why God allows some unbelievers to be demon possessed can be such a controversial debate. The great news is that there is victory through Jesus Christ. He closes all the legal doorways that demons use, going all the way back to the Original Sin of Adam and Eve. It's actually the Original Sin of Adam and Eve that makes unbelievers liable or have legal doorways to experience demon possession.

Jesus delivered many from demonic possession during his earthly ministry. Jesus stripped demons (fallen angels) of their authority that they gained on humanity from Adam's original sin. He gave us the same ability to fulfill such deliverance work from demon possession. Chapter 5 “Demonic Possession: The Exception for Direct Confrontation,” in my book *Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare*, covers on such matters.

“As they were going out, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him,” Matthew 9:32.

“On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” Then he

put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God,” Luke 13:10-13.

However, remember that Satan’s main work is deception and temptation, not demon possession. Fallen angels primarily work from an external position than internal. Even among us believers they labor to bring us down by trying to bring us into sin.

Sin facilitates or creates situations that give fallen angels legal grounds to attack us. Their work from this external position is called demonic influence. My book *Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do’s and Don’ts of Warfare* has more on this topic.

7. Breaking Curses from God: No. 1 Source of Curses

This chapter and all other chapters ahead deal with the breaking of curses from the three sources of curses (God, people, and self). They address the deliverance side on curses. As covered in the introduction, these chapters could have been more appropriately titled “Deliverance from Curses.” But some common language concepts of our day had to be used to bring home the biblical principles.

Deliverance from God’s curses (breaking curses from God)

“Having canceled the written code, with its regulations, that was against us and that stood opposed to us; he took it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross. Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day,” Colossians 2:14-16.

Yes we have been freed from the curse of the law. We have been freed from all its ritualistic regulations and the animal sacrifices we had to make to pay for our sins.

Jesus became our one-time sacrifice and paid the price for the consequences of being under it. And so on.

Being freed from the burden of being under the Old Testament law did not mean we now received a license to sin with no consequences whatsoever. The bible is clear about this. That’s why we received the Holy Spirit to help us live holy lives. When we reject the promptings of the Holy Spirit not to sin we move into a risky area.

The bible says, “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps whatever he sows. The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit will reap eternal life,” Galatians 6:7-8.

“Unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven,” Matthew, 5:20.

So what we can say about the Old Testament law is that though it may not apply to us in its strict sense its principles still apply to us. The rituals, sacrifices and condemnation it carried no longer apply to us. But its principles of sowing and reaping still apply to us.

The Old Testament law was actually a shadow of the things that were to come. What was to come was Jesus and the resulting law of the Spirit written in us:

“Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or a Sabbath day. These are a **shadow of the things that were to come**; the reality, however, is found in Christ,” Colossians 2:16-17 (emphasis added).

Jesus came and for those of us born again we now have the unseen law of the Spirit at work in us. “Through Christ Jesus the **law of the Spirit** of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, **in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us**, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit,” Romans 8:2-4.

Why was the old law done away with? The answer is right above: “**In order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us,**” Romans 8:4. So the **righteous** requirements of the old law are still required by the new law. The requirements for righteousness in the old law failed to be fulfilled by us. All humanity did was perform endless rituals without being convicted to live uprightly.

The story changes with the new law. Through the Holy Spirit who empowers us we are now able to fulfill requirements for righteous living. The old law being a shadow of the new has a lot of similar attributes to the new. We can still look to the old to piece together how this unseen law of the Spirit works.

This new law is now written in our hearts not on tablets of stone. The Holy Spirit who leads us to all truth illuminates this law in our hearts:

“Indeed, when Gentiles, who do not have the law, do by nature things required by the law, they are a law for themselves, even though they do not have the law, since they show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts now accusing, now even defending them,” Romans 2:14-15.

The Gentiles in reference here were Christian converts who were non-Jews. These non-Jews were not required to submit to Jewish laws that required circumcision of males, restrictions on eating certain foods (particularly pork), observance of Jewish holidays, and so on. The new law written in their hearts by the Holy Spirit and governed by God’s written word showed that these traditions were not necessary.

The good news concerning curses from God is that he gives plenty of room to reverse them. God’s key word for his deliverance from his curses is obedience.

Thus curses are not permanent afflictions to bear. There are no unforgivable curses. The first half of Deuteronomy chapter 30 gives this open door

7. *Breaking Curses from God: No.1 Source of Curses*

for God to remove the curses and release his blessings. Obedience or returning to him is what makes him to stop the curses.

“When you and your children return to the Lord your God and obey him with all your heart and with all your soul according to everything I command you today, then the Lord your God will restore your fortunes and have compassion on you and gather you again from all the nations where he scattered you.

“Even if you have been banished to the most distant land under the heavens, from there the Lord your God will gather you and bring you back. He will bring you to the land that belonged to your fathers, and you will take possession of it,” Deuteronomy 30:2-5.

While unbelievers who still operate outside God’s redemption and covering a Christian enjoys the blessings of God’s redemption. Jesus came to free us from all the ritualistic and outward works of ensuring we are on God’s right side.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit,” Galatians 3:13-14.

For believers Jesus invalidates the fourth condition for a curse to apply: an individual needs to be in a position of deserving it or having a legal doorway to receiving it. Once we repent of the wrong we take on the redeemed or delivered nature since Jesus took all our curses upon himself. We’re considered righteous or blameless in God’s eyes.

God’s condemnation against us ends once we receive salvation. “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death,” Romans 8:1-2.

Thus because of Christ we don’t have to go out and sacrifice animals to pay for our sins. In addition the Old Covenant’s sacrifices were insufficient to provide atonement or payment for the sins committed (Hebrews 10:4-10).

Now “there is no longer any sacrifice for sin,” Hebrews 10:18. In the New Covenant Jesus became our sacrifice, our one time sacrifice. This means when someone sins or wrongs God all that God requires is repentance with no animal sacrifices.

In addition God did more for us to enable us not to keep sinning. He put his law in our hearts. “I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds,” Hebrews 10:16.

That’s why when we attempt or proceed to wrong God the Holy Spirit makes us feel uncomfortable, feeling dirty, etc. They didn’t have this in the Old Covenant. All they did was count the cost for the sin and then later pay for it.

Those who could afford to pay their way into God’s forgiveness could commit more sins than the less privileged. The rich could even afford to

sacrifice cattle, sheep and goats whenever needed. Poorer people sacrificed cheap doves or even grain to pay for their sins. The poor probably felt less accepted and less forgiven by God. Do you see how deficient the Old Covenant was?

And the consciousness not to commit sin was not as strong as we have it now. As Christians we have a bigger consciousness to our sins since we have the Holy Spirit who has put God's law in our hearts. In the Old Covenant people could easily go back to their sins and return with the needed sacrifice to pay for their sins. Do you again see how deficient the Old Covenant was?

Now it's a different story. Glory be to God for Christ's work. "Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; with burnt offerings and sin offerings you were not pleased. Then I said, 'Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God.'"

"First he said, "Sacrifices and offerings, burnt offerings and sin offerings you did not desire, nor were you pleased with them" (although the law required them to be made). Then he said, "Here I am, I have come to do your will." He sets aside the first to establish the second. And by that will, we have been made holy through the sacrifice of the body of Jesus Christ once for all," Hebrews 10:5-10.

Through Christ every Christian can directly approach God to seek God's mercy, unlike approaching a priest in the Old Covenant. And again no sacrifice needed to receive God's mercy unlike in the Old Covenant. By virtue of Christ's work on the cross God grants forgiveness or mercy to the sinner.

"Where these have been forgiven, there is no longer any sacrifice for sin. Therefore, brothers, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, his body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water," Hebrews 10:18-22.

8. Breaking Curses from Self-infliction: No. 2 Source of Curses

Deliverance from self-inflicted curses (breaking curses of self-infliction)

Breaking self-inflicted curses is not complicated. It starts with repentance and ends with us making necessary changes to ensure we do not curse ourselves. What is the most necessary change? It is to engage the brain before operating the mouth. This means thinking before we speak. As God's children we have "the mind of Christ" (1 Corinthians 2:16) powered by the Spirit of God who lives in us.

We also avoid careless talk, "pity parties" (complaining hopelessly and feeling sorry for oneself) and so on. In all conversations where someone is the source of hopeless and negative talk we're to be the light of hope to them.

If it's hard to say anything positive it's better to just say you understand, are deeply sad by the news and will commit the matters to God in prayer. If you can say a prayer together this will make it even easier to eliminate any chances of negative talk.

In relation to repentance we seek God's forgiveness for all the negative words we said. We ask him to undo or break the chains around us that originated from the negative words. God wants us to turn away from our sins and always desires to bless us.

There is even joy among God's angels when we repent. "I say to you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents," Luke 15:10.

Repentance is a powerful force in the realm of the spirit. It enables Christ's work to apply to the areas of sin. Once Christ's redemptive work applies to the area repented on the legal hold Satan had ends. God's angels now have the legal authority of protecting us from any attacks from fallen angels in the area they once had access.

It is also worthwhile to know that God "does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities" Psalm 103: 10.

God is merciful. We must remain forever thankful for his grace towards us. With his grace and mercy upon our lives over certain things of our past we can comfortably laugh at our past without any fear that it will catch up with us.

"Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him," Psalm 32:1-2.

In regard to our mouths, it is by his mercy that we don't harvest all that we say. His word says, "Mercy triumphs over judgment," (James 2:13). Mercy is superior to judgment. For instance, national presidents extend mercy to some criminals they choose on occasions. They are largely called presidential pardons and executive clemency.

In some countries like Zambia this can be ceremonial on independence days. In USA the presidential pardons are done by application and the president then chooses whom to pardon. Irrespective of the gravity of the judgment passed mercy enables the criminals to go scot free or have slap on the wrist penalties.

Similarly, many of us are or have been spiritual criminals by the law of the spirit but God rescued us by his mercy (pardon). The multitude of negative things some say against themselves can easily bring much torture on themselves. Some of them dig their own early graves. Some disqualify themselves for many opportunities. Others register for poverty. Others attract failure, sickness, divorce, misfortune and so on. They open all sorts of doors for the enemy to take advantage of them.

However by the mercy of God they do not receive all they deserve. They may receive some of it but not all of what they deserve. And our prayers for them also rescue them from incurring the full judgment (penalty).

Otherwise the scriptures cannot be broken that we have to reap whatever we sow (good or bad). Without mercy the judgment of the law takes its full course in order to implement justice. Thank God for his mercy. Instead of the people in self-destructive talk being sentenced to serious illness, death, abject poverty, or whatever bad things they're meant to reap, God's mercy lessens their penalty.

We are all swimming in God's pool of mercy, not justice. His word says, "He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities" Psalm 103: 10.

The reason words have the power to create either blessings or curses, life or death, is that God in whose image we were created used words when creating the world. The first chapter of Genesis is full of "God said ... and it was so." What he said he saw into reality. There was nothing he said that he did not see materialize. Created in his image he has also given us a mouth to cooperate with him in creating our own world in our occupations, families, and so on.

No wonder our Lord said, "I tell you, on the day of judgment men will render account for every careless word they utter," Matthew 12:36. We shall be accounting for whatever we created with our mouths. We can avoid the calamity side of judgment if we guard our mouths from junk and careless talk. "He who guards his mouth and his tongue keeps himself from calamity," Proverbs 21: 23.

