

THE CHRISTIAN

HIS ENEMIES

and

HIS ARMOUR

Bryce Hartin

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Bryce Hartin

PREFACE

Many disturbing features characterise the times in which we live, but the most notable feature is the dramatic upsurge in demonic activity.

The whole of society appears to be seething with wickedness of one kind or another. Who could fail to notice the vast increase in immorality, homosexuality, lesbianism, criminal offences, disease, suicides, drug abuse, drunkenness, as well as a whole range of psychic phenomena.

In the midst of this seething cauldron of humanity are the Christians, many of whom are endeavouring to "war a good warfare" and "contend for the faith", sometimes against almost overwhelming odds. It seems that in this "pressure-cooker" type society, many a servant of the Lord finishes up slumped over the ropes like a "punch-drunk" boxer.

It is the sincere desire of the writer to aid his fellow believers in the spiritual warfare in which we are all engaged. The writer feels that perhaps the greatest assistance he can offer is to give some Biblical instruction on the **Christian's enemies** — what they can and cannot do, and on the **Christian's armour** and how to use it.

This book is a compilation of notes, some written many years ago, but now sent forth in book form with the prayer that they win help many of the Lord's people to be victorious in battle and to be able to say with Paul:

"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them that love His appearing." 2 Timothy 4.7-8.

BRYCE HARTIN

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Chapter One

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS ENEMIES

During the last few years of our work in conventions and crusades, we have constantly been called upon to counsel people who were troubled. Many of them showed signs of being in great distress. Their family or friends had already taken them to spiritual leaders in the hope that they would find release from their bondage, but in many cases, their condition did not change.

We have pondered over this problem for a long time and have prayed much and often that the Lord would open it up to our understanding in order that we might be able to assist the ever-increasing number of people desperately crying out for help.

WIDESPREAD IGNORANCE

Gradually, over a period of some years, we began to see that the cause of the problem was ignorance on the part of Christians concerning demons and their work.

It seems that in a great many churches, no instruction is given at all on this vastly important subject and even in many Colleges, the subject is not dealt with, or else treated as relatively unimportant. The result is that students graduate and are sent out to pastor congregations, only to discover that they are not equipped to handle one of the major problems that exists in our churches today. They are unable to give practical help to people who are "oppressed and afflicted by the devil."

Now this series of studies is designed to impart Biblical knowledge to Christians — knowledge of demons and what they do to people. Counsellors must learn to recognise the **symptoms** of demonic oppression, also the **cause** of it, or that which has brought it about and finally, **how a person may find deliverance**.

It is not our purpose here to give an in-depth study of Satan himself. That must be reserved for another occasion, but we will observe some of the things that the Bible reveals about demons and, having absorbed this information, we will, I'm sure, more readily understand who is behind all the trouble we see in society generally and in the Church in particular. So this Chapter is about the Christian and his enemies.

WHAT ARE DEMONS?

The simple answer to that question is that they are disembodied spirits. The Bible reveals that when Lucifer, who was originally an archangel of great beauty and power, rebelled against God, he was cast out of Heaven and one third of the angels who sided with him were also cast out. Many Bible scholars believe that these fallen angels are now the disembodied spirits that we call demons, or evil spirits. Quite a number of scholars interpret Rev. 9.1-11 as indicating a great army of demons being released from the bottomless Pit, and that these demons, under the leadership of Satan, will make a final onslaught on the Church, just before the Return of our Lord.

In these verses, namely Rev. 9.1-11, reference is made to locusts, but we must remember that this is a prophecy and it is veiled in symbolic language, as is the case right through the book of Revelation. Many Bible scholars believe that the reference here is not to literal locusts, but to spirit beings or demons who will come out of the bottomless Pit in plague proportions and will torment men and women in these last days.

PROPHECY NOW BEING FULFILLED

The enormous upsurge of demonic activity in recent years has led many Christians to believe that this prophecy is being fulfilled right before our eyes. We shall have more to say about this later. In the meantime, let us very briefly consider some facts from Scripture about Satan himself and later on, we shall give a more detailed study on him.

