

2-5-14 STRATEGY

I. TWO WAYS SATAN HAS ACCESS INTO OUR LIVES

- A. Everything in the visible world has a root in the invisible spirit world.
- B. Satan is out to destroy our lives.

I Peter 5:8-9a

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.

- C. Many of us have experienced Satan's devouring through these two accesses:

- 1. INTRUSION
- 2. LEGAL GROUND

II. INTRUSION

- A. INTRUSION is defined as the "act of pushing or thrusting in; the act of putting or coming in without being asked or wanted."
- B. INTRUSION is when Satan shoots his fiery darts into our lives.
 - 1. It is an attack from the outside. He has NO LEGAL RIGHT to be there.
 - 2. We are equipped to handle all intrusions from Satan.

- a. We have the armor of Ephesians 6:10-18 to put on as protection.
- b. We have the promise of James 4:7-8.

James 4:7-8

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you.

C. The purpose of intrusion is to get our focus off God and on to our circumstances in order to defeat us with the circumstances.

- 1. Without intrusion we would become independent and self-sufficient.
- 2. In the garden Satan defeated Eve by her circumstances.

D. Here is what happens with most people when intrusion occurs.

Example: Husband and wife get into an argument and they become angry.

- 1. We react to the circumstances.
 - a. We may become angry.
 - b. We lose sight of the fact that our war is not with people but with the kingdom of darkness.
 - c. We fix our attention upon the problem and cannot solve it.
- 2. We stare at the problem and glance at God.

E. What should we do when an intrusion comes into our lives?

- 1. Continue to focus on God and commune with Him. Praise God continually.
- 2. Get God's instructions on how to respond to the problem.

3. Remember that people are not the enemy.
4. Glance at the problem only long enough to be able to tell God all about it as we continue to commune with Him.
5. Call upon God for wisdom, power and His presence.

F. Often if Satan cannot defeat us, he will defeat someone else whose defeat will defeat us.

G. Satan's job is still the same as it was in the beginning: To get man to break communion with God.

III. LEGAL GROUND

A. LEGAL GROUND: "Places where Satan has a right to be because I or someone else has given him the right to be there."

Ephesians 4:27

...nor give place to the devil (NKJ)

II Peter 2:19

They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. (NI V)

Romans 6:16

Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? (NIV)

B. Legal ground has at least five doors:

1. DISOBEDIENCE OR WILLFUL SIN
2. INNER VOWS AND BITTER ROOT JUDGMENTS
3. CURSES
4. UNFORGIVENESS
5. TRAUMA

I. LEGAL GROUND: DISOBEDIENCE OR WILLFUL SIN

- Any attitude or action in direct disobedience to the will and word of God.

A. Two ways to disobey:

1. When we DO what God has told us NOT to do.
2. When we do NOT do what God has told us to DO.

B. Lessons from Saul's disobedience:

I Samuel 15:18-29; 22-23

Now the LORD sent you on a mission, and said, "Go, and utterly destroy the sinners, the Amalekites, and fight against them until they are consumed. Why then did you not obey the voice of the LORD? Why did you swoop down on the spoil, and do evil in the sight of the LORD?" Then Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he also has rejected you from being king." (NKJ)

1. Disobedience leads to deception. Saul said, "I have performed the commandment of the Lord."
2. Disobedience is often a result of our human reasoning.
3. A deceived person believes he is right even though he is in rebellion.
4. The disobedient blame other people.
5. To disobey God is to say we know more than God does.
6. All the ones Saul slew did not cancel out the few he did not slay.
7. We can live a life of sacrifice and self-denial and yet be in disobedience to God.

