

All Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise indicated.

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TWO GODS

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Introduction

According to the Scriptures, there are two gods in this world. In 2 Corinthians 4:4 it says, **“In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”** The first word “god” and the second word “God” are the exact same word in the Greek. They have the exact same meaning. In the English versions of the Bible they capitalized the second word “God” to distinguish between the two. Mainly, because of the context of the subject brings understanding between the two.

Who is this “god” spelled with a small “g?” It is Satan, who was cast out of the third heavens because of his rebellion against God. He was cast down to this earth. (Ezek. 28:12-20, Isa.14:12-20, Luke 10:18). He is a created being, with the powers of a god. Therefore, he is called **“the god of this world.”**

The Bible tells us that **“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth”** (Gen. 1:1). The word “God” in this verse has the same meaning as the word God in 2 Corinthians 4:4, even though the word “God” in Genesis 1:1 is the plural form of “elowahh,” it still carries the same meaning. In the Greek the word for God is “theos,” also meaning “a deity or the Deity.”

God has creative powers, beyond that of man. God created all things in the beginning. God even created Satan, who is **“the god of the world.”** Both, God and Satan have creative powers according to the Word of God.

The major difference between Satan and God is that Satan is a created being. The created does not have power over the Creator. Satan’s power is limited by the LORD, who created him. Satan cannot do anything without the LORD permitting him (Job 1:6,12, 2:1,6, Ex. 12:23).

Satan does not want Christians to know that he has creative powers. He wants Christians to believe he has no power, except that which Christians give him. He wants Christians to believe they have more power than he has.

Until Christians learn the difference between Satan and God they will easily be deceived by the wrong spirits. In 2 Corinthians 11:14 it tells us, **“Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”** Satan transforms himself into an angel of light and deceives many Christians into believing he is God.

When Satan gets Christians to believe his lies, he has them right where he wants them, doing his dirty work for him. When Christians agree with the devil, he becomes their master (Rom. 6:16). Many Christians are under the control of Satan, and they think it’s God. This is sad, but it is true.

Christians today are being destroyed for a lack of knowledge of the Word of God. Many have been blinded by the teachings of men. Many believe men, before they believe God.

When God created man and placed him in the garden of Eden, the LORD God gave man a choice between the Tree of Life and the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:16). The LORD tried to help man by saying to him, **“But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die”** (Gen. 2:17). Because of a lack of knowledge concerning this verse, men have helped the devil teach his doctrines concerning the tree of knowledge of good and evil. We cannot change what happened in the garden of Eden, but we do not have to continue to believe lies, or teachings that do not agree with the written Word of God. Let us find the truth and hold fast to it all the days of our lives.

The Word is the Truth

The Bible tells us that the written Word of God did not come from man, it came as the Holy Spirit gave inspiration to men to write it (2 Tim. 3:16). Yet, at the same time, the Bible was not written in English, it was written in Hebrew and Greek, and parts were written in Chaldees. When men try to translate from the Hebrew and Greek they make mistakes. These mistakes are made because men try to translate using their natural mind and understanding of the Hebrew and Greek language.

What men translated from the Hebrew and Greek many times they caused error, leading people to believe the error rather than the Truth which was already in the Hebrew and Greek. If Christians would truly want to know the truth, they would learn how to “be led by the Holy Spirit” and know when there is error in the Bibles they are reading.

The Word of God is truth, but not the words of men who miss-translated the Scriptures. One day I was working on a job, paying attention to what I was doing, when all of a sudden there came from my spirit these words, “*look up 1 John 5:7 in a certain Bible.*” In my mind, I thought, why look it up in a certain Bible, I always use the King James Version?

I kept on working, thinking, that most not have been God, I must have imagined that. Then it came to me a second time. The same words came from my spirit “*look up 1 John 5:7 in a certain Bible.*” This time, knowing it came from my spirit and I must prove all things (1 Thess. 5:21), and try the spirits if they are of God (1 John 4:1), I stopped working and went and got that certain Bible to look up that verse.

That verse in 1 John 5:7 in the King James Version reads, “**For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.**” Would you believe, that verse is not in that certain Bible? That verse is a part of the original Greek text, which the Holy Spirit inspired. No wonder it came from my spirit that day, “*look up 1 John 5:7 in a certain Bible.*” The Holy Spirit wants us to know when there are errors in the Bible translations. He doesn’t want anyone to change anything that He inspired to be written.

I found that there are many verses left out of some of these newer Bibles; besides 1 John 5:7, There is Matthew 18:11, John 5:3,4, Acts 8:37, one half of Romans 8:1, just to mention a few of the important ones. If the Holy Spirit would not show us these things, we would go on believing a lot of things that are not true.

If Christians would learn to listen to their spirit instead of their mind, the Holy Spirit could teach them a lot more. They should be “taught by God,” not by men. Jesus said in John 6:45, “**It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God...**” They should know the Truth and not be deceived by the teachings of men.

Some of the greatest truths written in the Bible are unknown to the majority of Christians today. Their eyes have not seen them, and their ears have not heard them. Yet, they have been in the Bible from the beginning.

When Jesus came teaching, He often mentioned the written Word. In John 6:45 Jesus said, “**It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of the Father, cometh unto me.**”

In the times of the Old Testament, the average person was taught by others. The Levites were given the work of teaching the other tribes the Law. But for us today in the New Covenant, it is no

longer that way. In Jeremiah 31:31-34 the LORD spoke of the New Covenant. One of the changes in the New Covenant is mentioned in Jeremiah 31:34, where it says, **“And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”**

Therefore, in the Old Covenant men taught men, but in the New Covenant “it is God that does the teaching.” Men are no longer the teachers in the New Covenant. God is the teacher in the New Covenant.

In the Old Covenant Law it took the witness of two or three men to establish the truth (Deu. 17:6). In the New Covenant the witness of men is no longer in effect. We have three witnesses from God. We have the Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the Blood of Jesus (1 John 5:8). (This verse is also changed or left out of some of the newer Bibles).

The Holy Spirit is our Teacher, and He bears witness with the Word of God and the Blood of Jesus. The witness of men is no longer used by God in the New Covenant (that was Old Covenant).

Jesus made mention of the witness of two or three in John 8:15-18, where He said,

Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.

It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

Notice that Jesus said, “men judge after the flesh,” but He does not judge after the flesh. Jesus also said His witnesses were Himself and the Father. Jesus did not include the witness of two or three men. In the New Covenant, men are not included in the two or three witnesses.

The Holy Spirit inspired the Word of God to be written. Now, it is the Holy Spirit that teaches us from the written Word. The Holy Spirit, Himself bears witness to the written Word of God, so that we know the Word is truth.

In the New Covenant, Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit teaching us from our spirit in John 7:38, by saying, **“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”** This never happened in the Old Testament times. It could not happen, as the apostle John explained in the next verse, **“(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)”** (John 7:39).

Once Jesus paid the price for the sins of mankind, He arose again from the dead and became the firstborn from the dead. He also became the head of the body of Christ. The body of Christ is those who are “in Christ.” Christ is the second Adam, who came into this world to become the beginning of a whole new creation of people. This new creation of people are people joined together with God, by a new birth in the Spirit (John 3:6,7, 2 Cor. 5:17).

Now we have two different kinds of people living on the earth. We have those who are in the first Adam, and those who are in the second Adam. It is important to understand this because it tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:22, **“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”** This is very important for us to understand, for many will die on this earth while they are still in Adam, and they will spend eternity in hell. Not because they sinned, but because they were not born

again “in Christ.”

In the beginning, God started a creation of man, starting with Adam and Eve. All of those who are born of the flesh are in Adam, the first creation of man. God had a purpose for this first creation of man. That purpose was that we get to know God and Jesus Christ Whom He sent into this world. That we would receive Jesus Christ as our LORD and Savior. That we would then spend eternity with God forever and ever.

This whole plan of God started in the garden of Eden where man was placed the same day that he was created. Unknown to many, Satan was also in the garden of Eden when the LORD God placed man in the garden.

Satan is “the god of this world” meaning this allotted time, from Genesis throughout the remaining time before the new heavens and new earth. You will find reference to this in Revelation, Chapter Twenty. In the day that we are living, close to six-thousand years after the creation of Adam, Satan knows his time is short, and is doing all he can to deceive people, especially Christians.

