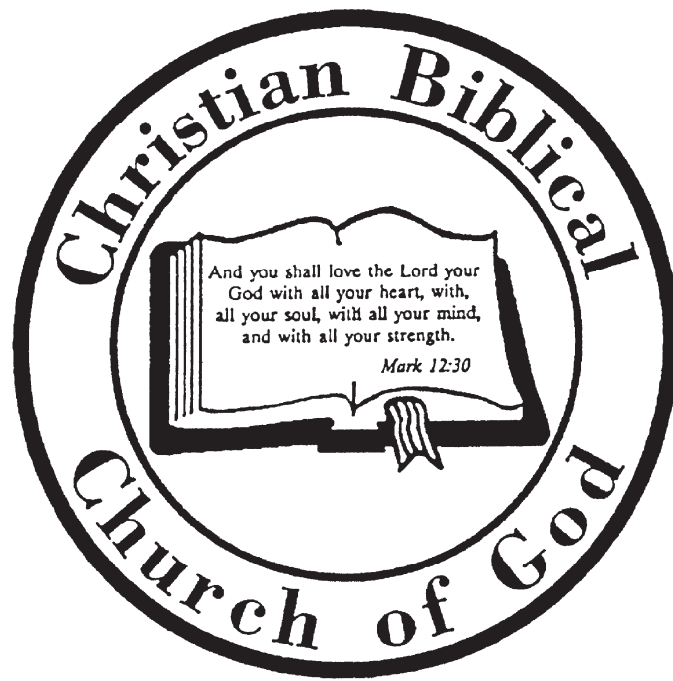


# How to Overcome the Sin Within



**Transcript Book**

By Fred R. Coulter

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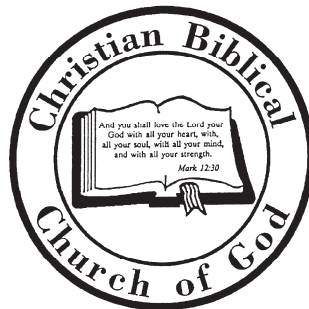
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## How to Overcome the Sin Within

Series of 6 sermons by Fred R. Coulter



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# How to Overcome the Sin Within

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# How to Overcome the Sin Within

## *Foreword*

This booklet is a compilation of six sermon transcripts that prove, from the Bible, exactly what the sin within mankind is. These sermons were given by Mr. Fred R. Coulter, a minister of Jesus Christ for over fifty years. These sermons reveal that all people, because of the sin of Adam, are born with sin within – a hostility towards the Laws of God. The reader will be informed as to how to deal with the sin in their lives.

The first sermon transcript, “How to Overcome Sin Within I,” makes the following observations:

1. No matter how old you are at death, you will still be dealing with sin within one’s mind.
2. When the Apostle John canonized the New Testament, he had the help of two other Apostles, Philip and Andrew.
3. The older that people get the more they remember their sins in their youth.
4. The Holy Spirit will reveal sinful thoughts that are in the mind of people. Sin is not totally removed from the mind while people yet are flesh and blood.
5. If God’s Spirit is in the mind of a person, then when the person studies the Bible, the Holy Spirit will help one in understanding the truth of the Scriptures.
6. Whenever the Bible speaks about the Word the Bible is speaking of the whole of the teachings of Jesus Christ.
7. When people want to know about God, God knows about them, because of the seven spirits of God. Through these seven spirits God knows what is always going on the earth.
8. There can be no perfection of the spirit in the flesh.
9. It is mandated by God that brethren forgive one another. When one repents before God, with God’s Spirit within you, God requires that people make peace with those brethren that you offended.

The second sermon transcript, “How to Overcome the Sin Within II,” focuses upon people needing to change who they are inside and not just change their behavior outside. Major points addressed are:

1. War has been throughout the history of man. Men do what is right in their own eyes and this leads to war.
2. Because human nature does not want to do what God says is right, so sin is created within men, because of men not doing the Will of God.
3. God’s way is not a religion, but it is a way of life that does what God says to do.
4. Television, movies, and music are used by Satan to instill sin in people’s minds.
5. Repentance to God and seeing your sins comes from God: You repent and live God’s way.
6. People must control their minds. They must control their thoughts. People are responsible for what comes into their minds.
7. People and nations cannot live in sin and receive the blessings of God.
8. Absolutely necessary is daily prayer and daily cleansing of the mind.

The third sermon transcript, “How to Overcome the Sin Within III,” covers overcoming strongholds of evil in the mind. Points of this transcript are:

1. People need to be uneducated by the world in order to understand the Truth of God. The world is so very much permeated with Satan’s teachings from birth right on through to the highest levels of the world’s education. People cannot accept the Truth of God and the teachings of the world and live by both.
2. There are strongholds of evil that can reside in the minds of people that result in a strong hostility to the Truth of God. The strongest of the strongholds of evil that can affect the mind is demon possession.
3. People need to know that anybody can rebuke a demon’s intrusion in their lives by using the name of Christ. The demons must obey.
4. There are people that deal with familiar spirits, yet these people are not possessed. The demons that are involved in occult practices are of two persuasions: (1) demons that do evil, and (2) demons that do what outwardly appear to be good, but their works are to keep people away from God.
5. There is a stronghold that is created in people’s minds by nonsense being accepted throughout their lifetime. This nonsense collectively speaks against the Will of God.
6. There are other strongholds of evil that affect people. Some of these are the mild forms of occult and witchcraft such as cartoons and movies that Disney produces, there is the wrong use of sex that can occur so easily when puberty happens in the lives of people, wrong music that affects the will of people, wrong use of drugs, use of humor to promote sexual desires, and needless to say the wrong use of sex in any way.
7. The knowledge of God’s Word coupled with God’s Spirit will result in a person recognizing their wrong thoughts. This revelation of wrong thoughts and the attitudes producing these thoughts occur so that the individual knows of their existence within and they can then, with God’s help, remove them from their mind.

The fourth sermon transcript, “How to Overcome the Sin Within IV,” is an overview of what the previous transcripts taught about the sin within. It goes into some of the previous admonitions more deeply. Especially covered are:

1. Emphasized is that no human being can get rid of the sin within them. People can discipline themselves, so they sin a little less, but they cannot convert and change their minds.
2. Too often human nature wants to sin and still receive the blessings of God.
3. Human nature wants God to recognize what it does is good, but it does not want to recognize what God does is good.
4. When people get on their knees and in thought and mind and in prayer ask God to help them, then God will through His Spirit help them with their thoughts.
5. People need to study the Word of God. The laws of God cannot be written upon the heart and reside in the mind without study of the Word of God.
6. To receive forgiveness from God, people need to go and pray directly to God, asking for forgiveness.
7. A person can overcome the sin within them by imitating God using God’s Spirit, God’s Law, and obtaining God’s blessing

The fifth sermon transcript, “How to Overcome the Sin Within V,” instructs a person as to how they can have peace of mind and grow spiritually through study of the Book of Psalms.

1. Congregations back in the time when I John was written were having their faith challenged by lots of false prophets. They got through this trouble by focusing on God and the promise of God.
2. Christians need to remember the first resurrection. They need to remember for the world, the deliverance of their lives from trouble, is the second resurrection.
3. People in trouble can come to God and pour out their hearts before God and God will choose when and how to answer their requests.
4. When a person is praying and going through the Psalms, and they come across a promise, then is the time to claim that promise.
5. In praising God and thinking on God it helps one to get your mind off yourself, get your mind of your problem, and get your mind off the things that are troubling one.
6. Best way to get rid of the blues is to have joy in the salvation of God and what God has done and His awesome work.

The last sermon transcript, “How to Overcome the Sin Within VI,” speaks of persecution and hatred of Christians. Items covered are:

1. When people leave God, when people seek idolatry, and when people seek false prophets than unclean spirits come to inhabit the land.
2. Satan has created societies the world over so that activity is concentrated on the Sabbath to preoccupy people and keep them from worshipping God on the seventh day Sabbath.
3. People need to be careful to not try to tell God what God should do and people need to be careful to remember to do what God told them to do.
4. A covenant with God is something that if people break it will cost them their life.
5. Commandment keeping does not create love because it is an expression of love for God.
6. Those seeking to live with God in their lives are not to leave the problems of the world that the world has created come into their lives and upset or preoccupy them.
7. To become strong in the Lord and to remain strong in the Lord people must pray, study God’s Word, and do the things that God says to do.



# How to Overcome Sin Within I

Fred R. Coulter

The questions before us today:

- When will I overcome sin and not be practicing sin?
- If you're sinning more often than you desire, are you practicing and living in sin?

or

- Are you fighting sin that is expressed by you outwardly?

—which there is enough of that to do, too—but:

- Are you trying to overcome sins *inwardly*; those things that are in your mind?

The outward appearance can be very wonderful, can be very good, can be very nice, seemingly kind and considerate. People think, 'Oh, this is wonderful.' However, if you watch *American Greed* on CNBC what you will find is that is how every single con-man operates. They also do so with flattery; *flattering lips!*

- How long will this go on?
- How can I overcome?

If you have a regular Bible and not *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*, the Romans so despised the Jews and even what they would call Jewish-Christians, which today would be a 'mori-oxon.' What they did they took the General Epistles of James, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> John, Jude and also the book of Hebrews and put them way at the end of the New Testament and moved Romans right after Acts. That was to give authority to the church at Rome.

Then out of that came the Protestants. They made some adjustments, but they never changed the mainframe. What do I mean by that? It's like taking a Chevy truck frame and build a Cadillac on top of it. But you have a Chevy truck engine, you have Chevy doors, you have a Cadillac dashboard; you can look at it; it looks real fine; but it never works right because the parts don't fit.

I can liken that to the way the Bible is out of its original order. It will work, but combined with the mistranslations and misinterpretations it doesn't work the way it should. They cannot answer the problem of sin.

How old do you have to be to where you know that you have no more sin in you? Let's look at the example here of the Apostle John. He was the longest-lived of all the apostles. This epistle was one in which he wrote at an earlier time and then added the first chapter. I will show that to you in the way that it is written.

1-John 2:1: "My little children, I am writing these things to you..."

- v 7: "Brethren, I am not writing a new commandment to you..."
- v 8: "Again, I am writing a new commandment to you..."
- v 12: "I am writing to you..."
- v 13: "I am writing to you..."
- v 14: "I wrote to you..."
- v 21: "I did not write to you because you do not know the Truth..."
- v 26: "These things I have written to you..."

All the way down—I, I, I, I, I.

Let's see something that shows that John edited this epistle and added what is in the first chapter. This becomes important when you realize that he was probably well into his 90s when he wrote this. This gives us a clue as to how John looked at his life as well as his experience with Christ.

1-John 1:1: "That which was from *the* beginning, that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our own eyes, that which we observed for ourselves and our own hands handled, concerning the Word of Life."

Who are the *we*? How did it get to be *we* when all through chapter two it's 'I'? Who are the *we*? The scant history that we have of canonization of the New Testament is that Philip and Andrew, two of the original apostles, were there with John, possibly Mark because Mark was much younger. He was probably only 16 during Jesus' ministry. Remember he was the young lad who ran away and they held onto his cloak and he to flee naked. That was Mark.

Just a little insight here: Mark was the nephew of Barnabas, a Levite. That means that Mark was a Levite. You tie that together with what the Apostle Paul did with Mark, especially in 2-Tim., and bring the trunk with the velum and the paper and everything. Mark turned out to be the secretary of Peter and was the 'go-between' between Peter and Paul late in life.

That's why Peter said in 1-Peter 5:12: "By Silvanus... [another name for Silas] ...a faithful brother to you... [he was also assisting Peter in writing] ...as I reckon, I have written *to you* briefly, exhorting and testifying that this is the true grace of God in which you stand. The *church* in Babylon, chosen together with you, greets you, *as does* Mark, my son" (vs 12-13).

Mark was the one to go between Peter and Paul. Mark was as a son to Peter because he was his secretary. The Gospel of Mark is really the Gospel of Peter. It's very interesting; you will see when you read the Gospel of Mark that it's pretty easy on Peter. Babylon was where he was when the first epistle was written.

In the history that we have of it before the fall of Jerusalem, the Apostle John left and moved over to the area of Pella and then from there went to Asia Minor near Ephesus, which then put him in contact with Mark.

Let's look at the *we* again because this is going to disclose something important to us to answer the question.

1-John 1:2: "(And the life was manifested, and we have seen, and are bearing witness, and are reporting to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested to us); that which we have seen and have heard we are reporting to you in order that you also may have fellowship with us; for the fellowship—indeed, our fellowship—is with the Father and with His own Son, Jesus Christ" (vs 2-3). That's the first thing to stress. We would say today: *our relationship*.

Verse 4: "These things we are also writing to you..." Why is that different from 'I am writing'? *Because he is adding to it at a later date!* We don't know exactly when this was done. We don't know exactly when the first writing of the Epistle of 1-John was done. We would have to conclude that this is some time in his late 80s or 90s that he's writing this. So let's see what he says.

Verse 4: "These things we are also writing to you... [also, because he's attaching it to the rest of it] ...so that your joy may be completely full. And this is the message that we have heard from Him and are declaring to you; that God is light, and there is no darkness at all in Him. If we proclaim that we have fellowship with Him, but we are walking in the darkness, we are lying to ourselves, and we are not practicing the Truth" (vs 4-6). Here they are living by the Truth, *practicing the Truth*.

As long as we have a human mind the question becomes—though we practice the Truth, keep the Holy Days, keep the Feast, pray to God, strive to overcome—has sin within our minds been completely removed? Let's see that it's not.

If you are sinning, are you lying to yourself? *No!* If you are not practicing the Truth and you're walking in darkness. What is darkness? *Darkness then is false doctrine!* Darkness is adding the *practices of men, the deceptions of Satan*, all of it together.

Verse 7: "However, **if**... [these are conditional] ...we walk in the Light, as He is in the

Light, *then* we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His own Son, cleanses us from all sin. If we say that **we do not have sin**, we are deceiving ourselves, and the Truth is not in us" (vs 7-8).

What does it mean "...we do not have sin..."? It didn't say, *If we say we do not sin*. He didn't say that. He said, "...**If we say** that we do not have sin..." What does that refer to? *That refers to what Paul wrote about 'the law of sin and death' that is within us!* That's tantamount to saying, *'If we say we do not have a sinful nature, we're deceiving ourselves.'* That's where all deception for the individual starts.

Yes, there's Satan the devil out there, but it is our own nature that is deceitful. What do we do when we're sinning and the sins are in our mind and no one else knows them? Maybe you may lose your temper or be angry or something like that. Maybe it manifests itself that way and to other people, but what if you have a righteous way of living because you're practicing the Truth and you're trying to overcome, but sin is still in your mind? *Especially today when we have so many things that will put sin in your mind!*

You can watch an advertisement on television and there it is! So, we have hundreds of times more thrown against us than when people lived when there were none of the modern media and technology and things like that.

Verse 9: "**If we confess our own sins**... [again he's including those with him] ...He is faithful and righteous, to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us" (vs 9-10).

When you read in the *King James* the other verses I've covered about how in 1-John 3 they translate it '**cannot sin**.' He's not going to be so schizophrenic of mind that he writes one thing in one place and few small chapters later says that you cannot sin.

"...we confess our own sins..." What does this tell us? *John is telling us he still had sin within to overcome!* That's what he's writing. If he was in his 80s or 90s, the carnal mind is still there. Isn't it interesting, the older you get the more you remember your sins of youth. They come flashing back. Do we have to deal with this until we die? *Undoubtedly!* It's challenging!

We confess our sins to God. Think for a minute, if there ever came a time in the flesh—because the way human nature is—if we could proclaim ourselves perfect spiritually, then why would we need the resurrection?

1-John 2:1: “My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you **may** not sin.” *May* gives the possibility that you do sin. It’s like this: You knock on the door, someone comes and opens the door and answers it. You say, ‘May I come in?’ What are you going to do if they slam the door in your face and say no? You have to walk away. If you come and bust open the door and come in, you say, ‘I’m coming in.’ *May* puts it in a subjunctive tense meaning there are conditions to it. That you *may not* sin because *you’re not planning* to sin, but you may sin.

“...And yet, **if** anyone does sin... [it shows the possibility, the ‘may’ and the ‘if’] ...we have an Advocate with the Father; Jesus Christ the Righteous; And He is *the propitiation* for our sins...” (vs 1-2)—that we have just committed and need to confess. ‘Propitiation’ means *a continual mercy seat* or if you understand about the Ark of the Covenant that was called the mercy seat with the cherubim overarching it. Christ is at the right hand of God the Father. “...He is *the propitiation* for our sins...”

He died for every single sin that every human being *has committed, is committing, or will commit* until the time there are no more human beings because He’s Creator.

The Protestants have it this way: The God of the Old Testament was the Father and He was harsh and mean and evil. *But that’s not true!* That’s why we need to preach, and I need to emphasize even more, that *the Lord God of the Old Testament was the One Who became Jesus Christ of the New Testament!*

“...and not for our sins only...” (v 2). Lest we get selfish, lest we get haughty and lifted up to say, ‘We have our sins forgiven, but you don’t. Get away from me.’

“...but also for *the sins of the whole world*” (v 2). If you don’t know the plan of God through the Holy Days, you will never be able to figure this out. What is God going to do with all of those who never heard of the name of Jesus Christ? Four thousand-plus years of history? *The whole world!*

Let’s see that we get the flow of what he’s writing here clear to the end, 1-John 5:10: “The one who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself... [the witness that the Spirit brings to us] ...the one who **does not believe God**...” Isn’t it interesting, the word ‘in’ is not there? This means you **believe God**, not only in Christ but God. If you believe God, then you believe who He is, what He is and what He says. The demons believe there is a God and trouble because they won’t obey.

“...the one who does not believe God...” (v 10). That means:

- is not keeping His commandments
- is not serving Him
- is not loving Him

“...has made Him a liar because he has not believed in the witness that God has witnessed concerning His Son. And this is the witness: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son... [we find other places *through His Son*] ...The one who has the Son has *eternal life*...” (vs 10-12).

Now we’re getting down to the fact that, yes, we have the Spirit of God. We know there are two parts to it:

1. from the Son
2. from the Father

Why then do we have sin in our mind? That becomes the ultimate question. *Because it has not yet been removed totally from our minds!* Why do we have these sins? Why do we recognize these sins in our mind? *Because the Holy Spirit is revealing it to us!* That’s why! ***The Holy Spirit will reveal your sinful thoughts!***

Why is that necessary? *Because there’s no other way that you will understand that you have those!* They are only here in your mind. Only God knows and only God can reveal those to you so you can repent. Only God can reveal it to you with His Holy Spirit, because if you don’t have the Holy Spirit of God that will not be sin to you in your mind. You will not recognize it as sin.

Having the Holy Spirit, God gives you the recognition of sin within so that you can repent. I’ve thought of that because as I’m getting older I’m remembering more of the sins of my youth and I think: really, I did that? Because God wants us to not sin, the Holy Spirit’s job and cleansing is to reveal it to us so we may repent.

Verse 13: “These things **I** have written to you... [‘I’ not ‘we’] ...who believe in the name of the Son of God in order that you may know that you have eternal life...” The only way you know you have eternal life is if you know and understand you have the Spirit of God within you.

“...and that you may *continue* to believe... [the sense in the Greek is *to continue*] ...in the name of the Son of God” (v 13). Isn’t every prayer ended in the name of Jesus Christ? That’s what Jesus said. You pray to the Father. This is where the Protestants miss the point. They leave out the Father most of the time. In preparation for writing the book on grace I’m reading a book on grace by a Protestant. I noticed that it is all Jesus and not the Father. What does that tell us? *They only have half the story!*

Take a concordance and you look up the words *Father* and *believe* and the various forms of

believe: *believing, believed, believeth,* and everything like that. John is the one who reveals more about the Father than any of the other apostles. Why is that? Because he was the longest-lived apostle and he was the one whom Jesus loved.

You read along in the Bible and here's a little phrase in the Bible and you say, 'That's interesting,' and you go on. After you study the Bible and re-study the Bible and put it together you begin to find everything connects and everything has meaning.

Sidebar: Several years ago I read the entire New Testament and I recorded it on audiocassette. Then we ran that through computer and digitized it. About a year and a half ago I talked to Randy who produces Church at Home, I said, 'I'm going to send you the New Testament that I have read and let's get it together so we can send it out.' He said, 'The quality is so bad it's impossible to use.' {transcriber's note: the whole Bible and audio for the New Testament, plus Psalms and Proverbs can be found at [afaithfulversion.org](http://afaithfulversion.org)}

What I'm amazed at in going through the book of Psalms is all the difficulty and trouble that David had and how much those things are repeated. How so many of these things connect with the New Testament. I'm going through and reading and these things come to my mind and I can't stop and say, 'Let's go here,' and stop and say, 'Let's go there,' because I have to read it. The point I want to bring out is: *The more you study the Bible and go over it, the more that God's Spirit in your mind will help put these things together!*

John 14:13: "And whatever you ask in My name, this will I do that the Father may be glorified in the Son. **If** you ask anything in My name, I will do it" (vs 13-14). What is the condition we find in other places? *According to the will of God and keeping His commandments!* So, we're the ones who have to do it.

Verse 14: "**If** you ask anything in My name, I will do it. **If** you love Me, keep the commandments—namely, My commandments" (vs 14-15). That is the emphatic in the Greek.

Unless you understand that Jesus was the One Who was the Lord God of the Old Testament, you could say, 'That's just means what Jesus said in the New Testament.' Then others come along and say, 'All the commandments to the Jews we can discount because we're Gentiles.' ***This is how the deceptions of Satan get in!***

Verse 16: "And I will ask the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that it may be with you throughout the age: *Even* the Spirit of the Truth..." (vs 16-17). That's the key thing, the Spirit of the Truth that comes from God.

- God is *truth*

- God is *light*
- God is *love*
- God is *righteous*

What is the Spirit of Truth in you going to do with the deceitfulness still lingering in your mind because of the way that human nature is? *Convict and expose!* All sin is against Truth—is it not? The Spirit of Truth is that which is necessary to get rid of deception, to get rid of lies, to help lead you in the way you need to go.

Verse 17: "*Even* the Spirit of the Truth, which the world cannot receive..."

1. because *they won't repent*
2. because *they don't believe*
3. because *they have their minds blinded*
4. because *they won't obey God*

The world is in a pall of darkness.

"...cannot receive because it perceives it not..." (v 17). You can't look at it, you can't see it or feel it. You can feel the leading of it because you are doing things you need to do.

"...nor knows it; but you know it because it dwells with you, and shall be within you" (v 17). There is a great distinction right here. This is a dividing line and helps us understand about many of those near-Christians. Why do I call them near-Christians? *Those are those who proclaim themselves to be Christians,* but have not been baptized and received the Holy Spirit *in* them.

The Spirit of God may be *with* them, because they believe and follow a lot of things in the Bible. They still keep Sunday, Halloween, Easter, and Christmas and all this sort of thing.

We'll put Rev. 1 in here at this point where we've covered it in the past, but repetition is one of the best teachers, same way with prayer. If you think you're getting repetitious in prayer, you have to divide it down this way. What is a vain repetition? *A vain repetition is something of which there is no need, like the Catholic rosary!* The way you distinguish it, there are many things that you need repetition with concerning prayer.

- Do you need God's Spirit? *Yes!*
- Do you need God's love? *Yes!*
- Do you need God's forgiveness every day? *Yes!*

It's not vain repetition to pray for that. Do people you know need the help of God, the protection of God? *Yes!* Whatever the need is, though you pray for it every day that is not a vain repetition.

What about those in the world who have the Bible, who read the Word of God, who have some obvious blessings that come from God, who have

exemplary lives, but you know have not been baptized and received the Holy Spirit *within* them?

Revelation 1:3: “Blessed *is* the one who reads, and those who hear the words of this prophecy...” I can tell you this. The more you read it, the more you’ll understand it. The more that the way the world is going today, the more you can understand how the whole book of Revelation applies to the whole world.

“...and who keep the things *that are* written therein...” (v 3)—because it exemplifies the Ten Commandments, Christ, and the Father. Everything about God is revealed here as it is applied to the fulfilling of the Scriptures, but not in detail. So, you have to fill in the details from the rest of the Scriptures.

For example, it says in Revelation 14:12: “...here *are* the ones who keep the commandments of God and have the faith of Jesus.” Tells you nothing about what is the faith of Jesus. Tells you nothing about the commandments. Therefore, the rest of the Bible is needed to understand those two aspects.

Revelation 1:3: “...and those who hear the words of this prophecy and who keep the things *that are* written therein; for the time *is* at hand.” Let’s understand you can apply this two ways:

1. in your life right now  
The time is at hand for:

- personal changing
- personal growth
- personal overcoming

What if you die before Christ comes? Then:

2. the time has passed being at hand, it has come upon you and now you’re going to await the resurrection

This also is a prophecy in the future for the things at the end-time. You can take many things in the Bible and you can see how there are layers of fulfillment.

Verse 4: “John to the seven churches that *are* in Asia: Grace and peace *be* to you from Him Who is, and Who was, and Who *is* to come; and from the seven spirits that are before His throne.”

- What are the seven spirits?
- What do they do?
- How do they operate?

We have to understand: God is in complete communication with everything going on in the world through His angels and through the seven spirits and through His Holy Spirit that’s within His people.

(go to the next track)

Before we answer the question about the seven spirits of God, let’s come back to John 14 and let’s finish up where we were because this is important in distinguishing between the Holy Spirit of God *within* you and the Spirit of God *with* you.

John 14:21: “The one who has My commandments and is keeping them, that is the one who loves Me; and the one who loves Me shall be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him.... [How is Christ going to do that?] ...Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, ‘Lord, what has happened that You are about to manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?’” (vs 21-22). Here it is, right here. This is how God does it:

Verse 23: “Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word... [Where it talks about *word*, in the singular it means the whole of His teachings.] ...and My Father will love him, and **We** will come to him and make Our abode with him.... [that means a dwelling place *within*] ...The one who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word that you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s, Who sent Me.’” (vs 23-24).

This is why we cannot be selective in which of the commandments of God we’re going to keep. Notice it says **We**, the Father and the Son “...will come to him and make Our abode with him.” That is *our dwelling place. We become a temple of God!* That’s the fellowship: Christ *in* us, the Father *in* us. So, there’s the separating line.

Verse 24: “The one who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word that you hear is not Mine, but the Father’s Who sent Me.” Jesus said, ‘*I speak what God has commanded, I do what I see the Father doing.*’ He didn’t speak His own words. He said of Himself, and the Greek *of* is the Greek word ‘ek’—meaning ‘*out from within Me, from My personal being.*’ Of Myself I can do nothing.’ So, He needed the Father to have that perfect righteousness.

What happens when a person wants to know about God? Here you are out in the world. You don’t know anything. You may have heard about God. You may have heard about Christ. You may have heard about the Bible, never read it, never understood it. Your life is in a mess and somehow you pray to God and ask God for help. What happens? All of us can look back to that time in our lives when something happened on that day when we asked. How does God do it? *Through the seven spirits of God!*

Isaiah 55—here’s what we’re commanded by God. This is what we are to do. If God commands it, God has to provide a way of answering and fulfilling that. Let’s remember what Jesus said in Matt. 7, ‘**Seek** and you shall find; **knock** and it shall

be opened; *ask* and it shall be given.’ How is God going to do it?

Here’s what He commands, Isaiah 55:6: “Seek the LORD while He may be found... [there are times when God isn’t going to answer] ...call upon Him while He is near.... [there are times when He withdraws Himself] (Here’s what has to happen): ...Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts... [there has to be change and repentance] ...and let him return to the LORD... [How do you return to the Lord? *By keeping His commandments!*] ...and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. ‘For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. ‘For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts’” (vs 6-9). How is God going to work all of this out? *He is there and we are here, yet, He’s in close communication with the earth!*

Verse 10: “For as the rain comes down, and the snow from the heavens, and does not return there, but waters the earth, and makes it bring forth and bud, and gives seed to the sower and bread to the eater. So shall My Word be which goes out of My mouth; it shall not return to Me void...” (vs 10-11). Every word in the Bible came out of the mouth of God, though a man may have spoken it because God gave him the words to speak.

“...but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall certainly do what I sent it to do” (v 11).

Here’s the greeting from Christ, Revelation 1:4: “...and the seven spirits that are before His throne.” Why are they there before the throne of God? Let’s see what they do.

Rev. 4—the throne of God. Let me just say this, we won’t go into it, but I’ll just mention it here: The seven candlesticks representing the churches are not the candelabra that was in the tabernacle. The seven churches are formed in a circle and Christ is in the midst of them. Here we have seven spirits of God. We have a scene in heaven that John is told to come up and see.

Revelation 4:1: “After these things I looked, and behold, a door opened in heaven; and the first voice that I heard *was* as if a trumpet were speaking with me, saying, ‘Come up here, and I will show you *the* things that must take place after these things.’ And immediately I was in *the* Spirit; and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one was* sitting on the throne. And He Who *was* sitting was in appearance like a jasper stone and a sardius stone; and a rainbow *was* around the throne like an emerald in its appearance. And around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones; and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments; and they had on their heads golden crowns. And proceeding from the

throne... [directly from God] ...were lightnings and thunders and voices; and seven lamps of fire...” (vs 1-5).

