

"CLAIM DIVINE RIGHTS & RESIST THE DEVIL"

The First Century Gospel Church

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When a person decides and makes their choice to live a true Christian life or makes an attempt to believe and obey God's Word in a true Bible way, then Satan will use every- thing from his arsenal against them, to hinder and cause defeat in their Christian life.

Apostle Paul told us (Ephes.6:12) "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the 'rulers of the darkness' of this age, against 'spiritual hosts of wickedness' in the heavenly places"

The fact is, that Satan controls people through their thoughts, and attitudes in their heart (except for true Christians under guidance of the Holy Spirit.) However, people in general do not know, this because Satan always works under cover, keeping his power, presence, and control hidden from view. He always hides his identity, by getting people to put the blame for their troubles on some human reason, excuse, or symptom, instead of blaming the devil. It is like putting up a screen for the devil to hide behind. The fact remains, nevertheless, that Satan is the power controlling the individual mind in the 'sons of disobedience'

The apostle Paul explained Satan's role in the minds of most people of the world, saying (Ephes.2:2) "in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the 'prince of the power of the air', the spirit who now works in the 'sons of disobedience'."

Apostle John explained (regarding true Christians who are reborn of the Spirit of God), saying (1 John 5:18-19) "We know that whoever is born of God does not sin; but he who has been born of God keeps himself, and the wicked one does not touch him. We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway (control) of the 'wicked one'."

And, Jesus, told his disciples (just before He was to be crucified) (John 14:30) "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming, and he has nothing in Me." [Jesus said that He would no longer talk much with them, however, He did promise that the Holy Spirit would be sent to take His place and dwelt within (to inspire us from within). So we must recognize that fact that we can rely on the Holy Spirit to reveal where Satan is hiding, and enable us to resist his power and claim our divine rights.]

Apostle Paul related about how God told him that He would deliver him (Acts 26:17-18) "I will deliver you from the Jewish people, as well as from the Gentiles, to whom I now send you, to 'open their eyes', in order to turn them from 'darkness to light', and from the 'power of Satan' to "God" that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who are sanctified by faith in Me."

God was telling Paul that the devil has power to control people, but, that the Holy Spirit would open the eyes of a Christian who has truly surrendered to God to do His will in their life, and enable them to stand against the "spiritual hosts of wickedness",... "who works in the 'sons of disobedience'."

Satan (the prince of this world), is permitted to use everything (over which he has any power), to annoy, disturb, and lead us into temptation (just to see how we will meet it),... and whether or not we will take a step forward in the development of our Christian character(or will we take two steps backward). God permits these things to take place, because He wants every genuine child of His to acquire something far better than gold (by successfully meeting and resisting every compromising temptation according to His will and plan), and ultimately acquire everything in our life by faith on God's Word. (Hebrews 10:38-39 both reminds and admonishes us) "But the righteous will live by faith. And if he shrinks back I will not be pleased with him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who believe and are saved."

It is our responsibility as a Christian to resist Satan and claim our 'divine rights' that Jesus Christ died on the Cross to provide for us,... and not fall to the devil's temptations).

It seems that many times we do not recognize the facts as we should, that it is the power of Satan in back of a lot of things that are said and done toward us,.. however, if we did recognize that, it would be a great factor toward our deliverance from being persecuted. Until we do recognize this fact, our hope of getting deliverance will be very much hindered. Satan must be located, exposed, and gotten rid of via God's direction. The moment we put our finger on the devil (and anything he is robbing us of or tormenting us with), he will have to flee from us. Satan works under cover and will continue to do so, until we trust God to reveal Satan's hiding place and have him removed from our life.

In the matter of sickness or diseases, Satan is not always recognized. We often may be tempted to accept the world's idea that sickness has some natural cause, instead of accepting the Bible teaching which clearly tells us that all sickness and disease is a direct and personal attack of the devil. (Acts 10:38) the apostle Peter explained plainly that Satan is the author of all sickness and disease. He told of "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, Who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."

We have that same teaching in the Old Testament (and it was given to people at an earliest of instances of spiritual light being shown for people to recognize). When Job was afflicted, Bible Scripture tells us (Job 2:7) "Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head." (God's inspired Word puts the blame for sickness and disease directly on the devil, so we have no excuse to accept the

world's idea that sickness has a natural cause. If we do that, we are setting up a screen that allows the devil to stay hidden and continue to torment us).