The Spirit is Truth

In John 14:6 Jesus said, **“I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.”** By this, Jesus said He is the Truth. Then in John 16:7 Jesus said, **“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”** Here Jesus, Who said He is the Truth, said He is telling us the Truth. In this He said, unless He goes away **“the Comforter will not come...”** Who is the Comforter that Jesus is speaking of? In John 14:26 Jesus said, **“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”** Then in John 16:13 Jesus said, **“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”**

From these verses we see that Jesus is the Truth. We also see that the Holy Spirit (Who is the Comforter), is also **“the Spirit of Truth.”**

We can also see another important revelation from what Jesus said in these verses. That is, the Holy Spirit could not come and dwell in us until Jesus died and arose again from the dead, and then ascended to be at the right hand of the Father. After Jesus ascended, then the Holy Spirit could come and teach us all things.

Not only could the Holy Spirit teach us all things, but He could also manifest the anointing through those who He chooses to do the work the LORD has called them to do. When a Christian receives the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, they also receive the anointing to do the work that they have been called to do.

This anointing works from our spirit, not from our mind. In our spirit the Holy Spirit dwells, to do what He has been sent here to do. But, before the Holy Spirit could come, Jesus had to pay the price for all our sins, iniquities, and infirmities. Through Jesus’ death and resurrection, He became sin for us, that we could become the righteousness of God in Him. In 2 Corinthians 5:21 it says, **“For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.”** Once Jesus finished the work He came to do, then the Holy Spirit could come to do His work from within those who are born again and baptized in the Holy Spirit.

When Christians are baptized in the Holy Spirit, they are anointed to do the work of the ministry. Without the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they are not anointed to do the work of the ministry. That is why Jesus told His disciples in Acts 1:4,5 to wait until they were baptized in the Holy Spirit before they went out to do the work of the ministry. Jesus also explained to them in Acts 1:8 that they would receive the power to be witnesses unto Him when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Christians who try to do the work of a ministry without the baptism of the Holy Spirit are working from their minds, where Satan can blind their minds to the true gospel that they should be ministering (2 Cor. 4:4). When Christians try to teach from their minds, they open themselves up for Satan to use them to teach things that do not agree with the written Word of God.

The Apostle Paul said, he does not serve God with his mind, he said he serves God with his spirit (Rom. 1:9). In Romans 8:1 it tells us, we must walk after the Spirit, and not after the flesh. Then in explaining the difference between walking after the Spirit and walking after the flesh it tells us that walking after the flesh is walking according to our natural mind (Rom. 8:3-8).

In Romans 8:14 it says, **“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”** Sons of God are those who are led by the Spirit of God. They are those who are mature in the things of God.

There are many Christians who are still babes in Christ. They are not mature in the things of the Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 3:1, the Apostle Paul wrote, **“I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ.”** There were many Spirit-filled Christians in Corinth that were still babes in Christ. How did Paul know they were still babes in Christ? He said, **“For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?”** (1 Cor. 3:3). By “carnal” Paul meant they were still walking after the flesh. Paul could tell they were still walking after the flesh because there was still **“envying, and strife, and divisions,”** among them. Envy is recognized by people trying to “exalt themselves above others, and seeking to be like someone else.” Strife is “trying to attain something by their own personal ability.” Divisions are “separating themselves from other Christians, as though they are better than others.” When we have **“envying, and strife, and divisions,”** among those who say they are called into the ministry, we have Christians who are walking after the flesh and not after the Holy Spirit.

In the New Covenant, we are not told to do the ministry work by our own ability. All ministry work is to be done by the Holy Spirit working through us. It is to be the Holy Spirit doing the works, not men. Even our speaking is to be “by the unction of the Holy Spirit within us.”

The Apostle Paul always taught that all ministry work should be “by the unction of the Holy Spirit,” not by the natural mind. In 1 Corinthians 12:3 the Apostle Paul wrote, **“Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.”** Paul was writing to the Corinthians concerning spiritual operations. He was emphasizing the importance of speaking “by the unction of the Holy Spirit.” The first gift he mentioned was **“speaking by the Spirit of God,”** that is, “speaking by the unction of the Holy Spirit.” When someone is speaking by the unction of the Holy Spirit they cannot curse Jesus. Cursing Jesus can only be done by people who are operating from their natural mind “from the flesh.” Then he explains also that no one can “say” (confess) that Jesus is LORD unless it is given to them by the Holy Spirit. This is similar to what Jesus said in John 6:44, **“No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.”**

All spiritual gifts operate by the Holy Spirit, “as the Holy Spirit wills” (1 Cor. 12:11). Any spiritual operations that are not “as the Holy Spirit wills” are not from God. They are from the flesh.

The New Covenant is a covenant whereby the Holy Spirit is in control of all that is of God. When Christians want to be in control, they are walking after the flesh, and not after the Spirit. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14:1, **“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.”** When Paul wrote, **“but rather that ye may prophesy,”** he was saying that “rather that you speak by the unction of the Holy Spirit.” This is the main purpose of the New Covenant, that:

- (1) Everyone should be led by the Holy Spirit.
- (2) Everyone should be taught by the Holy Spirit.
- (3) Everyone should speak as the Holy Spirit gives them the utterance.

It is always to be a work of God and not a work of men. It is always to be from our spirit, not from

our mind.

The Holy Spirit works from our spirit. Satan works from our mind.

We need to know if what we say came from our spirit (which is in our belly), or our mind (which is in our head). We can know the difference if we let God teach us spiritual things. We learn this by being taught by God, not by man.

Satan, the god of this World

Satan was in the garden of Eden when Eve was deceived. Satan used the serpent to talk to Eve, and deceive her. The serpent spoke “words” to Eve and she believed the words of the serpent. In 2 Corinthians 4:4 it tells us that Satan has the power to blind the minds of people. Did he blind Eve’s mind while she was talking with the serpent? We do not know, but we do know he has that power.

Eve was operating from her natural mind. She already knew the commandment of the LORD to not eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Yet, in her mind she listened to the voice of the serpent and disobeyed the LORD.

Satan is a god, and he has the ability to put thoughts in the minds of people, creatures, including animals, fowl, serpents, etc. Therefore, the serpent obeyed the devil and spoke to Eve. Eve listened to the serpent and disobeyed the LORD.

It’s that simple. Yet many Spirit-filled Christians do not understand it. They operate from their natural minds, thinking the thoughts they operate by are their own thoughts. We know most of them are not God’s thoughts. It tells us in Isaiah 55:8,9,

For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD.

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Many Christians, operating from their natural minds do the same thing as Eve did. They listen to the thoughts of the devil and do not obey the LORD.

For Christians in the New Covenant it says in 2 Corinthians 10:5, **“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”** It says, **“...bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”**

When Christians think there is nothing wrong with their thoughts, Satan has them doing exactly as he wants them to do. Satan comes to Christians as an angel of light and leads them into areas where they think there is nothing wrong with what they are doing. In many cases, if they would check their thoughts with the written Word of God they would find they are not in line with the Word of God. Therefore, their thoughts are not God’s thoughts, and it ends up being their ways are not God’s ways. Their ways are Satan’s ways and they don’t think there is anything wrong with it.

One day I heard someone teaching on the pool of Bethesda, from John 5:1-9. He was reading from an English translation of the Bible which said in John 5:4, **“for an angel of the Lord went down at certain times into the pool, and stirred up the water...”** The Holy Spirit will never bear witness with that statement. When we look in an Interlinear Bible which shows us the Greek words, it starts by saying, “For <gar> an angel <aggelos> went down <katabaino> at <kata> a certain season <kairos>...” The Greek word “aggelos” translated “angel” is an error in the translation of this verse. This word should have been translated “messenger” instead, as it was translated in 2 Corinthians 12:7, where it says, **“there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger <aggelos> of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.”**

Some translations added the words **“of the Lord”** into verse 4 of John 5. That was a work of Satan in the minds of Christians. It does not say that in the original Greek text. Also, the

translation of the word “aggelos” to angel was also a work of Satan in the minds of the translators.