Occupations that primarily use the mouth are very decisive professions in shaping other people's lives. These include politics, music, education, the clergy, and the media (both electronic and print media). Through their words

they influence people's thought pattern, which in turn comes out of their mouths and actions to create their world.

For example most secular films and music create thoughts of individualism, materialism and sexual immorality. Eventually people's words and actions obey the thoughts by engaging in speech or actions full of individualism, or materialism or lust. On judgment day we will all account for how much we contributed in adding to or subtracting from other people's ordained lives by our mouths.

If we desire to preserve our lives we ought to guard our lips from corrupt speech. "He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly (carelessly) will come to ruin," Proverbs 13: 3.

Even when matters realistically appear to be so bad we are expected to guard our lips from putting their signature seal on the badness. Instead, we're expected to speak the good we desire to take place.

Joel 3:10 says, "Let the weak say, I am strong." Thus we must not confess the situation as it currently is (weak) but what we desire it to be: strong.

For instance, confessing that you are an Abraham (father of multitudes) or a Sarah (princess) is a foolish thing in this world for people who are way beyond their age for children. Yet that's what Sarah and Abraham did. God chose such foolish things and shamed those who thought were wise.

God's ways appear foolish but he deliberately made them that way. Why did he? Here's the answer. "God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are," 1 Corinthians 1:27-28.

In relation to our mouths, there are many seemingly foolish things God expects us to say for him to shame the wisdom of this world. If we don't say them we hold back what he desires to do in our lives.

Needless to say this is not an endorsement for the "name it claim it gospel." This says ordain your destiny through positively confessing what you want to be fulfilled in your life. There is very little room, if any, for God's sovereignty and will for our lives in this doctrine.

Here we're balancing it with true doctrine that the Lord reigns and he's our boss. That's why he's Lord. We've nothing to lord over him. We cooperate with him in fulfilling what he purposed and willed for our lives. Through intimate or deeper walk with him we're able to know and follow his purposes (will) for each of us. We will nothing for our selves. We submit to what he preordained for us.

The same message he said to Jeremiah applies to each of us in our various lives and callings: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations," Jeremiah 1:5

Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses

Some were preordained to be prophets, others evangelists, pastors, teachers, administrators, healers (spiritual and physical), artists (musicians and other artists), helpers, and every noble career you can name.

“It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ,” Ephesians 4:11-13.

9. Breaking Curses from People: No. 3 Source of Curses

Deliverance from people's curses (breaking curses from people)

“Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest,” Proverbs 26:2.

People are scared (including some believers) when someone outwardly proclaims words of doom against them. It's like the other person has bewitched them with his/her words. Other people's words seem like they have unrestricted power in the heavens.

Some people even respond appropriately to strange letters or emails they receive warning them of consequences if they don't follow the instructions. With the advent of the internet these letters are now more outrageous. And some people respond to them. It shows you how people are scared of what others say.

Curses from people are the least effectual among all the three curses. The most effectual or having the most entitlement are curses from God, followed by self-inflicted curses.

At a drop of a hat (i.e. for the slightest reason) people would pronounce negative words on themselves without any concern yet when people say it against them they think disaster is coming. We ought to be more watchful about what we say regarding ourselves than minding about what people say against us.

Above all we ought to be more watchful about our walk with God. Our walk with God is what gives us spiritual immunity from what people say or do against us. It also unchains us from words of doom we may have uttered carelessly.

“Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest,” Proverbs 26:2. An undeserved curse no matter where it's from cannot rest or settle on an innocent person. It would be a violation of God's spiritual laws if it did.

So there is no need for a believer to worry about coming under a generational curse by being born in a certain family, coming under a territorial curse by living in a certain neighborhood or region, coming under a soul tie curse from previously repented sexual sins, and so on.

As for people who may curse us by speaking evil against us the scripture is more than clear here. “They may curse, but you will bless; when they attack they will be put to shame, but your servant will rejoice. My accusers will be clothed with disgrace and wrapped in shame as in a cloak,” Psalm 109:28-29.

It may not work out exactly the way we envision over our opponents. However we are not to be concerned that their words will have any effect on us. God will ensure no undeserving curse reaches us.

“Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest,” Proverbs 26:2. There are no exceptions. Even curses from witches, voodoo curses, curses from people in the occult have no legal power over a Christian.

Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology says, “The curse is totally under Yahweh's control. It is his power, not magical forces, which brings about the curse. His sovereign decision alone decides who merits being cursed (1 Kings 8:31-32). He cannot be forced into action by proper wording or ritual. Thus a curse could not be used capriciously as a weapon against one's personal enemies.”

In one biblical example, Balak, a son of a Moabite king tried to seek protection for his kingdom by means of sorcery or witchcraft. The Israelites, under Moses, were taking over one territory after another. The Moabites knew they were next and had heard the miraculous conquests of the Israelites. Not a good story about wiping out other ethnic groups in our New Testament Christian era where God loves all people and wants all to be saved.

Balak knew sorcery from his own Moabite people would have no effect against the Israelites. So he sought for an Israelite who would put a curse on his own people, that is, would seek the Israelite God in cursing the Israelites. Balaam, an Israelite prophet was given a huge amount of money called a “fee for divination,” (Numbers 22: 7). It could have been millions of dollars worth in our day.

It appears that Balaam somehow wanted the fortunes. He knew the Israelites were God's people and could not be cursed. But he kept looking for a way for God to bend the rules. The Lord showed him in miraculous ways, including having his donkey speak to him, that his cursing attempts would not prosper.

In the final stages of the cursing attempts Balaam told Balak, “God is not a man, that he should lie, nor a son of man, that he should change his mind. Does he speak and then not act? Does he promise and not fulfill? I have received a command to bless; **he has blessed, and I cannot change it.**” Numbers 23:19-20.

The same is true over Christians, spiritual Israelites through Christ. Balaam confessed about his fellow Israelites, “God brought them out of Egypt; they have the strength of a wild ox. There is no sorcery against Jacob, no divination against Israel. It will now be said of Jacob and of Israel, ‘See what God has done!’” Numbers 23:22-23.

In applying the above passage to Christians we can say, “God brought them out of their Egypt, a bondage to sin that goes back to Adam. They are now saved through Christ who purchased them through his blood. They are now under God's blessing, not the curse of the law nor any other curse.

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“There is no sorcery, no divination, not occult curse, no involuntary curse, no territorial curse, no generational curse, no satanic curse, no demonic curse, no witch curse, no voodoo curse, nor any other curse against those whose sins are under the blood of Jesus and are children of God.”

We do not have any business to speak to demons or evil spirits about our freedom in Christ. It speaks for itself and whatever any evil spirits or human agents attempt against us will not prosper. Our Christian faith is God-centric not Satan-centric and Christ-centered, not demon-centered. Applying our God-centered Christian disciplines of walking in obedience, prayerfulness, love, charity, faith, and so on, is what enables God to deal with adversarial matters in the realm of the spirit.

It's God's business to be preoccupied with what's going on in the spirit realm. It's our business to ensure we're doing our part of effectively walking with God so that he's able to fight on our behalf the unseen battles against us. Thus we're to be preoccupied with God and his business, not with what demons are up to. My book on spiritual warfare has more info on how our walk with God through our Christian disciplines work as indirect weapons against all evil. The book is titled *Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare*.

We faithfully go about minding our own business and walk with God, without being preoccupied with what demons in the spirit realm are up to. God has assigned angels to our defense who outnumber demons. “Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation?” Hebrews 1:14

We are also not to be preoccupied with what human agents of demons, such as those in the occult, are up to. In fact human agents are scared of Christians that know their position in Christ. Ask any former high level witch, wizard or occult member. My other book on braking occult spells covers on this (*Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences*). Our walk with God through our Christian disciplines creates a hedge or barrier against evil works.

Like with Job and the Israelites there is a hedge of protection around us that neither Satan, his demons, nor their human agents can penetrate into our lives. Unless God, in his sovereign will lifts this hedge, there is no way any evil influences can penetrate our lives.

Blessing others and avoiding the superiority complex

In relation to speaking to others the bible says “bless and do not curse,” Romans 12:14. As God's children we're to grow in the habit of lifting people up and avoiding every attempt to put anyone down.

There is a scripture that applies to all matters in our lives though has often been used to refer to material belongings. Prosperity preachers love to bring

it up. However it applies to all matters in our lives, including our time, abilities, and including our conversations with others.

In this scripture Jesus said, “Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. **For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you,**” Luke 6:38 (emphasis added).

Before Jesus said these famous words the previous verse tells us the main issues he was concerned with. The matters he was mainly concerned with were on how we use our mouths in relation to other people. Here is the verse:

“Do not judge, and you will not be judged. Do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven,” Luke 6:37.

This does not mean we’re to praise the wrong deeds or wrong lifestyles of others who are in disobedience to God’s will. Those in liberal or lukewarm gospel circles assume this is so. If they’re right it would make Jesus a hypocrite. This is because Jesus never missed an opportunity to judge and condemn wrong deeds and wrong lifestyles of others who were in disobedience to God’s will. His biggest targets were the Pharisees and teachers of the law. They were attacked from every angle.

What Jesus meant was that we’re not to make personal attacks against others. Personal attacks originate from a superiority complex that “I am better than you.”

What is a superiority complex? A dictionary definition says it is “an exaggerated feeling of being superior to others. It is a psychological defense mechanism in which feelings of superiority counter or conceal feelings of inferiority.”

A person with a superiority complex always sees himself/herself better than others (or his group better than others). He develops what may be called a judgmental personality - easily making and voicing harsh opinionated references to others.

This is easy even among us Christians. Some easily assume their salvation and walk with God is their own making. So they harshly criticize and condemn those who fail to meet their standards. There’s no love, just a zero tolerance attitude towards others.

To such Jesus said, “Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye,” Luke 6:41-42.

Remember the above verses are in the same passage given earlier about “Give, and it will be given to you...” Jesus is saying we’re not to live with a superiority complex that makes us easily want to harshly point out the wrongs of

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others. A superiority complex has a hidden agenda of attempting to uplift oneself by demeaning or lowering others.

Jesus said each of us is not perfect, even though we may think so in our eyes. Many people, even in the body of Christ have a wrong standard of measuring perfection and holiness. Their standard is other people. They use other people to determine whether they are good or not. Some pick the worst people in society – criminals, ruthless and greedy people, some corrupt politicians, and so on. Through such comparisons they assume a self-righteous attitude.

Some Christians in the body of Christ who compare themselves with other people may pick fellow believers as their criteria. They may pick others in their own church to measure themselves in their uprightness. For instance, a believer who falls and it's found out may be a punch bag of ridicule and condemnation. In the final analysis it only serves to uplift themselves by demeaning or lowering others. Little if any empathy, grace, prayer and counsel to the believer is shown.

Others may pick other churches or denominations to measure themselves in their uprightness. Leftwing churches that preach the liberal gospel are the biggest targets in our fundamentalist circles. Some go to the extent of labeling such churches as cults, Satan worshipers.

Do you know that there are some believers in leftwing churches that will receive bigger rewards than some of us? The little grace they received of knowing and following Jesus they used it all up. Some of us the much grace we receive of knowing and walking with God we spend it crucifying others. It is not wrong pointing out errors but it's unscriptural black listing our own siblings in the body of Christ.

“A servant who knows what the master wants, but isn't prepared and doesn't carry out those instructions, will be severely punished. **But someone who does not know, and then does something wrong, will be punished only lightly.** When someone has been given much, much will be required in return; and when someone has been entrusted with much, even more will be required,” Luke 12:47-48 (emphasis added).