C. Rebellion is witchcraft.

1. The more a person rebels, the more control is given to demonic powers to control them. Disobedience to God's authority, whether direct or delegated, moves a person from the realm of light to the realm of darkness where Satan has access.
2. There is no freedom in rebellion, but increasing bondage and control. We choose rebellion, but we do not choose the results of it.
3. We cannot break with words what WE have caused by actions. WE can quote scriptures all day and do all kinds of "spiritual warfare." BUT UNLESS THERE IS REPENTANCE FROM SIN AND REBELLION, SATAN JUST LAUGHS! We cannot escape the consequences of sin without getting rid of the sin.
4. Obedience with a bad attitude reveals rebellion in our hearts.
5. Rebellion is revealed by our response to God's word. Is it restraint and law? Or is it delight and life? Do we hunger to know Him and please Him? Or are we only interested in how HE can PLEASE us!
 - a. Any sin can lead to a stronghold, whether it is an attitude such as pride, an emotion such as anger, or an action such as lying.
 - b. The following is the progression which sins of the flesh often follow, from first experience to the establishment of a stronghold.

EXAMPLE: Experience → Emotions → Thoughts → More emotions → More thoughts → Further Actions → Habit Patterns → Way of Life → Stronghold → Supportive Strongholds

Example of supportive stronghold: We commit adultery. We then lie to cover it up.

D. Four very dangerous inroads the enemy uses to bring us into bondage through disobedience. There are many more, but these are prevalent in our culture.

1. Rebellion: when we are out from under God given authority, we are open to assault with no way to be protected.

Example:

2. Occult involvement: delving into Satan's kingdom gives him the right to capture us. Satan has no mercy on the weak or ignorant.

Examples: horoscopes, palm reading, seances, TM, fortunetellers, astrology, white witchcraft, rock music, etc.

3. Drugs and alcohol: anything that yields our mind, emotions or will to an outside influence is a powerful avenue for Satan.

- The Greek word "pharmakeus" translated sorceries in Revelation 9:21 means a drug, i.e., spell-giving potion.

4. Sexual sins: sinning against our body by engaging in sexual activities outside of God's will invites strong demonic spirits to move in and take control.

Examples: pornography, homosexuality, masturbation, exhibitionism, lust, molestation, peeping tom, bestiality, seduction, rape, adultery, fornication, etc.

II. LEGAL GROUND: INNER VOWS

INNER VOW: “An inner vow is a deep inner decision (a determination) made with intense emotion in the heart and mind of a person in early life in response to a person, experience or desire.” It is a vow to oneself! (not to God or another person)

Matthew 5:33-37 “Again, you have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘you shall not swear falsely, but shall perform your oaths to the Lord.’ But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God’s throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. But let your ‘Yes’ be ‘Yes’ and your ‘No’ be ‘No,’ for whatever is more than these is from the evil one.” (NKJ)

A. INNER VOWS ARE BASED UPON JUDGMENTS THAT WE MAKE ABOUT (1) ANOTHER PERSON, (2) ABOUT OURSELVES OR (3) ABOUT GOD.

“Mom is cruel.” “Dad doesn’t care.” “My teacher isn’t fair.”

Matthew 7:7 “Judge not, that you be not judged. For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you.”

Romans 2:1 “Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.”

Romans 14:4 “Who are you to judge another’s servant? To his own master he stands or falls . . .”

Here God is clearly telling us not to judge another person. If we do, we will be judged in the same way we judge others. A judgment is more than an observation of someone’s behavior.

Judgments go to the motives and intents of the heart, and we are usually convinced that our judgment is the TRUTH!

I may judge:

- He hurt me on purpose.
- She is not even trying.
- If they really loved me, they would not do this.

B. AN INNER VOW IS A VOW MADE TO YOURSELF TO BE CARRIED OUT BY YOUR EFFORTS AND YOUR POWER.

1. This is a work of the flesh, and trust in the flesh brings a curse.

Jeremiah 17:5 "Thus says the Lord: 'Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord.'"

2. These decisions represent our highest level of commitment. They are decisions of the heart and may never even be spoken aloud.
3. On the surface some of the inner vows we make seem good. But because they totally shut out God's work in our lives in that area, we will develop sinful attitudes and patterns of behavior. We become like a train on its track; we cannot get off without repentance of the judgment and breaking the vows.

