

SPIRITUAL WARFARE MINI-HANDBOOK

"For we are not ignorant of Satan's devices." II Cor. 2:5-11

INTRODUCTION

WHY SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

I. COMMANDERS BEHIND DEMONIZING

A. THE GOOD GUYS

God - Our Commander

Angels - Our Helpers

B. THE BAD GUYS

Satan - Enemy Commander

Demons - Enemy Soldiers

II. CHARACTERISTICS OF DEMONIZING

A. DEMONIZING DEFINED

B. DEMONIZING DEFENDED

C. DEMONIZING DESCRIBD

III. CAUSES FOR DEMONIZING

A. SIN IN LIFE

1. Anger Based Sins

2. Idolatry Based Sins

3. Immorality Based Sins

4. Wrong Self Image Sins

B. ANCESTRAL ACCESS

C. CURSES

D. CHILDHOOD Experiences

E. OCCULT & NEW AGE

IV. CURE FROM DEMONIZING

A. SOURCE OF DELIVERANCE

B. STEPS TO DELIVERANCE

C. SPECIFICS @ DELIVERANCE

1. Physical Healing
2. Fasting
3. Children
4. Husband & Wife
5. Parent & Child
6. The Church's role

V. CONTINUING BEYOND DEMONIZING

A. PROBLEM: ONGOING BATTLE

B. SOLUTION: ONGOING BATTLE

1. Grow Spiritually
2. Submit to Holy Spirit
3. Wear the Armour
4. Use the Word of God
5. Resist, Stand Firm
6. Prayer
7. Helping others

INDEX

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SO YOU'RE IN A WAR!

One day a young man was out for a walk. As he went along the street he saw a sign that invited him to sign up to see the world for free. Food, lodging, everything would be provided. In fact, he would be paid a salary, too. It sounded fine too fine to pass up so he went in and signed his name. To his surprise he was handed a rifle and military equipment. He soon found out there was a whole army of soldiers who now were his enemy and whose sworn purpose was to destroy him. It wasn't what he expected.

There are many Christians today who, when they accepted Jesus as Saviour, were surprised to find they, too had an enemy. Perhaps they expected life to be perfect and fine, all settled with no more problems. Salvation, though, doesn't end the battle. In many ways it is just the start of it!

You see, when you accept Jesus as your Saviour you also accept Satan as your enemy! You deserted his army to join his enemy's army, God's army. He opposes God, but can only get at God by attacking His people -- you and me!

So now you find yourself in the middle of a war you didn't want, don't like, can't understand, and seem unable to win. What do you do? Where can you find a quick training program for spiritual warfare? Read on, this information is for YOU...

Actually, this idea of war following salvation is nothing new. We see the same thing happening to the Jews in the Old Testament. Satan has been opposing God from the beginning, but getting nowhere. When he started attacking God through His creatures he made much more progress. First there was Adam and Eve in Eden, then Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. God's people ended up in Egyptian slavery for 400 years until God delivered them. He did it all: provided the innocent blood and the power to protect them from the angel of death as well as deliver them unharmed through the Red Sea. They did nothing but accept His salvation. Then the battles started for them: the Amalekites attacked, then the Canaanites, and on it went. The Jews had to learn to fight. When they learned to fight behind their leader Joshua ("Jesus" in Greek) they conquered and settled the land God had meant all along for them to have. When we learn to fight behind our general, Jesus, we, too, can have victory in life.

First of all, what are the weapons this enemy uses against you? The Bible says they are three-fold, "the world the flesh and the devil." The world refers to the organized system of ideas, people, activities, purposes, goals, motives, priorities and values that are based on Satan's system (I John 2:15; John 15:19). The "world" does not refer to nature, but to Satan's substitute for God's way. Peer pressure, rejection, persecution, problems getting along with people, pride, desire for popularity and success, etc., all these things are ways Satan attacks us through the world (Matthew 4:8-10; 12:26).

While these attacks are from without, we also have an enemy within -- our own flesh. By 'flesh' we mean our old sin nature, that tendency in us to be naturally self-centred, sinful, prideful, wilful and immature (Romans 7:15-25; Galatians 5:19-20). Even the 'good' we do in the flesh is like filthy rags (Isaiah 64:6). This results in our sinning. Sin is thinking or doing wrong things, doing good things for the wrong reason/motive, or not doing good things that should be done. Temptations to worry, fear, get angry, be greedy, fulfil our lusts, think only of ourselves, feel self-sufficient or self-righteous, be jealous, gossip or criticize, etc. come from or through the flesh (Ephesians 4:22-27).

This booklet is designed to help you in spiritual warfare. It will summarize your battle with the enemy and how to have victory in Jesus.

WHY SPIRITUAL WARFARE?

There are those today who say Christians aren't to get involved in spiritual warfare, but instead are to just trust God and think only of Him. While God is always to be our only focus, He has given us tools to use to bring victory in this area. In the same way he has provided medical knowledge for us to use in the physical realm. We are to use these resources He has provided. I believe God commands us to be involved in spiritual warfare (I Timothy 6:12). Here are some reasons:

1. THE BIBLE COMMANDS US TO USE SPIRITUAL WARFARE

"Our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against principalities, etc."
Ephesians 6:10-12

"We are not ignorant of Satan's devices " II Cor 2:11

We are to understand our enemy before battling him (count cost before starting building, war, etc.) Lk 14:31

Armour in Ephesians 5 - why would we be given armour if there wasn't a spiritual battle going on?

IF GOD IS SOVEREIGN, WHY DO WE NEED TO FIGHT SATAN?

If God is sovereign, why do we need to witness, pray, believe, work for our money, drive carefully, go to a doctor, or any of those things. If we trust in God, why lock doors at night? There are some things God expects us to do, in His strength. By doing these we learn to trust Him more. We praise Him more when we see His provision, might and deliverance. We are better able to pray for or give guidance to others. Also, we see the awfulness of sin and its consequences so we can better turn from it.

2. JESUS USED SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Jesus talked about Satan & demons more than anyone in Bible. He cast out demons. He taught and commanded His disciples to fight Satan and cast out

demons(Matthew 10:8; Luke 10:1, 17-20). He was disappointed when they were unable to deliver a demonized boy without Him (Mark 9:14-29). The religious rulers accused Jesus (Mark 3:22) and John the Baptizer (Luke 7:33) of being demonized. He commanded His disciples to cast out demons, too

3. EXAMPLES OF OTHERS WHO USED SPIRITUAL WARFARE

DANIEL prayed spiritual warfare prayer for three weeks (Daniel 10:2-6 ,12 - 14).

JEREMIAH's whole ministry one of spiritual warfare.

PAUL was twice involved in casting out demons (Acts 13:6-12; 16:16-18) and writes much about spiritual warfare (Ephesians 4:26-27; 6:10-13; Galatians 2:10 ,13 ; etc.)

MOSES was challenged by Satanic forces (Jannes & Jambres).

Many examples in church history show the involvement of God's people in spiritual warfare.

4. PERSONAL EXPERIENCE SUPPORTS SPIRITUAL WARFARE

My own life and family, as well as my ministry and counselling, show the importance of spiritual warfare. The testimony of many others as well as articles in Christian magazines, books, etc., show this is something God is teaching His people.

5. LAST DAYS EMPHASIS OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

The closer the rapture comes the more spiritual warfare will increase. There will be MUCH of it in the tribulation as Satan's forces are released.

I. COMMANDERS

A. THE GOOD GUYS

GOD - OUR COMMANDER

Everything starts with God. Everything came from Him. (For proof of the existence of God see "How Do We Know There Is A God" by Jerry Schroyer. The Bible is our final authority in all areas. If you are unsure of the inspiration and accuracy of the Bible see "How Do We Know The Bible Is True" by Jerry Schroyer.) God is our commander in spiritual warfare as well as in every area of life.

ANGELS - OUR HELPERS

God's first creative act was creating angels. They were present at the creation of the universe (Job 38:7). He created an "innumerable" number of them (Hebrews 12:22 ; Revelation 5:11). Angels are not people who have died. They were created as angels just to be angels.

Angels have personality (mind, will and emotions) the same as we do, but differ from us in that they have no physical body and they no longer have a free will. They receive power from God but are not like God in that they are limited to being in one place at a time and they don't know everything.

"Angel" means "messenger". They were created to be God's messengers. They protect God's people (Psalm 34:7; 91:12; Matthew 18:10) and minister to our physical, spiritual and emotional needs (Hebrews 1:14). They bring God's guidance and direction to men. Sometimes they appear as men (Hebrews 13:1). They watch God's children to learn about God's grace (I Peter 1:12).

God has angels organized in a military-like manner with a chain-of-command from 'generals' to 'privates.'

For more detailed information about God and angels in the issue of spiritual warfare, see "The Spiritual Warfare Handbook" by Jerry Schroyer (this is the Mini-Handbook).

B. THE BAD GUYS

SATAN - THE ENEMY COMMANDER

Unfortunately we live in a time when more people believe in the Loch Ness Monster than in Satan! Some people who do believe in him tend to make him smaller than he really is.

Your devil is too small if you see Satan as merely a personification of evil. The picture of a devil in a red suit with a tail and trident comes from ancient times when red stood for death, horns for power, and tails and cloven hoofs for bestiality. Satan is a real, live personality, not a symbol of evil.

Your devil is also too small if you consign him to long-ago times or far away places. He is too small if you assume he leaves Christians alone (that's one of his biggest lies, which he uses it to cover his tracks). He is too small if you don't think he is capable of performing miracles and other feats of power, or if you think you can recognize and defeat him on your own. He is powerful, even using forces of nature such as lightning (Job 1:16) and strong wind (Job 1:19) to do his will.

On the other hand some see Satan as more powerful than he is. Your devil is too big if you see him as an evil god. He is not equal to God, he is limited to one place at a time and does not have all knowledge. You also see him as too big if you live in fear of him and avoid learning about how to fight him.

The truth about Satan is that he was created as an angel. He was the top ranking of all God's angels, the highest created being God ever made (Ezekiel 28:12-15). Known as Lucifer, he was the highest angelic creation, the closest to the throne of God. However he didn't want to serve God but wanted to be worshipped in place of God (II Thessalonians 2:4). His sin was self-centeredness: pride (Isaiah 14:12 -15) therefore God threw him out of heaven (Isaiah 14:12 ; Ezekiel 28:15-17; Luke 10:18). He lost all his position and privilege. With that rebellion of his sin entered the universe.

DEMONS - ENEMY SOLDIERS

When Satan rebelled and decided to oppose God instead of serving God, about a third of the angels joined him (Revelation 12:4). They, too, were cast out of heaven and lost their position and privilege. They are now called "demons." They, as all angels, have personality (mind, will, emotions) but no body. They are limited to being one place at a time and do not have all knowledge or power.

"Demon" means "destroyer." They are also called evil or unclean spirits, referring to the fact they don't have a physical body. They spread their sin and uncleanness any way they can. They are spiritual terrorists, trying to destroy the work of God's kingdom. As with human terrorists, no one is safe from them, they are deadly serious and have no softness or mercy. They serve Satan, who is their commander, and carry out his orders. They receive the worship given to idols or anything other than God (I Corinthians 10:20).

Satan organizes his demons in the same manner God has angels organized - in a military-like structure. These are similar to generals, colonels, majors, lieutenants, sergeants, corporals, privates, etc. (Ephesians 6:12). Usually a "strong man" (or ruler) is assigned to a task, and he has lesser demons under his command to help in the work (Matthew 12:25 -29; Daniel 10:2-6, 12-14). The names of these demons usually refer to their work ("Fear," "Anger," "Lust," "Pride," "Deception," etc.).

It must always be kept in mind, however, that God is in sovereign control. They can do nothing without God's permission (Job 1:6-12).

For more detailed information about Satan and demons in the issue of spiritual warfare, see "The Spiritual Warfare Handbook" by Jerry Schroyer (this is the Mini-Handbook).

DEATH, DARKNESS & SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS

Satan is a liar and the father of lies (John 8:44). Demons do this work for him (I Kings 22:22-23; II Chronicles 18:20-23). He is characterized by any kind of falsehood and deceit (I John 4:16) and is not above mixing in some truth to make the lies more quickly accepted. Like any good counterfeiter, he knows the importance of making his false product appear as much like God's original as possible. He is very good at lying and deception (Revelation 12:9) and even

tries to make it seem like he is bringing light instead of darkness (II Corinthians 11:13-15).

In actuality all Satan's forces operate in the realm of darkness (fear, deception, blindness, confusion, hopelessness, depression, self-pity, anger, revenge, suicide, death, etc.) He blinds men to spiritual things (II Corinthians 4:4; I John 2:11). He hardens minds and hearts to spiritual things (II Corinthians 3:14 ; Ephesians 4:18 ; Romans 1:21). He does this to individuals as well as nations (i.e.: Israel Romans 11:7-10). His purpose is to keep men from God's light and salvation (II Corinthians 4:4). God's light is greater than Satan's darkness (Genesis 1:14-19; John 1:5-9; 3:19-20; 8:12; 9:5; Matthew 17:2; Ephesians 5:8; I John 1:5-7; Revelation 21:11,23-24; 22:5; Isaiah 60:1). Believers are in the light, not darkness (Acts 26:18; I Thessalonians 5:4-5; Colossians 1:12-13; John 8:12).

The epitome of darkness is death. Satan's plan for man is death, just as God's plan for man is life. Satan is a murderer from the beginning (John 8:44). His name, Abaddon or Apollyon means "Destroyer." He tries to destroy physical (John 8:44 ; Mark 9:20 -22; I John 3:12) or spiritual (II Corinthians 4:4) life. Satan has power to bring death (Job 1:19 ; Luke 11:21 -22; Hebrews 2:14 ; Revelation 9:14 -16), but because the power of death was destroyed at the cross (Hebrews 2:14 -15) he cannot use that power without God's permission (Job 2:6; Revelation 9:4). Satan cannot separate us from God, even by death (Romans 8:38).

II. CHARACTERISTICS

A. DEMONIZING DEFINED

The Greek word **doimonizomai** ("demonizing") refers to one who is heavily impacted by demons. It is used 15 times in the New Testament. It does not differentiate between possession (demons within) or influence (demons without). If God doesn't make that clarification or distinction, I don't think its something we need to make, either. In the spiritual realm there are no clear-cut divisions like we try to make (demons 'within' or 'without', etc.). There are, of course, degrees of demonizing depending on the person, the demons involved, the access, etc., but it isn't always possible or necessary to pinpoint these things. The common denominator is that the person being demonized doesn't separate their own consciousness from the demonic influence. This ranges from very minor to 100% total complete control (even then the person has a free will to find deliverance in Jesus).

Perhaps demonizing can be better understood by thinking of it as a kind of spiritual hypnotism from within. Hypnotism of any kind is something for God's people to avoid (Psalm 54:4-5; Joshua 1:8; Philippians 4:8).

We don't need to know the exact extent of demonizing, just that it is taking place. The cause is the same, and so is the cure. We will use the broad term 'demonizing' as the Bible does, referring to the whole spectrum of demonic influence/possession. Other words the Bible uses for the same thing are "entered in" (as when Satan entered into Judas - John 13:27) and "filled" (the same word that is used of believers being filled with the Holy Spirit - Acts 5:5 about Ananias and Saphira).

B. DEMONIZING DEFENDED

While all Christians agree that unbelievers can be demonized, some don't incorrectly believe that can happen to believers. Demonizing speaks of influence, not ownership. A believer still has a free will to give soul access to demons, as do unbelievers. His spirit belongs only to God , but it is up to us to allow God's spirit to control or not.

The Bible makes no distinction between believers and unbelievers as far as demonizing is concerned. In fact, the Bible refers to many believers who were demonized: Paul's thorn in the flesh was a demon (II Corinthians 12:7), King Saul was a believer (I Samuel 11:6) and was obviously demonized (I Samuel 16:14-23), David was motivated by Satan to take a census of the people (I Chronicles 21:1ff; II Samuel 24:1ff), Ananias and Saphira were believers (Acts 4:32-35) but allowed Satan to "fill" them (Acts 5:3), and Peter was Satan's spokesman in tempting Jesus to not go to the cross (Matthew 16:23). Paul warns believers to not give Satan a "foothold" in their life (Ephesians 4:26-27), showing such a thing is possible. Jesus Himself called deliverance "the children's bread" (Matthew 15:22-28), meaning it was for His children. A Christian can receive another spirit (II Cor 11:2-4) and we there are examples of believers being demonized (Luke 13:10-16; I Cor. 5:4 ,5). Christians are warned to guard against this (I Pt. 5:8-9; Eph. 6:10-18).

A believer belongs to the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan cannot own him as he did before salvation (I John 4:4), but he can still demonize. A Christian has every right and resource to be free from this demonizing, however. Property which you own can be trespassed on by another person, but you have every right and resource to put him off your property. You just need to learn how to do it.

C. DEMONIZING DESCRIBED

THOUGHTS IN, THOUGHTS OUT

The majority of demonizing consists of demons putting thoughts into a person's mind or snatching thoughts out of a person's mind. While they don't have access to our minds and thoughts to the same extent that God does, the Bible makes it clear there is some access. Jesus said this in the sower and the seed: "*Satan comes and takes away the word that was sown.*" (Mark 4:15). David's thought to take a census was demonic (I Chronicles 21:1ff; II Samuel 24:1ff). So was Ananias & Saphira's greed (Acts 5:3) and Saul's jealousy/anger (I Samuel 16:14-23). That's why, when talking about spiritual warfare, Paul says we are to "*bring every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.*"

(II Corinthians 10:4-5). Not only can Satan's forces put wrong thoughts into our minds, they can snatch right thoughts out of our minds (Mark 4:15) so we forget them.

COMPULSIONS & OBSESSIONS

Thoughts we don't have captive (aren't in control of) fall into two categories: compulsions and obsessions. A compulsion is a force that causes a person to act against our inclinations. It comes from within but is not under our control and drives us to unpleasant behaviour. These often take the form of a 'ritual' or tradition to be superstitiously followed. It can be an extremely detailed preoccupation with minor, every-day tasks or be a besetting sin we are unable to conquer. It feels like a force greater than self is driving the person.

An obsession is a thought which forces itself into conscious thought against our will (usually something unpleasant and/or sinful) and can't be dismissed by one's own free will.

OTHER SYMPTOMS

Luke 8:26-39, the account of the Gadarene demoniac, clearly describes various symptoms of demonizing. There is nakedness (immodesty, immorality), self-destructive tendencies (even to suicide and death), supernatural strength, animalistic behaviour, schizophrenia, mental illness, preoccupation with darkness and death (living in a graveyard), fits of rage, resistance to spiritual things, etc. The strong man (ruler) was "Legion", meaning he had many demons under his authority who are doing these various works.