Needless to say that leftwing churches have not been the only target among us fundamentalists. We have even had occasions of bigger fights among ourselves (some are still doing it).

That is why some outsiders call us fundies. This is a derogatory (rude) term to refer to fundamentalist evangelical groups. They know us for being professional judges over every matter. It's good in a way but within its context. Out of context it just ends up being mere expressions of a superiority complex and measuring ourselves through people, not God's word.

For example Pentecostals at one point slammed some Baptist segments that allowed consumption of alcohol in moderation. They were accused of licensing alcohol intoxication in the body of Christ. The Baptist segments then

hit back accusing Pentecostals of being narrow-minded dividers who preferred to use their emotions and not their minds to understand the bible. It was like kids fighting over who's right between each other.

A mutual and healthy dialogue would be healthy compared to such egoistic ways of addressing issues. So the matter here is primarily not what to say but how to say it. It's not what you say but it's how you say it. Is it said appropriately in the right context, with the right motives, right heart, etc?

So even among ourselves as fundamentalists there is potential to inappropriately condemn each other. In a way we use such condemnations to uplift ourselves by demeaning or lowering others. We measure ourselves by how others serve God.

Does God use this standard of measuring holiness by rating people based on other fellow humans? The answer is no. God uses his word to measure us. On Judgment Day we'll be judged based on our level of obedience to his will not on the level we compared with fellow humans. Did we obey his word in walking in love, in charity, in forgiveness, in burdened prayer for the lost, for the less privileged, and so on? Did we have a loving concern for those whose wrongs we appropriately condemned or was it out of self-righteousness?

So no matter how much praises others may say about any of us we ought to see for ourselves whether we measure up with the One to whom it matters most. His word is our mirror to see any blemishes while we avoid looking at other people to see how we measure up. That is why Jesus gave the example of a person who assumed he was good by comparing himself to his brother. He couldn't even see that he had bigger issues to deal with.

The only judgment we're to pass is that founded on right motives and detached from self-elevation motives. Jesus is our example. He was harsh were it was needed yet all his motives descended from a deep love for people. He never had a superiority complex.

There's a quote from an unknown person that says, "If you have no will to change it, you have no right to criticize it." Abraham Lincoln is also quoted as saying, "He (a person) has the right to criticize who has the heart to help."

There is a lot of truth in these words –just what has been covered above using scriptures. We ought to use our mouths wisely, with the mind of Christ in us switched on. It is to engage the brain before operating the mouth. This means thinking before we speak, analyzing our deeper motives, knowing the right context to speak, how to speak, and so on.

This discipline is most important when dealing with those in most contact with - family members, relatives, friends, neighbors, workmates, and so on. The next sub-topic addresses this area in overcoming a control freak nature and choosing one's battles.

Overcoming a control freak nature and choosing your battles

Some have a high inner urge to fix things. It is such fixers, many times with genuine motives, that usually generate the biggest conflicts – in spite of their genuine motives. When conflicts arise the exchange of words are generally unpleasant and sometimes cursing. This is most pronounced among those they are in most contact with: family members, relatives, friends, neighbors, work-mates, and so on.

Thus if you're a fixer, the discipline of engaging the brain before operating the mouth is critical. Being a fixer is not a personality defect or flaw. This world desperately needs fixers – good fixers of things and of people. It's when it's applied wrongly or taken to extremes that it becomes dysfunctional.

People with the fixing mentality are usually perfectionists. A perfectionist personality can focus its energies on various things and in different degrees from person to person. Some can be towards moral principles, others religion, staying healthy, fitness and exercise, sports, career interests, family, entertainment, the environment, nature, animals, charity causes, and so on. In a most non-people matters a perfectionist personality is an asset or valuable to have.

It is a when perfectionist personality is applied to dealing with people that it becomes a liability or a problem. Being a perfectionist in an imperfect fallen world is a miserable occupation for the perfectionist and the people around him/her.

When dealing with people the tendency to desire matters to be in perfect ways becomes a more subjective issue rather than an objective reality. It is a subjective issue partly because the perfectionist has imperfections to live with himself. He therefore ought not to expect or insist on others meeting up to his unrealistic standards. This insisting on others to meet up to one's unrealistic standards is what is normally called a control freak nature.

Here is a good definition of a control freak: “a person whose behavior indicates a powerful need to control people or circumstances in everyday matters” (Merriam-Webster Dictionary). You can see this is not a healthy area to have a perfectionist personality. It is a formula for constant conflicts particularly with those that will resist being put in a box of the control freak. Few people want to be caged up into a person defined by someone else.

Our individualities are what make us unique from each other. These individualities are not defects or flaws per se. They are in two parts: good individualities and unhealthy individualities. My book *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit: Dealing with Root Causes*, has more detailed info in this topic.

The key therefore for a control freak or perfectionist personality towards people is to know when he/she is overstepping boundaries. Even over

unhealthy individualities it is not necessarily the control freak's duty to straighten the other person. A control freak has an instinctive drive to manipulate others. He/she feels duty bound over others as a self-appointed police and law enforcement officer.

No one enjoys being around someone seeking to police or supervise them – especially if he only appointed himself to lord it over them. Control freaks are difficult to get along with most of the time because of their dictatorial and bossy attitude. A control freak will choose conflict over harmony over even the least important matters.

Overcoming a control freak nature is so important when dealing with those in most contact with - family members, relatives, friends, neighbors, workmates, and so on. It is a needles liability or problem to have when it can be avoided. If you have this nature here are steps to overcoming it:

1) The first step in dealing with it is to acknowledge that it's a problem. Being quite a big fixer the control freak nature is also a behavior I have to deal with every time it tries to surface. No one ought to feel condemned for having this tendency. It is a personality trait, albeit a negative one and everyone has his/her weaknesses to deal with. The control freak nature can be overcome and it's worth being overcome.

To be a supervisor of people without their blessing, liking, willingness and openness to be policed around is a problem for those being affected. It is a problem for the control freak because he/she usually ends up creating unnecessary conflict, sometimes with unpleasant exchange of words. It also ends up driving away those who'd have otherwise loved to be around him/her. It is a problem that through God can be overcome. With him all things are possible,

2) Acknowledge to those in most contact with that you have this problem and seeking their cooperation in dealing with it. They already know about it. It's only that making them aware that you do acknowledge it as a problem will enable them to approach you appropriately when it surfaces. For instance they may politely say "yes boss" just to alert you that you're pressing the control button. In this way both you and those affected will amicably work together in dealing with the problem. They won't run away, hide from you or fight you, but will cooperate with you in overcoming the problem,

3) Begin taking steps to overcoming it. Keep doing your part in ensuring you are dealing with it. This includes learning to compromise and to accept others at their level. Being a control freak is a pattern of behavior that comes naturally to you so it takes time to unlearn it. Keep working on it by seeking God's help and doing your part. As a Christian you have the Holy Spirit living inside you. This is marvelous because he

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is able to supply all grace to enable you to overcome all matters from the fallen nature. “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work,” 2 Corinthians 9:8,

4) Engage the brain before operating the mouth. This means thinking before speaking, analyzing your deeper motives, knowing the right context to speak, how to speak, and so on. We ought to use our mouths wisely, with the mind of Christ in us switched on,

5) Recognize and empathize on what it’s like to be supervised by a self-appointed superior. It’s not fun since one’s free will is caged up. It’s like being in a prison, constantly under surveillance and the watchful eye of someone else. If this is hard to identify with find another control freak and let him/her lord it over you on every matter. Then you’ll know what it feels like being under a control freak. Regardless of his/her good intentions no one want to be remote controlled,

6) Learn to choose your battles. Weigh every matter you’re desperate to open your mouth on its level of importance from a scale of one to ten. A score of ten means it’s critical and zero means it’s worthless. Anything five and below is not worth opening your mouth on,

7) Not only is choosing battles critical the other matter to consider is: Do you have to be in charge? In other ways are you the person needed for speaking the matter out? Most people, particularly adults know what’s right and what’s wrong over most matters. If they already know right from wrong over matters you wish to address then speaking up may just be starting an unnecessary conflict.

Each one of us will answer before God based on how we obeyed the Holy Spirit working in each of our lives. God did not elect control freaks to act as the Holy Spirit, convicting us over every matter. Allow the Holy Spirit to play his central role in those close to you. It’s his duty after all, not yours in convicting them to walk uprightly.

Our central role for those around us is praying for them not policing them. If it’s a burning issue commit it to God in prayer and occasional fasting if possible. God who knows how to work in the hearts of people will press the right buttons in their lives for them to change.

In the final analysis your genuine concerns are addressed through prayer while also avoiding conflicts that could have served to harden their hearts, isolated them from you, and brought unnecessary division.

That is why the bible says, “The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds,” 2 Corinthians 10:4.

The weapons or methods we use to confront other people who have wronged us or have wronged God are spiritual weapons. Our weapons are not similar to the ones used in this world. In this world when there is conflict of interest people resort to such methods as arguments, manipulation, temper tantrums, screaming, threats, bullying, lawsuits, physical confrontation, war, and so on.

Among all personalities there is no bigger expert at using weapons of this world than people with a control freak tendency. Even in family, friendship, work and other everyday social settings a control freak is a master at knowing what buttons to press to have his way. If the buttons end up not working he'll be quick to unleash weapons of this world just to win.

Sometimes he wins the war but loses the peace. People will try to avoid him at all costs because they cannot stand his bossy nature. They have no peace being around him. They may do just enough to avoid conflicts with him. Beyond anything necessary to transact with the control freak they choose to avoid him as if he doesn't exist.

At other times he loses both the war and the peace. People end up fighting back with their own weapons of this world. Once this happens division sets in between the control freak and those fighting back. This is the most unpleasant level for both the control freak and those fighting back.

Thus the question to answer is “are weapons of this world worth using in whatever circumstance?” Sometimes they are but only sometimes. The control freak nature wants to use them all the time - in all circumstances. This is neither wise nor worthwhile. Choose to resort to using spiritual weapons most of the time instead.

With spiritual weapons you will always win –eventually. And you'll win both the war and the peace. Our spiritual weapons are “weapons of righteousness” (2 Corinthians 6:7) that the Lord uses to confront the spiritual forces working against those around us. And there is no bigger weapons of righteousness than those involving prayer and fasting.

For more on our spiritual weapons of warfare please see chapter 4 “True Biblical Spiritual Warfare = Indirect Confrontation,” in my book *Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare*. In the same book Chapter 9 “Our Weapons for Spiritual Warfare,” has a full list of our spiritual weapons of warfare.

Even over children pressing the control button on every fault can be detrimental to them instead of helping them. It can limit their

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ability to grow mentally, socially and to discover the world on their own. It can make them fearful, always afraid to express themselves for fear of being corrected and “straightened.” It may also train them to end up being control freaks as well.

The weapons of this world can be useful sometimes and only sometimes. It is worth majoring in our spiritual weapons and minoring in weapons of this world. Not the other way around.

8) Speak with love and empathy. With love means that it does not have to be confrontational verbally. You can even use jokes to get your point across.

With empathy means that you’re understanding that you’re talking to a fellow imperfect human being in this fallen imperfect world. The imperfect human may have weaknesses or faults in areas you may be strong yet you too have your own weaknesses or faults. The weaknesses may even be in areas the other person is strong in.