EXAMPLES:

- I will never be like my mother! (then we grow up and are just like her in the area we didn't like!)
- I will never marry a man like my father. (we grow up and marry someone just like him)
- I will never be like my abuser. (then we struggle with being abusive. 99.6% of abusers were themselves abused)
- I must have done something wrong to be abused. (Judgment against self which leads to a pattern of people being abusive to us)

Matthew 5:33-37: "Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but **shall perform your oaths** to the Lord.' But I say to you, do not swear at all: neither by heaven, for it is God's throne; nor by the earth, for it is His footstool; nor by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. Nor shall you swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. **But let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No.'** For whatever is more than these is from the evil one."

C. A DISTINCTIVE MARK OF AN INNER VOW IS THAT IT RESISTS THE NORMAL MATURING PROCESS.

- We do not grow out of them, though they are often totally forgotten. These vows tie us to the past in an unhealthy way. They bind us to a mindset or course of action which is fleshly and prevents our emotional or spiritual development. These deep inner decisions often determine how we feel about ourselves and about God, as well as others in authority. We often judge God that He is not a good God based on our experiences.

- We often judge ourselves that we are ONLY worthy of being rejected; then everywhere we go, people reject us, and we don't know why. A judgment literally defiles other people to fulfill our expectations. We may never speak them aloud, but the lies they are based on are planted deep, deep in our emotions. We are set on a life-course based on a super-limited child perspective of events.
- Inner vows imprison us to think and act as they have set the mold our life will shape to. We identify them by their "fruit," the repeated patterns in our lives. If the fruit of the vow is there, then chances are we made them.

D. THE RESULTS OF INNER VOWS MAY LIE DORMANT FOR YEARS UNTIL THE RIGHT SITUATION OR PERSON TRIGGERS THEM.

EXAMPLE: Judgments on our earthly Father are often transferred to our Heavenly Father even though we may not be aware!

EXAMPLE: Vows against physical brothers may greatly affect our relationships with spiritual brothers in the church.

EXAMPLE: Vows against our mothers will come into play with our wives. This is called the "Alpha Principle." Whatever hurt or problem which your mother and you have not dealt with will be transferred to your wife.

1. COMMON VOWS AGAINST ONESELF:

I am rejected.

Your experience was you were rejected as an infant/child. You make the judgment on yourself, "I am rejected." Then for the rest of your life, you have a pattern of being rejected by everyone. Then you believe the lie, "Something is wrong with me." So now, we have another vow in operation to solidify the stronghold in your life. Breaking the vows is a HUGE step to freedom!

This can be expanded into other vows/lies:

- I am not wanted.
- I am unloved.
- I am abandoned.
- Something is wrong with me.
- No one cares about me.
- I am alone.
- I will never be good enough.
- I am invisible.

- I am weak.
- I will never feel again. Feelings are bad.
- Everything is my fault.
- I will never love again, get married, etc.

2. COMMON VOWS AGAINST OTHERS:

- People, men, woman will hurt you.
- I can't trust anyone.
- I will never be like mom, dad, or _____.
- Christians are hypocrites.
- Authority is bad, abusive, etc.
- People aren't there for you, therefore I must take care of myself.
- Life is unfair.
- I have to please people .
- I have to earn love.
- I will never be angry like _____.
- The world is unsafe, therefore I must be in control.

3. COMMON VOWS AGAINST GOD/FATHER:

- God doesn't protect me.
- God doesn't provide for me.
- God isn't a good God.
- God let bad things happen to me.
- God doesn't love me.
- God is not there for me.
- I cannot trust God, I must do everything myself.
- God/Father abandoned me.

E. ONLY THE AUTHORITY OF GOD CAN BREAK INNER VOWS.

After a person repents from the judgment and vows, they also must, by the power of the holy spirit, break the sin patterns of thought and behavior that have resulted from the inner vows and bring their attitudes and actions into obedience to the word of God. The lies upon which the vows were based must be replaced with the truth.