That was pictured in the tabernacle by this candelabra. They didn’t have wax candles. They had little containers to put olive oil in, and they had a little lip that looks like a pouring lip, but it’s not. It’s so the wick can be placed into that little indented spout-like part of it. The wick goes into the olive oil and then you light the wick and it draws the oil out of the little container. So, that’s what this represents.

“...seven lamps of fire, which are the seven Spirits of God, were burning before the throne” (v 5).

Revelation 5:5: “Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion Who is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome to open the book... [the book with the seven seals] ...and to loose its seven seals.’ Then I saw, and behold, before the throne and the four living creatures, and before the elders, *was* standing a Lamb as having been slain... [a type of Christ] ...having seven horns...” (vs 5-6). Where do horns come from? *They are located on the head!* Who is the Head of the Church? *Jesus!* How many churches are in Rev. 2 & 3? *Seven!* That depicts the seven churches.

“...and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God that are sent into all the earth” (v 6). That’s interesting—isn’t it? This is how God knows what’s going on in the earth directly. He has the angels; He has the seven spirits, which are the eyes of God. This is how He knows what’s going on in the earth at all times. If someone starts seeking God, what has to happen in order to answer that? He can’t find God any other way unless one of the seven Spirits of God comes to him to be with him. This helps answer the question: How does God do it? *With the seven spirits, which are the seven eyes!*

Psalm 11:4 “The LORD is in His Holy temple... [we just saw a vision of that] ...the LORD’S throne is in heaven... [we just saw a description of it] ...His eyes behold; His searching gaze tests the children of men.”

How does He do it? *With the seven Spirits of God!* Today with the modern high-tech things we have you can sit right here and if you had the right program in your hand-held media device; I won’t say iPhone or portable phone because they’re now hand-held media devices because it accomplishes a lot more. If you had the equipment at home, you could take your hand-held media device, push in there your home and in your home you have a little cameras set up all over your house. You could push the number for each room that you wanted to check out, yet, you’re not there. You see what’s going on.

What you really have, with those cameras are eyes. They see! They're not living creatures, they're not made of spirit, but they can operate with the technology we have. You even see this on an ad for ADT, home ad where here the mother or the father is at work and pushes the button and sees the son or daughter coming into the house at the time they should be there coming home from school. When I see that I think that's well and good, but what do they do when they're out of sight of the camera? God can see everything that's going on.

Let's see how this operates. We'll tie it all together. When the Spirit of God came to the different ones, the Spirit of God obviously was within all of the prophets because He called them for that and put His Spirit in them, every one of them. We know they're going to be in the resurrection.

2-Chronicles 15:1: "And the Spirit of God came upon Azariah the son of Oded. And he went out to meet Asa... [who was the king] ...and said to him, 'Hear me, Asa, and all Judah and Benjamin. **The LORD is with you while you are with Him...**'" (vs 1-2). Great principle. Were these converted people? *No, they didn't have the Spirit of God!* They weren't called to conversion.

"...**if** you seek Him, He will be found by you..." (v 2). This helps answer the question concerning many of those good sincere Protestants who we can say are not converted but they are doing things that God says should be done. Since they're not converted, God will judge them on what they know and how they do it.

"...But if you forsake Him, He will forsake you" (v 2). A great verse to really think on and remember. You can tie into that the parable of the prodigal son. He left the father and went out and botched everything up, came back and sought his father.

Verse 3: "And for a long time Israel *had been* without the true God, and without a teaching priest, and without law. And when they turned in their trouble to the LORD God of Israel, and sought Him, He was found by them.... [just on a carnal basis] ...And in those times *there was* no peace to him who went out, nor to him who came in, but great tumult *was* upon all the inhabitants of the lands" (vs 3-5).

Sound like today? Has this nation left God? *In a carnal sense, yes!* We're not talking converted, called to salvation. We're just saying:

- acknowledge God
- honor God
- realize that everything comes from Him
- we have to keep His commandments

Verse 6: "And nation was destroyed by nation, and city by city, for God troubled them with every adversity." That's exactly what's happening to us today. This is what needs to be with the political leaders today. I don't know if they're going to do it, but here's what they need to do:

Verse 7: "'But you be strong and do not let your hands be weak, for your work shall be rewarded.' And when Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities, which he had taken from mount Ephraim. And he renewed the altar of the LORD before the porch of the LORD" (vs 7-8).

Then they all came, gave their offerings, v 12: "And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul." God came back; God blessed them. God sent His angels, etc. Asa didn't last very long.

2-Chronicles 16:6: "And Asa the king took all Judah, and they carried away the stones of Ramah and timber with which Baasha was building. And he built with it Geba and Mizpah. And at that time Hanani the seer... [another prophet of God] ...came to Asa king of Judah and said to him, 'Because you have relied on the king of Syria...' (vs 6-7). He made a treaty with the king of Syria.

Verse 2: "And Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasures of the house of the LORD and of the king's house and sent them to Ben-Hadad king of Syria, who lived at Damascus, saying, 'Let there be a treaty between you and me as *there was* between my father and your father. Behold, I have sent you silver and gold. Go, break your treaty with Baasha king of Israel...' (vs 2-3). He didn't go and ask God.

Very similar to what we have today. We have the war on terror and terror is winning because we're not returning to God as a nation. Rather we're going the other way.

Verse 7: "...'Because you have relied on the king of Syria and have not relied on the LORD your God, therefore the army of the king of Syria has escaped out of your hand. Were not the Ethiopians and the Libyans a huge army with many chariots and horsemen? Yet, because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand'" (vs 7-8). Here is how to mitigate the war on terror:

- return to God to keep His commandments in the letter of the Law
- stop all of your alliances
- stop all of your lies

- stop all of the abominable conduct within the nation
- call upon all of the homosexuals to repent,
- call upon all of the pedophiles to repent
- call upon all of the adulterers to repent
- call upon all of the liars to repent
- have the House and the Senate and the President all fast together and turn to God and stop their stupidity

But because they're following Satan and their own ways, it's not likely going to happen. There may be some few who are trying to do 'good.'

In connection with that, v 9: "For the eyes of the LORD... [Where did we find those defined? *Rev. 5, which are the seven Spirits of God!*] ...run to and fro in all the whole earth... [they are constantly knowing what's going on] ...to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart *is* perfect toward Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore, from now on you shall have wars."

That is exactly what has happened to this nation. We've had nothing but wars because we quit relying on God, even in a carnal sense.

I've got this book called *Christianity After Religion* by Diana Butler Bass that is very revealing to show you how they are just falling away from God from what they even knew in the past. The woman who wrote this book is an ecumenist and suggests to those who are supposedly Christians in the world: go to other denominations and other religions and attend their services. She also says that from now on don't believe *first*, belong first, then believe. That's completely contrary to the Bible, which shows you how far that Christianity has gone.

In other words, it's a pitch to belong to all of this ecumenical movement, which is going to lead to a one-world religion. Then you believe after you belong. That sounds like Pelosi. 'We voted to pass the bill. When we pass it you can read it and find out what's in it.' It's exactly the same thing.

The seven Spirits of God take care of that. The Holy Spirit of God within us is to do some very important things. We need to put this into the record so we can see what is happening.

Remember, Paul wrote Rom. 7 twenty-plus years after he was an apostle. We went through and covered that very thoroughly in our Romans study and there are 23 times he uses the word 'nomos' for *law*. It can apply to the covenant. It can apply to a single law. It can apply to a commandment, etc.

We all know that Paul was a Pharisee, super strict! He had the law and he understood the law, carnally. He was also all wrapped up in *the traditions* of the Jews (Gal. 1). He's telling the Jews:

Romans 7:6: "But now we have been released from the law..." Meaning in this case the covenant that God made with Israel. Released from that because Christ died. You can read the footnote on the bottom of the page there.

"...because we have died *to that* in which we were held so that we might serve in newness of *the* spirit... [a total change of looking at the law; a total change in keeping the law] ...and not in *the* oldness of *the* letter" (v 6).

This is what the Protestants do. It's amazing how many times that they come to the Scriptures and they read the Scriptures and don't understand it applies directly to what they are doing and saying at the very time they're reading it.

Verse 7: "What then shall we say? *Is* the law sin?... [Is that not what the Protestants tell you virtually? *Yes!*] ...MAY IT NEVER BE! But I had not known sin, except through the law... [the Law defines sin] ...Furthermore, I would not have been conscious of lust, except *that* the law said, 'You shall not covet.'"

Why did he become conscious of these things when he was supposedly keeping them as a Pharisee? *Because God's Spirit opened his mind to understand!* The Law was there, always.

Verse 8: "But sin, having grasped an opportunity by the commandment, worked out within me..." There's what's happening. When you receive the Spirit of God, it begins cleaning out the inward parts.

"...every *kind of* lust because apart from law, sin was dead. For I was once alive without law..." (vs 8-9). That doesn't mean completely separate from law. That means he had no understanding as to the spiritual aspect of the application of the laws of God. That's the only way it can be understood.

"...but after the commandment came... [But he had it all the time. That means after the understanding of the commandment came.] ...sin revived, and I died" (v 9).

How did he die? *It had to be death by baptism, symbolic death!* He didn't die. If he died, there would be no more of the book of Romans and it wouldn't be put in the past tense 'I died,' he would have to say, 'I'm dying, goodbye.' So, this means that he was buried in water baptism and the old man dying. Here is the internal struggle that is the lifelong struggle—in varying degrees at varying times—depending on our circumstances.

Verse 10: "And the commandment, which *was meant to result in* life... [God said if you keep these commandments you will live] ...was found *to be* unto death for me." He understood he was



breaking *the spirit of the Law and the wages of sin is death.*

Verse 11: “Because sin, having taken opportunity by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*.” It’s another way of saying ‘the deceitfulness of the carnal mind deceived me and it killed me.’ He was as good as dead. ‘The wages of sin is death.’

Verse 12: “Therefore, the Law *is* indeed Holy, and the commandment Holy and righteous and good.” This is the great mistake of Protestants. They get rid of it because it says you shall not, because it says you shall.

Verse 13: “Now then, did that which is good become death to me? MAY IT NEVER BE! But sin, in order that it might truly be exposed as sin in me by that which is good... [but sin]: ...was working out death...” That’s finishing the sentence there.

What happens when you’re serving in the spirit of the Law and you can’t do that unless you have the Spirit of God. What does it do? *It shows you the exceeding sinfulness of sin!* Those things in the mind that are there from leading a life:

- separate from God
- separate from understanding the Word of God
- separate from understanding the severity of sin

“...so that, by means of the commandment, sin might become exceedingly sinful” (v 13). This is where we get now, ‘You’ve heard it said in old time, you shall not murder. But I say to you, do not hate your brother.’ That’s a greater challenge—is it not? *Yes!*

Now we recognize hate in the mind as murder. We see that hate is evil and now the Spirit of God exposes that in our minds and we repent, confess our sins, like we read in 1-John 1. It’s there to show exceedingly sinful.

Verse 14: “For we know that the law is spiritual; but I am carnal, having been sold *as a slave* under sin.” In other words, this is an operation that cannot happen without the Spirit of God. If we knew how to get rid of sin, if we knew how not to sin, if it were by the means within us to do so, we would do so.

But we cannot because the carnal mind cannot do that nor recognize the spiritual sin, like he says: covetousness, envy, hatred, jealousy, lust, mental idolatry. May not be another god, but it could be a job, things, your accomplishments. It could be any of those things. It could even be yourself. We know people who idolize themselves? *Yes!* They are called narcissists!

When they come into high offices, it hurts everybody. But he’s carnal and doesn’t know it and doesn’t understand it and wouldn’t believe it if it

were told to him because he’s blinded. That happens to many people. Look at all of the Hollywood stars, the most narcissistic bunch of people. Can you tell them they are vain, evil, jealous, they’re leading sinful lives? *No!*

Here’s what the Holy Spirit does, v 15: “Because what I am working out myself... [excluding the Holy Spirit of God] ...I do not know... [Or you could put there *I do not understand*. How can the mind be so evil that it does this?] ...For what I do not desire to do, this I do; moreover, what I hate, this *is what* I do.” Here is the struggle. Here is an apostle. If you would believe that we could be perfectly without any sin at all, you would surely think that an apostle of God, chosen by Christ personally, would be perfect. But we can’t be perfect in the flesh.

- Are you still aging? *Yes, indeed!*
- Why? *Because your body is not perfect!*
- What do you really need for perfection mentally? *You need to be resurrected from the dead and have a mind of spirit*

rather than a mind of flesh, but having your human spirit ***with the begetting of God’s Spirit in you*** to lead you. There is still all of this baggage hanging on.

Verse 16: “But if I am doing what I do not desire to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good.” You don’t do the carnal thing and say, ‘People just can’t keep this law so let’s get rid of it.’ *No!* You say the law is good, but I have a weakness. God is right, but I need His Spirit and mercy to do what God wants me to do.

Verse 17: “So then, I am no longer working it out myself... [Why? *Because you are repenting!* You recognize what it is.] ...rather, it is the sin *that is* dwelling within me.” That’s the thing that the washing of the water by the Word has to work every day. I pray every day for the washing of the water by the Word. That means you need the Spirit of God and you need the Word of God. Here is what he fully understood:

Verse 18: “Because I fully understand that there is not dwelling within me—that is, within my fleshly being—*any* good... [That’s as God’s good is. There are many things that people do that are superficially good.] ...For the desire to do good is present within me; but how to work out that which is good, I do not find.” That sounds like the Congress of the United States.

Every single thing they have enacted has turned out to be a horrible mess once it was conceived and put into action and carried out. Look where we are, likewise in our lives. They think this is a good thing or that is a good thing or the other program is a good thing. ‘Let’s do it. Let’s all get on

the bandwagon and we'll vote for it and pass it and the President says, 'I'll sign it.'

- look what has happened with welfare
- look what has happened with food stamps
- look what has happened with trying to be charitable with tax money
- look at how many families have been destroyed because they encourage that fathers not be in the home; destroyed many people

Look at religion:

- it's all right to have idols
- *No! You bring a curse upon yourself!*
- it's all right to recognize other religions
- *No! You have other gods before you!*
- it's all right to keep Sunday, take God's name in vain; that's perfectly fine because it's convenient for us to do it and we think it's good
- *But God says it's sin! The commandment says it's sin!*

They don't understand what they are doing, because they don't have the Spirit of God *within* them.

If they're truly seeking God, one of the seven Spirits of God will find out and begin leading them. What happens if they stop? *The Spirit withdraws!* We find there in Matt. 13 about the sower. They hear the Word; they are joyful. 'It's wonderful, wonderful.' Satan comes along and takes it out of their heart. The deceitfulness of riches; lack of wanting to obey and all of that.

Verse 19: "For the good that I desire to do..." Have you ever done that? Come home, you really want things to go well and the first thing you do is get mad and shout at your wife or your husband or stomp your foot. Go in a room, slam the door, shout back and forth to each other. A couple of hours later you say to yourself, 'What did I do?' You came home with a good attitude. You were going to do 'good.' Is there anybody who could say they have never done that? I can't!

Verse 20: "But if I do what I do not desire to do, I am no longer working it out myself." That was not my motivation. But you did it—didn't you? *Yes!* Who motivated it? *The sin that is dwelling within me!* Because we are composed of *the law of sin and death*.

Verse 21: "Consequently I find this law *in my members*, that when I desire to do good, evil is present with me."

I've seen that happen. There are times when I've done something really nice and really good and the next day all that I did is destroyed. What is God doing? He's showing you there's a whole lot more to

conversion and a whole lot more that needs to be done. You need to humble yourself and repent and ask God to help you. I've had to do that as a minister. This does not contradict or change the Word of God.

Verse 22: "For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man... [You do! You're not getting rid of the laws of God.] ...but I see another law within my own members, warring against the law of my mind..." (vs 22-23). Isn't that war going on? That's the war that the Holy Spirit of God within through the washing of the water by the Word needs to be activated every day.

Stop and think for just a minute. You go back to the very beginning of the Gospel, Matt. 6, after this manner pray:

- Our Father, Who is in heaven
- Hallowed be Your name
- Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven

What is God's will for us to get rid of the sin? Then what is said next?

- Forgive us our debt or our sins as we forgive those who sin against us

That is the daily prayer because the next one is:

- Give us this day our daily food
- That's part of the daily prayer!*

This is one of these things concerning repetitious prayer. Is it needful to pray every day: O Lord, help clean up my mind? *Of course!* Just as it is needful for your body to get rid of the wastes, it's just as necessary that your mind be cleansed every day as well, especially living in this end-time generation. We have so many things coming at us ready to get us.

Verse 22: "For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man; but I see another law within my own members, warring against the law of my mind, and leading me captive to the law of sin that is within my own members" (vs 22-23). Do you still have genes and chromosomes? *Yes!* Where is it lodged? *In your genes and chromosomes and mind!* That's called *human nature*.

Here's how you feel, v 24: "O *what a wretched man I am!* Who shall save me from the body of this death?.... [That's what the question was in the beginning.] ...I thank God *for His salvation* through our Lord Jesus Christ. Because of this, on the one hand, I myself serve the law of God with *my mind*; but on the other hand, with the flesh, *I serve the law of sin*" (vs 24-25). Not willingly, but you do.

Romans 8:1: "Consequently, *there is* now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who are not walking according to *the* flesh, but according

to the Spirit.” So we can just put right there: *as long as you’re repentant, as long as you’re yielding to God!*

Verse 2: “Because the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has delivered me from the law of sin and death.” Delivered does not mean completely taken away. He has given you the tools to overcome it through His Spirit and through His Word.

Ephesians 4:22: “That concerning your former conduct, you put off the old man... [that’s something you have to do all the time, the old self] ...which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts.” Isn’t it interesting that the first one you lie to is *yourself*. Talk about something destructive and corrupt. That is! That’s how people continue to live in sin. They lie to themselves and say it’s okay.

Verse 23: “And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind.... [this is the ongoing thing we need to do] ...And that you put on the new man...” (vs 23-24). How do you do that? *Prayer and study and through keeping the commandments of God in the Spirit, through repenting every day!*

“...which according to God is created in righteousness and Holiness of the Truth” (v 24). The Truth of God has got to replace all the deceitfulness that is there.

Verse 25: “Therefore, let each one put away lies and speak the truth with his neighbor...” He shows, were they having that problem? Lying to one another in church? ‘I thought you were baptized, but now I know you’re not perfect.’ True!

“...because we are members of one another. *When* you become angry... [doesn’t say don’t get angry, it says]: ...*When* you become angry do not sin.... [that’s a real trick if you can manage that] ...Do not let the sun go down on your anger” (vs 25-26).

Get over it! You have to forgive and be forgiven. Don’t go to bed fighting mentally an emotional problem you had that day because you aren’t going to sleep. The next day you’re going to be miserable and cranky and rotten. True? *Yes!* You are to repent and forget it. What happens?

Verse 27: “Neither give place to the devil.” He’s going to come along with some of his fiery darts and give you justification. ‘You’re right. Look at that, you’re right. Are you not right?’ *Yes!* ‘Oh, you don’t have to forgive him. You don’t have to forgive her, you’re right.’ *Yes, indeed!* This is daily living.

Verse 28: “Let the one who stole, steal no more; rather, let him labor with *his* hands, working at what is good, so that he may impart *something* to the one who has need. Do not let corrupt

communication come out of your mouth... [sometimes that’s a challenge] ...but that which is good and needful for edification that it may give grace to those who hear. And grieve [vex] not...” (vs 28-30).

Do not vex because this is what happens. All of these things are saying they take place even though you still have the Holy Spirit in you. But when you do these things what you are doing you are frustrating the Holy Spirit of God.

Verse 30: “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God by which you have been sealed for *the* day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and indignation, and wrath, and clamor, and evil speaking be removed from you...” (vs 30-31)—which is saying they were doing these things and they needed to be corrected.

Where does the correction come from? *From you repenting and God’s Spirit within you and you making peace with those you have offended!*

“...together with all malice; and be kind *and* tenderhearted toward one another, forgiving one another, even as God has also in Christ forgiven you” (vs 31-32).

Ephesians 5:1: “Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children.” That’s the goal! Don’t imitate what you see on television. Don’t imitate what is wrong. ***Imitate God*** as beloved children.

Verse 2: “And walk in love, even as Christ also loved us, and gave Himself for us *as* an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling savor.... [they also had other troubles there in the Church]: ...But fornication and all uncleanness or covetousness, do not permit it even to be named among you, as is fitting for saints” (vs 2-3).

Why did God take down the largest Church of God? *Everything that is here!* We’ll read on a little more because you don’t want to stop and leave out a complete thought.

Verse 4: “Nor filthiness, nor foolish talking or jesting, which are not becoming; but instead, thanksgiving. For this you know... [they already knew this] ...that no fornicator, or unclean person, or covetous *person*, who is an idolater, has any inheritance in the Kingdom of Christ and of God” (vs 4-5).

Things must be repented of. Let me just say this: The one who was the supposed apostle of the Church—and I heard this first person in a Bible study given to an audience of 800 people—where the apostle said, ‘I’ve been faithful for long that Satan has no more interest in me.’ From that time on it all fell apart until it was dissolved. I’m sure he repented of it later. How can we avoid that kind of thing?

Verse 25: “Husbands, love your own wives... [wives, make yourself lovable; it works both ways] ...in the same way that Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it; So that He might... [this is the work that Christ is doing today in each one of us] ...sanctify it... [What does that mean? *To make it Holy!*] ...having cleansed it... “ (vs 25-26).

Remember what we read at the beginning? ‘He is faithful and just to cleanse us from all unrighteousness’ if we confess our sins. “...having cleansed it with the washing of water...” (v 26). That’s likened to the Spirit:

- Spirit of Truth
- Spirit of Life
- Spirit of Righteousness

which is the Spirit of the Father and the Spirit of the Son

“...with the washing of water by *the Word*” (v 26). This is why we need to understand the Word of God. This is why when we see things we are doing that are not right; we need to repent. This is why God’s Spirit *within you* exposes those sins that only you know in your mind, which you repent of to God, just like Christ said.

You pray to the Father in secret and the Father in secret will hear and answer you. These are things you don’t have to go around and confess and blabbermouth to everybody in the world. You don’t have to go along and say, ‘I’m a dirty rotten sinner.’ The answer should be *we know that!*

There it is right there. This is something that we need to do every single day, especially living in the world that we live in. I’m getting so that when I’m watching television I’m doing more channel surfing and muting than ever before. It’s just unreal! This world has a make-believe reality. They do not understand the sinfulness of sin. They do not understand anything about righteousness. Those who are supposed to be religious, those who are supposed to be the religious teachers have no more understanding of God and His Word than my pet dog who looks at me and wags his tail.

***That’s the state of things!***

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- 6) 1-John 5:10-11, 13
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- 9) Revelation 14:12

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- 12) Isaiah 55:6-11
- 13) Revelation 1:4
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*Christianity After Religion* by Diana Butler Bass

FRC:lp

Transcribed: 10-9-12

Formatted: bo—10-11-12

Corrected: 5/31/15

## How to Overcome the Sin Within II *Strongholds in the Mind!*

Fred R. Coulter

How to overcome the sin within, that's the biggest problem for every individual, then it gets to a family, to a community, to a nation, to the world, but it all boils down to the individual.

In every way that you look at what is happening in the world, think about the whole world everywhere, there is misery, upset, war, famine and pestilence! Now we're getting closer and closer to it. I believe the only reason it hasn't hit full blast here, yet, is because the United States of America is the only place in the world, whether for contention or whether in Truth, where the Gospel is preached and the name of Christ is named. You look around the world. Where is the Gospel being preached? *Only in America!* There may be a little isolated place over here, a little isolated place over there.

What we're essentially dealing with in all of this is that people have gotten rid of God. Everyone's anxious with the election. 'What do you think of the election?' I think Dolores had it exactly right. ***We got the one we deserve because of our sins!***

Let's start off here in Prov. 21:2 so we can understand about *the sin within*. It's *the imagination of man*; that is the problem, whether rich or poor, educated or uneducated, or like Paul has written: whether Barbarian, Scythian, or whatever, Jew or Gentile.

Proverbs 21:2 applies: "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD ponders the hearts." God is capable of judging everyone's heart simultaneously, at the same time, because He's given the spirit of man to each man. He knows the thoughts of man that they are vain.

This happens over and over again. Why do these things keep happening down through history? Like with America, why do we always seem to be at war? Stop and think for a minute. Any country in the world, when was there a time they had no war? *Never!*

Judges 21:25: "In those days *there was* no king in Israel. Every man did *what was* right in his own eyes." That's what human beings do.

What was it in the days of Noah? Let's review that and let's see what's going on and also we will add to it all the modern things that we have that affect the mind.

I saw a very interesting little special on NatGeo (National Geographic). Sometimes you

think about what it would be like just to be alone somewhere and no one around? There's this island in the Gulf of Alaska called Middleton Island. It's four miles long; at the widest point it's one mile wide. It's virtually a barren island. There are a few little mounds on it and there is some grass, the birds, seals, and all of that stuff.

There's one man and his wife who live there and they do special reporting. He enjoys going out walking on the island when the wind isn't blowing, when the storms aren't going and everything. When you get to the sea it's very relaxing. That's because of all of the ions that the body needs, and so forth. That's why it's that way. He's lived there for a good number of years. Here comes the junk from the tsunami. So they get junk washing up there and they found a little soccer ball. That little soccer ball had some writing on it.

They took a picture of the writing, sent it back to Japan to see if they could locate this person, because the man who was running that station is married to a Japanese woman. She was able to read the Japanese writing and that's what they took a picture of off the soccer ball and sent back to Japan. They finally located the boy. It was his soccer ball. I was thinking with that:

Here you are, *all alone and you can't get away from the problems of the world today!* You've got a mountaintop you want to go to? *Don't go in a cave, you might have an earthquake and you're mincemeat!* You want an island out in the middle of the sea? *There may be a tsunami to take care of you!* You add all of this together and it gets down to what we just read. 'Everyone is doing what is right in his own eyes.'

Jesus said, 'As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of man.' Genesis 6:5: "And the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great on the earth, and every imagination of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually." We've reached the same thing—haven't we?

When you're coming to the knowledge of the Truth, you begin to really be shocked as to what sin is. A lot of people like to nibble around the edges and change a little behavior outside, *but what God wants is the change inside!*

Verse 5 defines man's heart, always. We won't go through the rest of it, save that God had to destroy all human life and all other life. There was

no reason to destroy all other life unless it was because of transhumanism and cross-genetics as I've brought out in several sermons and many messages on churchathome.org

Let's see one other thing that God has set before us so that we are all accountable. Every single human being on earth is accountable to God:

- whether for good
- whether for bad
- whether they know God
- whether they don't know God

God made some promises here. Here's what everyone wants.

Deuteronomy 30:5: "And the LORD your God will bring you into the land which your fathers possessed, and you shall possess it. And He will do you good and multiply you above your fathers." Remember, He promised! When God promises, it's a unilateral promise to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

This is what frustrates the nations of the world concerning the modern descendants of Israel as well, that they have been blessed with so many riches and so much territory and such good land and all of this. Look at what sinners they are! And here we are where we are and we're trying to even do better than they do, and yet, we can't get ahead of any of that because of the blessing of God. This is why punishment is coming.

Verse 6: "And the LORD your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your seed, to love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, so that you may live.... [*if* you follow God] ...And the LORD your God will put all these curses upon your enemies, and upon those that hate you, who persecuted you. And you shall return and obey the voice of the LORD, and do all His commandments, which I command you today. And the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in every work of your hand..." (vs 7-8).

Think about that. Just stop and think about all the things that you have, all the gadgets, all the things. Today people think they're smart and important because they have a SmartPhone. They've got access to everything right online and their vocabulary has been accepted and reduced down to Twitter and Facebook. They think magically that they're educated. Think of it, all the stuff that you have.

"...in the fruit of your body, and in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your land, for good, for the LORD will again rejoice over you for good as He rejoiced over your fathers...**IF**..." (vs 9-10). Here is the whole test for every human being. Even those who don't have the Word of God in the

past, but today the world is filled with the Word of God.

If you have a SmartPhone, you can have the whole Bible there and you can push the button, you can have however many translations you want. You want to hear someone preach, you've got the whole spectrum of everything—right? Far different from living on an island four miles long and one mile wide and you're there by yourself and your greatest conversation is with your wife or your husband or the seagulls.

Verse 10: "**IF**..." This is what human nature doesn't want to do. This is why there is *the sin within*. We're specifically going to talk about strongholds, ***the strongholds in the mind!*** The strongholds in the mind have different sources, but it is basically a choice.

Here's the comparison: "...you shall obey the voice of the LORD your God to keep His commandments and His statutes, which are written in this book of the Law..." (v 10). That's why God had everything written down—Old Testament and New Testament—because you could never depend on the lying nature of human beings to keep it straight. God specifically had certain men write it, and He made sure it was written correctly so that no one could say, 'Lord, why didn't you tell me?'