So no taking specs out of the eyes of others when we have logs jammed in our own eyes to get rid of first. When it’s done with empathy or understanding the words to say become less hypocritical and less from a superiority complex, perfectionism, and control freak. You can even point out that you’re not perfect and for the companionship between the two of you you felt this may be a matter worth addressing.

10. Breaking Generational Curses: God's Traditional & Non-T Ways

What are generational curses?

Chapter 1 defined what curses are. It's advised that you read the foundational chapters to this book before reading this chapter.

Having defined what curses are in Chapter 1 we can speedily define what generational curses are from a true biblical perspective. Generational curses are curses assigned to an individual(s) based on the sins of his/her parents. The person's parents, not himself, are the cause of curses assigned to him/her. A person gets punished for the wrongs of the parents. Such are called generational curses.

Because a child is a "product" of both his/her parents generational curses can come from both parents. This can be the case if each parent has a sin that merits a generational punishment. Generational curses can basically be called generational punishments.

Who's the source of generational curses, i.e. causing generational curses?

Generational curses are not a result of familiar spirits. Some fellow believers preach that familiar spirits are the source of generational curses.

Familiar spirits are discussed in another chapter of this book. How this association with familiar spirits came up among some "deliverance ministries" is very strange. This is because in regard to generational curses it is God who said he'd visit each generation under his curse (Exodus 20:5)

"You shall not bow down to them (idols) or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, **am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers** to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me," Exodus 20:5 (emphasis added).

He said this in the second commandment which forbids idolatry. He did not say he would assign evil spirits from Satan to do the work. The idea of evil spirits bringing generational curses is therefore way off the scriptures. God is therefore the source of generational curses.

No matter which prominent preacher you hear from that is saying evil spirits bring generational curses he/she is speaking in err. Excuse them for being in err on this area and press forward to listen or read other areas where they're in line with scripture.

Who merits generational curses, i.e. who deserves generational curses?

Covered above was the biblical fact that it is God who's the source of generational curses. Since it is God only who can bring generational curses does he assign generational curses on Christians as well? Do Christians merit or deserve generational curses?

The answer is that no Christian can face generational curses for any reason. We have been freed from the curse of the law, through Christ having been made a curse for us.

“Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: ‘Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.’ He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit,” Galatians 3:13-14.

Since Christians do not merit or deserve generational curses this leaves out non-Christians. Do non-Christians merit or deserve generational curses?

The answer is yes – according to the bible. Non-believers may face generational curses because Christ has not yet freed them from the curse of the law. However, even if they may face generational curses the source of such curses is God, not Satan, and neither any demon spirits from his kingdom.

It also means God does not go out on a cursing rampage of assigning generational curses on non-believers for every wrong of their parents. God has sins that merit a generational punishment. It is among these sins that he assigns generational curses or generational punishments.

In Exodus 20:5 he says he punishes the children of parents who hate him: “...punishing the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation **of those who hate me,**” Exodus 20:5 (emphasis added).

The reference to hating God has many dimensions. It's a very broad term that includes walking in sin. We cannot assume that God goes to punish children for every sin parents commit. People would be in serious bondage if this was the case.

Thus the hatred of God must refer to certain sins that parents commit. We can only speculate what these are. However there are some sins that we can confidently say are in line with the scriptures on generational curses. These are sins of idolatry. This is clear because the third commandment that specifies the punishment of generational curses is actually addressing idolatry.

“You shall not bow down to them (idols) or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, **am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the fathers** to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me,” Exodus 20:5 (emphasis added).

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Thus it is fitting that non-believers who have parents that practiced idolatry can be under God's generational curses. Idolatry is one sin we know from the bible that merits generational curses. In our era this form of idolatry is involvement in occult practices.

Needless to say that generational curses are not permanent. God does not ensure every family member faces his punishment regardless of a person's spiritual status. Being under a generational curse is based on grounds of being liable to receiving a generational curse. Thus the solution is removing the legal grounds for receiving a generational curse. As you may know by now the only way to do this is through salvation. This is one of the reasons why it's so important that we pray for family members who may not yet be saved.

Conducting generational prayers to break generational curses is therefore a waste of time. The only solution is to pray for their salvation so that they may come under the covering of Christ.

Salvation enables all their sins to be covered by the blood of Jesus, including any sins of parents that the law may hold them accountable for. "To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen," Revelation 1:5-6.

God's salvation is therefore what enables him to automatically break generational curses. He is the curse breaker, not some "deliverance ministry" preacher or "deliverance ministry" church. Deliverance ministry churches are supposed to lead people to Christ to do the deliverance work, not themselves.

Since it is God who actually brings generational curses we can breathe with a big sigh of relief as Christians. As Christians the whole generational curse topic has no validity. It does not apply to us. Christians cannot suffer from generational curses.

Certain traits and matters among believers may seem like generational curses but this is not scriptural. Such matters are in the context of the fallen nature. Matters of the fallen nature do not constitute generational curses.

Being obsessed with generational issues is also not encouraged in the bible. Scripture cautions us against those who follow endless genealogies. Such only teach false doctrines that try to resurrect the law we were freed from, at least in this capacity. "Command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies," 1 Timothy 1:3-4.

Our defense against traits, experiences and matters that may seem like generational curses is to bring them before God. We "remind" him that through Christ any family curse, parental curse or ancestral curse has been broken. We remind him that any curse against us is undeserving because of Christ having been made a curse on our behalf. We ask for our rightful bread which is his blessing not his curse. We also endeavor to live blameless lives in God's eyes.

Not only do we seek God's deliverance from such matters we also endeavor to understand the matters as much as possible. Having mere assumptions won't do us any good. We'll just be guessing what the causes are and thus applying wrong solutions. One of such wrong assumptions is that the matters constitute generational curses.

A key way of understanding matters that may seem like generational curses is to have a basic understanding of genetics. The next few sections cover on the secular field of genetics and later align the topic with the bible.

The secular academic world on generational issues (genetics)

Even the secular world values the subject of genealogy and genes that it has comprehensive academic study fields: genomics, genetics, genealogy, bioinformatics, genetic engineering and eugenics, among others. These fields can be broadly called generational research fields.

Here is a definition of genomics: "the study of genes and their function. Recent advances in genomics are bringing about a revolution in our understanding of the molecular mechanisms of disease, including the complex interplay of genetic and environmental factors. Genomics is also stimulating the discovery of breakthrough healthcare products by revealing thousands of new biological targets for the development of drugs, and by giving scientists innovative ways to design new drugs, vaccines and DNA diagnostics. Genomics-based therapeutics include 'traditional' small chemical drugs, protein drugs, and potentially gene therapy," Food Standards Agency in UK (FSA).

FSA is the equivalent of the FDA (Food and Drug Administration) in the USA. Other countries have various names for such government departments.

Genomics, genetics, genealogy, bioinformatics and so on can be deemed to have largely pure motives in their academic pursuits. It's the opposite with eugenics.

Wikipedia puts it very well on defining eugenics: "Eugenics is a social philosophy (sometimes labeled a "science", a "movement", or a "pseudoscience") which advocates to improve human hereditary qualities. Proposed means of doing so have included but are not limited to selective breeding, encouragement and discouragement of certain types of reproductive practices, genetic engineering, and, historically, extermination of the designated 'unfit,'" (Wikipedia.com).

So in eugenics human beings decide to play God by choosing which hereditary physical and mental characteristics they want and eliminating those they don't. What are their motives? "To create healthier, more intelligent people, to save society's resources, and lessen human suffering," (Wikipedia.com). What?!?!

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And their motives don't end there! Eugenics was started in 1883 by British scientist Francis Galton and was last century popularized by Hitler and his Nazis. The Nazis embraced eugenics to discourage procreation (breeding, having children) by members who they considered were "unfit" to live in society, either physically, mentally or socially. This includes the racial makeup, thus the ethnic cleansing of the Jews by the Nazis.

Unfortunately eugenics did not end with the Nazis' downfall. Somehow in the USA the idea of selective genetic breeding sounded impressive in political circles. Here's an excerpt from an August 6, 2007 *Time* magazine article:

"Inspired by eugenics, a number of U.S. states passed laws in the early 20th century allowing those presumed to have bad genes to be sterilized by government order. In 1927 the case of Carrie Buck, a young woman in a Virginia home for the feebleminded, reached the Supreme Court. Writing for an 8-1 decision, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. said society could "prevent those who are manifestly unfit from continuing their kind ... Three generations of imbeciles are enough." (Buck's mother and daughter allegedly shared her disability.)

"The Catholic Church condemned sterilization laws in 1930, but the political process backed science, as it was then understood. The mass murder of "unfit" individuals and ethnic groups by the Nazis gave eugenics a black mark that can never be washed off. But the issue marches on; in 2004 a eugenics supporter won the Republican congressional nomination in Tennessee's Eighth District (the GOP disavowed him)," *Time* magazine, August 6, 2007.

Thanks be to God that eugenics is an underground movement today, largely due to public outrage. Other less shocking forms of eugenics however still exist. For instance sperm banks are a product of a need among some for desirable characteristics in children and others a need to have a child (initially not being able to have children).

A sperm bank is an organization that collects and stores sperm for artificial insemination. Individuals or couples can store their own sperm for later use, or can get sperm from donors.

The most interesting topic on those that seek sperm from "donors" is the selectivity of the "donor." It is "donor" in quotes because the person is actually paid these days – usually university students. A lot of information is sought on desirable characteristics of a donor before making a choice.

For instance intelligence is among the key factors. A top university donor may be preferred to one from a less known one. The Harvard Crimson (a Harvard University newspaper) has an interesting article at: TheCrimson.com/article.aspx?ref=508301

A recent development is "egg banks" where eggs by women are frozen for later use (e.g. after menopause) or are "donated" for others to buy – nor-

mally among those unable to have children. The selectivity of desirable characteristics of a donor is the same as in sperm banks.

Is eugenics even at its innocent level as predictable as those that practice it want to? The answer is no. This is partly because there is a vast combination of genes in play – the immediate parents of the child (the egg and sperm sources), the grand parents from each side, etc.

In addition the environmental conditions the child's parents grew up in have a role – their diets, life style (exercise level, level of education, socialization, etc), careers, life experiences, level of exposure to toxins, to pesticides, to pollution (water, air and land), etc. Most importantly it's also because it is God who has the final say on our makeup. Here's a funny story to illustrate this scenario of uncertainty.

An exceptionally intelligent man met this extremely beautiful woman. However they each had their negative areas. The man was super ugly while the woman was super dull (unintelligent). They both liked their tradeoffs and became good friends.

The stunning beauty once told the genius, "If we get married and have children they would be good looking like me and smart like you."

He responded: "What if it's the other way round - they come out as ugly as me and at the same time as dull as you? What would you do if they came out with our negative sides instead?"

Generational issues (genetics) are therefore not as clear-cut as some in genetics would claim. Even in church circles some easily jump of ascribing certain matters as generational issues without a clue of the complexity of genetics. This tells us that there are many out there in the secular world and in the body of Christ marketing their ignorance on a matter that is more complex than their gut feelings. This marketing of ignorance is worse in the body of Christ, particularly in circles where the topic on generational curses receives the most attention.

On the complexity of genetics *Seed Magazine*, in January 2008, published remarkable findings that shaking the field of genetics:

"For nearly 50 years, the central dogma of biology has been that genetic information is contained within DNA and is passed by rote transcription through RNA to make proteins. Tiny changes in the information content of the underlying DNA are what then drive evolution. But this information may not be the sole determinant of biological identity. Indeed, it's becoming clear that we do not even know what 'genetic information' means any more—certainly it's not a simple, linear sequence of biochemical 'characters' that define a gene.