III. LEGAL GROUND: CURSES

A. Curse is the opposite of blessing; the calling down of evil on someone or something; to afflict; a judgment.

1. The word "curse" is used 230 times in scripture.
2. Some curses have their origin in previous generations.
3. Often things we have done have compounded a curse from previous generations.
4. Some curses are solely a result of our choices.
5. Jesus has made provision for every curse to be broken through the cross.

However, we must realize that they are not AUTOMATICALLY broken just because we are Christians.

Galatians 3:10, 13-14

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curses; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."...Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

B. Ancestral Curses: (also called bloodline or generational curses)

1. These are curses that came from previous generations. They give us a strong bent or propensity toward certain sins and bondages.
2. We each were born sinners because of Adam's introduction of sin to the human race. Adam then produced "after his kind." That is the ancestral curse in its broadest meaning. (Romans 5:12-21) BUT our very own unique mixture of family bloodlines determines our particular "brand" of sin.

3. Children who are adopted or not reared by their natural parents show conclusively that more is involved in this than environment.
4. Four times in scripture God makes this statement: "I will visit the iniquities of the fathers to the third and fourth generation of those that hate me."

Exodus 20:5

You shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.

Exodus 34:7

Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, by no means clearing the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and the fourth generation.

Deuteronomy 5:9

You shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me." (NKJ)

Numbers 14:18

The LORD is long-suffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression; but He by no means clears the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation." (NKJ)

I Kings 21:29

See how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the calamity in his days. In the days of his son I will bring the calamity on his house." (NKJ)

Psalm 79:8

Oh, do not remember former iniquities against us! Let Your tender mercies come speedily to meet us, for we have been brought very low.” (NKJ)

Jeremiah 32:18

You show loving kindness to thousands, and repay the iniquity of the fathers into the bosom of their children after them—the Great, the Mighty God, whose name is the LORD of hosts.” (NKJ)

- a. The Hebrew word for “iniquity” is the word AVON or AVOWN, which means a bentness toward rebellion, perversity or moral evil.
 - b. Iniquity is more than an act of sin; it is a system of behavior or a way of life.
5. God’s blessings for the righteous go for 1000 generations.

Deuteronomy 7:9

Know therefore that the LORD your God is God; He is the faithful God, keeping His covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love Him and keep His commands.” (NIV)

Example: Max Jukes and Jonathan Edwards

The lives of Max Jukes and Jonathan Edwards are a study in contrast of the generational effects of blessings and curses:

JUKES

Married an unbeliever

560 descendants

300 died paupers

150 became criminals

EDWARDS

Married a godly woman

1394 descendants

295 graduated from college

65 college professors

17 convicted murders

3 U.S. senators

100 known drunkards

3 state governors

More than 1/2 of women were prostitutes.

30 judges

* The descendants of Max Jukes cost the U.S. government more than \$1.25 million in 19th century dollars.

100 lawyers

1 dean of a law school
56 practiced as physicians

1 dean of a medical school

75 military officers

100 well-known missionaries,
teachers, and authors

80 public officials (3 mayors of
large cities)

1 comptroller of the U.S. treasury

1 vice-president of the U.S.

* None of the descendants of the
Edward's family cost the U.S.
government money.

6. We defend and excuse our bloodline curses.

- a. Irish – anger and explosive temper
- b. French and Italian – immorality
- c. Scotch – drunkenness
- d. English – arrogance and conceit
- e. Germans – intellectual pride

7. We can trace characteristics through families:

- Pride and arrogance
- Depression
- Bitterness
- Manipulation
- Criminal behavior
- Alcoholism
- Immorality
- Illegitimacy
- Prejudice
- Chauvinism
- Divorce
- Insanity
- Suicides
- Physical illnesses
- Prostitution

8. How do bloodline curses operate?

- a. Familiar spirits in our family create strong propensities in us toward our ancestral sins.

Example: duck

- b. We buy into our natural desires. We sin in the areas we are drawn to. Thus we become guilty by our own choice. We are individually responsible before God.

Example: Abraham, Isaac, Jacob

9. The Nature of a Curse

- a. The one word that sums up the effects of a curse is frustration.