That's why I think all the modern devices are here. I think nearly everyone in the world is going to have a modern device where they can have it in their hands so they are going to have a personal warning when these events take place. *No one* is going to be without warning.

Now notice the second *if*: "...**and IF** you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul" (v 10). That's the key of overcoming the sin within. Nothing else is going to do it:

- the Law of God
- the Spirit of God
- *your choice*

Verse 11: "For this commandment which I command you today is not hidden from you, neither is it far off. It *is* not in heaven *that you should* say, 'Who shall go up to heaven for us, and bring it to us, so that we may hear it and do it?'" (vs 11-12).

Wouldn't that be something if God said, 'Okay, if you can come up on the moon and on the backside in this crater I've hidden My law.' *No! He's made it available*, especially for today.

In reading the Psalms, every one of them, I'm absolutely amazed how much of the Bible is for the last days.

You look at some of those Psalms that are excoriating against the enemy, that they shall be burned and melted. What is the only time that's really going to happen? *The Lake of Fire!* When you're reading the Bible and studying the Bible you better think big and expand out, because it's all pertinent to us today.

Verse 13: "Neither is it beyond the sea *that you should* say, 'Who shall go over the sea for us to bring it to us, so that we may hear it and do it?' But the word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, so that you may do it" (vs 13-14). That's God's way of saying it will be in a language you know, because that's what's in your mind, a language you have learned and taught. *Yes!*

Verse 16: "In that I command you this day to love the LORD your God..." That is the key. As I pointed out, the key in overcoming is *loving God and God loving you and you going God's way*. God *is* God! Scrap everything having to do with a religion because *a religion is a substitute of man, inspired by Satan the devil*, so that you can have an excuse to continue being against God, but modify your way just enough so you're a nicer person in the world. That's what religion is and you conform to the religion.

A lot of people coming out of a religion think that God's way is a religion. *It's not a religion! It is a way of life!* That's the only true way out of all of this where you can help them. The truth is you can't help anyone overcome a problem unless they do it God's way. That's it, because God *is* God. Are we going to stand and argue with God? *Some people do!*

Here's for every human being, v 15: "Behold, I have set before you this day life and good, and death and evil, In that I command you this day to love the LORD your God, to walk in His ways... [not yours] ...and to keep His commandments... [not yours] ...and His statutes... [not yours] ...and His judgments... [not yours] ...so that you may live and multiply. And the LORD your God shall bless you in the land where you go to possess it" (vs 15-16).

Everything there from vs 10-15 is predicated on **IF**, all predicated on free will; free will choice that God has given, and does not take away. He expects you to choose.

Verse 17: "But if your heart turn away so that you will not hear, but shall be drawn away and worship other gods and serve them, I denounce to you this day that you shall surely perish..." (vs 17-18). Any day you reject God, that's your fate. You can repent. God always honors repentance. The only sin that is unforgivable is the blasphemy against the

Holy Spirit, which God the Father has sent. That is the only unforgivable sin. Everything else can be forgiven.

"...you shall not prolong *your* days on the land where you pass over Jordan to go to possess it. I call heaven and earth to record this day against you..." (vs 18-19). How many times does God say heaven and earth? *Many times!* What did Jesus say? *'Heaven and earth may perish, but My words shall never perish.'* That's what people need to think about. That's why 'religion' is so damnable.

"...*that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing. Therefore, **choose life...**" (v 19). Look what we have, we've just reached the tipping point and we're on the downside of evil. Once that happens rarely has there ever been a turnaround.

Verse 20: "That you may love the LORD your God, *and* may obey His voice, and may cleave to Him; for He is your life and the length of your days, so that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers—to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob—to give it to them."

Let's look at *the sin within*. Let's look at the world the way it is today. Proverbs 14:12; 16:25: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof *is* the ways of death."

Jeremiah 10:23: "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself..." It's not!

Speaking of counseling, secular counselors can never solve the problems of human beings. The first thing they tell them is, 'You're good.' Therefore, they do not recognize *the sin within*. Then they point to the Scripture: 'Everything that God made, behold, it was very good. Ah, ha!' But that was *before* sin. Sin changes the whole equation.

Let's also review Romans 8:7: "...the carnal mind *is* enmity against God, for it is not subject to the Law of God..." That is exemplified most quickly and readily with the fourth commandment.

Just like Ernest asked all of his patients that he takes down for all their medical things. Of course, the reason why they're so sick, in most cases, is because of the sins they've had in their lives. They are 'religious.' There are a lot of people that are 'religious.' They're all Sunday-keepers. But he asked them, 'What does the Bible say which day to worship?' *Oh, that's Saturday. Yeah, but we go to church on Sunday!* That is the carnal mind hostile, *enmity against God*, "...not subject to the Law of God, neither indeed can it *be*" (v 7). So, there has to be a change.

What did Paul say about his own human nature, because we're talking about the sin within?

He said, 'I find *a law within my members*.' In other words, part of your chromosomes, your nature that we inherit going all the way back to Adam and Eve. Everybody has it. People who have not done horrendous crimes say, 'I'm good,' by comparison, but have you had hatred? jealousy? lust? greed? envy? Where did those take place? *In your mind!* That's what God wants changed.

You can have good behavior out here. Even con-men know how to lie to sound sincere and know they're going to abscond with everything they can from you, but you trust them because of greed. *Their* greed and *your* greed and lust all combined together.

You compare yourself with other people and you leave out God to start with so you don't have a good basis for any comparison at all. You better ***start with God and His way and then compare yourself with that***, not other people. The Bible says that those who compare themselves among themselves 'are not wise.'

Lo and behold, Churches of God, you better listen to that. Don't come and say how good we are and bring in the ways of men and say that you are duty-bound. You caused the brethren to obey those things. If you don't know what you have done and if you don't know what they are, then you might give me a phone call. I will be very happy to help you.

Ephesians 2:1: "Now you were dead in trespasses and sins." Think of that statement again. Paul said that in his members he found a law that he defined under the inspiration of God as *the law of sin and death*. At what point in life can a human being die? *At any point from conception!* After they're born, how long can they live? *That depends on how their mother took care of them* before they were born and took care of her body. *That depends on her behavior*, was she with many men, or was she a virgin. God did not choose Rahab the harlot to have Christ. He did not!

This helps answer the question. Remember the statement when Jesus told the man who said, 'I'll follow you, Lord, wherever you go but first let me go bury my father.' What did Christ say? 'Let the dead bury their dead.' Why? Because every human being walking in the flesh alive is only temporary life and the sentence of death is in them genetically, and there is nothing you can do through any philosophy, through any behavioral change to change that. So sure is death that even all of those that God has called and up to this point, every faithful Christian has died.

- Why then does God bring all kinds of floods, war, disaster, killing of children, babies, and everything?
- Why doesn't God stop that?

- Why does He allow it?
- *Because they're all as good as dead!*

God is greater than your narrow-minded thoughts of hatred to God; that if God is a God of love and He caused that to happen:

- What is He going to do about it?

People have no understanding of the second resurrection. When they are resurrected, they're going to know that they died. They're going to be given an opportunity for salvation without Satan the devil around. Is that not much better than the pitiful lives that they would have continued living at the point that they died? Look at the things that have been done in massacres. Everybody says, 'Look at how many Hitler killed. Stalin! Mao Tse Tung!' Let's try any country, civilization down through history. Has that not happened? *Yes, indeed!*

"...you were dead in trespasses and sins... [notice what he says the next verse because this is very interesting]: ...In which you walked..." (vs 1-2)—showing that you were alive, but the things you were walking in. Some of them may have been some of the commandments of God. But did God say, 'Blessed are you if you keep some of My commandments'? God does give some blessings for those who do not know, *if* they keep some of His commandments.

- Did that do away with *the law of sin and death* within you?
- Did that change your status spiritually before God?
- *No!*

Everybody likes to look to the Constitution: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." [1<sup>st</sup> Amendment (Bill of Rights)]—after they've given freedom of speech. Everybody looks at that and says that's wonderful. That is far better than any other constitution in the world. But that has the seeds of its own destruction sown within it because you are going to see it now. *Any* religion must be tolerated and freedom of worship granted to it.

The coup de gras, where you thought, 'This is really a great God-given, Divine-inspired document,' was inspired of God to separate Manasseh from Ephraim, true. It has many good Biblical principles in it, true; but the seeds of its own destruction—just like every other human endeavor—are sown in it. That is going to come when the Supreme Court—and it's on its way up the row—has to determine: Is it lawful to allow Sharia Law or not?



God looks at the whole span of things. The way we look at things is that we look at what's right in front of us, maybe we look to the right a little bit, look to the left a little bit. Maybe we look back a little bit, but we don't see the big overall plan of God because we don't know God and don't know the Word of God in the main. How can they know?

They go to a church that is called Christian and all they hear is banging of drums and shouting and leaping and singing of hymns and songs. They have 45 minutes of singing, 15 minutes of a Scriptural reference, 20 minutes of 'lovey-dovey' stories of how great everything is. Then clap your hands, give your heart to the Lord, everything is over. You're now right on the way to eternal life. **Total deception!**

Verse 2: "In which you walked in times past according to the course of this world... [you've got the effect of the world] ...according to **the prince of the power of the air**...—Satan the devil. Almost all the sins that come into people's lives today come *through modern technology, through the air!*

You haven't had your fix on porn today? *Pop up your hand phone!* There you go. You haven't had your fix on pedophile today? *Pop up the website!* You haven't had your fix on gambling? *Do it online*, right there on your cell phone. Appeal to your greed. Maybe you'll win \$10,000, but maybe you'll lose \$20,000 before you win the \$10,000.

"...the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience" (v 2)—those who go against the laws of God. You can't have disobedience without laws demanding obedience. Think of it. When those who counsel people, what they want is an excuse as to why they have what they have so they can blame someone else. Maybe they can overcome for a while. Maybe they can permanently stop their drugs, *but they haven't had their minds changed.* They've only adjusted their thinking a little bit. **Conversion is what God wants, is a complete change!**

Notice how this comes about, v 3: "Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh..." Anything to do with the flesh; from bodybuilding to sex activity; from glamorous women to the ugliest. Isn't it true that women are so envious and jealous? *It's something!* All of the good-looking women get together and they are so lovey-dovey with each other. But the ones who are not so good looking are left out. They can never break into the circle of the lovey-dovey beauties. They get jealous and the lovey-dovey beauties say, 'I'm so glad I'm not like that woman over there.'

A woman can look at another woman and know in one glance how her hair is, what kind of

makeup she uses, her bodily measurements and general description, how her clothes are, how long or short her skirt is, what kind of shoes she has on. In 10 seconds she is all sized up and judged and filed away in that woman's mind. Men do the same thing in different ways.

"...lusts of our flesh..." (v 3). Here comes a woman. What did Jesus say? *The one who looks after her to lust after her*, and this woman comes along with all of the neon-flashing signs, 'I want you to lust after me, look at me I'm beautiful,' all this sort of thing. So, all the men ogle.

What we're dealing with is that it is multiplying—***lawlessness shall be multiplied, so the love of many shall grow cold.*** The way you overcome that is *with the love of God.*

"...doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind... [Let's think how great we are. Let's improve our minds. Are you still sinful? *Never thought of that!*] ...and were by nature *the children of wrath*, even as the rest of the world" (v 3).

(go to the next track)

We've covered a lot of the things how we have a nature of sin and death within us, but also that Satan the devil, who is 'the prince of the power of the air,' brings a lot of things into our lives. He's got a lot of helpers, so let's look at some of those. Then we have to begin to separate out; we will have start with:

- How does sin begin?
- Where can we cut it off?

Let's see the things that influence us to a high degree: **television and movies!** You can even be watching the news and then all of a sudden what do they do? *They have a commercial* and they are advertising this place down in the Caribbean with all of these women in bikinis. *Flash!* Satan knows! *Flash in the mind!* Just flash it once, that's it! That's why there are a lot of things that happen that ***puts it in the mind!***

**Music** is the next one. Music is perhaps the most powerful thing to get it within you, especially when it's loud. I saw something that was really funny the other day. I've mentioned about the car going along with the loud music. Here was this car going along blasting out the music, the windows down, and the guys sitting in the car. He wants everyone to notice him. How could they miss him? It was making so much noise and booming, the car was vibrating, everything around was vibrating, and his muffler fell off!

Music: for good? or bad? For young people the music has evolved to be very satanic, especially

the beat is off the diatonic normal scale that God has given and it messes up the mind. It actually causes the brain not to have the synapses connect properly. So, it does affect and alter the mind.

That's why in the sermons that I have given, *Who and What Controls Your Mind?*, music is paramount. To show you how that is, have you ever gone along and there's a tune in your head? How about some stupid commercial you don't even want that it just flashed on the television and there it was and you can't get rid of it? We're going to see how you can get rid of those things plus other things.

We're coming into the Christmas season here pretty quickly and guess what you're already hearing in the stores? Satan has made it all nice, beautiful, alluring! Appealing to *the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life!* So, the music is perhaps the most powerful thing.

Right next to that are all of the *visual things* that you have, which can be: signs, pictures, and handheld devices. It can be anything that you can see. All of those make an impression on your mind.

To show you how little infants learn and especially you can see this when they are about 6-18-months-old, babies will look, stare right at something. What they're doing, they're absorbing. This is making an impression on the mind. All of those things are imprinting the mind. We have that so much today, more than any other generation, *much more!*

They had it in past generations. They had all their pornography carved in stone and put along the roadside. They still have it. They had it in their temples. The #1 hook is *sex*, and Satan knows it. That's the hardest thing to overcome. That is why God says to avoid sexual immorality, 'let every man have his own wife and every woman have her own husband.'

Some people, not all, need to marry earlier than other people just because of how their sex drive is. It's not inherent with any race or not inherent in any race, but there are just some people that need to marry early to avoid all the sexual problems.

Then we have *alcohol, drugs, smoking*. Those things can become addictions. Addictions can become *strongholds*. We'll see how to deal with the strongholds. Any one of these things can become a stronghold. You have *lying, stealing, hatred, narcissism*—the love of self. 'I'm so important, you've got to recognize me in everything and anything that I do. If you don't recognize me, I'm going to get mad.'

Then you have other things of human weakness, such as *temper, anger, envy*. All of those

are based in lust. All of these things then you work in the overall thing concerning choice.

What can you do about it? God didn't leave us defenseless. We have choices, but we have to make the right choices. I like the one with the Rechabites in the book of Jeremiah. The Rechabites were the children of Rechab. Rechab told all of his offspring, 'You are not to drink any wine.' Didn't mean that they were keeping the commandments of God perfectly, but they probably were keeping most of them. They were carnal like anybody else because no one except the prophets and some of the kings were converted in the Old Testament.

God told Jeremiah, 'Bring the Rechabites here.' They brought them here. He said, 'Set before them wine, tell them to drink.' They answered, 'No, we won't drink. Our father Rechab told us that we are not ever to drink anything—period! We will not do it. You cannot make us do it.' That one thing, because of choice and they could have said, 'We're here and no one will really know it. We may lose our head if we don't do it. All right, I'll take a sip of wine.' *A choice!*

But they said, 'No, we will not do it.' So, God said to Jeremiah, 'You tell the children of Israel, because they chose to obey their father they'll always have someone to stand before me in all generations.' Now, we don't know where they are and what they do and we don't know whether some of the descendants were drinking hundreds of years later or not. We don't know that. But there will still be a man to stand before God from the Rechabites.

God said, 'You tell the children of Israel, I've given you My laws, My statutes, and My judgments and everything and told you to keep it, but you won't do it. But here, the one thing of not drinking wine, the Rechabites obeyed their father. Why don't you do that with Me?' Always keep that in mind.

Let's see how these warnings apply to even those who are converted. Then we'll get a comparison here. We will see what happens and then we will see how our choices work.

2-Timothy 2:21: "Therefore, if anyone has purged himself from these..."—all of the sins purged. That means *you must get them out. You must choose* to get rid of the sins. *You must choose* if you have to cut it absolutely totally off and say to yourself, 'Music has messed up my mind and messed up my life and messed me up. I'm not having any of that kind of music anymore ever—period!' You purge yourself of it. Then you have to ask God to cleanse your mind.

"...he will be a vessel for honor, having been sanctified and *made* serviceable to the Master, *and*

having been prepared for every good work. But flee youthful lusts..." (vs 21-22). Because, lo, when puberty kicks in, it begins—boys and girls. This is to a converted minister. This is to someone who is serving the people. Have ministers fallen? *Yes!*

"...and pursue..." (v 22). What we're going to see is the same thing here. You put out and you put in. You purge away and you cleanse.

"...righteousness, faith, love *and* peace with those who are calling on the Lord out of a pure heart. But foolish and ignorant speculations reject, knowing that they engender arguments. Now, it is obligatory *that* a servant of *the* Lord not be argumentative, but gentle toward all, competent to teach, forbearing, in meekness correcting those who set themselves in opposition..." (vs 22-25).

You have to have a humble attitude so that you're not hypocritical because you're still working on a problem that you have and you're counseling someone also concerning the problem. Then you are not a hypocrite as long as you are working on overcoming that and you're instructing them how to overcome.

Here's how God deals with it. Here is the principle involved in talking to others, helping them, while you yourself are still overcoming your problems, as well. May not be exactly the same one, but the principle to overcome sin is the same with all sin. "...in meekness correcting those who set themselves in opposition..."

Galatians 6:1: "Brethren, even if a man be overtaken in some offense, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of meekness... [2-Tim. 2] ...considering yourself, lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the Law of Christ" (vs 1-2). You can help someone overcome.

Here's the key and here has been the Achilles' heel to ministers in the Churches of God, v 3: "For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he is deceiving himself." What happens, they come along and say 'if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing,' then they justify it in their minds by saying, 'But *I* am important.' They just deceived themselves. He is deceiving himself.

Verse 4: "But let each one prove his own work... [of changing and overcoming] ...and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another; for each one shall bear his own burden" (vs 4-5). We have to overcome our sins.

Concerning meekness, 2-Timothy 2:25: "In meekness correcting those who set themselves in opposition... [Opposition to what? *The laws and commandments of God!*] ...if perhaps God may

grant them repentance unto acknowledging of *the* Truth." They have to admit the sin and that's the first step in repentance.

Verse 26: "And *that* they may wake up *and escape* from the devil's snare, who have been taken captive by him to *do* his will." That's what it is; that's why you have to have the laws of God, because that's His will.

What is Satan's will? *To break the laws of God; to lie, to cheat, to steal, to corrupt your mind, corrupt your morals anyway he can!* Be it music, drugs, alcohol, idolatry, demonism—a lot of these things can get into demonism. When it gets to the extreme things then you are dealing with obsessions and fixations. Those are hard to overcome, but they can be.

Concerning the last days and what we just covered, 2-Timothy 3:1: "Know this also, that in *the* last days perilous times shall come... [because of everything] ...for men will be lovers of self..." (vs 1-2). That is the great sin:

- You love yourself as God!
- You have your own way!
- You think you are right!
- When you get caught, you blame others!

That is called *narcissism*. ***Repentance to God and seeing your sins comes from God!***

"...lovers of money, braggarts, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy... [sounds like watching television] ...without natural affection, implacable, slanderers, without self-control... [First thing they need to do is self-control, which then is mental control. Who controls your mind?] ...savage, despisers of those who are good" (vs 2-3). 'Oh, I don't want that!' Why don't you come to church? 'Are you kidding?'

Verse 4: "Betrayers, reckless, egotistical, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God." That's one of the greatest things, concerning rejecting the Sabbath, is that there are so many pleasures on the Sabbath that Satan has put out there. Remember what he said concerning the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil? *It's pleasant to the eyes, desired to make one wise!* That basically then means in that parlance: self-centered, egotistical, narcissistic, worshiping yourself, rejecting God.

Verse 5: "Having an outward appearance of Godliness... [for those who are 'religious'] ...but denying the power of *true* Godliness.... [because they are unwilling to change] ...But ***as for you, turn away from all these***" (v 5). That last sentence is the most important.

You must stop those activities that lead to sin. Ultimately, it gets down to *the moral conscience*

*within from God's Spirit and God's Word* where Jesus said right in the Sermon on the Mount: 'Let your yes be *yes* and your no be *no*.' That begins with yes and no to *yourself*!

Verse 6: "For from *men such as* these come those who are worming their way into houses, and are gaining control over empty-headed *gullible* women given over to *various* sins, *being* driven by all kinds of lust. *They are* always learning but *are* never able to come to *the* knowledge of *the* Truth" (vs 6-7).

You have to come to the Truth. You have to come to the acknowledging of the Truth. The best you can do with people in the world is get them to acknowledge the sins that they have, but you need to let them know the final solution is not just your control. ***The final solution is repentance to God, then living God's way!***

It's like we see today. I got up one night about midnight so I thought I would just sit there with the remote control and surf through television. What a bunch of worthless blither after midnight, just absolute insanity; plain stupid stuff. People look at that and you see this is how people have been dumbed down, being taught stupid things, never taught the Truth.

One of the greatest vehicles of conveying sin into the mind of individuals is humor. Those are called on television 'sit-coms.' You sit there and let all the filth and swill of every deviate thing come through your television and into your mind and sit there and laugh about it. That man who lives on that one-mile wide, four-mile long island doesn't have that problem.

We only have cable so I only went through 74 channels. But for those who have Dish Network and they have 300 channels—then if that isn't enough, go get on your computer and you've got all the blither in the world there with every sin known to man and Satan. It's all right there.

What do you do? First, ***you must control your mind! You must control your thoughts!*** I think the greatest thing we need to understand is that ***you are responsible*** for what comes into your mind.

Proverbs 4:13: "Keep hold of instruction..." That's why in dealing with young people we put out that DVD with the Proverbs on it. You take one chapter of Proverbs everyday for a month. There are 31 chapters. If the month is a little shorter, then double up a day or two. You go over that every month. Beginning the first of the month, you start out with chapter one. This will give God's instruction to them without being so heavy with God on their thoughts when they are not really ready for it. That's the best thing, the book of Proverbs.

Verse 13: "Keep hold of instruction; do not let go..." That's the important thing. If they want to change their behavior; if they want to overcome sin, if they want to overcome all of these things, they have got to hold on to instruction and they have to keep it.

"...for she *is* your life.... [the way to straighten out your life] ...Enter not into the path of the wicked..." (vs 13-14). They've got to stop their behavior that goes into wicked ways, regardless of what it may be. To really bring about a change of behavior, it's almost going to be them like the shock of a straight jacket, because they are living so much in sin. How are you going to do that? You've got to lay it out straight to them.

"...and go not into the way of evil *men*" (v 14). First thing they need to do is learn the commandments of God! Learn the Proverbs!

Verse 15: "Avoid it... [you have to get away from it] ...do not go in it; turn from it, and pass on!" Someone comes and says, 'I have some real cheap 'meth' here. How would you like it?' *Get out of here; be gone!* Don't be tempted. 'It's really, really good. I can give it to you for a good price. It'll really make you high for a long time.' Whatever it may be.

Of those purveyors of evil, v 16: "For they do not sleep except when they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away unless they cause *some* to fall.... [make a hit] ...For they eat the bread of wickedness... [Don't they? *Yes!*] ...and drink the wine of violence" (vs 16-17).

Here's what they're going to have to do. It's going to have to be a real turnaround. It's almost, for some people—especially those who are not converted, and especially the youth—going to almost be like that you see in the movies the top sergeant talking to the new recruits just coming in. He gets right up in his face. Sometimes you have to shout at them.

I remember one man had to tell someone he knew that was close to him who was hooked on 'meth' and couldn't get off, he just had to shout and yell at him, 'You're cursed!' Finally he was able to stop. Sometimes you have to do that.

Verse 18: "But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shines more and more to the perfect day.... [here's what they need to be convinced of]: ...The way of the wicked *is* as darkness..." (vs 18-19).

- How do you like what you're going through?
- How do you like your hangovers?
- How do you like the sickness that you have?

- How do you like that sexually transmitted disease you picked up?
- Do you know what that's going to do to your future kids?
- How do you like being ignorant?
- How do you like being unemployed?
- How do you like just sitting around being cool, jogging your head and your whole body to the music, and you have no control and no thought to what you're doing?
- How do you like that?
- What did that do for you?

Verse 19: "The way of the wicked *is* as darkness; they know not at what they stumble.... [that's true, you don't even know what's wrong with you] ...My son, attend to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. Let them not depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart" (vs 19-21).

- You *must* change your thoughts!
- You *must* change your way of living!
- You *must* change your friends!
- You *must* change your life!

Verse 22: "For they *are* life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh."

Here's your task after this lecture today, you tell them. *You are responsible for you*. Don't look at anyone else over here. Don't blame anyone else over there. *You*, regardless of what has happened to you.

Verse 23: "Above all guard the door of your mind with diligence..." Now you're going to have to have a new exercise that you understand evil and you are not going to let it in. Turn off that television, turn off that music, get away from those people who say that they are your friends who are dragging you down into hell and misery and death.

**"...guard the door of your mind with diligence...** [for the rest of your life] **...for out of it are the issues of life"** (v 23). These things are going to affect you your whole life and unless you stop and start building you're going to be unemployed at 50.

Verse 24 is for the youth. Here's what they need to do; they need to acknowledge this: "Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and devious lips put far from you. Let your eyes look right on, and let your eyelids look straight before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and all your ways *will be* established. Do not turn to the right hand nor to the left; remove your foot from evil" (vs 24-27). That is the strong formula that needs to be for young people who need to get their lives straightened around.

James 1 is very important. It talks about *faith and belief*. The first thing you have to convince someone who doesn't know God is to have them to

have faith in the truth of what you say. That will lead to faith in God and Christ. Let them know that that is just a start. They have got to do it.

James 1:6: "But let him ask in faith... [if you want God's help in everything] ...not doubting at all because the one who doubts is like a wave of *the* sea that is driven by the wind and tossed *to and fro*." Just like we covered there in Proverbs, you must go straight on. You can't let the wind, as the wind comes along, blow you off course.

Verse 7: "Do not let that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord." Or you can put it in this way: If you do not do the things that I have just told you, don't think you're ever going to overcome the problem. Do you really, really down deep inside to the very souls of your feet want to change? That's the question.

If you don't, v 8: "*He is* a double-minded man..." You have split thoughts. You want to do good, but you don't want to stop evil. You cannot have that kind of behavior. You cannot expect to live in sin and receive the blessings of God. That's precisely where the nation is today: give me, *give me, give me!*

One woman said, 'Oh, I got a cell phone from Obama. I'm voting for him.' No thought! Everything is put into a racial connotation too many times. It's not a racial thing. *It is right and wrong, good and evil!* Everyone is confronted with that problem.

Verse 13: "Do not let anyone who is tempted say, 'I am being tempted by God'..." No, you're being tempted by someone else or your own lust.

- Is it a trial? *Yes, it is a trial!*
- Is it something you need to overcome? *Yes, it is!*

Remember, you're not going to overcome unless you put forth a maximum effort. Even those who are converted and striving for the Kingdom of God, Jesus said that they don't attain to the Kingdom of God without a great struggle, all of us. We can take all of these things in our private life. Those of us who are converted we can do it, too, because we have choices.

- Do we have anger, temper to work on? *Yes!*
- Do we have lust we need to work on? *Yes!*
- Do we have other things we need to work on? *Yes!*
- How are you doing with yourself in being honest with yourself and also God with your yes be *yes* and your no be *no*?

Try that the next time you exercise. 'I've got to exercise.' You get out there and you're exercising.

First thing your body says, ‘You really don’t need to do quite all those repetitions.’ Your body is saying *no!* Your *yes* has not succeeded in overcoming the *no*, or whatever it may be. ‘I know I need to diet, but that piece of pie and the whipped cream is just so good. I won’t eat tomorrow.’

“...because God is not tempted by evil, and He Himself tempts no one with evil” (v 13). BUT—this is something you’re confronted with—Satan will come along with evil. Satan will come along with lies, especially glorious, good-sounding lies.

There’s a big billboard just driving up to church here as I cross the bridge and it says, ‘Play close to home at Cash Creek Casino.’ BAM! A big sign up there! Right across from it there’s another sign, ‘A pork chop will stop a heart.’ That’s just going against meat eaters. But you see the stupidity of them both: One on a good thing, another on an evil thing.

Verse 14: “But each one is tempted when he is drawn away...” If you’re drawn away, that’s the first step: ***make sure that you do not allow yourself to be drawn away!***

Next thing happens when you’re drawn away): “...and is enticed by his own lust” (v 14). Lust gets involved and lust is powerful; lust justifies evil behavior—does it not? *Yes!*

Notice that it is a step-by-step thing, v 15: “And after lust has conceived... [the process continues] ...it gives birth to sin...” This is where you cut it off. You cut it off at the first step. If you don’t cut it off at the first step, cut it off at the second step. If you don’t cut it off at the second step, cut it off at the third step.

“...and sin, when it is completely finished, brings forth death. Do not deceive yourselves, my beloved brethren” (vs 15-16)—because all the human reasoning that you have ***will deceive you!***

Next time we are going to go to 2-Cor. 10 and we are going to look at what is called ***strongholds—those deep imbedded things in your mind that must be overcome!*** Some people it is swearing, cursing, sex, lust, envy, jealousy—deep within there, especially if they have been in a circumstance where they think, ‘I’ve been deprived all my life and why do other people have all these things and I do not have them.’

