

STOP THE HURT!

Radical Belief in God!

By
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Foreword

Of making many books there is no end says the sage of Ecclesiastes. This truth is verified by a visit to a Christian book store where it seems there is a book about every area of the Christian life or experience.

“So, why should I write another book on any subject when there are so many already written and published on just about any subject I might choose?” I asked myself.

“Because, it’s what I want you to do and the uniqueness of your experience with me,” was the answer in my spirit.

So this writing comes to you as an act of obedience and a hope that sharing my experiences and understandings in my walk with God up to this point will bless, help and instruct the readers.

The birthing of this book did not come easily; in fact, I have labored with this manuscript for some three years. Hopefully, the degree of resistance indicates the extent of impact it may have in some lives.

I can only say, “Make it so, Lord Jesus. Make it so.”

Isn't He still Alive?

“**G**od helps those who help themselves.”

Familiar advice to most of us. Some people believe this adage is in the Bible. Actually, it was first coined by Benjamin Franklin in Poor Richard's Almanac. It is not to be found in the Scriptures nor is it a scriptural principle. In the same vein, many Christians can be duped into looking for a chapter and verse in the book of Hezekiah. Of course, there is no book of Hezekiah.

Ignorance of God's Word is not something we should take lightly or jest about. God gave His written Word to be the source of everything we need, yet so many never tap into the myriad provisions of God's promises through His written word. Like computers never turned on, millions of Bibles lay unused.

Bibles and computers have many similarities, as do their users. Computers are powerful tools capable of doing many things, but many users do not know how to use all of their capabilities and do not even know what they are. It is the same for Bible owners and users—readers have limited knowledge of what is in their Bibles and little understanding of how to apply what they do know.

A Bible user can read about Jesus—what He taught and what He did—and be informed and inspired believing it was all for another time and another place. On the other hand, he or she can believe everything Jesus taught

is for present, personal application and live a miraculous life.

When Moses asked God who He was, God said, “I AM.” God was saying, “I am ever present. I am yesterday and I am tomorrow. I am the beginning and the ending. I am not limited by time or space. I AM.” The “I AM” said in the New Testament, “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”¹

Salvation is more than a one time past event that tickets us for a trip to Heaven. According to the Hebrew and Greek definitions, “salvation” means deliverance, preservation and safety. It is the present and ongoing experience of deliverance and preservation. It is not the experience of simply attending meetings and being nice. In the power of new life through Jesus Christ, a stream of life with no beginning and no ending enters the believer. This means everything Jesus said and did is brought into one's very being to believe and to act upon. It is not a question of, “What would Jesus do?” It is rather, “What is Jesus doing?” After all, isn't He still alive?

Present-day disciples of Jesus can perform all Jesus taught, practiced and promised if they so believe. Nothing has changed and nothing has passed away but the Old Covenant. In the New Covenant, initiated by Jesus, all things are possible. Jesus said, “The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I

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have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father.”²

Where did we learn to believe this was only for the future?

After years of attending a denominational church and serving as an ordained minister of the same, the reality of the contrast between what I read in the Bible and what I was experiencing finally sunk in. I could no longer preach and teach about what was but now was not. It was discouraging, to say the least, and hypocritical to tell it like it is. I could see no alternative but to leave the ministry—which I did—for almost ten years.

When the Lord apprehended me after allowing me to run loose and “bottom-out,” He used some of the most unlikely people to guide me into the flow of the Holy Spirit. For someone who had only known “get saved and get baptized in water,” the experience of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit was spectacular. Right away miraculous occurrences became a part of my new life. The Bible came alive and was present reality.

When the Lord reconfirmed His calling for ministry on my life, I determined through His promptings to find and teach the practical applications of His Word for personal living. The Word should and must become flesh. The Word should work in one’s life. If it is so important that God had it written, it must be so. If it is so, then how do I apply it in my life?

Recently, a national survey was conducted by Barna Research revealing that only 4% of Christian adults have a biblical worldview as the basis of their decision-making. The report stated: “The primary reason that people do not act like Jesus is because they do not think like Jesus. Behavior stems from what we think—our attitudes, beliefs, values and opinions. Although

most people own a Bible and know some of its content, our research found that most Americans have little idea how to integrate core biblical principles to form a unified and meaningful response to the challenges and opportunities of life. We’re often more concerned with survival amidst chaos than with experiencing truth and significance.”

The research indicated that everyone has a worldview, but relatively few people have a biblical worldview—even among devoutly religious people.³

After analyzing more than 10,000 personal interviews, Barna determined that, “Contradictions and confusion permeate the spiritual conditions of the nation.” He went on to state, “America’s spiritual confusion undoubtedly relates to the fact that most people own a Bible but few know what’s in it. Research showing that 4% of adults, and just 9% of born-again Christians, have a biblical worldview sheds light on the distorted viewpoints that reign in the U.S.”⁴

I began writing this book long before I discovered the results of Barna’s surveys. They verify what I have encountered after several years of ministering across America and other countries.

What the surveys do not reveal are the effects of such ignorance and confusion in the personal lives of such Christians. Most find it difficult, if not impossible, to see any relevance of biblical principles beyond having some kind of assurance about life after death and something to hang on to during a crisis situation. Consequently, their lives portray very little contrast from the rest of the world except for the fact that they attend church meetings and try to be good people.

It does not have to be this way! God’s principles are powerful if we integrate them

**The Word should
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into our lives. Believers need not live in the same arena of problems and hurts as the rest of the human race. It is never too late. One is never too old. People of all ages and levels of intelligence have learned to use computers effectively. The same can be true for the Bible.

What key biblical principles do we need to know and how do we assimilate them into our personal life? The answers are here.

Will it really make any difference? Yes, not only in your life, but also in the lives of the others you touch.

I believe most Christians desire to live an overcoming life, but do not know how to do so. My prayer, desire and mission is to equip believers for such Kingdom living. May you, through the ministry of this book, not only see what, but also how and then do.

If you do, you will be changed and blessed.

(Endnotes)

1 II Corinthians 6:2

2 John 14:12 NLB

3 Barna Research Online 12/11/2003, www.barna.org

Barna.org

4 IBID

Too Much Hurt

“Ignorance is bliss,” is another often quoted phrase. Someone has said it means: “If you are unaware of a situation you can’t worry about it; not knowing, you can blindly walk into a situation with a smile on your face.” “What you don’t know won’t hurt you,” is another saying. Although such thinking is foolish, many people harbor such attitudes, particularly Christians.

I have received many calls from believers in Jesus Christ who wanted know what and why something was coming into their bedrooms at night and molesting them sexually. Most had no idea what it was or what to do about it. To most of these believers, it has been a wake-up call about the reality of demon activity.

Others have come seeking help for chronic problems in their personal lives or families. They had sought every possible Christian resource to no avail while some had come to suspect such, most were surprised when they saw that their problem was the work of demons. Many Christian people do not know they are being tormented or exercised by demons. Some may know it, but do not want to admit it.

Ignorance can be anything but bliss. What you don’t know can hurt you.

At one point in His ministry, Jesus sent seventy followers to minister in the places He would soon be ministering Himself. They returned excited about how even the demons obeyed them when they used His name. “Yes,”

He said, “I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”¹ The New Living Translation says it this way: “Yes,” he told them, “I saw Satan falling from heaven as a flash of lightning! And I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you.”

Obviously the followers already knew they had authority over demons, but Jesus wanted to emphasize why He had given it. He wanted them to understand the Heavenly Father’s primary strategy for spiritual warfare. Although it is much practiced today, we have no indication of Jesus binding demonic powers over entire towns or cities. In fact, as He gazed upon the city of Jerusalem, He only lamented as He spoke to the city. He did not decree the principality of Jerusalem to be bound. Why? It would have been an excellent opportunity to demonstrate what has become present-day spiritual warfare.

We must understand where demonic principalities get their power to do what they do. God has placed the power of death and life in the human tongue—even in the tongue of those who do not know that they have this power.² Those with any kind of earthly authority, such as fathers, have both blessing and cursing authority. What a father says to

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or about his seed (children) is always played out in their lives. This is true in the natural or Adams family, as well as the church family.

I have ministered to hundreds of Christians living in defeat because their natural father kept telling them they were “no good,” “stupid” or would “never amount to anything.” Their lives changed when these word curses were broken by prayer. On the other hand, a father’s spoken blessing is even more powerful to grant a son or daughter a fulfilled life.

Demonic influence is applied through hearts and tongues for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.³ Principalities and powers are given their strength from the hearts and words of the people in any given area. As long as Satan can have any kind of place in a majority of lives, he can oppress and do his works. Remember that Jesus’ ministry was hindered in his own home town because of the unbelief of the majority of the townspeople.⁴

Cities and towns have particular problems, groups have disagreements and churches have splits because individuals are influenced by principalities and powers not seen with the natural or carnal eye. The primary strategy of spiritual warfare is one-on-one ministry. As the individuals of a particular area, group or church are freed from demonic influence in their lives, the greater evil spiritual powers are weakened. Eventually, they lose their grip. We are told not to wrestle with flesh and blood, but we do.⁵

Dealing with the demons in individual lives is a vital part of making the way for the Kingdom of God to come.⁶ Since this is not believed and practiced, there is much unnecessary hurt everywhere. Regardless of what Jesus promised, many believers are hurting. Hurting in their bodies. Hurting in

their emotions. Hurting in their marriages. Hurting about their children. Hurting with their finances. There is too much hurt and far too little truthful understanding of what to do about it.

To believe we have authority over Satan is one thing, but it is another thing to believe that nothing shall hurt or injure us! Is such victory possible and, if so, how do we appropriate it?

The Apostle Paul wrote, “For all the promises of God in him (Jesus) are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”⁷ Yes, such victory is possible. God makes good on every promise; however, we must keep in mind an important aspect about the committed Christian walk. Although we are not ordained to be hurt by Satan, God has prescribed tribulation or suffering to perfect every true believer in Christ.

God’s Word tells us there are two kinds of pain in a believer’s life. “Remember,” wrote Peter, “It is better to suffer for doing good, if that is what God wants, than to suffer for doing wrong!”⁸ He goes on to say, “So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. For if you are willing to suffer for Christ, you have decided to stop sinning. And you won’t spend the rest of your life chasing after evil desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God.”⁹

Obviously, there are two sources of hurt or pain: pain that comes from doing wrong or sinning and pain because of doing right.

When we break the principles of God’s Word knowingly or ignorantly, we open the door for Satan and the demons to inflict torment

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and pain in our lives. The enemy is a legalist. He knows God's law very well, probably better than any of us. God allows him to do this for the purpose of drawing us back on to the right path.

There is a stream of teaching in the church telling people God would never make anyone sick. This is basically true because we know Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil,¹⁰ and Jesus was continually healing the sick. Ultimately, though, when we understand the sovereignty of God, we know whatever the enemy does is totally under God's scrutiny and authority. We might say, "For everything under the sun, the buck stops with the Creator." Would God allow one of His own to hurt or be sick? Ask Job.¹¹ Ask the Apostle Paul.¹²

The Word of God tells us there is hurt and pain which God ordains for the righteous. There is not only the baptism in water, but also in the Holy Spirit and fire. The Way well walked involves the pain of change which requires us to go into the fires of tribulation.

The pressures of tribulation are not soothing.

The inevitable persecutions of a committed life are not comforting.

Conviction by the Holy Spirit is very painful to any sincere believer.

Even Jesus, the Son of God, had to learn obedience through the things He suffered,¹³ and it is no different for any true son of God today. God in His sovereignty ordains sufferings to mature and complete us. James counsels us to count it all joy because it will bring us into perfection.¹⁴

Obviously, Jesus was not referring to the suffering ordained by the Father when He gave the assurance that nothing would hurt or injure us.

I am not talking about the hurt that comes from the training of the Lord in this book. If

a believer in Christ has never experienced anything better, how can he know it is possible? Years of coping with unnecessary hurt leaves one dulled and indifferent to anything better. I want to help you diagnose and eradicate the hurt that is completely unnecessary for your life.

