

SPIRITUAL CAUSES OF HINDRANCE TO VICTORY

**(ARE REVEALED TO US BY
GOD)**

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Things and circumstances in life do not just happen, nor just come about and take place for no reason, especially so, in a true Christian 'life of faith on God' and on His 'Words of Truth'. Many circumstances may take place in the life of one who follows the ways and plans of the world (and they would not understand why that is so). But, a believer in Christ who is trusting on God for His promised guidance, can not only have and enjoy His shield of protection over them, but God will show them where Satan got in to be the cause of a problem, trouble, or circumstance that one may be required to meet. That is part of God's teaching and training for believers in Christ to become true followers of His Son Jesus, so it is most important that we are ready and willing to have God reveal and remove the cause of a problem that we may have to face. God works for our spiritual and eternal interests to reveal those causes in a believer's life.

Once we have discovered the cause of the trouble, we are on the way to getting the problem solved (which is the consensus among most people). Political leaders devise plans and legislate various types of government assistance programs, but there is less financial security, personal safety, and protection than ever before.

There are more diseases, drug problems, divorces, broken homes, and uncertainty in life than ever before. 'News reports' become more shocking and more disturbing every day. Unspeakable crimes, suicides, and acts of terrorism seem to multiply. Government leaders expect that terrorists will strike again; they just do not know *when!*

The world (under control of the devil) cannot and has not found the *cause* of its

troubles; because Adam rejected the Word of God and wanted to be a god himself (instead became a devil). It is Satan (that demon spirit who stays hidden), who is back of it all and controlling people. That is what causes all the horrible crimes, acts of violence and terrorism that we hear of today. It is the same devil who caused the Pharisees and scribes to kill Jesus the Son of God.

Those men plotted His crucifixion right after He forgave a woman of sin of adultery. When they tried to entrap Him, He said (John 8:7), "*He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.*" (No one could throw a stone at her because everyone had sinned.)

They said to Jesus (John 8:39) "*Abraham is our father.*" Jesus replied, "*If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham*" (and certainly, he would not kill God's Son). (Jesus continued) (John 8:40) "*But now you seek to kill Me, a Man who has told you the truth which I heard from God. Abraham did not do this.*" (He meant, nor would you if you were His true children.)

Jesus knew of the wickedness in their hearts, and He told them (John 8:58) "*Before Abraham was, I AM.*" They had blatantly rejected the Savior (John 8:24) "*Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.*" Jesus added (John 8:37) "*You seek to kill Me, because My Word has no place in you.*"

Jesus told them the truth (John 8:44) "*Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him.*" (47) "*He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.*" That was the cause of their murderous hearts.

When God sent messengers to Abraham at Mamre, he did not try to harm them (and certainly did not kill them), but Abraham entertained them, received their message, and invited them in. (Genesis 18:6) "*Abraham hastened into the tent unto Sarah, and said, Make ready quickly three measures of fine meal, knead it, and make cakes upon the hearth.*" That is how the Spirit of God within, will cause someone to treat strangers or close friends (even angels in that case or anyone else for that matter).

Regarding the scribes and Pharisees (when He told them *"If you were Abraham's children, you would do the works of Abraham"*), Jesus was trying to show them the cause of their troubles. But they would not listen when He told them that they were controlled by the spirit of Satan (any more than most people today would listen if one would tell them the cause of their troubles).

Satan was in possession of the scribes and Pharisees, but they were not conscious of that fact about themselves; for they thought it was the reasoning of their own mind; their own good judgment; their religious training, or their understanding of the Law. They were the ones who called Jesus a deceiver. How wrong they were and how wicked Satan is!

When someone does listen to the Truth, they begin to get acquainted with God and His ways and plans. They also see that it is the devil that is the cause of their troubles. When we locate and realize that our problems are caused by the devil and his agents (and we are willing to acknowledge that and put the blame where it really belongs), we are then on the way to being delivered from the devil's power and influence.

When someone in the world carries through with terrible crimes or wicked acts of terrorism as we see and hear of today (things that are definitely in opposition to God's will and Word), those people have no idea that Satan is back of their wicked desires to do horrible things and injustices against humanity (things that wound, harm, maim, injure, wreak havoc, and destroy. It is 'Satan in disguise' who puts wrong desires in the heart of people to do things that should never be done).

A demon spirit in the heart of the unrepentant person will put envy, resentment, and an evil desire to get even in their heart. That evil spirit makes them want something they should not have; or to do things that should not be done; or to love someone they cannot Scripturally marry. All wrong desires are from the devil who wants to bring harm, injury, heartache, and loss, to those who are blinded by him through unbelief, and so, are kept from finding out the cause of the problem.

However, as soon as the devil's hiding place is revealed and located by a believer, we

are then near the end of the trouble. It will be made easy to live for God when the devil is cast out. If we know that the problem is directly from Satan, we will immediately turn the battle over to God for Him to resolve for us, and Satan (who came at us one way); will then have to flee seven ways.

God's plan of salvation for us, is to have the devil's power broken over our lives by casting him out, as we put the blame where it belongs on the devil, and get self-efforts out of the way, and allow God to do what He wants to and is waiting to do for us. Then God can put a 'spirit of holiness' within us and inspire us with a desire to do His will. (Ezekiel 36:25) *"Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols."* God will take out all idols and cleanse us from all idolatry and self-effort, and that 'demon power' will no longer be in control of us.