"Even evolution might not be driven solely by the appearance of random mutations in DNA that are inherited by subsequent generations, essentially as Darwin supposed. The central dogma is being eroded, and it now appears as if DNA's cousin, the humble intermediary RNA, plays at least an equal role in genetics and the evolution of the species...

“...The old genetic picture seemed so beautifully simple—indeed, probably too beautiful to be true. It began with the identification by the Austro-Hungarian monk Gregor Mendel of discrete, particle-like units that are responsible for the inheritance of traits from one generation to the next. In Mendel's scheme, you either picked up a trait from one parent or you didn't; there was no blending or averaging from both parents. These units became known as genes, and were found to reside on the chromosomes.

“In 1944 Oswald Avery and his coworkers found that genes are made of DNA. Nine years later (James) Watson and (Francis) Crick discovered that genes encode information as a sequence of the four different chemical building blocks of DNA, strung along the double strands like beads. From this the central dogma was born.

“But we've slowly learned that genetics is not so simple. For one thing, decoding the human genome—the sum total genetic material in the chromosomes—showed that most (98 percent) of our DNA doesn't consist of protein-encoding genes at all. Some of this non-coding DNA comprises regulatory sequences, to which proteins or RNA bind to control gene transcription, ultimately determining which RNA and proteins are produced. Most is a complete mystery,” (*Seed Magazine*, “Redefining Genes,” by Philip Ball, Jan. 14 2008).

The subject on generational issues thus ought to be approached with a lot of humility. Even the bible says we're not to be so preoccupied with it. In its preoccupation many Christians have brought a lot of false teachings on genetics. Many have zero understanding on genetics, yet in their super-spiritual zeal they preach myths (imaginary or make-believe tales) that have neither scriptural nor scientific basis.

“Command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies,” 1 Timothy 1:3-4.

The importance of understanding generational issues (genetics)

Why have I gone this far on this topic about secular genetics, heredity and ancestry? Firstly, it is has been to illustrate that there is enough evidence to show that genetics and heredity have a bearing on our lives – in desirable and undesirable ways. It's not a waste of time having an understanding in this area.

Needless to say that even if generational issues (genetics) have a bearing or role in our lives it does not mean they control our lives and destinies. It is God who controls our lives and destinies. In his sovereign will he allows certain generational characteristics (good and bad) to be part of our makeup. He then uses the mix of these generational characteristics (good and bad) to work to our good and not to work against us.

This is why our walk with God is far more important than our circumstances, makeup, limitations, and so on. As believers we focus on God, the author and finisher of our faith, and not on circumstances around us. “Being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus,” Philippians 1:6.

Secondly and most importantly, covering on secular genetics has been to illustrate that genetics and heredity (generational characteristics) are not a product of Satan. The negative aspects are products of our fallen nature that was corrupted after Adam and Eve sinned.

God placed this corruption or fallen nature on us after the fall or after the Original Sin. Satan only influenced us to fall into a corrupted trap. He didn’t place the fallen nature on us. Neither are there generational spirits working behind scenes to hinder us.

This corruption of our fallen nature takes the form of all kinds of undesirable characteristics (physically, mentally or socially) and in different ways among different people. None of us is perfect physically, mentally or socially no matter the family we may come from. The good characteristics represent our godly side while the undesirable characteristics represent the fallen nature.

Sickness, aging, bad personality traits, limited cognitive abilities, etc, represent our fallen nature. At some point in life, if we live long enough, we get old, weaker, less attractive, less smart, etc. Do we start fighting Satan as these undesirable characteristics begin to set in? Yet aging or senescence is part of the genetic code that’s passed down to us. It is part of the fallen nature that we inherit.

Aging is called a disease among some medical circles. It is a degenerative disease. A degenerative disease is an illness in which the function or structure of the affected tissues or organs changes for the worse over time. Aging is the slowest degenerative disease that starts once we reach full grown stage – in the early to mid twenties. It is an infectious disease in the sense that it is passed down to us from our parents, all born with the fallen Adamic nature.

The most severe disease of aging is called progeria (the longer term is Hutchison-Gilford Progeria Syndrome (HGPS)). It is an extremely rare form of premature aging whereby the victim begins to age at an rapidly accelerated pace. Progeria is noticeable in a child at as early as one year old. Because the aging process happens so quickly progeria victims reach complete old age by around age 13. Most die of age related diseases, particularly cardiovascular diseases, before they are 20 years old.

Progeria is not a genetic disease in the sense that it is caused by inherited undesirable genes from parents. It is therefore not inherited from any parents. It is a genetic disease in the sense that it is caused by an abnormal genetic mutation (change) that arises randomly or spontaneously.

In 2003, genetics researchers in USA found that the likely cause of progeria is mutations in the lamin A (LMNA) gene. They said it is an abnormal

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mutation that is like a single-letter “misspelling” in the genetic code on a single chromosome (see USA TODAY magazine, 4/16/2003).

In 2004 researchers at the University of Hong Kong discovered that mutated lamin A in its “misspelt form” is what disrupted the repairing process in cells. Disruption in the repairing process in cells is what results in accelerated aging. The researchers found that the bodies of progeria humans and mice being studied could not easily repair damaged DNA. This is in contrast to normal humans and mice with healthy cell samples. The bodies of normal humans easily repaired damaged DNA.

Although the academic field has many theories on aging this body repair characteristic says a lot about what takes place as we age. Our bodies become less efficient in repairing themselves from the normal wear and tear in life due to movement, stress, environment, diet, inner activities of our organs and tissue. Please see Senescence.info for more info on aging.

So what do we do about undesirable generational characteristics of our fallen nature? We bring all of them before God to intervene in our lives. Even over aging we ask for strength and health for as long as God keeps us on this earth. With the mind of Christ we also do our part in overcoming the undesirable generational characteristics – whether physical, mental or social characteristics.

On physical characteristics it is not a sin to improve one's looks by seeking physiological adjustments. This is as long as it's not done in extravagance.

Physiological adjustments are more important when it comes to our physical health. It's hard to do God's work with poor health. Thus it's fitting that we do our part in ensuring our physical health is strengthened or maintained. Some in the body of Christ call generational illnesses the physical illnesses that can be traced to any one of our parents or ancestors.

Needless to say that such generational illnesses do evolve and thus we have more control over them than we assume. Above all, we have God on our side. My other book *Major Christian Deliverance Principles: Keys for Self-deliverance and Ministry* has more on physical health areas. In the book please see Chapter 8: “Christian Deliverance and Healing in Physical Health Areas.”

Mental and social generational characteristics come from the same root - mental traits that influence our psychological and cognitive aspects. Psychological aspects encompass our emotional and behavioral features. Cognitive aspects encompass our intellectual features of thinking, reasoning, remembering, imagining, and learning.

From a Christian perspective these are spiritual areas. My other book, *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit: Dealing with Root Causes*, focuses primarily on Christian deliverance and healing in spiritual areas.

God's deliverance: God's traditional & his non-traditional ways

This book if it covered on breaking generational curses alone would have been appropriately titled *Breaking generational curses and Breaking generational issues*. The title doesn't sound that fancy yet it's exactly what we, as Christians, confront in relation to negative generational issues (genetics).

As said earlier God's deliverance from negative generational issues is by no means deliverance from generational curses. Whatever may appear like generational curses in our Christian lives are merely products of our fallen nature from the Original Sin. These negative inherited matters that are part of the fallen nature are what we seek deliverance for.

We ought not ask God to break generational curses in our lives. We're already free from being under generational curses or generational punishments. The very day each of us received salvation God worked to free us from the curse of the law. Through our acceptance of Jesus as our Lord and Savior we were automatically freed from the curse of the law, which includes generational curses. No other special prayer on breaking generational curses was needed to be freed from generational curses.

It is not a sin to ask God to break generational curses even when they're already broken. It's only an expression of ignorance. It's therefore wasted prayer time. It's like asking God for salvation even though a person is already saved (born again) and now a child of God.

The people that breaking generational curses applies to is unbelievers. In breaking generational curses among them we do not conduct generational prayers, generational analysis, and other supposed discernment activities. In God's eyes such activities are meaningless. Remember he's the one that assigns generational curses. So generational curses can only be broken by meeting his conditions.

We pray for their salvation, so that they may be under the covering of Christ. Being under Christ's covering meets God's conditions for breaking generational curses. It is through Christ's work on the cross that we all obtain God's mercy. Jesus served as the most suitable sacrifice for all our sins, including the sins of our parents and ancestors. This is has been said already. I'm just repeating it for emphasis' sake.

For us believers our focus is on negative generational issues or generational characteristics that are part of the fallen nature. We see them in their real sense as matters of the fallen nature, not as generational curses. We see them as generational issues.

In our context as believers we appropriately describe the deliverance from such as breaking generational issues. **Breaking generational curses is for**

non-believers while breaking generational issues is for believers. In both cases it is God who breaks the issues and the curses.

What's important, for us Christians, is therefore to bring before God genetic attributes that are part of the fallen nature and seeking his deliverance. The best news is that our undesirable genetic characteristics are changeable. For us Christians we have even a bigger advantage with God on our side.

This does not necessarily mean he transforms us to have supermodel looks, have super minds, super personalities, etc. He intervenes where necessary in our lives where circumstantial (nurture) factors and genetic (nature) factors hinder us. It's all done in line with his sovereign will and prerogative.

This is the case even after we have asked. He usually gives us the grace or comfort to endure the matters he has not worked out the way we wanted him to. It becomes like with Paul over the thorn in the flesh God chose not to remove. Paul writes about God's response after pleading with him three times:

"He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me," Corinthians 12:9.

So whichever way God does intervene in our lives when we seek him to act on matters that are undesirable to us. The traditional way or the expected way of his intervention is by changing the undesirable matter to a desirable one. The non-traditional way or the unexpected way of his deliverance is him giving us the grace to endure the undesirable matter.

A modern example we can give of God's deliverance in an untraditional way is David Ring. David Ring is quite prominent in USA as a person effectively being used by God in spite of his disabilities. Here is a touching Amazon.com editorial review of his book and autobiography, *Just As I Am*:

"David Ring was born (brain) dead. For eighteen minutes after his delivery, his brain was deprived of oxygen, leaving him with cerebral palsy, a malady that affects his motor skills and speech. He lived the first fourteen years of his life totally dependent on the love and self-sacrifice of his mother. She was his motivation. His cheer-leader. But when she died, he was passed from family member to family member, his confidence shattered and his hopes for the future, dismal.

"That was, until he met Jesus and his life became a dynamic challenge for all who call themselves followers of Jesus Christ. *Just As I Am* tells the story of this enthusiastic man. He has overcome gigantic obstacles, achieved things no one ever deemed possible - all through the grace and mercy of Jesus Christ. His life was changed, and yours can be too.

"People throw away broken things, but God uses them. Don't ask why, ask what can I become. When you ask why, you question God's authority, you become bitter. God loves you, and nothing happens that He does not ordain. At the burning bush God told Moses to put down his stick, but Moses wouldn't put

it down. What is your stick?" (Amazon.com editorial review of his book and autobiography, *Just As I Am* (same book title Billy Graham used for his)).