Jesus spoke the truth. "Nothing should by any means hurt you."

We can embrace this promise, implement the authority and enjoy an overcoming life.

Our life will then be a witness of contrast to the rest of the world by

- ▶ Our character,
- ▶ Our countenance
- ▶ Our life's conclusion.

We will become

- ▶ Prophetic instead of pathetic;
- ▶ Triumphant and not trampled;
- ▶ More than conquerors rather than crushed.

The Lord spoke to Joshua before he led Israel into the promised land: "I command you—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go!"¹⁵

So says He unto you and me.

(Endnotes)

1 Luke 10: 18-19 KJV

2 Proverbs 18:21

3 Matt. 12:34

4 Mark 6:1-3

5 Ephesians 6:12

6 Luke 11:20

7 II Corinthians 1:20-22

8 I Peter 3:17 NLT

9 I Peter 4:1-2 NLT

10 I John 3:8

11 Job 16:12-17;

12 II Corinthians 12:7-10

13 Hebrews 5:8

14 James 1:2-4

15 Joshua 1:9

The Choice is Ours

In late 2003, I received a call from a man who had a ministry in England. He and his wife had been ministering healing and deliverance to Christians and had written a book about the same. Although they had both come to believe and understand much about God's ways of administering His Word to the hurting, they were not able to appropriate what they knew into their own lives. Their marriage of ten years was in shambles, and they wanted help.

They asked to come to the United States and specifically to us for ministry. When I asked why they felt to come so far at such a great expense, their answer was one I've heard again and again.

"We have searched far and wide throughout our country, and can't find a church or ministry that really knows how to deal with our needs," they said. "No one understands or wants to address demonic issues which we know we have."

The flow of such seekers has continued for years. We have had people come from as far away as Hong Kong. All were looking for help they couldn't find in their local area. Most were dealing with critical problems. Physical maladies, mental oppressions, emotional pain and spiritual dryness to list but a few. Without exception, their problems had been caused by demonic activity in their lives.

Sometimes a prayer with a rebuke to

demons over the phone has brought a measure of relief, but years of experience have shown that this is not enough.

Manifestation of problems in our lives are symptomatic. We might find relief through deliverance prayer, but unless we get to the root in our core being or heart, the symptoms will eventually return. Some have rejected the ministry of deliverance because they do not understand this principle. They have experienced this extra-local type of ministry only to have their problem come back. They do not understand that deliverance is not a ministry event, but a lifestyle choice. Many true followers of Jesus Christ are hurting because of the lack of knowledge about these matters and the principles of God's Word.

Hosea gave this word to God's people:

"Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel! The Lord has filed a lawsuit against you, saying: 'There is no faithfulness, no kindness, no knowledge of God in your land. You curse and lie and kill and steal and commit adultery. There is violence everywhere, with one murder after another. That is why your land is not producing. It is filled with sadness, and all living things are becoming sick and dying. Even the animals, birds, and fish have begun to disappear.'

"Don't point your finger at someone else and try to pass the blame! Look, you priests, my complaint is with you! As a sentence for your

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crimes, you will stumble in broad daylight, just as you might at night, and so will your false prophets. And I will destroy your mother, Israel. My people are being destroyed because they don't know me. It is all your fault, you priests, for you yourselves refuse to know me. Now I refuse to recognize you as my priests. Since you have forgotten the laws of your God, I will forget to bless your children. The more priests there are, the more they sin against me. They have exchanged the glory of God for the disgrace of idols.”¹

Lest we experience the same judgments, there are some things we (including all ministers) must understand:

We must understand Satan is a legalist.

He knows his rights and demands them. If we open the door to him through sin or breaking God's law, Satan will come into our lives stealing, killing and destroying.

We must understand he comes in like a flood.

Not necessarily like a deluge that sweeps us away, but Satan will begin operating like a slowly rising tide that eventually floods our life and home.² This is the reason many fail to detect his activity. After a while, we become acclimated and learn to cope like the frog in a tub of water that is slowly heated so he doesn't realize he is being cooked.

We must understand God's principles in His Word.

The law has not passed away as many teach and believe. Jesus came to fulfill the law that it might be written in our hearts. If there were no law, we would not know sin,³ but we know very well murder is wrong and it is the law of God

that we should not kill. In the New Covenant, the commandments have taken on a new form. They are no longer written on stone tablets, but on the fleshly tablets of our hearts.⁴ It is no longer the ten commandments, but the ten promises. The Father has made a way through Jesus to write His nature into our hearts. It is no longer conformity, but character. The Lord promises a change in our nature through transformation instead of imitation.

We must understand our authority as believers.

From Jesus' teaching in Luke 10:17-19, we see the enemy, as a type of serpent or scorpion, can attack believers with the power and ability to hurt us. The original text word for the power of the enemy in Luke 10:19 is “dunamis,”

which speaks of inherent power and ability. The word Jesus uses for the power He gives to us is “exousia.” This word is more accurately translated as “authority,” but it also means power of choice or liberty of doing as one pleases. In other words, when we receive the power Jesus promised in Acts 2, we

also are given the option to use it or not.

Satan and his forces have the power and ability to hurt or injure us, but Jesus has given us the option and authority to stop them. Jesus uses the word “tread” in regards to how we are to exercise our exousia. The word, which is 3961 in Strong's Concordance, means to trample, to crush with the feet or to advance by setting foot upon. We can if we will.

I have a powerful engine in my car. It has enough power to crash through a wall or crush a person to death, but I have the key to the ignition, a steering wheel and a brake. It is up to me not to allow the vehicle to get out of hand and hurt somebody. My car has dunamis power, but I have the exousia power to control

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what it does.

Satan has the dunamis power to hurt and devour us, but we have the exousia power of authority to stop and defeat him.

Authority is of no value if not exercised. We must become aggressive as believers—aggressive in the spiritual realm. We are called to be warriors against the enemy. Our enemies are not individuals but what is working in them and what is working in our own souls. We can pray and ask the Father to do this or that, but there is another kind of praying in which we command, bind and rebuke the unclean spiritual entities. We pray standing on earth asking, but we also pray seated in heavenly places with Jesus Christ commanding.

We must understand we are not to pray like the angels.

In Jude 9, the angel Michael prayed, “The Lord rebuke you (Satan).”

Angels do not have the authority of the disciples of Jesus Christ. When we pray or rebuke, we commission the ministering spirits or angels to carry out our commands. Jesus gave the authority to us, not to them. He tells us to use it.

We must not draw back from any of the enemy’s devices; it can be fatal. God’s Word declares that, “Cursed is he who keeps back his sword from blood.”⁵ There comes a time to plunge the sword of the Spirit into the enemy’s heart and not shrink back. There is no place for passivity in the Kingdom of God. We are to be participants in the arena, not spectators in the pews.

We must understand that the axe must be laid to the root.

Like branches and leaves on a tree, many of

our problems can be chopped off for a period of time, but unless the root is destroyed, they will return. Complete and enduring deliverance and healing require root ministry.⁶ Doors of demonization are usually opened early in life, often while a person is still in the womb. When a fetus is unwanted or a child abused, the influence of such rejection will color every aspect of their ensuing life. Personal actions, emotions and decisions will be influenced. Bitterness, fear, rebellion, lust and withdrawal will feed from this root, but total liberty will not come until the

Holy Spirit’s axe of deliverance and healing is laid to it.

Laura (not her real name) began coming to our weekly ministry sessions. During the teaching time, she sat with her head down and wrestled with her tormented five year old son. I learned she had been married to a professional man, but the marriage had come apart as she struggled with deep mental problems. It was obvious she had been a very attractive lady, and she told me her parents had pushed her into participating in beauty contests as a teen. She had won some of the beauty pageants. Laura was also well educated, but her life was in shambles, and she was on the verge of insanity.

Although she had been through psychotherapy, shock treatments, injections of so-called truth serum and much psychological counseling, she had found no relief or healing. As we ministered to her for a few weeks, the Holy Spirit began to give discernment about the root of Laura’s problems. Because what we discerned was so traumatic, my wife and I waited for the Lord’s timing to tell her.

Finally, one evening as we were praying with Laura, we knew it was the time to reveal what we had been shown. When we told her that she had been molested sexually, she immediately

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agreed and said that she had already begun to realize the same thing. Amazingly, her memory was unlocked from years of blocked memory, and she was able to admit her father had come into her bedroom and fondle her until she left home at age 17. Up to that point, she had no recall of such abuse in spite of all the previous attempts of the medical system. The fact that Laura's father was a professional man and played in a symphony orchestra almost seemed inconceivable.

After the root of rejection through molestation and abuse was driven-out and destroyed, Laura's life began to change dramatically. Her countenance lifted. She found a good job in her profession and later married a minister.

The axe was laid to the root! Only the cross of Jesus emits the power to free us from such indwelling destroyers and heal us from their damage.

Jeremiah was given a message to deliver to the prophets and priests of Judah : "They offer superficial treatments for my people's mortal wound. They give assurances of peace when all is war."⁷ In the New King James it says: "For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of My people slightly, saying, 'Peace, peace!' when there is no peace." The Lord was saying their ministry was only a "whitewash." Alleviating symptoms and not going to the root of the problem is only a whitewash.

Jesus talks again about serpents and scorpions in Luke 11, when His disciples asked Him to teach them to pray. After giving them what we recite today as the "Lord's Prayer," he continued to instruct them about what their attitude should be as they pray.⁸ He concludes His teaching by saying:

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for

bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"⁹

- ▶ Be assertive when you pray.
- ▶ Believe you will receive what you ask.
- ▶ Be proactive—Ask! Seek! Knock!

Promised results require aggressiveness. The mystery of this parable is in the contrasts between what a believer asks for, but expects to receive. When we pray with understanding and confidence, we receive what we ask. When we pray with doubt, unbelief and timidity, we open the door for the father of evil to hurt us with his answers.

This parable is about more than prayer. Stones, serpents and scorpions are more than just idle comparisons. We know from Jesus' response when the seventy returned that we obviously contend with serpents and scorpions. Evidently, He is not referring to the actual physical creatures, but kinds of spiritual entities that can hurt us. We are given authority to trample on these things so they cannot hurt us. If we don't trample on them, they will certainly stumble, bite and sting us.

Victorious Christian living is not a life of stumbling over stones, suffering serpents' bites and scorpions' stings.

What did Jesus mean and what are we to do about it?

(Endnotes)

1 Hosea 4:1-7

2 Isaiah 59:19

3 Romans 7:7

4 Jeremiah 31:31-34; Heb. 8:8-12

5 Jeremiah 48:10

6 Matt. 3:10

7 Jeremiah 8:11 NLT

8 Luke 11:5-10

9 Luke 11:9-13

Understanding Mysteries

Through the years of teaching various churches and groups, I have often been surprised and grieved to discover how little basic Bible knowledge people have. We may blame those who teach, but ultimately the responsibility is on the individual believer.¹ No wonder folks struggle with believing about healing and deliverance. Without foundational understanding, much of the Scriptures are unresolved mysteries.

The writer of Hebrews encountered this obstacle and found it hard to explain what he was writing because his listeners were dull of hearing.² The New Living Translation is bluntly clear:

“There is so much more we would like to say about this. But you don’t seem to listen, so it’s hard to make you understand. You have been Christians a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things a beginner must learn about the Scriptures. You are like babies who drink only milk and cannot eat solid food. And a person who is living on milk isn’t very far along in the Christian life and doesn’t know much about doing what is right. Solid food is for those who are mature, who have trained themselves to recognize the difference between right and wrong and then do what is right.”

To better understand how to assimilate

the Word of God into our lives, we need to understand some matters of interpretation of the Bible.

It is important for us to understand the types and shadows in the Bible, especially the Old Testament. God often speaks and teaches through types and shadows. Obviously He believes one picture is worth a thousand words. The Lord gives us these pictures or symbols to help us understand how He works in our lives.