Satan has used the minds of Christians to change the original Greek text in this chapter in a number of Bibles. Some Bibles have left out half of verse three and all of verse four completely. In doing so, you can recognize their error by the fact that they did not leave out John 5:7 which says, **“The impotent man answered him, Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me.”** Why would the impotent man make such a statement to Jesus if there was no messenger going down to stir the water? Verses two through seven would not make any sense without verses three and four.

Satan has a lot of knowledge of the Word of God, but he lacks wisdom. Wisdom only comes from God. James 1:5 says, **“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.”**

Satan is a god, and he has knowledge, but he lacks “wisdom.” This shows up in many of the English Bible translations whereby men have translated the Word of God according to their understanding, not according to the wisdom of the Holy Spirit, Who inspired the writing of the Scriptures Himself.

For those who know how to listen to their spirit, and receive from God wisdom and truth, they know that what was happening at the pool of Bethesda was not a work of God at all. There are many indications that it was a work of Satan.

One example is, How many times in the Scriptures has God ever told anyone that “only the first person to get into the pool will be healed?” God is not a respecter of persons. Never has God limited His healing power to only one person, and only the one that can move the fastest and get in before anyone else. God’s Word has always been the same from Genesis through Revelation. In Revelation 22:17 it sums up God’s desire for everyone and anyone to come by saying **“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”**

God has never changed His attitude toward people. It has always been the same. God loves people, and has already placed upon Jesus the sins, iniquities, and infirmities of us all. God did this so that anyone and everyone who have any of the works of the devil manifesting in them can be free. That would indicate that what was happening at the pool of Bethesda was not of God.

Secondly, God does not play the lottery, neither does He gamble, to see who will be the winner, and who will get the prize. That is a work of Satan, basing our deliverance from sickness and disease upon the ability of man, rather than the ability of God through Jesus Christ, **“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”** (Rev. 13:8). The requirement for being healed all throughout the Bible is not “who can jump first,” but who will believe the Word of God.

Another thing about the situation at the pool of Bethesda was that when Jesus came to the man, “the only question” Jesus asked him was, **“Wilt thou be made whole?”** (John 5:6). Even when the man came up with the excuse of **“Sir, I have no man, when the water is troubled, to put me into the pool: but while I am coming, another steppeth down before me,”** Jesus paid no attention to his excuse. Why not? Healing is not based upon who can jump first and the fastest. It is not based upon what we can do. It is based upon the Scriptures, concerning what Jesus did for us on the Cross of Calvary. And in the case of the man at the pool of Bethesda, the LORD based his healing on what the Scripture says in Revelation 13:8, **“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** This is the same Scripture that Isaiah 43:25 is based upon. Which says, **“I, even I, am he that blotteth**

out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins.” The sins of the whole world were blotted out by the Lamb that was slain from the foundation of the world.

A third thing about the man at the pool of Bethesda is that it tells us in John 5:14, **“Afterward Jesus findeth him in the temple, and said unto him, Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee.”** What sin did this man commit that if he would return to it, that **“a worse thing come unto thee?”** It was the sin of seeking healing from the wrong source. That source was Satan, who is the god of this world, who has the power to heal anyone he has put sickness or disease upon. If he put it on someone, he can also take it off of someone.

Just a note of interest for those who have a need of some knowledge concerning the demonic realm, and the works of Satan. All throughout the Old Testament times, especially from Moses on, and then becoming more clear following King David. When a king came into power, such as a King over the tribes of Judah, the good kings would take down the evil places of worship within their territory, but not always all the places of worship. One example is in 2 Kings 12:2,2 where it tells us,

And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

Throughout the years of captivity, starting with the Babylonian captivity, through the Persian captivity, then the Greek captivity, then the Roman captivity, the Jews never removed all the places of false worship. They let those nations who they were under continue to worship their gods in the land of Judah. (Unfortunately it is still that way today in Israel).

The pool of Bethesda could easily have been located near a Greek shrine, whereby they could have been seeking healing at the mercy of a Greek god. What’s interesting about the pool of Bethesda is that it was very close to the temple. The man at the pool of Bethesda could have been taken into the temple and received healing by the power of God. In the Temple was the holy room, where the priests prepared themselves for the work of the ministry. There was also at that time the Holy of Holies, where the very presence of God dwelt, where the ark of the covenant was, which had over it the mercy seat, where anyone could receive healing from. All it took was for someone to enter the temple with the right attitude toward God, and His mercy, and God was present to heal them.

We know that the Levites and Priests were not ministering the grace and mercy of God as they should have been. But, it was available to whoever came to God with a right attitude. Jesus made reference to their lack of doing the will of God in John 10:8, when He said, **“All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them.”** Isn’t it sad that this same thing is happening today, even after the will of God is made known more clearly in the New Testament than in the Old? Why are not Christians teaching the grace and mercy of God instead of the law?

Whatever it was that the man at the pool of Bethesda was doing, Jesus said to the man, **“Behold, thou art made whole: sin no more, lest a worse thing come unto thee”** (John 5:14). If there was not some type of Satanic operation going on in this man’s life, Jesus would never have made a statement like that to him.

Satan is the god of this world, and he has blinded the minds of many Spirit-filled Christians that they teach things that are not true. They teach from their minds, and not from their spirit where

God dwells. They try to serve God from their mind, not from their spirit. The Apostle Paul said in Romans 1:9, **“For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit...”** Spirit-filled Christians should be serving God with their spirit, from their spirit, not from their natural mind.

The main difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant is that in the New Covenant we are to serve God from our spirit, not from our mind. Satan works from our mind. God works from our spirit.

Satan is the god of this world, and when Spirit-filled Christians teach from their natural minds, they open themselves up for Satan to control what they say, and what they teach. This is the major reason why so many Christians don't know who they can trust in the ministry today. Many Christians are leaving Churches all over the world, and no longer worshipping God. They know there is something wrong in the churches they attended. But they don't know it is Satan working in the minds of the Pastors and leaders in the churches today.

Evidence of Satan's powers

In Job 1:6 it says, **“Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.”** Satan has the power to come before the LORD. The sons of God are those who are led by the Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14). When those who were led by the Spirit of God came before the LORD, Satan came also.

Why did Satan come before the LORD? In Job 1:7 it says, **“the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.”** Peter, wrote **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.”** (1 Peter 5:8).

In Job 1:8 it says, **“the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?”** In verses nine through eleven it says,

Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Satan is called **“the accuser of our brethren”** in Revelation 12:10. Here in Job Chapter One, Satan is talking to the LORD, trying to get an opportunity to destroy Job.

In Job 1:12, it says, **“And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.”** Satan has the power to destroy, but he cannot destroy unless the LORD first permits him to. Satan's powers are limited by the LORD. Satan is a created being, and is subject to the Creator.

It was the LORD that permitted Satan to destroy in Job's life. All that was destroyed in verses thirteen through nineteen were operations of Satan. If Satan was not involved, nothing would have been destroyed at that time.

Satan has the power to cause the destruction of all that was destroyed in Job 1:13-19. Satan is “a god” and has power over people, as well as many of the destructive elements of this world, such as fire, wind, storms, etc.

Satan works through the minds of people. Therefore, it tells us in Job 1:15, **“the Sabeans fell upon them, and took them away; yea, they have slain the servants with the edge of the sword; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.”** Why did the “Sabeans” come and slay the servants with the edge of the sword? Satan “blinded their minds,” and they did what he wanted them to do. In Job 1:17 it says, **“The Chaldeans made out three bands, and fell upon the camels, and have carried them away, yea, and slain the servants with the edge of the sword.”** Why did the “Chaldeans” do this? Satan had blinded their minds also.

Job 1:19 says, **“And, behold, there came a great wind from the wilderness, and smote the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young men, and they are dead; and I only am escaped alone to tell thee.”** Where did this wind come from? Satan caused this wind to come

and destroy the house, and kill those inside. In Job 1:16 it says, **“The fire of God is fallen from heaven, and hath burned up the sheep, and the servants, and consumed them.”** What caused this fire to fall from heaven? It was Satan, the god of this world.

None of these things could have happened if the LORD had not permitted Satan to go forth and cause these destructions. Satan has the power to destroy, but his power is limited by the LORD Who created him.

In Job Chapter Two, again Satan came before the LORD, seeking to inflict Job’s body with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown. Again, the LORD said to Satan, **“Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life”** (Job 2:6). Satan was given permission to inflict Job’s body, but he was not permitted to take Job’s life. Satan’s powers are limited by the LORD. In Luke 13:16, Jesus said, **“And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?”** Whom did Jesus say bound that woman for eighteen years? Jesus said it was Satan.