It is Satan's spirit that blinds people to God's 'plan of healing'; for while one is under the devil's control, they cannot understand God's plan of divine healing. Many times, the devil will put a 'spirit of fear' in them, so they are afraid to trust God. That is opposite to the spirit that God gives us. (2 Timothy 1:7) tells us, *"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."*

When the 'spirit of fear' is cast out, God's 'spirit of love', power, and wisdom takes its place. [His Spirit will be the 'Light' that we all need to run the Christian race that is set before us.] Then it is made easy to trust God for healing, for the 'supply of money', (or for anything else). God's Will, will be first and only concerning all decisions to be made in our life and with our family. Jesus Himself, set that example for us when He prayed to His Father in the 'Garden of Gethsemane', and praying (Luke 22:42) *"yet not my will, but Thine be done."*

Jesus also taught us what that 'Spirit of Light' from God can do for us, (Matt.6:22-23) *"The eye is the lamp of the body. If then your eyesight is good, your whole body will be well lighted; but if your eyesight is bad, your whole body will be dark. If, however, the very light within you is darkness, how dense must the darkness be!"*

But the working of the devil's spirit is seen everywhere today. It is in the heart that Satan puts the desire for people to commit evil acts and to disobey 'God's commands' and 'His plan of trust', that He always intended for us to follow in our life. It is in the heart of a person that Satan puts the desire for someone to be immoral or unfaithful (spiritually or otherwise). (Ezekiel 36:26) *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh."* (27) *"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."*

It is the work of Satan, to have people to hold on to stubborn ways; to keep idols in their life; and to make wrong decisions that could eventually take them to the 'lake of fire', (which is a most horrible place prepared for the devil and his agents. (Revelation 14:11) *"And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night."*

The end result of rebellion against God; the fruit of bad choices;(if not repented of), and, the consequences of being controlled by the devil, is the worst fate imaginable (Revelation 21:8) because, *"The fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."*

Every lustful desire we have ever had; any temptation we have ever experienced; and any spiteful thing anyone has ever done to us, were and are all directly from the devil. When we discover and locate the trouble, and it is traced back to Satan (who is to blame), and who is in back of all these things, we will also realize that we do not have to be tormented by him, and, that we can have his power rebuked (and be delivered from the trouble that Satan himself caused), (or he incited some agent of his to bring that trouble against us). So, we need to put the blame on Satan, and go immediately before God in prayer, and ask Him for the deliverance that He promised us in the present moment. (Matt.11:28) *"Come to me, all you*

toiling and burdened ones, and I will give you rest."

All sickness is and comes from Satan. The medical world has various names for a multitude of afflictions and diseases, but they all come about by (and are a result of) Satan's power. When Satan is located and cast out, the illness is healed. Once we have discovered the cause of the trouble (especially the 'spiritual cause'), we are on the way to getting that problem solved for us by God. As soon as the 'spiritual cause' is remedied, the physical affliction is also remedied, and Jesus' atonement Blood sacrifice has already paid for that healing for us and our family members, and all others who will claim their cleansing, pardon, and healing through Jesus' Blood. Most of us have read of how 'Job' was terribly oppressed with boils all over his body, but when God revealed the cause and it was repented of, Satan was cast out and the disease healed.

The Scriptures tell us that it is the devil in back of all sickness and oppressions, for it says (Acts 10:38) *"God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil."* Everyone whom Jesus healed, had been oppressed by the devil.

Jesus had to rebuke a religious hypocrite who complained about healing a person on the Sabbath. Jesus said (Luke 13:15-16) *"Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or his [donkey] from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day?"*

It was Satan who had afflicted her with infirmity for all those years, an unseen 'spirit of the devil' was holding that woman in a bent-over position and not allowing her to raise up. A demon spirit had caused the affliction on her body. Jesus spoke to her (Luke 13:12-13) *"Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God."* The power of the devil was broken over that oppression (by Jesus' power), so she was free from the

infirmity that had held her in bondage those eighteen years.

God cannot change; and Jesus will always be the same, so in Jesus' Name through those divine powers, we do *not* have to tolerate any oppression from the devil. Satan may tempt some people to passively accept poor vision; or being dull of hearing; or to passively accept something as a 'seasonal oppression', or to put up with being affected by some other infirmity, all of which are from the devil (so we should not put some other name (other than 'the devil') on any oppression (and giving the devil another name to hide behind), nor should we put the blame on anything but the devil. The Word of God tells us that He can heal all those mentioned afflictions (or anything else). God told the Israelites (Exodus 15:26) "For I am the LORD who heals you." (God did not put any limits on that statement, in saying that He is our Healer.)

The Word or God says that a demon made the man blind (Matthew 12:22) "and unable to talk." The next sentence says that Jesus "healed the man so that he could both speak and see." The speech impediment and his being blind are both serious oppressions from the devil, but Jesus healed him of both in a 'moment of time'.

Then (Mark 7:32) "A deaf man with a speech impediment was brought to him, and the people begged Jesus to lay his hands on the man to heal him." Jesus took the man aside from the multitude (34) "And looking up to heaven, he sighed and commanded, 'Be opened!'" (35) "Instantly the man could hear perfectly and speak plainly!" Recognizing the cause and turning to God for healing (since God assured us "I am the LORD who heals you."), had led the man to the cure, which was "faith in Jesus!" (which with the cause or hindrance removed), is the only thing that we have to exercise today.

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