A type or shadow of something is not the real thing, but a symbol or representation of it. The real thing is called the “anti-type.” The classic definition of the word “anti” in English is “instead of,” or “against;” whereas, the word, “anti”, in Greek is better translated, “in place of” or “substitute.” An example would be the word “antichrist,” which means one who takes the place of Christ—a counterfeit or substitute. Another instance is Jesus as the anti-type or real thing in regards to the types and shadows in the Old Testament.

The land of Canaan, or the promised land, is a type of our soul—our land of inheritance. The giants in Canaan are types of the demons which must be attacked and driven out to obtain dominion. God has left the work of conquest to us. He guarantees victory, but only if we will fight. The choice is ours.

God does everything in threes. Being triune in nature, He also gives progressive revelation in threes. We find this principle vividly presented

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in the layout of the Tabernacle of Moses. It consists of three parts: Outer Court, Holy Place and Holiest of Holies. As one moves from the Outer Court, through the Holy Place into the Holiest of Holies, it is a type of our progressive walk with God the Father and our growth in understanding His nature.

The Outer Court is a type and shadow of our salvation experience where Jesus is the Way. The brazen altar where the animals were sacrificed is a type of the holocaust of the cross where Jesus became our complete and final sacrifice. The laver with water for washing is a type of water baptism.

The Holy Place, which is inside the tent, represents our Pentecostal experience where we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The candlesticks represent the Holy Spirit's illumination as opposed to natural intellect. The showbread is a type of spiritual food not available in the Outer Court. The Altar of Incense represents worship and prayer in the Spirit beyond the capabilities of the carnal man.³

The Holiest of Holies is a type of the transforming experience of the manifestation of the Sons of God.⁴ The Mercy Seat and Overshadowing Cherubim speak of the ultimate safety and provision in the arms of our loving Father God.

There is so much more we could say here, but I believe the point is made.

Jesus taught with prophetic symbols or parables so the truth was hidden. He made it very clear to His disciples that most who heard Him teach would not be able to understand. They would not have ears to hear, eyes to see or understanding hearts. He said to the disciples, "Unto you it has been given to understand the mysteries of the Kingdom."⁵ As He taught about the stones, serpents and scorpions, He was using such parables.

May God also give us to understand the

mysteries of the Kingdom and what Jesus meant as He taught about the bread, fishes and eggs. There is strong revelation here about what our commitment should be in order that we "in-flesh" the Word of God into our lives and trample the devil under our feet. These are principles for overcoming and not continuing to live in unnecessary hurt.

(Endnotes)

1 II Timothy 2:15

2 Hebrews 5:11

3 John 4:23

4 Romans 8:18-25

5 Matthew 13:11

Daily Bread

**“Ask, and it will be given to you.”
Luke 11:9**

**“Give us this day our daily bread.”
Matthew 11:6**

**“If a son asks for bread from any
father among you, will he give him a
stone?” Luke 11:11**

One of the first lessons God wanted Israel to learn after leading them into the wilderness was to trust Him for their daily sustenance. After dealing with their bitterness at Marah,¹ God led them into the Sin Desert where they began to worry and complain about starving to death. It was there God made a promise to feed them every day by providing food each morning. What they called “manna” appeared each morning for those who would rise and gather it. Those who still could not completely trust God and gathered more than enough found their leftovers rotting with maggots the next day.²

Obviously God wanted His people to live in daily trust and certainly, not to be worrying about basic things like food.

Jesus teaches us to have the same attitude in the New Covenant saying:

“Don’t worry about having enough food or drink or clothing. Why be like the pagans who

are so deeply concerned about these things? Your heavenly Father already knows all your needs, and he will give you all you need from day to day if you live for Him and make the Kingdom of God your primary concern. So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”³

Why worry about necessities when the Heavenly Father has promised He will take care of them? All we need to do is ask.

We ask God because He tells us to. The reason He does this may not be apparent to our immediate understanding. We do it in obedience to His command.

There comes a time in all our lives when we feel compelled to ask God for something. Never had I cried out to God more than when my seventeen month old grandson was struck by a car and lay on life support for four days. There was nowhere else to turn with this desperate need. Situations like this are obvious.

But the Heavenly Father wants us to come to Him daily and not wait until we are in a crisis situation. He wants us to live in total dependency upon His supply and His guidance.

As the poor, who inherit the earth, we must come to the Heavenly Father, admit spiritual poverty and ask for bread. This bread represents more than simple physical food.

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The bread Jesus is speaking about represents our sustenance, our vital requirements, our essential provision. It is the staff or necessity of our physical, mental and spiritual life.

Bread typifies a core need for our existence. God, the Father, desires to supply every essential in our life. He wants us to admit our dependence and ask Him daily for these essentials.

In the model or Lord's Prayer, Jesus teaches us to pray, "Give us this day our daily bread." As a sincere disciple, we daily ask for this bread and become proactive in our Christian walk. We choose the spiritual food of the Kingdom of God. Jesus said we will not be given a stone when we do this.

More importantly, we daily ask for the Lord's sustenance as admission of our total trust in Him. Simply said, until we trust Him totally and completely for everything in our life, He is neither Lord nor God. Whatever we believe has the power in our lives to supply what we need is a god to us. We make the Heavenly Father our God by placing our total trust in Him for all things great and small.

Certainly we trust Him for our life after death. But do we trust Him in our life before death? To trust Him for our food, to trust Him for our safety, to trust Him for guidance, to trust Him with our loved ones, to trust Him for our physical healing is what He wants and commands. Israel in the wilderness would not do this, and it seems Israel as the church will not either.

Do you?

Will you?

Personally, I have found the Heavenly Father faithful for over twenty-six years. Since He told me I would live by the Gospel, He has

never failed to supply even more than I need.

When I chose to turn my physical body over to His care, He has never failed to heal me. I have not needed the services of a medical doctor since that day.

As I have sought deliverance in various areas in my personal life, He has taken me from victory to victory.

I have decided to be an "AMEN" believer. For whatever God wants, however He wants to do it and whatever His Word reveals, I say, "AMEN! I agree!"

"And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will accept. When you think of what He has done for you, is this too much to ask? Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect His will really is."⁴

This life with Jesus and the Father God begins with more than a decision. Anyone can make a decision and not follow through. You may have made a decision years ago, but what have you done about it since then?

Total commitment is just the beginning of the true life in Jesus Christ. The definition of commitment in the Oxford Dictionary is: "An engagement or obligation that restricts freedom of action." The American Heritage Dictionary says commitment is: "The state of being bound emotionally or intellectually to a course of action or to another person or persons."

The Apostle Paul spoke of being a bondservant—one bound not only by the Roman government in his later years of life, but also by his total commitment to His Lord

**Total commitment is
just the beginning of
the true life in Jesus
Christ**

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and Master Jesus Christ.⁵

Jesus made it clear (for those who are willing to hear and see) about what is required to be a real disciple when He said, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone: but if it dies, it produces much grain. He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.”⁶

Each of us is one of those grains. Once we finally fall and die, trust is no longer an issue. It is who we are because of who He is in us.

Refusing or failing to exercise daily total dependence on the Father leaves us vulnerable for hurt. Such disobedience becomes a stone in our path and we are bound to stumble over it.

“And the Scriptures also say, ‘He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that will make them fall.’ They stumble because they do not listen to God’s word or obey it, and so they meet the fate that has been planned for them.”⁷

We must also ask for another kind of bread. When Israel was terrified by the report of giants in the land of Canaan, Joshua and Caleb refuted the evil report of the other ten spies by declaring that the giants were their bread.⁸ To take the wonderful promised land, required going to war against these monsters, but God had removed their protection and promised His people victory over them. To fear them and not deal with them was rebellion.

When a Greek woman asked Jesus to cast a demon out of her daughter, His response was, “Let the children be filled first, for it is not good to take the children’s bread and throw it to the little dogs.”⁹ In other words, deliverance is basic sustenance—healthy, digestible food that even the children can safely ingest. Whoever calls on the Name of Lord can receive this bread.¹⁰

Regardless of how straightforward Jesus was with the casting out of demons and how

basic deliverance was in His ministry, from the beginning, people have stumbled in refusal and rebellion denying its validity for today.

There are other stones that cause us to stumble in our walk with Christ, but if we listen to God’s word and obey it, we can stop the hurt.

(Endnotes)

1 Exodus 15:22-27

2 Exodus 16

3 Matthew 6:31-34 NLT

4 Romans 12:1-2 NLT

5 Ephesians 4:1; Philippians 1:12-14

6 John 12:24-25

7 I Peter 2:8 NLT

8 Numbers 14:9

9 Mark 7:27

10 Joel 2:32

Stumbling Stones

**“Ask, and it will be given to you.”
Luke 11:9**

**“If a son asks for bread from any
father among you, will he give him a
stone?” Luke 11:11**

If we don't ask, we have made a decision. No decision is a decision. Passivity and presumption have no place in the Kingdom. The Greek word for devil is “diabolos” which actually means, “to throw across.” When we decline, either by failure or refusal, to daily choose and activate total dependence on Father God, the evil one will eventually provide a stone in place of the bread of life. He throws the stone across our path to stumble us in hopes we will fall. When we stumble, we get hurt—sometimes critically.

The Greek word for stumble is skandalon from which we get our word “scandalous.”

This word also has the meanings of occasion to fall, thing that offends or a trap. Another form of the word means make to offend, and can also mean to entice to sin or cause a person to distrust and desert one whom he ought to trust and obey.

Many stumble because they refuse total dependence on the Father. Pride and ego will not allow them to rely on something other than their own strength and devices.

Others are offended by the offense of the cross with all of its suffering, blood and dealing with Satan and the demons. Jesus, himself, becomes a stumbling block to them as Peter says: “And the Scriptures also say, ‘He is the stone that makes people stumble, the rock that will make them fall.’ They stumble because they will not listen to God’s word or obey it, and so they meet the fate that has been planned for them.”¹

Jesus spoke of other stumbling stones that dampen our determination, distort our decisions and divert our daily living.

The natural or “Adam’s family”

And he said unto another, “Follow me.” But he said, “Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father.” Jesus said unto him, “Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God.”²

Although we confess we are “born again,” we do not comprehend all the implications of this confession. Actually, we have died to one family (the Adams Family) that we may live in another (God the Father’s Family). In spite of this reality, we allow dad and mom, brothers and sisters, uncles and aunts and grandpas and grandmas to take precedence over God and His family in our life. The ungodly soul bonds, familiar spirits and ancestral curses work to hinder and divert us if we let them.³

Throughout the Bible, we find instances

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where God separated His called-out ones from their natural families in order to train them in His way and will. Abram was told to, “Get out of his country, from his kindred and his father’s house.”⁴ Joseph was plucked from the home of his doting father to be trained for God’s purposes. This is a powerful principle in the ways and callings of God.

Jesus clearly demonstrated the way for us in the following incident:

“While He was still talking to the multitudes, behold, His mother and brothers stood outside, seeking to speak with Him. Then one said to Him, ‘Look, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside, seeking to speak with You.’ But He answered and said to the one who told Him, ‘Who is my mother and who are My brothers?’ And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.’” – Matthew 12:46-50

In actuality, Jesus came to destroy the family, as we have known it. Did He not say:

“Do not think that I came to bring peace on earth. I did not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to ‘set a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law’; ‘and ‘a man’s enemies will be those of his own household.’ He who loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of Me. And he who loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of Me. And he who does not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of Me. He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for my sake will find it.”⁵

These are strong words, or as the disciples might say, “Hard sayings,” nevertheless, the demands of the Kingdom are great and strait is

this gate and narrow is the way.

And another also said, “Lord, I will follow You, but let me first go and bid them farewell who are at my house.” But Jesus said to him, “No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.”⁶

When we cling to our natural family and continue to draw our identity and life from them, the influence will cause us to make wrong decisions in regard to our commitment to the Lord. The dearest parent or relative may offer ungodly counsel or want to maintain some kind of control in our lives. Since we are now “bought with a price” and should be choosing to eat the bread of doing the will of the Heavenly Father, we must now turn away from such.

