

BLAME THE REAL SOURCE (ALWAYS SATAN)

S308R 0426 23W

When the blame for a problem is put on the real source of the trouble; the solution comes next. Satan is working out his game plan and strategy against us every day, by suggesting things to our mind, and his identity can be hidden as he approaches as an angel of light.

Whatever will work to defeat us he will always try use to destroy us, that is any and every distraction of the world around us, of which the deceitfulness of money is always one of the main temptations that he will distract a person away from the Truth of God's Word. Satan has the ability to steal the Word from our heart, and to instead, sow his seed of lies (John 10:10) "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.*" If we even passively allow the devil to do this to us, we will be robbed of God's many blessings. We must be on our guard every day and watch and pray ahead each day as Jesus taught us to pray daily "*bring us not into temptation, but rescue us from the evil one*", (that is because every day we enter serious conflict with the devil).

Satan is the one who blocks financial blessings from flowing in to us when needed. If we realize and know that from God's Word, we will resist and insist on having our victory over Satan's power to block *from us* what God wants and is waiting to give *to us*. When we call in the Name of Jesus the devil must flee. (James 4:7) "Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you." (God will be faithful to provide what we need, as we need it).

We are human, so Jesus (Himself) took on humanity (Hebrews 2:14) "That through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil." We can be delivered and free from poverty when we call on God's Promises (because that is what God's Word tells us). We only have to believe on and claim those Promises by faith!

Satan is defeated and a paralyzed foe (through the work of Jesus Christ on the Cross at Calvary), so he has no right to disturb our peace in regard to money matters or any other problem (when we, in faith, turn that matter over to God). It is also the devil who puts wrong desires in our heart to tempt us; or he oppresses us in body; or causes conflict in our home; or disturbances at workplaces; or, he tries to take away our peace of mind, if we are not on our guard and always ready to call on God and the power of Jesus' Blood and power of His resurrection to Life, which defeated Satan's power forever. Jesus told His disciples (Luke 10:18-19) "*I beheld Satan as 'lightning fall from heaven'. 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.*"

When we make our choice by faith, and a decision that Satan is done because of Jesus' work on the Cross and His resurrection to Life, then our life is made new and our personality changes (via the inward work of the promised Holy Spirit for Believers). (John 14:16-17) "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth,' whom 'the world' cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

Bible examples verify that inward work of the Holy Spirit and a change of heart for people. Mary Magdalene was possessed with seven devils. Most everyone who knew her probably tried to control her or to help her in some way. And she would have been shunned by many others who would want nothing to do with her. But, she came to Jesus during a meal, and showed a great love and respect by washing His feet and drying them with her hair.

Many of those in the house thought that Jesus should know what kind of a person she was. However, Jesus put the blame on the real source of the cause of her shortcomings. Jesus did not rebuke her in any way, but He rebuked the devil's power and cast the seven devils out of her. Following that inward change of heart, her only desire was to follow Jesus, and be one of His disciples. She was the first one to arrive at the tomb of Jesus on that Resurrection morning.

When asked by the angel why she was weeping, she replied (John 20:13) "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him!" Her only desire after the change in her heart was to serve her Lord and Master. Before her conversion, everyone blamed the woman, but Jesus blamed the one causing the problem (the devil). 'The Lord (as an example for us) dealt with the source of the trouble'. When Satan's power was broken, Mary's very life was mended, healed, and restored (to what God intends for each one of us to become), via our surrender of depending on 'self' (the source of most of our problems), but to be led by Christlike nature).

The minute the devil's power is dealt with(in the Name of Jesus), God's power is there to take its place. If anyone is controlled by a wrong spirit, a friend, a neighbor, family member, or others, the moment that spirit is cast out by God's power (as we resist Satan in the Name of Jesus), God's Holy Spirit then comes in to take its place.

The demoniac of Gadara was controlled by the devil so much that no one could come near him, for they could be seriously harmed by the legion of demons within that man. Most everyone would surely have blamed the man for his wicked acts and had already done everything possible to try to restrain or control him, but with no success.

In that spiritual condition the man could not help himself; a legion of demons had taken possession of him and had caused him to do every evil thing imaginable. Jesus did not censure him nor try to restrain him, but instead, Jesus asked the man his name. Jesus then

commanded the demons to come out of the man and to never return (and the devil-controlled demons had to obey 'Jesus'. After blaming the source of the condition and the demons had been cast out of the man's life, his only desire was to follow his Lord and Master.