[Job's wife wanted him to curse God for afflicting him with the pain and suffering from boils on his body, but Job refused to do that. When Job was willing to admit Satan's hidden presence in his life, and to confess his outward righteousness, self-pride, unbelief, and lack of faith,.. the spiritual cause was removed, and God gave him physical healing and every rich and wonderful blessing in his life. That hidden self-righteousness had almost cost Job his life. However, after God used Elihu to explain to Job that he was only hanging on by a thread, and a step away from the Lake of Fire, he was willing to admit his faults and disobedience to God. God's Holy Spirit then enabled Job to resist Satan, and to claim his divine right for healing from God (as the same Holy Spirit will do for us when we are willing to repent of Satan's hidden presence, and of our disobedience and unwillingness to accept the Truth about God's Word and Promises in our life.]

Because of the Israelite's disobedience regarding wrong fellowship and evil association with the Moabites (and their 'lack of faith' to trust God without compromising on issues in their life), they soon fell to Satan's temptations. Their own choices to disobey God, and their unfaithfulness resulted in them resorting to wrong 'places of trust', self-efforts, pride, rebellion, and immorality (which brought the 'wrath of God' upon them, and caused Him to forsake them).

Even more serious was the fact that it effectively shut out the Holy Spirit from their life, and therefore, a true understanding of God's Word, and it hindered His power from working for them. Having lost all understanding of God's Word, the Israelites also lost all 'faith' in God, so He could not help them because of their unbelief. (We must flee from temptation, and surely cannot afford to provide temptations for ourselves, while foolishly thinking that we can resist Satan in our own strength. Rather, we must allow God to inspire within us,.. a repentant 'heart' that is willing to obey and follow a righteous pathway, and for God to make us worthy of Eternal Life. (Matt. 5:8) "Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God."

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians they must examine themselves on this 'one vital point' (2 Cor.13:5) "Test your-selves (he said) to discover whether you are true believers: put your own selves under examination. Or do you not know that Jesus Christ is within you, unless you are insincere?" (Thus, we are told that God is patiently waiting for each one of us to Resist Satan, sincerely repent, and 'Claim our Divine Atonement Rights' in Christ Jesus.

We can consider the woman in the synagogue that Jesus healed (mentioned in Luke 13:14). Jesus said that she had been bound by Satan. After He healed her, the ruler of the synagogue became indignant that anyone should do that work of a Sabbath Day. He told the people "there are six days in which men ought to work; in them, therefore, come and be healed, and not on the Sabbath Day.

Jesus turned and classified him for the first time, as He said to him, . . . "thou hypocrite, does not each one of you on the Sabbath, loose his ox or donkey from the stall and lead him away for watering?"

(That is only a dumb animal which was lawfully bound for five or six hours, but then led away to relieve its thirst). Jesus then continued; "and ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound for these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on a Sabbath Say?"

In saying that, Jesus exposed Satan as being the author and cause of that woman's sickness (or infirmity). When we also discover (and realize) this fact that Satan is the author and cause of all sickness etc., our victory is half won (when we then claim our divine Atonement right for healing), because Satan will flee quickly once he is exposed. Peter told us this when he said, "Resist the devil and he will flee from you."

[That is because we have put the devil up against God's Word (of which every Promise is confirmed by Jesus' shed Blood), and we are told that through His death and resurrection to Life, Jesus conquered the devil and rendered him powerless (Hebr.2:14, Rev. 1:18).

With all of us in our 'spiritual lives', it is the same as the apostle Paul explained, of how Jesus has completely delivered us from Satan's power 'spiritually', saying, (Rom. 6:6-12) "This we know—that our old self was nailed to the cross with Him, in order that our sinful nature might be deprived of its power, so that we should no longer be the slaves of sin; for he who has paid the penalty of death stands absolved from his sin. But, seeing that we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him; because we know that Christ, having come back to life, is no longer liable to die. Death has no longer any power over Him. For by the death which He died He became, once for all, dead in relation to sin; but by the life which He now lives He is alive in relation to God. In the same way you also must regard yourselves as dead in relation to sin, but as alive in relation to God, because you are in Christ Jesus. Let not Sin therefore reign as king in your mortal bodies, causing you to be in subjection to their cravings;"

Therefore, it is on the authority of God's inspired Word, that we are to reckon (see & regard) ourselves as free, and dead indeed to sin, which means that we are completely free from the devil's power. We are instructed to claim our freedom, and to refuse to have the devil's torments and temptations, . . . which cause us to fall, and then drag us back into sin.

Whatever circumstance (temptation) we may find ourselves in, we do not have to withstand it for one moment, because God has made ample provision for our deliverance (in that we see ourselves as having 'died with Christ' in His death, and as having been 'raised to life' as a 'new person' via His 'resurrection to Life.

It is much the same as Zechariah said, when John the Baptist was born (Luke 1:71), "That we should be saved from our enemies And from

the hand of all who hate us", (vs. 74-75)"To grant us that we, Being delivered from the hand of our enemies, Might serve Him without fear, In holiness and righteousness before Him all the days of our life."