This does not necessarily mean we must cease all contact with our natural family. In the spiritual realm, there can be ungodly soul bonds that must be broken. Sometimes there is a bond between a mother and son or daughter that operates like a spiritual

umbilical cord. Everything the offspring thinks or does is influenced or controlled by mother. Such controlling influence can even extend from the grave. These invisible bonds have great influence on us until we properly deal with them.

Our career or job

“And another said, (to Jesus) ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I am going to test them. I ask you to have me excused.’”⁷

When we enter the Kingdom, it becomes our career. From this point on, our job is simply an assignment within the Kingdom. God may put us in various places for His purposes. It may be for our training, or it may be for someone to cross our path that we are to help, but we are now servants of the Most High God to do His

In actuality, Jesus came to destroy the family as we have known it.

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bidding.

Jobs, with enticing benefits, have blinded and stumbled many from discerning the will of God and the Body of Christ. There may come a time to “throw down your net” and simply go where the Master bids, trusting Him to provide the bread. That is where the real bread is anyway. When invited to the greatest opportunity in the world, we do not want to get behind the wrong plow and plow in the wrong field.

Through the years of ministry, I have encountered several who have been called to serve the Lord in some special capacity, but would not take the step of faith to throw down the net of their present source of income and go do what they had been asked to do. I have also been grieved to see those who were definitely called to be taught and equipped in our local body of believers be pulled away to some far-off place because of the enticement of greener pastures financially.

On the other hand, there are those who do not have a clear commission from the Lord, but presumptuously try to go into ministry because they do not want the daily responsibility of their family or finances. The Apostle Paul had to deal with such people in Thessalonica.

“Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and wasting time meddling in other people’s business. In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we appeal to such people—no, we command them: Settle down and get to work. Earn your own living.”⁸

Some choose the ministry through influence of family or as a career choice. Good works can be achieved by the uncalled choosers, but the effect of such unanointed ministry usually renders sleep-inducing teachings and unbelieving inspiring results.

Few there be who find their way through the wilderness of life’s work, job choices and money matters to the “All these things will be added unto you” promise of God.⁹

Finances and possessions

“But they all with one accord began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a piece of ground, and I must go and see it. I ask you to have me excused.’”¹⁰

On more than one occasion, I have ministered to Christians who would not let go of some valued possession although it was causing obvious entanglements and oppression in their lives. One lady, in particular, had helped make payments on her deceased mother’s house. As a consequence, she became tangled in a family squabble about possession of the place. Although the old house was in desperate need of repair, this lady would not give it up and let it go. She would travel back and forth to receive ministry, but insisted on squatting in her mother’s old homestead. The breakthrough did not come for her in ministry due to her bitterness and unwillingness to heed the counsel of the Lord to let it go.

Property, inheritances, stocks, titles, retirement funds and degrees can be stones of stumbling in one’s personal call to follow Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

“Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, ‘Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?’ So Jesus said to him, ‘Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. You know the commandments: do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, do not defraud, Honor your father and your mother.’ And he answered and said to Him, ‘Teacher, all

When invited to the greatest opportunity in the world, we do not want to get behind the wrong plow....

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these things I have kept from my youth.' Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, 'One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me.' But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions."¹¹

We have often been led to believe the so-called "rich young ruler," was an exceptional case, and that Jesus was putting His finger on an individual problem in his life. The truth is that all believers are called to do the same. This prompted Peter's response:

"Then Peter began to say to Him, 'See, we have left all and followed You.'"

Which, in turn, prompted Jesus' promise:

"Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time—houses and brothers and sisters and mothers and children and lands, with persecutions—and in the age to come, eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last first."¹²

Whatever or whoever on earth takes precedent over the plan and purpose of God in one's life is not only a stone of stumbling, but also another god.

Romance and/or marriage

"Still another said, 'I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.'"¹³

How many have truly believed romance and/or marriage to be an essential provision for their life and a key to their true happiness? What looks like life, living and loving may not be that at all. This can be a subtle stumbling stone.

More than once, I have seen a single sister or brother begin to get serious about their Christian walk. Healing and deliverance began flowing in their lives. Bondages were breaking, they were growing in the Word of God, and God was obviously beginning to bless them. Then, along came a suitor or sweetheart who started attending church gatherings with them and making great promises of change in their personal and spiritual life. The sister or brother would come to others and me in the body and say, "I know he or she needs some deliverance and healing, but I just know he or she is the right one." Instead of new found love changing, thought, the brother or sister is wooed away from their first love. It never works.

I am not saying love and romance are of the devil; on the contrary, all believers are involved in the greatest love story in all creation instigated by God Himself. What I am saying is that Satan will prey on a saint's rejection, loneliness or lust by luring them away from their quest for the bread of life. In some instances, brethren have come to me after a few weeks of marriage confessing they missed the Lord's will by yoking up with a new soul mate or spouse. Some have not come back, having been drawn away from the path of life.

During the time I was Director of the 700 Club in Dallas, I met some men who were new in their walk with the Lord, but zealous and hungry in the Spirit. We began to meet weekly for prayer, fellowship and encouragement.

One of the brothers in particular was especially fervent in his newfound commitment. He had been deeply involved in all the things of the world including a season of working with a nationally known rock band, but now he was a shining light for Jesus Christ.

The brother had been divorced for a while, but he met a woman at a church service and they

**What looks like life,
living and loving may
not be that at all.**

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began to date. He was so unlearned in biblical principles, he was surprised and embarrassed to discover it was unscriptural to co-habit with a woman who was not one's wife.

Soon he came to me asking what I thought about him marrying this woman. She was attractive and pleasant, but her heart was not after God like the brother's. My impression from the Holy Spirit was, "Don't do this," and I told my friend so.

Nonetheless, he married the woman and soon problems began. The couple came several times for ministry, but eventually separated and divorced. The precious brother became very discouraged and began to withdraw from fellowship. He eventually moved away from the area and was not attending any church. Years later I heard he had remarried and was going to church gatherings again.

In situations of love and romance where emotions are kindled, the mind of Christ flowing through a local body of believers is the safest source of counsel. It is better to be "knit in" before being "knit to." The proven love and established trust in a true body of believers provides the multitude of counselors to help keep us on the Highway of Holiness.¹⁴

When a single one is willing to wait forever on God's provision, then, and only then, can the individual be certain that he or she is not being motivated by rejection or lust in a romantic situation.

Once a believer has stumbled in the areas of family, career, finances or romance, he is prone to fall into deception about his spiritual status. He is also certainly vulnerable to hurt from the enemy. If you are being hurt, honestly look at the choices you have made in these areas of your Christian life. These are pivotal decisions for a sincerely committed life in Jesus Christ.

In each of these areas there are consequences of choice that have life-long influences. Only ministry through the Lord Jesus Christ can

remove the deep hurt from stumbling. He will not only heal the hurt, but also deliver the repentant one from the damage of ungodly choices.

The good news is that we never have to be without hope.

(Endnotes)

1 I Peter 2:8 NLT

2 Luke 9:59

3 My book Breaking Free briefly explains soul ties and curses and has model prayers to help break these hindrances. You may freely obtain this book by going to our website on the Internet at <http://www.thekeym.org> or contacting our ministry office.

4 Genesis 12:1

5 Matthew 10:34-39

6 Luke 9:61

7 Luke 14:19

8 II Thessalonians 3:11-12

9 Matthew 6:33

10 Luke 14:18

11 Mark 10:17-22

12 Mark 10:28-31

13 Luke 14:20

14 Isaiah 35:8

Fishing for Principles

“Or if he (a son) asks for a fish, will he (any father) give him a serpent instead of a fish?” Luke 11:11

“Behold, I have given you the authority to trample on serpents.” Luke 10:19

For almost four decades of my life I felt the Bible was an important book and certainly worthy of reverence and study. I did not doubt it was inspired by God and contained inspiring guidelines for living. But in all honesty, to me, it was difficult to understand and mostly boring to read. If I felt I needed direction or help, I turned to psychology, my own insight and advice from others. I could see little correlation between my present life and things written in the Bible. Like many people I encounter today, I was convinced “times have changed” and some of the biblical principles could not be applied to our modern culture and society.

The stream of influence and attitude from seminary to sanctuary in my inherited denomination helped me maintain this “sensible” paradigm. The traditional saying was: “God has given you a mind. Use it!” The emphasis was upon balance and acceptability. In other words, if I was going to be effective in the ministry, I needed man’s approval.

Everything changed when I finally received the Holy Spirit’s baptism into my life.

After my hiatus from the church, God put a fire in me to embrace His Word as fully and completely as possible. I decided if Jesus was the Word, then the Word was the way. It was the truth. It was the life. Either I believed it or not. I decided to believe it for the rest of my life.

Okay. So I believe God’s Word is truth or reality. Now what? Well, what one really believes he practices. To paraphrase what James said: “You say you believe or have faith. Show me.”¹

I began to pray about how to really live according to God’s Word. That was when I began to see biblical principles. I began to see guidelines in Jesus’ teachings I never had seen before. Previously, I could only see the Christian life as list of do’s and don’ts. One had to try to figure out what Jesus would do in each situation and try to do the same. Performance hopefully produced piety. In this new dimension of Christian living, piety produced performance.

My first big lesson was in regard to possessions, especially automobiles.

Most of us know there is nothing like a nice, comfortable, dependable vehicle—especially one that’s paid for. But for me, for years, cars had been a nemesis in my life, that is until the

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Lord began revealing some principles in His Word.

When I returned to the ministry, my family had a Chevrolet Monte Carlo with several dents, dings and well over a hundred thousand miles on it. Sometimes it would start and sometimes it would not.

We moved into a house that had been vacant for ten years to pastor a new group, and someone gave us another old car in worse condition than our Chevy. This one had a huge dent in the right rear door. It was dark brown and burned almost as much oil as gasoline. Nonetheless, we were now a two car family for the first time in our lives.

It was embarrassing to drive either one of these vehicles and especially to pull up in front of someone's house in such a thing. I grew to detest each "pile of junk" as I called them.

But one day I was fishing around in the Bible and found something in Luke 16:

"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?"²

While meditating on this passage, I began to see why I was having such problems with vehicles. The ones I had were the least desirable anyone could want, but they were mine and I had not been faithful with them. Mostly, I cursed them and gave them the least attention possible to keep them running until the day God gave me something better. I realize now I would have been waiting a whole lot longer if I had not caught the principle Jesus was teaching here.

I took some of our limited cash, went to the

auto store and bought oil, an oil filter, polish, wax and floor mats for the old Ford Torino with the smashed-in door. I changed the oil (what little it had after leaking on the driveway) and oil filter. I washed the scum off, polished and waxed the old thing. I cleaned out and polished the interior and installed the new floor mats. Finally, I stood and blessed that old car saying it was a blessing from God and thanked the Father for it as I continued doing until the day God gave something better. The truth is, I still thank the Lord for the old car that taught me such a lesson.

Would you believe that within the following year I was given six vehicles, two of them brand new and one almost new? Since that time God has blessed us with vehicles; in fact, I had to start giving some away.

Early one Sunday morning, a man whom I hardly knew called me and said he had been praying and the Lord told him to give me a new van for our traveling ministry. I was shocked at the offer and asked the Christian brother,

"What's the catch?"

"No strings attached," he said. "Go pick out what you want and come by my office, and I will give you a check.

It took a few weeks for the reality of this miracle to sink in, but I finally went shopping and found the van I believed for and had it customized to my specifications. The brother wrote a check to me for the entire cost and added a thousand dollars for the insurance.

That van took my wife and me all over the country to teach and minister deliverance. What a blessing it was!

I went fishing in God's Word, and there I caught and ate one of His principles.

A principle is defined as a comprehensive and fundamental law, doctrine, or assumption;

**God's principles are
God's laws**

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a rule or code of conduct. God's principles are God's laws. Although many Christians believe God's laws have passed away in the New Covenant, in reality they are as relevant as ever. This, too, I learned personally by fishing in the Word for avenues of victory in my own life and others'.

In a study of Deuteronomy 28, I began to realize some of the curses God said would happen to those who broke His law were still operating in me and my family's life. Why were some of these negative things still happening to us? After all, we were now committed believers and under the New Covenant. Behold, all the old things were supposed to pass away. But the reality was, they had not.