If we are in a tough battle and dealing with mistakes that we have been shown to realize, or maybe sins which it seems that we cannot overcome; or, having desires that we don't want and that we ought not to have; if perhaps the peace of our home has been absent; or if money is lacking for us to pay bills and expenses, what we really need to do, is to locate the source of the problem, which surely is that the devil has gotten his foot in the door somewhere in our life to cause us to depend on self. The apostles wrote (Ephes.4:27) "Neither give place to the devil.", and (James 4:7) "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." [So, we need to make a prayer request for God to show us where 'self-dependence is hidden in our heart.]

When we seek the 'living God' with all our heart and we find Him, and the devil is cast out since we resisted him in the Name of Jesus, it will be easy to serve the living God, and we will be enabled do what is commanded in the New Testament (concerning every person or situation that is met.) That is the change to take place in our heart when we 'seek the 'living God' with all our heart'.

The demoniac of Gadara saw Jesus, and he decided to seek and to worship Him (Mark 5:6-8) "And when he saw Jesus in the distance, he ran and threw himself at His feet, crying out in a loud voice", "What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of God Most High? (he decided to seek Jesus in life). "In God's name I implore Thee not to torment me." "For He (Jesus) had said to him, "Foul spirit, come out of the man."

After the devil was cast out of that man, all he wanted then was to follow Jesus and to be with Him. (while the people of that town wanted Jesus to leave their district); (Mark 5:18-19) "As He (Jesus) was embarking, the man who had been possessed, asked permission to accompany Him. But He would not allow it." "Go home to your family," He said, "and report to them all [great things] that the Lord has done for you, and the mercy [compassion] He has shown you." (vs.20) "So the man departed and related publicly everywhere in the Ten Towns all that Jesus had done for him; and all (who heard) were astonished."

That man had been commissioned by Jesus to teach the Gospel in ten cities. Such a dramatic change from his former life, living in a cemetery, shrieking continually, cutting himself with stones, and attacking people who passed by! After seeking Jesus, throwing himself at Jesus' feet, and wanting to worship Jesus, he became a totally changed man, in his right mind, gentle, clothed, loving, and filled with the Spirit of God. He had said, "What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of God Most High?" "That was surrendering to God', so after his surrender and telling Jesus that he wanted to do God's will the rest of his life, by the Grace and love of our 'forgiving God', the

man's whole life was changed toward being made into the image of Jesus Christ, (becoming someone whom we would like to have visit our home).

His family would have had a difficult time believing the change that came about in him, and they may not have wanted to open the door for him. Instead of him fighting and attacking people, he was now teaching and preaching the Gospel to them. God simply cast the devil out, so the Holy Spirit could dwell within, and bring about that great and wonderful change. What we should all realize and learn from what that man experienced in his life (after making his sincere surrender and his plea for God to show him "What hast Thou to do with me, Jesus, Son of God Most High?",) is, that God has not changed in the least, and he will do the same for us upon a sincere and final surrender to God on our part (with a desire to do His will the rest of our life). (Matt.7:21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."

The type of person that can have this huge change brought about by God in their life, would be those who will 'blame the real source of the trouble'; (that would be step one); but a decision also has to be made to trust God alone to help us make that change which is needed and necessary in our heart and life. Our life has to be given back to God, and with no reservation for us to take it back from Him and take matters into our own hands again (as we by human nature have all done in the past). After placing that job in God's hands, we must then trust totally on Him to break the devil's power over us, over our loved ones, and others whom the devil (the real cause on whom we must place the blame), has used to disturb our peace or try to harm us.

It is God, through the Blood Atonement of His Son on the Cross (says Colos.1:13-14) "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: In whom we have 'redemption through His blood', even 'the forgiveness of sins'."

Our part is to "Submit yourselves therefore to God." (James 4:7 tells us). Submit means to place the entire job of bringing about the change, and of breaking Satan's power, into God's hands until the job is done. When we make that final decision, the victory comes next.

If Satan makes trouble in our home and is trying to destroy the peace of our home, we need to understand and know that the devil is the cause of it, not any person or loved one whom the devil is trying to use. We need to 'go to God in prayer' asking Him to cast the devil out of our home so peace can be restored for ourselves and loved ones.