‘Uncle Sam’ is right there to say in deception, ‘I’ll help you get them.’ Satan is right there to say, ‘Yeah, you’re justified.’ They got this by lying, cheating and stealing. How are you going to get it? ‘I’m going to kill him and take it.’ How’s that going to work?

That’s why it gets down to the individual, to choice, to every one of these things. This is the generation that has the toughest time with it because of everything that assaults the mind.

We’re going to be done with church here. We’re all going to feel good when we go and we’re going to be going down the road and BANG! you’re going to see a billboard. Then when you get home you watch the news and BANG! you’re going to see this and that and the other thing—right?

***That’s why daily prayer and daily cleansing of the mind is necessary!***

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Proverbs 21:2
- 2) Judges 21:25
- 3) Genesis 6:5
- 4) Deuteronomy 30:5-14, 16, 15-20
- 5) Proverbs 14:12
- 6) Proverbs 16:25
- 7) Jeremiah 10:23
- 8) Romans 8:7
- 9) Ephesians 2:1-3
- 10) 2-Timothy 2:21-25
- 11) Galatians 6:1-5
- 12) 2-Timothy 2:25-26
- 13) 2-Timothy 3:1-7
- 14) Proverbs 4:13-27
- 15) James 1:6-8, 13-16

Scripture referenced, not quoted: Romans 8:7

Also referenced:

Sermon Series:

*Who and What Controls Your Mind?*

DVD: Book of Proverbs

FRC:lp  
Transcribed: 11-29-12  
Formatted: bo—11-30-12  
Corrected: 5/31/15

## How to Overcome the Sin Within III Strongholds: How to Overcome Them

Fred R. Coulter

Since this is around Christmas time, we are all reminded of those songs we would like to forget, but they play them everywhere. Part of that is *reinforcement of deception*. Why in every store do they have to have music?

I remember I went into our local supermarket and it was about nine o'clock in the morning. They had all this razz-ma-tazz music for teenagers going and banging and all that sort of thing. I told the clerk, 'What you need to do is look at the clientele in here that we're all gray-headed. If you want us to stay a little longer and spend a little more money, give us some smooth music in the morning; we're waking up. Play the razz-ma-tazz in the evening.' I think even McDonald's understands that, because I like to get my McDonald's senior coffee, half price.

In the morning they have nice soothing music and here are all the seniors gathered in there with their cup of coffee and their breakfast and everything. At least they did that. What all of this does, it points out how fantastic our minds are, how vulnerable they are and how much we retain *even things we don't want to retain* when we are given a reminder of it.

The song that I've had a hard time resisting this year is, *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*. Satan gets out there and gets all of the great singers, the great voices, the great musicians, all of the great talent and he thinks that he's really going to do good because God gets all of the weak, the sick, the uneducated of this world. Frankly ***you need to be uneducated by the world in order to understand the Truth***, because it's so permeated with Satan's teaching from birth right on through to the highest level of teaching. We end up with *strongholds*!

### 1. Demon Possession

Strongholds are very important to realize where they come from. They come from many sources. The strongest of the stronghold is demon possession. We have examples of that in the Gospels.

Remember the one man who was possessed by Legion. No one could restrain him. Broke chains, broke fetters, wandered in the tombs. That was his home. No clothes, nothing could be done to him. Jesus cast out the demons after asking what his name was. The demon said, 'Legions, because we are many.' That's the strongest kind of hold that can be.

In the world they have institutions to put a lot of these people in, because you're dealing with a situation that in casting out demons, the one who has the demon must want it out. I've been in situations where we cast out demons. Along with that, one of the doors which helps open demon possession is bad diet, because you don't have the nutrients that give you the strength so you can resist.

There are some people who want the demons. You have 'ghost busters' and 'ghost finders' on television today where they are actually going out into haunted houses and saying, 'Hello, are you there?' *Yes, we're here. Come a little closer.* That's dangerous to do!

You also have a great variety of demons, murderers, serial killers, perverts, homosexuals; you also have those who are 'do-gooders,' religious, fasters—those who fast and beat the body. Most people don't have demons, but I'm starting from the worst case going forward. There is one thing that is true, demons ***must obey the command 'In Christ's name,'*** even if the person is not in the Church.

Some cases, in Acts 20 with the son of the seven sons of the priest, tried to cast out demons and they said, 'Jesus we know, Paul we're acquainted with, but who are you?' They jumped on him and beat him up and slashed him and tore off his clothes and threw him out the door.

There are demons that like to get close to people so that perhaps they can be saved from their fate. This is where you get a lot of the false Jesus 'religions.' Also, you have to understand that today more and more people are going to be influenced by demons and demon possession because of the multiplying of the occult.

God did not leave us defenseless, anybody—even not in the Church—can rebuke a demon's intrusion in their life *in the name of Christ*. If they recognize that it is demon activity, they can rebuke it *in the name of Christ*. You can tell him, 'The Lord rebuke you, get out!' That's what it has to be.

Matthew 7:21: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven..." That is at the first resurrection. Many of those people will be reserved for the second resurrection. That shows the love of God, because He did not deal in their lives and they did not commit the unpardonable sin; therefore, they are not worthy of the Lake of Fire.

What they do when they are resurrected in the second resurrection is going to be another whole different situation, indeed. We have the religious people who like religious things. We have religious demons that promote religious things.

Here's the contrast, v 21: "...but the one who is doing the will of My Father, Who *is* in heaven." That is your greatest protection concerning everything of overcoming the sin within regardless of the intensity of it beginning with demon possession or Satan influence.

You can see by some of the movies and *especially* the video games that kids play, all of those are occultism, death, destruction, killing. All of them end up that way.

Verse 22: "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy through Your name? And *did we not* cast out demons through Your name? And *did we not* perform many works of power through Your name?'" That's getting rid of demons.

Actually within the New Testament it is showing us a beginning variety of Christianity already during the days of Christ:

Luke 9:49: "Then John answered *and* said, 'Master, we saw someone casting out demons in Your name, and we forbid him because he does not follow with us.'"

Not all things are restricted to the Church of God, because those who are in the Church of God are those who are called unto salvation and have the Spirit of God. But God does not leave Himself without a witness in the world for those who are not called to salvation. You can see what would happen with this thing.

Verse 50: "But Jesus said to him, 'Do not forbid *him*, because everyone who is not against us is for us.'" Are there a lot of people out there for Jesus but not truly converted? *Yes!*

Let's see the parallel account, Mark 9:38: "Then John answered Him, saying, 'Master, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name, and we forbid him because he does not follow us.'"

What is the result of this? How did this start? When Jesus preached there were multitudes.

- He healed the sick
- He cast out the demons
- they saw that being done
- they used Jesus' name

God honored the casting out of the demons, but He didn't call them for salvation, which becomes a very

important thing to understand. With Truth and proper teaching, could people like that today come to the knowledge of the Truth and be converted and be baptized? *Yes, indeed!* Remember, the dividing line follows this:

- Sabbath
- Holy Days
- Passover
- repentance
- conversion
- Holy Spirit

All of those constitute the dividing line between Christianity of this world and the Truth of God. So, you look at all of those who are for Jesus today, yet, they keep Christmas, Easter, New Years and so forth. You talk to them, they are nice, wonderful people. They are kind, they give and help, and all of this sort of thing, *but they haven't been called to salvation.* In Matt. 7 when they tell Jesus, 'We did these things,' He said, 'Depart from Me you who work lawlessness, I don't know you. I never knew you.'

Why does God allow that? *So that those who really want God will go further and God can deal with them and call them!* That's why! Like some women in their Bible study were saying, 'Only those in the Church of God does God hear their prayers.' *No, that's not true!* Why does God answer prayers of people not in the Church? *So that they might—* with that prayer being answered, knowing that it could only come from God—*seek more of God!* That's why! That's a witness! If they don't, it's a witness against them.

Verse 39: "But Jesus said, 'Do not forbid him, for no one who does a work of power in My name can easily speak evil of Me. And the one who is not against you is for you'" (vs 39-40). Doesn't say they are *with* you, they are *for* you.

Have you ever had grace and favor in the eyes of people in the world? *Yes, indeed!* That's what it's talking about here.

## 2. Occult practices beyond the holidays

That gets into witchcraft, casting spells, horoscopes, getting further and further from direct possession by Satan the devil. With the second one you have familiar spirits. Those who are witches deal with familiar spirits. They may not be possessed.

In that you have those demons that carry out the things as familiar spirits that do *evil things* and those that *appear to do good things*, but still keeps them away from God. So, the ultimate purpose of it is still evil.



### 3. Strongholds then become what enters into our mind during our lifetime

Let's look at some of the things that are very important. First of all, especially in the book of Romans, everybody has 'the law of sin and death' by inheritance within them. *Only the Spirit of God can overcome that law of sin and death within!* Other things such as disciplining yourself, training your mind, can help you overcome some of those things, but it cannot override 'the law of sin and death.'

Because of that, here's what 'the law of sin and death' plus education do for us. Remember that Jesus blessed the little children and said, 'Forbid them not, let them come to Me.' They are innocent because their brains have not been filled with a lot of nonsense.

#### ➤ Mild forms of occult and witchcraft

Today that's considerably different. Kids are raised on cartoons and kid's games, *which is the entrance of the knowledge of this world and mild forms of the occult and mild forms of witchcraft*, ala Walt Disney.

Look at how he started. Look at how it progressed down through the years to bring in more and more of the occult, more and more of good *vs* evil. Then we get down to today and we have Harry Potter. With Harry Potter then we have kids getting into witchcraft, etc. It is a mammoth thing because of that. Children today are not as innocent as they were before the advent of the electronic media that we have today.

All human beings are born with the *law of sin*. All human beings are subject to death at any time from conception and birth and their last breath. Their last breath can come at any time. God is the One Who sustains us. However, let's use the example—and I like this one from William Tyndale:

A newly hatched or birth-given snake—because you have those that lay eggs and you have those that give birth—the new baby venomous snakes may not be able to bite you and kill you with venom, but what is in their genes? *They are going to grow and become just exactly like their wicked parents* as it were full of venom.

With children you see right away the activation of 'the law of sin and death,' though they are innocent, but it's still functioning. They will steal, take toys, fight, lie and scheme at a very early age. Let's look back:

- Did you not lie to your parents?

- Did you not do things that they never, never knew of and you probably never told them? *Yes!*
- Did not they do the same thing? *Yes!*

Perpetually, every generation because of 'the law of sin and death.' Let's add some growth to that.

#### ➤ Puberty and sex

Let's come to puberty. The sex hormones begin coursing through the body and the mind and the imagination. That can be controlled if it is not exacerbated or magnified. Today we start teaching in the 'state schools' about homosexuality beginning in kindergarten. So, by time they get into high school and all these sex hormones are raging in their system, they have sex education classes and guess what's on their minds? *It puts sin within* and it locks onto the brain because the brain is made to connect the synapses—to connect thoughts, to connect sites, to connect instructions—and put it together in a full range of potential activity in your mind. In light of that:

#### ➤ Music and drugs

Mark 7:20: "And He said, 'That which springs forth from within a man, that defiles the man. For from within...'" (vs 20-21). Though you are born innocent and know nothing, you have 'the law of sin and death' and the potential is there. This helps to explain why nice, sweet little children, when they are growing up and make the wrong choices—especially when you get into music, drugs, entertainment—and go bad. They know better!

I don't know of a single parent who said, 'Oh, it's okay to go out and take 'meth' and heroin. Hey, that's great.' Now, there may be some today who will want them to smoke 'pot,' but it shows how absolutely degenerate the society has become. Now there are states that have legalized 'smoking pot' by allowing possession of one ounce of marijuana. It shows the absolute stupidity, the schizophrenia of human thinking.

We have learned how bad smoking cigarettes have been for the last 50 years. Now we've penalized smoking, taxed cigarettes, tell people don't smoke, it's caused lung cancer, caused ovarian cancer, caused heart attacks, so you shouldn't do it. Now the younger generation comes along and says, 'Oh, boy, this pot is really, really good.' Are you stressed? Go home and 'smoke a joint. It's not like going home and drinking.'

You may become an alcoholic if you drink, but you may become a drug addict if you start with 'pot.' They're not told the TH-factor in marijuana causes the brain to shrink. Just like the toxins of

smoking lodge in the lungs, the toxins of smoking 'pot' lodge in the lungs and in the brain and you soon become very subject to stupors, lack of initiative, bad thinking, and addiction. That can be overcome with a lot of discipline and hard work.

Here's what comes out of the heart of men; remember what it says: 'Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.' Out of the abundance of the heart and the evil that is there, men produce evil things as well—don't they? *Yes!*

Verse 21: "For from within, out of the hearts of men, go forth evil thoughts..." They're reinforced today by television, Internet, books, games, friends. You add onto it: *Satan is deceiving the whole world and the whole world* is like there's a great web and pall of deception around the whole world.

So, you get some of these younger people now and even at age 13 they are so convinced of the world, having been brought up in this way, that the Truth of the Bible sounds absolutely insane. If they reach a certain point, their lives are messed up because of music, drugs, sex, and they cannot stand the thought of being told, 'You must stop.'

This is when I recommend when you have a rebellious teenager—I don't know how you are going to do it, but you've got to do it—*no music, strict television watching, no video games, no cell phone, no texting!* You get your mind into the book of Proverbs. That's one of the reasons we've done this video on Proverbs. You learn them! You study them! Because your mind is all messed up, the only way that you can come out of this is that you must *reprogram your brain with right thoughts and right behavior*. You cannot allow yourself any slip backs. Just ask any heroin addict.

I remember talking to a man who said, 'I've overcome heroin.' I said, 'Good, I'm glad you did.' He said, 'But I want to tell you something. The urge for it and the craving for it is there everyday the rest of my life.' So, those who are involved in that need to understand: You need to repent of that and you have gone too far, and if you do not grab hold of your mind and change and begin to put into it right things, you're in deep trouble! Furthermore, *do not blame anyone else* because that person may have introduced you to things, but you chose to say *yes* and now you've got a *stronghold* in there.

"...go forth evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders... [See the progression? Isn't that the way it is? *Yes, indeed!*] ...thefts, covetousness, wickednesses, guile, licentiousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness; all these evils go forth from within, and *these* defile a man" (vs 21-23). The word there for *man* is 'anthropos'—

which means *human beings*—men and women. That's how these things get in there.

#### ➤ Humor

Why do all comedy shows eventually end up with some sort of sexual connotations? Then it goes from there. It can be drama. Look at the wonderful, wonderful production that Walt Disney put out, *The Beauty and the Beast*. What is he really teaching? *Bestiality!* How about the great, marvelous one, *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*? ***Witchcraft!*** You have all seen them—haven't you? What did the wicked witch say as she stood before the mirror? We could all say it together. '*Mirror, mirror on the wall, who is the fairest of all*'? Teaching what? *Demon communication, witchcraft, poison apples!* You can get rid of your enemies with poison.

#### ➤ Sex

I've heard several cases of both young men and young women getting out on their own; they don't believe their parents, they have friends that are actively involved in same-sex activities and they are enticed to do it because they do not say *no*! Every individual is confronted with the thing to say *yes* or *no*. It's very difficult, once you have gotten yourself into that kind of situation, to say *no*.

But when it gets down to it, what did Paul write concerning sexual immorality or fornication? *He says flee!* That means *get up and run* because your brain's not working good enough to say *no*, so you better remove yourself out of there fast; otherwise you're going to be enticed. Once you are enticed and once you have gone through the experience of same-sex *sex*, the dynamics of the sexual response of the body become so great that they are convinced that it's right.

I remember reading the account of a 12-year-old girl who was a lesbian. She came in at 6-years-old doing the nice little dances and all of that sort of thing. Through the years gained the trust. Then they had a dance that they were going to do out of town and the parents gave permission to go with the dance instructor. 'After all, she was a wonderful, worthy woman.' She seduced the 12-year-old in lesbian activity and she is a proud lesbian now.

***These are things that are confronting people today!***

Whether the Supreme Court actually holds up marriage as between a man and a woman or not, sooner or later it's all going to come apart. Without God and without His laws, even people in the world, the only way they can come out of the things that they are doing is to obey God in the letter of the law at the least. They can modify their behavior a little bit. They can change certain things a little bit. They

can reprogram their minds to a certain extent, but *they can never, never get rid of the stronghold* that's deep within.

The reason I bring that up is this. All of us know the things we went through growing up—don't we? *Yes!* Thankfully, they're all buried in the watery grave of baptism. Most of those things we have been able to forget. Once in a while you'll get a flashback. This is something that we'll talk about here in a little bit how to do that. All of these things come from 'the prince of the power of the air.'

In growing up, those of us who are older, this was not that kind of a problem. It was there in a low degree hidden in the background, not like the problem that we have today. All of these things create *strongholds in the mind*. We'll talk about how to overcome some of those. The youth today have so many things pulling against them, plus the lack of education in school. They are taught to get along, go along, and sex is a wonderful thing.

Just like the ad that was put out by the Democrat National Party. This 13-year-old girl saying right on the ad, whether you're going to vote or not, 'we need to have women's rights. So, all you girls when you want to sacrifice your virginity—and there's a reason why God gave virginity—make sure you hook up with a good guy.' *Right on national television!* The Democratic National Party had the hardest time getting God back on the party platform plank in writing. When they did, they even had people booing. So, you just need to understand that in America we have an ungodly, satanic government that is set to destroy, steal, rob and kill.

They have it very similar with healthcare in the United Kingdom and they're running out of money, so they have to cut back. The death panels have to make a decision. The decision that they have made in addition to letting older people go without any kind of service of all; so everyone who is older, you better start taking care of your life. You better quit thinking you're going to run into the doctor and you're going to run and get this prescription or that prescription. Most of the prescriptions that you have today, beyond some that do help in healing, they're going to kill you anyway. You need to find out what you can do.

But the decision that they made in addition to not giving service to the older people is that those newborn infants that are on life support, they cannot continue to afford to take care of them. So, they take them off the life support. *We have a wicked and evil world, run by wicked and evil people!* Hard to find anyone who is righteous even in the letter of the Law.

Since we've covered the young people, let's get all of us old folks involved here and how do you overcome what's in there.

(go to the next track)

- What do we do when we're adults?
- How do we *overcome strongholds*, some of them going back to our childhoods?

Let's see the progression of what God does. The first thing that God does is *let you wallow in your sins and you become miserable and things go wrong!* You finally say, 'God, help me.' At that point, God will begin to deal in your life.

For those who are not called to salvation, they have to come to the point that they know that they need to change their behavior and do things in what we would call the letter of the Law. When they make that change, that is *a* repentance, but not a repentance unto salvation.

Rom. 1:26-32 lists all the evil, all the things that Satan perpetuates and perpetrates generation after generation. There is a *progressive degeneration* from one generation to another. As that happens, lawlessness becomes the law of the land. That's where we are today! They institutionalize sin. When you institutionalize sin the whole society gets on the *slippery slope of destruction*. Everything starts to come apart. That's exactly where we are in America today. We are going down the slide of degeneration and corruption to destruction.

The United Kingdom is about half way down that slide right now. We're quickly following. However, out of that, and out of every society regardless of the degree of sin, God calls people. How does He do it? Jesus said, 'Many are called, few are chosen.' *The few who are chosen are those who respond to God!* Now we're going to talk about how to overcome the sin within for those of us who are converted, in the Church for whatever length of time. Let's go back and see that God convicted us of all these sins, and here's what He did.

We begin to see the things going on around us, Romans 2:1. "Therefore you are without excuse, O man... [looking at everything there at the last part of Rom. 1] ...everyone who judges *another*; for in that in which you judge the other, you are condemning your own self; for you who judge *another* are doing the same things."

- You see that it's wrong!
- You want to get out from it!
- You see the problems that are happening!

Verse 2: "But we know that the judgment of God is according to Truth upon those who commit

such things.... [all the above listed] ...Now, do you think yourself, O man, whoever is judging those who commit such things, and you are practicing them *yourself*, that you shall escape the judgment of God?" (vs 2-3). That's why never compare yourself among yourselves; those who do so are not wise.

Verse 4: "Or do you despise the riches of His kindness and forbearance and longsuffering, not knowing that the graciousness of God leads you to repentance?" God has to lead you to repentance. How does He do that? *The Spirit draws* (John 6:44)! Go back over the sermon, *The Holy Spirit and the Seven Spirits of God*. God draws!

Every one of us can look back at that time when God began the process. Then we begin to understand that we need to quit sinning. We find that sin is *the transgression of the Law*. We need to amend our behavior. God leads us to repentance, which is not only an acknowledging that *sin is a transgression of the Law*, but it is also a very emotional thing that you go through. God leads you to understand that ***the only way out of your circumstances is that you throw yourself unconditionally upon His mercy***, and then follows baptism.

We're going to see some things that tell us **how to overcome the strongholds**. We will get more specific as we go along here in what we need to do.

### **Fruits of the Flesh:**

Galatians 5:16: "Now *this* I say, walk by the Spirit..." You need the Spirit of God to overcome. That's why we have the series, *How to Use God's Holy Spirit*. That comes through prayer, through study, and realizing and understanding that you have to yield your whole being to God, not just that part of your mind that you want to get rid of the evil, but your *whole being—commitment to God!*

"...walk by *the* Spirit and you will not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (v 16). Just like we discussed before, where Job said that he did not lust after beautiful women because he made a covenant with his eyes. He made the determination not to let that happen to him. So, when you are baptized and receive the Spirit of God, you have made a covenant with God. He has given you His Spirit, the begettal, which is a start. You have yet to grow in grace and knowledge and overcome and begin resisting evil and changing.

Here's what you find, v 17: "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit..." The pulls of the flesh are there. Many different aspects of it: lying, swearing, cheating.

"...and the Spirit against the flesh..." (v 17). Now you have something happening, because you have the Spirit of God. Before conversion, doing all of these things, you had no conviction of conscience, right and wrong. Now with the Holy Spirit and the knowledge of His Word, God's Spirit *brings to your attention the sinful thoughts* that are going on in your mind. That is God's Spirit bringing it up ***so you can repent and get it cleansed from your mind!***

You have this inner battle. This is what Paul wrote about in Rom. 7, 'the law of sin and death.' He wanted to do good, but when he did good he got so far in doing good and then something happened. He probably lost his temper or he got mad or he was terrible in his behavior, whatever it may be, even converted. He said, 'I don't desire to do it, but I do.' That's a *stronghold*. We'll see how he said to overcome it in just a little bit.

Verse 17: "For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these things are opposed to each other, so that you cannot do those things you wish to do"—just another way of summarizing Rom. 7.

Here are the things that people have been brought out of, and the sins in their lives, called the works of the flesh, v 19: "Now, the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these: adultery, fornication, uncleanness..." That follows almost parallel with what Jesus said. Jesus said 'evil thoughts.' That's what we need to overcome. That way these other things will not progress.

"...licentiousness..." Adultery, fornication and sex sins are the major problems of human beings—period! They lead to all kinds of problems, especially when children come around. This is why this evil society, in order to restrain evil, must perpetuate more evil by saying 'we'll provide abortion service for you. We will provide contraception for you; go ahead and be as licentious as you want, but don't burden us down with these unwanted children, because we don't have the tax money to pay for them.'

That's when things really get out of hand. That's why when they took:

- God out of the schools
- Bibles out of the schools
- prayer out of the schools
- morality out of the schools

by the license of the state ***taught evil***, as Rush Limbaugh says: 'to the skulls full of mush. And taught them that evil was good and good was evil.' That's where the society is. We have to live in this society, so we feel very much like Lot. What did it say about Lot? *He was frustrated everyday with the conduct of those in Sodom!*

Verse 20: “Idolatry...” The idolatry that we fight is not an idol in our house. The idolatry we fight are **the idols in our mind**: our thoughts, our ideas, our greatness. ‘God had to call me because I’m so good.’ *Phooey!* I’ve heard people even say that. Never fails! They end up with a great trial to realize *God called them because they were sinners!* Once you have idols in your mind, it can be music or whatever. It can be another person. Do you have stalkers? *Yes, stalkers have an idol of this person in their mind!* They’ve got to have this person. They are obsessed, a fixation, a *stronghold*. That’s an extreme.

We will see that God wants us to get rid of these things. As we read this, this will help us understand the lame excuse that the Catholics have when you point out that they worship idols. ‘Oh, no, we just venerate them.’ God says don’t make them. How did they get in there?

Here’s the idolatry we need to overcome, right here. What does self-idolatry do? What happens with every one of these ‘improve yourself’ programs to tell yourself how good you are? What does it do? *It builds your own self up as an idol in your mind!*

Ezekiel 14:1: “And some of the elders of Israel came to me and sat before me. And the Word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their faces. Should I at all be inquired of them?’” (vs 1-3).

You’re coming to a Holy righteous God! No man is going to command God or tell Him what to do. No human thought of inculcating sin into your relationship with God because it’s a good idea: ‘Let’s have a cross; let’s have a cross with Jesus on it, or the virgin Mary, she made it into heaven. All these other saints made it into heaven.’ All of those things—add-ons—are idolatry. Or a person would say, ‘I’m so important. I have so much money. I don’t need God.’ Watch out!

Verse 4: “Therefore, speak to them, and say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD, “Every man of the house of Israel... [anyone] ...who sets up his idols in his heart, and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and comes to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him according to the multitude of his idols.”’”

I suppose in counseling people, after you’ve gotten so far, this would be a good place to begin. ‘Why don’t you write down all the idols you have in your mind and then read v 5, because it is going to tell you that you’re at a crossroad, you have a choice. What are you going to do now that you know the Truth?’

Verse 5: “So that I may take the house of Israel in their own heart because they have deserted Me for their idols—all of them.” Therefore say to the house of Israel, “Thus says the Lord GOD, ‘**Repent...**’” (vs 5-6).

Repentance is not just repent and be baptized. Repentance is *a daily thing*, because as we go in our walk with God, **God reveals to us more and more of the hidden sin deep within that He wants us to repent of!** Why? *Because He is preparing us for eternal life!*

“...‘Repent and turn yourselves from your idols, and turn away your faces from all your abominations.... [notice what happens]: ...For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger who lives in Israel, who separates himself from Me and sets up his idols in his heart, and puts the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and comes to a prophet to ask of him concerning Me; I the LORD will answer him Myself’” (vs 6-7).

I don’t know what that involves, but I do know in the case of Israel and the Jews, how did God answer them because they didn’t repent? *He removed them from the land and took everything they had away from them!* Furthermore, if you persist in it, God says this. So, you lay it before the person and say, ‘How about this, do you want this?’

Verse 8: “**And I will set My face against that man, and I will make him for a sign and for a proverb. And I will cut him off from the midst of My people; and you shall know that I am the LORD.**”

If you’ve got your life full of problems and sins, *you better come to God*. You also have to understand that since you’ve done it and it’s ingrained in you and you have lived by it and you have nourished it, you have loved it, now the penalty is coming upon you and you begin to hate it! You have a whole lot to overcome, but God will help you; God will be there. You’re going to have to understand it’s a day-by-day process to *overcome the strongholds* because they are there with a grip on your mind. You need to have it changed. You might start asking:

- What has my fullest attention most of the time?
- What activity?
- Is it God?
- Is it His Word?
- Is it how to live?

or

- Do you poke your head into church on the Sabbath and now you’ve done your duty to God?

and

- When you poke your head back out in the world, you're back out there in the world again?

That's what happens with more modern Christianity.

With those who have the Spirit of God and are in the Church of God, *overcoming is a full-time activity*. Things can come upon us in this world today. It could never come upon them living out in the country and taking care of the animals. Like David was out there shepherding the sheep. No television, no SmartPhone, no media. You get out there, sit under the tree and watch all the sheep. You can pray to God. You can have a leisurely time. You can strum on your harp. You can sing praises to God. You can watch the animals; take care of them. To have a little excitement, drive away the lion; drive away the bear. You better be strong and up to that. Have your sword, have your spear or today have your gun, whatever it may be. Life was totally different.

Go shopping: What do you walk into? Stop and ask yourself, 'When I go shopping at the supermarket, how many things are there to grab my attention to stir up my lust?' *The whole store, yes!*

We'll read Gal. 5:19 again, because if you are addicted to television and soap operas you better find where the *off switch* is on your television. Let's read the works of the flesh in view as to what comes into our homes, invited because we turn the switch on.

Galatians 5:19: "...adultery, fornication, uncleanness, licentiousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, strifes, jealousies, indignations, contentions, divisions, sects... [splits and divisions] ...envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and such things as these; concerning which I am telling you beforehand, even as I have also said in the past, that **those who do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God**" (vs 19-21).

What we need to do is limit that kind of exposure through media devices that we have today. Sometimes you can't avoid it except to make your mind up to not let those things grab your attention. Ninety-nine percent of all of the magazines displayed in supermarkets are right at the entrance to the checkout stand. Why do you suppose that they are there? *Men will lust after it because the male mind is gauged that it appreciates and lusts after a beautiful female body!* But that is secondary. The primary is for the women through jealousy and envy wanting to be like the image of the woman on the cover of the magazine. Is that not true?