MENTAL ILLNESS

Demons can and do cause mental illness:

- They can make a person be not in his 'right mind' (Mark 15:15).
- They can cause screaming and convulsions, foaming at the mouth (Luke 9:39).
- They can cause self-destructive thoughts and actions (Mark 9:22).
- They can make a person appear to be 'raving mad' (John 10:20).
- They can cause immoral, anti-social behaviour that makes the person seem not right mentally (Mark 5:15; Luke 8:35).

It cannot be said with certainty if all mental illness is demonic or not. Other factors are involved such as chemical imbalances, birth defects, damage from injury or drug usage, etc. Demonizing must always be considered until completely ruled out. One way to tell if it is demonic or not is the person's willingness to listen or talk about Jesus. If they fall asleep, change the subject

constantly, don't seem to be hearing you, get violent, want to leave in a hurry, etc., you have good reason to suspect demons are involved.

SCHIZOPHRENIA

One of the most severe psychological disorders is schizophrenia. In general it is characterized by a loss of interest in life, withdrawal and varying degrees of thought disorders. Among the symptoms most frequently observed are: seclusiveness and withdrawal from society, irritability, excessive daydreaming or preoccupation with thoughts and fantasies, delusive thinking characterized by self-pity and feelings of persecution, bizarre behaviour and/or language, and over-sensitivity to criticism and comments of others. I am no expert in these things, but in every case I have seen this has been demonic (Mark 5:6-7).

FEAR

Fear is one of Satan's biggest weapons. Demons are often behind and use fear (Romans 8:15). If it takes the form of insecurity, anxiety, worry, preoccupation with problems, or whatever, it is still fear. Demons put fear of David into Saul (I Samuel 18:10-15) and put fear and terror into Eliaphaz by gliding by his face (Job 4:15). Anything not of faith is sin (Romans 14:23). God does not give us fear (II Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15), so if you experience fear realize it is not from God but from Satan. This doesn't mean it is always through demonizing, for you can be attacked with fear without being demonized.

ANGER

Anger comes from mishandling hurt and pain. Instead of feeling it as hurt we turn it into anger. Demons are behind and use anger, too. They made Saul angry at David, so much so that he tried to kill him (I Samuel 18:10-11; 19:9-10). Paul shows the close connection between anger and demonizing (Ephesians 4:27).

CHECK YOURSELF....

Below is a list of evidences of demonic activity. Check which ones apply to you more than you think should (more than is 'normal' or than most other people experience).

I. COMPULSIVE THOUGHTS

Extremely low self image (feel unworthy, unclean, no good, etc) Lk . 8:2

Constant confusion in thinking (especially about spiritual things)

Inability to believe spiritual truths which you hear or read

Mocking and blasphemous thoughts (esp. when hearing spiritual truths)

Perceptual distortions (thinking others are angry at you when they are not)

Repetitious dreams or nightmares (sexual, horror-filled, fearful, etc)

Continuous violent thoughts (of suicide, rape, murder, self-abuse, etc.)

II. COMPULSIVE FEELINGS

Hatred and bitterness toward others for no justifiable reason

Tremendous hostility, fear, restlessness when challenged about demonizing

Deep depression and despondence (frequent and long)

Irrational fears, panic, and phobias (Rom. 8:15 Lk . 9:39)

Irrational anger or rage (Mt. 8:28)

Irrational guilt and extreme self-condemnation, unforgiveness of self

III . COMPULSIVE BEHAVIOR

Desire to do right but inability to carry it out

Sudden personality & attitude changes (like, then hate someone)

Strong aversion to Scripture reading & prayer

Dark countenance (steely or hollow look in the eyes, dilation or contraction of pupil, facial features may contort or change, can't look a person directly in the eyes, etc.)

Lying compulsively, then often wondering why (Acts 5:3)

Stealing compulsively, if you need the thing or not

Drinking compulsively, if really desire to or not

Using drugs (prescription or non-prescription) compulsively

Eating compulsively (or reverse, bulimia or anorexia nervosa)

Sexual sins that are compulsive (especially perversions) Mt. 15:5 Lk . 8:27

Irrational , inappropriate laughter

Irrational violence (compulsion to hurt self or someone else) Mt. 17:15; Mk. 5:5; Lk . 9:39

Sudden speaking of a language not previously known

Reactions to the name and blood of Jesus (uncomfortable, move away, say or do something to show you are uncomfortable about it) Acts 13:10)

Extreme restlessness

Uncontrollable cutting and mocking tongue and language

Vulgar language and actions (Lk . 4:33-34)

Uncontrollable greed, which drives you on (Acts 5:3)

IV. CONSCIOUSNESS PROBLEMS

Loss of time (little or a lot, not knowing how you got someplace or remembering something you did)

Extreme sleepiness around spiritual things (Bible study, prayer ,. etc.)

Demonstration of extraordinary abilities (ESP, telekinesis, etc. Mk. 5:7)

Voices heard in the mind (mock, intimidate, accuse, threaten, bargain Mt. 28: 29, Lk . 4:33-34)

A voice speaking from you refers to you in the third person ("he" "she ")

Supernatural experiences (haunting, movement or disappearance of objects, other strange manifestations)

V. ABNORMAL MEDICAL PROBLEMS

Seizures (Mk. 1:26 Mk. 7:24-30 Mk. 17:15) It can't be said for sure they are all demonic, but they should be checked out to make sure.)

Pain without justifiable explanation, especially in the head or stomach (ANY medical problems which doctors can't understand or cure, Lk . 9:39)

Blackouts (Mt. 17:15, Mk. 1:26; 7:24-30, Lk . 4:35)

Physical ailments alleviated by a spiritual command immediately (epileptic seizure, asthma attack, headache, nausea, etc., which stops when commanded in Jesus' name to be gone)

Sudden interference with bodily functions (buzzing in ears, irritability to speak or hear, increased hypersensitivity in hearing or touch, sudden chills or overheating of body, dryness in mouth, numbness in arms or legs, sleepiness, coma, etc.)

III. CAUSES

Having looked at what demonizing is and some characteristics of it, the next step is to find out what allows demons to do this work in/against us. These openings are like cracks in a wall which allow the enemy to slip in. When you have these openings, it could be that demons are using this to demonize you. Read the following list and see which ones apply to you, then work through the explanations which follow to pinpoint your 'cracks' and what to do about them.

WHO MAY BE DEMONIZED?

Those who experience any of the following may be demonized:

1. If you were conceived in fornication or adultery.
2. If you were not wanted at the moment of conception or while your mother was pregnant.
3. If your mother had a difficult pregnancy.
4. If your mother had a long or hard delivery.
5. If your mother was depressed a lot throughout her pregnancy with you.
6. If your mother died giving birth to you or if your father or mother died in your first few years.
7. If you severely lacked oxygen or were delivered with forceps on the head.
8. If your parents separated or divorced before you were an adult.
9. If you have some childhood handicap or infirmity.
10. If you are an orphan or your father and mother left you.
11. If you were treated cruelly or were molested, raped or fondled.
12. If you have a very painful memory.
13. If you wish that you had never been born.
14. If you wish that you were dead.
15. If there is a history of sickness in your blood line, such as cancer, diabetes, learning disability or mental illness.
16. If you have been cursed or have curses in your blood-line.

17. If you have an uncontrollable habit and you have tried prayers, fasting and a firm effort of your will but with little success.
18. If you have a persistent or uncontrollable fear of any kind.
19. If you have strong rejection, depression, loneliness, despair, hopelessness, thoughts of suicide, etc.
20. If you have a constant desire to be held.
21. If you don't want to be touched.
22. If you're obsessed with sexual desire or are abnormally frigid.
23. If you dislike the opposite sex or your own sex.
24. If you have guilt or condemnation for another person or yourself.
25. If you find it very difficult to forgive a certain person.
26. If you have resentment against God, for example, blaming Him : "God, why did you let this happen?"
27. If you lived in a war zone or were in combat.
28. If someone very close to you died, especially a sudden, tragic death.
29. If you saw someone killed or murdered, watched an accident occur , or were in an accident.
30. If you are constantly angry, or shy, or embarrassed, or timid.
31. If you are afraid of demons or of deliverance.
32. If you are a homosexual, lesbian, transsexual or transvestite, etc., have been one, or are tempted to be one.
33. If you are or have been engaged in an adulterous relationship.
34. If you or your family were ever involved with the occult: Satan worship, playing with a ouija board, tarot cards, witchcraft, mind control, séances , out of body experiences, spirit guides, astrology, etc.
35. If you ever had an abortion or were a party to one.
36. If you were ever in any religious or para -religious cult or false religion.
37. If you have watched movies or TV which opened you to fears, lust or the occult.

38. If you compulsively indulge in fleshly sins that you detest but cannot live in freedom from sexual sins, lying, desire to curse God, alcoholism or drug addiction, smoking, desire to tear up Bibles, intense overwhelming anger or rage, rock music, desire to commit suicide.
39. If you are unable to progress beyond a certain point of spirituality, have trouble reading your Bible, or often fall asleep during spiritual meetings or events.
40. If your life has been much worse since becoming a Christian.
41. If you resist or have constant distractions while trying to read the Word or pray, even when there is a desire to do so, or if Scripture seems to always condemn you as you read it.
42. If you ever feel the presence of evil around you.
43. If you sometimes feel there is some force of power controlling you from within, or if you sometimes feel you are a different (strange) person .
44. If you ever hear voices speaking to your mind.
45. If you have repeated unwanted thoughts you don't seem able to get rid of permanently.
46. If you have ever observed yourself from some vantage point somewhere outside your own body (an out-of-body experience).
47. If someone has ever laid hands on you or prayed for you to receive a certain spiritual gift.
48. If you have recurring dreams or nightmares that are of a horrible nature, or if you have clairvoyant dreams.
49. If you have a compulsive desire to curse the Father, the Lord Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit.
50. If you have compulsive murderous or suicidal thoughts or sudden surges of violent rage, uncontrollable anger, or seething feelings of hostility.
51. If you have deep feeling of bitterness and hatred toward a person or group of people for no logical reason (Jews, church, strong Christian leaders).
52. If you experience compulsive temptations which week to force you to thoughts or behaviour which you truly do not want to think or do.
53. If you have compulsive desires to tear other people down even if it means lying to do so, or if you speak with a vicious cutting tongue.

54. If you experience overwhelming feelings of guilt and worthlessness, even after honestly confessing your sin and failure to the Lord.

55. If certain physical symptoms suddenly appear and pass quickly for which there can be found no medical reason (choking sensations, unexpected pains which seem to move around, feelings of tightness about the head or eyes, dizziness, blackouts, fainting spells, ringing in the ears, etc.

56. If you are frequently in deep depression and despondency.

57. If you have terrifying seizures of panic or abnormal fears.

58. If you have persistent doubt of your salvation even though you once knew the joy of your salvation.

59. If you get thoughts like "Grab that knife and kill that person/yourself," "Jump over the edge" (when up high), etc.

These will be covered in more detail in coming pages. We'll group these openings into five main areas: 1) sin in life, 2) ancestral access, 3) curses, 4) childhood experiences and 5) occult & new age involvement. First, sin in life.

A. SIN IN LIFE

The first group of openings to consider are those we make ourselves by sin in our life. While all sin is equally bad in God's sight, there seem to be some which the Bible point out as especially used by demons to demonize us.

1. ANGER BASED SINS

One of the leading causes of demonizing is unconfessed anger. Anger includes any form of unforgiveness, bitterness, hate, jealousy, gossip, criticism, etc. Paul says these can "*give the devil a foothold*" (Ephesians 4:26-27). He tells the Corinthians that if they don't forgive each other Satan will use that to "*outwit*" them (II Corinthians 2:10-11). Jesus Himself said that those who don't forgive others will be turned over to tormenting demons to bring them to repentance (Matthew 18:34). This anger includes anger toward others, parents self, or God. There can be no removing demons using this access until all anger is truly confessed and put under the blood of Jesus. This is one of the first things that usually comes up when we counsel people and pray for their deliverance. Do NOT take this lightly!

"Dear heavenly Father, I thank You for the riches of Your kindness, forbearance, and patience, knowing that Your kindness has led me to repentance (Romans 2:4). I confess that I have not extended that same patience and kindness toward others who have offended me, but instead I have harboured bitterness and resentment. I pray that during this time of self-examination You would bring to mind only those people that I have not forgiven in order that I may do so (Matthew 18:35). I also pray that if I have offended others you would bring to mind only those people from whom I need

to seek forgiveness and the extent to which I need to seek it (Matthew 5:23-24). I ask this in the precious name of Jesus. Amen.

2. IDOLATRY BASED SINS

Sins which specifically put something or someone before God also openings. Putting anything before God is idolatry, and is forbidden by God (Exodus 20:3,4,23; 23:24). These sins include greed, envy, jealousy, materialism, or putting anything (career, possessions, etc.) or anyone (mate, child, parent, self, etc.) before God. Demons receive the worship we give anything other than God (Zechariah 10:2; I Corinthians 10:19-21). Ananias and Saphira were guilty of this (Acts 5:3). Spiritual adultery is something God hates (Jeremiah 3:8-10; Ezekiel 16:23-43; 23:24-30; Revelation 17:1-5). This starts in the mind (Judges 2:10-13; Ezekiel 14:7).

"Dear heavenly Father, You have said the pride goes before destruction and an arrogant spirit before stumbling (Proverbs 16:18). I confess that I have not denied myself, picked up my cross daily, and followed You (Matthew 16:24). In so doing I have given ground to the enemy in my life. I have believed that I could be successful and live victoriously by my own strength and resources. I now confess that I have sinned against You by placing my will before Yours and by centring my life around self instead of You. I now renounce the self life and by so doing cancel all the ground that has been gained in my members by the enemies of the Lord Jesus Christ. I pray that You will guide me so that I will do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but that with humility of mind I will regard others as more important than myself (Philippians 2:3). Enable me through love to serve others and in honour prefer others (Romans 12:10). I ask this in the name of Christ Jesus my Lord. Amen. "

3. IMMORALITY BASED SINS

God created sex to show the great oneness of believers and Christ (Ephesians 5). Therefore Satan tries hard to pervert and destroy this model. Any sex outside marriage is sinful (Ephesians 5:3, 5-6). This includes thoughts (Matthew 5:27-30).

Sexual sin has an element that other sins don't have. When you unite yourself with another person that also opens you to being demonized by any demons that are demonizing the person you are united to. This is true even if it is simply sexual lust with a prostitute (I Corinthians 6:16). Sex creates a special union, a spiritual oneness, an opening of total sharing between two people. Often demons will claim this as access from one person to another. It is like a spiritual AIDS disease, but much more contagious and with far worse consequences.

It is important for each believer to confess all their past immorality and put it under the blood of Jesus, as well as taking back any access given to Satan's forces by that act. Ask God to heal and cleanse you spiritually.

4. WRONG SELF IMAGE BASED SINS

While there is often too much focus on self today under the guise of "developing a good self image," it is true we are to accept ourselves as God made us (Psalm 139). We are to accept ourselves as we accept others (Luke 10:27) - accepting both strengths and weaknesses without over-emphasizing one or the other. Overemphasizing our strengths is pride, and that is the sin that caused Satan's downfall. He tries to use it today as much as possible. The other extreme (under-emphasizing our strengths) is to dislike or not accept ourselves as God made us. Self-love and self-hate are both from pride. Both focus on self and are preoccupation with self. In one we see ourselves as better than others in the other you see yourself as worse. Both are definite cracks to demonizing, sins which must be confessed.

King Saul is a fine example of someone with a poor self image, someone who was insecure and thought he was inferior to others (I Samuel 10:22). This was a crack that opened him to demonizing (I Samuel 16:14, 23).

Its as important to forgive yourself as it is to forgive others! Satan tries to bring up past sins to have us feel defeated, unworthy, etc. Don't let this tactic work! The next time the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.

LIST OF COMMON SINS

The following sins are examples of those which can allow Satan and his demons to have access to "demonize" you. If you are now doing these you must confess them and take back any access you gave Satan through them. If you no longer do them, still make sure they are confessed and then renounce them. If a close relative does or has done them seek God's guidance as to if Satan has used that to attack you through the relative. This list is not complete, but will give you an idea of things:

SEXUAL SINS

Fornication

Adultery

Pornography

Bestiality

Incest

Lust (fantasies)

Masturbation

Homosexuality

Rape

Exhibitionism

DRUGS

Illegal (name the drug):

Legal (name the drug):

Alcohol

Nicotine

IDOLATRY

Eastern religions (name):

Meditation - Chanting, Mantras ,Invocations

Cults (name them):

Catholicism

Secret Orders (name) :

Material things (name):

People (name) :

OCCULT PRACTICES

Astrology

Fortune telling

Ouija Board

ESP

Séances

Hypnotism

Pow Wows

Witchcraft

MagiMind Control

Psychic healing

Dungeons and Dragons

Other (name):

FEAR

Worry

Anxiety

Depression

Hopelessness

UNBELIEF

Doubts

Lack of trust

ANGER

Towards God

Towards Self

Towards Parents

Towards others (name):

Bitterness

Hatred

Revenge

Unforgiveness

ENVY

Covetousness

Jealousy

Rebellion - towards authority

PRIDE

Self-centeredness

Poor self-image

Self-sufficiency

LIES

Believing Satan's lies

Lack of honesty

Deceitfulness

STEALING

Gambling

CURSING

Blasphemy

Slander

Gossip

VIOLENT ACTS

Attempted suicide

Abortion

Rape

Fighting

Beating others up

Planning how to harm others

UNSCRIPTURAL SEEKING OF GIFTS

Tongues

Visions

Healing

Other (name):

SATANISM

Bargain with Satan

Worship of Satan

MUSIC

Occultic

Satanic

Drug-oriented, sensual, Suggestive, Hard Rock)

SPELLS & CURSES

Anything else you feel guilty of (Name):

Anything else that came to mind as you went through this list:

When these are confessed and renounced, claim back for God the ground that Satan may have claimed for his through these sins. Then make sure you ask and invite God's Holy Spirit to fill those areas. If they aren't replaced with the Holy Spirit, Satan will re-enter in stronger fashion (Mt. 12:43-45; Lk . 11:24-26). If there is a particular fruit of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5), that you need to counteract what you have confessed, ask God for His Spirit to produce that in you. , Be specific when you pray.

PATCHING THE CRACKS

The only cure for sin is the blood of Jesus. Any sin you recognize in your life must be confessed (admit it is sin - I John 1:9) . There is no other way of deliverance from demonizing caused by sin. Demons are like rats that feed on garbage. Remove the garbage and the rats will be gone!

Prayerfully and carefully read the Scriptures listed below and meditate on the questions about each verse (Psalm 139:23-24). Every time God's Spirit pricks your heart pray and admit/confess your sin. Put it under the blood of Jesus, and take back any access this sin has given to Satan's forces.