In his sermon "Why Bad Things Happen to God's People" David Ring says his famous words, "I have cerebral palsy. What's your problem?" He implies that the cerebral palsy that's undesirable and burdensome could have made him to live an unpleasant, unhappy and unfruitful life. However, it's not supposed to be so with God's intervention. There is nothing big enough, other than God himself, to stop a Christian's life.

He says no Christian has any excuse of not being used by God and living a fruitful life for God's glory. God will use anyone. Availability, not ability is his benchmark for using us.

So that was an example of God's deliverance in an untraditional way. But we all primarily desire and expect God's deliverance in a traditional way where he changes the undesirable matter to desirable ones. The truth is that in the basket of needs we present before God throughout our lives he works some out in a traditional way and others in an untraditional way.

All of us have at least one testimony of God's intervention or deliverance in a traditional way. In relation to our topic on genetics and heredity (generational characteristics) both my parents had very low cognitive abilities. My mom who has since passed was a devoted Christian. Dad less so than mom yet a Christian in many respects. God answered their prayers.

One of their offspring God has highly lifted in career circles, one has reached Harvard University, and so on, including over their grandchildren, great grandchildren, etc. We are just a tiny drop in a vast ocean of many that can share such testimonies. Needless to say that university degrees and any earthly advancements do not have a bearing on one's walk with God.

Like with God's deliverance the traditional way, all of us have at least one testimony of God's deliverance in an untraditional way. If it can happen in other areas of life it is fitting to say that God does the same in some areas concerning undesirable generational characteristics.

For instance, in my extended family there are a lot of us that have stubborn and bull-headed personality features. I'm one of them. This has not disappeared since I became a Christian. However, God has given me the grace to recognize when this personality trait is coming out in a negative way. When it hurts or aggravates people around the stubbornness becomes dysfunctional. Stubbornness is also dysfunctional when holding on to false and harmful beliefs or convictions – like the Pharisees.

Thus stubbornness is not evil in its proper context. For instance it's wise to be stubborn when being influenced to do evil. Stubborn people have such willpower that they can die to defend their convictions.

Stubbornness is also not the same things as pride. A stubborn person can be as meek (humble) as a dove, like Stephen at his stoning. He forgave his

wrongdoers. “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ When he had said this, he fell asleep,” Acts 7:60.

One of those wrongdoers was Paul. Stephen prayed for him. We know how effectively God ended up using him.

So far the stubbornness is a “work in progress,” for me that constantly has to be managed to ensure it’s not being used in dysfunctional ways. It’s one of my thorns in the flesh if it comes out in dysfunctional ways. With God’s help it’s been better managed as I grow in allowing him to transform me into his vessel (rather than being my own vessel). Another area that’s a “work in progress” is workaholic behavior.

Thus God has so far delivered me in an untraditional way in the area of stubbornness and work addiction. He keeps providing sufficient grace and strength to deal with these generational personality attributes. Some areas he has brought deliverance in a traditional way while in others in an untraditional way.

To each of us God responds in different ways and areas when we seek him to deliver us from the undesirable generational characteristics. These attributes may be physical, mental or social in nature. And sometimes we have to seek his grace and strength before he steps in to deliver us in a traditional way. God’s grace and strength is basically his deliverance in an untraditional way.

We keep seeking for God’s traditional deliverance until he tells us that we’re to endure some undesirable generational characteristics in an untraditional way. For more info on how to hear from God please read my other book titled, *Hearing the Voice of God and Fulfilling God’s Purpose for Your Life*.

Dead to sin: no room for sinful generational characteristics

It is the sinful undesirable generational characteristics that are not to be given any room into our lives. We’re to be dead to sin (Romans 7:4). Dead to sin means our senses no longer love the sin, wish to live in sin or condone sin.

“No one who is born of God will continue to sin, because God's seed remains in him; he cannot go on sinning, because he has been born of God,” 1 John 3:9.

“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age,” Titus 2:11-12.

Each of us has areas of weakness where we’d fall far much easier than others who’re strong in these areas. Here’s a short list of areas of weakness:

- 1) in dealing with sexual desires (e.g. Samson, David and Solomon)
- 2) an easy money influence (e.g. Judas Iscariot (Matthew 26:15-16)),
- 3) craving for alcohol (e.g. Lot (Genesis 19:30-38)),

- 4) “heartless” personality or lack of empathy for the needy (e.g. the rich man that had no empathy for Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31)).

The list goes on. It can be a whole book. My book, *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit: Dealing with Root Causes*, goes into greater detail on such areas.

Some of these weaknesses may descend from our undesirable genetic or generational characteristics. Such areas of weakness if we repeat them become what some in the body of Christ call generational sins. Generational sins are repeating the sins of any of our parents and ancestors.

Wherever the weaknesses come from whether inherited, through wrong upbringing, or through unpleasant experiences these areas constitute sinful areas when practiced.

They ought not to ever be carried out in our Christian lives since there is no excuse to justify them. In all the four examples above of individuals who had weaknesses in these areas all suffered dearly for it. On untamed sexual desires Samson lost his strength and significance to be used by God. David suffered endless family heartache. Solomon got the bad credit for resulting in a divided Israel (North and South) soon after he died (1 Kings 11:31-33). For many generations the Israelites fought each other.

On the weaknesses of easy money influence Judas Iscariot accepted “thirty silver coins” just to murder Jesus (Matthew 26:15-16).

On the weaknesses of a craving for alcohol Lot did the most disgusting and inhuman things you’d have to read it for yourself (Genesis 19:30-38). It doesn’t end there. He had such a weak will and loose conscience. This is what alcoholism does to most people. It drastically decreases one’s level of conscience, of being able to distinguish between right and wrong.

On the weaknesses of a “heartless” personality or lack of empathy for the needy the heartless rich man went to hell while Lazarus the beggar went to heaven (Luke 16:19-31). The heartless man gained a slice of the world, had a nice time here but lost his soul.

Thus it’s not worth entertaining any areas of weakness that are outright sinful. And God is more than able to ensure we walk uprightly against such areas of weakness. Whenever you feel overpowered by any sinful areas take it to the Lord in earnest prayer.

And more still if you have no health problems it’s worth fasting over the matters. Chapter 4 “Prayer and Fasting: Major Deliverance and Healing Weapon” deals with this spiritual discipline.

It’s not worth allowing our weaknesses to hinder or even abort our destinies – with all that God desires to fulfill in and through each of us. It’s worth doing whatever it takes to ensure we’re not remote controlled by whatever genetic or inherited influences.

10. Breaking Generational Curses: God's Traditional & Non-Traditional Ways

Paul is our great example of a person who victoriously battled the fallen nature. He prevailed over both the genetically inherited weaknesses and inherited weaknesses from the Original sin.

He, like any of us, had his areas that he wrestled with on a constant basis. He admitted he was not perfect and had weaknesses to wrestle with. It is these weaknesses that humbled him, instead of being all puffed up in pride. "Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn? If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness," 2 Corinthians 11:29-30.

At one point Paul lost his battle over the fallen nature and he grieved over it. "I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do... Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it... What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" Romans 7: 15, 20, 24.

This is the person who ascended to the third heaven, received revelations God said were just for his consumption, and a person that God used to write a third of the New Testament! Yet he was still no superman. "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?" Romans 7:24.

Did Paul lose hope? Not according to the verses that follow up. Paul said, "Thanks be to God--through Jesus Christ our Lord... Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus," Romans 7:25; 8:1. Paul fought back by appropriating God's grace available through Christ's work on the cross.

Thus anyone that may experience a fall has plenty of hope - through Jesus Christ our Lord. There is no condemnation for the fall as long as one gets up again. Jesus paid the price for our freedom on the cross. God's grace that is granted to us on the grounds of Christ's work on the cross is available to enable us to get up gain.

More important than getting up is actively guarding against a fall in any area(s) of weakness. Prevention is better than cure. Every fall has its levels of loss and regret, even if we end rising up. The more important the area the bigger the loss and regret.

The "secret" to guarding against any fall is to strive in managing our lives in such a way that we "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to," Luke 13:24. This isn't an easy journey yet is possible with God who provides the grace for it.

The bible says, "Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness ... Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires," 2 Peter 1:2-4.

The Christian life is a challenging call to perseverance and righteous living. Scripture doesn't say it's easy. That's why few make it or desire it. However the bible does say it's possible – through God who provides the grace for it.

It'd be a dishonor to God to make up excuses or to lower the standards because of difficulties of meeting required standards. God is faithful in doing his part of sustaining us as long as we remain faithful in fulfilling our required input.

The bible's prescription for doing our part in guarding against any fall is: "Make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ," 2 Peter 1:5-7.

Here are prescriptions on a more practical level in guarding against any fall:

- 1) Watching vulnerable areas, guarding areas of weakness,
- 2) Employing biblical disciplines such as fasting when overwhelmed by challenges,
- 3) Cultivating intimacy with the Lord – deeper abiding in Christ through Christian disciplines of growing in God's word, obedience, love, charity, prayerfulness, etc.

Having the truth to overcome Satan's lies on generational issues

Ultimately Satan would love to deceive us that some genetic structure in us is so strong or dominant that we're doomed in whatever area - physical health, mental health or social behavior. Don't buy such lies.

Satan works through deception, taking advantage of our weaknesses, temptation (making something sinful look great), and trying to have us assume we're still in chains when God has freed us. His only power is lies. Anything beyond that God has to specifically grant him permission to fulfill it.

So our defense against Satan is not going after him and commanding him to break any generational curses, break generational sins, break generational illnesses, break generational poverty, binding generational spirits, making generational prayers, proclaiming family generational blessings, etc. These are empty, erroneous and harmful religious rituals some have resorted to for lack of knowledge.

Some in prominent circles may have biblical understanding in so many areas yet have little in this area. Gathering some nice scriptures and throwing

them out of context to resolve matters won't generate any results. It's not a lottery or a guessing game.

We're all God's children in the body of Christ yet what we know or don't know will influence our outcomes in this life. That is why it's not worth being stubborn about holding on to teachings that have been found to be in error or misinterpretations of scripture.

Our defense against Satan and against ignorance is therefore in acquiring the appropriate knowledge in the area needing deliverance. The most important way of acquiring the needed knowledge is in seeking God to reveal his truths in the areas we're ignorant. We ask him to give us light so that we do not stumble in darkness or in ignorance.

"The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day. But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble," Proverbs 4:18-19.

We're his children, the redeemed, the righteous through the righteousness of Christ. We're not the wicked or those under condemnation. It's therefore God's desire that we're equipped with appropriate knowledge in the areas needing deliverance.

"Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long," Psalms 25:4-5.

The second most important way of acquiring the needed knowledge is by us doing our part. Each of us has a personal responsibility that God expects us to work on. It's like meeting God halfway – though he does the major part. If we don't work on our expected areas of input God keeps waiting. He's faithful to do his part once we fulfill our expected parts. "If we are faithless, he will remain faithful, for he cannot disown himself," 2 Timothy 2:13.

That is why in Hosea he says, "My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge," Hosea 4:6.

Some of his people, Christ's blood bought and heaven destined people, settle for far too little in their Christian lives. They assume they've "arrived" simply because they regularly attend church, help some in need, say their devotional prayers, listen to Christian music and flip through a few Christian channels a week.

The Christian life in the bible is described as a race, a battle, a journey, a vocation, a discipleship training, and so on. The only time the race ends, the battle ends and so on, is when we die. As long as we're here there's no "arriving."