So, you have that; you've got all the advertisements. You have all of the products. You have the music. You have the squalling brats. You have, in some cases, the teenagers that are dressed in

an unfit manner for civilized human beings. Isn't that true? You go out into the world and you've got to fight this music wherever you go. I tell you what—young people, teenagers—how are they educated into accepting this? We already talked about it. Starts out with cartoons, babysitting with Walt Disney; all of those things.

We have a greater battle today. We really, really do. Let's see what we are to do with it. It is a battle and it is a full-time proposition. Think about it! Never before in the history of the world were there devices, which with the push of the finger, you can turn on various media devices and you can have hundreds of sins per day parade through your house. Isn't that true? *Yes, indeed!*

Just do a channel-surf if you don't believe it. We're just talking about regular TV. We're not talking about online pornography, online gambling, online solicitation. We're not talking about that, but that is absolutely crazy and evil much more than we would understand. Sometimes you need to view some of these things from the point of view like Brian Williams on CNBC where they do the entrapment against men looking for sexual exposés with teenagers.

Now you know why the politicians want to lower the age of consent? The way you make crime go away is you change the law. The way you make crime go away *by God's way* is **you cease doing the activity**. Especially with young people, if they say, 'It's not against the law.' You better let them know **whose law** are you talking about? *Yes!* In the mix in this is that they have changed the meaning of words. That's how Satan works incrementally so that things that are sin do not become sin in the law of the land. But *it's still sin against God*.

The Bible does not give a chronological age. **Sin is sin!** Even the Proverb says that a child is known by his works, 'whether they are good or whether they are evil.' They've had trouble with 7-8-year-olds in school and they've had trouble with teachers in school. 'Oh, why don't you come by my house this afternoon and I'll show you some really good things in sex, personally.'

2-Corinthians 10:3: "For although we walk in *the flesh*, we do not war according to *the flesh*." If you war according to the flesh, and we are in a spiritual warfare, you can only accomplish so much. That is self-discipline to a point. Self-discipline cannot conquer lust. It takes the Holy Spirit of God.

Verse 4: "For the weapons of our warfare *are* not carnal, but mighty through God **to the overthrowing of strongholds**." This is what we're talking about: the **deep sin within** that must be cleansed. It is a process. Especially today, it's

something that must be done everyday because it's there. If you have things in your mind that are *strongholds*, list them down:

- take them before God
- pray about it
- ask God to help you overcome it
- ask God to help you get rid of it
- ***He will!***

I'll show you the key thing. You will know what it is, because we've covered it before.

Verse 5: "Casting down vain imaginations, and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God..." A little sin is all right. God will understand. What do they teach in the cartoons? They have Donald Duck or Mickey Mouse and up on one shoulder is another Donald Duck that's evil. Another one: Donald Duck is good and arguing back and forth, should I do this or that. This is what we do in our mind. Anything that goes against the laws and commandments and love of God

- is exalting itself against God
- is an idol in the mind
- is a stronghold that needs to be gotten rid of

***That's the process of conversion!***

"...and bringing into captivity every thought..." (v 5). ***You must control your mind with the Spirit of God!*** If something comes along, grab hold of it, bring it before God and have it eliminated.

Let me just give you an example: If you think you don't have faith, don't say, 'I ought to have faith.' Do a deep word study on faith and prayer and let that get rid of any doubt that you may have. That's how you do it:

- grab hold of it
- cast it down right in front of you
- examine it with the Word of God
- eliminate it with the Holy Spirit of God
- ask God to cleanse your heart and mind
  - ✓ you may have to go repent to someone else
  - ✓ you may have to ask forgiveness for something that you have done
  - ✓ you need to do that too

"...and bringing into captivity every thought into the obedience of Christ" (v 5). It doesn't say *most* thoughts, *some* thoughts, evil thoughts—***every thought!***

Verse 6: "And having a readiness to avenge all disobedience... [of the imagination of the mind] ...whenever your obedience has been fulfilled." How do you do that?

Ephesians 5:23: "For the husband is *the* head of the wife, even as Christ *is the* Head of the Church..." I'm not focusing on husband and wife relationships here. I'm focusing on Christ's relationship with us who are part of the Body of Christ. He's the Head of the Church.

"...and He is *the* Savior of the body. For even as the Church is subject to Christ, in the same way also *let* wives be *subject* to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your own wives, in the same way that Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it" (vs 23-25). This shows the effort that we need to have.

- we must put forth the effort
- God must grant us His Spirit
- we must exercise ourselves and our minds unto righteousness and casting down vain imaginations.

Verse 26: "So that He might sanctify it..." Notice, *He might*, showing it's a process. Sanctify means to be made Holy. That's what God is doing with us.

"...having cleansed *it*..." (v 26). That's what we want,

- be cleansed from every sin
- be cleansed from every disobedience
- be cleansed from every evil thought

The truth is, getting rid of these thoughts is a progressive thing, which will last until our very last breath in the flesh. Then at the resurrection, it is all gone. That's the fight we have to have now, between now and then, every one.

"...having cleansed *it* with the washing of water... [Holy Spirit] ...by *the* Word" (v 26). What have we heard all of our lives in the Church? ***Prayer and study, prayer and study!***

- let the Holy Spirit of God wash us and cleanse us with His Word
- replace what is in our mind with the Word of God
- replace what is in our mind and conduct with the conduct from God

Let's see what we are to exercise ourselves to. We've seen the fruits of the flesh, now let's look at the fruit of the Spirit. What you need to do, which I will cover in part 4 of this series, is how then we exercise the fruits of the Spirit.

### **Fruits of the Spirit:**

Galatians 5:22: "But the fruit of the Spirit is **love...**" There are four aspects of love. Instead of

feeling sorry for yourself, wondering why you have these evil thoughts, wondering what you need to do about it, take action:

- get on your knees
- open the Bible
- study what you need to do
- ask God to help you
- ask Him to give you His strength

*Loving God with*

- 1) all your heart
- 2) all your mind
- 3) all your soul
- 4) all your being

That's a fulltime activity—isn't it? God will strengthen you and cleanse you in this.

“...**joy**...” You're getting rid of sin and *inner joy*. That doesn't mean you're running around laughing and praising God, running around in circles, waving your arms in the air. No, this is a joy *within*.

“...**peace**...” You have peace with God. You're not warring against Him. You have peace with your husband or wife. You're not fighting with them. You have peace with your neighbors, the best you can do. You have peace with the brethren.

“...**longsuffering**...”—because there are going to be things you're going to have to suffer. So suffer them. Ask God to help you learn the lesson from it.

“...**kindness, goodness, faith, meekness, self-control**; against such things there is no law. But **those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and lusts.**” (vs 22-24). You take all of those things that we have mentioned here and you give it a spiritual crucifixion.

Verse 25: “**If we live by *the* Spirit, we should also be walking by *the* Spirit. We should not become vain-glorious, provoking one another and envying one another**” (vs 25-26).

If you're living by the Spirit, that is God's Spirit in you, and *your actions in walking the way of God should be reflecting the spiritual motivation within!* That's why it says ‘be walking by the Spirit.’

- 5) Romans 2:1-4
- 6) Galatians 5:16-17, 19-20
- 7) Ezekiel 14:1-8
- 8) Galatians 5:19-21
- 9) 2-Corinthians 10:3-6
- 10) Ephesians 5:23-26
- 11) Galatians 5:22-25

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Acts 20
- Romans 1:26-32
- John 6:44
- Romans 7

Also referenced:

- Sermon: *The Holy Spirit and the Seven Spirits of God*
- Sermon Series: *How to Use God's Holy Spirit*

FRC:lp  
Transcribed: 12-18-12  
Formatted: bo—12-19-12  
Corrected: 5/31/15

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 7:21-22
- 2) Luke 9:49-50
- 3) Mark 9:38-40
- 4) Mark 7:20-23



## How to Overcome the Sin Within IV What You Need to Do

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services! Let's review just a little bit.

Human nature is a mixture of good and evil. We have within us what is called 'the law of sin and death' (Rom 7). This has been transmitted genetically to all people. Let's see how Paul wrote of this to explain what happened. It's very interesting because a lot of preachers like to read that Eve was the one who caused the sin. It says Eve transgressed because *she was deceived*. Adam was *not* deceived. Also, when she picked the fruit, he should have told her, 'Don't do it.' But he didn't do it. So, it makes you wonder, was he sitting there thinking, 'If she picks this and nothing happens to her...'

What God told them was that if you eat the fruit, you shall surely die. They must have had subsequent instruction because Eve also told the serpent that 'we should *not touch it* lest we die.' So, it makes you wonder, was Adam sitting there, 'She's got it in her hand, and she's okay. Well, she ate it.' Because it says she gave it to her husband with her, so he was right there.

'Well, she's okay.' She says, 'Here, try it, you'll like it.' So, he tried it. At that point *the whole nature of human beings with the judgment of God was changed!* When they were created, they were created not subject to death, yet, and they were created not having 'the law of sin' within them. After they ate it, their eyes were opened to sin, but closed to righteousness.

Just like everything else, God knew where they were. One man said, who was an atheist, 'The Scriptures are kind of stupid, because if God knows everything why did He come into the garden, if He knew that Adam and Eve had sinned, why did He say, 'Adam, where are you?' Of course, He knew where he was, but He wanted to find out what Adam was going to do.

The first thing Adam did after God said, 'Have you eaten of the fruit that I told you not to eat of?' He said, 'Lord, it's the wife You gave me; *You* gave me. It's *Your* fault, God,' rather than understanding the choice and he made the choice. Then God looked at Eve and said, 'Did you do it?' She said, 'The serpent.' *You have to always blame someone else!*

So, they had the judgment. First against Satan the devil, then against Eve, then against Adam, and He said, 'In dying, you shall surely die.' They were expelled from the Garden of Eden and at

the point of the judgment their nature was changed. Was the nature of the environment changed? *Yes!* God said it'll bring forth weeds, thorns and thistles, and you're going to have to work for it. We find in Ezek. 23 that when there is great sin in the land it affects the environment.

Side bar: Is that the global warming problem, human sin? *Probably!*

Let's see what Paul wrote. This also explains to us something very, very important, that no human being can ever be perfect in the flesh according to the standard of perfection that God demands. ***No human being has the ability to get rid of the sin within!*** They can discipline themselves so they sin a little less, but they can't convert and change the mind. No human being has yet overcome death, except Christ.

Romans 5:12: "Therefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and by means of sin *came* death; and in this way, death passed into... [the Greek there is 'eis'—*into*—preposition showing motion, *into*] ...all mankind; *and it is* for this reason that all have sinned."

When you have a nature of death, there is no way you can do things that are perfect. The only way you can come to that is if you answer the call to God and repent. We also know that people can make themselves less evil by following the laws of God in the letter. There are a lot of people who do it in the world. They are good, decent people in the world.

You also have those who are criminals and given to sin and give themselves over to every thought:

- to rebel
- to steal
- to lie
- to take

All of those things then make human nature even worse.

Let's see how God explained it to Jeremiah. A lot of people don't like to admit what we're going to read here. Show me the best-behaved person on earth. Are they going to beat the sentence of death? *No!* They may have done a lot of exemplary things compared to what other human beings do. God will honor that in the letter of the Law.

Jeremiah 17:1: "The sin of Judah *is* engraved with a pen of iron..." Deliberately going against

God. Just like we see today how the government is doing with abortion, same-sex marriage, entitlement benefits, overtaxing. Same way we see crime and corruption in the world: crime gangs, drug cartels, lying bankers; all the banks in the world are owned by eight families.

“...with the point of a diamond; *it is* carved upon the tablet of their heart...” (v 1). They’ve given themselves over completely to evil. For those of us who are trying to do good and for those of us who have grown up and we haven’t committed a great deal of sins, this becomes somewhat difficult to comprehend that there are people dedicated to evil. Let’s see how God looks at it.

“...and upon the horns of your altars” (v 1)—brought sin into their religion—did they not? What was that sin? *All their traditions!* Let’s stop and think for just a minute.

- Is God perfect? *Yes!*
- Is His law perfect? *Yes!*
- Are His commandments perfect and just and right and good? *Yes!*
- Did He create them for our own good, for our benefit? *Yes!*

When you come along and you add something to it... For example, I received some material on the Catholic Eucharist. This was the first time I ever knew that when they bring out the wine and bless the wine, the deacon takes some water and pours into the wine. Why? *Jesus didn’t say so!* Jesus told them, ‘You go into the whole world and you teach everyone what I have commanded you.’

You read the Passover account, nowhere is there any account where Jesus asked for a pitcher of water to pour into the wine. Someone came up with the ‘brilliant’ idea. It was so righteous that ‘if we’re going to partake of the blood of Christ’ it says that when the soldier ran the spear in His side out came water and blood, so ‘I have an idea. Let’s put water in the wine.’

You can add on all the other traditions that they have. This is why it’s necessary to know the Bible. A lot of traditions sound really, really good. But even if they sound really, really good, if you add it to what God has given and what God has given is perfect, you are declaring to God that what He did was not perfect. So, there are many different things concerning it.

Verse 5: “Thus says the LORD, ‘Cursed *is* the man who trusts in man, and makes flesh his arm, and whose heart departs from the LORD.’” God looks at it over a lifetime. Someone can sin and nothing happens, because God is giving a time to:

- recognize what you have done

- come to yourself
- change your mind
- stop doing it

For example: The ten tribes of Israel, in spite of all their sins God gave them 232 years before they were sent off into captivity. Reflect on how long we’ve been a nation, 239. Think about what’s going on.

Verse 6: “For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes. But he shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in* a salt land that is not inhabited.”

What you also may do with this verse, look at where different people live in the world and realize that God put them all in their places where they are. This also can tell you a great deal about the practices of the people.

Dolores was watching the *History of Mankind* concerning the Incas in Peru. Some of the things they did were absolutely mind-boggling. When you read the accounts of how ruthless were the Spanish in killing them; that was God’s judgment because of what they were doing. Down through the history of time you have nations that rise because they are doing ‘good’ and God determines to raise them up. Then they do evil and they are brought down. Then another nation comes along and conquers them. Then they rise to the point of *corruption and sin*, so they come down. You can see that in the history of the world.

Think of what’s happening here in America and western civilization. We’ve had the blessings beyond any description of any civilization ever in the world. What have we done? We’ve corrupted ourselves almost beyond repair.

Notice the difference, here we are in the middle of this, v 7: “Blessed *is* the man who trusts in the LORD and whose hope is the LORD.” These are living laws.

I read an article where there was one of these soul concerts dedicated to Barack Hussein Obama ‘our lord and savior’ <sup>[sarcasm]</sup> Wonder what’s going to happen?. What does v 5 tell us? Is that going to result in blessings?

Here’s the difference, v 8: “For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters; *it* sends out its roots by the river, and *it* shall not fear when the heat comes, but its foliage shall be green; and he is not worried in the year of droughts, nor will it cease from yielding fruit.... [we’ve got two contrasts here] ...The heart *is* deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?” (vs 8-9).

Isn’t it interesting? I’m sure you’ve observed that little children lie from the get-go. ‘Johnny, did you do this?’ *No, my sister did.* From a very young

age! You know and I know, everybody knows, every single one of us did things that we knew absolutely were contrary to what our parents told us to do or wanted us to do and many of those things they never knew about. Some of them, when they found out about it, got you in real deep trouble! Why? *Because:*

Verse 9: **“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?”** God alone knows it. The only way to truly understand human nature is with the Word of God and with the Spirit of God. With this *sin within* we’re going to see only the Spirit of God can change human nature. When people do ‘good’ they can modify their behavior.

- Does that get rid of jealousy?
- Does that get rid of lust?
- Does that get rid of envy?
- Does that get rid of murder?
- Does that get rid of thievery?
- *No!*

So here’s what we need to understand, v 10: “I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give to each man according to his ways, according to the fruit of his doings.”

Let’s look at some of the other things that are contradictory to men and self-deceiving. We know that Proverbs 14:12 says: “There is a way which seems right to a man... [or woman] ...but the end thereof *is* the way of death.”

Proverbs 16:2: “All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes... [Remember, *the law of sin and death* is active here. The law of self-deception is active here.] ...but the LORD weighs the spirits.”

Let’s read a couple of other verses and we’ll get a preview of how our behavior can change.

Verse 3: “Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established.” This is what needs to happen.

- How do you establish your thoughts?
- How do you overcome those thoughts within where sin begins?

*That’s the whole point of conversion!*

You can have a disciplinary religion where you can make yourself a better person. You can be taught and practice to be kind and nice to people. But does that give you love from within to actually be nice to people? *Maybe not!*

Verse 4: “The LORD has made all for His own purpose; yea, even the wicked for the day of evil. Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; *though joined hand in*

hand, he shall not be unpunished. By mercy and truth iniquity is purged...” (vs 4-6).

Mercy is *forgiveness*. Truth is *the Word of God*. We’re going to see that what has to happen is that *you must retrain your mind!* It’s a perpetual thing in life even from the time after you have been baptized because the Holy Spirit is working within so it exposes the sin within.

Have you ever gone along and wondered: ‘How did that thought come into my mind?’? *It came in there because it’s in your mind!* Why did it come up? Because the Holy Spirit of God is Truth and it’s letting you know it is there so you can repent. That’s how!

Let’s look at another example: How many times has there been this lovely little old woman, generally it’s women who do this. Men lop off heads, stab through the guts, shoot 100 times in the head. Women do it a little differently. They poison through food, cookies. But when it’s finally found out that this woman murdered her husband by poisoning him and she tries to get the kind of poison, which will not be discovered very quickly. They look at this lovely, little woman and say, ‘We are shocked! How could she do this? She was always so nice and sweet and good.’ Yes, but ***the mind within was deceitful and desperately wicked!***

That’s how you get rid of the sin within. “...by fear of the LORD *men* turn away from evil... [to balance it]: ...When a man’s way please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him” (vs 6-7). Wonder why we have so many enemies as a nation?

I have a report that was put out, *Is 2013 the Year of Judgment for America for Abortion?*—52-million innocent lives. Oh, how indignant we were with Adolph Hitler! *Yes, indeed!*

Let’s see what human nature naturally is with this kind of nature. Let’s see what human nature is like. I think it’s interesting that God even told Israel, through the Prophet Elijah when they had the confrontation with the prophets of Baal, ‘How long?’ and the Hebrew means *jump back and forth between two opinions*. ‘If Baal is God, serve him. If the Lord is God, serve Him.’ What is this that most people are?

- they want to sin, *but they want the blessings of God*
- they want God to recognize what they do is good, *but they don’t recognize what God does is good*

Then they wonder why things don’t go the way they want.

James 1:5: “However, if anyone lacks wisdom... [and we all do] ...let him ask of God, Who gives to everyone freely and does not reproach *the one who asks*; and it shall be given to him. But let him ask in faith...” (vs 5-6). Faith requires quite a bit. That requires you have to prove that God exists. You have to prove that His Word is true. You have to be walking in His Word by faith.

“...not doubting at all because the one who doubts is like a wave of *the* sea that is driven by the wind and tossed *to and fro*. Do not let that man expect that he will receive anything from the Lord. *He is* a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (vs 6-8).

When they’re really double-minded, they can’t make up their mind concerning anything. Double-minded, that’s what human nature is. Human nature in the extreme is like a schizophrenic. Of course, that’s one thing we covered on demonism that has to be overcome. He says it again, we’ll bring this in here concerning the lust, too, because lust has a lot to do with it.

James 4:1: “*What is* the cause of quarrels and fightings among you?... [apply this to a family, to a marriage, to government, to various groups of people] ...Is it not mainly from your own lusts *that are* warring within your members? You lust, and have not; you kill, and are jealous, and are not able to obtain; you fight and quarrel, but still you do not have, because you do not ask” (vs 1-2). ‘Oh, well, I got to ask God; okay, I’ll ask God.’

Verse 3: “*Then* you ask, and you do not receive, because you ask with evil motives... [the sin within] ...that you may consume *it* on your own lusts. *You* adulterers and adulteresses, don’t you know that the friendship of the world is enmity *with* God? Therefore, whoever desires to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the scripture says in vain, ‘The spirit that dwells in us lusts with envy’?” (vs 3-5). That’s what it is. Is not everything concerning the holidays of this world based on that fact? *Yes, it is!*

Verse 6: “But He gives greater grace. This is the reason it says, ‘God sets Himself against *the* proud, but He gives grace to *the* humble.’ Therefore, submit yourselves to God.... [that’s the solution] ...Resist the devil...” (vs 6-7). There is a devil out there inspiring these things who is ‘the prince of the power of the air’ and *has deceived the whole world*. There’s like a great net around the world with all the deceptions.]

Verse 7: “...Resist the devil, and he will flee from you” (vs 6-7). How do you resist the devil? *When you get a thought in your mind that you know is not right, you rebuke it!* You can pray right there,

‘Oh, God, rebuke this thought. Help me to get this out of my mind.’ There are some things that are hard to do, especially when it comes around Christmas time and you get into all the stores, what’s playing? *All the Christmas carols!*

Every year there’s probably one you have to fight off. The one I have to fight off this year is *This is the Most Wonderful Time of the Year*—until the credit card bills come in. Whatever it may be.

Here’s how God wants us to do it, v 8: “Draw near to God...” We come to Him. How do you do that? *In thought, in mind, in prayer!* Getting on your knees and saying, ‘Help me, God.’

“...and He will draw near to you. Cleanse *your* hands, you sinners, and purify *your* hearts, you double-minded!” (v 8).

Now let’s see how we are to come to God. Let’s see the process that God has given to us. This is continuous in our lives because once we have repented, been baptized and received the Holy Spirit of God, now we are ready to start. Yes, it is an end, an end of living your life in the world the way that you have lived it. But *it is the beginning of living your life God’s way!*

Here’s what God says, Isaiah 55:6: “Seek the LORD while He may be found... [a lot of people wait until it’s too late] ...call upon Him while He is near.” Just like it says to ‘seek the Lord, draw near to Him, He’ll draw near to you.’ How will He do that? *He will do that through His Spirit to help you with your thoughts, to watch over you with His angels!* A lot of things go on that are happening to us that we don’t know anything about. It’s a spiritual activity that is going on.

Here’s what we are to do, v 7: “Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts...” There has to be a change of thought and there has to be a change of heart. How does that take place?

“...and let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy upon him... [Remember mercy and Truth?] ...and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (v 7).

We’re dealing in a generation that those who are coming into the Church now, many of them, have gone through a lot of difficult times because the way the society is. They need to understand, yes, there is *forgiveness*. Yes, there is *mercy*. Yes, those sins are going to be removed from you ‘as far as the east is from the west.’ That’s to give you a clean slate to start going God’s way.

Verse 8: “‘For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts, nor your ways *My* ways,’ says the

LORD.” How are you going to get in line with the thoughts of God? *Right here, the Bible! Study!* Here’s the great thing about it. God is going to bring His thoughts to you. Think about that!

Verse 9: “For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.”

God is going to do something with you. Yes, He is. He is going to lead you with His Spirit. Once you repent and are baptized, God then is able to take the things here... Let’s understand something concerning the Word of God, how this will work in our lives and what a marvelous thing it is. It’s something the world cannot see. It’s something the world does not know.

People may be able to see the change outwardly in you, but the real change has to be the change *inwardly*. Anybody can put on a façade for a while; even the meanest, most nasty people can be good for a while. But that doesn’t give a spiritual change. Here’s why you need the thoughts and words of God:

John 6:63: “It is the Spirit that gives life... [you want to be redeemed from death; you want your life to go well] ...**the flesh profits nothing**...” Stop and think about it. God gave this fantastic body that we have with everything connected with it, male and female, for the very purpose of perfecting the mind and the spirit of man connected with the Spirit of God. Everything we do physically is just to sustain the life so that we can have the opportunity to grow in grace, knowledge, understanding and be changed from an enemy of God to a friend of God, from a hater of God to a lover of God.

“...The words that I speak to you, *they* are spirit and *they* are life” (v 63). Because of this the Word of God is able to do things with God’s Spirit in your mind that no other book, no other writing, no other philosophy can. It’s amazing what God can do! They are Spirit and Life. What we’re dealing with is a *spiritual change* to overcome a spiritual problem.

Let’s see how God does it. Let’s see what God does. This is fantastic. I want you to understand how great this is. The world cannot see this going on, but over time you can experience and know that it is going on.

Hebrews 10:15: “And the Holy Spirit also bears witness to us... [that’s what God gives us, the Holy Spirit] ...for after He had previously said...” Here’s the *covenant of baptism*. Here is what God is going to do. Here is how God is going to change your thoughts. Whenever there’s *sin within* that comes up, we need to replace it with what is good. That’s why God brings it out so you can repent of it and get it out of your mind, {note sermon series:

*Washing of the Water By the Word*} After you’re baptized you go along and all of a sudden, ‘How come I have these thoughts?’ The wicked thoughts that are still there! It’s **God’s Spirit exposing it** because it’s a process.

Here’s how it works, v 16: “‘This *is* the covenant that I will establish with them after those days,’ says *the* Lord: ‘I will give My laws into their hearts, and I will inscribe them in their minds.’”

Where did we begin? *Jer. 17:1, inscribed with the pen of diamond, the sin!* Now He’s going to replace that with His laws into their hearts. “...I will inscribe them into their minds.” That’s interesting they call it the most plasticity of the mind. It is so fantastic! The thoughts of the mind make impressions on the mind through the connections and synapses. You have trillions of cells there going all the time.

- you can learn; you can unlearn.
- you can remember; you can forget.
- you can change your thought; you can change your mind

God’s Spirit helps you with all of it.

Now granted, we have a lot of things out there, as we discussed before—the media, all television, the whole society—everything out there crushing in on you in this generation that no other generation has had in past time.

You go back 200 years, live on a nice farm, take care of the animals, feed the cows, milk the cows, take care of the goats, go out and cut down the trees for the wood. Comes time cut the hay, shock it, do all of this, put it in the barn. Gather the eggs out of the henhouse. You breed the cows, breed the goats, the chickens breed themselves, and all of that sort of thing. You’re not bombarded with evil. You’re not bombarded with television. You’re not hit every 15 minutes with 5 ads: buy this, buy that, buy the other thing. No stress driving on a freeway. No police officer to give you a ticket. So, we’ve got a lot of things to work on that other generations could not even conceive.

Plus if we watch the news we hear every evil that’s in the world. Two hundred years ago be on your nice farm out there: nice meadow, nice hills in the back. You need some extra meat, go kill a deer, whatever it may be. Today: come home from work, family is all upset, the kids are fighting, their cell phones don’t work, the computer is not working, mom’s in a frenzy trying to fix dinner and the kids are fighting. You just come home from driving in a traffic jam and you finally get home, you open the door and say, ‘PHEW! I’m here!’ BANG! Now you sit down to the news and you’re finding out that Obama’s going to tax you another 20%. That means

we've got a lot more things to contend with than they did 200 years ago, but we also have the Bible and the Word of God.

What God does: ***He writes His laws into our hearts and into our minds so we can change our thinking!*** That does not get into our hearts and into our minds without study!

(go to the next track)

Now let's see how this process of God's Spirit is working with us, with His laws. It's not just a mental thing only. It involves our whole being. Let's see what the most important thing is. Out of all of this, out of everything that's in the Bible, here is the foundation built on the foundation of Christ. The different ones of the Pharisees and Sadducees were always trying to catch Him in something

Matthew 22:35: "And one of them, a doctor of the law... [He's the one who is the high mucky-muck among the rabbis, doctor of the law] ...questioned *Him*, tempting Him, and saying.... [I can almost hear the tone] ...'Master, which commandment is *the* great commandment in the Law?'" (vs 35-36). They wanted to catch Him on something.

For everyone who believes, or have believed in the past, that the Law was done away, pay attention to what we're going to cover.

Verse 37: "And Jesus said to him, 'You shall love *the* Lord your God...'" Notice how full-time this is, how much is required of you. Why would God require all of this of you? *You need to understand what was required of God for Christ to come—Who was the Creator of mankind—and to lay down His life as a sacrifice for the payment for our sins!* Did He lay it all on the line? *Yes, He did!* For all of us, and it's applied individually. God is so great that it's applied individually.

Sidebar: This blows my mind every time I try and think about it and understand it, but there are some things we just can't understand. But we can think about it and it helps us appreciate God even more. All of us have 22 chromosomes plus 1. All the genes and chromosomes were compacted into your conception—seed from your father, egg from your mother—and from that you became a human being, created by God right in the body of your mother, through His Spirit. He's given you everything because in Him we live, move and have our being.

I can't answer the question, so this is just a rhetorical thing that I suppose when we get to the resurrection God will tell us: How do our genes and chromosomes... And interesting, another sidebar on the sidebar: In the Hebrew alphabet there are 22 letters. We have 22 chromosomes from mother and

father. The 23<sup>rd</sup> one is either male or female gene; the rest of it the same.

God is so great that there are no two human beings exactly alike, not even identical twins. There is some little variation between them. Since God has given that to us and He uses that, how is that going to be transformed at the resurrection into a spirit body, spirit mind? I don't know, but I think about the greatest things that God has done, the smallest things that God has done, and it's all perfect.