Who caused Judas Iscariot to betray Jesus? Luke 22:3 says, **“Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve.”** Who was it that caused Ananias and Sapphira to withhold part of the money in Acts, Chapter Five? It says, **“But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?”** (Acts 5:3). In Luke 22:31 it says, **“And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.”** Does Satan have power? The Bible says he does.

In Exodus 7:8-12 it tells us of when Aaron cast down Moses’ rod it turned into a serpent. Then **“the magicians of Egypt,”** cast down their rods and they also turned into serpents (Ex. 7:11,12). Who was behind those magicians as they cast down their rods? If it wasn’t Satan, then who was it?

Why are Christians so ignorant of Satan’s devices? Simply because, Satan blinds the minds of those who do not believe the Word of God concerning Satan’s powers.

Let’s look at another situation in Mark 5:1,2, it says,

And they came over unto the other side of the sea, into the country of the Gadarenes. And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit.

Where did this unclean spirit come from? It wasn’t from the LORD. Unclean spirits are under the control of Satan. Satan is a god over the unclean spirits.

Now this was a human being, a man who was born into this world of the lineage of Adam and Eve. But look at the condition of this man, it says,

Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains:

Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him.

And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones (Mark 5:3,4,5).

Have you ever seen a person in such a condition? Were his father and mother also like this? Were his other relatives in this same condition? It does not say they were, it only speaks of this one

individual being in this condition. The LORD didn't make him like that. It was spirits under the control of Satan, the god of this world.

Mark 5:6 says, **“But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him.”** Jesus is the LORD. Jesus is the one who created all creatures (John 1:3, Col. 3:16). Jesus has power over Satan, and Satan cannot do anything unless Jesus lets him. This person, who had an unclean spirit came running to Jesus, and as he did it tells us, the spirit in him **“cried with a loud voice, and said, What have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not”** (Mark 5:7).

Satan is a god. He has the power to control the minds of unclean spirits. But, Satan and all his unclean spirits do not have power over Jesus, Who is the LORD. They know who Jesus is, and they know they must obey the LORD. Even though they do obey Satan, they know that the LORD is over Satan, and whatsoever the LORD says, they must obey Him.

In Mark 5:8 it tells that Jesus said to the unclean spirit, **“Come out of the man.”** Mark 5:9 says, **“And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, My name is Legion: for we are many.”** Then the unclean spirits besought Jesus, **“that he would not send them away out of the country.”**

These spirits, who are under the control of Satan, who is the god of this world, cannot do anything unless Jesus permits them. Yet, they know who Jesus is. They know Jesus is the one that created them in the beginning.

In Mark 1:23-25 it tells us,

And there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, Saying, Let us alone; what have we to do with thee, thou Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art, the Holy One of God.

And Jesus rebuked him, saying, Hold thy peace, and come out of him.

The unclean spirits know that all spirits are created beings and they are subject to the Creator, Who created them.

How come Christians don't know that they are subject to Jesus, Who created man? How come these demon spirits know more about Jesus than Christians know? Simply, because Satan is the god of this world and he has blinded the minds of Christians who do not believe the written Word of God. Christians, teaching from their natural mind, are teaching what the devil wants them to teach, and they think it's God. When are Christians going to listen to the true voice of God, instead of the voice of the enemy?

What happened to the man in Mark, Chapter Five after the unclean spirit was cast out of him. It says **“And they come to Jesus, and see him that was possessed with the devil, and had the legion, sitting, and clothed, and in his right mind”** (Mark 5:15). Any time a person is not “in his right mind,” it is the result of demonic activity. Demons are the cause of people not being in their right mind.

When the Bible tells us that Satan is “the god of this world,” that means Satan has supernatural powers beyond that of man. We see evidence of this in Matthew 4:5, where it says, **“Then the devil taketh him up into the holy city, and setteth him on a pinnacle of the temple.”** Another time in Matthew it says, **“Again, the devil taketh him up into an exceeding high mountain, and sheweth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them”** (Matt. 4:8). In both of these cases it would take “supernatural ability,” to do what it says the devil did. Man does

not have that power. It is impossible for anyone, even on top of the highest mountain in the world to see all the kingdoms of the world. This takes “supernatural powers, the powers of a god” to accomplish what the Scripture said happened in these verses.

Any Christian that does not believe what the Scriptures say in Matthew 4:5 and 4:8 is operating from their natural mind, and is deceived by the god of this world. The Scripture is true, and anyone who denies the Scripture is denying God Himself who inspired the writing of the Scriptures. To deny the Scriptures is to deny the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of Truth.

There are only two gods in this world, Satan is one and God is the other. If we deny the Scriptures, we disagree with God and agree with the devil. That is a work of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Demons are under the authority of Satan, who is the god of this world. Demons do whatsoever Satan tells them to do. When demons obey Satan, they affect the minds of people all over the world, including Christians.

Why is it that people kill people? Are they in their right minds? God did not create men to kill one another. Killing is not of God, it is a work of Satan, who is the god of this world.

Many religious people, who think they are serving God, go about killing other people. Their minds are blinded by the god of this world and they don't know it.

What about those who lie? Why do they lie? If we search the Scriptures, we will see that Satan is the father of lies, for he was a liar from the beginning. Jesus said in John 8:44, **“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”** All lies come from the devil. Everyone who lies gets their idea from the devil. The devil is Satan, the god of this world, and he is the father of all lies.

All sin is also a work of Satan, who is the god of this world. There is no sin in heaven. Satan was cast out of heaven because of sin. In 1 John 3:8 it says, **“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning.”** Satan works through the minds of people, including Christians, and when they do what Satan puts in their minds, they sin. Sin begins with Satan, and then manifests in people who obey him.

Romans 6:16 says, **“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”** When Christians submit to the thoughts in their minds that do not agree with the written Word of God, they actually submit to Satan, the god of this world. When they are submitted to the god of this world, he becomes their master and has control in their lives.

The tree of knowledge of good and evil

Satan was in this world right from the beginning. He was present in the garden of Eden when Adam was placed in the garden in Genesis 2:8,9. There were two specific trees in the garden that were different from all the other trees. There was the Tree of Life and there was the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 2:9). Adam and Eve were given the opportunity to eat the fruit of either of these trees. It was their choice. In Genesis 2:16 it says, **“And the LORD God**

commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat.”

Those who do not study the original Hebrew writings in this second Chapter of Genesis will not know what the truth is concerning the creation of man and the way sin entered into mankind. Yet, it is simple to understand if we consider what is written and the effects of what LORD God said in Genesis 2:16.

What about the tree of knowledge of good and evil? The “fruit of the tree” of knowledge of good and evil was death (actually two deaths—physical death of the body and eternal separation from God in Hell).

We can know a tree by its fruit... A tree reproduces fruit after its kind. In Genesis 1:11 it says, **“And God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth: and it was so.”** The Tree of Life reproduces eternal life **“after its kind.”** The tree of knowledge of good and evil reproduces death **“after its kind.”**

The first evidence of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil is in Genesis 3:7, where it says, **“And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.”** The next evidence is in Genesis 3:8, where it says, **“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.”**

When there is a spirit of guilt, or condemnation, whereby people do not rejoice and desire to be in the presence of the LORD, Satan is working in their minds. Guilt, fear, and condemnation are all signs of “the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” The next sign is in Genesis 3:12 where it says, **“And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.”** When a person does not confess the truth, but in turn tries to blame someone else for their sin, it is a work of “the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”

Even today, when Christians point at Adam and say, “Adam committed high treason and sold us out to the devil,” they are not telling the truth, but instead trying to justify themselves and blame someone else for their sins.

In Genesis 3:13 we see the same fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil when the LORD spoke to Eve. It says, **“And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.”**

When we take into consideration all of Scripture, not just a verse or two, we will find a lot of information concerning “the tree of knowledge of good and evil.” The “god of this world” is representative of the tree of knowledge of good and evil in many ways.

In Romans 5:13,14 says,

(For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law.

Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam's transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come.