15

CONFESSION OF SIN

*"Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts; and see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."
Psalm 139:23-24*

1. MATTHEW 6:12 ,14

Is there anyone against whom you hold a grudge?

Is there anyone you hate? Is there anyone you do not love?

Are there any misunderstandings you are unwilling to forget?

Is there any person against whom you are harbouring bitterness, resentment, or jealousy?

Is there anyone you dislike to hear praised or spoken well of?

Do you justify a wrong attitude toward another?

2. MATTHEW 6:33

Is there anything in which you have failed to put God first?

Have your decisions been made after your own wisdom and desires instead of by seeking and following God's will?

Do any of the following in any way interfere with your surrender and service to God: ambition, pleasures, loved ones, friendships, desire for recognition, money, plans?

3. MARK 16:15

Have you failed to seek the lost for Christ?

Have you failed to witness consistently with your mouth for the Lord Jesus Christ?

4. JOHN 13:35

Are you secretly pleased over the misfortunes of another?

Are you secretly annoyed over the accomplishments or advancements of another?

Are you guilty of any contention, division or strife? Do you quarrel or argue?

Are there people whom you deliberately slight?

5. ACTS 20:35

Have you robbed God by withholding His due of time, talents, or treasure?

Have you given less than He wants you to give to God's work?

Have you failed to support mission work in prayer or offerings?

6. I CORINTHIANS 4:2

Are you undependable so that you cannot be trusted with responsibilities in God's work?

Are you allowing your emotions to be stirred for things of the Lord but not following through?

7. I CORINTHIANS 6:19 -20

Are you in any way careless with your body?

Do you fail to care for it as the temple of the Holy Spirit?

Are you guilty of intemperance in eating or drinking?

Do you have any habits which are defiling to the body?

8. I CORINTHIANS 10:31

Do you take the slightest credit for anything good about you, rather than giving all the glory to God?

Do you talk of what you have done rather than of what Christ has done?

Are your statements mostly about "I"?

Are your feelings easily hurt?

Have you made a pretence of being something that you aren't?

9. EPHESIANS 3:20

Are you self-conscious rather than Christ-conscious?

Do you allow feelings of inferiority to keep you from attempting things you should do in serving God?

10. EPHESIANS 4:28

Do you do little in your work?

Have you been careless in the payment of debts?

Do you waste time? Do you waste other people's time?

11. EPHESIANS 4:32

Do you complain?

Do you find fault with others?

Do you have a critical attitude toward any person or things?

Are you irritable or cranky?

Do you get angry? Do you become impatient with others? Are you ever unkind or harsh?

12. EPHESIANS 5:16

Do you listen to unedifying radio or TV programs?

Do you read unworthy material?

Do you find it necessary to seek satisfaction from any questionable source?

Are you doing certain things that show you are not satisfied in the Lord Jesus Christ?

13. EPHESIANS 5:20

Have you neglected to thank Him for all things, the seemingly bad as well as the good?

Have you virtually called God a liar by doubting His Word?

Do you worry?

Is your spiritual temperature based on your feelings instead of on the facts of God's Word?

14. PHILIPPIANS 1:21

Are you taken up with the cares of this life?

Is your conversation or heart joy over things rather than the Lord and His work?

Does anything mean more to you than living for & pleasing God?

15. PHILIPPIANS 2:14

Do you ever, by word or deed, seek to hurt someone?

Do you gossip?

Do you speak unkindly concerning people not present?

Do you carry prejudice against true Christians because they are of a different group or church?

Do you think less of people who do not see everything exactly like you?

16. PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Have you neglected to seek to be pleasing to Him in all things?

Do you carry any bitterness toward God?

Have you complained against God in any way?

Have you been dissatisfied with His provision for you?

Is there in your heart any unwillingness to obey God fully?

Do you have reservations as to what you would or wouldn't do about anything that might be His will?

Have you disobeyed some direct leading from God?

17. COLOSSIANS 3:9

Do you engage in empty and unprofitable conversation?

Do you ever lie? Do you ever exaggerate?

Do you ever cheat? Do you ever steal?

18. II TIMOTHY 2:22

Do you have any personal habits that are not pure?

Do you allow impure thoughts to stay in your mind?

Do you read that which is impure or suggest unholy things?

19. HEBREWS 10:25

Do you think about other things while God's Word is taught?

Are you as faithful in your attendance as God wants you to be ?

Have you neglected or slighted daily private times of worship?

Does your family have regular family worship together?

Are you neglecting studying the Bible as you should?

20. HEBREWS 13:17

Do you hesitate to submit to leaders in the church ?
Are you lazy?

Do you in any way have a stubborn or unteachable spirit?

21. JAMES 1:27

Is your manner of dress pleasing to God?

Do you spend beyond what is pleasing to God on anything?

Do you neglect to pray about things that you buy?

22. JAMES 4:6

Do you feel that you are doing quite well as a Christian?

Do you feel that you are not so bad as others?

Do you feel you are good enough for God?

Are you stubborn? Do you insist on having your own way? Do you insist on your "rights"?

23. JAMES 4:11

Have you dishonoured Him and hindered His work by criticizing God's servants?

Have you failed to pray regularly for your pastor and leaders?

Do you find it hard to be corrected?

RECOVERY FROM SIN

Psalm 51 (David's confession after his sin with Bathsheba and Uriah) is a model for recovery from sin.

1. Admit the failure to yourself (v. 3), don't blame others or make excuses.
2. Admit the failure to God (v. 4). Recognize sin is basically against God.
3. Claim God's faithfulness and forgiveness (v. 1).
4. Come to terms with your sinful humanity (v. 5). Face up to and admit your sinful nature.

5. Ask God to put you together again (v. 10). Take hold of God's pleasure in restoring sinners.

6. Turn to the task at hand (v. 13). Get on with life. Accept God's forgiveness, forgive yourself.

"Dear heavenly Father, You have told us to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts (Romans 13:14). I acknowledge that I have given in to fleshly lusts which wage war against my soul (I Peter 2:11). I thank You that in Christ my sins are forgiven, but I have transgressed Your holy law and given the enemy an opportunity to wage war in my members (Ephesians 4:27 ; James 4:1; I Peter 5:8). I come before Your presence to acknowledge these sins and to seek Your cleansing (I John 1:9) that I may be freed from the bondage of sin (Galatians 5:1). I now ask You to reveal to my mind the ways that I have transgressed Your moral law and grieved the Holy Spirit. ... (Then confess each sin that comes to mind one by one.) I now confess these sins to You and claim through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ my forgiveness and cleansing. I cancel all ground that evil spirits have gained through my wilful involvement in sin. I ask this in the wonderful name of my Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen."

B. ANCESTRAL ACCESS

Parents have a great effect on their children. This happens in two ways. One is by example and influence. Children learn sins from their parent's example and that gives opening to demonizing. The second way is when demons who have access to a parent claim access to the child, too. When a demon has access to a person, he also claims right to all that person has, including their children. The Bible says God "*punishes the children for the sin of the fathers to the third and fourth generation*" (Exodus 20:4-5; Deuteronomy 5:8-9; Exodus 34:6-7). The Bible says that children are affected by their parents sins (Ezekiel 18 ;2) and this is one of the ways. In fact, this is one of the most common reasons people are demonized. This is especially true of first born males, for Satan seeks to claim them just as God does (Exodus 34:20). If you notice some of the same problems in your life as in your siblings, parents, aunts, uncles, or grandparents it could very well be ancestral demonizing. The same demons have access to those in the family and do the same work in various members (not all members, that would be too obvious). They claim the blood line and use that as access. If you see some patterns in the symptoms or characteristics of demonizing that were covered previously in others in your family that could show ancestral access. That is why so often a boy who hates his father for beating his mother grows up to beat his own wife, or a child of an alcoholic becomes an alcoholic themselves. The cure for this is to claim the blood of Christ as stronger than your blood line and put that access under the blood of Jesus (Romans 5:15). Claim that you are a "*new creation, old things have passed away, all things have become new*" (II Corinthians 5:17). Ask God to turn curses into blessing (Deut. 23:5).

"Dear heavenly Father, I come to You as Your child, purchased by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I here and now reject and disown all the sins of my ancestors. As one who has been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son, I cancel out all demonic working that has been passed on to me from my ancestors. As one who has been crucified and raised with Christ and who sits with him in heavenly places, I reject any and every way in which Satan may claim ownership of me. I declare myself to be eternally and completely signed over and committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. I now command every familiar spirit and every enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ that is in or around me to flee my presence and never to return. I now ask You , heavenly Father, to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I submit my body as an instrument of righteousness, a living sacrifice, that I may glorify You in my body. All this I do in the name & authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

C. CURSES

The area of curses is a less common but still a strong opening to demonic access. To curse someone is to ask for evil to happen to them. Those requests (really prayers) are heard by Satan and his forces and 'answered' when possible. This includes everything from occult and witchcraft curses to one individual 'wishing' harm on another. Balaam was paid to curse Israel, but God wouldn't allow it (Numbers 22 - 24). These curses, when in effect, can also be passed on from generation to generation. The Bible says that speaking evil of someone is the same as cursing them (Romans 12:14). Things like: "I hope you die..." "Since he/she won't love me I wish they'd" "You're no good, you'll never amount to anything..." "I hope she gets some of her own medicine..." "I hope your children do to you when you grow up." You can even curse yourself by what you say (Proverbs 6:2). Our words are powerful and important. They aren't something to be taken lightly. Using profanity ("curse" words) also falls into this category. When someone "damns" someone to "hell" that is an awful, awful thing to say! Demons love to hear it, they use the power of the hate in the speaker and will latch onto any authority or justification to do their evil!

If you feel this may have happened to you remember to "*Bless them that curse you*" (Matthew 5:44). Treat the person with love and kindness, for when you return good for evil the "*undeserved curse does not come to rest*" (Proverbs 6:2). Break that curse against you in Jesus' name, claiming Galatians 3:10 ,13 which says "*Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: 'Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.'*" Ask God to turn the curse to a blessing (Deuteronomy 23:5).

D. CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES

It might not seem fair or right that children can do things to allow demonizing, or that things can happen to them against their will that allow it, but there isn't anything Satan does that is fair or right. God allows it to show us the awfulness of sin and that His power can break anything Satan does.

First, the Bible does say that very young children can be demonized. Mark 9:14-29 tells about a young boy who "from childhood" (small toddler), was possessed by a spirit that robbed him of speech, seized him and threw him to the ground. It made him foam at the mouth, gnash his teeth and become rigid. Mark 7:24-30 tells about a "little daughter" (very young girl) who was possessed by an evil spirit.

What causes this? Quite often there are ancestral causes (see B. above). However there can be other factors. First, let's look at children who are quite young (before they become accountable to God for salvation). Then we'll look at older children.

YOUNGER CHILDREN (Before Accountability)

1. REJECTION If, before birth, one or both of the parents reject the pregnancy and the baby is unwanted, demons can step in and claim the baby. Also, if there is a difficult birth or the parents are disappointed because of the sex or a physical feature (or handicap) of the baby then demons can claim it. Sometimes even extreme sibling rejection can cause this. Rejection can come later too, especially if a baby cries a lot or causes problems for the parents, or if it interferes in their life or career.

If you felt rejection in your childhood, what can you now do about it? First, make a free will decision to forgive the person/parent. In Jesus' name break anything they said/felt against you (as with curses above). Freely accept God's love to fill and heal you. In Jesus name forbid any demons of rejection to do any work against you. From then on take every thought captive (II Corinthians 10:4-5) and don't let negative thoughts about your past rejection dominate (Philippians 4:8). Claim your new relationship to God (II Corinthians 5:17).

2. ABUSE This includes any form of incest or physical abuse (physical or emotional). As seen before, sexual union gives demons access (I Corinthians 6:16). The trauma of abuse creates openings that demons often use in the child's life from then on.

3. TOYS AND GAMES, SAT. AM CARTOONS Some toys lead children to immorality or violence, and of course aren't good for them. However, there are other toys that are truly occult and demonic oriented. These include: Smurfs (papa a wizard who uses sorcery & witchcraft, refers often to Beelzebub); Star Wars - cosmic 'force'; Empire Strikes Back full of Zen Buddhism; ET - levitation, mental telepathy, supernatural healing, counterfeit resurrection, etc.; Dungeons & Dragons one of the worst; Rainbow Bright & the Sprites: new age symbol, listen in advanced D&D manual; Pegasus: also from D&D ; Unicorns: D&D for healing; Care Bears wear charms (amulets) to keep evil spirits away, occult symbols, wizard; Transformers: occult, demonic figures of supernatural powers & origins; Masters of the Universe: evil lords of destruction, beast men, evil, sorcery; My Little Pony; Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles; etc.

4. TV, MOVIES, COMICS Movies, especially horror ones, bring fear and that is a real opening for demonizing. Remember, what doesn't scare an adult probably will scare a young child. Also, many comics are very occult, violence, and sexually-oriented.

5. SCHOOL ACTIVITIES There are many occult-oriented and demon-based activities and philosophies present in schools today, even (especially) in the earliest years. New Agers have great influence on curriculum. In addition, children are often taught confluent education (all are divine and perfect, there is no sin and therefore no need of Jesus). Guided imagery is being used more and more. It is a subtle way of teaching children to open themselves to their inner spirit guide's guidance and direction. Eastern meditation techniques are used to teach children how to empty their minds and attain oneness with all things ("cosmic consciousness"). They are the same as séances. In all these things the powers being contacted and invited in are demonic.

6. YOGA, KARATE Although getting more and more popular all the time, yoga, karate and related subjects are based on demonic powers. Much of the wording and ritual are to invite demonic powers to come help. Even if this is done unknowingly, the result can be the same. Children should definitely keep away from this!

OLDER CHILDREN (After Accountability)

For children past the age of accountability, the same things apply but new areas of demonic access can also be given. These include:

1. REJECTION Youth are very sensitive to parental and peer acceptance. Rejection can cause them to turn to a variety of evil means to make up for the rejection.

2. ABUSE Physical or emotional abuse when a child is older also brings trauma which can be an opening for demonizing.

3. WORLDLY AMUSEMENTS & DISTRACTIONS There are many worldly amusements which are occult and demonic-oriented. These can also be openings demons use in older children. They can be an invitation for demonizing.

a. FASHIONS FIT FOR THE FIRE, especially Satanic & occult symbols and/or black clothing.

b. PLAYING WITH FIRE - fantasy role playing

Parlour Games: Dungeons & Dragons Nightmare on Elm Street

Blood Mary Ouija Board

I Ching or Book of Changes Tea Leaves

Tunnels & Trolls Chivalry & Sorcery

Rune Quest Swordbearers

Computer/Video Games:

Hero's Quest I, III Phantasie III

Wizard's Crown Secrets of the Silver Blade

Dragon Strike Altered Beast

Nintendo Solstice, Final Fantasy, Dream Master, etc.

c. SCREAMS FROM THE SCREEN - blood and gore movies

My Bloody Valentine Prom Night

Friday the 13th Nightmare on Elm Street

Rocky Horror Picture Show Ghost

Flatliners Defending Your Life

Switch

d. TANTALIZED BY THE TUBE

Saturday AM cartoons (Smurfs, Gummi Bears, He Man/She Ra, Care Bears, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles, My Little Pony)

Prime Time TV: Quantum Leap, Shades of LA, Twin Peaks

e. CHEMICAL CATASTROPHES Drug & alcohol ('pharmakeia' of Gal 5:20)

f. COMICS Many comics very occult, violent, supernatural-oriented

g. DANCING IN THE DARK

Music is second only to TV in influencing youth

Rock music often focuses on sex, Satanism, drugs, violence

4. YOGA, KARATE

As with younger children, this is usually based on occult and demonic words and rituals, calling on demonic powers for strength and help. It is certainly to be kept from.

5. SEXUAL IMMORALITY

As previously seen in "A. Sins in Life - 3. Immorality Based Sins" above, sexual union opens one up to any demonizing the other person has (I Corinthians 6:16). Mental fantasies, pornography, preoccupation with sexual things, masturbation, etc., can all do the same thing.

Romance novels do the same thing for girls. They, too, are a fantasy escape, a seeking something God hasn't provided in a way He doesn't provide. For boys it is physical sex in pornography, for girls it is emotional romance in "love". Both lusts are wrong and overindulgence can give demonic opening.

6. MENTAL ATTITUDE SINS

The same as adults (see "A. Sins in Life"), sin can give openings to demonizing. Anger, greed, materialism, unforgiveness, poor self image, jealousy, etc., all are to be confessed.

7. SATANISM, OCCULT activities

Youth are the greatest audience for occult books, groups, etc. (E. Occult & New Age, next page). They are often more open and vulnerable than adults (Acts 16:16-18).

8. REBELLION

Rebellion is often seen as "natural," but can be as much an invitation for demonizing as direct occult involvement (I Samuel 15:23 says so!). There is a difference between normal "trying to find one's self" and real rebellion. In Israel older children who rebelled were stoned to death. How can we tell normal rebellion from abnormal?

It is normal for a child to want his curfew extended to that of his friends but abnormal to ignore their curfew and sometimes stay out all night. It is normal for a child to exhibit mood swings (without violence or destruction) but abnormal when they become more and more irrational and violent. Showing less interest in family activities as they grow older is normal for children, but becoming so withdrawn they only use the home for a bed and breakfast is abnormal. Showing some impatience with rules and restrictions is normal, but purposefully disobeying and speaking disrespectfully are not. A gradual change in interests and friends as a child grows is normal, but suddenly dropping all former interests and activities is not. It is normal that a child will not confide in a parent as much as they used to as they mature, but abnormal for them to be sneaky and secretive, even dishonest and manipulative. Children may want to stretch the dress code you lay down, but it is abnormal to purposely dress in a way that will shock and offend you. The Bible says this abnormal rebellion will grow in the last days (II Timothy 3:1-5) and it certainly has been.

If you sense this in your child please pray specifically and regularly for them. Confront them in love. Reestablish the relationship so grounds of communication can be opened. Counselling can be helpful, too. Try to distinguish between their attitude and their action. Sometimes one must be addressed first, other times the other. Ask God for wisdom (James 1).

CURE FOR CHILDHOOD OPENINGS

FROM YOUR OWN CHILDHOOD

Confess (admit) what happened as sin and put it under the blood of Jesus (I John 1:9). Even if it isn't your sin, you must label what happened as sin and break its power over you by Jesus' blood. Forgive anyone that has been influential or guilty in any of these areas. In Jesus' name take back any access demons can try to use. Ask to be filled by the Holy Spirit and healed from the results of any of these. Claim II Corinthians 5:17, that you are now a new creation in Jesus and all those old things are gone and passed away.