Firstly, Satan is not Omnipresent — that is, he is not present everywhere at the same time, as God is. I find many Christians mistaken on this point. They give to Satan the same attributes that God Himself has.

Secondly, Satan is not Omniscient — that is, he does not possess all knowledge as God does. Having said this, I presume that all of us have vastly underestimated the knowledge that he does possess.

Thirdly, Satan is not Omnipotent — meaning he is not all-powerful. He is powerful, but only God is all-powerful.

SATAN'S SPIES

So he cannot be present everywhere at one and the same time, nor does he possess absolute knowledge, nor does he have all-power, but he does have a network of demons under his command. These demons inhabit the atmosphere immediately above the earth and can travel at speeds yet unknown to man, because they are not limited to a material body like man. They can come from any part of our planet and convey information to Satan concerning everything that is happening everywhere.

This is without doubt the most highly efficient intelligence service ever organised. I know it sounds like something out of a science fiction novel, but in actual fact, it is far beyond the wildest imagination of all science fiction writers. The Bible on this, and all other matters, is more up to date than next century's newspapers!

THE KINGDOM OF DARKNESS

Now let us examine in more detail several things revealed in Scripture concerning this army of demons that work under Satan's leadership.

Turning to Ephesians 6, you will notice in verse 12 that they are divided into various orders and these orders or ranks of demons are without doubt the real enemies with whom every true Christian has to contend. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." It seems that Satan has patterned his kingdom on the Kingdom of God, because in God's kingdom, there are beings of varying rank and power such as Cherubs, Seraphs, Archangels and Angels who minister to the saints on earth in various ways, as well as guardian angels and so on.

In Eph 6 verse 12, we observe that in Satan's kingdom, also known as the Kingdom of Darkness, there is a hierarchy of beings, varying in rank and power.

1) We see for instance reference to **principalities**. This word 'principalities' or its equivalent, appears in various forms in the New Testament. Here, in Eph 6.12 it applies to the highest order of beings under Satan's command. A principality is an area ruled by a Prince. These prince-demons in Satan's

kingdom have many lesser demons under their command. Other references to prince-demons can be found in Eph 1.21 and 3.10 but especially in Col 2.10,15.

2) Note also in Eph 6.12, reference is made to **powers**. The two words 'principalities' and 'powers' are generally linked together in Scripture. You will observe this in the references already given. So these 'powers' would seem to be the next in rank below that of a prince.

3) The Greek word /diamon/ is translated 'devil' throughout the New Testament. It would seem that this word would have been better translated 'demon' and these demons are lower still in rank to that of the principalities and powers.

4) We also observe in Eph 6.12 reference to **rulers** of the darkness of this age. Now this should be sufficient to show that Satan has a kingdom. It is referred to as the **Kingdom of Darkness**. It is made up of evil spirits who **vary in rank**, some of whom are beings of great **power** and **knowledge**, far superior to that of man. Thus, the Bible helps us to understand more clearly something of the nature and characteristics of our enemy.

GET TO KNOW YOUR ENEMY

This should explain to all thoughtful Christians why the organised church is in such chaos today. Most Christians do not seem to know their enemy, who he is, or much about him. We cannot hope to overcome an enemy if we cannot identify him and are ignorant of his methods.

An important part of winning this war against Satan and living as a victorious Christian is to study carefully what God reveals to us in His Word about this hierarchy of spirit beings who are constantly plotting our downfall.

In our ministry, we are frequently called upon to help deliver people from the power of demons. It is quite common for those engaged in a deliverance ministry to hear the defiant voices of these demons as they try to retain control of their victims.

It is also common for these demons when commanded to come forth and identify themselves, to put forth one of lesser rank first. The princes, or more powerful ones, do this to try and fool the Lord's servants by concealing their own presence.