Many said one should ignore these things. Just pray, read the Bible, go to church and they will eventually go away. Just love God, because He loves you some said. I was doing all that, but they didn't go away.

While seeking God for an effective answer, it dawned on me that curses were indeed still working in my life. For instance, most of my family on my Dad's side had died of cancer and at the same age. I realized that the same struggle as theirs, with lack and needs, was also working in my life. In spite of multiple abilities, success was sabotaged time after time. There were other areas of defeat also.

I realized it was up to me to do something about it. The breakthroughs did not come automatically. One could wait around forever. I had to appropriate them. It was time to begin working out my salvation.³

It became apparent there were some definite steps to be taken to obtain the promised freedom.

First: Sin or breaking of God's law causes a consequence or curse.

The sin may have been committed by

an ancestor or forefather. Nevertheless, it only takes simple observation to see what is "running" in our life or family. As we say, "It runs in the family." At this point, we admit the trespass, whether by ourselves or our ancestors, and ask for forgiveness.⁴ In the case of ancestral sin, often the Holy Spirit will reveal what the particular sin was in order that the request for forgiveness be specific.

Second: We must appropriate and activate what Jesus did for us on the cross.

"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." –Galatians 3:13

We do this by speaking out and saying, "I break this curse, in the Name of Jesus!"

Third: We must tell any demonic entity to leave our lives.

Whether it be cancer, poverty or, what the world calls, "bad luck," we speak to it and tell it to leave. When my earthly father believed this, he broke the curse of cancer off his life and is now 88 years of age. His dad, four brothers and one sister all died of cancer in their mid-sixties.

Fourth: We must fill the void of demonic vacancy by speaking the blessings of the promises of our Heavenly Father.

The void must be filled with the truth of God's Word written and spoken. The Lord provides deliverance from infirmities and He also provides divine health. We must appropriate the deliverance of Christ, but we must also call for the blessings promised. It is not automatic.

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Faith actions such as this are the real stuff of the true Christian life and the Kingdom of God.

Obviously, Jesus liked to serve fish at the meals He provided. Twice He fed multitudes of followers bread and fish.⁵ The last meal He fed the disciples was bread and fish.⁶ The fish were given as physical provision. Jesus instructed Peter to hook a fish with a coin in its mouth for the provision to pay their temple taxes.⁷ This indicates fish are symbols of physical provision. The principles we draw out of God's Word become our source and means of what we need physically, mentally and emotionally.

Early disciples used the symbol of a fish as their code of identification. The Greek word for fish, *ichthys*, is an acronym for *Iesous Christos Theou Hyios Soter*, which is translated Jesus, Christ, of God, the Son, Saviour. Certainly, Jesus is the provision for everything we need body, soul and spirit.

Jesus used fishing as a model for the work of His disciples when He said to them, "Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men."⁸ The last miracle recorded in the Gospel of John was the enormous catch of fish when the disciples obeyed Jesus' instructions after fishing all night and catching nothing. Fish are types of spiritual food, and can be symbolic of men and nations, but the emphasis remains on the process of catching the fish (seeking them) and what is done with them after being caught.

Because of disobedience and rebellion, Jonah was swallowed by a great fish. There are several other types and shadows here, but the point is to see that disregard for the principles of God's Word can cause you to find yourself in a dark constricted place. Jonah, whose name means dove, had to go through a type of hell before he would admit his error and cry out for God's deliverance.⁹ Sometimes it takes a ride on God's "submarine" for us to admit we are going the wrong way.

Fish draw their life-sustaining oxygen

from the water. They live their lives immersed in the water. They cannot live very long out of the water. So it is for God's true people. We immerse ourselves in the water of God's word and draw our breath from there. If we try to survive out of that water, we will surely encounter the serpent and, like Eve, hear what he has to say.

(Endnotes)

1 James 2:18

2 Luke 16:10-12 NKJ

3 Philippians 2:12

4 Exodus 20:5; Nehemiah 9:2

5 Matthew 14:19; 15:32

6 John 21:9

7 Matthew 17:27

8 Matthew 4:19

9 Jonah 2

The Wisdom of the Serpent

“Or if he (a son) asks for a fish, will he (any father) give him a serpent instead of a fish?” Luke 11:11

“Behold, I have given you the authority to trample on serpents.” Luke 10:19

In my early teen years, I was blessed to spend time with my grandfather Bell. He was an earthy, gentle man who loved his little farm and liked to fish. One evening he, my dad, and I went fishing in a creek near his home in northern Illinois. We had been fishing for some time without any bites when my grandfather's fishing pole began to jerk. He grabbed the pole and began to reel in what apparently was a sizable catch. As he jerked his catch out of the water, up came what looked like a large snake, about five feet long. He yelled and flipped it over his head and back into the weeds behind the creek bank. We all were shocked at what he had apparently caught. Hesitantly, we followed the line into the weeds only to find a large eel. My grandfather was so upset he decided we would clean and eat the thing, which we did. It was the only catch that night.

As I recall, we never asked God for fish before we went fishing that evening. I now believe if we had prayed for fish, we would

not have caught a serpent. Like our experience on the family fishing trip, lack of knowledge about God's ways leaves many people coming up with serpents in their lives instead of fish.

Jesus made it clear when we ask for a fish, we will not be given a serpent. Sons of God are fishermen. They go seeking/fishing for the principles in God's Word expecting to catch something that will nourish their spirit, soul and body.

When we fail to fish in the right water, we will find ourselves catching serpents. A diet of this reptilian meat is not the nourishment for eternal life. Adam and Eve's diet was fine until the serpent enticed them to partake of the wrong food. By his cunning suggestions, he was able to lure them into death.

When Israel murmured against God and Moses after a great victory over the Canaanites in Hormah, God used serpents as judgment against them. As they journeyed from Mount Hor to go around the land of Edom, they became impatient and discouraged and complained about God's provision for them. The bite of these serpents was fatal. The people asked Moses to pray that the serpents be taken away, but God would not remove them. He had another remedy. The anti-venom was in a look. Looking at a brass replica of the serpents on top of a pole brought healing.¹ Amazingly, some would not so much as look and be healed.

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Since serpents are types of demons, God was saying: “I am not going to simply remove these things. They will still be among you and will still bite you. The remedy is not denial of their existence, but to see them for what they are and accept the remedy I have provided.” Jesus never ignored Satan or the demons. He always acknowledged their existence and authority. He always confronted them with His authority and sent them packing. Jesus is our pattern. We are guided by what the Word shows us He did.

When we don’t seek our guidance in the water of the Word of God, the “wise sage of this world” is right there to inject his poisonous venom into our minds. One deadly effect of this venom today is causing many to believe Christians can’t have demons. Such abnegation leaves a believer susceptible to all kinds of insidious demonic inroads into his life. Nowhere in the Bible does it say a Christian can’t have a demon. In fact as God-designed spirit containers, Christians are exceptionally capable of harboring all kinds of spirits.

If we do not choose the lifestyle of living by God’s truth and principles, we are defaulted to live by worldly wisdom and principles. With his slyness, the serpent has convinced many that this is the best way. In fact, many are deceived to believe the ways of the world system are actually the blessings and provisions of God, and to really follow the way of God’s Word is weird or going too far in their Christianity.

Some actually believe the saying, “God helps those who help themselves,” is in the Bible. The truth is, “God helps those who seek Him and His ways.” He wants us to depend on Him for everything, but the serpent comes to convince us that God has given us what we need through the world system. In other words, “You don’t need God for everything, just some

things” and, I might add, “certainly not the practical stuff.” As a consequence, most look to the caduceus on the medical pole instead of the stripes on Jesus.

The Greek word *kosmos* in the New Testament means by derivation ‘the ordered world’ and it was this world of which Jesus was speaking when he said it would not profit a man anything if he gained the whole of it and lost his soul in the process (Mt. 16:26). It was all the kingdoms of this world that the devil offered to give to Christ if He would worship him (Mt. 4:8–9). It is, however, an axiom of the Bible that this world of human beings, the climax of the divine creation, the world that God made especially to reflect His glory, is now in rebellion against Him.

Through the transgression of one man, sin has entered into it (Rom. 5:18) with universal consequences. It has become, as a result, a disordered world in the grip of the evil one (1 Jn. 5:19). It is not the world as God intended it to be, but ‘this world’ set over against

God, following its own wisdom and living by the light of its own reason (1 Cor. 1:21), not recognizing the Source of all true life and illumination (Jn. 1:10).²

Jesus said if anyone asks for a fish, which symbolizes the wisdom and principles in God’s Word, he or she would not be given a serpent, which represents the wisdom of this present world. When the serpent bites, it injects a poison that distorts the truth or reality of God’s Word and weakens the ability to fully and completely trust God’s promises and provisions.

The serpent’s venom does not cause instant death. As in the case of Adam and Eve, they did not immediately die physically. As the poison induces a relaxing compromise with truth, death throws its shadow over the spirit man. Hosts of this venom would not say they

If we do not chose the lifestyle of living by God’s principles, we are defaulted to live by worldly wisdom and principles.

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do not believe in God, they just do not need Him to take care of everything in their lives. They become convinced they know better than to be so foolish to look to God for everything. After all, Heaven is a place to go to someday, but it's not for now. Meanwhile, one just has to cope and hope someday to fly away to some pie in the sky all the while praying, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven."³

What really is this serpent and what are the effects of his venom?

The Hebrew word for serpent contains the idea of exceptional shrewdness. (Rabbinic legend has it that the serpent walked erect.) He had the power of speech and talked freely with his victim. He was wily, insidious, crafty.⁴ Today, he works his deceit by distorting the Word of God as he did with Eve in the garden. In his craftiness, he doesn't bluntly deny the truth of God's Word. He weaves his own interpretation into the minds of those who are beguiled by his sly enticements.

Education and Intellect

Early in its history, the church saw the need for education and founded most of the world's best universities. Education is vital to the Kingdom of God, but it must be based on the truth of God's Word and a relationship with the true and living God. Without Jesus Christ as its focus, education is a spiritual killer. Ever so subtly, the venom of humanism began infecting our educational system. Some Christians are being hurt everyday because they trust in their intellect and what they have been taught in this system. They are conducting their lives according to worldly principles and not Kingdom principles. This is exactly why the Apostle Paul wrote Romans 12: 2, which says, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do, and you will know how good and pleasing

and perfect His will really is." (NLT)

Environment and Home Territory

Environment or home territory can be toxic to the spiritual life. Jesus said, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family." Because of this, He could not do much ministry in His own hometown. So much potential has gone unrealized because those called would not let go of their roots. In cities and towns throughout the earth are those stifled in their calling because they would not leave their country, their relatives, or their natural father's house, and go to the land that God would show them. All of them are hurting and unhappy in various ways. They will not "fish" where God tells them.

Familiarity with principalities and powers of one's native area often dulls the ability to discern the subtle work of these spirits. The demonic powers of a local area become familiar with every weakness in one's personal life, and they will use the information to influence and oppress the individual's life. Without spiritual discernment, believers are unaware of these invisible spiritual forces and are subtly swayed away from God's perfect will for their lives. This is why God usually moves His committed ones away from their country, kindred and father's house.⁵

During the period I was away from the Lord and out of the ministry, I moved my family to a town in East Texas to take a position as administrative assistant in a treatment center for emotionally disturbed children and teenagers. It was during this time I fell deeply into a lifestyle of immorality and almost destroyed my marriage and home.

About three years after moving back to the Dallas/Fort Worth area, God graciously apprehended me with a transformation I had not experienced in my entire life, including

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the time I was in the ministry and pastoring. It was so wonderful, I wanted to go back to East Texas and share my experience with some of my old drinking buddies and friends. In spite of my seemingly righteous desire, the Lord would not allow it.

After receiving the Holy Spirit baptism, I was praying one day and had a spiritual vision. I saw a strange-looking creature about sixty feet tall with the face of an old man. This thing was standing in the middle of an area among three towns in the East Texas area I had frequented during my days rebelling against the Lord. I asked the Lord what this was, and he said, "The Prince of East Texas." I immediately realized the influence of this principality and the effect it once had on my life and knew it was the reason the Lord had not let me venture back to this area where I had been under its sway. I was not yet strong enough to deal with it.