IN YOUR OWN CHILDREN

Confess the sin and especially your part in it, putting it under the blood of Jesus (I John 1:9). Forgive anyone involved (others or yourself). In Jesus' name take back any access demons can try to use from it. Ask to be filled by the Holy Spirit and healed from the results of any of these. Pray for them regularly and specifically. Claim II Corinthians 5:17 for them if they are believers (they are a new creation and all these things in the past are gone). If they aren't a believer pray for their salvation.

E. OCCULT & NEW AGE

On the banks of the Amazon River live a species of large, colourful spiders. When they spread themselves out they look exactly like the blossoms of a brilliant flower. When bees and insects land on one to find pollen they find instead a spider that poisons and kills them. Satan does the same thing with the occult and New Age movement today.

1. OCCULT IN GENERAL

Many, many Bible verses clearly forbid God's people to get involved in any occult activity. The power behind the occult is always demonic (Acts 8:9-24; 16:16-18). While sins of the flesh give opening to Satan's forces, involvement in the occult gives MUCH more access. It is direct involvement with demons, and voluntarily asking them to work in your life. Deuteronomy 18:9-13 gives a list of some of the main occult activities which are forbidden.

9. When you enter the land the LO RD your God is giving you, do not learn to imitate the detestable ways of the nations there. 10. Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination, or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, 11. or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. 12. Anyone

who does these things is detestable to the LORD, and because of these detestable practices the LORD your God will drive out those nations before you. 13. You must be blameless before the LORD your God. Deuteronomy 18:9-13

sacrifice son or daughter in the fire Worship of Molech (includes worship of stars, sorcery, divination, etc.) Manasseh did this (II Kings 2:1-17)

divination *kosem kesamim* Foretell future or discover hidden knowledge by supernatural powers. Ezekiel 21:21 used arrows (picked one with label that they likes), or livers (color and configuratives).

sorcery *meonen* Predict future based on planets, etc. Drugs usually part of this (*pharmakeia* - Greek Gal 5:20) This is referred to in Acts 8:9-24

omens *menachesh* Inspect entrails of beasts, flight of birds, especially they used snakes back then. To find hidden, secret info, knowledge

witchcraft *mechashsheph* Literally to reveal truth, uncover mysteries, usually by magic or witchcraft (drugs, herbs, perfumes to call demons, etc.). The Jews learned it in Egypt & from pagans. It is associated with idolatry (turn from God) and is strongly forbidden (II Kings 9:22; II Chronicles 33:6; Micah 5:12; Nahum 3:4). God gave the death penalty for doing this (Exodus 22:18; Leviticus 20:27)

cast spells *chober chaber* A charmer, hypnotism, spells, curses

medium *shoel ob* 'engastromuthoi' or 'ventriloquist' - demon speaking through man (Isaiah 8:19, Leviticus 19:31; 20:27). This is the same as Pythona spirit in Acts 16:16 ,18 . This is the name of the dragon/snake Apollo killed at Delphi who guarded the priestess there and gave her oracles. Thus this Apollo spirit became the one by which the god spoke to the person who had it, enabling them to pronounce oracles. This can be misinterpreted as 'speaking in tongues'.

spiritist *yiddeoni* A wizard (male witch) who would contact demons trying to get information God doesn't give out

consults the dead *doresh el hammethim* Necromancy, contact the dead, is forbidden (Leviticus 19:31; 20:6,27; II Kings 23:24; I Chronicles 10:13-14). Saul went to the witch of Endor to do this (I Samuel 28:7-25).

THE OCCULT AND DEMONIZING

Listed below are many forms of the occult today. While not all-inclusive, it does give an idea of sins that need to be confessed and things to be avoided in this area.

Acupuncture

Amulets (good luck charms)

Apparitions (things move untouched)

Automatic Writing (hand writes while person sleeps or is in a trance)

Astrology (not astronomy)

Astral Projection (out-of-body travel)

Black or White Magic

Clairvoyance (discerning things beyond the 5 senses)

Coffee Grounds reading

Color Therapy (threads or light used heal or get information)

Charming (spells, healing, etc.)

Candles burning to invite spirits

Crystal ball readings

Divination (to foretell the future, find something lost, etc.)

Drugs, especially illegal

Extra Sensory Perception

Eye Diagnosis (Iridology) (reading spots in the eye to tell info.)

Fetishes and related paraphernalia

Fire Walking

Fortune Telling

Graphology (some forms, not all)

Herbology

Horoscopes

Hypnotism

Letters of Protection

Levitation (raising objects, tables)

Magic of any kind

Materializations (things appear or disappear without being touched)

Mind Reading

Necromancy (talk to the dead)

Numerology (numbers foretell things)

Occult Healing

Occult Games (Dungeons & Dragons, I Ching , Kreskin , etc.)

Omens (occurrence to tell future)

Ouija Board

Pendulum

Palm Reading

Pyramidology

Psychedelic Lights or Music

Psychometry (personal objects tell information)

Reflexology

Ring or Needle on a Thread

Rock Music

Scientology

Séances

Sorcery

Screening (Protection from a 'hex')

Satanism

Soothsaying (to tell future)

Speaking in a Trance

Spells (give or receive) & Curses

Spiritistic Visions

Table Tapping or Raising

Tarot Cards

Tea Leaves - reading

Telepathy (communication by unusual ways)

Tongues, esp. if you sought the gift

Transcendental Meditation (Eastern Rel .)

Vitagenics (health appeal)

Water witching

Wizardry

Yoga of any form

Zodiac signs, going by them

Sins of these kinds MUST be admitted, confessed, renounced, and all access taken back from Satan. Then any demons who are working through these areas must be cast out in Jesus' name. Prayerfully and honestly read the list and check anything you have ever been involved in, then confess, renounce, and take back all access. Command the demons to be gone, too

2. SECRET SOCIETIES

While often quite popular today, even in Christian circles, secret societies have definite occult connections. These are not so obvious from a distance, but are there. In Scottsdale, Arizona, hotels and motels paint their grass green to lure tourists. You can't tell the difference until you get up close. So with these societies.

Secret societies include groups like the Masons, Shriners , Elks, Moose, Odd Fellows and Klu Klux Klan. They are counterfeit religions for they talk about God and being good, have chaplains, pray, quote Scripture and often meet in "temples." They appeal today because of their WASP policies and pride in belonging.

However, as the name implies, there are 'secrets' those without (and often the majority within, too) don't know. An oath is taken to join, with a curse that comes if the secrecy oath is broken. These secrecy oaths are commitments which open a person to demonizing. Jesus and the Bible are against this secrecy (Matthew 5:33-37; James 5:12; Exodus 20:7; John 18:20; Ephesians 5:11-12). In these societies believers are unequally yoked to unbelievers. Their view of God is wrong (they have a secret name for Him, which some say is Lucifer, and equate God with Allah and all other gods). Jesus is dethroned and made equal to Buddha, Mohammed, etc. Prayer is not "in Jesus' name." Salvation is promised through doing the good works of the group, and that is wrong (Ephesians 2:8-9). These groups usually see themselves as superior to the church and Christian fellowship. Titles for their leaders like "Worshipful Master" are pure blasphemy.

The power and appeal behind these things is demonic. They receive the worship and instill the pride (I Corinthians 10:19-21; Zechariah 10:2). Joining one of these groups give a clear opening to demonizing. Once in a family these usually pass down ancestrally, even if the next generation doesn't join a secret society.

The cure is to leave, confess the involvement as sin (I John 1:9), and put any access given under the blood of Jesus. Often these are powerful demons and this renouncement must be made over and over while depending on God's deliverance.

3. SATANISM

Satanism is one of the fastest growing religions today. The dark nature of it has a strong appeal to those already demonized, and of course any involvement in it opens a person to deep demonizing. Children and teens are more and more drawn into this through drugs, sex, rock music, movies and other avenues. Satanists believe Satan represents indulgence (instead of abstinence), vengeance (instead of turning the other cheek), and meeting your sensual desires (instead of spiritual pipe dreams). Man is just another animal free to indulge any desire he wants. Satan represents power and immediate gratification instead of Jesus' seeming weakness and living for the future. Satan seems near and concerned, willing to quickly do whatever a person wants. Involvement in Satanism is usually the end result of a path that starts very subtly by allowing other openings to demonizing. Of course God is greater and it can be broken, but even dabbling with it in curiosity is very serious business.

There are many good Christian books in Christian bookstores that can give much more detailed information about this subject than we can here. If necessary, please avail yourself of them.

4. NEW AGE

DEFINITION OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

New Age Movement: A loosely knit group of individuals and organizations that fundamentally believe that persons will all evolve into God and achieve a global unity that will transcend religious, racial, cultural and political ideologies.

New Age Magazine, "What is the New Age?" defines it as: "A form of utopianism thinking, the desire to create a better society, a 'new age' in which humanity lives in harmony with itself, nature, and the cosmos.

Various names are used: New Age, Aquarian conspiracy, Holistic Health Movement, Cosmic Consciousness, etc. Buzz words include awakening, centring, consciousness, cosmic energy, enlightenment, force of life, global village, holistic, human potential, networking, world unity, planetary vision, spaceship earth, synergistic, transcendental, transformational and transpersonal. Symbols include the rainbow, triangle, Pegasus, rays of light, unicorn, yin & yang, pyramid, and crystals.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

New Age beliefs are not new. They are as old as man. In the current form they go back to Humanism and Unitarianism with a lot of spiritism sugar-coated and thrown in. In the current religious vacuum it has moved in as Satan's lie of the last days, to set up his world empire.

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF NEW AGE BELIEF

A. MONISM (ALL IS ONE) *"In J. D. Salinger's short story, 'Teddy,' a spiritually precocious youngster recalls his experience of immanent God while watching his little sister drink her milk.... 'All of a sudden I saw that she was God and the MILK was God. I mean, all she was doing was pouring God into God.'" Marilyn Ferguson, 'The Aquarian Conspiracy' Therefore all mankind is one big brotherhood. "We are one!" they say (as mankind did at the Tower of Babel , too). "We" here refers to man, animals, rocks, nature, etc.*

B. PANTHEISM (ALL IS GOD) *" All boundaries and dualism have been transcended and all individuality dissolves into universal, undifferentiated oneness." Fritjof Capra, 'The Turning Point' Trees, snails, books, people are all of one divine essence -- all are 'God'. This is pure Hinduism. Thus today we worship "Mother Earth."*

C. HUMANISM (MAN IS GOD) *" Each soul is its own God. You must never worship anyone or anything other than self. For YOU are God. To love self is to love God." Shirley MacLaine, 'Dancing in the Light' This is what Satan promised Eve: "You will be like God" (Genesis 3:5). Reincarnation part of this (remember past lives - really is demon speaking, remembering). New Age teaches that Lucifer is light and the one who brings unity & wholeness into life. He is actually superior to Christ.*

D. A NEW WORLD ORDER A coming one-world government (Age of Aquarius) will bring world peace. This is Satan's counterfeit to the Millennial kingdom of Jesus.

E. MAYA - ALL IS ILLUSION (MAN CREATES HIS OWN REALITY)

"If I created my own reality, then -- on some level and dimension I didn't understand -- I had created everything I saw, heard, touched, smelled, tasted; everything I loved, hated, revered, abhorred....I was my own universe." Shirley MacLaine, 'It's All in the Playing' They say we determine reality by our mind, so each mind can determine what is real and what isn't, what is absolute and what isn't, what is good and what is evil. Thus abortion and homosexuality aren't 'wrong.' Consciousness-raising & positive thinking seminars are popular.

F. CONTACT WITH KINGDOM OF DARKNESS SOUGHT *" My own out of body experience...served to validate the answers to many questions -- the surest knowledge being derived from experience."* Shirley MacLaine, 'Dancing in the Light' Out of body experiences and altered states of consciousness are done by demons. It is opening ones self up to be demonized. Channelling by spirit guides is the same thing.

WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THIS

Let no one be found among you ... who practices divination, or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or one who casts spells, or who is a medium, or spiritist , or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord..." Deut 18:9- 12 The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons. I Timothy 4:1 The Devil ... is a liar and the father of lies. John 8:44 For Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. II Cor 11:14

THE PROBLEM WITH MAN - AS NEW AGE SEES IT

"The tragedy of the human race was that we had forgotten we were each Divine." Shirley MacLaine, 'Out on a Limb' They say man's problem isn't sin but ignorance -- ignorance that we are each God.

THE SOLUTION FOR MAN - AS NEW AGE SEES IT

A. SEEK HIGHER CONSCIOUSNESS *"spiritual disciplines are designed to attune the brain to ... a wider sensory realm and the mystical dimension by altering the brain's biochemistry. Meditation, breathing exercises, and fasting are among the common technologies for shifting brain function."* Marilyn Ferguson, 'Aquarian Conspiracy' The powers one tunes into in this are all demonic!

B. AWAKEN THE GOD IN US *" The goal is to awaken the god who sleeps at the root of the human being."* Theodore Roszak , 'Unfinished Animal'

C. CULTIVATE QUESTIONS *"A teacher in the traditions of direct knowing encourages questions, even doubts. This spirituality asks the seeker to drop beliefs, not add to them."* Marilyn Ferguson, 'The Aquarian Conspiracy'

D. USE SPIRIT GUIDES *"In my own far-out experiences...I have come upon two guides....They may be entities in other spaces....They may be representatives of an esoteric hidden school....They may be members of a civilization a hundred thousand years or so ahead of ours."* John Lilly, 'Center of the Cyclone'

THE DANGERS OF NEW AGE THOUGHT

A. AN IMPERSONAL, FINITE GOD New Age turns God into a mere impersonal energy source and crowns mankind with deity. This is a lie (Romans 1:25), God is distinct from the universe (Genesis 1:3 - 2:3), He is an independent person who communicates with man (Exodus 3:13-14).

B. DEIFIED HUMANS The Bible condemns men thinking of themselves as God (Genesis 3:2-7; Daniel 11:36-37; Acts 12:21-23). God, not man is in control (Colossians 1:15-17).

C. NO SIN The Bible clearly says that man is dead in sin (Romans 1:18-32; 3:10-24; Ecclesiastes 7:20; Ephesians 2:1-3).

D. LOSS OF INDIVIDUAL UNIQUENESS Man will never merge into blissful cosmos oneness for man is a distinct individual from the rest of creation (Jeremiah 1:5; Psalm 139:13-16)

E. NO TEST FOR EXPERIENCES When the person himself is the final authority there are no absolutes. God warns against Satan's deception (Revelation 12:9; 20:7-10; II Corinthians 11:14).

F. ETHICAL STANDARDS ABANDONED When there are no moral absolutes anarchy reigns. History has proven that (Nazism, etc.). God has given moral absolutes in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and Sermon on the mount (Matthew 5-7).

G. FAILURE IMPORTED India has believed and practiced this same thing for 2,000 years and it is destitute

CHRISTIAN VS NEW AGE BELIEFS

**BIBLICAL
CHRISTIANITY**

God

**NEW AGE
PANTHEISM**

Father (Personal)

Force (Impersonal)

	Created all things Created out of nothing	Is all things Emanated out of 'god'
World	Temporal, finite - will be redone by God Made like God, sinned & became evil	Eternal, will always remain just as it is Is god and totally good
Man	Resurrection after death	Reincarnation after death Jesus just a historical man
Jesus Christ	God-Man Died and resurrected	Christ is the god-force in all of us alike Died and reincarnated
Problem	Sin against a holy God	Ignorance of innate divinity
Sin	Rebellion against holy God	Ignorance of personal divinity
Evil	Free choice in this life	Free choices in past lives
Solution	Trust in finished work of Christ in cross	Become conscious of innate divinity
Salvation	From moral guilt by grace	From disharmony by human effort
Faith	Put it in Jesus	Put it in man
Power	Resides in Almighty God, uses it for man	Resides in man
Cross	Provides deliverance from sin	Example of man perfectly united w/God Reabsorbed into god, eliminating distinction between good & evil
End of evil	Removed by God	Energy that can be used creatively or physically
Holy Spirit	God, 3rd person of the Trinity, personal being	Incomplete, Inadequate book by men
Bible	Inspired Word of God	Grounded in man choices & decisions
Basis of Ethics	Grounded in God as revealed in Bible	Relative
Death	Absolute Separation of soul/spirit from body to live forever in heaven or hell	Time of merging with the energy force of the universe if enlightened (if not reincarnated)
Satan	Top created angel, real being, not god	Man his state of unrealized potential
Heaven Hell	Real eternal states of being after death	States of consciousness in this life
Last Things	God-appointed end inaugurated when Christ reigns on earth as king	Human-realized end inaugurated when humankind realizes its inherent divinity

6. CURE FOR THOSE INVOLVED IN OCCULT OR NEW AGE

Recognize that just because there are nice-sounding words, deep conviction, and even displays of power, that doesn't mean a thing is from God. "*False Christs and false prophets will arise and will show great signs and wonders, so as to mislead, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you in advance.*" Matthew 24:24-25

Confess any and all involvement as sin (I John 1:9) and put any access you may have given Satan's forces through your involvement under the blood of Jesus. Take back any openings you may have given demons to work in your life. If anyone in your family has been involved in any of these occult activities (occult, Satanism, secret societies or New Age) put that under the blood of Jesus, too, and take back any access any demons may have tried to claim against you through it.

"Dear heavenly Father, I ask You to reveal to me all the occultic practices, false religions, and false teachers with which I have knowingly or unknowingly been involved."

"Lord, I confess that I have participated in _____. I ask Your forgiveness, and I renounce _____ as a counterfeit to true Christianity."

IV. CURE

A. THE SOURCE OF DELIVERANCE

Before anything can be said about how to bring about deliverance, there must be no doubt about whose power brings causes it. It cannot be done in our own strength, we do not have any power to remove demonizing (Mark 9:14-18). In fact, we can cause more damage than good doing this in our strength and not Jesus' (Acts 19:13-20). Even Michael let God rebuke Satan and wouldn't do it himself (Jude 9). We must be strong (passive - we receive the strength from outside ourselves), but can only be strong in Jesus' strength and power (Ephesians 6:10-18). We are strong "IN" Jesus (Ephesians 6:10-18), not just "from" Jesus. Strength only comes from a close personal relationship and dependence on Him. This is because Jesus has defeated Satan (Eph. 1:20-22; Philippians 2:9-11; Col. 2:15; Heb. 2:14; I John 3:8; Luke 4:18).