If we are being oppressed and/or tormented by the devil in any part of our life, there is only one reason for that; that is because we have given the devil our consent (whether consciously or sub-consciously), instead of claiming our 'Atonement right in Christ'. The moment that we withdraw our consent, the devil will have to flee from us, because he cannot stand against the power of Jesus' Blood (that we claim in faith to watch over and protect us).

We must not give our consent to be tormented by Satan, just as we cannot be sold an article of merchandise if we do not consent to buy that item. As long as we refuse and say 'NO', it cannot be sold to us, ... and in the same way the Blood of Jesus Christ has given us the same right to refuse to accept or have Satan's lies, burdens, sickness, disease, and poverty, as well as any other of his blockades to our Blood-bought right to have God's 'Promised Peace'.

Just as the laws of this country assure us that we have the right to say 'NO' and not consent to something being taken from us, so we should see and understand the same in divine things. Through the Blood of Jesus Christ, we have a prerogative of saying 'NO', when Satan tries to rob us of our 'divine rights'.

If Satan should happen to get in through our neglect of watchfulness and prayer, he cannot remain a moment longer than we allow him. So when we resist Satan (in steadfast faith) and say 'NO', to him, then God in His power and with all of His resources will begin to work for us immediately, not only to deliver us from spiritual torment, but also deliver us out of whatever trouble we may be in. God will restore and protect our rights in Christ, when we refuse to consent to allow Satan to rob us of them.

To use another worldly illustration (the late Pastor said), "suppose the company where you work had discharged your co-worker of his duties as your foreman, then you would not be allowed to take orders from him any longer, because he was shorn of that power. But if you still consented to take orders from him, you would be giving that duty and power back to him, and it would be your own fault.

In much the same way, the Scriptures tell us that God has discharged Satan, and that his power over us is gone. The work on the Cross of Christ has made Satan a helpless, paralyzed, powerless foe, and he has no business placing any suggestions or thoughts in our mind, nor to put any of his oppression upon us spiritually, physically, financially, hinder peace in our home, or elsewhere. He (Satan) has been made a conquered foe.

The writer to the Hebrews explained that for us (Hebr.2:14-15) "Since then the children referred to are all alike sharers in perishable human nature, He Himself also, in the same way, took on Him a share of it, in order that through death He might render powerless him who had authority over death, that is, the Devil, and might set at

liberty all those who through fear of death had been subject to lifelong slavery." (Satan is indeed a conquered and powerless foe).

When the seventy disciples came back from the missionary tour on which Jesus had sent them, they said, "Lord, even the devils are subject to us through Thy Name." Jesus replied, I beheld Satan as a 'lightning fall' from heaven." (meaning, rendered powerless as a star which falls from Heaven to earth). (vs.19) "behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

That was a divine order given by Jesus Christ, Himself, ... a decree given to the Church by Jesus, that we are not to be hurt by the devil or anything else that belongs to him; we are indeed, exempt from all the harm of the 'evil one'.

Isaiah 53 gives us a summary of those exemption rights, "Surely he hath born our griefs, and carried our sorrows, ... the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed."

When God came down to deliver the children of Israel out of Egypt, he put a dreadful pestilence on the land of Egypt. Scripture tells us however, "but against any of the 'children of Israel shall not a dog move his tongue against man or beast. That ye may know how that the Lord doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel."

When we see the significance of that passage of Scripture and understand the meaning of the Lamb of God's Blood, and that it has indeed exempted us from Satan's power, we will then realize that we have often lived far beneath our Atonement privileges, and that we have not claimed our Blood-bought rights of perfect victory through Christ Jesus. We will realize that we have tolerated torment from Satan spiritually, allowed him to oppress us physically, blockade us financially, and disturb the peace in our home, many times. We have (consciously or unconsciously) given the devil permission to do that. God said, "when I see the Blood I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you".

In Jesus' last message to his disciples before He was crucified, he said, "when He (the Holy Spirit) is come, He will convict the world in respect of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." (John 16:8-11), ... (through the work of Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross), (and must keep his hands off every-thing that pertains to a 'child of God')

We are wholly exempt from every evil thing he would try to put upon us. So, as we obey God's Word which tells us to 'give no place to the devil' (leave no room for him), as we claim our Blood-bought 'exemption rights' of perfect victory and deliverance, and we refuse to have the devil oppress, rob, or torment us, we will prove for ourselves that Satan really is a conquered and paralyzed foe, as we claim the protective covering of Jesus' Blood. As a result, we will enter into all the blessings that Jesus freely provided for us on Calvary's Cross.

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