A few years later a pastor friend, who had been a roommate in college, invited me to come to his denominational church and teach about the Holy Spirit. This church was in one of the towns in East Texas where I had a past. The Lord impressed me to go, but as I went, I began to pray against the Prince of East Texas. I told him, "I know you, and you know me and I bind you from any hindrances."

I ministered Sunday morning and a few responded to receive the Holy Spirit. Sunday evening my friend asked me to speak to the youth group that met before the evening service. I was impressed to really challenge them with all or nothing commitment. It was strong.

I was scheduled to teach again at the evening service. I had no clear prompting from the Holy Spirit about what to teach, but I had learned by this time to wait on God and trust that the guidance would come.

During the time of singing, one of the teenagers who was a choir member stood up and asked to say something. This young man, who was the son of the music director, took the microphone and began to confess his sins and repent openly to the congregation. I could tell the congregation was stunned for such a thing to happen in their church.

The Holy Spirit began to move among the congregation, and others began to stand and also publicly repent. One young woman confessed she had drugs in her car and went out to destroy them. A teen-age girl confessed openly to her parents that she had had an abortion without their knowledge. People began moving around the sanctuary asking others for forgiveness. My friend and I had never witnessed anything like this!

The following week, the high school group began prayer meetings at their school and the report was that fifty teens had given their hearts to the Lord Jesus. They were such an excited group, the principal approached my pastor friend and asked him to help keep matters from getting out of control.

The principality had been weakened and the Holy Spirit was able to move in power and might because a remnant of individual believers in that community confessed their sins and repented. Also, God had given me authority over what, at one time, held sway over my life.

The apostle John said, "Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared."⁶ John also said, "If a prophet does not acknowledge Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist. You have heard that he is going to come into the world, and he is already here."⁷

**God had given me
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sway over my life.**

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As we said previously, the word “antichrist” is often understood to mean that which is against Christ. The word is better rendered as that which is instead of Christ or takes the place of Christ. An antichrist is a substitute for the real Christ—a counterfeit Christ.

The serpent is a type of antichrist, offering us something to take the place of everything God promises to provide. The list is complete:

contemporary superstitions are more sophisticated. Superstitions are substitutions for the Word of God whether they be “old wives tales” or the logical wisdom of this present world system.

Substituting our superstitions and deceptions for the truth of God’s Word is an open door for the enemy to hurt us, although we may not be aware of the source of our

GOD’S PROVISION	THE SERPENT’S SUBSTITUTE
Divine Healing	Medical relief of symptoms through drugs or surgery
Wisdom	Educational system based on carnal knowledge and constricted by scientific objectivity
Protection	Insurance, law enforcement and 911
Personal relationship	Religion with rituals, traditions and clergy/laity
Recreation and creativeness through praise and worship	Fantasy entertainment and superficial games with humanly contrived rules of conduct
Prosperity	Worship of Mammon with all the entanglements of new styles, gadgets and debt loads

I grew up around people who were superstitious: Don’t walk under a ladder; if you break a mirror you will have seven years of bad luck; if you spill the salt, you will have bad luck if you don’t throw some over your left shoulder; a baby can be marked in the womb by what a mother might see—the list goes on and on. I never heard anyone speak of the protection and promises of God’s Word. Everyone believed more in the superstitions than the Living Word of God.

It is still mostly so today, only our

pain. When we do not want to break patterns of thought and beliefs because of the pain of change, we leave ourselves exposed for the pain of the serpent’s bite not realizing the pain of change brings life while the pain of the serpent’s bite brings death.

So Jesus said to ask for a fish and you will not be given a serpent. The Lord will not bring the fish to you. You must go get it. As in the case of Peter, there could be a coin in the mouth of the fish you catch.

If you have ever gone fishing, you know it

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requires quite an effort. You must know where to go, what bait to use, what equipment to use. Fish usually bite best early in the morning. In other words, it requires effort to pull out the principles in the water of God's Word. Finally, even after the fish is caught, it must be prepared and eaten if it is to do us any good.

So it is with the Word of God. We will talk more about this in the final chapter.

Yes, God does things in threes, so there are three dimensions of our quest for victory over hurt. We daily ask for bread and are given God's provision. We search His Word seeking truth that transforms our lifestyle. We are not to stop there. The next step is to begin knocking for doors of revelation to be opened to us.

There are some believers who won't stop short, but will go on.

What about You?

(Endnotes)

1 Number 21:1-9

2 Wood, D. R. W., & Marshall, I. H. (1996).
New Bible dictionary (3rd ed. /). Leicester,
England; Downers Grove, Ill.: Inter- Varsity Press.

3 Matthew 6:10

4 Pfeiffer, C. F. 1962. The Wycliffe Bible
commentary : Old Testament . Moody Press:
Chicago

5 Genesis 12:1

6 I John 2:1 NLT

7 I John 2:22 NLT

Breaking the Egg

“If a son asks for (from any father among us) an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?” Luke 11:12

“Behold, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions.” Luke 10:19

The year was 1977. Following a life changing encounter with the Lord after almost ten years wandering in the wilderness of bitterness and rebellion, there were indications I was to return to the ministry. At first, the thought seemed ludicrous. After such depths of sin, why would God ever want me in the ministry again, and how could He possibly use me after all my defiance?

One Sunday evening, the pastor at the large charismatic church our family was attending, invited a minister from Las Vegas to be a guest speaker. Although the worship and praise flowed until a late hour, our pastor asked if we wanted the guest ministry to preach anyway. Everyone shouted, “Yes!”

The brother began with a story of his early days of ministry. He and his wife were living in a garage apartment, had no money and had run out of food. In desperation, he took a walk and began to talk to God about their situation. As he was walking in the alleyway behind their

place, he found a nest with some chicken eggs. Looking around and finding no apparent owner, he gathered the eggs and took them home for a meal. For the next days, the eggs were there for him and his wife’s supply. Finally, one day someone knocked on their door and handed them a sum of money. A door of ministry also opened for him. From that day, there were no more eggs in the nest.

At this point in our life, I found this testimony very encouraging. We, too, were seeking God’s will and living day to day by miraculous supply.

At the end of the service, the brother, who now had a large church in Las Vegas, began to minister in the gift of the Word of Knowledge. He would point to someone in the congregation and give them a word of encouragement or direction that only the Holy Spirit could have known they needed. Finally, he said, “There is someone here who is seeking God about the call of ministry on his life. God wants you to know it is real and He wants you back in the ministry.”

My heart leaped! Does he mean me? Is that word for me? Well, I really knew it was.

After the close of the service, I made my way to the front of the church and asked the brother if he felt the word he had given was for me. He looked me in the eye and said, “Yes, my brother, that word was for you.”

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He cracked the egg for me.

The dictionary says revelation is: “Something revealed, especially a dramatic disclosure of something not previously known or realized.” I had not really known for sure that God was still calling me into the ministry until that night. I had a revelation.

One of the great wonders of God’s Word is its dimension of revelation knowledge. You can be reading a familiar passage for the tenth or twentieth time, and all at once, the Holy Spirit breathes upon that passage and you see something wonderful in it you had never seen before. You have been given revelation knowledge!

Such an amazing experience with the Word of God is a blessing. It infuses life and becomes a part of one’s self. The Word is incarnated!

Probably most of us have never specifically asked God to give us an egg. I doubt the brother walking the alleyway was praying, “Oh, God. Give us some eggs.” Obviously Jesus had something symbolic in mind when He said, “Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?”

An egg is composed of three layers: the outer shell, the white and the yolk. The shell must be cracked and broken open in order to partake of its food part. If we are too violent, we will splatter its contents and not be able to use them.

The egg represents another level of God’s provision. This level is divine revelation. God’s revelation is given on at least three levels. Like the outer shell of the egg, there is the obvious understanding of His Word, which we can compare to that which comes to those in the Outer Court in the Tabernacle of Moses. This is intellectual understanding of the Word. It may be factual and logical, but it does not fully

reveal everything the Word contains.

To crack the shell and get to the white of the egg requires the enhancement of the Holy Spirit’s baptism. Sad to say, many Christians refuse to crack through this hardened barrier; in fact, some proudly call themselves hardshells. This attitude has spawned many erroneous doctrines.

When we do crack through the shell of doctrinal dissertations and private interpretations, we come into a new level of understanding. The Word comes alive, imparting truth and life at a deeper level. This is a Holy Place experience where we move out of the sun or natural light into a place illuminated by the oil lamps or candlesticks (the oil being a type of the Holy Spirit).

White represents righteousness in God’s Word. At this level, the Word of God begins to work righteousness into our lives as we don the white garments provided to us through Holy Spirit inspired study and teaching. The principles of righteous living are integrated into our daily lives such as forgiveness and love of others.

There is yet another part of the egg—the richest part—the yolk.

As we begin to live out the principles of God’s Kingdom, the Holy Spirit reveals a deeper level of understanding. The Lord is wanting to do more than teach us how to live. He desires to impart the very nature of God the Father unto us. At this level it is not just what we do, but it is who we are. He wants to transform us into His likeness. “As He is, so are we in this world.”¹

The yolk of the egg is yellow or golden in color. Gold represents the nature of God the Father. We are to go for the gold—to really

As we begin to live out the principles of God’s Kingdom, the Holy Spirit reveals a deeper level of understanding.

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know the Father, not just seek what He can do for us. Jesus came to show us the Father, not just tell us about Him.² It is one thing to see the Father's acts, as Israel in the wilderness. It is another thing to know the Father's ways.³

This level of revelation relates to the third place in the Tabernacle of Moses—the Holiest of Holies—the place of God's presence. Jesus, through His death, opened the way for us to go there. The revelation here is the true nature of God the Father. We come to know the Father by abiding in His presence. As we fellowship with Him, we become more and more like Him as He transforms us from glory to glory.⁴

It is not a place of knowledge in the sense of discovering principles and depths of understanding the written Word. It is rather a deepening experience of intimately knowing the Father God and His eternal love. It is a place of rest and peace. It is a place of confidence in Sonship.

Jesus tells us to ask, and it will be given to us; seek, and we will find; knock and it will be opened to us.⁵

We ask for bread, and the Lord gives us all the essentials we need along the way.

We seek fish, and we find truth in the water of His Word.

We knock on the egg, break through the shell of intellect and logic, and the door to the richness of righteousness and nurture of God the Father's nature is opened to us. Here is food the world knows not of provided to those who press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.⁶

After a few years of ministry to numerous Christians, I became aware of lines of demarcation among those who seek to follow Christ. It became obvious a great percentage of followers have limits to where they are willing

to go in their Christian walk. Getting people saved, as we say, is one thing; leading them to go on in the Lord is another.

Each part of the Tabernacle of Moses is separated by a veil. To enter each part, one must pass through these veils. One would not really know what was in each part of the Tabernacle until they passed through the veil. Today, each part of the Tabernacle represents a unique experience in the Lord. Although, the veil was rent when Jesus died on the cross,⁷ the doctrines of men and denominations have sewn it back together hindering believers from promised blessings of the Heavenly Father and dividing the Body of Christ.

**I became aware of
lines of demarcation
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seek to follow Christ.**

On the other hand, God directed a division in Gideon's army.⁸ Out of 32,000 men, 22,000 were so full of fear of the enemy that God told Gideon to send them home. Out of the remaining 10,000 men, 9,700 showed their independence by not putting their hand to their mouth to lap water. They had not learned to receive through God's ordained five-fold "Hand" ministry, so they were sent home too. Only 300 remained who were fit for battle, and that was all God needed. I believe every believers should aspire to be in the overcoming group of 300.

Many will not ask for and receive the Holy Spirit's baptism because of fear. In spite of God's promise to give what asked for, there are those who fear receiving something other than the Holy Spirit. Some fear ridicule or rejection. Some believe they have the baptism of the Holy Spirit without the evidence of speaking in tongues. In fact, this experience is a divider, mostly because of tongues. The veil between the Holy Place and Outer Court is a line of separation for a great number of Christians.