- b. This pattern of frustration may occur in various areas of our life, business, family, health and finances and will usually have a negative effect on our personal relationships.
- c. There are two features of curses:
 - 1. Their effect is seldom limited to the individual.
 - 2. Once they are released, they tend to continue from generation to generation until something happens to cancel their effect.

10. The main attitude that brings curses is rebellion.

C. Seven indications of a curse:

- 1. Mental and/or emotional breakdown

Deuteronomy 28:28

The LORD will strike you with madness and blindness and confusion of heart.
(NKJ)

- 2. Repeated or chronic sicknesses (especially if hereditary).

Deuteronomy 28: 22, 27, 35, 59

The LORD will strike you with consumption, with fever, with inflammation, with severe burning fever, with the sword, with scorching, and with mildew; they shall pursue you until you perish... The LORD will strike you with the boils of Egypt, with tumors, with the scab, and with the itch, from which you cannot be healed... The LORD will strike you in the knees and on the legs with severe boils which cannot be healed, and from the sole of your foot to the top of your head... then the LORD will bring upon you and your descendants extraordinary

plagues—great and prolonged plagues-and serious and prolonged sicknesses.
(NKJ)

3. Barrenness, a tendency to miscarry or related female problems.

Deuteronomy 28:18

Cursed shall be the fruit of your body and the produce of your land, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks. (NKJ)

4. Breakdown of marriage and family alienation.

Deuteronomy 28:41

You shall beget sons and daughters, but they shall not be yours; for they shall go into captivity. (NKJ)

Malachi 4:5-6

Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD. And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to **their** fathers, lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.” (NKJ)

5. Continuing financial insufficiency

Deuteronomy 28:17, 29, 47, 48

Cursed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl...And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall only be oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you...Because you did not serve the LORD your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything, therefore you shall serve your enemies, whom the LORD will send against you, in hunger, in thirst, in nakedness, and in

need of everything; and he will put a yoke of iron on your neck until He has destroyed you. (NKJ)

6. Being accident-prone

Deuteronomy 28:29

And you shall grope at noonday, as a blind man gropes in darkness; you shall not prosper in your ways; you shall be only oppressed and plundered continually, and no one shall save you. (NKJ)

7. A history of suicides and unnatural or untimely deaths.

Example: Ernest Hemingway family

Deuteronomy 28:26, 45, 53, 56

Your carcasses shall be food for all the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and no one shall frighten them away...Moreover all these curses shall come upon you and pursue and overtake you, until you are destroyed, because you did not obey the voice of the LORD your God, to keep His commandments and His statutes which He commanded you...You shall eat the fruit of your own body, the flesh of your sons and your daughters whom the LORD your God has given you, in the siege and desperate straits in which your enemy shall distress you. (NKJ)

THE PRESENCE OF ONLY ONE OR TWO OF THESE PROBLEMS WOULD NOT NECESSARILY BE SUFFICIENT BY ITSELF TO ESTABLISH CONCLUSIVELY THE WORKING OF A CURSE. BUT WHEN SEVERAL ARE PRESENT, OR ANY ONE OF THEM TENDS TO RECUR REPEATEDLY, THE PROBABILITY OF A CURSE INCREASES.

D. Conditions for enjoying God's blessings are:

1. Listening to God's voice.
2. Doing what He says.

THESE ARE THE UNCHANGING REQUIREMENTS FOR LIVING IN COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.

- **OLD COVENANT**

Deuteronomy 28:1-2 (Cause of blessings)

"If you diligently obey the voice of the Lord your God, to observe carefully all His commandments...all these blessings shall..."

- **NEW COVENANT**

John 10:27

My sheep hear my voice...and they follow Me.

Basic requirements still the same. Hearing the Lord's voice implies an intimate relationship with Him in which He can speak to each one of us personally. His communication is spirit-to-spirit. The Lord may speak through the Bible, or He may impart a word of direct revelation. Reading the Bible will not suffice unless its pages are transformed by the Holy Spirit into a living voice.

E. Some primary causes of curses in a person's life:

1. Curses (and blessings) are often transmitted by words.

James 3:6, 9-10 "The tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell. With it we bless God and curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be."