God made this creation, everything for us. He has given everything so He desires everything back. The greatest thing that we can do is receive the love of God and love God back.

Verse 37: And Jesus said to him, 'You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart... [that involves all your emotions] ...and with all your soul... [that's all your physical being] ...and with all your mind.'" Your thoughts now become the thoughts of Christ. Are we not to develop the mind of Christ? *Yes!*

Verse 38: "This is *the* first and greatest commandment; and *the* second *one* is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (vs 38-39). Oh, would the world be a different place if that were done!

Verse 40 becomes a key on how God changes us to overcome the sin within and put His mind and His righteousness in our lives. He's going to *write* His laws in our minds and *inscribe* them upon our hearts.

Verse 40: "On these two commandments hang **all** the Law and the Prophets"—all of them. Let's see why this is so important, combing the two together. We have seen God's response to us, to help us. Now we are going to see what God gives us in return. I'm going to have to give some sermons on the Lord's prayer. You look at the prayer in Matt. 6. You do not find one *me*, *my*, or *I*. Think about that.

Psalms 19:1: "The heavens declare the glory of God..." The earth is in such a unique position in the universe that we are one of the few places, if not the only place in the universe, where we can see as much of the universe as we can.

"...and the firmament... [that's the whole universe as you look out there] ...proclaims His handiwork" (v 1).

I got an e-mail from a man who was complaining that spending \$600-million to get this new replacement of the Hubbell telescope up into space and into position was a real waste of money. So, I wrote him back and I said from that perspective it could be considered a waste of money.

But think of it this way: God caused all that technology to be. He gave the men the understanding to get that thing up in the air after they built it. We get all these glorious pictures of what the universe is like and what do we have? ***We have a witness from God how great that He is, how great His creation is!*** So I said think of it this way: God inspired \$600-million of our worthless Federal Reserve Notes to be used to do all of this as a witness for all human beings. Every time you see those pictures they are just breathtaking.

Verse 2: “Day after day they pour forth speech, and night after night they reveal knowledge. There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard” (vs 2-3). Everyone on earth can look out there and see the heavens.

Now we also have some technology, which I think is very important as well, we can actually see the pictures of what it’s like out there. And they know that if the speed of light is consistent with what our measurements of the speed of light is, 186,000 miles per second, that those are trillions of years old. Isn’t that amazing?

Verse 4: “Their line has gone out through all the earth and their words to the ends of the world. In them He has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is as a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, and rejoices as a strong man *set* to run a race, its going forth is from one end of heaven, and its circuit is to the other end. And there is nothing hidden from its heat” (vs 4-6). They knew the world was round.

In the light of that, let’s see why it’s so important and so spiritual that we have the laws of God written in our mind and in our heart. It’s the best thing that could ever happen to us.

Verse 7: “The law of the LORD is perfect... [He didn’t give something imperfect] ...restoring the soul... [It makes us revive. Just like Jesus said, ‘The words that I speak to you, they are Spirit and they are Life.’] ...the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.”

- that’s why we study the Word of God
- that’s why we study the laws of God
- that’s why we study the statutes of God

Study Ps. 119; an awesome Psalm. It’s long, the longest one in all the Psalms, 176 verses. By the way, it’s broken down into 22 sets of 8 verses according to the Hebrew alphabet. You look at that and its mind-boggling just to read it, but all the singers in the temple had to memorize it. Where you see that little Hebrew character above the section of 8 verses, in Hebrew every verse started out with that letter. It shows

- the greatest of the laws of God

- the testimonies of God
- the righteousness of God
- the goodness of God

Psalm 119:8: “The precepts of the LORD are right...” That’s why God hates ‘religion’ where they take the things of God, supposedly representing God, go to people and have it mixed with lies, so therefore, the Truth is no longer truth.

“...rejoicing the heart; the commandments of the LORD are pure...” (v 8). Think what it would be if all the world kept the Ten Commandments of God even in the letter of the Law. Wouldn’t that be something? *Yes, it would!*

Here’s what it does for us, v 9: “The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.”

What is God giving us? Today you see all these ads on television—buy gold, buy silver—the dollar is worthless. Gold and silver represent wealth to us. But I want you to think on this!

Verse 10: “More to be desired than gold, yea, much fine gold... [that’s what God is giving to us] ...sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.... [here’s what it does for us]: ...Moreover by them Your servant is warned...” (vs 10-11).

We all an inner voice. Do you talk to yourself? *You do talk to yourself!* I do, I even answer back, sometimes out loud. God’s Spirit is there and you start doing something that isn’t right, BANG! A thought comes up: don’t do that. You are warned.

“...in keeping them there is great reward.... [remember that we are judged by our works and we are rewarded by our works] ...Who can understand his errors?....” (vs 11-12).

Here comes the point of changing the mind, because the human carnal mind cannot understand its own way. ‘Every way of a man is right in his own eyes’. Even the things they do wrong they think are right. I think most of those people are in government and in religion.

Verse 12: “Who can understand his errors?.... [no one can, except through the Law of God] ...Oh, cleanse me from *my* secret faults.” *Those things in the mind and heart that you alone know!*

This is why when you pray and ask for forgiveness before God *you go to God directly*. He’s dealing with you directly and He knows your heart and your mind. This is why confessing your sins to a priest is so futile. You ask someone who has been a lifelong Catholic and ask them, ‘Did you really ever

tell the priest everything you did?' *No, I'd never get out of there from doing 'hail Marys' and 'our fathers,' going around the beads.* Secret faults!

Verse 13: "And keep back Your servant also from presumptuous sins... [the spur of the moment things] ...do not let them rule over me..." Notice how this ties in with the New Testament. Paul says that if you have the Spirit of God and you're under grace, sin shall not rule over you. Doesn't say that you don't have sin to fight against, but it doesn't rule over you, because you can say *no*.

"...then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression. Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in Your sight, O LORD, my Rock and my Redeemer" (vs 13-14).

Let's see some of the other things that we need to do so that we can change; Ephesians 4:17: "So then, I declare and testify this in *the* Lord that you are no longer to walk even as the rest of *the* Gentiles are walking, in *the* vanity of their minds. Having *their* understanding darkened..." (vs 17-18).

The Spirit of God opens your mind. The Word of God opens your mind. Combined together it brings you the Truth. Those who reject it and are cut off because of disobedience they become blind. Their minds are darkened. They have no Truth in them.

"...being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the hardness of their hearts. They have cast off all feelings, and have given themselves up to licentiousness, to work every uncleanness with insatiable desire.... [think about the dedication that people have toward that kind of evil] ...But you have not so learned Christ; if indeed **you have heard Him...**" (vs 18-21). Isn't that interesting? It doesn't say heard *of* Him, you have *heard Him*. How do you hear Jesus? *Through the Word of God; through the Spirit of God!*

"...and have been taught in Him, according to *the* Truth in Jesus: That concerning your former conduct... [what God is going to put in there is something we need to get rid of] ...you put off the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts" (vs 21-22).

As we saw, the human heart is *deceitful above all things and is desperately wicked*. I think we're going to see this take place even more when we understand what things are going to happen. If we fall off the 'fiscal cliff' you might do well to recall the riots in Greece. I think in some of the cities it's going to be that way. The politicians are not honest. They need to tell all of those who are

seeking entitlements and wanting handouts, 'Look, you have a choice. We can continue to give them to you now, but they will be cut off sooner or later.' When it happens later there will be nothing, *absolutely nothing!*

San Jose; San Diego; St. Louis, Missouri; Chicago, Illinois, are looking at bankruptcy, all because of pensions. Yet, the unions are so selfish and greedy they won't give an inch, so they're going to lose all like the little town of Pritchard, Alabama. They ran out of money. They stopped paying the pensions for the teachers, firemen and policemen. They all came and demanded that they be paid. The city council said, 'We are out of money.' *Well, what did you do with it?* 'You got so much in pension benefits and the income has been going down that we simply ran out.'

What if that happens on a national scale? Think of that! So, they're going to have all of these things here. They are going to riot. They are going to demand. They are going to rob. They are going to loot and that's the time we need the protection of Psa. 91. Actually, we need it all the time, but particularly at that time. We are to get rid of all of those things.

Here's what we are to do. "...you put off the old man, which is corrupt according to deceitful lusts; and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind" (vs 22-23). *That is conversion! That is changing your thoughts!* With God's Spirit and God's Word it can be done.

Let's see how Paul wrote of it. Here is the solution. God has given the answer on:

- how to handle the carnal mind
- how to overcome the deceitfulness of heart
- how to get your thoughts squared around

What do you put into your mind to change it?

Romans 12:1: "I exhort you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, Holy *and* well pleasing to God, which is your spiritual service. Do not conform yourselves to this world..." (vs 1-2). That's why we're told in 1-John 2:15, don't love the world, the things in the world; it's all the pride of life and lust.

"...but be transformed... [that's conversion] ...by the renewing of your mind in order that you may prove... [that's how you know God is working and it's right. (you do this to): ...prove what *is* well pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God" (v 2).

Ephesians 4:23: "And that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that you put on the new man, which according to God is created in



righteousness and Holiness of the Truth” (vs 23-24). What is God doing in your mind? *He is creating!* Think of that! Creation didn’t end at conception and birth or growing to being an adult. God’s creating is going on *in* us. Of course, the world cannot see that.

Verse 25: “Therefore, let each one put away lies... [showing we have to overcome] ...and speak the truth with his neighbor...”—because we’re members of one another. Now then, it shows the change in conduct. We have to be reminded of these things because in overcoming ‘the law of sin and death’ within us we have those sins that pop up and we do them. We don’t intend to do them. We’re not out viciously to do them, but they happen. Sometimes they can be very offensive too.

Verse 26: “*When you become angry, do not sin... [that’s a good one to try] ...Do not let the sun go down on your anger.*” *You are not going to sleep that night if you do!* If you’re lying in bed tossing and turning because you’re angry about something or upset about something, instead of lying in bed tossing and turning, pop out of bed, get on your knees and pray about it to God. Ask Him to give you some good sleep and go back to bed. All of your worrying and all of your fighting and all of your mental jostling back and forth concerning any situation is not going to change it. ***But prayer can!***

Verse 27: “Neither give place to the devil.” How do you give place to the devil? *By going contrary to what we have just read here!* Satan wants to come along and say, ‘Oh oh, there it is. BANG! I’ll get him.’

Verse 28: “Let the one who stole, steal no more; rather, let him labor with *his* hands, working at what is good, so that he may impart *something* to the one who has need. Do not let any corrupt communication come out of your mouth... [that’s a challenge] ...but that which is good and needful for edification that it may give grace to those who hear. And grieve not... [do not vex] ...the Holy Spirit of God...” (vs 28-30).

How does that work? If you start doing things contrary to the Holy Spirit and its within you, you are working at cross-purposes, so I suppose cross purposes would be even a better way to explain it in English today. Do not be at cross-purposes with the Holy Spirit of God.

“...by which you have been sealed for *the* day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and indignation, and wrath, and clamor, and evil speaking be removed from you, together with all malice” (vs 30-31). That’s a real change in action, behavior, and human nature. This is why we have trials come up.

Just like if you realize you’re impatient—of course, none of us are impatient<sup>(said factiously)</sup>—and you lost your temper or something, you pray and ask God, ‘Help me, O Lord, to have patience,’ and all this sort of thing. As I’ve mentioned before, you get up from the prayer and all of a sudden you’re confronted with a situation that requires patience. Maybe you fail, maybe you have to repent and go at it again. Maybe you succeed, but nevertheless keep at it.

Verse 32: “And be kind *and* tenderhearted toward one another, forgiving one another, even as God has also in Christ forgiven you.”

Here is the overall solution. This will give you a lot to think on, Ephesians 5:1: **“Therefore, be imitators of God, as beloved children.”**

So with *God’s Spirit, God’s law, God’s blessing*, we’re to ***imitate God!*** He wants us to be His spiritual children. That’s why we are to imitate Him. ***This is how we overcome the sin within!***

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Romans 5:12
- 2) Jeremiah 17:1, 5-10
- 3) Proverbs 14:12
- 4) Proverbs 16:2-7
- 5) James 1:5-8
- 6) James 4:1-8
- 7) Isaiah 55:6-9
- 8) John 6:63
- 9) Hebrews 10:15-16
- 10) Matthew 22:35-40
- 11) Psalm 19:1-14
- 12) Ephesians 4:17-23
- 13) Romans 12:1-2
- 14) Ephesians 4:23-32
- 15) Ephesians 5:1

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Romans 7
- Ezekiel 23
- Matthew 6
- Psalm 119, 91
- 1-John 2:15

#### Also referenced: Sermon Series:

*Washing of the Water By the Word*

FRC:lp

Transcribed: 12-19-12

Formatted: bo—12-20-12

Corrected: 5/31/15

## How to Overcome the Sin Within V How to Cope with Life Through the Psalms

Fred R. Coulter

Greetings, everyone! Welcome to Sabbath services!

An event happened which shocked the whole nation. Happened in Oklahoma, one of the main Protestant centers in the United States. There was a terrorist attack upon a woman and he decapitated her and wounded one other. When those things happen and when they get close to home:

- How do we cope?
- What do we look to?

If we could get emotionally involved in it to the extent that we draw back from God—because these are difficult things to handle—then we will see that it is something we need to leave in God’s hands.

Whenever something like that happens, someone says, ‘Oh, gotta be a great sinner!’ The same thing happened just after the birth of Jesus Christ, right at the temple, right where God was supposed to be. The people came there to worship God and offer their sacrifices. So, Jesus made reference to that. This gives us a good lesson in understanding.

Luke 13:1: “Now at the same time, *there* were present some who were telling Him about the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.” You can’t figure anything worse than that to happen.

Verse 2: “And Jesus answered *and* said to them, ‘Do you suppose that these Galileans were sinners above all Galileans, because they suffered such things? No, I tell you; but if you do not repent, you shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell, and killed them, do you suppose that these were debtors above all men who dwelt in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but if you do not repent, you shall all likewise perish’” (vs 2-5).

What is the most important thing for us to do when these things come along? Yes, we are to understand that those things will happen. Yes, there is pain and sorrow in those poor people who are the survivors who are left or who experienced it. They all have tremendous things in their lives because these are very difficult things indeed. Especially the one who was wounded and saw it happen. It came just BOOM! Bolt out of the blue.

So, how do we handle our lives when these things come along, because they will be coming? Someone will ask: Is it entirely right that we pray for the survivors: the wives, the husbands, the children

and other relatives? *Yes!* And our prayer should be that they can be comforted by God, and that they would seek God. This is important for us to understand so we can cope with these things.

Just a little background on 1-John: they were suffering a lot of false prophets coming in, changing things, denying Christ; the congregations were being all upset by this. This is a good one for us to look to on how to have our focus when things like this come along. ***Focus on God and His promises!***

1-John 1:1: “That which was from *the* beginning...” Here God has called us to something fantastic and great, brethren; understand that!

“...that which we have heard, that which we have seen with our own eyes, that which we observed for ourselves and our own hands handled, concerning the Word of Life. (And the life was manifested, and we have seen, and are bearing witness, and are reporting to you the eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested to us)” (vs 1-2). He’s giving an insight into their personal relationship with Christ.

This is the key, v 3: “That which we have seen and have heard we are reporting to you in order that you also may have fellowship with us; for the fellowship—indeed, our fellowship—*is* with the Father and with His own Son, Jesus Christ.” So, we go right back to God the Father and Jesus Christ whenever these things come up. They can be very distressful. People can be so upset that it’s hard for them to even cope in doing their daily things.

Here in America we’ve been very protected, but the decapitating/beheading and crucifying that ISIS is doing now is something that has occurred down through history. If you want kind of a glimpse of how it was in Jerusalem when it fell in 586 B.C. and 70 A.D. get the book of *Josephus* and read it. It was astounding. It’s amazing that he was able to write of it and still keep his sanity.

“...our fellowship... [the source of everything that comes from God] ...*is* with the Father and with His own Son, Jesus Christ. These things we are also writing to you, so that your joy may be completely full” (vs 3-4).

It’s very difficult to even reach a balance when terrible things and crises like these come along. This is one of the main reasons why we have the book of Psalms. God knows all of these things. Also remember:

- God will be with us
- God will comfort us
- God will give us understanding
  - ✓ as we yield to God
  - ✓ as we pray to God
  - ✓ as we ask for His guidance

*Remember the second resurrection!* Keep that in mind.

Revelation 5:5—this is Who is going to open the seals: “Then one of the elders said to me, ‘Do not weep. Behold, the Lion Who is of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome to open the book, and to loose its seven seals.’” That’s Christ in His warring mood.

What we want to focus on is v 6: “Then I saw, and behold, before the throne and the four living creatures, and before the elders, *was* standing a Lamb [Christ] as having been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes...” The horns represent the seven churches of Rev. 2 & 3.

- Christ is in His Church
- Christ is with His people
- Christ is active on the throne

“...which are the seven Spirits of God that are sent into all the earth” (v 6). God knows what’s going on everywhere. What we can do is put everything in God’s hands. We do have our part we need to do, but we need to always be prepared spiritually. This is where the Psalms come in.

When it comes to talking about the enemy read Ps. 109; there are 21 ‘Let thus and such happen to the enemy’—let this happen, let that happen, let the other happen—so that God can carry out what He is doing here. When we see these things going along, here is what we wonder:

Psalms 74:10: “O God, how long shall the adversary speak evil?...” Of course, living in this last generation, we’re living in a time when everything evil is going to come to its highest and most full degree.

“...Shall the enemy blaspheme Your name forever? Why do You withdraw Your hand, even Your right hand? Draw it out of Your bosom and consume them” (vs 10-11). God is going to do that.

In our prayers we can talk to God, just like the Psalms, because our fellowship is with the Father and with the Son. Whatever the difficulties that we are having, we can pour out our hearts before God and God will hear and answer.

Verse 18: “Remember this—... [God, don’t forget] ...*that* the enemy has reproached, O LORD, and the foolish people have blasphemed Your

name.” That’s certainly something that ISIS is doing, as well as most of the world.

Verse 19: “O deliver not the life of Your turtledove unto the wild beasts...” Interesting, turtledove: tender, soft. If you look at a turtledove, they have the biggest, most affectionate kind of eyes.

“...forget not the lives of Your afflicted people forever” (v 19). He’s talking about how their lives were and what they had gone through.

Verse 20: “Have respect unto the covenant... [remember the promises of the covenant, ask God to remember] ...for the dark places of the earth are full of the houses of cruelty.” As you read the history of mankind that’s what it’s been. War, *war*, **war**, *killing*, all of this sort of thing!

Verse 21: “Oh, let not the oppressed ones return ashamed...” When these things happen, we feel oppressed. Just watching the news you feel oppressed. You can’t help but feel for those people involved.

“...let the poor and needy praise Your name” (v 21). Thank God and praise His name for all His wonderful help and goodness and kindness that He shows to His people.

Verse 22: “Arise, O God, plead Your own cause... [stand up for what is true; stand up for what is right] ...remember how the foolish man reproaches You daily. Forget not the voice of Your enemies; the noise of those who rise up against You increases continually” (vs 22-23). That’s precisely what we are seeing—isn’t it? *Yes, exactly like that!*

We’re going to see some short Psalms. Have you ever prayed like this, desperate in your situation?

Psalms 70:1: “Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O LORD.” So, whatever your problem, whatever your difficulty, go to God like this; He will hear you.

Verse 2: “Let them be ashamed and confounded, those who seek after my soul...” Or if there is no enemy coming after you, the things that you hear, the things that you see and so forth, don’t let those overwhelm you.

“...let them be turned backward and put to confusion, those who desire my hurt. Let them be turned back for a reward of their shame, those who say, ‘Aha, aha!’” (vs 2-3). They said that when Jesus was on the cross, too.

Verse 4: “Let all those who seek You rejoice and be glad in You...” That is with God’s Spirit, with the fellowship, through prayer, through God’s Word. When you feel oppressed, down and out, go to the Psalms; ask God to help you. If you don’t

even know what to pray, then take the Psalms, open them up and get on your knees. Use the Psalms as a springboard for your own prayer. As it says in the Psalms, pour out your heart before God because He hears.

“...and let those who love Your salvation say without ending, ‘Let God be magnified.’.... [God is going to work it out] ...But I am poor and needy; make haste unto me, O God; You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, wait no longer!” (vs 4-5). That’s not a matter of being impatient, that’s a matter of understanding the urgency of the situation, the urgency of the emotions involved and what is happening in various places of the world.

I just can’t imagine what on earth is taking place over there in the Middle East. You talk about such a bloody situation. I think as I look at the maps, when they put the maps up and show what’s happening, I think that must be in addition to Jerusalem, one of the most bloody places on the face of the earth. But God is there to help us so we can overcome.

This describes it. You can put this down for what you do when you are mourning, Psalm 77:1: “I cried to God with my voice, to God with my voice; and He gave ear to me. In the day of my trouble I sought the LORD...” (vs 1-2). Too many times when trouble comes along

- we run from God
- we avoid God
- we don’t go to Him

Verse 2: “In the day of my trouble I sought the LORD; my hand was lifted up, and my tears ceased not in the night; my soul refused to be comforted.... [that was really a desperate situation] ...I remembered God and was troubled; I moaned and my spirit fainted. Selah” (vs 2-3). In other words, think on this. In the very lowest point of this experience that he was going through he sought God.

Verse 4: “You keep my eyes awake; I am too troubled and I cannot speak. I have pondered the days of old, the years of ages past. I remember my song in the night; I commune with my own heart, and my spirit made diligent search. Will the LORD cast off forever? And will He be favorable no more? Is His mercy gone forever? Has His promise failed for all generations? Has God forgotten to be gracious? Has He in anger shut up His tender mercies? Selah” (vs 4-9).

That’s how to cry out to God. I’m sure in the life of that family where this occurred (the beheading), many of them may feel exactly like this.

Verse 10: “And I said, ‘This is my grief, that the right hand of the Most High could change.’ I will remember the works of the LORD; surely I will remember Your wonders of old. I will also meditate on all Your work, and talk of Your doings” (vs 10-12). Think on God’s way, God’s goodness, His help and how powerfully He can react.

Verse 13: “Your way, O God, is in Holiness; who is so great a God as our God? You are the God Who does wonders; You have declared Your strength among the people. You have with Your arm redeemed Your people, the sons of Jacob and Joseph. Selah” (vs 13-15).

Psa. 84 is what to focus on; here’s what to think about:

- remember your calling
- remember what God has promised
- remember how He has delivered

Then think of this: ***God says we are going to dwell with Him!*** In this Psalm is an anticipation of that:

Psalm 84:1: “How lovely are Your tabernacles, O LORD of hosts!” From that think about what it’s going to be like to be in New Jerusalem.

Here’s the desire that comes when you turn to God, v 2: “My soul longs, yea, even faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.” That’s what it is, because only God can help. Only God’s Spirit can comfort. Only God can send out His angels to intervene for us. God sees and knows what our circumstances are.

Verse 3: “Yea, even the sparrow has found a house, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young, even Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.” Right there at the temple. Right there probably at the very top of the temple there were little nests for birds. Remember what Jesus said, ‘A sparrow falls to the earth and God knows of it.’ That’s something! Little birds at the temple.

Notice, he focuses on the blessings, v 4: “Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You. Selah.” Wherever it says Selah, that means *stop and think about it, meditate on it.*

Here’s where it comes back to us with God’s Spirit, v 5: “Blessed is the man whose strength is in You; Your ways are in their hearts.”

- God gives us the strength
- God helps us
- God intervenes for us

Verse 6: “Who passing through the valley of weeping make it a place of springs; yea the early rain also clothes it with blessings.” God is going to change it. Part of it here has to refer to the resurrection.

Verse 7: “They go from strength to strength, every one of them appearing in Zion before God.” What is that going to be like when we appear before God, come directly to God the Father? He calls us by name and tells us how long He has known us. When we talk to Jesus He tells us that He’s helped us in many difficult trials. Then there will be the angels saying, ‘Yes, I had to watch over you, and in some cases you gave me a challenge.’

Verse 8: “O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. Selah. Behold, O God, our shield, and look upon the face of Your anointed” (vs 8-9). We have been anointed with God’s Spirit.

Verse 10: “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand *elsewhere*. I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness, for the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD will give grace and glory; no good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly” (vs 10-11). What is the verse that tells us? ***‘All things work together for good for those who love God, and those who are called according to His purpose.’***

We can receive some good things in this life as well, but this is also talking about the time when we’ll be in the Kingdom of God.

Verse 12: “O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man who trusts in You.” Notice how God will respond. He will do it, and He will do it *in His time and in His way*.

Psalms 116:1: “I love the LORD because He hears my voice and my prayers.” Yes, it even says the prayers of the saints is His delight.

Verse 2: “Because He has bowed down His ear to me, therefore I will call upon Him as long as I live... [notice how this extends into the attitude of how we face these things] ...The sorrows of death hemmed me in, and the pains of the grave took hold upon me; I found trouble and sorrow. Then I called upon the name of the LORD: ‘O LORD, I beseech You, deliver my soul.’ Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; yea, our God is merciful” (vs 2-5). When we cry out to God this way:

- He hears us!
- He will be merciful!
- He will intervene!

Verse 6: “The LORD preserves the simple... [that’s us most of the time; that’s why we get in trouble] ...I was brought low, and He saved me. Return to your rest, O my soul, for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you” (vs 6-7). What does that mean? *Let your whole life be comforted!*

Verse 8: “For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from falling.” That explains every trouble and difficulty that we’ll go through. He will deliver.

Verse 9: “I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. I believed, therefore I have spoken, ‘I was greatly afflicted;’ I said in my haste, ‘All men are liars’” (vs 9-11). Then he goes on to praise God for his salvation. This is quite a Psalm.

Verse 12: “What shall I give to the LORD for all His bountiful *blessings* toward me?” Stop and think for a minute! How precious is it to have the Holy Spirit of God? Even though at times like this you feel in desperate situations, desperate conditions, and yet, all of these have not come down upon us directly. Some of the brethren have gone through some of these things. People in the world are going through these right now because ***the judgment of God is upon us! The judgment of God is upon His people!***

You see the news and there are many things out there just hovering in the background. One of these days they are going to cut loose just like it did in Oklahoma.

Notice even in the extreme, v 15: “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.” Here in the Church of God we’re facing what you could call a demographic cliff. What is that? ***Demographic cliff is that you take all the statistics and you look at the overall population!***

Let’s look at the overall population of the Church at this point. What you do, you consider the various age brackets among the people that you are surveying. As long as there are more young people than older people, the demographic cliff goes out in time. But when there are more older people, and even—as it says in this book, *The Demographic Cliff*—when it reaches the point that there are more who die than those being born, sooner or later you come to a point that societies collapse.

The United States is approaching that. Russia is very close to a severe demographic cliff, and China and the U.K. So, there will come a time when all of these government benefits will collapse because there are not enough living to pay for the older ones because of the life style that they had. In the Church it is this way.

I remember when we were looking at the picture that Harry Curley took at the Feast of Tabernacles. Dolores and I were looking at it and she said, 'Fred, we're an older Church.' Yes, that's true; look at us here.

We need to pray and ask God to give us strength and help us to live longer, and that God will intervene to bring younger people because there has to be a generation to follow us. This is one of the reasons that we do the things that we do. When the demographic cliff comes—and we saw it happen in the Church already, when the leadership just disintegrated and those in the leadership positions died—what happens? *Everything comes apart!* We need to do the best we can to have lots of things for the coming generation. We don't know how long it's going to be, but nevertheless, when it comes time...

Verse 15: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of His saints.... [that will happen] ...O LORD, truly I am Your servant; I am Your servant and the son of Your handmaid; You have loosed my bonds. I will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call upon the name of the LORD. I will pay my vows to the LORD now in the presence of all His people, In the courts of the LORD'S house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem. O praise the LORD!" (vs 15-19). One of the things we can do to cope is praise God.

Psalms 117:1: "O praise the LORD, all you nations; praise Him, all people.... [referring to the fulfillment of the Feast of Tabernacles] ...For His merciful kindness is great toward us; and the Truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!" (vs 1-2).

Remember the Word of God, the Truth of God, and everything that He tells us. This is going to strengthen us mentally, spiritually, emotionally, and in every way so that we can have a clear vision of the things coming and the way we need to behave ourselves.

Here is a great Psalm, a very encouraging Psalm. What we do when we go through these, we claim the promises. While you are praying and going through the Psalms and you come across a promise, claim it. God has given it. Remember this: ***Every word of God is a promise, because He will fulfill it and He will do it!***

Psalms 103:1: "Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all that is within me, bless His Holy name.... [that you have that kind of relationship with God] ...Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits" (vs 1-2).

- What are the benefits that God has given you?

- How has He blessed you?
- How has He provided for you?
- How is it that you understand the Word of God?

All of those things; all of His blessings, all of His benefits.

Verse 3: "Who forgives all your iniquities... [washed them out through Jesus Christ] ...Who heals all your diseases, Who redeems your life from destruction... [Think of all of that. Then on top of that:] ...Who crowns you with loving kindness and tender mercies" (vs 3-4). This is why God wants us to be merciful. That's why we have the blessing of it.