The only person we know of in the bible that "arrived" is the rich fool. He said to himself: "You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry," Luke 12:19.

The very day he proclaimed his arrival God took his life. “You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?” Luke 12:20.

So there’s no arriving in this life. We keep fighting the good fight of faith, running the race, doing our good Christian vocational work, in being disciples graduating from one level of truth to another, traveling the journey of obedience, patience, forgiveness, faithfulness and love, etc.

Nature (genetics) Vs nurture (environment), and the Christian

Here is another one on our topic of generational curses - undesirable genetic or inherited attributes: there is no consensus in the secular academic world on the power of our genes over our lives –health-wise physically, mentally or socially. The debate continues on what predominantly effects us between our genetic or inherited attributes verses our environmental attributes (type of parental upbringing, types of friends, education, religious beliefs, life experiences, etc).

The genetic attributes constitute the nature factors while the environmental attributes constitute the nurture factors. Advocates of genetic attributes argue that our genetic or nature makeup is so dominant that we’ve little control over our makeup.

On the other hand advocates of environmental attributes argue that our environmental or nurture makeup is the one that is dominant. They argue that our environmental makeup is so powerful it is able to make our genetic makeup to change or evolve over time. They maintain that no genetic makeup stays the same. Our genes evolve and the main driver or stimulus for this genetic evolution is the environmental factors. Our genes evolve through series of mutations adapting to variants best-suited for their environment of interaction. And so on, with Charles Darwin being one of the key architects in such studies.

In the secular academic world both extreme camps are considered right as long as their work is scientific and academically sound. What about for us Christians? Who do we take sides with?

The answer is none. We appreciate their immense contributions to understanding genes, genetics and genealogical matters. Once we’ve learnt from their contributions we sit down and ask what the bible says on such matters? Here’s what it says:

“Command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies,” 1 Timothy 1:3-4.

This is not to discredit or ridicule Christians and sincere people pursuing to help humanity through these noble careers. It is to ensure believers do not

lose their focus on the bible and it's principles. The bible says we ought not to be preoccupied with endless genealogies.

It's okay to study and learn more about genetics and related fields but it's unscriptural to use them to control our lives. If we're preoccupied with it and assume it's the solution to our lives we've lost track of the One who's the solution to our lives. We're considered to be as good as star gazers, palm readers, tarot card readers and so on. They look to the seen things for solutions in life. We're expected not to look at the seen things as our ultimate but to look to God, the unseen God. That is why we're to live by faith.

When we bring in these seen matters whether generational issues, environmental issues, or whatever, as our focus we loose our focus on God. We begin to walk by sight. Walking by sight is loosing faith in God and putting faith in the seen things. Without faith in God we cannot please him, no matter how good our works are.

“Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him,” Hebrews 11:6.

God will reward us for earnestly seeking him. He will overcome all the matters that negatively affect our lives whether based on generational issues, environmental issues, or whatever. He'll bring victory or deliverance in our lives whether through the traditional way or through the non-traditional way.

So fellow believer fear not concerning any generational issues in your life. Fear not over your children. If you're not married be not concerned about the genetics of your future spouse. The bible does not require us to do eugenics before selecting our spouses. Eugenics is walking by faith – at its innocent level. It is a sin at its highest or most corrupted level. Only Christian and other worthwhile compatibility standards ought to be the key determinants for the right spouse.

Above all, know that whatever may appear like generational curses in your life are merely products of our fallen nature from the Original Sin. God does allow our flesh makeup to appear in the nature of our parents and ancestors. That is why we physically look like at least one or more of them. Any undesirable area is not a generational curse. It's just his way of his marvelous creation, setting up each producing its likeness.

Unfortunately his marvelous creation has been corrupted by sin. And that is why we naturally take up this sinful nature as well – physically, mentally and in social behavior. As Christians we have victory over it - whether through God's traditional way or through his non-traditional way of deliverance. For as long as you're God's child you're not under the curse of the law, under any condemnation, nor under any curse in your life.

God controls our lives and destinies. Our lives and destinies are therefore not controlled by our generational issues or our environmental matters. Our role is to fulfill our areas of responsibility and he does the rest. Even over

negative generational characteristics and environmental attributes we've a role to play that enables God to fulfill the rest.

On our expected part in spiritual areas my other book, *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit: Dealing with Root Causes*, focuses primarily on Christian deliverance and healing in spiritual areas.

On our expected part in physical health areas there is more detailed info in my book *Major Christian Deliverance Principles: Keys for Self-deliverance and Ministry*. See Chapter 8 "Christian Deliverance and Healing in Physical Health Areas." You'll learn how taking care of our physical bodies helps us stay healthy and able to fulfill God's work. In relation to generational issues this helps to even alter our genetic makeup in positive ways.

As covered in the secular section on genetics our genes do evolve through series of mutations adapting to variants best-suited for their environment of interaction. Eating well, exercising adequately, including mental exercises of reading, thinking, etc helps in this positive transformation. And a positive transformation is never too late at any age.

This transformation info is not an endorsement of Charles Darwin in this book (Charles Darwin is regarded as the "father" of evolutionary biology and is best known for diminishing the creation story in the bible through his book, *Origin of Species*. Funny enough Darwin never denied the existence of God as some assume he did. It is later scholars who took Darwin to extremes and made his theories anti-Christian. Many occult researchers like John Daniel, author of *Scarlet and the Beast*, say the infiltration of Freemasons in the scientific community is what has mainly led to many anti-Christian theories we have today. Freemasons have worked to infiltrate every area of society, much to the ignorance of many. There is more of such info in my book *Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences*).

It seems worth being clear about this issue because some may misunderstand the information being shared. I have selected scientific facts that are well documented and do not undermine or contradict the scriptures. As said many times there is nothing wrong or sinful about the secular academic world in its non-infiltrated context. It's matters that contradict or undermine the bible that are no, no for us.

If disciplines from the secular academic world were evil then all of us Christians need to go back to the Stone Age type of living. The only thing worth returning to in the Stone Age era is our diet and eating habits. Their diet consisted of whole natural foods, free from genetic modifications, unhealthy preservatives, unhealthy flavor or taste enhancers (like monosodium glutamate (MSG)), other food additives (like coloring and sweeteners), commercial production chemicals (like pesticides), you name it.

Conclusion

It is sincerely hoped that this area on dealing with generational curses has been dealt with comprehensively. There is much misinformation and false teachings out there that it's been a calling to clear all the misconceptions, concerns and fears on generational issues.

11. Deliverance from Unforgiveness Curses through Overcoming it

Overcoming unforgiveness God's way & breaking unforgiveness curses

In the body of Christ we call them unforgiveness curses merely because of the problems that result from unforgiveness related matters. Once the matter bringing unforgiveness is dealt with the problems associated with it end. God lifts the penalty for the unforgiveness. God deals with the effects of unforgiveness when a person proceeds to deal with the causes of unforgiveness.

Could there be someone that hurt you in whatever way that you are failing to forgive?

Forgiveness does not mean becoming best friends with the person even though this would be quite a testimony. It implies letting go of all his/her wrongs and wishing him God's mercy rather than wrath. God may punish him/her but you have no role to play on the negative side.

"Do not repay anyone evil for evil... Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: "It is mine to avenge; I will repay," says the Lord. On the contrary: "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head." Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good," Romans 12:17,19-21.

This is easier said than done. So how does one actually apply this biblical concept of forgive and forget?

The primary way is through prayer. Praying for the person begins the inner healing process from all the hurt and enables you to take the heart of Christ over the matters. It is impossible or at least extremely difficult to detest or harbor ill feelings towards a person and pray for him/her at the same time.

The early stages of attempting to pray for the person may be very trying. It can be like trying to learn a new language on your own. That language is the language of forgiveness. We only learn it by applying it. We also have a helper, the Holy Spirit, as we allow him to teach us this language.

During the period when it's hard to pray for the transgressor it is worth remembering that forgiving the person will benefit us more than the person. This is what's often called informed self-interest. The individual is aware that something is working to his/her best interest.

Forgiving is to our best interest because God said he can only forgive us only when we forgive others. We need God's constant flow of grace in our lives

to have any peace, joy and inner health. And this depends on what we have or don't have against others. "Forgive, and you will be forgiven," Luke 6:37.

"When you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins," Mark 11:25.

As you labor to pray for God's mercy upon the person God begins his work of bringing the peace and inner health to you. Praying for the person is working to your best interest.

Even health-wise researchers have found that harboring feelings of resentment and unforgiveness results in an increase in stress hormones and blood pressure. Stress hormones compromise our immune system. A lower or compromised immune system increases the susceptibility to mental and physical diseases, including coronary heart disease, depression, infectious diseases, etc. MedicalNewsToday.com has lots of info on this topic.

Also remember that forgiveness of the person does not automatically translate to the person being forgiven by God. The person has to recognize his/her wrong and seek God's mercy on his own. And worse still forgiveness does not mean God now condones the wrong the other person did. This later part is actually the main area that stops people from forgiving.

They assume by forgiving the person they imply that what the person did is now considered tolerable or acceptable in God's eyes. The sin that the person did is abominable in God's eyes no matter how much he forgives the person. And sometimes God allows the person to experience a worse off wrong, even if his sins have been wiped out from God's black book.

Thus forgiving a person does not render the person's deeds tolerable or acceptable in God's eyes, nor in the eyes of fellow beings. Forgiving works to free you from holding bitterness, anger, unforgiveness, hate, vengeance, and so on, towards the person. You receive God's heart of love. And the biggest avenue to receive the healing and God's heart of love is through praying for the person. Praying for the person will make it impossible to hate or have bitterness towards person. Love and hate, as said earlier, do not coexist.

Your role is to ask God to open the person's eyes to truly see his/her faults so that he/she can repent and obtain forgiveness from God. The person may not need to meet with you or you going to express your forgiveness. It's the place he/she occupies in your heart that matters. He/she needs to move out of the area that holds the negatives of unforgiveness, vengeance, and so on, into the area that overlooks all the past wrongs.

You also search for something that shows that although evil came your way God ultimately brought good out of it. This enables you to say like Joseph, "You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good," Genesis 50:20.

If nothing good can yet be associated with the harm please trust God to bring good out of it. It's difficult to figure out how he will but this is where God does things in such an awesome way beyond our understanding.

11. Deliverance from Unforgiveness Curses through Overcoming Unforgiveness

Tears may flow at a mere reflection of the harm but trust him to ultimately bring good out of it. Then move on to doing your part by forgiving. There is a forgiveness prayer that may have some worthwhile scriptural points in my book *Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare*. It's in Chapter 10 "Christian Persecution –A Deliverance Exception." Though it primarily relates to persecution it still has scriptural points one may learn in praying for those who attempt or bring harm against us.

By not forgiving one may face a prison experience similar to the servant who refused to forgive his fellow servant (Matthew 18:26-34). Jesus ended the parable by saying "This is how my heavenly Father will treat each of you unless you forgive your brother from your heart," Matthew 18:35.

God does the sentence, not Satan. The prison experience may be spiritual, social, material, physical or whatever combination. It certainly brings unanswered prayer since the one not forgiving is still serving hard labor.

The prison sentence ends when he chooses to forgive. Forgiveness can be referred to as "informed self interest." It is doing something for someone in exchange for a favor. In this case the favor comes from God when forgiveness is applied.