In Jesus we have both **power** (*dunamis* *dunamis* - Luke 9:1; 24:49; Acts 1:8; 4:33; 6:8 Ephesians 1:18-23; Hebrews 2:14-15) and **authority** (*exousia* *exousia* - Luke 10:1,17-20; Matthew 10:1,8; Mark 3:15; 6:7; I John 4:4). Power comes from the Holy Spirit within (Acts 1:8), authority comes from our relationship as a child of Jesus (John 1:12). A policeman has both authority (badge) and power (gun or club). Both come from a source outside himself, as do ours (Colossians 12:9-10). Satan also has power (Luke 10:19; I Corinthians 15:24; I Peter 3:22) and authority (Luke 4:6; Acts 26:10; I Corinthians 15:24;

Ephesians 1:21; 2:2; 3:10; 6:12). Demons have these, also (Revelation 9:3 ,10,19 ; Colossians 1:16; 2:10; I Peter 3:22). God's power and authority is superior to that which Satan & the demons have. Men without Jesus do not have power or authority anywhere near to Satan and his demons, though.

In all areas it is **Jesus' strength**, not ours, that gives us victory (Philippians 4:13). God promises to give us power (II Timothy 1:7; II Thessalonians 3:2-3). God is faithful to keep His promise to strengthen us (Numbers 23:19; Philippians 1:4-6; Hebrews 10:22-23). Our part is to use His strength. We are to fight, but in His strength. We must put on the armour God provides and stand in His strength (Ephesians 6:10-18). We are promised what when we resist Satan in God's strength that Satan will flee (James 4:7; I Peter 5:8-9). Victory is assured when we fight in His might (I Corinthians 15:57; II Corinthians 2:14; I John 5:5). French Painter Emile Ranouf , in a painting called "A Helping Hand," depicted an old man dressed in fisherman's garb, seated in boat with little girl beside him. Both have hands on an oar. He is looking down fondly and admiringly at her. Apparently he has told her that she may assist him in rowing the boat, and she feels she is doing a great share of the task. It is easy to see it is his strong, muscular arm doing the work. That's how it is with us and Jesus!

Therefore we need not fear Satan or his forces (Joshua 1:9; 10:8; 23:9-11; Leviticus 26:8; Exodus 14:13; I Samuel 17:45-47; II Samuel 22:33-35 ,40 -41). They must have God's approval for all they do (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7; Luke 4:35). God protects His people (Luke 10:19; II Thessalonians 3:3; Revelation 9:4; I Samuel 18:10-11; 19:9-10). Nothing can get us away from God (Romans 8:38; John 10:29). When we ask, God will put a hedge around us or those we are praying for (Job 1:10; 3:23; Isaiah 5:5). God's power is greater than Satan's (Exodus 7:12; 8:18; I Jn 4:4).

B. STEPS TO DELIVERANCE

AS JESUS DID IT

Jesus is our **example** in casting out demons. At the start of His ministry He cast out many demons (Matthew 4:23-24 Mark 1:39 ,34). He cast demons out of two men (Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-17; Luke 8:20). He cast demons out of the daughter of a Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21 Mark 7:20), and cured a demonized man (Mark 1:21-28 ; Luke 4:31-36). He healed a boy with seizures and demons (Matthew 17:14-20). He cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene as well as out of other women followers (Luke 8:2; Mark 16:9).

How did Jesus cast demons out? Before casting them out He rebuked them (took their power away) (Matthew 17:18; Luke 9:42). Then He "drove" them out (Mark 1:39). He did it verbally (Matthew 8:16), not by a certain ritualistic procedure. He didn't let the demons speak (Mark 1:34; Luke 4:41), expect Legion and that was just to give his name so others would know what was happening (Mark 5:9). He never let them say who He was (Mark 1:25; Luke 4:35; Mark 3:11-12). He told them to "be quiet and come out" (Luke 4:35; Mark 1:25). Other times He told them to "go" (Matthew 8 ;32). Sometimes He was quite far from the person whom He was delivering

(Matthew 15:21-28; Mark 7:24-30). When He cast them out He forbid them to ever return again (Mark 9:25).

AS THE DISCIPLES DID IT

We have many **examples** of the disciples casting out demons, too. Jesus gave them power and commanded them to use it (Matthew 10:1; Luke 10:17; Mark 6:7; 16:17). They cast out demons as a regular part of their ministry (Mark 9:38; Luke 10:17). Paul cast out demons (Acts 16:16-18; 19:12) and so did Philip (Acts 8:7). When trying to do it in their own strength (without dependence on God) they failed (Mark 9:18, 28-29).

How did the apostles cast demons out? Paul brought deliverance by a word, too (verbally). He said, "In the name of Jesus I command you to come out " (Acts 16:16-18). When God was showing that Paul was His spokesman there was a time when just touching a cloth that Paul had used brought deliverance (Acts 19:12). That was a special event, not a pattern to follow! When directed by God, Paul defeated the demons in Elymas (an unbeliever) by making him blind so he'd stop interfering with God's word (Acts 13:6-12).

AS WE ARE TO DO IT TODAY

When one is surrounded the best thing to do is to attack. That is what God wants us to do, too, when seemingly surrounded by Satan's forces. We are to **follow the example** of the apostles. They did what they did following Jesus' example and in His power (Matthew 10:1,8 ; Mark 3:15; 6:7; Luke 9:1). We, too, are given power over the enemy (Luke 10:19; Matthew 10:1; Zechariah 3:15). We have the authority and power to bind demons and loose oppressed believers (Matthew 16:18-19). This must all be done in the power of Jesus' name (Matthew 8:22; Luke 9:49) for that is the only thing demons will obey. Always refer to His full name: "The Lord Jesus Christ." We, however, must be a clean vessel for Him to fill and use for deliverance (Revelation 12:10-11). First pray for God's protection around us, our families and our properties as we begin (Job 1:10; 3:23; Isaiah 5:5). Ask God to take their power and authority away, as Jesus did when He rebuked the demons (Matthew 17:18; Luke 9:42). Seeing God's power over Satan's forces today brings glory to God (Psalm 149:6-9). God promises victory, saying we will see Satan crushed under our feet (Romans 16:20). The very gates of hell cannot prevail against God's work on earth today (Matthew 16:18-19).

How can you know if the force against you is demonic or not? We are commanded to "**test the spirits**" to see their source (I John 4:1). Challenge them with the deity (I John 4:11), Lordship (I Corinthians 12:3) and blood of Jesus (I John 5:6-7). Be sensitive to the response in the other person or in your own spirit. Angels do not indwell people, nor do they communicate through people as demons do. Remember that demons always lie and deceive, they may even claim to be God or the Holy Spirit. Be sensitive to thoughts put in your mind or the mind of the one your are counselling. If God supplies someone with the gift of discernment as part of their spiritual gift mix (or if you have that yourself) that can be very helpful (Acts 13:9-10; I Corinthians 12:10).

Remember the things covered earlier: we are safe in Jesus and aren't to run from the enemy. We are to use our power and authority. Make sure all openings are confessed and access taken back.

Usually it is best to **bind the main ruler first** (Matthew 12:29), then in Jesus name bind up any and all demons involved (Matthew 16:18-19). Demons never work alone. Search out the "root" spirits (the rulers) and pray against them. Remember, behind every demonic problem lies a flesh problem. By identifying the flesh problem that is at the root of everything the identity of the main ruler can be discovered. However that flesh problem must be completely confessed and renounced.

Command the demons to be gone in Jesus name (Matthew 10:1; Luke 9:49; 10:17; Mark 8:22). Do it in faith in Jesus (Matthew 17:18-27; John 5:4), not fear (Joshua 1:9; 10:8; 23:9-11; Leviticus 26:8; Exodus 14:13; I Samuel 17:45-47; II Samuel 22:33-35, 40-41). Be in an attitude of prayer (communication with and sensitive to God - Mark 9:29). Don't be proud, stay humble and submissive to Christ (Luke 10:10; II Peter 2:11; Acts 19:12-16). When cast out commit the demons to Jesus' authority in where He would have them go, that He would carry out His sentence against them (Psalm 149:6-9; Romans 16:20; Job 30:3-8). Remember the "house" must be filled with God's Holy Spirit when the demons are removed or things could be worse than before (Matthew 12:43-45).

Sometimes God may lead you to **lay hands on** the person you are praying for, and on occasion Jesus Himself did this (Luke 4:29; 13:11-23; Matthew 8:15) as did the early church (I Corinthians 1:14f; 12:4; II Corinthians 1:21f; James 5:13-16). Be sensitive to God's leading in this area and do whichever it is He leads you to do. One way is not better than the other. Being obedient to what God would have you do is the determining factor.

Quote Scripture as much as possible (Matthew 4:1-10). God's word is more powerful than and words we may use (Hebrews 4:12) and carry much more weight with Satan's forces. Our authority is God's Word (I Jn. 2:14). Our sword of the Word is our only offensive weapon.

Playing **Christian music** during deliverance or at other times in your home is often very helpful for demons don't like to hear Jesus praised (I Samuel 16:23). There is power in praise (Psalm 22:3), so use praise in your warfare praying. You can praise God in prayer or in song during deliverance or afterwards. Use this whenever attacked.

Do not converse with demons, either by having them give messages to a person's mind or to speak verbally through a person's vocal cords. The object in deliverance is not to get in contact with a demon but to remove them. Communication with them makes you a medium and God's words forbids that (Deuteronomy 18:9-13). There are good reasons to not communicate with them. Neither Jesus (Mark 1:25) nor Paul would (Acts 16:17). They are liars and deceivers (John 8:44) and you can't believe what they say. God wants you only to be in touch with Him (Deuteronomy 4:24). Through the Holy Spirit we have access to all truth and power (John 8:31-32; I Corinthians 12:7-11). By

communicating with them you give them recognition, allow them to stall, make things much harder on all people involved, and open yourself up to pride.

What about **when deliverance is slow or not at all**? Remember sometimes God has a greater purpose than casting out every demon as soon as we pray. Sometimes there is delay. Jesus even had times when He had to persevere for awhile (Luke 8:31 Greek). Usually deliverance is a process. Its like peeling the layers off an onion. As new sin is revealed and removed more ground is taken back from Satan's forces. This gradual process allows the person to better fill the ground which has been reclaimed with God's Holy Spirit and gives him time to grow spiritually (Psalm 59:11; 119:50,67,71) before the next 'layer' is removed. That's why the Jews under Joshua only conquered the Promised Land bit by bit instead of all at once. If they would have driven out the Canaanites immediately then lions would have come in and harmed them. There is a learning process involved that can be used to help others, too (II Corinthians 1:3-4). Other times complete deliverance never comes. Paul's thorn in the flesh is an example (II Corinthians 12:7). Paul testifies God then provides the grace needed to withstand. God wants us to learn to depend on Him (Psalm 119:59 ,92). Of course if the opening is allowed to continue then the demonizing will continue, too (Psalm 94:12-16; 81:11-14).

TO SUMMARIZE, SUCCESSFUL AND LASTING DELIVERANCE REQUIRES:

1. **HUMILITY:** no pride in yourself or your own strength (James 4:6-7; 5:16)
2. **HONESTY:** admit any sin (Psalm 32:5; 139:23-24)
3. **CONFESSION:** put any and all sin under the blood of Jesus (I John 1:9)

Make sure there is no unforgiveness of others (Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-35)

4. **ACCEPT FORGIVENESS:** do not carry any guilt around (I John 1:9)
5. **REPENTANCE:** attitude of willingness to turn from all sin (Amos 3:3; Ezekiel 20:43)
6. **RENOUNCE EVIL:** verbally reject anything (openings) that have given Satan access, take back that access, and do whatever you must to right any wrongs you have committed (Acts 19:18-19; Matthew 3:7-8)
7. **PRAY:** ask God to deliver you in Jesus' name (Joel 2:32) Don't forget YOU have the authority to cast demons out in Jesus' name and God expects you to use it.
8. **CONTINUAL WARFARE:** daily prayer and battle against sin & Satan

C. SPECIFICS ABOUT DELIVERANCE

1. PHYSICAL HEALING

There is often a strong relationship between **spiritual deliverance and physical healing**. Often physical problems that are gone when the demons leave. That is because the demons were causing the physical problems. Examples of these in the Bible include: crippled limbs (Luke 13:11), Paul's thorn in the flesh (eye disease? - II Corinthians 12:7), muteness (sometimes dumbness, too - Matthew 9:32-33; 12:22; Mark 9:17-18,24-25), blindness (Matthew 12:22), seizures (Mark 1:26; 9:17-18,20,22,25; Matthew 17:15,18; Luke 9:39), deafness (Mark 9:17-18,20,25), sores (skin cancer?) (Job 2:7), boils and other painful afflictions (Psalm 78:49 - the plagues in Egypt were demon-caused), and physical torments of all kinds (Revelation 9:5,10). The Bible states that Satan can cause illness (Job 2:7-8), even death (Job 1:19).

It must be noted that **not all illness is demonic** in origin. Jesus healed physical ills that weren't demonic (Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16-17 fulfilled Isaiah 53:4; Mark 1:34; Acts 10:34; etc.).

The Bible clearly talks about illnesses that are not demonic: severe pain (Matthew 4:24), seizures (Matthew 4:24), paralysis (Matthew 4:24; Acts 8:7), leprosy (Matthew 10:8), blindness (Luke 7:21), crippled limbs (Acts 8:7) and many other various diseases (Matthew 4:24). The fact that some physical ailments are on both lists (like seizures) shows that many ailments may have demonic or natural causes. They could be from one source or the other.

Jesus often cast out demons and cured illness at the same time.

Jesus said he would do this (Luke 13:32). He did this at the start of His ministry (Matthew 4:23-24; 8:16; Mark 1:34; Luke 4:41), around Tyre and Sidon (Mark 3:10-12; Luke 6:18-19), and in the middle of His ministry (Luke 7:21). Many female followers of Jesus were cured of both (Luke 8:2).

Even more precise are the accounts of when **Jesus both cast out demons and healed illness in a person at the same time** (Mark 6:13; Acts 5:16). Philip did this in Samaria (Acts 8:7) and Paul did it in Ephesus (Acts 19:12).

Thus it is obvious that **some, but not all illness is demonic**. There are no certain illness that are exclusively demonic, nor others that aren't. Any physical ill can be demonic, but no one ill is always demonic. In our day and age we err by seeing too little illness as being demonic. Thus we often miss the cure. How can we tell if an illness or physical problem is demonic or not? Some clues to look for are: medical doctors aren't able to bring relief or cure; there is a pattern of it running in the family; it seems strange or doesn't follow the regular pattern of symptoms (comes and goes for no particular reason, etc.); or you feel in your spirit that it should be prayed about and looked into as possibly being demonic.

Again, our pattern for bringing about this removal of physical ills by deliverance should **follow Jesus' example**. He rebuked a fever and it left immediately and strength instantly returned (Luke 4:39). On at least one occasion power came from within Jesus to heal (Luke 6:19). He often laid

hands on a person to bring both deliverance and healing (Luke 4:40; 13:13; 4:29; Matthew 8:15; Luke 13:1-13).

As to us doing this today, again it must be **done in God's strength and power**. If He chooses to bring healing through deliverance that is His will. We must never demand it or make it dependent on having enough faith. No one today has a gift to heal anyone and everyone. It is right for us to pray for healing when doing deliverance and leave the results to God. It is also necessary to deal with any demons who may be causing the illness (physical or mental, see page 7). Often demons affect our health in indirect ways, such as working in us so we eat or do things that are unhealthy for us in the long run and undermine our health. All of these, too, must be dealt with in Jesus' name (Matthew 10:1). Sometimes God may lead you to **anoint with oil** as a symbol of the Holy Spirit who does the healing (Mark 6:13). Do NOT put any faith in the oil or any ritual in using it, it is simply an audio-visual.

Therefore, be aware that **often illness is demonic**, especially when doctors are unable to bring a cure. Even diseases they can cure can still be demonic, especially if there are other signs of demonizing active in the person's life. Keep this in mind when praying and seeking wisdom. Don't accept any illness as "incurable." Always make sure it isn't demonic (by asking God for wisdom and commanding any demons involved in that ailment to be gone in Jesus' name). Remember, when dealing with emotional and spiritual ills in your warfare praying, don't let out physical ills! Never fear, demons can only cause ills with God's approval (Job 1:6-12).

(One word of warning: since demons can cause illness, they can also bring **counterfeit 'healings'** by stopping the physical ills they themselves cause (Matthew 12:24; 24:24; II Thessalonians 2:9; Revelation 16:14). This explains miraculous healings that aren't done in accordance with God's will and Word.

2. FASTING

Fasting is often **neglected today**, but when done out of a right motive it can be a real help in spiritual warfare. Jesus fasted often (Matthew 4:1 -11, etc.). Jesus assumed His disciples would fast (note the "when," not "if" in Matthew 6:16). Fasting is a spiritual exercise distinct from prayer, although often done in connection with prayer. It is still something for us to do today (Matthew 9:15). Usually fasting is done from food (all or a certain food group, like sweets, or a certain meal a day, or no food all day). Sometimes drink is abstained from, other times not. Sometimes sleep (II Corinthians 6:5; 11:27) and/or sex (I Corinthians 7:3-5) are included. Be sensitive to how and when God leads you to fast.

The **motive** in fasting is not to punish self for sin or prove sincerity to God so He will smile with more favour in a certain situation. Hunger pictures humility (Psalm 69:10; Deuteronomy 8:2-3 ,11 -14; Hosea 13:6). Enduring hunger teaches self-discipline and works against pride (Ezra 8:21; Isaiah 58:3). It provides an attitude of submission. Fasting also opens up more time to be available to pray and seek God. It shows a willingness to sacrifice anything to get closer to God. It serves notice to demonic forces that you are

serious in your pursuit of God's will and glory (Jeremiah 29:13-14). A side benefit of fasting is that one can learn to depend on God for self-control and thus better control their appetite (I Corinthians 6:12-13; II Peter 2:19). This also helps with self-control over sexual sins as well.

For more detailed information on this see the "Spiritual Warfare Handbook" (this is the mini-handbook) by Jerry Schroyer, pages 71-73.

3. CHILDREN

As we saw, **children can be demonized**. In fact, there is much more of this going on that we are aware of. Often first born males are more attacked (demons move down family lines through firstborn males when possible, the same as God did in the Old Testament with the Jews). The form the demonic attacks take could be anything from causing an infant to scream a lot at night to bed-wetting by an older child. Anything that seems to defeat you or the child is suspect. God's deliverance is for them, too.

Make sure the child knows that he is not the problem but that he has a problem. Often **children are more aware of these things than we think**. They may be so used to hearing voices in their heads, seeing manifestations in their room at night, or being controlled by feelings/emotions beyond their control that they don't realize these are unusual. Spend some unrushed time letting them talk. Ask lots of questions and listen carefully to the answers. Try to put yourself in their place, with their limited vocabulary. Gently probe all areas (voices, manifestations, too-real imaginary friends, etc.). Don't assume things. Take everything they say seriously. Make notes of things to pray about or talk about later. Be sensitive to God's leading. Go with your impulses and thoughts, they are from God at a time like this. Pray for wisdom from God (James 1) about these things and what the openings may be.