Verse 5: "Who satisfies your desires with good things; your youth is renewed like the eagle's." All of us old people need to claim that. That leads into the resurrection, as well.

Don't be upset against the wicked. God will take care of them, v 6: "The LORD executes righteousness and judgment for all who are oppressed.... [He takes care of us!] ...He made known His ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel" (vs 6-7).

Furthermore, He has made known His ways to us, each one of us. We have the New Testament and we have the Word of God. We have the whole Bible with us that we can go through. What a fantastic blessing that is, brethren. What are we going to tell God if we forget God and we've got His Word with us all the time?

Here's one to claim, too, v 8: "The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in mercy." When you are going through a trial remember that. We also know that God corrects us and He corrects us in many different ways.

Verse 9: "He will not always chasten, nor will He keep His anger forever. He has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our iniquities" (vs 9-10). Think of that, claim that promise. Isn't that wonderful? God says He'll forget them; He'll put them away from us.

Here's how He does it, v 11: "For as the heavens are high above the earth, so is His mercy toward those who fear Him." We can add there: *love Him!* We're not to try and take advantage of God's mercy, but God's mercy toward us in everything.

Notice what He's done to our transgressions, v 12: "As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us." They are:

- forgiven through Christ
- forgiven through His blood
- forgiven through His sacrifice

- forgiven through God's mercy, love and graciousness to us

Verse 13: "As a father has compassion upon his children, so the LORD has compassion upon those who fear Him, for He knows our frame; He remembers that we are dust" (vs 13-14)—and feeble, as we get old, rusty and forgetful. But He is there to strengthen us.

Verse 15: "As for man, his days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourishes, for the wind passes over it, and it is gone; and its place shall know it no more" (vs 15-16). If it hadn't been for the resurrection promises, isn't that something? *Yes, indeed!*

Verse 17: "But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting... [His love is everlasting] ...upon those who fear Him, and His righteousness is unto children's children." We can claim those promises; ask God to intervene.

Notice, v 18: "To those who keep His covenant, and to those who remember His precepts to do them." When trouble and difficulties come along it is so easy to become involved in it—mentally, vicariously, emotionally—and to carry that weight around with us. I've done it; you've done it. You have days that come along that:

- you get down
- you get melancholy
- you get to feeling really bad
- you don't want to pray
- you don't want to study

That's the time you need to pray, and that's the time you need to study. I know it's hard to do it at that time.

Remember, v 19: "The LORD has established His throne in the heavens... [that's where our prayers go directly to] ...and His kingdom rules over all." God is going to take care of everything; He is going to work it out.

Verse 20: "Bless the LORD, O you His angels, mighty in strength, who do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word. Bless the LORD, all you His hosts, ministers of His who do His pleasure. Bless the LORD, all His works in all places of His dominion. Bless the LORD, O my soul!" (vs 20-22). Then you can follow along here with Ps. 104.

Let's see one of the things we can do when you feel down and out and you need to really be picked up. You really need the different Psalms to help you really praise God. That's what it is.

There are a lot of 'praise the Lord,' especially the last three Psalms in the whole book of Psalms. What happens when you do that, when you are praying to God and you are praising Him and thinking on Him, what it does, it helps you

- get your mind off yourself
- get your mind off your problem
- get your mind off the thing that is bugging you

and you turn to God!

Here's another way to do it. In praising God you can sing; if you can't sing, Psalm 66:1: "Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth. Sing forth the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Say to God, 'How awesome are Your works!....'" (vs 1-3)—everything that God has made.

Recently someone sent me a video from Nova and I had Jonathan download it and give it to me. I was watching it to catch up on the videos. It shows what the earth is like from space. They have over 120 special satellites that measure so many things in the earth, on the earth, under the sea. They've even used it to chart the whole ocean floor, because it goes down through the water to the bottom of the ocean. Wonder if they found Flight MH370? (lost Malaysian plane)<sup>[transcriber's correction]</sup>. It showed all the things that God has done to provide for the earth. It was really fantastic. It was long, but was very informative.

One of the things that really sticks in my mind was one of the last things that I saw. Remember we heard that there's been a big explosion on the sun and the wind is going to carry it here to the earth and it's going to affect the Northern Hemisphere. It didn't! Why? *Because, as this earth from space shows, the core of the earth is molten iron, rotating, within the earth and creates a magnetic shield around the earth!*

So, when we get these huge solar flares and blast of particles coming millions of miles an hour toward the earth, this shield automatically turns it away from the earth. If it's really, really strong, the magnetic field normally looks like this—from North Pole to South Pole—around the earth to protect it. That's why you see the Northern Lights and in Antarctica the Southern Lights.

What happens when it's really strong, the protection stays there, but instead of being round, it is drawn out to look like a big teardrop and it protects the earth.

Think about everything that God has done, how magnificent the creation of the earth is that He has made for humankind. He's given us dominion over the earth. Then think about the return of Christ

when salvation is going to be granted to all people. Think about the fact that God has called you to have a part in it.

Psalms 66:1: “Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth. Sing forth the honor of His name; make His praise glorious. Say to God, ‘How awesome are Your works! Through the greatness of Your power, Your enemies submit themselves in obedience to You.’.... [that day is coming] ...All the earth shall worship You and shall sing praises to You; they shall sing praises to Your name. Selah” (vs 1-4). Think about that day; that is coming!

When you look at all the troubles and difficulties going on in the earth, what you do when you think on that, you give yourself a *mental* and a *spiritual* barrier to keep all the troubles from the world and other people from coming into you to control you. **“All the earth shall worship You and shall sing praises to You; they shall sing praises to Your name. Selah.”**

Think about this: I wonder what Sabbath is going to be like from the throne of God ...

(go to the next track)

... in heaven above during the Millennium: singing, music, love; all of those things are going to be fantastic. So, when the Sabbath starts and again we'll use New Zealand where the International Dateline is. It starts out Friday night, comes all the way around, then Sabbath morning. Can you imagine how it's going to be where there will be buildings—I won't say churches, but the churches will meet in the buildings—close? People will all be taught God's way. Just think how fantastic it's going to be.

There will be no sickness, no disease, none of the things that plague us now. Think on how God is going to do that.

Verse 5: “Come and see the works of God... [everything there is constitutes the works of God] ...He is awesome in His deeds toward the sons of men.” He wants them to be made after His image and after His kind. Then it talks about what He did in bringing the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt.

This is all under praising God, because if you're praising God, you have no time—what was this thing they used to have on *Hee Haw*? They had the corn patch and a fellow would pop up out of the corn patch and say, ‘Woe, woe, all the misery,’ and everything like this. When you are praising God, you can't think of all your troubles.

Psalms 65:1: “Praise waits for You, O God, in Zion; and to You shall the vow be performed. O You Who hears prayer, unto You shall all flesh come” (vs

1-2). Think about that! Sooner or later they are all going to come to God and they will have to choose. You can think about your problems after that.

Verse 3: “Iniquities prevail against me; as for our transgressions, You shall forgive them.” Then you look upon your problems and you pray about them.

- ask God for the solution
- ask God for forgiveness
- ask Him to help you

Verse 4: “Blessed is the one whom You choose and cause to come near You...” Not only that, we have Christ and the Father dwelling in us with the power of the Holy Spirit.

“...that he may dwell in Your courts; we shall be satisfied with the goodness of Your house, even Your Holy temple” (v 4).

Then it comes back to praising God for His awesome works. Seeing that earth from outer space really gives you a fantastic view of what God has done to sustain the world, to keep it going, to keep everything interacting. There is a reason for the North Pole and the South Pole. There is a reason why everything there is. Some of these things go on and cycle through and they take thousands of years to cycle through.

For example; I don't think hardly anybody knows this: At the South Pole, when it starts freezing the ice expands out and makes the Antarctica about three times as large as it is. But when it's freezing then brine falls and it's like a huge underwater fall of brine that falls two miles to the bottom of the ocean floor. That brine is super-cold water. That begins following the underground rivers in the earth and comes up all the way from Antarctica, all the way through the south Atlantic Ocean, all the way up into the north Atlantic Ocean and wells up and brings nutrients. All along the line there are times when there are fantastic schools of fish, especially the herring and the sardines. They just lay their eggs, like up in Alaska.

From outer space you look down and the sea is white with the eggs of the herring. All of the fish and the sharks—the big ones, the small ones—the whales, they all come and have a feast. Even the birds dive down and swim underwater to get their fish. All of that God has created

- so that we can have food
  - so that we can have moderate temperature
  - so that we can live
- all of these physical things*
- so we can function to worship and serve God



*That is awesome!*

Verse 5: “By awesome works in righteousness You will answer us, O God of our salvation...” Keep your mind on the salvation. You have praise and salvation both here.

“...You are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of those of the distant sea. The mountains are established by Your strength; You are clothed with power. You Who stills the roaring of the sea, the noise of the their waves, and the uproar of the peoples. And the inhabitants of the furthestmost places *of the earth* stand in awe of Your signs; You make the beginning of the morning and the evening to rejoice. You visit the earth and water it; You enrich it greatly; the river of God is full of water...” (vs 5-9).

This can apply two ways. The river of God, these are the underground rivers down deep in the ocean that bring all of these things that keep it within a half a degree.

The thing that disappointed me with the whole thing was when you got to the end of it, now we get the global warming pitch. When they started that I said, ‘You’ve missed the whole point of what you just told us.’ They said we have global warming because in the last hundred years the temperature has risen a half a degree. *When you praise God and think on what He is doing, that diminishes the magnitude of your problem!*

Psalms 100:1: “Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.” That’s interesting!

Revelation 5:11: “And I saw and I heard *the* voices of many angels around the throne, and *the* voices of the living creatures and the elders, and thousands of thousands, Saying with a loud voice, ‘Worthy is the Lamb Who was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory and blessing.’ And every creature that is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and those that are on the sea, and all the things in them, I heard saying, ‘To Him Who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing, and honor, and glory, and sovereignty into the ages of eternity’” (vs 11-13).

***The whole earth is going to praise God and everything in it.*** What’s it going to be like to see a whole tribe of chimpanzees praising God? I wonder how they are going to do that? All the earth, everything that is there; every living thing.

Psalms 100:2: “Serve the LORD with gladness...” Don’t let the heaviness and problems take you down.

“...come before His presence with singing. Know that the LORD, He is God. He has made us,

and we are His; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture. Enter into His gates with thanksgiving and into His courts with praise; give thanks unto Him and bless His name, for the LORD is good; His steadfast love is everlasting; and His faithfulness endures to all generations” (vs 2-5).

That will lift the cloud. No room for ‘Joe Btfsplk,’ the guy who runs around with the cloud all the time. We’ll see what this does for our attitude and our heart and how we serve God.

Psalms 112:1: “Praise the LORD! Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments.” You can think about how great His commandments are and how wonderful it’s going to be when the whole world is loving God and keeping His commandments. We will be there to teach them.

Verse 2: “His seed shall be mighty upon earth; the generation of the upright shall be blessed. Wealth and riches shall be in his house, and his righteousness endures forever” (vs 2-3). Think about the reward that God is going to give us: *riches and wealth beyond description!*

Verse 4: “To the upright there arises light in the darkness... [God will be there to open the way] ...he is gracious and full of compassion and righteousness.” ***This is what to look upon. This is what to dwell upon. This is how to change the focus from the difficulties and the oppression to serving God in strength and righteousness!***

Verse 5: “It is well with the man who is gracious and lends freely; who conducts his affairs with justice. Sure he shall not be moved forever... [what God wants us to develop is His character, through His Spirit] ...the righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance” (vs 5-6). You don’t have to worry about God forgetting you. You have His Spirit in you. How can He forget you? *He can’t!*

Therefore, v 7: “He shall not be afraid of evil tidings; his heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD. His heart is established... [That’s what we are going through right now—how to establish your heart before God.] ...he shall not be afraid until he sees his desire upon his enemies. He has given freely; he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever; his horn shall be exalted with honor. The wicked shall see and be angry; he shall gnash with his teeth and melt away; the desire of the wicked shall perish” (vs 7-10). Where? *In the Lake of Fire!* That’s how much God is for us.

Let’s see some other things that are going to help us greatly. Let’s look to the joy and salvation of God. All of what we have been describing here in the Psalms to get our bearings and have our minds

on God and to overcome the difficulties that we are confronted with and the way that the world is today:

Psalms 108:1: “O God, my heart is fixed... [all of these are to fix your heart before God] ...I will sing and I will give praise, even with my glory.... [we’re going to have glory] ...Awake, harp and lyre; I will awake early” (vs 1-2). I don’t know if it’s going to be easy to learn how to play a harp and lyre or if it’s going to be difficult, but we are going to have them.

Verse 3: “I will praise You, O LORD, among the people; and I will sing praises to You among the nations.... [this is of Christ; this is of us] ...For Your mercy is great above the heavens...” (vs 3-4). Think of all the mercy that is going to be poured out during the Millennium.

“...and Your truth reaches unto the clouds. Be exalted, O God, above the heavens, and Your glory above all the earth” (vs 4-5). Think about what it’s going to be like when that will be during the Millennium and all people are involved in it. That’s why He has given these things to us now so we can look forward to them. If we look at the difficulty right here in front of us and we are transfixed on that instead of on God, then we can be overwhelmed. God gives us this way out.

Verse 6: “So that Your beloved may be delivered... [God will deliver] ...save with Your right hand, and answer me. God has spoken in His Holiness: ‘I will rejoice, I will divide Shechem...’ (vs 6-7)—and so forth; God fulfilling His plan.

Psalms 85:7: “Show us Your mercy, O LORD, and grant us Your salvation.” When God intervenes and helps you, remember it. Don’t take it for granted.

Verse 8: “I will hear what God the LORD will speak... [you do that by study] ...for He will speak peace to His people, and to His saints, but let them not turn again to folly.” Once God has done this to us, don’t turn back from it.

Verse 9: “Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, so that glory may dwell in our land. **Mercy and Truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.** Truth shall spring out of the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven” (vs 9-11). That’s what’s going to fill the whole earth at the return of Christ.

Verse 12: “Yea, the LORD shall give that which is good, and our land shall yield its increase. Righteousness shall go before Him and shall set us in the way of His steps” (vs 12-13).

Those are very inspiring Psalms—aren’t they? *Yes!*

Psa. 27 is when David was confronted with real evil, with lots of enemies coming after him and in the battles and fights that he experienced. But here’s what he relied upon. This is how we can handle our problems and difficulties. It will help us put those in perspective.

Psalms 27:1: “The LORD is my light...” We have

- the light of God’s Word
- the light of God’s Spirit
- the light of His Truth

“...and my salvation; whom shall I fear?... [you don’t need to fear anything] ...The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?... [especially when we have to face difficult times] ...When the wicked, my enemies and my foes, came upon me to eat up my flesh, they stumbled and fell. Though an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid; though war should rise against me, even then I will be confident. One thing I have desired from the LORD, that I will seek after... [notice what gives him this kind of confidence]: ...that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in His temple... [that’s what’s to look to] ...For in the time of trouble He shall hide me in His pavilion...” (vs 1-5). Tie in there Psa. 91.

“...in the secret place of His tabernacle He shall hide me; He shall set me upon a rock. And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies round about me; therefore I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy in His tabernacle. I will sing; yea, I will sing praises unto the LORD” (vs 5-6). That will undo every downcast moment that you may be faced with. God will lift you up; *claim the promise!*

When you have things that drag you down and you feel oppressed and feel burdened down, go to God and say, ‘God, I’m oppressed and burdened down.’ Turn to some of these Psalms and get your mind on what God is going to do, how He can intervene for us. Put it all into His hands and tell God, ‘You know what to do.’ Whenever you have a problem that is too great for you to solve, you put it before God. We don’t know the way to go unless we come to God and ask Him to help us and show us what to do. He will do that.

Notice how this works in prayer and talking to God, v 7: “Hear, O LORD, when I cry with my voice; and be gracious unto me and answer me. When You said, ‘Seek My face,’ my heart said to You, ‘Your face, O LORD, will I seek’” (vs 7-8). That’s what we need to do, seek God continually.

Verse 11: “Teach me Your way, O LORD... [that’s what we’re learning with all of these things] ...and lead me in a level path because of my enemies.” When you come to God, He’ll fight your battles for you. When you come to Him, He will make even your enemies be at peace with you.

Verse 12: “Deliver me not over to the will of my enemies, for false witnesses have risen up against me... [this is also a prophecy of Christ] ...and he that breathes out violence. I would have fainted unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living” (vs 12-13).

There it is! That’s why we go through all of these things. He said he would have fainted and given up, had no hope.

Verse 14: “Wait for the LORD: be of food courage, and He shall make your heart strong; yea, wait, I say, *wait* on the LORD.”

That’s a tremendous, encouraging Psalm for us so that we can serve God and wait on Him and do His will. Psa. 13 is a case where you feel just completely let go from God. We will all go through these things.

Psalm 13:1: “How long will Your forget me, O LORD? Forever? How long will You hide Your face from me? How long shall I take counsel in my heart, having sorrow in my heart daily? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me? Consider *and* answer me, O LORD my God; enlighten my eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death. Lest my enemy say, ‘I have overcome him,’ and my foes rejoice when I am moved” (vs 1-4).

- Look at how bad it was
- Look at how difficult it was
- Look at how he felt

Verse 5: “But as for me, I have trusted in Your mercy; my heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. I will sing to the LORD because He has dealt bountifully with me” (vs 5-6).

The best way to get rid of the ‘blues and the blahs’ is with *joy in God’s salvation and what He has done and His awesome works!*

Psalm 21:1: “The king shall rejoice in Your strength, O LORD; and in Your salvation how greatly shall he rejoice!” Why? *Because God knows better than we do! He knows what we need to do!*

Verse 2: “You have given him his heart’s desire and have not withheld the prayer of his lips. Selah.” God *will* answer, but you have to go to God.

Verse 3: “For You do meet him with the blessings of goodness; You set a crown of pure gold

on his head.” This projects forward to the resurrection when we have a crown of life.

Verse 4: “He asked life from You; You give to him length of days forever and ever.... [through the resurrection] ...His glory is great through Your salvation; honor and majesty You have laid upon him” (vs 4-5). Think what it’s going to be like to be sons and daughters of God spiritually.

Verse 6: “For You have made him most blessed forever; You made him exceedingly joyful with Your presence; for the king trusts in the LORD and in the mercy of the Most High; **he shall not be moved**” (vs 6-7). That’s what we need to keep us on the track. Rejoice in the salvation of God *because*:

- He saved us from Satan the devil
- He has saved us from this world
- He saved us from our sins
- He is going to complete the salvation at the resurrection when Christ returns

It all goes *to* God and *from* God and with us *back to* God. Paul wrote that the Gospel and salvation of God is understand from *faith unto faith*. ***Our faith to God; His faith back to us:***

- with His Spirit
- with His blessings
- with His goodness

which is brought out here:

Psalm 62:1: “Only for God does my soul wait in silence; from Him comes my salvation.... [God has to work it out for us] ...He only is my Rock and my salvation; He is my fortress; **I shall not be greatly moved**” (vs 1-2)—because you will keep coming back to God; you will keep coming back to His way and His Truth.

Verse 3: “How long will you imagine mischief against a man?... [looking at others] ...You shall be slain, all of you; you shall be like a bowing wall and as a tottering fence. They only consult to cast him down from his great height; they delight in lies; they bless with their mouth, but inwardly they curse. Selah” (vs 3-4). I think that’s a good description of many religionists and politicians.

Verse 5: “My soul, wait in silence for God alone; for from Him comes my hope. He only is my Rock and my salvation; He is my strong tower; **I shall not be moved**” (vs 5-6). Think of that! That’s how we need to be *fixed* with God.

Verse 7: “In God is my salvation and my glory, the Rock of my strength; my refuge is in God. Trust in Him at all times, you people; pour out your heart before Him; God is a refuge for us. Selah” (vs 7-8).

We're not going to solve it by human ways and human means. Here's what happens when you start looking to solving it by human effort and human ways. After we come to God we have to put forth our effort, that is true. He will bless our way. But notice, trusting in men:

Verse 9: "Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie; when weighed in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity."

Don't worry about the great in the world. Don't worry about what they are going to do. God is going to work it all out. Remember that ***our exaltation comes at the resurrection!***

Verse 10: "Trust not in oppression, and do not take pride in stolen goods; if riches increase, do not set your heart upon them. God has spoken once; twice I have heard this: that power belongs to God. Also to You, O LORD, belongs mercy; for You give to every man according to his work" (vs 10-12).

Here are some of the things that we need to be doing. All that we have covered is summed up right here:

Colossians 3:1: "Therefore, if you have been raised together with Christ... [through the operation of baptism] ...seek the things that are above... [God's way] ...where Christ is sitting at *the* right hand of God.... [you have direct access] ...Set your affection on the things that are above, and not on the things that are on the earth.... [you can take care of those things later] ...For you have died...: (vs 1-3)—through baptism. You have died to carnal nature; you have died to sin.

"...and your life has been hid together with Christ in God. When Christ, *Who is* our life, is manifested, then you also shall be manifested with Him in glory" (vs 3-4). ***Keep your mind on that!***

Now then, it shows how we overcome, so you use all of this and God's Spirit

- to overcome
- to change
- to grow
- to see God's way
- to understand God's way

*Use it also to encourage others, to help them see and to help them know! This is how you can use the Psalms to cope in the days we are living in!*

#### Scriptural References:

- 1) Luke 13:1-5
- 2) 1-John 1:1-4

- 3) Revelation 5:5-6
- 4) Psalm 74:10-11, 18-23
- 5) Psalm 70:1-5
- 6) Psalm 77:1-15
- 7) Psalm 84:1-12
- 8) Psalm 116:1-19
- 9) Psalm 117:1-2
- 10) Psalm 103:1-22
- 11) Psalm 66:1-5
- 12) Psalm 65:1-9
- 13) Psalm 100:1
- 14) Revelation 5:11-13
- 15) Psalm 100:2-5
- 16) Psalm 112:1-10
- 17) Psalm 108:1-6
- 18) Psalm 85:7-13
- 19) Psalm 27:1-8, 11-14
- 20) Psalm 13:1-6
- 21) Psalm 21:1-7
- 22) Psalm 62:1-12
- 23) Colossians 3:1-4

#### Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 2; 3
- Psalms 109, 104, 91

#### Also referenced: Books:

- *Josephus*
- *The Demographic Cliff* by Harry S. Dent, Jr.

FRC:lp  
Transcribed: 10-8-14  
Formatted: 10-20-14  
Corrected: 5/31/15

## How to Overcome the Sin Within VI

### How to Withstand Satan and This Evil World

Fred R. Coulter

There's a great deal more persecution against Christians. Chaplains aren't able to use the name of Christ. It's the schools that are doing it. It says Congress shall make no law, but the schools think they are greater than Congress and they make all kinds of laws. They came up to a worldly Christian girl who was wearing a cross and told her to take it off or leave the school because it might offend someone. They'll get around to us a little more.

Also, the Army has declared a Christian group a 'hate group.' The American Family Association has been designated as a 'hate group.' So you see how the oppression is going to come.

You go back in the history a little bit—I've mentioned this before concerning 1893 and *Rome's Challenge to the Protestants*—Appendix N in *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order*. Be sure and read it through very carefully and you will see what they said about the Protestants. They don't follow the Bible and they are going to come against them in a time they least expect. I think that has happened. There's going to be that Christian persecution.

Here's another one that says: Anti-Christian Faith Sentiment Growing at Break-Neck Speed—this is from CBN (Christian Broadcasting Network).

What is God's answer for all of that? *We stand for the Truth!* When we have to let them know, we'll let them know what the Truth is. The other answer to a lot of that is what we have in the way of Church at Home. We can educate everybody with the Word of God at home.

Remember, if you sign up for ObamaCare you have absolutely no privacy of anything, anywhere, at any time. It is all public information and the government can use it at their will.

In California they declared that the boys and the girls could declare their gender identification and to go into whichever restroom that they want to. Now there's coming up challenges of that because of the harassment and surely there will be a rape. Then people are going to say, 'What have we done.' All this is part of getting rid of Christianity, getting rid of Truth, and getting rid of those who are against Satan's agenda; let's just put it that way. Satan has many helpers at many levels doing many, many things. So, these are going to come.

Here is another situation that is interesting: For many Jews in the U.S. religion is not tied to belief. That's coming into the Christian religion as

well as in the world. I've got some other things I'm going to bring about that on Church at Home and also they have changed the Bible with the so-called 'gay' Bible. We are getting to a point where there are more and more of these things coming.

Sooner or later the weight of it is going to break through. They have nearly successfully destroyed the family, destroyed education, destroyed the government, making it non-workable so that a dictator can take over, if we don't have one already.

Those few who are trying to do right are labeled obstructionists and enemies of the state and they don't know what they are talking about while they are printing money and spending us into complete oblivion. The goal, obviously, is to do that.

What are we going to do? A man wrote me and he said, 'I hope and pray that you and your family are all doing well. I certainly appreciate the things being done in the sermons. I would like to make a suggestion to do a sermon or sermons on the *armor of God* expounding all the tools we need to defeat Satan.' So, we're going to cover part of that today because we are into those things today even more than ever before.

In preparation for this sermon I did a channel surf like I suggest all of you do. Of course, we're getting close to Halloween, so here comes more occultism, more demonism, more of these things.

There may be some kind of formula that God works concerning Satan and the demons. I don't know exactly how that goes, but let's see that the more that people leave God—and I think we can virtually say this for true—the more that Satan is given entrance. Zech. 13 is talking about when God sets up the renewal of Jerusalem, preparing for them coming back out of Babylon. Then, likewise when Christ returns:

Zechariah 13:1: "In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David, and to the people of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and for uncleanness. And it shall be in that day," says the LORD of hosts, "I will cut off the names of <sup>#1</sup>**the idols** out of the land, and they shall be remembered no more... [I want you to key in on idols here] ...And also I will cause the <sup>#2</sup>**lying prophets** and the unclean spirits to pass out of the land."

How do we get these unclean spirits, because there's more and more of it very obviously evident in the world? We know that:

1. it is leaving God
2. we have idolatry
3. we have false prophets

This brings us to some things that we need to have the understanding and discernment through the Word of God.

1-John 4:1: “Beloved, do not believe every spirit...” Yet, today they are seeking more and more demonic spirits. You even have more and more programs on television depicting a thrilling, exciting thing to go into these particular things of darkness and evil, and conjuring up ghosts and spirits.

They like to come around and be ‘religious.’ “...but test the spirits...” (v 1). We have a greater challenge today than any other generation going back about 50 years-plus, up to our time. We have a greater challenge of things that can come into our mind that can be transmitted to us than at any other time in history. So, we need to *be on guard!*

“...whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world” (v 1). What does this tell us? *False prophets have a false spirit!* How do you discern between the two? One of the things, especially with Halloween; isn’t it interesting that the first occult holiday of the year is *Halloween*, the celebration of death?

Isaiah 8:19: “And when they shall say to you...” This is what they are saying, preaching, practicing, putting on television, books, magazines, CDs, handheld devices. That’s nothing to say about the overwhelming invasion of sex at every level.

“...‘Seek unto them that have familiar spirits and to wizards who peep and mutter’... [then they answer this way]: ...*but* should not a people seek unto their God?...” (v 19). That’s what we’re trying to do, failing to realize that ‘the god of this world’ is Satan the devil.

“...*Should* the dead *be sought* on behalf of the living?... [so we can know what went on] (here’s the dividing point; the test): ...To the Law... [the Law of God, all of it] ...and to the testimony!....” (vs 19-20). The testimony includes all of the prophets because the prophets gave witness or testimony and warning from God. That also refers to the New Testament as well.

That is the test; the reason is: “...If they do not speak according to this Word, *it is* because *there is no light in them*” (v 20). We need to understand and realize that.

We have virtually the same message in 1-John 4. I think we are seeing the end result of what is happening to Protestantism because they have failed to heed the warnings. That’s what’s so

important about *Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants*. They make it very, very good.

Isn’t it something that the Protestants use that to say that Rome and Catholicism is ‘our spiritual enemy.’ Then over this challenge at the World’s Fair when the Protestants wanted to close the Fair on Sunday, the Seventh Day Adventists sued. That was the only known major Sabbath-keeping group at that time. They won!

So, Cardinal Gibbon wrote *Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants* and the challenge was this: ‘If you say you go by the Bible alone, why don’t you go by the Bible Sabbath because that is the only day that you find commanded in the entire Bible, regardless of your conniving. Furthermore, it’s a Catholic day.’ From that time there has been a curve downward of Protestantism. The beginning of that decline happened when the Supreme Court of the United States of 1892<sup>[transcriber’s correction]</sup> declared that the United States is a Christian nation.

If they were Christian, they should have repented and began keeping the Sabbaths of God, began keeping the Holy Days of God, began understanding the Bible, *but they did not!* So, what was brought upon them? *Everything to remove God step-by-step, incrementally, from the government, the schools, our lives, education and everything that we have!* They even got all the books about the Bible expelled from the school. Today it’s come so far that you can bring a Koran to the classroom, but you better not bring a Bible. That’s how far *the deception* has come.