Proverbs 11:9 "The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor."

Proverbs 15:4 "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit."

Proverbs 18:21 "Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."

- a. Words spoken by people with relational authority, such as father, mother, husband, wife, teacher, priest or pastor.

Genesis 31:32 "With whomever you find your gods, do not let him live.

In the presence of our brethren, identify what I have of yours and take it with you. For Jacob did not know that Rachel had stolen them..." 35:16-19 "Then they journeyed from Bethel. And when there was but a little distance to go to Ephrath, Rachel labored in childbirth, and she had hard labor. Now it came to pass, when she was in hard labor, that the midwife said to her, Do not fear; you will have this son also. And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died), that she called his name Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin. So Rachel died and was buried on the way to Ephrath (that is, Bethlehem)." (NKJ)

- b. Negative idle words pronounced by anyone against themselves.

Matthew 12:36-37 "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned." (NKJ)

- c. Curses that are pronounced by witches, warlocks, witch doctors, or other occultists

Ezekiel 13:17-23 "Likewise, son of man, set your face against the daughters of your people, who prophesy out of their own heart; prophesy against them, and say, 'Thus says the Lord GOD: "Woe to the women who sew magic charms on their sleeves and make veils for the heads of people of every height to hunt souls! Will you hunt the souls of My people, and keep yourselves alive? And will you profane Me among My people for handfuls of barley and for pieces of bread, killing people who should not die, and keeping people alive who should not live, by your lying to My people who listen to lies? 'Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, I am against your magic charms by which you hunt souls there like birds. I will tear them from your arms, and let the souls go, the souls you hunt like birds. I will also tear off your veils and deliver My people out of your hand, and they shall no longer be as prey in your hand. Then you shall know that I am the LORD. Because with lies you have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and you have strengthened the hands of the wicked, so that he does not turn from his wicked way to save his life. Therefore you shall no longer envision futility nor practice divination; for I will deliver My people out of your hand, and you shall know that I am the LORD.'" (NKJ)

- d. Carnal talk directed against others

James 3:14-15 "But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there." (NKJ)

- e. Manipulating prayers that accuse or seek to control other people

Proverbs 28:9 "One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination." (NKJ)

2. At times, physical objects may become vehicles for the spiritual power of curses (or blessings) to be transmitted.

Exodus 20:4-5 (idols, images)

In the occult, objects are often used as the vehicles of curses.

(Examples of blessings: holy anointing oil, Lord's Supper elements, laying on of hands)

3. Acknowledging and/or worshipping false gods. God forbids the making of any kind of idol or image for religious purposes.

Exodus 20:1-5 "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before Me. You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the

iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.” (NKJ)

4. All kinds of involvement with the occult

I Samuel 15:23 “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, he also has rejected you from being king.” (NKJ)

Galatians 5:20-21 “...idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.” (NKJ)

5. Disobedience and disrespect for parents

Ephesians 6:1-3 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” (NKJ)

6. Inequity and oppression, especially aimed toward the feeble and the defenseless

Deuteronomy 27:17-19 “Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark. And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' Cursed is the one who makes the blind to wander off the road. And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' Cursed is the one who perverts the justice due the stranger, the fatherless, and widow. And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' ” (NKJ)

7. All forbidden, aberrant, or unlawful sexual relationships

Deuteronomy 27:20-23 "Cursed is the one who lies with his father's wife, because he has uncovered his father's bed.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' Cursed is the one who lies with any kind of animal. And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' Cursed is the one who lies with his sister, the daughter of his father or the daughter of his mother. And all the people shall say, 'Amen!' Cursed is the one who lies with his mother-in-law. And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'" (NKJ)

8. Anti-Semitism

Genesis 12:3 "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
(NKJ)

9. Dependence upon human strength, wisdom, and goodness

Jeremiah 17:5-6 "Thus says the LORD: Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the LORD. For he shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when good comes, but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land which is not inhabited." (NKJ)