People continued to eat of the tree of knowledge of good and evil from Adam to Moses. What about after the Law? In Ephesians 2:12 Paul is writing to Christians, not the Jews. For the Jews were not **“in Christ.”** It says, **“That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.”** Even the Jews were without hope in this world, for they also were not

born again **“in Christ.”** The only hope we have is **“in Christ.”** Jews and Gentiles alike, before they are born again they are still eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. They are still walking after the flesh. Their minds are still blinded by the god of this world. They are still walking **“according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience”** (Eph. 2:2).

When Christians and Jews alike still love the world and the things of this world, the love of the Father is not in them (1 John 2:15-17). Their minds are still being blinded by **“the god of this world,”** whereas they desire **“...the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things...”** (Mark 4:19).

Jesus came to set us free of the things that keep us from becoming like Him, that we should desire to do only the will of God the Father, and no longer to do our own will of the flesh.

What many Christians do not understand is that when they desire the things of this world, they are walking after the flesh, and are still walking **“according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience”** (Eph. 2:2).

To the natural man, they do not think there is anything wrong with walking according to their natural mind, desiring the things of this world. They lived that way all their lives. They don't know any different.

There is a much better way of living, that is, follow Jesus. Take His example for our lives. Jesus came to deliver us from walking after the flesh, and eating of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. In Hebrews 2:14, it tells us. **“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he (Jesus) also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.”** We must learn to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh.

Satan has the power of death (two deaths, which come from the tree of knowledge of good and evil). In 2 Corinthians 11:14 it says, **“And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”** Satan represents himself as **“the knowledge of good and evil”** when he comes as **“an angel of light.”** All over the world Satan has religious people setting up religious organizations, setting standards in their teachings that look good to people. Some of these religious organizations have strict standards that make many Christians look bad in the eyes of the world.

Some religious organizations will not permit their woman to wear clothing that exposes their bodies. Some religious organizations will not permit anyone to drink any alcoholic beverages. Some religious organizations require that if anyone is caught stealing, their hand or fingers are to be cut off. These organizations are religious, but they are not Christians.

Even among Christians, Satan presents himself as an angel of light, working from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Christians all over the world **“bite and devour”** one another, by condemning those who fail to walk according to their expectations. They forget that the LORD is gracious and merciful, and not holding their sins against them. Those who accuse others within the body of Christ are just as guilty as those they accuse. James 2:10 says, **“For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”** Those are just as guilty by **“not forgiving others”** who they say are guilty of some other sin. Jesus said, **“Judge not, that ye be not judged”** (Matt, 7:1). Some try to **“justify their sins, others judge others for their sins.”** Both of these are sin, and those who do these things are eating of **“the tree of knowledge of good and evil.”** Satan

works among Christians as an angel of light.

When Christians live according to “the knowledge of good and evil” (judging one another, and justifying themselves), they are following the god of this world. Satan has “their minds blinded” (2 Cor. 4:4). They are walking in an area they should not be. In Galatians 6:7,8 it says,

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

What does the LORD say about judging others? In John 8:15, Jesus said, “**Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.**” When Christians judge after the flesh, Satan is working in their minds, blinding them from the truth. Jesus came that they might receive the Truth.

Jesus also said in John 5:22, “**the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son.**” God the Father is not judging anyone at this time. He has left all judgment up to the Son. Then in John 12:47 Jesus said, “**And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.**” Jesus is not judging anyone at this time. But, Jesus added to this in the next verse, “**He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day**” (John 12:48). There is a day coming when we will all be judged. We will be judged according to the Words that Jesus spoke.

Satan, who is the god of this world, is doing all he can to get Christians to operate according to the thoughts he puts in their minds, blinding them from the Truth of “the Tree of Life.” Satan gets Christians to operate from their mind, rather than from their spirit. Thereby, he can blind their minds to operate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil rather than from the Tree of Life, which is in Christ Jesus.

Satan comes to Christians as an angel of light (2 Cor. 11:14). Satan has not changed, he is still the same devil he was in the garden of Eden. In the garden of Eden Satan used the serpent to speak to Eve, saying, “**Ye shall not surely die...For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil**” (Gen. 3:4,5). Eve believed the serpent and ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. After Adam and Eve ate of the tree, their eyes were opened and they knew they were naked (Gen. 3:7).

Satan is still the same devil he was when they were in the garden of Eden. Today, Satan comes to Christians, using other Christians, just like he used Eve to get Adam. Some, who call themselves “Prophets,” come to others in the body of Christ saying, “You may all prophesy.” Like the serpent said to Eve, “**ye shall be as gods...**” Then, through these so-called prophets, they say, “prophesy, a word of knowledge, and a word of wisdom are all the same thing.” When you hear that, you ought to have enough knowledge of the Word of God to know that is a lying spirit.

Saying that “prophesy, a word of knowledge, and a word of wisdom is all the same thing,” is like the following example. Someone who was raised on a farm goes to visit an old farmer. While visiting, the old farmer asks the visitor, do you know how to milk a cow? The visitor says, sure, I learned how when I was young, and on the farm myself. The old farmer says, could you go out into the barn and get us some milk, we just ran out. The young visitor says to the old farmer, sure, I’ll go and he goes out into the barn to milk a cow.

When he got into the barn, he looked around and all he saw were horses, no cows. He goes

back into the house and says to the old farmer, I couldn't find any cows, all I saw were horses. The old farmer says, that's ok, there is no difference between a horse and a cow, "they're the same thing."

When are Christians going to wake up? The Holy Spirit knows the difference between prophecy, a word of knowledge and a word of wisdom. Each of these are a different gift of the Spirit, and each one is different from the other. That is why He called each one differently than the other.

What happens to those who believe these lies? In the beginning when they believe that "you all may prophesy," and then they are told "how to prophesy," by seeking information from the spirit realm concerning another person, then telling them what they found out from the spirit realm concerning them—they think it is wonderful, glorious, what they can do in the supernatural spiritual realm. The information they receive seems to be true, and they do not question where they got the information from. The more they do this, the greater their ego is built up. They think they are someone important. They can operate in the gifts of the Spirit whenever they so desire. The light comes to them, but where was the source of that light coming from?

If what they receive in their operations in the spiritual realm didn't come from God, but rather from the god of this world, what did the LORD say about this in Jeremiah 29:8,9?

For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.

For they prophesy falsely unto you in my name: I have not sent them, saith the LORD. In Jeremiah 14:14 it says, **"And the LORD said to me: "The prophets are prophesying lies in my name; I did not send them, nor did I command them or speak to them. They are prophesying to you a lying vision, worthless divination, and the deceit of their own minds" (RSV).**

If their prophecies did not come from the Holy Spirit, where did they come from? When prophets come and prophesy according to their desires to prophesy, is it God or man?

The serpent said to Eve, you will become like God... Satan presents himself as an angel of light, saying, "you may all prophesy." Then he teaches them how to operate in spiritual gifts from their mind and not from their spirit.

The Scripture says, all the true gifts of the Holy Spirit come as the Holy Spirit wills (1 Cor. 12:7-11,28). These true gifts of the Spirit do not operate by the will of man, or those who say "they are prophetic and they can prophesy." In 1 Corinthians 12:29,30 it asks the question,

**Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?
Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?**

We should all know that the answer to these questions is NO. Not everyone does these things, only those who the Holy Spirit anoints can operate in the gifts of the Spirit.

As these Christians continue to operate in the gifts of the Spirit according to their will, they start to build up their ministry, like back in Genesis 11, when they started to build the tower of Babel. In Genesis 11, they continued to build, until the LORD moved upon them. Eventually the people were displaced throughout the earth and the tower of Babel came down. Many Christians today are building their own ministries. Many have been brought down, and many more will be brought down. Don't become a part of these who build their own ministries, serve the LORD, not man!

Satan comes as an angel of light, and gets Christians to go off into an area whereby they become important, "they can prophesy," but their prophecies do not agree completely with the

Scriptures. They exalt people, and raise up people, until it is too late for them to repent. Then Satan comes as the destroyer and they are destroyed, their ministry falls, and they are put to shame in the eyes of other Christians.

What will their end be? It's between the LORD and them, for God is a personal God. God deals with each individual "individually," according to His Word, not the words of men.