12. Deliverance from Family Curses: Breaking Family Curses

Breaking family curses

What are family curses? By family curses here we, in Christianity, mean curses that come through serious family conflicts. The topic has nothing to do with generational curses. By severe family conflicts we mean conflicts that result in unpleasant words being pronounced against a family member and both or one of them holding bitterness against another.

Severe family conflicts without any reconciliation result in distressing experiences among those not willing to settle scores. The trauma that results may be spiritual, social, physical, material or any combination. This may seem like a contradiction after confirming that undeserved curses are powerless. However the area of family politics seems to be a biblical exception.

There is something about family issues, especially between parents and children. Family politics can make or break the course of the lives of children. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother’--which is the first commandment with a promise—“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth,” Ephesians 6:1-3.

Notice that the commandment has a promise—“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” The promise is hindered or goes unfulfilled when serious conflicts come in between the parent(s) and a child.

The passage that follows talks about parents’ input to their children. “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord,” Ephesians 6:4.

From here we realize that it’s a two way street. If parents treat their children well the children are likely to treat them with honor. There is no single formula of ensuring a two way healthy relationship but it can take so much work, prayer, occasional mistakes, differences, breaking and making up. In the final outcome making up must win to ensure that it “may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Parents have immense biblical authority to influence the destiny of their children for better or for worse. Their words are not mere words. They carry with them the power to bless or to curse -socially, spiritually, materially or physically. Children don’t have this privilege over their parents. Their words are mere words. Their privilege lies in continuing the family lineage

In case a parent uttered cursing words against you or someone you love and channels of reconciliation are still closed please continue praying for God to

open them up. It may require sessions of prayer and fasting for God to break the spiritual strongholds over emotions, memories and thoughts that are blocking the way. Like any relationship there is no single formula to reaching a breakthrough. Entrusting it to God will enable him to work in their hearts and minds.

He may also create matters and events that can facilitate healing and reconciliation. There is no requirement to bind and loose demons in any way. Some resort to binding and loosing spirits they categorize as spirits of division, spirits of unforgiveness, spirits of rebellion, spirits of disrespect, spirits of divorce and so on. It ends up being a ritual of inviting more demonic attacks.

The bottom line is that you or anyone you're burdened for would like to close any doors that may provide legal access for problems that come through parent-child conflicts. But you need to follow prescriptions that are in line with scripture, regardless of the urgency. No short-cuts to deliverance, unless endorsed by the bible. Commit more days of prayer and fasting if possible. Fasting brings amazing breakthroughs. Walk in love, mercy, charity, read more on biblical deliverance on family matters, etc.

Any one in courtship with someone who has scores to settle with parents is better off waiting and praying for the conflict to be settled before getting into a marriage. Without the conflict settled you could have a rough road ahead. Consolidating such areas is an asset for a strong foundation against life's storms.

Another area that can bring family related curses is when one side of parents refuse to approve a marriage partner of their child. For example some multiracial relationships end up in major problems and eventual separation not because of supposed cultural differences. Many of us have more than one racial descent, however long ago, so at least no one has room to assume there's any bias against interracial relationships. The bias is against parental bullying to the extent of disregarding personal interests of the children.

Many of the major problems in multiracial relationships, if they arise, come from one or both sides of the marriage not approving the relationship. These lead to words said directly or in the absence of the children that curse the relationship. Tensions grow from the parent(s) disapproving with a determination to see the relationship fail. For such reasons I wish God never gave parents such influence that can bless or curse their children. But he is God. We will some day know why he has made this set-up, giving our parents some god-like powers.

In a non-racial or ethnic example a minister and his fiancée went ahead and got married when the parents to his wife strongly disapproved. This is a man after God's heart, serving in front-line ministry. But even this could not help save their marriage when the parents continued their disapproval. To some extent he and his wife did not see it as a major area of concern and probably devoted less prayer to it.

For anyone already in a marriage with some form of family tension identify your area of prayer and let God fight your battles. Many couples have

12. Deliverance from Family Curses: Breaking Family Curses

prevailed whether from a disapproved marriage or one partner having personal conflict with a parent.

God has now joined you together. Let no man or woman pull you apart because of some spiritual influence God gave them which they're misusing to curse instead of bless. But devote much prayer to it (and occasional fasting) so that reconciliation, healing and approval wins the day.

The following principles define the nature of family politics and how it needs to remain a work of team effort rather than one of personal interests.

1) It's all about the team, not one team player or one special group trying to win a game on their own.

2) It's God who chooses our team members. How we deal with them depends on each one of us and determines our individual and overall success. The team God picks he also equips it for as long as it remains dependent on him.

3) Parents remain team captains over their children regardless of the children's age and status. If they refuse to participate in or approve a particular game God also opts out. Sure defeat follows if the children stubbornly try to pursue matters objected by parents.

The only way is to peacefully or skillfully resolve the areas of conflict until their approval is secured. Most times all they need is to receive some respect and consideration. After that they're usually willing to tolerate conflicting agendas.

4) Parents may be completely wrong on particular matters concerning their team members. This does not nullify their biblical authority nor justify dishonoring them. All who tried to resolve matters this way failed miserably in one area of their lives or another.

Some are very famous or powerful yet live in pain and a tormenting hell they can easily avoid. The only way to resolve the mistakes of parents is to skillfully and respectfully show the wrongs until they consent to the errors.

5) The obligation to honor and support our parents doesn't depend on their level of contribution to our lives. Most times it's through no fault of their own. Even when it was is no justification. Denial of their due biblical honor and reward only result in curses in a child's life, in one area or another.

6) There's not enough room for competition in a team. When competition comes in team unity and cooperation go out.

7) Team players may make mistakes but none deserves to be expelled or disqualified. Skillful disciplinary action may be required. Expulsion is not, since it exposes the member to thoughts of rejection, inferiority and worthlessness. This can result into many long-term problems for the individual.

8) The make up of the team is always unequal. Some members may be extremely helpful to the team, doing most of the good work. It's more of a privilege than a burden to be a key player.

Others may be average performers -socially, spiritually, materially or physically. Others may be "free riders" not willing to put in much and caring

less. Some may even be liabilities, draining resources from the team -socially, spiritually or materially.

Other liabilities include those who assume it's about themselves, their needs and desires that matter most not those of everybody else in the team. It's understandable for the early 20s and below but can be a nightmare for those older. Skillfully dealing with such a wired set-up can be a challenge particularly for those doing a lot of the work.

However there's no other alternative since the blessings only come through remaining united. Helping the most irrelevant or problematic member may also turn out to be the most rewarding sacrifice for the team.

9) Nearly each team member has one area or another that can be a topic of ridicule and condemnation from others. Learning to prayerfully and skillfully deal with these areas keeps the team united. Some may have the negative areas due to willful sin thus "deserving" it.

Others may be going through a trial of faith or a moment of crushing. Some may not be as intelligent, as strong or privileged and thus more prone to problems -socially, spiritually, materially or physically. For others God may for a special purpose allow a blinding deception from hell to stubbornly pursue ventures others know are foolish and destructive.

Skillfully and prayerfully dealing with such problems overcomes them faster than constant conflict which serves to increase division.

10) Parents have immense biblical authority to influence the destiny of their children for better or for worse. Their words are not mere words. They carry with them the power to bless or to curse -socially, spiritually, materially or physically. "The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit," Proverbs 18:21.

Children don't have this privilege and influence over their parents. Their words are mere words. Their privilege lies in continuing the family lineage. It doesn't do parents any good in the long run to see their children living miserable lives. The children will also be hindered from effectively fulfilling their obligations of being helpers to the parents as they age.

Avoiding the negatives comes through divine wisdom, prayers, skillful diplomacy and words of blessing that break any cycle of curses any child may experience.

13. Familiar Spirits: Eliminating Myths from a Biblical Perspective

Misunderstanding on familiar spirits. What are familiar spirits?

What are familiar spirits? There is misunderstanding among some fellow Christians on what familiar spirits are, as defined in the Bible. Some assume familiar spirits are evil spirits that are familiar with a person's ancestral past. They use their familiarity to bring the same curses and problems that a person's parents or ancestors encountered. In other words familiar spirits are carriers of generational curses, passing the same afflictions from one generation to another.

However the bible's version is far from this. *Bamford's Bible Dictionary* says the term familiar spirits applies to the practice of communicating with the spirits of the dead.

As *Easton's Bible Dictionary* says, the practice involved sorcerers, mediums or necromancers, who professed to call up the dead to answer questions. These individuals were said to have a "familiar spirit" of another dead person.

In actual fact the different voice that came out of a person claiming to call the dead was not that of a dead person but that of a demon spirit. Any apparition was also the work of demons. A demon spirit can fake the voice or image of a dead person.

That is why God strictly forbade this heathen practice among the Israelites (Leviticus 19:31). The consequences God said would result in defilement and excommunication from the community (Leviticus 20:6, Deuteronomy 18:10-13). The one acting as a vessel or medium for a familiar spirit to talk through was to be stoned to death (Leviticus 20:27). That was the heavy hand of the law in the Old Testament (Old Covenant).

Saul, the first king of Israel tried it (1 Samuel 28v3-25). He went to a sorcerer to call up dead prophet Samuel for some urgent advice. Sure enough Samuel appeared, though it was a demon spirit.

This finalized Saul's fate. He was cut off from Israel as the Philistines came against Israel with many casualties, including Saul and his sons. He actually requested to be struck dead after being severely wounded. He and his sons' bodies were later burned by their enemies (1 Samuel 31). Not a good ending for a person with such royalty and anointing as king.

The term "familiar spirits" therefore has to be applied only in its biblical context for it to make any scriptural sense. In case anyone was involved in the practice of seeking the dead there is hope in the New Covenant. You or anyone

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involved in any other occult practices will not be cut off from God's blessing if you have repented of the practice.

My other book has a chapter on required principles for biblical deliverance and healing from occult practices. The book is titled *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit: Dealing with Root Causes*.

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About the Author



Dr. Eric Isaiah Gondwe is the founder of Jesus Work Ministry, a primarily online based Christian resource and outreach ministry. The main website is at JesusWorkMinistry.com. He is a born again and ordained evangelical pastor.

For many serving in the body of Christ the calling comes in unexpected ways and sometimes in unexpected areas as well. In his case the unexpected was serving in deliverance ministry.

Deliverance ministry is an area of ministry that abounds with harmful demon-centered teachings. Such teachings that are obsessed with demons are due to misinterpreted scriptures - mostly unintentionally.

This is the opposite with Christ-centered principles on deliverance. Their focus is on God and Christ's redemptive work on the cross. Gondwe is among evangelicals upholding the Christ-centered principles that have triumphed over evil throughout church history—over 2000 years.

His books include the following. (Please check online for latest updates, including audio material, at JesusWorkMinistry.com/EricGondwe):

1. *Breaking Curses, Including Generational Curses*
2. *Breaking Spiritual Strongholds and Healing the Wounded Spirit*
3. *Hearing the Voice of God and Fulfilling God's Purpose for Your Life*
4. *Major Spiritual Warfare Principles: Biblical Do's and Don'ts of Warfare*
5. *Breaking Occult Spells: Protection from Witchcraft and Occult Influences*
6. *Bible Powered Prayer Guide: Guide for Applying Scriptures to Daily Prayers*
7. *Major Christian Deliverance Principles: Keys for Self-deliverance and Ministry*

From the secular academic world Eric Gondwe has an undergraduate degree in mass communication, print media concentration, from University of Zambia (Lusaka, Zambia).

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