10. Stealing and lying

Zechariah 5:1-4 "Then he said to me, 'This is the curse that goes out over the face of the whole earth: Every thief shall be expelled, according to this side of the scroll; and, Every perjurer shall be expelled, according to that side of it. I will send out the curse,' says the LORD of hosts; 'It shall enter the house of the thief and the house of the one who swears

falsely by My name. It shall remain in the midst of his house and consume it, with its timber and stones.' "(NKJ)

11. Withholding of tithes and offerings

Malachi 3:8-9 "Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, 'In what way have we robbed You?' In tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you have robbed Me, even this whole nation."
(NKJ)

12. Pledges or oaths that bind people to ungodly associations.

EXAMPLE: Freemasonry

Exodus 23:32 "You shall make no covenant with them, nor with their gods." (NKJ)

IV. LEGAL GROUND: EMOTIONAL TRAUMA OR HURTS

- A. Emotional trauma is any hurt or wound which causes lasting damage to the psychological, emotional or spiritual development of a person.
- B. Part of the ministry of Jesus was (and is) to heal the brokenhearted and bruised.

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent Me **to heal the brokenhearted**, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, **to set at liberty those who are bruised**.

C. Some examples of trauma:

1. abuse (physical, mental, sexual)
2. violence
3. mugging
4. accidents
5. abandonment
6. rape
7. rejection
8. fearful experiences
9. domination/control
10. molestation
11. divorce
12. death of a close family member
13. near death experiences

- D. Supernatural healing of emotional wounds by the power of God is absolutely essential to take away the ground of the enemy.

Isaiah 61:2-3

The Spirit of the lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; he has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.

1. All the talking in the world will not take the pain from our spirit. Only God can.
2. A wound in our spirit is an opening for the enemy in our life.
3. Unhealed hurts and trauma invite demonic forces to set up camp and build strongholds in my mind. Often such things as depression, anger, and self-pity reign in our life because we are wounded and have never healed.

- E. We ordinarily do one of three things with pain in our life.

1. We live in it and die in it – never getting any relief.
2. We stuff the pain from our conscious mind into our spirit so we can't feel the pain in our soul. We still have the pain in our spirit, but we numbly walk through life feeling little emotion. This explains why sometimes we wake up depressed, angry or sad, etc.
3. We walk through our pain to the other side of it and let Jesus heal us.

F. We have all been victimized in our life; however, it is our choice whether or not to remain a victim or get healed.

1. I am NOT responsible for what someone else does wrong to me, but I AM RESPONSIBLE FOR MY RESPONSE to it.
2. I can hold on to my hurt and hurt others by being a victim, or I can get healed of my hurt and help others. Hurting people hurt others; healed people heal others.
3. God is a restoring God. No matter how bruised and broken our lives are, God can take the piece, put them together and make us whole.

Joel 2:25

So I will restore to you the years that the swarming locust has eaten, the crawling locust, the consuming locust, and the chewing locust, my great army which I sent among you.

Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

E. We must be willing to forgive as God has forgiven us.

Colossians 3:13

Bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

F. We must forgive from our heart and not just from our head.

1. We must choose forgiveness with our will.
2. We must also let the offense go from our emotions.

G. To complete the cycle of forgiveness, we must bless and pray for the person who wronged us.

Matthew 5:44

But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.

Luke 6:28

Bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you.

Romans 12:14

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.

H. How do we really forgive someone?

1. Jesus gave us complete instructions in **Matthew 18:21-35**.

V. LEGAL GROUND: UNFORGIVENESS

A. Unforgiveness is the refusal to let go or to excuse the debt owed by another or to lift it away; to hold on to an offense.

B. Forgiveness is a command.

Matthew 6:14-15

For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses. (NKJ)

Mark 11:25-26

And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.

C. Unforgiveness brings a person to prison, torment and bondage.

Matthew 18:21-35

1. We often rationalize or deceive ourselves about unforgiveness.
2. we have no relief until we forgive.
3. We have put ourselves in prison.
4. The only alternative to forgiveness is bitterness.