The group becomes even smaller when passing through the next veil between the Holy

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Place and the Holiest of Holies. Here the divider is brokenness and submission. This is no place for those who are independent and cannot follow orders. Those who came to make-up David's army when he became king were those who could keep rank.⁹ So it must be for the King of King's army. Deep cleansing of God is required for any of us to have a truly corporate Body of Christ mindedness. The ability to sincerely submit to others inevitably calls for the finger of God on the hand of anointed ministry to cast demons out of our lives.¹⁰ Rebellion and pride war against this, but deliverance is the other line of demarcation.

The battle line at the third veil can be ferocious. We cannot win here without losing our lives through death of self or ego.

If we ask for an egg, will the Father give us a scorpion? If we knock and keep on knocking, the door into the spiritual realm will be opened to us. If we don't stir ourselves to aggressively break through into a deeper fellowship with Him, the enemy will be right there to offer his substitute—the scorpion.

(Endnotes)

1 I John 4:17

2 John 14:7

3 Psalm 103:7

4 II Corinthians 3:18

5 Luke 11:9

6 Philippians 3:14

7 Matthew 27:51

8 Judges 7

9 I Chronicles 12:33

10 Luke 11:20

The Scorpion's Sting

“If a son asks for (from any father among us) an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?” Luke 11:12

“Behold, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions.” Luke 10:19

Scorpions are first mentioned in the Bible when Israel encountered them while traveling in the wilderness. God protected the people from their stings.¹ The Prophet Ezekiel was told not to be afraid of the rebellious people as he dwelt among scorpions.² God told Ezekiel rebellious people are like scorpions. Although the scorpions in the wilderness were real creatures, we see they are also a type of a spiritual entity that can hurt people.

Scorpions are nocturnal creatures of the spider family. They have stingers on their tails which are used to inject a paralyzing venom into the victims they choose for a meal. They can then feed at leisure. In most cases, a scorpion's sting is not deadly to a human, but it is extremely painful. The scorpion usually hides in a dark place, such as a shoe, and attacks when encountered. It is interesting to note that a scorpion without its tail extended can look much like an egg.

We can draw understanding about what Jesus meant when He said His Father would not supply a scorpion when asked for an egg by looking at Chapter 9 in the Book of Revelation. As one of the judgments on the earth, locusts with power to hurt like scorpions come out of the bottomless pit. They are given the power to hurt only those men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. Their torment is so bad that men will seek death and not be able to find it.³ What could this mean in regard to Jesus' reference to scorpions?

As I said in the previous chapter, when we ask for an egg, we are essentially desiring revelation from the Holy Spirit about spiritual matters. We are seeking to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God hidden from the carnal mind. We are wanting to know things about the spiritual world in the right way.

Revelation knowledge is not only essential to understanding God's Word, but also the key to the door that unlocks the mysteries hidden within. The Apostle Paul's message and preaching came from direct revelation knowledge. He said no one else taught him.⁴ He also prayed for other believers like those in the church at Ephesus to be given a spirit of wisdom and revelation.⁵

Revelation knowledge feeds the spirit man like no other provision. It is the meat of the Kingdom of God. When the disciples urged Jesus to eat after he ministered to the woman at the well near Sychar, He responded by saying,

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“I have meat to eat you don’t know about.”⁶

The disciples were not able to crack into the egg of revelation knowledge since they had not yet received the Pentecostal experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Even with this empowering, revelation knowledge is something that must be sought. Proverbs tells us it is the glory of a king to search-out a matter, and The New Testament says we are kings and priests.⁷

God created us to be spiritual beings, and throughout the ages man has been curious about the spiritual realm. This dimension is veiled to the natural eye, but can be entered in more than one way. God gives strong warnings against witchcraft and sorcery, because such practices take people into the spiritual world in the wrong way. Just looking into this realm illegally through the help of a fortune teller or medium leads to dire consequences. To go through the spiritual door this way is rebellion toward God. Such stubbornness allows demons, who often disguise themselves as good spirits, to influence and infiltrate into one’s personal life and family.

People who turn to horoscopes, tea leaf reading and the like, often do not realize they are knocking on the wrong door. Awaiting them is the scorpion’s sting that inflicts great pain through contact with the occult. The damage permeates all levels of one’s personal life.

I have seen people with physical infirmities, afflicted children, emotional problems extreme as insanity, spiritual hindrances and blockages in their Christian walk due directly to personal or generational occult contact. Deeper involvement spawns more severe consequences.

Many times I have been praying with someone who wanted to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but he or she was not able

to receive their prayer language or tongues. Most often I have found the hindrance to be unresolved issues due to occult contact. Some assumed they had resolved their issues in this area, but had not realized the depth of abomination such trespass is to God and the crucial requirement of sincere repentance.

Tragically, many churches are not safe havens of protection from the scorpion. Being taught and believing that denial of the demonic is good defense, many believers are “stung” and poisoned with carnal or false prophecy, wicked counsel, cursed blessings⁸ and doctrines of demons. Such defiled ministry is no less tainted than the witchcraft of fortune telling, incantations and spell casting.

I have ministered to countless Charismatic Pentecostal Christians whose lives were stymied by so-called “words” given to them by well meaning believers who believed themselves to be prophets or ones with special ministries but would not address the demonic issues in their personal lives. Their “words,” attributed to be from

God Himself and received as such, empowered curses instead of blessings thus binding the individuals to situations or directions outside of God’s true will for their lives.⁹ After breaking the curse of such “words,” I have seen businesses begin to flourish, marriages healed and frustrations fade away.

Although scorpions have been found in the finest homes and the grandest castles, they can be exterminated. The Lord wants us to dwell in a clean, safe place without the threat of being constantly stumbled, bitten and stung. Leaderships’ responsibility is to deal with these demon types and cast them out of the camp. Individual believers should not put up with them in any part of their lives.

It’s time to stop being hurt.

Tragically, many churches are not safe havens of protection from the scorpion.

Stop The Hurt!

(Endnotes)

1 Deuteronomy 8:15

2 Ezekiel 2:6

3 Revelation 9:1-12

4 Galatians 1:12

5 Ephesians 1:17

6 John 4:32

7 Proverbs 25:2; Revelation 1:6

8 Malachi 2:2

9 In Malachi 2:1-2 God judges insincere and self-serving ministry by causing their blessings to actually become curses. We are instructed in I Timothy 5:22 not to “lay hands on anyone hastily” nor should we allow just anyone to lay hands on us to give us so-called words from the Lord. We are to know them who labor among us.

Stopping the Hurt

“And nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Luke 10:19

“You are over-committed, Brother!”

That’s what some people in my church said to me during the early days of my renewed commitment. I couldn’t comprehend how any Christian could be over-committed. Once you really understand Jesus’ command to be His disciple, how can one give Him less or more than all?

It soon became obvious to me that many Christians believed they had the option of different levels of commitment to the Lord. In fact, I had been unofficially taught such by absorbing the attitudes of my old denomination.

In the denomination I came from, the most deeply devoted were those who chose the mission field. There was no greater commitment than to go off to some foreign land and give your life to a strange people. The next level was “full-time” ministry such as a pastor, music director or educational director. Then came the faithful few who were always working in the church in some way, teaching Sunday School, on committees and faithful in attendance. After these, were the more nondescript ones who

basically attended services and gave some money. We were left with the understanding that if you really wanted to commit to God, you had to “go into full-time ministry”; otherwise, you were somewhat inferior.

I will admit upon my entry into the Pentecostal/Charismatic world, I assumed everything was different from my previous experiences. My naiveté was soon shattered as I discovered the new wave of Spirit-filled folks had carried most of their old-order church ways and traditions right into Charismania land.

In reality, followers in this tribe also harbored the attitude of levels of commitment to Jesus Christ and adjusted their lifestyle accordingly. This left them with a sublevel Christianity (if there is such); consequently, they suffered unnecessary hurt and vulnerability to deception.

I find no such understanding in anything Jesus said about being a true disciple. We do or we don’t. We are hot or we’re cold. We die to self or we don’t. We are blessed or we are cursed. We are spiritual or we are carnal. We choose life or or we choose death. There is nothing in between.

The choice is ours (as I said in Chapter Three).

As the chart on the next page shows, total commitment calls for us to be proactive and DO, expecting positive results. To DO is to

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WHAT WE ARE TO DO	WHAT HAPPENS IF WE DO	GOD'S RESPONSE WHEN WE DO	HOW WE ARE HURT IF WE DO NOT DO
Ask	Given	Bread/Provision	Stumbling stone/ Hinderances
Seek	Find	Fish/ Understanding	Serpent's bite/ Carnality
Knock	Opened	Egg/Revelation	Scorpion's sting/ Deception

chose life and blessings. To not DO is the same as saying “NO” to the Lord. As Jesus said, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not DO the things which I say?”¹ When we do not DO, we are left to deal with the things that stumble us and inject deadly, dulling poisons into our spiritual man.

The call to commitment to Jesus Christ is much more than lip service or words. It is much more than church attendance and witnessing. It is also much more than so-called “full time ministry.”

As the rich young ruler who came to Jesus wanting to inherit eternal life, earnestly believing he had done all there was to do to be qualified, discovered—he still lacked something.² He failed to see that the road to eternal life was a commitment to a person and not to a practice; a call to leave and cleave;³ a choice to exchange possessions for a person and reputation for restoration.

We can go to church all our lives, preach with tongues of men and angels, even give our bodies to be burned and still not really be committed to the Lord Jesus.

Commitment is a relationship of passion—a bond of love. It is a love so great, when found, you sell all you have to buy such a pearl of great price.⁴

To those who are willing to see it, the

choice is the easiest thing in the world. Who wouldn't trade the trinkets of this present life for the treasures of eternity?

Then Peter said, “See, we have left all and followed You.” So He said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or parents or brothers or wife or children, for the sake of the kingdom of God, who shall not receive many times more in this present time, and in the age to come eternal life.”⁵

We clear the way for our commitment by removing the stumbling stones and trample on the serpents and scorpions in our life. Our commitment is then being made complete when we begin to really DO the things Jesus said.

(Endnotes)

1 Luke 6:46

2 Luke 18:18-23

3 To adhere firmly and closely or loyally and unwaveringly.

4 Matthew 13:45

5 Luke 18:28-29

The Call to Radical Commitment

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?” Matthew 16:24-26

“Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” Hebrews 12:1-2

“They will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them.” Mark 16:18.

“Nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Luke 10:19

Let the Word of God speak to your heart. As you have just read, the call for commitment is clear and costly (it costs you your life), but it is also the most wonderful challenge this life has to offer. If you are willing, here are the steps to take.

Ask for the bread of life each day
and remove the following stumbling
stones from you paith

The Stumbling Stone of Family

- ▶ Love them, but don't let them hold you back.
- ▶ Break out of any control exercised by any family member.
- ▶ Break all ungodly soul bonds.
- ▶ Renounce the familiar spirits.

There was a strong soul bond between my mother and me. It was never anything I wanted; in fact, once I was old enough to understand the dynamics, I detested what I knew to be her control. After I really committed my life to the Lord, she was still able to control me by upsetting me and provoking anger. Although she lived in another state, whenever I received prayer about her influence on me, she would call within minutes following the ministry and ask, “What’s going on there?” When my wife (who she openly said she hated) and I visited her, inevitably she would criticize my ministry

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and compare it to her pastor's who was in the denomination of which I previously had been a part.

Finally, I had to make the decision to break contact with her as much as possible until I could fully sever the spiritual umbilical cord that allowed her to provoke me. I came to understand that honoring my mother meant committing myself to the Lord and His work in my life, although she did not understand this. I was always there for her if she really needed me, but for a few years I had to keep my distance while I was receiving deliverance.

Prior to her death, her health began to fail, and it was necessary for her to have a place to stay until accommodations could be completed for her in a convalescent home. My wife and I agreed for her to come to our home where my wife agreed to take care of her until her new place was ready.