When Satan comes as an angel of light, beware, the time will come when you will also see him as the darkness and wickedness that he is. Therefore, we must stay continually in the Word and in prayer, lest we also be deceived by Satan, like Eve was deceived by the serpent.

The Tree of Life

THE KEY TO THE TREE OF LIFE IS DEATH. We must die to ourselves, and all that we think we are, before the true life of God can manifest through us. Jesus said, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit”** (John 12:24).

The Tree of Life was already in the garden of Eden before Adam and Eve sinned. They had a choice, they could have eaten of the Tree of Life before they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Had Adam and Eve eaten of the Tree of Life, they would have received eternal life with God. They would have received the very life of God in their spirit. In other words they would have become “born again of the Spirit” (John 3:6,7).

In Genesis 3:22, after that Adam and Eve had already eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, it says, **“And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever.”** Eating of the Tree of Life would have given them eternal life, whereby they could have lived forever. Therefore, the fruit of the Tree of Life was “eternal life.” When Christians receive “revelation knowledge” of the Word of God, they know that the Tree of Life is “Jesus Christ, Himself.”

God is love, and will not force anyone to eat of the Tree of Life. Satan has no love. Therefore, we see Satan moved upon the serpent to speak to Eve, and deceive her (Gen. 3:1-6). Although the serpent talked to Eve and not Adam, after Eve ate, she also gave to Adam and He did eat also. Eve was deceived, but Adam was not deceived (1 Tim. 2:14).

Once Adam and Eve had eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they were no longer permitted to eat of the Tree of Life. In Genesis 3:23-24 it tells us,

Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Because that Adam and Eve had already eaten of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, God had to drive them out of the garden of Eden **“to keep the way of the tree of life.”** The Hebrew word translated “keep” here in the King James Version could also have been translated as “guard or preserve.” The LORD God needed to **“guard or preserve”** “the way” of the Tree of Life.

Through careful study of the complete Scriptures (by the help of the Holy Spirit), we will see that what happened in the garden of Eden as not a surprise to the LORD. God already knew what Satan would do to Adam and Eve in the garden before they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Hidden in Revelation 13:8 it says, **“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.”** God had already declared **“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world,”** before Adam and Eve sinned in the garden of Eden.

Therefore, being that the Tree of Life is the LORD Himself, and the LORD is **“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world,”** **“the way of the tree of life”** needed to be preserved until Jesus paid the price on the Cross of Calvary. Unknown to many, **“the way,”** of the tree of life, is receiving Jesus Christ as LORD of our lives. LORD, meaning “Supreme Authority.”

From the time sin entered into mankind, until Jesus paid the price for our sins, no one could become born again of the Spirit and the Word while living on this earth (John 3:5-7, 1 Peter 1:23). Jesus became the firstborn from the dead (Rom. 8:29, Col. 1:15,18, Heb. 1:6, Rev. 1:5). Jesus took our sins and iniquities upon Himself. Therefore, His precious “sinless” body was cleansed by His own blood when God raised Him again from the dead. Jesus became the firstborn from the dead. In Hebrews 13:20,21 it tells us,

Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

We are made perfect by the body and blood of Jesus Christ. Yet, only those who are “in Christ,” are made perfect by the body and blood of Jesus.

In the beginning, Adam and Eve did not have the very life of God in them when they were created. They had an opportunity to receive the very life of God in them, by eating of the Tree of Life before they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. That opportunity was removed from them once they sinned in the garden of Eden.

Today, ever since that Jesus arose again from the dead, people can choose to eat of Tree of Life. Eating of the Tree of Life brings the very life of God within a person. They become born again of the Spirit and the Word of God and they enter into the Second Adam, which is the body of Christ. When someone eats of the Tree of Life, they pass from death unto life, eternal death is overcome by the very life of Christ dwelling in us. In John 5:24 Jesus said, **“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.”**

Sin is overcome by the blood of the Lamb, and eternal death is overcome by the very life of God dwelling in our new spirit, which comes down from heaven. In John 17:16, Jesus said, **“They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”**

When we become born again into the family of God, that’s a good start, but that is not all there is to it. We still need “the baptism in the Holy Spirit” to receive the power to become witnesses unto Jesus. In Acts 1:8 Jesus said, **“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me...”** We also need the Holy Spirit to teach us spiritual things, and mature us in the things of God. Jesus said in John 16:13, **“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”** In 1 John 2:27 it says, **“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”**

As we mature in the things of God, we become victorious over all the works of the devil. Being in Christ Jesus, with God as our Father and the Holy Spirit as our helper, guide, comforter, teacher, and leader we can defeat the devil when he tries to deceive us. With the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit all working in us and for us, we have the power of the Godhead on our behalf, working against all the works of the devil.

We are still in this world. We are still walking on this earth in an earthly body of flesh and

bones. We still face the devil every day in our lives. We are in the world, but not of the world. As long as we are in the world, the god of this world will try to deceive us by thoughts he puts in our minds, and affections he comes against us with, in our bodies. But, we can overcome him by the blood of the Lamb, and the word of our testimony (Rev. 12:11).

Just like with Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, they could have eaten of the Tree of Life had they chosen to do so. Yet, eating of the Tree of Life is not just a one-time occasion. We must continue to eat of the Tree of Life to maintain our life in the Spirit, with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 4:4).

Many Christians have been defeated in their life in the spirit by not continuing to eat of the Tree of Life after they have become born again of the Spirit and the Word. Spiritual food is like natural food, if we do not continue to eat, we could starve and die. We must continue to live in the Spirit by eating of the spiritual food, which is the Word of God. We must keep the life of the Spirit alive within us by maintaining our fellowship with the Holy Spirit in prayer and meditation on the things of God.

One of the greatest ways of fellowship with God is praying in the spirit. In 1 Corinthians 14:2 it tells us, **“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”** This is one of the best ways to maintain our fellowship with God, speaking to God and receiving the mysteries of God from the Holy Spirit. God inputs into our spirit, revelation of things we could not know in the natural.

When we maintain our fellowship with God, we walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. Satan works through the flesh, but God works through the Spirit. In our spirit, we have the fulness of the Godhead dwelling in us. In our spirit, we communicate with God. In our spirit, God supplies all our needs. Everything in this creation started by God “in the spirit.” When we spend time in the spirit, we spend time with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

When we become born again we are babes “in Christ.” Just like little children in this world, they have a lot to learn to become effective adults in this life. So it is with being born again into the family of God, we have a lot to learn to become mature in the things of the Spirit.

In our spirit, we have everything it takes to overcome the devil in our minds. But, if we continue to walk after the flesh, we will be defeated just as those who are not born again. Therefore, we must continue to walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh. We must continue with God and resist the devil, by renewing our mind on the written Word of God, and keeping up our fellowship with God, praying in the spirit.

Living in the New Covenant

Knowing that Satan is still “the god of this world,” and that he has the power to control people by thoughts that he puts in their minds, how are Christians to live? What are Christians to do about the thoughts in their minds? First, we are to renew our minds on the Word of God so that we do not submit to the thoughts that do not agree with the written Word of God. The world operates by the thoughts that come into their minds. They don’t know any different. They think it is normal when they do that. They are conformed to this world and don’t know it.

Christians are told in Romans 12:2, **“be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”** God is not pleased with Christians who do not renew their minds on the written Word of God. Those who do not renew their minds are still conformed to this world. God wants to transform our minds, by us renewing them on the written Word of God.

Transformation takes place inside our bodies, in our mind by God working from our spirit. As we renew our mind on the written Word of God, the Holy Spirit “in our spirit” causes a transformation to take place. The more we renew our mind, the more we will think the way God thinks, rather than the way the world thinks.

The world thinks according to the way the god of this world operates in their minds. We are told to not follow the thoughts that Satan puts in our minds. We are to follow the written Word of God from our spirit where God dwells in us.

The same week that Jesus was taken and crucified, He said to His disciples, **“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you”** (John 16:7). This is important to understand, for Jesus was among these disciples for three and one-half years. Jesus knew how to hear from the Holy Spirit. Jesus knew how to be led by the Holy Spirit. He knew how to do the will of the Father. Jesus received the Holy Spirit at about the age of thirty, after years of being about His Father’s business (Luke 2:49).