When too young to understand (below 5 or 6) **children don't even have to be present when you pray for their deliverance**. As a parent you can pray for your children with authority, the same as you pray for yourself. When they are older (about 5 to 10) they should be included for the purpose of educating them about these things. They can pray for themselves, and they can start learning about spiritual warfare, too. Of course when there is specific sin in their lives they should confess it. The older they are the more responsible they become (especially from about 8 years old on) and the more they should be involved. A lot depends on the openings, too. Free will sin needs their confession while ancestral oppression is something a parent can do for them when they are young. Adopted children especially should have all ancestral openings put under the blood of Jesus. The father as the spiritual leader should pray for the children. Each morning he should pray specifically for each one by name. If for whatever reason the father isn't filling this role as he should the mother can and should take over.

Children are often more sensitive to the spiritual realm. Many have a story from their younger years of seeing an angel. They are also more sensitive to evil. It isn't unusual for a house to have had certain parts (or all) of it

opened to demonic forces by things said or done there in the past. If a certain **area of your home** seems to cause problems (especially fear, but it could be anything) go to that area and in Jesus name take back any access Satan's forces claim to it. We've used oil to form crosses on the walls, left a light on (symbol of light over darkness) and played Christian music which is something demons hate. Ask your child if there is a certain place in the house where he feels afraid or funny, or where he thinks ghosts or other things may be. They are usually more sensitive to these things than adults.

As for praying for deliverance for children just follow Jesus' example. He administered deliverance to children the same as He did to adults (Mark 7:24-30; 9:14-25). Demons are the same and work the same, so go about it the same.

Pray regularly and specifically for your child. Satan has a plan and purpose for their life. Be sensitive to what it might be and break it in Jesus' name. Some of the time pray out loud with them so they can learn how to pray for themselves and so they know they are committed to God's care and protection. Pray that Jesus be formed in the child (Galatians 4:19), that they be delivered from Satan (Matthew 6:13; Proverbs 11:21), that they will be taught by God and experience His peace (Isaiah 54:13), that they will learn to discern good from evil (Hebrews 5:14; I Peter 3:21), that God's principles will be in their minds and on their hearts (Hebrews 8:10), that they will choose friends who are wise and a good influence (Proverbs 13:20; I Corinthians 5:11), that they will remain sexually pure (Ephesians 5:3,31-33), that they will trust and honour their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3), that they will find as well as be the right mate and that their marriage will last their whole life, and that they will know the career of God's choosing.

SAMPLE PRAYER for a son or daughter:

"I humbly bow before you, heavenly Father, to intercede for my child . I bring him/her before You in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank You that You have loved with the love of Calvary. I thank You that You gave him/her to us to love and nurture in Christ. I ask You to forgive us that for all of our failures to guide him/her in the way he/she ought to go. Accepting my position of being "mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds," I bring all of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ to focus directly against all of Satan's power in 's life. I bind up all the powers of darkness set to destroying , and I loose him/her from their power in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. I invite the blessed Holy Spirit to move upon 's heart and to bring them to you. In my position as mother/father I put all their sin under the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I take back any access any of Satan's forces claim through any ancestral openings and I put that under the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. I plead the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ over their life. I ask that Your Holy Spirit would fill them and ever use them for your honour and glory, so that they would grow up to serve You . In Jesus' name I pray. Amen."

4. HUSBAND AND WIFE

It is clear today that a large part of Satan's plan for the downfall of our country starts with a downfall of the family. He works in Christian marriages to undermine them, cause misunderstandings, develop selfish thoughts in the partners, bring focus on the other's weakness', set up little bickering and negative feelings, fuel grudges, keep partners from forgiveness and restoration, builds resentment, inclines each one put their needs first, causing disagreements over money or raising children, brings unfavourable comparing of your mate with others, incites to keep secrets from each other, and just causes drifting apart in general. Be sensitive to what Satan's plan is for your marriage (how he is working to destroy or neutralize it). Think about lies of his you are believing that make his plan work. Put it all under the blood of Jesus.

When one mate is demonized the other must pick up the slack in patience, love, leadership, and prayer. Depend on God's strength to do this. Apply all that has been said about forgiveness, bitterness, anger, pride, etc., to marriage relationships as well.

Keep God's authority pattern: husband as leader and wife submissive (Ephesians 5). Husbands and wives should pray together, out loud, for their marriage and family. The husband should take the lead in this.

5. PARENT AND CHILD

Demons often use children to cause problems in the family for the parents or vice versa. For years we have battled demons named "Frustration" and "Misery" whose work was just what their names suggested. They would cause strife among the children, especially through one particular child, and it would spread to the whole house. Their plan was to make things miserable and they quite often succeeded. We have learned to pray against that at the start of each day and as soon as we sense ourselves feeling it happen. More recently there is a spirit of "Argumentativeness" that rears its ugly head. When we notice a lot of picking at each other in the children we pray against that. We deal with the children, too, but include spiritual warfare also. That really helps improve things! Quite often demons incite children to behaviour that will affect others in the family.

We've seen several cases of children being motivated to do things to get into trouble so they would get scolded a lot. That developed an inferiority feeling in them, an image of always being bad or not pleasing their parents. Unless reversed that sets a pattern for life that is all too common! We've also seen several cases of children being afflicted at night (bed-wetting, crying, etc.) to interrupt the parent's sleep and make the parent have a harder time during the day. Impatient parents then scold more and the child also feels **rejected**.

Demons often set up things to cause a long-range cause-effect relationship, like dominoes in a row falling down. David's sin with Bathsheba, for example, was set up many years earlier when he indulged his lust for women (more than one wife). Satan patiently waited for the right time to pull the trap. Its important we raise our children correctly for Jesus and not let any openings develop which Satan can take advantage of.

6. THE CHURCH'S ROLE

Jesus' promise that Satan and his forces cannot destroy the church are what I base my church ministry on (Matthew 16:18). **Churches have demonic forces assigned to defeat and destroy them.** As in other cases, there is a ruling spirit (strong man) with other demons under him whose sole purpose it is to undermine a church's ministry (unless that church is already going the way Satan wants it to go). Each church as a whole should be aware of Satan's work against it so they can pray specifically against that. Pray for your church and its community, binding up the powers of any demons assigned to work against it.

Pray especially for your **leaders**, for Satan attacks the leaders first and most since they are so influential in a church (Luke 22:31-32; I Peter 5:1,8). Pray for your church to be protected from false teachers and teachings which are so, so prevalent and subtle today.

Churches are to **discipline** sinning members so they will see the need to repent and also so they will not mislead others. Churches, too, can have openings to demonizing and often it is through those in the Body who are willingly allowing themselves to be demonized and/or are allowing known sin in their lives. This must be put under the blood of Jesus. Discipline means removing them from fellowship in the local church and putting them instead in Satan's kingdom, the world. There they are under his influence (Matthew 18:15-18). In effect it is putting the person in a place to be demonized (the end result of wilful sin) so they will clearly see the consequences of their choice and repent (I Corinthians 5:5 talks about this).

The local Body can be very **helpful in deliverance** from demonizing, too. God puts Christians in a local body to help each other in many ways, and spiritual warfare is certainly one such way. He gives spiritual gifts to some that are quite helpful in spiritual warfare. The purpose of all spiritual gifts is to serve others. God gives a person gifts to use for others in the Body, not for him or herself. Some gifts which are particularly useful in spiritual warfare are:

WISDOM: the special ability to know the mind of God in such a way as to receive insight into how certain knowledge may be best applied to specific needs arising in the Body of Christ. I Corinthians 12:8

DISCERNING OF SPIRITS: the special ability God gives which enables some to know with certainty and assurance whether certain behaviour supposed to be of God is in reality divine, human, or Satanic. Acts 5:1-10; 8:23

INTERCESSION: the special ability to pray for extended of time on a regular basis and see frequent and specific answers to prayers to a degree much greater than that which is expected of the average Christian. I Timothy 2:1-2; Colossians 1:9-12; 4:12-13; Acts 12:12; James 5:14-16; Luke 22:41-44

EXORCISM: the special ability to command demons to leave people and have them respond and by Gone. Acts 16:16-19

BEWARE: Satan can counterfeit these gifts and even do miracles today. Make sure you know the source (II Thessalonians 2:8; Matthew 24:24 ; Revelation 13:13-14; 19:20; Acts 13:8). Demons can speak through people, a kind of demonic 'gift of tongues' (Isaiah 8:19; 29:4; Isaiah 24:8) and they can perform miracles (Matthew 7:22-23). Don't be impressed by something supernatural unless you know the source of the power, for Satan is a GREAT counterfeiter!

V. CONTINUING ON

A. PROBLEM: ONGOING BATTLE

As stated before, deliverance isn't a once-and-done thing. It is a process, like peeling layers off of an onion. Sometimes progress is very slow. It may seem no progress is being made at all. Then, too, it is certainly possible to lose what you have gained (through sin allowing the openings to be used again). Satan's forces don't quit easily, and just because they are defeated or weakened once doesn't mean it is all over. Often the battle gets worse for awhile. The more they tried to obey and stay close to God, the more opposition and battles the Jews faced when conquering the land. Paul's thorn in the flesh is an example of this (II Corinthians 12:7-10).

Another example is Nehemiah. When the walls of Jerusalem were in disrepair and no one was making any effort to rebuild them there was calm. But when Nehemiah started encouraging the people to rebuild there was much opposition. Some was external, other internal. Externally Nehemiah faced ridicule (2:19), anger (4:1), criticism (4:2), mockery (4:3), threat of war (4:8), compromise (6:2), and lies being told about him (6:6). The stronger attacks were internal. Satan attacked him within with discouragement (4:10), wanting to quit (4:10), greed (5:1,3,5), and fear (6:10). Nehemiah persevered despite it all and finally the work was completed (6:15) and the enemies of God defeated (6:16).

We, too, will face much opposition, and continuing opposition. When we fight against Satan's kingdom by being true to God's kingdom, we must realize the enemy will fight back. What are we to do about it? Satan's plan is for us to be discouraged, to quit, to not persevere, to stay where we are or to lose ground to him. Here's how to make sure that doesn't happen:

B. SOLUTION: ONGOING BATTLE

After trying to convince you that the deliverance you've gone through didn't really happen (unbelief), Satan's next weapon is the lie that you won't have victory, you won't change, things won't get better, etc. That's not true! If you follow God's principles you will have continuing progress and victory. How soon and how complete is only up to God.

RETAINING DELIVERANCE:

1. Put on the whole armour of God (Ephesians 6:10-18)

2. Confess any sin immediately, but don't dwell on it (I John 1:9)
3. Stay in the Scriptures (Psalm 1:1-3). The Word is a mirror (James 1:22-25) a lamp (Psalm 119:105) a cleanser (Ephesians 5:25-26) a sword (Hebrews 4:12) and food (I Peter 2:2; Matthew 4:4). Use it for all these ,.
4. Break old patterns, habits, and sins or Satan will return (Matthew 12:43-45; Luke 11:24-26). Fill the void with God's Spirit and His fruit (Galatians 5:9-24; John 15:3). Clean your house of unclean books and things that shouldn't be there (Deuteronomy 14:7-19). Dedicate your home and life to God.
5. Develop a life of continuous praise & prayer (I Thessalonians 5:17).
6. Stay in close fellowship with other believers (Hebrews 13:5).
7. Commit yourself to totally follow God (Ephesians 6:16).

1. GROW SPIRITUALLY

We all are either moving ahead or moving back. We cannot be dead still at the same place. If you aren't growing spiritually then you are fading. Continue to grow spiritually. Focus on the basics of the Christian life: prayer, Bible study, fellowship, worship, witnessing, etc. Sometimes growth comes in spurts, other times there doesn't seem to be much outer change (it is during these times that your spiritual roots are going deeper, getting you ready for the next growth spurt). The same is true in nature, there isn't always sustained growth, things grow in spurts.

Do NOT focus on Satan or demons, always thinking about them or fearing what they will do. Do not look for "a demon behind every bush." It is important to have balance in this area of spiritual warfare. Keep it in balance. It is one of many important spiritual tools for growth. Don't neglect the others for this one.

2. SUBMIT TO HOLY SPIRIT

Remember, when demons are gone the area must be filled with God's Spirit or it will be an invitation for them to come back -- more and worse than before (Matthew 12:43-45). Casting them out is one thing, keeping them out is another. Close the opening (by confession and covering with the blood of Jesus) and fill the space they occupied in your life with the Holy Spirit.

It isn't my purpose here to go into detail about being filled with the Holy Spirit for many fine books cover that subject quite well. Suffice it to say that immediately at salvation each person receives the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13; I Corinthians 12:13). He never leaves (Ephesians 4:30). Each believer has the Holy Spirit indwelling him, but not each one has the Holy Spirit "filling" (literally "controlling") him (Ephesians 5:18). Allowing Him to fill/control us is a moment-by-moment responsibility. It means we must be 100% yielded to God in all areas of life (I Thessalonians 5:19), not allow any known sin in life

(Ephesians 4:30), and to depend on Him and His strength in every area of life (Galatians 5:16). This way there will be no strongholds (openings) re-established (II Corinthians 10:3-5).

"Dear heavenly Father, You have said that rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft and insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry (I Samuel 15:23) , I know that in action and attitude I have sinned against You with a rebellious heart. I ask Your forgiveness for my rebellion and pray that by the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ all ground gained by evil spirits because of my rebelliousness would be cancelled. I pray that You will shed light on all my ways that I may know the full extent of my rebelliousness and choose to adopt a submissive spirit and a servant's heart. In the name of Christ Jesus my Lord. Amen."

3. WEAR THE ARMOR

Satan does not trouble those who aren't committed believers. They are his subjects (Col. 1:13) and serve him (Eph. 2:2). Only when one wants to turn from that path, having accepted Jesus as his Saviour and wanting to make Him Lord of his life, does Satan oppose the person. Satan will not give up one of his subjects easily and will do all he can to gain that person back. He can't take his salvation, but can have him live the same kind of life as before (one of service to Satan and sin). God does not want that for His children, however. He has defeated Satan and has made provision for us to share in that victory. As a good commander He provides the equipment we need to defeat Satan and to protect ourselves (Eph. 6:10-17, II Cor. 10:35, Mt. 12:29). The following is based on Ephesians 6:10-17. Open your Bible as you read the following.

I. ARMOR PROVIDED Ephesians 6:10-12

"FINALLY" (10) : Paul builds to this throughout the whole Epistle.

"BE STRONG" (10): "Be continually strengthened " This is a command, not an option. It is passive, something we receive from outside ourselves. A soldier receives (passive) equipment from his commander, the commander is responsible to provide it , he must use it. The battle is between God & Satan, we are just privates and only get attacked because of joining God's army , it's not our personal battle but our commander who will make sure we can win it.

What makes a soldier strong so he can use his equipment? (1. Proper nourishment (food & drink) - for us the Word of God. (2. Regular exercise to stay fit - not spiritually fat or lazy. (3. Proper rest, meditation, relaxation, worship & praise times.

"IN THE LORD" (10): not "FROM" the Lord for He doesn't just give us a portion of His strength (as great as that would be) to fight in our own strength and to add to our strength. We are actually "IN Christ" (a phrase used over 40 times just in Ephesians). This refers to total dependence, like a baby IN a womb. We are one, we share His foe and His victory. We must stay as close to Christ as possible or we will never have victory.

"HIS mighty power" (10): Never look at Satan's power, or your own, just and only at Christ's!

"MIGHTY" (10): The word means a special endowment of power and strength. It is inherent strength, ability, and authority that comes from being "in Christ."

"POWER" (10): This word refers to manifested power, HIS power shown through us. The previous word would be used of the muscular ability a person naturally has, this word of that power shown in use. This power, by the way, comes through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8). God is the sovereign general, we are "in Christ," and the Holy Spirit is the power source given to us. What an unbeatable combination!

"PUT ON" (11): This verse tells HOW to be strong in Jesus. This, too, is a command - it is not an option. , In the original language this speaks of a once-for-all action. The commander provides the armour, but the soldier must put it on-and then he must NEVER take it off for the warfare is continual. Each morning check out your armour to make sure it is well maintained, never take it off.

"FULL ARMOR" (11): If missing even just one piece Satan will attack there.

"TAKE YOUR STAND" (11): This same word is translated "resist" in James 4:7 and I Peter 5:8-9. We are NOT to run, fall back in fear or panic, surrender, sit, or fall asleep. We are to stand alert BEFORE attacked so we are ready to defend ourselves and beat it off.

"DEVIL" (11) "Devil" means "Slanderer," and that is what he does. He slanders God to man (as to Eve in Eden) and man to God (as with Job).

"SCHEMES" (11): The picture behind this word is of a cunning, deceitful animal full of tricks and deceit. Paul commands us to not be ignorant of these tricks and traps (II Corinthians 2:11).

"STRUGGLE" (12): This word-picture of wrestlers shows the life-and-death struggle we are in with Satan. Wrestlers back then tried to pin each other's neck to the ground. This is no innocent misunderstanding or friendly competition!

"NOT AGAINST FLESH & BLOOD" (12): Our main enemy is not other people, or even our own sin nature. We know how those operate from firsthand knowledge. Satan is in another realm that we are often unaware of, and have no idea how to fight.

"RULERS" (12): These are the demons on top of Satan's organizational systems, the generals under him as the commanding officer. They have vast oversight responsibilities, some over geographical areas, others over philosophies or works, etc.

"AUTHORITIES" (12): These very powerful demons are like colonels. They are given authority (thus the name) over certain countries, areas, churches, groups of persons, etc. They don't do the work but, like the Rulers, oversee and coordinate the activity of demons under them. They give power & authority to these lesser demons.

"POWERS OF THIS DARK WORLD" (12): These numerous, workhorse demons function on the command level, like lieutenants and sergeants. They oversee and work with small forces of demons assigned by 'Authorities' to a certain person, church, cult, location, idea, philosophy, etc. They receive their orders and power through the chain of command above them.

"SPIRITUAL FORCES OF EVIL IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS" (12): These very numerous demons are the daily working demons that carry out the work assigned to them by the above chain of command. These are the privates of Satan's army, the ones we do battle with each day. They are not as smart or clever as the ones higher in the command, they simply carry out orders given them. They have a great variety in their intelligence level, abilities, etc. They each function in one main area of expertise, and are named accordingly (Greed, Listlessness, Self-Destruction, Fear, etc.)

"HEAVENLY REALMS" (12): In the atmosphere is where Satan sets up his kingdom, between this earth and the third heaven where God is. That is why Michael needed to help the other angels get past the Prince of Persia in Daniel. Satan is the "ruler of the kingdom of the air."