We should not be blaming the family member, when it is the devil who is the cause. We need to resist Satan and insist that the peace that Jesus paid for be restored when we place the blame on the devil and submit ourselves to God so that He will draw near to us. (Again James 4:7-8) "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double

*mind*ed." God promises to cleanse our heart (including ridding it of unbelief), so we can claim our Atonement rights for peace in our home.

When we submit to allow all wrong desires to be cleansed out of our heart, our life will become what God wants it to be. Our love will *not* be where (and on things) that it should not be on, but it will be where (or on whom) it should be. When we make a sincere choice to place our life totally into God's hands, His Holy Spirit can then come in to take control, and, to make it easy for us to serve and trust on God as we read of people in the Bible doing.

Saul of Tarsus' only desire was to hunt down and persecute 'Christians'. He was controlled by Satan, but he did not know it. He thought he was very religious and belonged to a very religious church. He thought he was right and everyone else was wrong, for them to believe in or to trust on Jesus Christ.

Saul was on a very wicked mission to take the lives of people who believed in and accepted the Son of God as their Messiah. It says (Acts 9:1) "Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord." Saul was acting so wickedly, that God had to convict him very seriously. After being knocked off his mount and to the ground (Acts 9:5) "He said, "Who are You, Lord?" Then the Lord said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.""

As soon as Satan was exposed, Saul asked the Lord 'what He would have him to do'. (That showed conviction and repentance, and so, an immediate desire to obey the Words of his Lord and Savior, which should be an example for us when God shows us where we are outside of His Will for us!) Saul was done with the devil at that point and was not going to be controlled by him any longer. Because he was willing to repent, Saul was converted, and such a change came over his life that he was willing to give his life to God for His divine guidance and direction. He was willing to do anything for the Lord from that moment on. (Acts 9:6) "So he, trembling and astonished, said, "Lord, what do You want me to do?" Then the Lord *said* to him, "Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do."

Previous to that conversion, Satan had a grip on his life, so he was actively committing crimes against God, but, Whom he now desired to serve. The Lord did not say a 'word of censure' concerning those things that Saul had previously done against Him and His disciples. (Acts 9:6) "And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do."

The story of Saul's conviction and conversion continued, as God told a man named Ananias in a vision, just what he was to go and tell Saul what to do, (Acts 9:17), so "Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest,

hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost."

Ananias gave a cordial greeting to a man who had been guilty of committing many serious crimes against God's people. Ananias could have (naturally-speaking), been fearful and critical of Saul, and had at least mentioned the serious wrongs and persecutions Saul had been involved with in times previous to that day.

Instead, however, Ananias acted from divine love as he obeyed God's instructions, and he delivered to Saul a message of divine grace and truth that would save his soul. (Acts 9:18) "Immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and he arose, and was baptized."

After Saul was struck down and his wickedness revealed to him, and since he showed God a willingness to be convicted and to repent, he was then enabled to understand and to blame the real source of his evil actions, and to have the devil cast out of his life. Blaming the real source had revealed 'the cause' of a wrong life; his wicked acts; and a revengeful attitude. When the devil is recognized and resisted in Jesus' Name, the devil is cast out (as God's Word promises); 'and the Lord Jesus then enters into one's life.'

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The First Century Gospel Church/Philadelphia

S308R SOME MAIN POINTS ARE:

Satan has the ability to steal the Word from our heart, and so, he works constantly and relentlessly to work out his game plan and strategy against us, to deceive and take us away from God's Word, (as well as by suggesting things to our mind to distract us from always recalling what Jesus accomplished for us on the Cross).

Satan will always hide his identity as he approaches as an 'angel of light', and try to use whatever will work to defeat and try to destroy us, using 'false places of trust', and any and every distraction of the world around us; one of which is the deceitfulness of money which is always one of the main temptations that he will use to take a person away from the Truth of God's Word.

However, if we will surrender our will to allow God to work in our heart, He will reveal for us our mistakes, wrong decisions, and actions (just as He revealed the wickedness in Saul of Tarsus' mind and heart). We also can then always put the blame on the devil the real source of our problem, resist the devil in Jesus' Name, and have the devil cast out of our life and home and family. When we give God the opportunity, He will work in our life as he promised.

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