Jesus’s disciples were not baptized in the Holy Spirit all the time they were walking with Him. Jesus could only teach His disciples by example, and by faith. Jesus could not teach His disciples “how to be led by the Holy Spirit.” Jesus could teach faith, and He did teach them a lot on faith. But Jesus could not teach them “how to be led by the Holy Spirit,” **“...for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified”** (John 7:39).

Jesus was telling His disciples that unless He went to the Father, the Holy Spirit would not come to help, guide, comfort, teach and lead them. After the Holy Spirit would come, the Holy Spirit would indwell in them, in their spirit, and He would do for them what Jesus could not do for them at that time. That is why Jesus said to them, **“It is expedient for you that I go away...”**

The kingdom of God did not come in its fulness until after Jesus was ascended to the Father. The baptism in the Holy Spirit did not manifest until ten days after Jesus ascended to the Father. (Jesus appeared to many of His disciples for forty-days after His resurrection from the dead. After forty-days, Jesus ascended to the Father (Acts 1:9). Then, ten-days later on Pentecost day, they were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4)) It was the baptism in the Holy Spirit that brought the New Covenant into full operation.

Without the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Christians cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.

The true meaning of the words “Kingdom of God” is “the reign of God.” God cannot reign in the lives of Christians who continue to operate from their natural mind. For God to reign in a Christian’s life, they must have the baptism in the Holy Spirit. God must be both in them and upon them. In them, takes place first in the new birth, but upon them is baptism (submerged in the Holy Spirit) (Acts 2:4).

Even after the new birth, a Christian can be “filled with the Holy Spirit.” In Acts 2:4, the disciples were both “filled with the Holy Spirit” and “baptized in the Holy Spirit” at the same time. Peter explained this in Acts 11:15,16 when he told the other saints of what happened at Cornelius’ house. Peter said,

And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.

Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

Peter said, when “**the Holy Ghost fell on them,**” they were “baptized in the Holy Spirit” just as the apostles were in Acts 2:4.

The Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:13, “**In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise**” Three steps are mentioned for Christians in this verse.

(1) “**after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.**”

(2) “**in whom also after that ye believed...**” The new birth comes after you believe the gospel.

(3) “**ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.**”

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the seal of the promise of the New Covenant. Without the seal of the promise of the New Covenant, what do we have? We only have the promise. Jesus sealed the New Covenant with God (between God and those who believe on Him) with His blood. The blood was the seal of the covenant between God and man, for the redemption of man. The blood redeemed mankind from the power of Satan unto God.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the seal of “the Kingdom of God,” which came after Jesus ascended to the Father. Those who are sealed with the Holy Spirit are sealed until the day of redemption. In Ephesians 4:30, it says, “**grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.**”

Satan has blinded the minds of many Christians to the difference between “the seal of the Blood of Jesus” and “the seal of the Holy Spirit.” Thereby, the majority of those who confess they are Christian do not have the seal of the Holy Spirit (the Baptism in the Holy Spirit).

When Jesus said in John 3:5, “**Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God,**” He was talking about “entering into the Kingdom of God.” Therefore, Jesus was speaking of the same thing as the Apostle Paul wrote in Ephesians 1:13. Jesus said, a person “must first be born again,” “before they can enter into the Kingdom of God.” The Blood of Jesus made it possible for a person to become born again. The baptism of the Holy Spirit brings us into “the reign of God—the Kingdom of God.” Jesus was speaking of two parts of the New Covenant, the new birth and the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Paul is also speaking of two parts of the New Covenant, the new birth and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

In my life, the Holy Spirit did not start “teaching me” until after I was baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. I was born again in June of 1979, and baptized in

the Holy Spirit on May 7, 1981. Between 1979 and 1981 I was excited in reading and studying the Bible. I learned a lot from the Word.

Even before I was born again, the Holy Spirit would give me words of knowledge, and words of wisdom, I even spoke prophetically, but so did those who were before Jesus came in the flesh. The Old Testament saints were used by God in words of wisdom, words of knowledge and prophecy. That is different from being taught by the Holy Spirit. I do not recall of the Holy Spirit teaching me anything “from my spirit” until after I was baptized in the Holy Spirit (John 7:38,39).

I received healing for my own body from the LORD before I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, but I never laid hands upon anyone to receive healing until after I was baptized in the Holy Spirit. I never wrote any books before I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, but after I was baptized in the Holy Spirit I began to write books.

After I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, words would come from my spirit, such as parts of Scripture verses or even complete Scriptures verses. When I would search the Scriptures concerning what came from my spirit, I would understand why they came to me. The Holy Spirit was teaching me, using the written Word of God to confirm what He wanted me to know. It is from my spirit that the Holy Spirit teaches me all things. The Holy Spirit always works from my spirit, not from my mind.

Jesus said in John 14:26, **“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”** Jesus said to His disciples that the Holy Spirit was going to teach Christians in the New Covenant. The Holy Spirit would become our teacher.

The Apostle John wrote in 1 John 2:27, **“But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.”** We need the Holy Spirit as our teacher. He will teach us the truth, and He will not teach us anything that is not Truth.

The devil is the teacher of lies. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and will only teach us the truth. The Holy Spirit teaches by the anointing which abides in those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit. The devil teaches by thoughts and words of people that he can get to speak for him. The anointing of the Holy Spirit comes from your spirit. The thoughts from Satan come from your mind.

We must learn the difference between our mind and our spirit. Our mind is in our head. Our spirit is in our belly. What comes out of our mouth must come from one or the other. It either “comes up” from our spirit which is in our belly or “down from our mind” which is in our head. Until we learn to recognize the difference between our belly and our head (our spirit and our mind) we will not know if it is the Holy Spirit or the devil?

How can a Spirit-filled Christian know which is which? We must pay attention to what is happening when we are praying in the spirit. The Apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 14:14, **“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”** When we pray in the spirit, it comes from our spirit. Our mind is not involved in our praying in the spirit. Therefore, we can use our mind for something else while we are praying in the spirit. One good thing to use our mind for while praying in the spirit is to read the Scriptures. We can be reading the Scriptures while praying in the spirit and neither one will interfere with each other. With our spirit we communicate with God, with our mind we renew our mind on the written Word of God.

While reading with our mind, and hearing the prayer language coming out of our mouth, you can sense the sound of the praying in the spirit as it comes up from our belly, not down from your head. The more you pray in the spirit the more you will get use to recognizing that praying in the spirit comes up from your belly.

Once you recognize this, you will also at other times recognize that when your conscience alerts you of things that you want to do, or intended to do in your mind, and you know better, you get a sick feeling in your belly. Your conscience is a part of your spirit. God uses your conscience to guide you, and help you keep from doing what the devil wants you to do. The devil puts thoughts in your mind that you know are not of God. When your mind thinks you should do what the devil wants you to do, you get a sick feeling in your belly. That's God using your conscience to help you.

When you find yourself saying things before you thought about what you said, you will notice it did not come from your head. At the time your mind (in your head) was on something else entirely. What came out of your mouth had nothing to do with what was on your mind. Your mind can only do one thing at a time.

Another place words could come from is from your spirit (if what comes out of your mouth agrees with the written Word of God), it most likely was from your spirit. If it does not agree with the written Word of God (it could be an impulsive reaction usually caused by Satan). In other words, if it was a swear word, it didn't come from God, it was a reaction from Satan working through your mind and natural being. It wasn't from God. God doesn't use swear words. They are Satanic in nature.

Christians must learn to recognize the difference between their mind and their spirit. Never let the thoughts of your mind control what you do. Always bring your thoughts into subjection to the Word of God (2 Cor. 10:5).

In Galatians 5:14,15, it says,

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

Any Christian who "bites and devours another," is not being led by the Holy Spirit. That is an operation of the natural mind. We need to know those things that are not of God. We also need to know all the things that are of the flesh.

Then in Galatians 5:16,17, Paul wrote,

This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

If you are walking after the Holy Spirit, you will not fulfil the lust of the flesh. You cannot do both at the same time. Either you walk after the Spirit or you walk after the flesh. The Holy Spirit will never lead you to walk after the flesh. He will always lead you to walk after the Spirit, according to the written Word of God.

When you want to walk after the flesh, and you yield to the flesh the Holy Spirit may even leave you do what you want to do. But, beware, you may lose your sensitivity to the leading of the Holy Spirit if you continue to go in the other direction. That is why it says, "**these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**" This doesn't mean it is not

possible, it means you cannot be led by the Holy Spirit while walking after the flesh.