D. Forgiveness is humanly impossible. Only with God's power can we truly forgive.

John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; **for without Me you can do nothing.**

Then Peter came to Him and said, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but seventy times seven. Therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. And when he had begun to settle accounts, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. But as he was not able to pay, his master commanded that he be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and that payment be made. The servant therefore fell down before him, saying, "Master, have patience with me, and I will pay you all." Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion, released him, and forgave him the debt. But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii; and he laid hands on him and took him by the throat, saying "Pay me what you owe!" So his fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him, saying, "Have patience with me, and I will pay you all." And he would not, but went and threw him into prison till he should pay the debt. So when his fellow servants saw what had been done, hey were very grieved, and came and told their master all that had been done. Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, "You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?" And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.

(a) Jesus said forgive from the heart. The heart is the inner man—a combination of spirit, mind and emotions. Forgiveness must include our spirit as well as soul.

(b) Man is a three-fold being: spirit, soul, body.

- a. Body: bone, flesh and skin
- b. Soul: mind, will and emotions

c. Spirit: communion, intuition (wisdom) and conscience

(c) It is out of my conscience that I forgive someone.

- 1) We all know right from wrong in our conscience because the law of God is written on our heart.

Hebrews 10:16

This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put My laws into their hearts.

2 Corinthians 3:3

Clearly you are an epistle of Christ, ministered by us, written not with ink but by the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tables of flesh, that is of the heart.

Psalms 40:8

I delight to do Your will, O my God, and Your law is within my heart.

- 2) The conscience is the doorway from the soul to the spirit.
- 3) I must release the offense from my spirit or conscience. If I do not, then my conscience condemns me.
- 4) To refuse to forgive, I must sear my conscience or harden my heart.

Hebrews 4:7

Again He designates a certain day, saying in David, "Today," after such a long time, as it has been said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

I Timothy 4:2

Speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.

2. Here are some indications that you have not completely forgiven:
 - a) I will forgive you, but you had better never do it again.
 - b) I will forgive you, but I will never want anything to do with you.
 - c) I just can't forgive because what you did has hurt me too deeply. I just can't forget it.
3. When I truly forgive you, I must be willing to have some kind of relationship with you, maybe not the same kind as before, but some kind.
4. Don't confuse forgiveness and trust.
 - a) I can forgive you and never trust you again.
 - b) Trust must be earned, but forgiveness is given.
5. Unforgiveness not only puts us in prison and torment, but it clogs up the channel of communication with God.

VII. WHAT IS A STRONGHOLD?

Through these five doors, Satan can have free access into our lives. The darkness we have chosen to fellowship with gives him the legal right to be there. He comes and systematically sets up STRONGHOLDS.

STRONGHOLD: "A place of fortification; a system of thinking (house of lies) contrary to the word of God which allows demonic spirits to hide and work in our lives undercover."

A. SATAN EXALTS ARGUMENTS AS BARRIERS AGAINST THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD.

1. Satan knows that if we believe the truth about God, then he is finished!

"And you shall know the Truth and the Truth will set you free." John 8:32

This word know is the same word that Adam KNEW Eve and she conceived. It is more than intellectual knowledge. It is knowing in your heart – an intimate knowledge.

2. Satan holds us in bondage with fear, bluffs and lies.

II Corinthians 10:3-6 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ." (NKJ)

1. Through these strongholds, Satan uses demonic spirits to:

- Deceive the mind.
- Enslave the will.
- Frustrate, harden and damage the emotions.
- Afflict the body.
- Defile the spirit.

B. TO EXPERIENCE FREEDOM AND TRANSFORMATION, WE MUST:

1. Remove the legal ground of the enemy through repentance and obedience.
2. Cast out the demonic spirits.
3. Pull down every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God. The lies we have believed must be exposed, dislodged and renounced.
4. Renew our minds with the truth.

Romans 12:1--2 "I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." (NKJ)

5. Bring every thought captive as we obey and walk out the truth.

IT IS OUR SPIRITUAL BIRTHRIGHT TO BE FREE!!!