When it gets down to Jesus Christ, 1-John 4:2: “By this *test* you *can* know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in *the flesh* is from God.” That means human flesh like our human flesh as defined in the Bible.

Most of them do not believe that. The general belief is a form of Docetism is that Christ the Savior came from heaven and possessed the man Jesus. So therefore, it was impossible for Jesus to sin and when Jesus died the Christ went back to heaven. That’s the sum of the description of what it’s talking about here.

Verse 5: “They are of the world; because of this, they speak of the world, and the world listens to them. We are of God; the one who knows God listens to us... [How do you know God? *If you love Him and keep His commandments!*] ...the one who is not of God does not listen to us. By this means we know the Spirit of the Truth and the spirit of the deception” (vs 5-6).

Now let’s see what else Satan does. Here is what we need to be aware of today more than ever

before. This is why we need to have our minds cleansed every day:

Ephesians 2:1: “Now, you were dead in trespasses and sins.” *The wages of sin is death!* We have a sinful nature and everything that we do without the Spirit of God, even though it may be good on the surface, is not a thing that will bring eternal life.

Verse 2: “In which you walked in times past according to the course of this world, according to the prince of power of the air, the spirit that is now working within the children of disobedience.”

That’s where we see the world today. Everything even more and more, even those who profess a ‘Christianity.’ Sixty percent of the young people are living together, not being married and are in sexual relations, yet, they go to the Protestant churches and they are welcomed. It has come full circle.

Here’s what it appeals to, v 3: “Among whom also we all once had our conduct in the lusts of our flesh, doing the things willed by the flesh and by the mind, and were by nature *the* children of wrath, even as the rest *of the world.*” God calls us out of that.

Let’s see how we need to stay steadfast with God and not let any of these things get into us, not let any of these things come and bother us. We have a greater fight today than they did back in the days when the Church was formed. Let’s see what it is that we are to do.

Let’s first of all look at the warnings. This is why, when the Protestants have said you don’t need to follow the Old Testament, they miss all the warnings. There are a lot of them in there but they are all based on two things:

1. telling God what to do
2. forgetting what God told them to do

That’s why we have the Sabbath every week. What is the first word in the fourth commandment? **Remember!** Because it’s so easy to forget, if you get wrapped up in all of these things that are part of the world:

- the lust of the eyes
- the lust of the flesh
- the pride of life
- everything that is built around the world
- what Satan has put out there for people to do

How many of them center around all the activities on the Sabbath?

Let’s see what God wants. In the book of Deuteronomy you have a lot of things that apply to

the New Testament, the New Covenant, and all of that. Let’s remember what Peter said: ‘*As there were false teachers among Israel, there shall be false teachers among you, coming in even denying Christ.*’ We’ve seen that happen—haven’t we? *Yes, we have!*

Along with *remember*, it is *don’t forget*. Moses wrote, Deuteronomy 4:1: “And now, O Israel, hearken to the statutes and to the judgments which I teach you, in order to do them, so that you may live and go in and possess the land which the LORD God of your fathers gives to you.”

In reading the Old Testament, one thing I have really gathered out of it. ***No one tells God what to do*** and whatever God says, ***He means and we are to do!***

He says here to counteract that, v 2: “You shall not add to the word which I command you; neither shall you take away from it, so that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.” {note 1-John 2:3-6, showing that for the New Covenant we are also to keep the commandments of God.} ‘Anyone who says they know God and doesn’t keep His commandments is a liar.’

They had a personal experience that we never had, v 3: “Your eyes have seen what the LORD did because of Baal Peor. For the LORD your God destroyed from among you all the men that followed Baal Peor. And you who held fast to the LORD your God *are* alive, every one of you, this day” (vs 3-4). So remember: ***hold fast!***

Verse 5: “Behold, I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me, so that you should do so in the land where you go to possess it. And you shall keep and do *them*, for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations, which shall hear all these statutes and say, ‘Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people.’ For what nation is so great...” (vs 5-7).

What we need to do is think in terms of the promises of Abraham given to the children of Israel in these last days. I find it quite interesting, when you look at the sequence of things that happened in history, before God gave the blessings to Ephraim and Manasseh—and then the rest of the tribes in Europe, as well—the first thing He did was break the yoke of the Catholic Church.

Then for the descendants of Ephraim and Manasseh he raised up William Tyndale to translate the Bible. He gave them the Bible first so they would have the Word of God. Here is the key: ***everyone who has a Bible***, especially today, ***have had God’s witness personally delivered to them in***

**their own house!** You don't have to go to a mountain and see some display on a mountain. He wants it to be that we will be a righteous nation. Look what we have done to it. In order to fulfill His promise, He sent His Word first.

Verse 9: "Only take heed to yourself..." The next thing we need to do is *watch ourselves*. Who has control over your mind? *You do!* You are to choose. You are to take heed to yourself.

"...and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. But teach them to your children, and your children's children" (v 9). That's quite a thing—isn't it? Notice all the admonitions in here.

We see a repeat of this in v 23, just a little different: "Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which He made with you..." Let's take that one step further into the covenant we have made with God and God has made with us through Christ. Remember, ***a covenant is something that if you break, it costs your life!***

Verse 9: "Take heed to yourselves, lest you forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which He made with you, and make you a graven image, a likeness of anything which the LORD your God has forbidden you." What comes with idols? *Unclean spirits!* That's why in the New Testament we are told to 'flee idolatry.'

Verse 24: "For the LORD your God *is* a consuming fire, a jealous God."

Verse 26: "I call heaven and earth to witness against you this day that you shall soon utterly perish from off the land which are crossing over Jordan to possess. You shall not prolong *your* days upon it, but shall utterly be destroyed." That is if they go against God. We've also experienced that in the Church.

Deut. 6 is a very important chapter because this also shows us something very important concerning law. Law and commandments by themselves are an *expression* of love; ***they do not create love***. Love comes from the heart; love comes from God.

That's why Jesus gave the answer, 'Which is the first and great commandment? *Love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your soul, all your strength, and love your neighbor as yourself!* On these two *hang* all the Law and the Prophets.' It's not the other way around.

You must first love God and then you can keep His commandments. That will constitute love as motivated with God's Spirit. You can't try and keep commandments without God. You end up with something like Judaism. What did Jesus say to the

Pharisees? He says, 'I know you. You do not have the love of God in you. For had you believed Moses, you would have believed Me.'

Let's read it here what God says, Deuteronomy 6:1: "Now, these *are* the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which the LORD our God commanded to teach you so that you might do *them* in the land where you go to possess it." That's after chapter five with the Ten Commandments.

Verse 2: "That you might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you, and your son, and your son's son, all the days of your life, and so that your days may be prolonged."

Here's another key on how to fight against Satan, v 3: "Hear therefore... [the Word of God; the admonition of God; the teaching of God] ...O Israel, and be diligent to *observe* it..."

- we can't take it half-heartedly
- we can't take it by being cool
- we can't take it by being lukewarm

"...so that it may be well with you, and that you may greatly multiply, as the LORD God of our fathers has promised you, in the land that flows with milk and honey. Hear, O Israel. Our one God is *the* LORD, *the* LORD. And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words which I command you this day shall be in your heart" (vs - 6). That's how they are in our heart: ***by loving God!*** There are other admonitions in here about forgetting God.

Let's come to the New Testament and we will see pretty much the same thing. What are the three words that define what God wants us to do? ***Obey My voice!*** We have the voice of God recorded here. Let's amplify that a little bit with what Jesus was teaching.

Luke 6:43: "For there is not a good tree that is producing corrupt fruit; nor *is there* a corrupt tree that is producing good fruit." Think what all of this mass demonic television and satanic television is going to produce. It's going to produce:

- more sin
- more iniquity
- more murders
- kidnappings
- sex problems
- disease
- death
- drugs and everything else that goes with it



Can that produce something good? What they are missing in all the politics and all the things that the politicians want to do, ‘Oh, do this and we’ll prosper.’ *No! Return to God first and then do it!* Then we’ll prosper. If you don’t return to God, all that you’re going to try and do it may work for a little while, but sooner or later the burden of sin is going to destroy it and drag it down.

Verse 44: “For every tree is known by its own fruit; for they do not gather figs from thorns, nor do they gather a bunch of grapes from a bramble. The good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth that which is good; and the wicked man out of the wicked treasure of his heart brings forth that which *is* wicked; for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks” (vs 44-45).

Sidebar: Go online and look up the 20 sayings of our President about the Muslim religion, and then the 20 sayings about the Christian religion. I’ll let you do the research on that. It will be astounding! Likewise with the other politicians! Another way of putting it: ***you can never accomplish the righteousness of God with the means of satanic religion!*** Never work!

Verse 46: “And why do you call Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ but *you* do not practice what I say?” That’s why we have Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This is not very much different from what Moses said. It’s identical.

Verse 47: “‘Everyone who comes to Me and hears My words and practices them, I will show you what he is like.’” It’s very interesting that the Greek word there ‘poieo’ means to *be doing on a continuous basis*, which is *practice*.

Let’s just stop and think for a minute concerning us. If as individuals we quit keeping the Sabbath, how long would we remember God? *We’d be absorbed into the world and become like them!* That’s why we have Sabbath every week. That’s why God says, ‘Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it Holy’ and ‘If you ***practice*** that...’—if this is your way of living...

Verse 48: “He is like a man building a house, who dug deep...” Isn’t it interesting that Jesus is called a carpenter, but He’s more like a contractor in building buildings because that involves stones and timber and concrete. They had concrete back then, as well.

“...and laid *the* foundation on the rock; and a flood came, and the torrent beat against that house, but could not shake it, because it was founded on the rock” (v 48). This tells us that being a Christian and following Christ is not going to be an easy proposition.

He told us in Matt. 7 that ***‘narrow is the gate and difficult is the way that leads to life. But broad is the gate that leads to destruction and many go there.’*** When you have what is known as ‘costless Christianity,’ the simple formula that the Protestants and evangelists go through today: they don’t have to do anything. What does God require? He requires:

- repentance
- baptism
- *which is a covenant of death; you bury the old self*
- the receiving of the Holy Spirit of God
- walking in the way of God
- to trust Him through all the difficult things that come along

If you are true and faithful and loving God, you’re not going to be shaken from it. “...it was founded on the rock.”

Verse 49: “But the one who has heard *My words* and has not practiced *them* is like a man who built a house on *top of* the ground, without a foundation; and *when* the torrent beat against it, it fell at once, and the ruin of that house was great.”

Let’s come back here to the book of Jude. We’re to remember the words of Christ, and we’ll see that He sent the Holy Spirit. But we’re also to remember something else. Jude wrote this epistle because there were men creeping in stealthily and perverting the grace of God into licentiousness. So, after showing all the difficulties and problems, giving examples of God’s severe judgment, then he tells us:

Jude 17: “But you, beloved, remember the words that were spoken before by the apostles of Our Lord Jesus Christ.” That includes everything that we have in the New Testament. We’ve got the Old Testament, combined with the New Testament and that constitutes the Word of God of what we are to do. Then God gives us His Spirit so we can keep His way *spiritually*, motivated from within.

I want you to read through all of Psalms 119, where it says, ‘I do not forget...’ over and over again:

- I do not forget Your Law
- I do not forget Your statutes
- I do not forget Your judgments
- I do not forget Your commandments
- I love Your Law
- I love Your commandments
- I love the Truth
- all Your commandments are Truth
- all Your Law is Truth
- all Your precepts are true from the beginning

That is a fantastic Psalm showing that with the Spirit of God, and if we apply it with the Spirit of God,

how great God's way is. Then add to that—*remember the words of the apostles.*

It is a spiritual thing that takes place. Let's see what the Spirit of God is to do for us, John 14:26: "But *when the Comforter comes, even the Holy Spirit, which the Father will send in My name, that one shall teach you all things, and shall bring to your remembrance everything that I have told you.*" The Holy Spirit is going to work with us to teach us.

{Note the sermon series: *How to Use the Holy Spirit.*} That's what we need to realize that we need to do here.

John 15:20: "**Remember the word that I spoke to you...** [just what we were talking about earlier] ...a servant is not greater than his master...." in any way.

Sidebar: Remember where Jesus said, 'Do not think that I have come to destroy the Law or the Prophets,' or abolish it. The Greek negation of that is a double negation, which is this: there are two Greek words which mean 'no' or 'not.'

1. 'ouk' or 'ou'—*it is not something that shall be done* or should be done, the impossibility of it
2. 'me'—*don't let this thought come into your mind, don't have an idea* that it's going to occur

Used in Matt. 5:17, it is this way: 'ou me.' When it's used in that double emphasis and those two words are used together it means *emphatically it is not going to be done and don't even have an idea that it will be!*

Verse 20: "Remember the word that I spoke to you..." That's in John 13 with the foot-washing. What did He say? *'The servant is not greater than his master and the messenger is not greater than the one who sent him.'* Meaning, *don't take my words and add to them or subtract them*, because you're putting yourself in God's place.

(go to the next track)

Let's look at the world, very similar to what David saw in Ps. 5. This tells you what we need to watch out for:

- how we need to *keep our guard up*
- how we need to *understand the things that are coming*
- how we need to *ask God to help us in everything*

Why did Jesus say that we could pray directly to the Father? *Because the Father Himself loves you!*

Whatever difficulty comes, do not be consumed by that difficulty. Trust in God. We're going to have to be doing that more and more, and trust in God to be led by the Holy Spirit of God.

That's why I want to get this booklet and this short series out so that we can know how God is going to deal with us and to always remember: the Father Himself—the greatest Being in the universe—loves each one of us in particularly.

What a fantastic thing that God has done! As I've asked you to do many times, take a pen and make a point on a piece of paper. That's how big you were when you started. Everything that you are as a human being now is a result of that.

Just think perhaps what we are learning here—and I think very similar to it—is that we're not much bigger than that little speck *spiritually speaking*, and the vast difference that it's going to be when we're resurrected as spirit beings and then being with God the Father and Jesus Christ. That is going to be absolutely mind-blowing!

Psalm 5:1: "Give ear to my words, O LORD: consider my meditation." The meditation is *your thoughts*. That's why we need to have *the washing of the water by the Word* daily to cleanse our thoughts and our minds because we are bombarded with so many things. We are in the absolutely worst generation that has been to this point.

Verse 2: "Hearken to the voice of my cry, my King and my God, for to You do I pray. My voice You shall hear in the morning, O LORD; in the morning I will direct my prayer to You, and I will look up" (vs 2-3). How do we survive against the forces of Satan in this world? *Pray every day!* Start out in the morning, end the day the same way. Be as Paul said to pray constantly, unceasingly, throughout the day periodically.

Verse 4: "For You are not a God that has pleasure in wickedness; nor shall evil dwell with You. The boasters shall not stand in Your sight. You hate all workers of iniquity" (vs 4-5). He hates their deeds.

You stop and think about what God is going to do to this earth when Christ returns. It is going to be something else! Says in the book of Haggai that He's going to shake the heavens! shake the earth! shake the sea! Like it says there in Revelation. Imagine what this world is going to be like, all because of sin. ***Just because sinners are not punished immediately doesn't mean that God is not taking account!*** It says in another Psalm, 'You set them in slippery ways,' and it will catch up with them. When do you slip and slide? *When you least expect it!*

Verse 6: "You shall destroy those who speak lies... [may that blessing come on all politicians at the right time] ...the LORD abhors the bloody and deceitful man." Let God take care of it. That's the whole thing here. ***Do not let any of the problems of***

***the world come into your life so much that you get distracted and upset with it!***

What can I do? *Nothing! God has to handle it!* Don't go through all of the mental battles and emotional battles and all of this sort of thing with it.

Verse 7: "But I, in the abundance of Your loving kindness, I will come into Your house..." David could do that because he had in his house a special room where there was a small tabernacle. In that tabernacle David placed the Ark of the Covenant. David had a special relationship with God because of that. Remember this: our prayers come up before God the Father through Jesus Christ—every single day. We are—in a sense, spiritually—when we pray, coming into His house. There will be a day when we will enter the house of God literally after the resurrection.

"...I will bow down in your fear toward Your Holy temple. Lead me, O LORD..." (vs 7-8). What leads us? *The Holy Spirit leads us (Rom. 8:14)!* We are the children of God when the Holy Spirit leads us. Don't let your temper get taken away or your anger taken away, or resentment taken away. ***Let God's Spirit lead you!***

"...in Your righteousness because of my enemies..." (v 8). Who are the enemies? *Satan the devil and the demons!* They follow along. Wherever evil is promulgated there they are.

"...make Your way straight before my face" (v 8). That's how you keep yourself out of trouble, ***you follow the way of God!*** What did Jesus say? *'Straight is the gate and narrow is the way!'*

Verse 9: "For there is no truth in their mouth..." Think about that! You do your own channel surfing, however many channels you have. If you have the dish or satellite, you've got 600 channels on it. Go through all 600 and ask how many are productive, how many are filled with lie, fairy tales, Satanism and all of that sort of thing. Then you will understand how evil that it really is.

When movies first came out, children were taught, 'That's of the devil.' How can that be? *I submit to you it doesn't come all at once!* Look at the beginning of Walt Disney, Mickey Mouse on the Riverboat. Toot-toot. Look at it now. Harry Potter, the Witch of Endor! Witchcraft! Demonism! How does Satan start? *Very innocent!* How does he end up? *Totally destructive!* Look at the movies.

I'll tell one on Dolores. Because so many of the programs and movies are really, really bad, she loves the cowboy channel. At least there are good guys and bad guys and there's right and wrong defined correctly. That's one of her favorite channels. She doesn't watch sports, I watch some sports, at least it's pitting against a goal or something. But when it's all over and done, all of

the vanity, all of the hoop-la, all of that, the greatest lesson in sports is this: ***you have got to persevere to win.***

Even the Apostle Paul said that in 1-Cor. 9. But all of the vanity and all the hoop-la and I'm the greatest this and that and so forth, forget it. *Not so!*

Verse 9: "...their inward part is destruction; their throat is an open grave; they flatter with their tongue." Sounds like I just read the qualifications for politicians and preachers.

Verse 10: "Hold them guilty, O God; let them fall by their own counsels... [that's how to pray for your enemies] ...cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, for they have rebelled against You."

Here's how we survive in this terrible, evil, demonic world, v 11: "But let all who put their trust in You rejoice... [Trust God! Never, *ever*, *ever* doubt the Word of God!] ...let them always shout for joy because You defend them... [add in there Psa. 91] ...And let those who love Your name exult... [that means be exceedingly joyful in You] ...For You, O LORD, will bless the righteous; with favor You will surround him as with a shield" (vs 11-12). ***That shield is the Word of God!***

Let's see how we can defend ourselves. You're not going to defend yourselves because you vote for a certain person. They may have a policy better than another one and if you vote remember this: *Also vote for those who really cut taxes and for those who are the least evil.* There are some who are trying to do the right thing. They likewise give witness to us.

I think perhaps one of the most righteous one in Congress is a woman—Michelle Bachmann. In one of her speeches she was talking about what is wrong with America and what we need to do. She said in the book of Kings, Solomon gave the prayer that *'if your people will turn to You [God] and toward this place and confess their sins, You [God] will forgive them.'* She actually said that in one of her speeches. That's why she's not President today; she's so righteous. ***No! That sort of thing is not tolerated in the political world!***

Here's what we need to do, Ephesians 6:10: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in *the* Lord..." How are you strong in the Lord? Through:

- prayer
- study
- meditation
- constantly doing the things of God

That has to be through His Spirit, not because there's any goodness in us. I'll tell you one thing that we learn the older we get, we really understand how desperately evil and wicked that human nature

is. Do a thought check every once in a while during the day. How is this thought compared to the Word of God?

Even on something that you think you're really right in doing. Satan likes to come along and put a thought in your mind, 'You're really right there. You ought to hold a grudge against that person.' *Yeah, I ought to hold a grudge against that person because they were really wrong and I'm really right.* Satan is there, 'Yes!'

- What does God say? *Forgive!*

***That's hard to do!***

- What does He say? *Forgive!*
- What does He say? *Don't let the sun go down on your wrath!*

"...be strong in *the* Lord, and in the might of His strength" (v 10). That's through the Spirit of God, through the Word of God.

Verse 11: "Put on the whole armor of God... [we talked about the shield] ...so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Who is he after? *Anyone he can devour!* That's why Paul wrote, *'The one who names the name of Christ let him depart from unrighteousness.'*

For all of those of you who think I pick on the Protestants, I'm going to really give a sermon as to why God has been merciful to them and they should have been picked on a whole lot sooner, a whole lot longer. They may be, in some cases, *for* Jesus, but other than that what are they for?

Verse 12: "Because **we are not wrestling against flesh and blood...** [our spiritual battle] **...but against principalities and against powers, against the world rulers of the darkness of this age...**" Remember that every time you get frustrated when you watch the nightly news and things are not going well. No use being frustrated. Are you going to change them? If you're so frustrated, turn it off. Turn it on next week and you'll find the same thing. You're not going to miss anything.

You have music, radio, television, handheld media devices, wherever you go. You go into the store, especially during the holiday season, and what is always hard? *Those Christmas carols!* Why do they do that? *So they can keep everyone in frequency, in tune, deceived to spend their money, go in debt,* and they think they're doing 'good' toward God. *No, they're not!* They're making themselves in debt and they're enriching the merchants. The one you give the gift to may be very happy with it for a while, but that's the legacy of Christmas. Have all these things coming against us.

"...against the spiritual *power* of wickedness in high places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God so that you may be able to resist in the evil

day..." (vs 12-13). What we find out is every day is an evil day, not just *the* evil day, but every day. So, we need to be strong in the Lord.

"...and having worked out all things, to stand" (v 13). What do you work out? What are the things that you work out? Let me give you just a little formula here. This is one we have gone over before. It is a four-step formula:

1. ***stand in grace***
2. ***walk in faith***
3. ***believe in hope***
4. ***live in love***

That's what you need to remember. When all these things come upon you and you start feeling this pressure and tension, or you start feeling your emotions coming to the fore and anger and things like that, ***stop!*** Do like they do in the sports events. Blow yourself a mental whistle and ***stop!***

Verse 14: "Stand therefore, having your loins girded about with Truth..." You must

- *study* the Truth
- *know* the Truth
- *love* the Truth
  - ✓ the Word of God is the Truth
  - ✓ Christ is the Truth
  - ✓ the Father is the Truth

"...and wearing the breastplate of righteousness" (v 14). All your vital parts are exposed so you have to have the strength of the breastplate of righteousness. What is righteousness? *Your standing with God, the commandments of God, everything about God!*

Verse 15: "And having your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of Peace." We're to continue to preach the Gospel, continue to feed the flock, continue to do what we need to do.

Verse 16: "Besides all *these*, take up the shield of the faith, with which you will have the power to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one." That's likened to little missiles being shot off at you.

Verse 17: "And put on the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit... [it starts out with the Spirit and it ends up with the Spirit] ...which is the Word of God."

What does God do to make this possible for us to accomplish it? *He puts His laws, His Truth, His way written in our hearts and in our minds so that we can get rid of it!* Ask God to cleanse our minds from it, and to not let the world come in against us. That's how we are to do it. There's a lot that needs to be done.

Then on the other hand, we need to stand for the Truth in the way of doctrine, in the way of

teaching, and all of that. Look at everything that God has given us to do and all of those things will help us in the days that come.

Verse 18: “Praying at all times...” If you come across a difficult situation during the day or a thought comes into your mind during the day, rebuke it, ask God to forgive you. That’s getting rid of the temptation. Those thoughts are temptations. They haven’t yet conceived into full sin, but those temptations come so that it can appeal to your lust, but don’t be drawn away. That’s why you have to pray at all times.

“...with all prayer and supplication in *the* Spirit... [in this very thing, of everything concerning fighting Satan the devil]: ...and in this very thing being watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (v 18). That is for all of us combined together. So, that really helps us a great deal to understand.

Come back to Psalm 20 and we’ll add this to what we have covered concerning those four things that we need to remember:

1. *stand in grace*
2. *walk in faith*
3. *believe in hope*
4. *live in love*

Here’s a great Psalm to always keep in mind. It’s interesting, when you have the word ‘may,’ that means *there are conditions*, Psalm 20:1: “**May the LORD answer you** in the day of trouble...”

- That’s provided you *pray!*
- That’s provided you *believe God!*
- That’s provided you *trust God!*

“...the name of the God of Jacob set you on high, **May He send you help** from the sanctuary, and strengthen you out of Zion” (vs 1-2). How does that come? *Through God’s Spirit, through His angels!* Many times we need God to intervene for us and His angels protect us. Sometimes those things happen we don’t even know they occurred.

Verse 3: “**May He remember** all your offerings and accept your burnt sacrifice. Selah.” Today that is through prayer, praise, loving God. Those are our offerings. Our sacrifices are we don’t get all tangled up in the world and we are faithful to God in our financial affairs, as well.

Verse 4: “**May He grant you** according to your own heart and fulfill all your plans. We will shout for joy in your victory, and in the name of our God we will set up banners. **May the LORD fulfill all your prayers.** Now I know that the LORD saves His anointed...” (vs 4-6). Each one of you are anointed if you have the Spirit of God.

“...He will answer him from His Holy heaven with the saving strength of His right hand. Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we will remember the name of the LORD our God. They are brought down and fallen, but we have risen and stand upright. Save, O LORD; let the King hear us when we call” (vs 6-9). That’s quite a Psalm. You can take that Psalm and you can plug it in with Ps. 91.

Sometimes it’s so easy to get bogged down in our own difficulties and problems that come upon us. Here is how we put all of this together to fight this exceedingly wicked world around us:

2-Peter 1:1: “Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained *the* same precious faith as ours... [the same faith as the apostles] ...by *the* righteousness of our God and Savior, Jesus Christ.” Everything that we do, everything that we have has been given to us from God. ***We have nothing we didn’t receive!***

Verse 2: “Grace and peace be multiplied to you... [That’s what we want. Stand in grace. Let the peace of Christ rule in your heart.] ...be multiplied to you in *the* knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. According as His Divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and Godliness, through the knowledge of Him Who called us by His own glory and virtue; through which He has given to us the greatest and *most* precious promises...” (vs 2-4).

When you get all bogged down in the struggles of the mundane things that are going on, this is why we need the Sabbath. This is why we need prayer and study because what God has for us is so great.

“...that through these you may become partakers of *the* Divine nature... [the mind of Christ is the Divine nature] ...having escaped the corruption *that is in the* world through lust” (v 4). Yes, that’s what it is.

In the different sermons that I give from time to time many of them I will come to Eph. 3 because I think this is one of the most inspired, uplifting chapters of the entire Bible. Paul wrote this when he was in prison. You could say he should have been at his lowest. Take this for an example. When you go through a trial or difficulty and it has brought you low, look to God and let Him raise you up.

Notice Paul’s presentation here, Ephesians 3:14: “For this cause I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of Whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That He may grant you... [He did not say ‘me,’ he said *you*. Every single one of those God has called.] ...according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with

power by His Spirit in the inner man” (vs 14-16). ***That is how you resist the world and you do not let the world come in and collapse in upon you!***

Verse 17: “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith.... [let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts] ...*And* that being rooted and grounded in love... [that will pull you back from all the pulls of the flesh if you exercise it properly] ...you may be fully able to comprehend with all the saints what *is* the breadth and length and depth and height” (vs 17-18). That is of God’s plan.

Everything that we are looking at physically down here is all going to go away. What is going to remain is that which God is building and working and developing within us.

Verse 19: “And to know the love of Christ, which surpasses *human* knowledge; so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” How great is that! The Divine nature!

Then after he gets done saying all of these great and fantastic things that are going to happen to us, then here is what I look at as a very long amen:

Verse 20: “Now, **to Him Who is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that is working in us, to Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus throughout all generations, *even* into the ages of eternity. Amen**” (vs 20-21). Isn’t that something.

- this is why we need to be strengthened in God
- this is how we can work against the world and all the forces that come against us
- this is how we can change, grow, overcome and become what God wants us to become

so that He can say at the end, ***‘Well done, good and faithful servant!’***

16) Ephesians 3:14-21

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- 1-John 2:3-6
- Matthew 7
- Psalm 119
- Matthew 5:17
- John 13
- Romans 8:14
- 1-Corinthians 9
- Psalm 91

Also referenced:

From: *The Holy Bible in Its Original Order: Appendix N: Rome’s Challenge to the Protestants*

Sermon Series:

- *How to Use the Holy Spirit*
- *How to Develop the Mind of Christ*

FRC:lp  
Transcribed: 10-28-13  
Formatted: bo—10-28-13  
Corrected: 5/31/15

Scriptural References:

- 1) Zechariah 13:1-2
- 2) 1-John 4:1
- 3) Isaiah 8:19-20
- 4) 1-John 4:2, 5-6
- 5) Ephesians 2:1-3
- 6) Deuteronomy 4:1-7, 9, 23-24, 26
- 7) Deuteronomy 6:1-6
- 8) Luke 6:43-49
- 9) Jude 17
- 10) John 14:26
- 11) John 15:20
- 12) Psalm 5:1-12
- 13) Ephesians 6:10-18
- 14) Psalm 20:1-9
- 15) 2-Peter 1:1-4



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