You must learn to listen to your spirit, and not walk against the peace in your spirit. The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Peace. He gives you peace in your spirit when you are walking in the Spirit. If you do not have peace in your spirit, then it's time to find out why? Never go against what you know in your spirit. A sick feeling in your spirit is a sign from the Holy Spirit, stop, and consider your ways. Who's leading you in the wrong direction?

When a person is walking after the Spirit, they cannot fulfill the lusts of the flesh. The Holy Spirit will always lead them away from the lusts of the flesh. The Holy Spirit will always lead you in the way of righteousness.

The Holy Spirit will never force you to do anything. He will never push you. He will only lead you. He will guide you, but He will never force you. He will never stop you, but He will warn you if the devil tries to lead you away from following after the Spirit.

The Holy Spirit knows the present, the past, and the future. Satan knows the past and the present, but does not know the future. Satan tries to get you to think that if you do what he wants you to do, you will gain something in the future. Satan is a liar, and you need to know his devices.

If you are a man and some woman comes around showing off her breasts or her legs, you ought to know it's the devil. No one should need to tell you that. What's really bad, is when the wife of a Pastor comes to church wearing a skirt that does not cover her knees when she is standing up. You know she is walking after the flesh and the devil is in control of her thoughts. If you don't know that you need to get your mind renewed on the Word of God, so you can walk after the Spirit and not after the flesh.

What is sad today, is even the Pastors don't say anything to their wives about such Satanic operations in their minds. Our bodies are not made for show. They are only for us to live in while here on earth. Satan uses our bodies to get Christians to seek the things of the flesh, and not the things of the Spirit. **“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”** (Gal. 5:16).

The Bible does not say you cannot wear a swimming suit to go swimming in. But, when Adam and Eve sinned, God Himself, made them coats of skins to cover their naked bodies (Gen. 3:21). If God did this, it should be an indication that whatsoever God does, we should do also (if it agrees with the New Covenant. Not always what God did in the Old Covenant, is for us today. For in the Old Covenant they were not born again. God did not dwell in them. They walked after the flesh because the Holy Spirit was not yet given, being Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7:39)).

We must learn to divide the Old Testament from the New Testament. Many things that were done in the Old Testament are not for us today, who live in the New Covenant. In the New Covenant, God does not tell Christians to call fire down from heaven to destroy those who do not receive Jesus. When James and John come to Jesus, saying, **“Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?”** (Luke 9:54) Jesus answered them, saying, **“Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of....For the Son of man is not come to destroy men's lives, but to save them”** (Luke 9:55,56).

Many things are different in the New Covenant from what was in the Old Covenant. In the Old Covenant they walked after the flesh. In the New Covenant we are not to walk after the flesh, but after the Spirit. The Holy Spirit will not bear a witness with many things that were done in the Old Testament. He will only bear a witness with things pertaining to the New Covenant. It's the same God. It's the same Holy Spirit. But, it's not the same Covenant.

Let's look at another difference between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant. In the Old Covenant the descendants of Abraham according to the promise (which was Isaac, Jacob, and the children of Israel), were promised land (which was the land of Canaan (Gen. 15:18-21)). In the New Covenant, Christians are not promised any land. But, we have **“a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.”** Our promise, compared to the land which was promised to the children of Israel is mentioned in Ephesians 1:3, which says, **“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.”** Which one would you prefer, the land of Israel or blessings in heavenly places? You choose, one or the other.

Another blessing in the Old Covenant concerned riches and wealth. King Solomon was given riches and wealth greater than any other before him or after him (2 Chron. 1:11,12). In the New Covenant we are not promised riches and wealth, we are promised the blessing of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 3:14).

In the Old Covenant, they walked after the flesh. In the New Covenant we are to walk after the Spirit. We have **“a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.”** Satan is the god of this world (2 Cor. 4:4). The world's system is controlled by money (which is based upon gold and silver and precious stones). When the world needs something, it is purchased and paid for with money in one form or another.

Satan, being “the god of this world,” controls most of what happens in this world. Yet, Satan cannot do anything unless the LORD permits him (Job 1 & 2). Yet, he controls many government officials, lawyers, judges, law enforcement personnel, doctors, medical people, drug users, murderers, militant people, suicide bombers, religious people, etc. Satan even many Christians who do not bring their thoughts into the obedience of Christ (2 Cor. 10:5). The above list is only a sample of all the different occupations that Satan controls the minds of many people in these positions and occupations.

When we understand that **“money is the root of all evil,”** and Satan is also the source of all evil, it is easily seen why this world is so wicked and corrupt. Christians who are seeking money are seeking the wrong source for the wrong purpose. We need to understand the New Covenant that we are under. In this New Covenant, the LORD is over all things. He is also over Satan. When we submit ourselves totally and completely to the LORD, He is God in our lives, and Satan has no authority or position in our lives. The only thing Satan can do in our lives is that which we permit him to do. The LORD does not stop us from serving the devil. It's our choice who we want to serve, the LORD or the devil?

What most Christians do not understand is that whenever the LORD calls someone to do anything, the LORD does not ask them to do anything they are not able to do. The LORD does not require anyone to do anything unless He knows they have the ability and the means to do what He requires. If the LORD asks us to do something, and we do not have the ability or the means at the time He asks us, He gives us the ability (sometimes supernaturally) before we actually are required by the LORD to do it.

I know of one Christian living today, who only knew one language when the LORD called her to translate for another ministry. At the time she knew she was to translate from English to her native language, she could not speak English. When she took the microphone in her hand she started speaking fluent English, and has been speaking in English ever since. After that day, the LORD also

gave her the ability to speak fluently in a number of other languages. She was never taught any of those languages. It always came supernaturally.

When Christians need something, it should come from God (not always by our ability to purchase it with money we had to earn by our own ability). The LORD gives us the ability to receive the money before He requires us to do something it takes money to do.

I recall when a Christian brother was in Bible School, and needed money to pay his bills. He said that he and other students went into prayer. He laid his Bible on the seat of a chair and knelt on the floor, with his chest on the Bible. He prayed for some time, and when he and the other students finished praying, he got up, picked up his Bible, and on the chair, under his Bible, was the money he had prayed for. How did it get there? He didn't move from laying his chest on his Bible all the time he prayed. He asked the other students, did they do something, that the money got on the chair under his Bible while he was praying? They all said, they didn't do anything, it had to be God answering his prayer.

Jesus made a number of statements concerning whatsoever we have need of, such as in John 14:13,14,

Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Jesus didn't say you had to have money to get it. He said He will supply it according to His ability, which is much greater than what money can do.

Jesus even cautioned us concerning money, when He said in Matthew 6:24, **“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon (money, riches, wealth).”**

Concerning the young man who had wealth that came to Jesus in Matthew 19:16-22, Jesus said in Matthew 19:23,24,

Verily I say unto you, That a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven. And again I say unto you, It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God.

In 1 Timothy 6:10 it says, **“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”** There are some who say, “I don't love money...” But in the spirit, and many times in the natural, you know they will take all they can get, and sometimes they don't even care what they have to do to get it, they will do it. This is not good among Christians today.

Many do not understand that “Satan blesses Christians” with money, when they want it. Mark 4:19 tells us that when Satan cannot stop Christians any other way, he then gets them with **“the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in...”** We are cautioned against this also in 1 John 2:15-17, where it says,

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

We need to be careful when we hear of “worldly blessings” in the New Covenant. It could be a curse rather than a blessing. Proverbs 23:7 says, “**For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he...**” Jesus said in Matthew 12:34,35,

O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

It is best for us to seek those things which are above instead. It tells us in Colossians 3:1-3,

If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

Christians who are dead to the things of the flesh and the things of this world have no need to seek wealth and riches. Christians already have all spiritual blessing in heavenly places. What is greater than that?

If God cannot supply all that we have need of, then we have a problem (we do not believe that God is truly Who He says He is). Therefore, it says in Ephesians 1:3, “**Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.**” There is no greater blessing than that which God has already given us in Christ Jesus.

When we leave this world, what will we have to present before the LORD? We cannot take the things of this world with us to heaven. They will not do us any good in hell. Where is our heart?