Because of her disappointment of me leaving my childhood denomination (she never came to hear me minister after I became a Holy Spirit minister), my mother often chided me about what her pastor was doing. She told me he had written a book that many people were buying. When I told her I also had written a book that had touched many people in several places around the world, she was surprised and wanted to know what it was about. I told her one part of the book was about forgiveness, and she asked to read it. Because of this encounter, my mother asked my wife to forgive her for hating her all those years. I am thankful to say there was great healing between my mother and me before the Lord took her into eternity.

The Stumbling Stone of Career or Job

- Determine the Kingdom of God is your true career.
- Look to the Heavenly Father as your source, not your paycheck.

- Discern why God has you working where you are. Who are you to help? What is the greater purpose?

During my years out of the ministry, I experienced failure after failure in job situations. After my renewed commitment to the Lord, I continued to work in the secular field for a period of time. God gave me favor and success I had never known before, but more importantly, He used me in peoples' lives.

An amazing situation occurred at an automobile dealership where I worked on my first assignment as a Kingdom person. I had never sold cars before, but the Lord led me into a position as a salesman there. The sales manager gave me great favor, and I was blessed to be one of the top salesmen my first month at work.

Prior to this time, through other very unusual circumstances, I had become friends with a man who was an airline pilot. We began to play golf together from time to time. One day as we were driving to a golf course, he turned and, almost angrily, asked me, "What is it you have that I don't have?" I said, "It's Jesus Christ in my life." This opened the way for me to lead him to invite the Lord into his life. He became the talk of his company when he began carrying the Bible I gave him into the cockpit when he flew.

One night, a few weeks later, hours after closing time at the dealership, my sales manager surprised me with a phone call. He was weeping and asked me to come to his office and talk with him. Sitting in the darkened building, he said he had made an agreement between one of the company's customers and himself. The agreement was for the customer to furnish the money to buy some used vehicles which my salesmanager would locate and have repaired as needed. He would then sell the vehicles and split the profits with the customer. This was against company rules, but the greater problem was my sales manager had used the

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customer's money to buy a van, sold it and kept all the profits for himself. The customer had discovered what had happened and was taking him to court for a felony offense. Because of past problems, he would surely go to prison.

When I asked my sales manager who the customer was, I shocked. It was my airline pilot, golfing friend! When I told him I knew this man, he was stunned.

"You mean you know this man?" he said.

"Know him? He is one of my golfing buddies who I led to know Jesus. I have been spending time with him, teaching him biblical truths."

"Would you talk to him for me?"

"Most certainly." I replied.

God used me as a peacemaker in this situation. After much teaching from the Word, exhortation and coaxing, I was able to lead my friend to forgive my sales manager, drop the felony charges and work out a plan for the money to be paid back.

Within a few months, the Lord opened a door of ministry in another city, and I left the dealership with offers to stay on any terms I desired. I had completed my Kingdom assignment there and had to move on to the next one.

God's people always have a greater purpose in life than just earning money.

The Stumbling Stones of Finances and Possessions

- ▶ Realize God owns everything. You are merely a steward.
- ▶ Ask for deliverance from the love of money and fear about finances.
- ▶ Repent of idolatry of possessions and break ungodly bonds.
- ▶ Sincerely commit all you have to the

Lord.

Not only did I experience problems with job situations before my new commitment, I also continually had problems with money. There were always mounting bills, unexpected expenses and problems with overdrafts and bill collectors.

When I was pastoring a denominational church, I did not tithe or give regularly. As a minister I did not feel I needed to do so. Regardless, I did not feel I could afford to tithe. I had many money fears and, consequently, was a selfish person.

In my new commitment to the Lord and after a genuine change of heart, I wanted to do everything right, especially with my finances. Initially, there were tight times while waiting to see what the Lord wanted me to do. The Holy Spirit impressed me to trust the Father and not tell anyone about financial needs or borrow money.

My wife and I learned to ask God and agree for our most basic needs. As we began our journey of faith, we would ask for only five dollars. God was faithful and the money would come. Sometimes during the night, an envelope with our name on it would be put in the rent drop at the apartment offices where my wife worked. No one could have known to do it except by the Holy Spirit's prompting. There would be the five dollars we had asked for.

I began to diligently and faithfully tithe to the church we were attending. If I received five dollars, I would give fifty cents. If it was twenty dollars, I would hold on to the two dollar tithe to put in the basket even when it was really needed for gasoline or lunch money for one of our daughters.

One day, as I was driving to a church meeting, I realized that in spite of God's supply and my faithfulness, we still had not seen the financial breakthrough we desperately needed. I realized how cursed I had been by how I had

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handled money and been so selfish. I began to pray and repent. I asked the Father to forgive me, and then I began to scream at Satan.

“I rebuke you, Satan! I bind you! Get your hands off our finances, you thief! I break the curse of poverty, in the Name of Jesus! Get out! Get out! Get out!”

By the end of that week, the windows of Heaven began to open. I was hired on the spot at an automobile dealership, immediately given a new car to drive (when no other new hire was given one), given a Christmas turkey and sold a new station wagon for cash the first day I worked. My wife was given a sizable bonus for the holidays, although she was not officially eligible for it because she had not been with the company for one year.

I had just begun to learn that God often speaks to us personally through His Word in the Bible. Just prior to this breakthrough, God had given me a word out of Book of Haggai saying, “From this day on, I will bless you.”¹ I had never had the Word of God literally speak to me personally as it did that day.

There is more to tell, but I will only say that one day about three years later, the Lord said, “From this day on, you will live by the Gospel.” He has been faithful to His Word for over 25 years now.

The Stumbling Stones of Romance and Marriage

- ▶ Be aware that the enemy will use sexual lust to stumble you in your walk with the Lord.
- ▶ Repent of believing that finding a husband or wife is your answer for happiness.
- ▶ Be willing to wait forever—come to peace.
- ▶ Always seek Godly counsel in regards to a decision to marry and be willing to

submit to the _____ counsel given.

Almost without exception, every sincere believer will be confronted with an opportunity to stumble in the area of sexual matters. There are many rationales the enemy will offer to justify illicit activities, but sincere commitment to the Lord and His Word will keep one standing.

Reread the section in Chapter Six regarding this area.

Trample on the Serpent and Cleanse Yourself of the Venom of the His Bites

The Bite of Education

- ▶ Realize the wisdom of this world is but foolishness to God and its logic will poison your ability to believe in and trust Him.
- ▶ Count all educational background as dung in regards to Kingdom matters.
- ▶ Determine to know Him rather than just His works.

After yielding to God’s call on my life, I spent my remaining college years looking forward to seminary. I imagined it would be a wonderful place where I could saturate myself in Bible studies and equip myself with useful tools for ministry. I did not find this to be the case.

What I encountered in the august halls of theology was mostly superficial study of the Bible and impractical, unbelieving instruction for the work of being a minister in my denomination. I attempted twice to complete a semester of work, but finally dropped out in disgust. To this day, I am thankful I did not continue to expose myself to such doctrinal constrictions and unbelief.

I had always been an intellectual type of person and prided myself as such, but I soon

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realized the principles of the Kingdom of God did not match up with the world's logic. Like the Apostle Paul, I found I had to count all my credentials as dung if I was to truly know Christ.²

Some would consider me crazy, but I destroyed all the clippings and articles from the many successes of my school days including my high school and college annuals. I felt very strongly to renounce the doctrines and spirits of my old denomination, and I did that by tearing up my ordination papers in the pulpit one Sunday evening.

I thank God for my education, but only because I can channel it for the purposes and use of the Kingdom. It is not the avenue to true spiritual revelation from God nor will it gain me any reputation in the spirit world. Some may grasp for the titles that come with learning, but they are of no avail in the area of spiritual warfare.

I am determined to not know Christ any longer according to the flesh but by the Spirit.³

The Bite of Environment and Home Territory

- ▶ Get out of it!
- ▶ Submit yourself for cleansing deliverance and break free of the influences of these principalities and powers.
- ▶ Don't go back to minister in your old home territory, unless the Lord specifically directs.
- ▶ Discern familiar spirits and cast them out of your life.
- ▶ Cleanse your dwelling place of everything that invites demonic oppression into your personal environment.⁴

For some, especially those along in years, leaving the old home ground is too much to

ask. Through the years of ministry, I have come to know some men who love the Lord and have ministry callings on their lives, but are stifled in their lives because they refuse to honor this principle. They own a business or house. They are near their parents who supposedly need their help. In some cases, children and grandchildren are holding them in place. None have fulfilled their ministry.

So very few will truly commit their total lives to God and break the degenerating bonds of an old home place in order to be trained in the school of the Holy Spirit. I have seen the potential of such daring, but in many cases it has been only that—potential.

The Bites of Superstitions

- ▶ Humble yourself and ask the Lord to show you every area in your life where you have deception.
- ▶ Renounce deception and put it out of your life.
- ▶ Renounce and repent of every superstition.

Growing up as I did, having my grandparents, parents and others telling me certain things would bring bad luck while other would bring good luck, I found myself having to deal with attitudes contrary to the ways of God's Kingdom. Superstitions are outright deceptions about how the world really works and they cultivate fear in one's life. They are not harmless and are not to be laughed at. Whatever conflicts with the Word of God is harmful and will open the door to demonic problems which will eventually manifest.

The sports world is especially rampant with superstition. There are coaches who wear the same tie, socks or even underwear to every game; players who go through certain rituals before a game; teams who have rituals before games; the list is endless.

Superstitions bury themselves deep into our

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soul or psyche and should be rooted out into the light, specifically renounced and rebutted with the truth of God's Word.

Trample on Scorpions and Purge Yourself of the Poison of it's sting

Purge Yourself of the Poison from the Sting of Occult Spirits

- Determine to uncover every possible contact with the occult in your life including those in your family tree.
- Repent, renounce and receive deliverance from the demonic elements that have come into your life through these contacts.
- Be open to any counsel from others who can be objective toward you in regards to any witchcraft that might be working in and through your life or ministry.

More times than not, people do not remember or are not aware of some instance of occult contact. The poison of this sting is so insidious that it will spread through a family tree and cause problems in many areas of the people's lives. Often, only the Holy Spirit can expose the hidden works of these demons.

A couple who were having problems with their four-year-old daughter came to our house for ministry. They were concerned because the little girl would come to her six-feet-plus father, grab him around the legs and lift him off the floor. They had decided this ability was demonic, and my wife and I agreed.

We prayed for the child and then began ministering to the parents. During the course of ministry, my wife whispered to me that she was seeing something in the spirit. It was a man's penis. When we shared this with the couple, the wife was shocked and confessed she had previously been deeply involved in witchcraft. She had been used as a sexual object in the rituals. She had not confessed

this to her husband, but he was forgiving and understanding.

As they prayed and we ministered deliverance, the child who had gone to sleep on a couch in another room began to gag and cough. Deliverance came to the parents and their daughter.

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any and every contact you, your ancestors and anyone else close to you might have had. Renounce it and tell the demons involved to leave in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Every step you take toward a greater commitment to Jesus Christ requires courage and boldness. Many will misunderstand, especially your family. Satan will taunt you with fearful thoughts even telling you that you are losing your mind. You are losing your mind! You are losing it and renewing it with the mind of Christ.⁵

The key scripture for this entire book, Luke 10:19, reveals the direct relationship between dealing with the demonic and the unnecessary hurt in our lives. This really is the simplicity of this Gospel. Believe it and do it, my dear brother or sister.

I put this confession to music:

- ♪ *Behold, I have authority, authority, authority.*
- ♪ *Behold, I have authority over all the power of the enemy.*
- ♪ *I shall trample on serpents and on scorpions.*
- ♪ *Nothing shall by any means hurt me,*
- ♪ *For I have authority.*⁶

Yes, you do, dear saint.

Now, repent, radically commit and use it!

Stop The Hurt!

(Endnotes)

1 Haggai 2:19

2 Philippians 3:7-9

3 II Corinthians 5:16

4 See my book, No Other Gods

5 I Corinthians 2:16

6 Music available upon request