II ARMOR DESCRIBED Eph . 6:13-18

A. BELT OF TRUTH 14a

"BELT": The belt was the KEY piece of equipment for a soldier because it held his other clothing and equipment in place. Clothing was tucked back out of the way to allow freedom of movement to fight, and it was the belt that gave them freedom. The belt held their valuables and personal possessions, too. It also held the sword, thus the close connection between the truth and God's Word (sword).

"TRUTH " : As the belt allowed the soldier's hands freedom, so the truth makes us free. Jesus is the "way, TRUTH and life" (Jn. 14:6) and only in Him ("IN CHRIST") is truth found. He said "I am the truth" (Jn. 14:6; 1:14). When we put on Christ and are strong in Him we take the truth that comes from Him as revealed in His Word, the Bible (II Tim. 2:15, James 1:18, Ps. 119:41-43). It is through the Holy Spirit that this truth is applied to our hearts and lives, for He is called the "Spirit of Truth" (I Cor. 1:6-15).

By contrast Satan is a liar (Jn. 8:44). He works in deceit and counterfeits to get us to fear and be defeated. He tries to get us to be untruthful (Acts 5:3) and uses any untruth in us to gain access to us. Therefore we are to "stand firm" against anything not 100% honest and truthful in us or others.

B. BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS 14b

"BREASTPLATE " : This vital piece of equipment covered the vulnerable organs of the upper body. Enemy soldiers would grasp each other's left forearms and with the right start stabbing each other in the breastplate. The first one to find or make an opening won!

Satan, too, first attacks our vulnerable areas. He knows where our weak and open spots are. That is why we are defeated over and over by the same besetting sin. Just as a soldier would make sure his breastplate was sound and perfect before the battle began, so we must make sure there are no areas in our life, thoughts, priorities or motives where Satan can defeat us. It doesn't matter how small, he will use it. All openings must be closed and covered with the blood of Jesus.

"RIGHTEOUSNESS": In contrast to our righteousness, which is like "filthy rags", God is pure righteousness (Ps. 48: ;10 ; 119:137; 145:17). One of His names is YHWH-TSIDEK ("The LORD Our Righteousness" Jer. 23:6). At the moment of salvation our sins are transferred to Jesus and His perfect righteousness is transferred to us. We must put faith in HIS provision, not our own good works/righteousness. We need to allow His righteousness to shine through us, and to accept His holiness (another word for righteousness) as ours "In Christ". It is in this area we can't have sin or Satan will use that to defeat us.

Note that our back isn't covered, just our front. A soldier of Christ cannot retreat or run but must move ahead in victory!

C. SANDALS OF PEACE

"FEET": On their feet soldiers wore sandals which were VERY important. They had to be sturdy, dependable and tough. The soldier went everywhere on his feet, and was usually attacked on rough, rocky ground where getting a good footing would be very hard. Failure of his sandals to protect his feet or give him good stability would result in his defeat. Our standing, too, must be sure and ready.

"READINESS": This word has the idea of establishment, a firm foundation.

"PEACE": "Christ is our peace" (Eph. 2:13-14), and we only have peace "in Christ." He provides peace with God (Rom. 5:1) and peace of God (Phil 4:6-9; Rom. 16:20; Prov. 16:7). Jesus is peace (Jn. 14:27) and we are to live in peace with God, self and others. This is our support, our foundation.

Satan tries to produce turmoil, chaos, and lack of peace in our lives. Then he comes along and offers false peace through drugs, alcohol, sex, compromise, etc.

D. SHIELD OF FAITH 16

"IN ADDITION": Literally "above all," meaning this is of the greatest importance. Faith, the helmet of salvation, and prayer, the next three, are even more important than the ones already described. The first 3 pieces of equipment are worn as part of the body, affixed to it. They are always to be there. These next ones are to be "taken up" to use when battle was near. The first we receive (passive), these we take up ourselves (active). These are our outer wall of defence.

"SHIELD": The shield was 2 foot by 4 foot. Soldiers would gather behind a wall of shields side-by-side and use it for an outer wall of protection. They would NOT go into battle without a shield!

"FAITH": This is the substance of our shield. We, together with others of like faith, are to throw up a wall against Satan. We can still hear his roaring attacks, but faith keeps us from being defeated by them. It is not just 'faith' that protects, for faith must be in the right object - God.

"FLAMING ARROWS": Burning pitch and arrows tipped with burning pitch would be hurled against soldiers, and only a shield could protect them from it. Satan shoots arrows of pride, temptation, fear, worry, guilt, suffering, etc, at us and only faith in God will get us through those times.

"YOU CAN EXTINGUISH ALL": Some arrows get very close to us (like with Job), but God determines just how close they will fall (also like with Job.) Sometimes it seems like some of them even pierce our shield of faith. However when that happens they are no longer Satan's flaming arrows but God's refining and purifying messengers of love, as Paul's thorn in the flesh (see also I Cor. 10:13; Rom. 8:28 etc.) If we keep our shield up the fire refines us. It is only when our faith is down that the fire harms us.

E. HELMET OF SALVATION 17a

"HELMET": The helmet protected soldier's heads from the broad sword their enemies carried. This sword was 3 to 4 feet long. The enemy held it with two hands and brought it straight down with all his might right on the soldier's head. Thus the helmet was very important.

"SALVATION": Our mind is very important, and Satan attacks that in a deadly and vigorous way. Therefore it is very important to protect our mind: its thoughts, ideas, goals, motives, priorities, values, decisions, etc. (Rom. 12:1-2; James 1:8; II Tim. 2:25-26). This is where Satan attacked Eve (Gen. 3:1-7, II Cor. 11:3) and he attacks us there through our pride, selfishness & self-centeredness, as well as through the influence of the world. It is only through salvation that we can have the "mind of Christ" and thus do His will. Being Christ-like starts in our mind, so it must be protected and filled with God's word (studied and memorized).

F. SWORD OF THE WORD 17b

"SWORD": The only offensive weapon (prayer, next verse, is the other weapon we have but that isn't listed as a weapon the way the sword is in this soldier analogy). All the other pieces of equipment are defensive and for protection. It is only through the offensive weapons, Bible study and prayer, that we can forge ahead and defeat Satan. These weapons don't work until the previous ones are taken care of, though, because if we have a way to be defeated Satan will seize the initiative and we will be driven back instead of driving him back .

"OF THE SPIRIT": ANY weapon used in the flesh will not prosper. Peter used the sword of his flesh and cut Malchus' ear, but on Pentecost he used the sword of the Spirit and thousands of ears were won and opened for Christ. The best defence is a good offence.

"WORD OF GOD": Jesus, the living Word (John 1:1-14), is behind the Bible, the written Word. You need to know God's Word in detail, with much of it memorized, so you can really use this weapon. Jesus won His battles when Satan tempted Him by quoting Scriptures. That is how we are to win, too.

G. PRAYER 18

"AND PRAY": This is our other offensive weapon, equal in importance to knowing God's Word. God doesn't fully pour His Spirit into us in power until we fully pour our spirit out to him in prayer. In our military analogy, communication with the commander is key to receiving orders, help, strength, additional resources, support, etc.

"IN THE SPIRIT": Our prayer must be directed by the Holy Spirit just as our Bible study is (" sword OF THE SPIRIT"). The Holy Spirit directs our praying when we let Him (Rom. 8:26). Prayer in our own strength and wisdom brings no answer (James 4:3).

"ON ALL OCCASIONS": "Without ceasing." (Prov. 3:5-6). If you feel like it or not, are busy or not, know what to say or not - still pray. Prayer must be consistent and persistent (II Cor. 10:3-5).

PRAYER OF THE ARMOR OF GOD

Heavenly Father, I desire to be obedient by being strong in the Lord and the power of Your might. I see that this is Your will and purpose for me. I recognize that it is essential to put on the armour that You have provided, and I do so now with gratitude and praise that You have provided all I need to stand in victory against Satan and his kingdom. Grant me wisdom to discern the tactics and sneakiness of Satan's strategy against me. I delight to take the armour You have provided and by faith to put it on as effective spiritual protection against the spiritual forces of darkness present in the world today.

I confidently take the belt of truth that You offer me. I take Him who is the truth as my strength and protection. I reject Satan's lies and deceiving ways to gain advantage against me. Grant me discernment and wisdom to recognize

the subtle and sneaky ways in which Satan seeks to cause me to accept his lies as truth. I desire to believe only the truth, to live the truth, to speak the truth, and to know the truth. I worship and praise You that You lead me only in the ways of truth. Thank You that Satan cannot stand against the truth.

Thank You for the breastplate of righteousness which you offer me. I eagerly accept it and put it on as my protection. Thank you for reminding me again that all of my righteousness comes from You . I embrace that righteousness which is mine by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ ,. It is His righteousness that is mine through justification. I reject and repudiate all trust in my own righteousness which is as filthy rags. I ask You to cleanse me of all the times I have counted my own goodness as being acceptable before You. I bring the righteousness of my Lord directly against all of Satan's workings against me. I express my desire to walk in righteousness before God today. By faith I appropriate the righteousness of Christ and invite Him to walk in His holiness in my life today that I might experience His righteousness in total context of ordinary living. I count upon the righteousness of my Lord to be my protection. I know that Satan must retreat from before God's righteousness.

Thank You, Lord, for the sandals of peace You have provided. I desire that my feet should stand on the solid rock of the peace that You have provided. I claim the peace with God which is mine through justification. I desire the peace of God which touches my emotions and feelings through prayer and sanctification (Philippians 4:6). Thank You that as I walk in obedience to You the God of peace promises to walk with me (Philippians 4:9), I thank you that as the God of peace You are putting Satan under my feet (Romans 16:20). I will share this good news of peace with all others today that Your Spirit will bring into my life today. Thank you that You have not given me a spirit of fear but of love and power and a sound mind (II Timothy 1:7). Thank you that Satan cannot stand against Your peace.

Eagerly, Lord, I lift up the shield of faith against all the blazing darts that Satan and his hosts fire at me. I recognize that You are my shield and that in Your incarnation and crucifixion You took the arrows of Satan which I deserved. By faith I count upon You to shield me from above and beneath; on my right and my left; in front of me and behind me, that I might be protected, walled in, and encapsulated by You that Satan may gain no way to hurt me or keep me from fulfilling Your will today.

I am willing that any fiery darts of Satan You wish to touch me should do so, but I shall look upon them as refining fires permitted in Your providence and by Your love for my refining and Your glory. Thank You, Lord, that You are a complete and perfect shield and that Satan cannot touch me apart from Your sovereign purpose.

I recognize that my mind is a particular target of Satan's deceiving ways. I take from You the helmet of salvation. I cover my mind and my thoughts with Your salvation. I recognize that the Lord Jesus Christ is my salvation. I fill my head with Him. I invite His mind to be in me. Let me think His thoughts, feel His love and compassion, and discern His will and leading in all things. Let my mind be occupied with the continuing, daily , saving work of my Lord in and

through my life. May of my Lord meet and defeat all Satanic thoughts in my mind.

With joy I take hold upon the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. I affirm that Your Word is the trustworthy, infallible Word of God. I choose to believe it and to live in its truth and power. Grant me the love for Your Word which comes from the Holy Spirit. Forgive and cleanse me from the sin of neglecting Your Word. Enable me to memorize it and to meditate upon its truth. Grant me proficient recall and skill in using Your Word against all of Satan's subtle attacks against me, even as my Lord Jesus Christ used the Word against Satan. Enable me to use Your Word not only to defend me from Satan, but also to claim its promises and to wield the sword strong against Satan to defeat him, to push him back, to take away from him ground he claims, and to win great victories God through Your Word. Thank You that Satan must retreat from Your Word applied against him.

Thank You, dear Lord, for prayer. Help me to keep this armour well oiled with prayer. I desire to pray at all times with depth and intensity as the Holy Spirit leads me. I trust the Holy Spirit to enable me and to intercede for me and through me. Grant me great supplication and burden for others in God's family of blood-washed saints. Enable me to see their needs and to assist them through prayer as the enemy attacks them. All of these petitions, intercessions, and words of praise I offer up before the true and living God in the name and worthy merit of my Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

4. USE THE WORD OF GOD

Knowing and using God's Word, the sword of the Spirit, is key for victory (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 77:12; I Chronicles 28:9; Matthew 22:37-38; I Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 4:8). That's how Jesus defeated Satan (Matthew 4:1-11). Satan tries to plant doubts about God's word in man's mind. This is how he got to Eve. She misquoted God's Word to Satan and when he added to God's Word (making God seem like He was keeping something good from her) she didn't pick it up. Satan was undermining God's Word, and he won! We must be skilful in the use of our sword to win. Below are some verses to memorize and use.

BIBLE MEMORY VERSES

GOD'S LOVE & ACCEPTANCE The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. Psalm 103:8

THE BIBLE, GOD'S WORD The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

GOD'S TRUTH FREES " If you hold to my teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:32

LIVE IN HOLINESS Therefore , I urge you, brothers in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God -- this is your spiritual act of worship. Rom. 12:1

SUBMIT TO GOD, RESIST SATAN God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and He will come near to you. James 4:6-8

GOD IS GREATER THAN SATAN The One who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. I John 4:4

GOD WILL MEET ALL OUR NEEDS My God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

RENEW YOUR MIND WITH CHRIST Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is -- His good, pleasing and perfect will. Romans 12:2

PRAYER The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. James 5:16

AUTHORITY OVER DEMONS Jesus replied: "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you." Luke 10:18-19

RESISTING SATAN Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men." Matthew 16:23

SIN AS OPENINGS TO DEMONIZING Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalm 139:23-24

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

ANCESTRAL & CHILDHOOD OPENINGS Therefore if anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! II Corinthians 5:17

OCCULT OPENINGS Do not turn to mediums or seek out spiritists , for you will be defiled by them. I am the Lord your God. Leviticus 19:31

NEW AGE OPENINGS Such men (who preach a Jesus other than the Jesus I preached) are false prophets, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. II Corinthians 11:13-15

DELIVERANCE FROM DEMONIZING Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God ... This is how you

can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God. I John 4:1-2

DELAYED DELIVERANCE The Lord said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." ... For when I am weak, then I am strong. II Corinthians 12:9-10

CONTINUING VICTORY Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith. I Peter 5:8-9

PROMISES SPECIFICALLY RELATED TO SPIRITUAL WARFARE:

Our Adversaries Will Be Defeated: Deuteronomy 32:43; Philippians 1:28; Deuteronomy 33:27

Victory is Promised: I Corinthians 15:57; I Chronicles 29:11; Proverbs 21:31; I John 5:4, 18; Rev. 12:11; 15:2; Romans 8:37; II Corinthians 2:14; John 16:33

God Promises To Fight For Us: I Samuel 14:47; Jeremiah 1:8

No Weapon Formed Against The Believer Can Prosper: Isaiah 54:17

Jesus Is Constantly Praying & Interceding On Our Behalf: I John 2:1; Hebrews 7:25

God Is Always With Us: Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 18:20; John 14:16, 21; Revelations 3:20

Confession Means Cleansing & Forgiveness: I John 1:8-9; Thessalonians 5:23-24; I Timothy 4:5; Luke 11:13; II Timothy 2:21; Jude 1; Romans 8:33-39; Titus 3:4-5

God Hears & Answers Prayer: Matthew 7:7; Luke 11:9; Jeremiah 33:3

We will never Be Separated From God: Romans 8:35-39; John 10:27-29; 3:36; 5:24

God Will Meet All Your Needs: Philippians 4:19; Psalm 84:11; Romans 8:32; I Samuel 12:24

There Is No Need To Worry: Matthew 6:25, 34 ; I Peter 5:7; Isaiah 40:11; Matthew 5:38-39; Psalm 37:1-9; Jude 24

God Promises His Care & Protection: Deuteronomy 33:27; Genesis 17:1; Jeremiah 23:24; 32:7

Everything Will Work Out Right In the End: Romans 8:28

You Won't Ever Face Anything You Can't Handle With God's Help: I Corinthians 10:13

Peace Is Available No Matter What: John 14:27; Romans 5:1; Colossians 1:20; Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6-7; Matthew 11:28-30; II Timothy 1:7

Trials Are Allowed To Bring Spiritual Growth: Psalm 119:67,71,75 ; 94:12; Isa. 48:10; Rom. 5:3

The Believer Has Nothing To Fear: Proverbs 3:25; Isaiah 14:3; Psalm 34:4; Joshua 1:9; 10:8; 23:9-11; Leviticus 26:8; Exodus 14:13; I Samuel 17:45-47; II Samuel 22:33-35,40-41

We Are Assured Of Eventual Triumph Over Our Adversaries: Acts 2:39

Victory Is Guaranteed Us: I Corinthians 15:57; Romans 8:37; I Chronicles 29:11; I John 5:4, 18; II Chronicles 32:8; Revelation 3:5; 21:7

God Will Help Us Carry Our Burdens: Nehemiah 4:10; Matthew 11:30; Psalm 55:22

God Promises Comfort: Psalm 23:4; Lamentations 3:22-23; Matthew 5:4; 11:28-30; John 14:16, 18; Romans 15:4; II Corinthians 1:3-4; II Thessalonians 2:16-17

God Will Give Us Courage: Proverbs 38:1; I Corinthians 16:13; II Timothy 1:7

Guidance Is Promised: Psalm 32:8; Isaiah 30:21; 58:11; Luke 1:79; John 15:13

God Will Help In Your Sorrow: Proverbs 10:22; Isaiah 53:4; John 16:22; II Corinthians 6:10; I Thessalonians 4:13; Revelation 21:4

Wisdom Is Promised Those Who Ask: James 1:5; 3:15-17; Luke 16:8; 21:15; I Cor. 2:5; 3:19

Rejecting Wrong Thoughts: II Corinthians 10:5; Psalm 139:23-24; 141:3-4; Isaiah 26:3-4; Romans 12:2; Ephesians 4:22-24; Philippians 3:18-21

Power of the Word of God: Ephesians 6:17; Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 55:11; 59:21; Psalm 119:81, 105, 11-112; Proverbs 30:5; Lamentations 2:17; 3:37; Matthew 24:35; John 5:24; 8:51; 15:7; Romans 10:17

God's Promise of Angelic Intervention: II Kings 6:17; Psalm 34:6-7; Psalm 91:11; Daniel 6:22; 10:5-14; Acts 12:15

5. RESIST, STAND FIRM

We are told over and over again in the Bible to resist Satan (in Jesus' strength), to stand firm and not give in. "*Resist the devil and he will flee from you*" (James 4:7-8) is a promise to claim. The conditions for the promise to

work, though, are that we are to *submit to God* (total commitment to God after salvation), *draw near to God* (quality and quantity time in prayer and meditation) and *be pure* (live a holy life, confessing all known sin).

Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith. (I Peter 5:8-9). *Alert* means literally to "be sleepless," it implies a purposeful and active state of awareness. It implies being active and watching out for anything that would tone down our alertness (like being seduced by the world's pleasures). *Resist* is a strong word meaning to oppose. We aren't to hide in fear, hoping he'll leave us alone. Each must wage his own fight, you cannot expect a parent, mate, pastor or friend to resist for you. *Stand firm* means to stand solid, hard, unbending in the faith. Jesus prayed Peter would stand when attacked by Satan (Luke 22:32). Satan is like a bully. When he or his forces find someone who will give in they push them around. Taking a stand may mean a fight for awhile, but then the promise comes that he will flee. We are to be courageous and not fearful, taking our stand in the Lord (Joshua 1:9; 10:8; 23:9-11; Leviticus 26:8; Exodus 14:13; I Samuel 17:45-47; II Samuel 22:33-35, 40-41).

Since Satan works through getting us to believe his lies, we must really resist and stand fast in this area. By knowing which lies Satan trips you up with you can better be prepared for them. Here are some common ones to look out for.

Imagine you are standing at one end of a long, narrow street lined on both sides with two-story row houses. At the other end of the street stands Jesus Christ, and your Christian life is the process of walking down the long street of maturity in Him. There is absolutely nothing in the street which can keep you from reaching Jesus. So, when you receive Christ, you fix your eyes on Him and start walking. But since this world is still under the dominion of Satan, the row houses on either side of you are inhabited by beings who are committed to keeping you from reaching your goal. They have no power or authority to block your path or even slow your step, so they hang out of the windows and call to you, hoping to turn your attention away from your goal and disrupt your progress. This is how demons work -- they use lies and distractions to hinder your maturity in Christ.

They call things like: "Hey, look over here! I've got something you really want! It tastes good, feels good, and is a lot more fun than your boring walk down the street. Come on in and take a look." "You don't need to obey God in that, He'll understand. Besides, He'll forgive you anyway. You're too busy to pray or read the Bible today, you can do extra tomorrow." "Remember how _____ hurt you? You can never forgive them for that. They don't deserve forgiveness." "You're stupid! You're ugly! You'll never amount to anything for God!"

Satan's way to keep us from following God is by getting us to believe/act on one of his lies (John 8:44). The only time he uses the truth is when it will better deceive or mislead than the truth! To have victory over Satan's temptations and attacks we must stay with God's truth. Truth is the liberating agent. God is all power. Satan only has power when we give it to him by

accepting one of his lies. He has some favourite lies that work best. He uses these over and over. See if you recognize any of them.

LIE 1. "DON'T FORGIVE"

"Remember how _____ hurt you? You can never forgive them for that. They don't deserve forgiveness." Most of the ground that Satan gains in our lives is due to unforgiveness. God warns us that if we don't forgive Satan will take advantage of us (II Cor 2:10-11). Forgiveness is agreeing to live with the consequences of another person's sin. It is costly, we pay the price by giving up any right to have them suffer and take the suffering ourselves (as Jesus did).

SATAN'S LIE in this takes various forms: "If I forgive them they'll get off free and that isn't fair." "They don't deserve to be forgiven!" (neither do you). "I can't forgive them, they hurt me too much." "I don't know of anyone I haven't forgiven."

LIE 2. "I'M NO GOOD"

As you continue your walk toward Christ, you will also have thoughts like, "I'M STUPID. I'M UGLY. I'LL NEVER AMOUNT TO ANYTHING FOR GOD." Satan's emissaries are masters at accusation, especially after they have distracted you through temptation. One minute they're saying, "Try this, there's nothing wrong with it." Then, when you yield, they're right there taunting you, "See what you did! How can you call yourself a Christian?" Accusation is one of Satan's primary weapons in his attempt to distract you from your goal.

MANY Christians defeated with thoughts of inferiority and insecurity. Psalm 139 says God planned us before world, and "God don't make no junk!" Satan is not your judge, he is merely your accuser. If Satan can cause you to doubt your worth to God or your effectiveness as His child through his accusations, he can neutralize your life for God.

LIE 3. "SIN ISN'T SO BAD"

One of the ways they will try to distract you is by calling out, "HEY, LOOK OVER HERE! I'VE GOT SOMETHING YOU REALLY WANT! It tastes good, feels good, and is a lot more fun than your boring walk down the street. Come on in and take a look." That's temptation, suggesting to your mind ways to serve yourself instead of God.

Do not equate temptation with sin. Even Jesus was tempted but never sinned (Hebrews 4:15). We are not responsible for the thoughts that pop into our mind but for what we do with them. The power of the temptation depends on the strength of the strongholds which have been developed in our minds as we learned to live independently of God. The essence of temptation is to have LEGITIMATE needs met through the resources of the world, the flesh, and the devil instead of through Christ (Philippians 4:19). Every temptation is an

invitation to LIVE INDEPENDENTLY of God. Satan knows where we are each vulnerable to attack and he works on those areas. Knows from our past where these strongholds of his (weaknesses of ours) are. Victory over this starts the same place the sin starts -- in the mind (II Corinthians

10:5; I Corinthians 10:13). *Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* James 4:7

LIE 4. "I'M NOT BEING DECEIVED"

Other remarks are, "YOU DON'T NEED TO GO TO CHURCH TODAY. IT'S NOT IMPORTANT TO PRAY AND READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY. You're too busy to pray and read the Bible today, you can do extra tomorrow. Some of this New Age stuff isn't so bad." That's deception and it is Satan's most subtle and debilitating weapon. Satan knows you will be more easily deceived if you think the thought was yours instead of his.

Satan's primary weapon is the lie, our defence against him is the truth. Our battle with Satan is not a power encounter but a truth encounter. When you expose Satan's lie with God's truth, his power is broken! *You shall know the TRUTH and the TRUTH shall set you free. John 8:32* Your spirit (HS inside) will alert you to deception when you are sensitive to HS. If we want to serve self we won't be sensitive, only when we want to serve God. You cannot expose Satan's deception by human reasoning, only by abiding in Christ (John 8:31-32) *Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, let your mind dwell on these things. Phil. 4:8* *Take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. II Cor. 10:5*

6. PRAY

Prayer is powerful (John 14:13-14; 15:7,16; Mark 11:24; 11:22-24; Luke 11:9-10; I John 5:14; Jeremiah 33:3). There should be six parts to your prayer life, all equally well developed. These are:

1. CONFESSION (I John 1:9; Psalm 66:18; 51:1). To confess means to agree with God that the issue at hand is sin (not a mistake, someone else's fault, etc.) . Use the lists on page 15-17 to help in this. After you confess your sin make sure you accept God's forgiveness (Daniel 9:9,19; Psalm 130:4; 86:5; 78:30; 99:8; 103:3; Amos 7:2). Only God can forgive sin (Mark 2:7; 11:25; Luke 23:24; 5:24; Matthew 6:14; Colossians 3:13). God doesn't overlook sin, he forgives because it was paid for with the blood of Jesus on the cross (Hebrews 9:22; Ephesians 4:32; 1:7; I Peter 2:24; 3:18; Luke 24:46-47; Colossians 1:14; John 19:30). This forgiveness is available to all (Isaiah 53:6; Colossians 2:13; Romans 8:1). When you confess/admit your sin God forgives it. This means He blots it out (Isaiah 43:25; 1:18; 44:22; Acts 3:19; Colossians 2:14; Psalm 32), casts it behind His back (a place He can't see it - Isaiah 38:17; Jeremiah 31:34), forgets it (Hebrews 8:12; 10:17; Isaiah 43:25; Jeremiah 31:34), makes it disappear where it will never be found (Jeremiah 50:20), has it vanish like

the morning mist at noon (Isaiah 44:22; John 20:31; Matthew 27:51), and casts it into the deepest part of the sea (Micah 7:19) which will then be gone forever (Revelation 21:1).

2. PRAISE (Psalm 34:1-3; 48:1; Hebrews 13:15). Praise is glorifying God for Who and What He is. It is different than thanking Him for things He has done. We will be praising God for all eternity, so we should start now! God is pleased with our praise (Psalm 22:3; Hebrews 13:5).

The Bible says there is power in praise (Psalm 22:3). Praise can be done by word or song. Make sure you develop a strong praise life (Philippians 4:4; Hebrews 13:15). Read the following passages and turn them into praise prayers: Exodus 15:1-2; Deuteronomy 10:21; 32:3-4,43; I Samuel 2:1-2; II Samuel 22:4, 50; I Chronicles 16:9,25,31; 29:10-12; II Chronicles 5:12-14; 20:21-22,27; Psalm 8:1-2; 9:1-3; 31:21; 44:8; 40:16; 47:1-3; 68:3-4; 72:18-19; 86:12-13; 104:33; 108:3; 117:1-2; 119:108,175; 138:1-4; 142:7; 149:1,3,6-9; 150:1-6; Isaiah 25:1,9; 38:18-19; 60:18; Daniel 2:20-23; Jeremiah 20:13; Habakkuk 3:17-19; Zechariah 9:9; Luke 1:46-47; Luke 10:21; John 4:23-24; Ephesians 1:3; Jude 25; Revelation 4:10-11; 5:5,12-13; 15:3-4.

3. THANKSGIVING (Psalm 116:12; Philippians 4:6; I Thessalonians 5:18). Thanksgiving is thanking God for what He has done, is doing and is going to do in your life (as well as the lives of others). We all appreciate being thanked for things we do, and so does God. Be specific in your thanksgiving. Remember, everything comes from Him and is for our good (Romans 8:28) so we should thank Him for everything!

4. INTERCESSION (Psalm 28:9; James 5:14-20; I Timothy 2:1-4; I Samuel 12:23). Intercession is prayer for others. Often it is good to keep a list of prayer requests so you remember to pray for them and so you can mark down the answer, too. Then thank God for the answer. Remember God answers EVERY prayer. The answer is either yes (now), wait (later) or no (never). Every prayer gets one of these answers. God is able to do anything, but He isn't always willing to do what it is we think He should do to bail us out (Daniel 3:17). Therefore when you pray for others first be sensitive to how God would have you pray. Don't be so quick to come up with a solution and make that your prayer. God may have another solution (better than ours). Don't pray solutions to God, pray problems and let Him come up with His own solution. You'll find prayers answered more often when you let Him figure out how to take care of something. Often instead of removing something He gives us grace to endure it (II Corinthians 12:7-10). Include that option in your prayers for others.

5. PETITION (James 4:2; Hebrews 4:15-16; John 15:7). Petition means asking God for things for yourself . This is legitimate. We shouldn't always pray just for ourselves, nor should we feel unworthy to ever pray for ourselves. Much of what I said under "Intercession" above fits in here. There are some things the Bible says we should ask for: an understanding heart (I Kings 3:7,9), fellowship with other believers (Philemon 4-6), forgiveness (Psalm 25:11,18,20), guidance (Psalm 25:4-5; 27:11), holiness (I Thessalonians 5:23), love (Philippians 1:9-11), mercy (Psalm 6:1-6), power (Ephesians 3:16),

spiritual growth (Ephesians 1:17-19) and to know and do God's will (Colossians 4:12). As you pray for yourself think of a Bible promise to claim for it. God promises He will not forget us (Isaiah 49:15), not fail us (Joshua 1:5), will show us what to do (I Samuel 16:3), will help us (Isaiah 41:10) and will strengthen us (Isaiah 41:10).

6. LISTEN (I Samuel 3:10; Hebrews 1:1-2; 3:15; Psalm 62:5; 46:10) Good communication is a two-way street. Pause a few minutes and listen to God talk to you. You should do that throughout your day. After all, which is more important: you passing on information to God or Him passing on information to you? Be still in your mind, let Him put in thoughts, feelings, ideas, etc., that you need. Be sensitive to His leading. As with any relationship, the better you know the person the better the communication. Good, deep communication is difficult with a stranger, but the more time you spend with a person the better you can 'hear' them, and that's true with God, too. This is an art that takes time to develop, but won't happen if you don't work on it!

SAMPLE PRAYER

“Gracious God, I acknowledge that You are worthy of all honour, glory and praise. I am thankful for the victorious work of Your Son, Jesus Christ at Calvary for me. I appropriate His victory for myself now as I willingly surrender every area of my life to Your will.

“Thank you for the forgiveness and righteousness that has been given to me as Your adopted child. I trust in Your protection and provision daily. I know that your love for me never ceases.

I rejoice in Your victory, my Lord, over all the principalities and powers in the heavenlies. In faith I stand in Your victory and commit myself to live obediently for You my King.

“I desire that my fellowship with You become greater. Reveal to me those things that grieve You and enables the enemy to secure an advantage in my life. I need the Holy Spirit's powerful ministry in my life; bringing conviction of sin, repentance of heart, strengthening my faith and increasing perseverance in resisting temptation.

“Help me to die to self and walk in the victory of the new creation You have provided for me. Let the fruits of the Spirit flow out of my life so that You will be glorified through my life.

“I know that it is Your will that I should stand firm and resist all of the enemy's work against me. Help me to discern the attacks upon my thoughts and emotions. Enable me to stand upon Your Word and resist all the accusations, distortions and condemnations that are hurled against me.

“It is my desire to be transformed through the renewing of my mind, so that I will not compromise with the ways of the world, or yield to the enemy's attacks, but be obedient to Your will.

"I draw upon those spiritual resources that You have provided me and I attack the strongholds and plans of the enemy that have been put in place against me. I command in the name of Jesus Christ that the enemy must release my mind, will, emotions and body completely. They have been yielded to the Lord and I belong to Him.

"Lord, enable me to become the person You created me to be. Help me as I pray to be strong in faith. Show me how to apply Your Word in my life each day. I know that I wear the full armour of God when I am committed to and stand firmly upon Your Word. I want You to have the supreme place in my life.

"I ask you put a hedge of protection around me this day and I forbid any of Satan's forces to penetrate that hedge. I ask for your angels to surround and protect me, for your Holy Spirit to fill me completely, and for your Shekinah Glory to encompass me and all I do.

"I surrender myself completely to You, Lord. You are always faithful and You extend Your grace to me constantly, even when I do not realize it. I claim Your promise of forgiveness and cleansing in its fullness. In faith, I receive the victory today that you have already put in place for me. I do this in the name of Jesus Christ, my Saviour with a grateful heart. AMEN"

SAMPLE PRAYER FOR GENERATIONAL/ANCESTRAL SINS

"Gracious Father over all, I acknowledge before you the sins of my parents and ancestors. I know that they have sinned because all men and women are sinners. And so, I openly confess the sins of my parents and ancestors. I am sorry for their sins against you and I ask that you cover their sins with the blood of Jesus and not hold their consequences against me or my descendants. I claim the finished work of Jesus Christ, Who bore all my sin upon Himself. In faith I accept that work on the basis of your holy Word. I reclaim any consent given to Satan's forces by me parents' sin. Dear Jesus, please set me free from all evil influences coming from my parents and ancestors in the name of Jesus. I know I am a new creation in Christ. Old things have gone and all things have become new. I here and now reject and disown all the sins of my ancestors. As one who has been delivered from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's dear Son, I cancel out all demonic working that has been passed on to me from my ancestors. As one who has been crucified and raised with Christ and who sits with him in heavenly places, I reject any and every way in which Satan may claim ownership of me. I declare myself to be eternally and completely signed over and committed to the Lord Jesus Christ. I now command every familiar spirit and every enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ that is in or around me to flee my presence and never to return. I now ask You, heavenly Father, to fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I submit my body as an instrument of righteousness, a living sacrifice, that I may glorify You in my body. All this I do in the name & authority of the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen."

CONFESSING THE SINS OF ANOTHER

Praying for another person is important. Confessing the sins of another person can help free them from demonic oppression. Sin, especially certain sins, is like opening a door for demons to work in a person's life. These sins can be an open invitation. Depression (self-pity), for example, can be almost a 'prayer' to Satan because one is so negative and sees everything from a very self-centred viewpoint about how it may affect them. It's almost like they enjoy wallowing in this, so demons just help them move in that direction by putting thoughts in their mind and the person accepts and feeds on these thoughts. When that person tells God they are sorry for opening the door and confess (admit) that as sin, He forgives them and the sin no longer blocks fellowship between the person and God. However the door is still open and demons, who can get very technical and never want to give up access they have, will continue to use it. When you enter the picture and put the sins of that person under the blood of Jesus and state that demons can no longer use that sin as an access to the person you are closing the door. If the person hasn't confessed the sin themselves that still blocks their relationship with God, but by interceding for them we can slow down or stop (at least temporarily) the demonic impact so the person can be free from that influence and be better able to turn to God for themselves. Now if they continue in the sin they keep opening the door. All you can do is keep trying to close it by putting the sin under the blood until the person does so themselves or it becomes evident they don't want to and won't do it.

7. HELPING OTHERS

Once you get involved in deliverance, you'll start to see how it can help those around you. You'll want to **share with others** what you've found. That's great! Remember, though, there is a cost of your time (Mark 7:24), energy (Mark 6:31) and patience (Matthew 17:17). Count the cost first (Mark 3:8-15). Getting involved in spiritual warfare for others may bring attacks against you but do not fear such a thing (Matthew 10:24-27). Often the worse part, though, is the criticism and rejection you get from others, believers and unbelievers alike (Matthew 9:32-34); Matthew 10:24-27). Don't fear that, either (Luke 13:31-32).

One danger to watch out for is thoughts popping into your mind of how spiritual you are, or feelings of **pride** because of having power over demons. Others may see you as more spiritual, too. This is a real danger. Jesus makes it clear that being able to administer deliverance is no sign of spirituality or even salvation (Matthew 7:21-23).

Keep in mind, too, that **others minister deliverance in different ways**. I feel strongly that what I have written here is what God has for me according to His Word. However I am not to judge or reject those who do it differently (Mark 9:38-40).

When you find yourself in a situation where you feel God wants you to talk or pray about deliverance just go ahead! **Don't worry about your lack of**

knowledge or experience (that's a lie from the demons to silence you). It's God's power and He will give you the right words and wisdom at the right time. Nothing is worse than not doing anything and allowing the demons to continue their work. Just do your best, trusting God for each step of the way. There is no 'right' or 'wrong' way, no magic formula. God is greater, so just bring His power against the evil forces.

One thing to be careful of, though, is **your own time and schedule**. Don't allow yourself to be a crutch to anyone, for that isn't helping them. Wean them from you and onto God quickly. Don't become too involved with the one you are ministering too. It can become too draining on you and make it hard for you to be objective, plus harder to wean them. At first feeling needed can be very nice, but it is God they should need, not you.

Always **consider the big picture** when praying for deliverance. Keep deliverance in balance. Should they see a counsellor? Would a physical from a doctor be helpful? Are they perhaps not giving you the complete, total picture, but just what they want you to know? Do they REALLY want to be free or are they more interested in having your attention? Is there any sin they aren't willing to get rid of?

Please heed these warnings above carefully.



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