AN EXAMPLE FROM SCRIPTURE

We have observed that often a number of demons will inhabit the one person. They form a **group or unit** headed by one or more powerful demons. This can be understood more clearly if we observe the use of the **singular** and **plural** personal pronouns in the story of Legion. This story is found in **Mark 5.1-14**. The Bible says that this man was possessed by 'an unclean spirit'. When our Lord asked him his name, he answered "**My** name is Legion, for **we** are many!" Note the change from singular to plural: "**My** name is Legion" for "**we** are many!" In this incident, one chief demon is speaking on behalf of a great number. We see here again that there are definitely ranks of authority amongst demons.

The Lord has also shown us that demons sometimes fight amongst themselves. For instance, hereditary demons resent the intrusion of 'occult' demons who enter the person at a later time in his or her life. Any person who has this war going on inside him will certainly be in a terrible state and it will need a great deal of prayer and much discernment to deliver such a person and expel all these demons from what they regard as "their house".

Now let us look briefly at the various areas where demons can attack.

1) One area that needs a great deal of study is the Mind. Some demons seem to specialize in attacking the mind and emotions of people. These demons can be very powerful and I believe that they are responsible for putting many people in mental institutions. There would be, no doubt, many mental patients who do suffer from some disorder or deficiency that can be understood and explained by medical science, but I am now convinced that the real problem with some of these people falls into the realm of the demonic. What I am saying here is that there are many people in our institutions who, if they were delivered from the hold that demons have on them, would be perfectly normal.

UNDERSTANDING THE PROBLEM

Doctors and Psychiatrists have researched the problem of mental illness for a long time. No doubt they have laboured to the limit of human knowledge, but some readily agree that they do not fully understand the nature of the problem. In the jargon of medical science, the term '**schizophrenia**' is sometimes used. The term is used to describe a person who appears to have a **split personality**. In the light of all that is revealed in Scripture, I am now of the opinion that in many cases, it is not a case of **split** personality but **dual** personality. In other words, two personalities in the one body — sometimes the person's own personality comes through, but on other occasions, a resident demon takes over and projects his personality. More and more we are coming into contact with people who have this problem. In some of the more severe cases, I fear that the problem is wrongly diagnosed and the patient may then be certified and locked away. This to many is the only course of action to take when the rest of the family can no longer cope.

Counsellors may sometimes observe such things as extreme withdrawal, severe emotional problems, mental instability, periods of fantasy, delusions, varying degrees of depression, inability to make decisions, unexplained pain, unnatural fear etc. These and many other disorders are very often brought about by a concerted demonic attack on the mind.

2) Demons can attack the body. The Bible also reveals that some sicknesses and diseases can be attributed to the work of demons. For instance in:

Luke 13.11-16

In this passage, Luke, who was himself a physician, tells of a woman who had a 'spirit of infirmity' for 18 years and was so bent over that she could not lift herself up. Our Lord spoke of this woman as one 'whom Satan hath bound.' So the woman's physical problem was directly linked to Satanic power.

Matt. 12.22

In this verse, Matthew tells us of a man who was deprived of both speech and sight. This man's sad state had apparently been brought about by a demon who was directly responsible for these afflictions. We are distinctly told that the man was 'possessed with a devil'.

Mark 9.14-29

Here we have the touching story of a young boy who was in terrible torment. He was controlled by an unclean spirit (v. 25). This demon tried often to kill the boy (v.22). The same demon had apparently bound the boy to such an extent that he could neither hear nor speak (v.25). When we examine the narrative carefully, we cannot help but draw the conclusion that this was a particularly powerful demon, because in v.28 the disciples admitted that they could not dislodge him and in v.29 our Lord

said **THIS KIND** will only be removed by prayer and fasting. The use of the term 'this kind' reinforces the fact that there are **various kinds of demons**.

Matt. 9.32-33

In these verses, we are told about 'a dumb man possessed by a devil'. When this man was brought to our Lord, the demon was cast out and then the dumb man spoke. So apparently, there was nothing physically wrong with this man, the reason for his inability to speak being that his vocal chords had been bound by a resident demon.

3) There is another type of demonic activity to which I must draw attention and that is in the realm of **Morals**. This generation, in fact, this and the last couple of generations, have experienced a decline in morals that is nothing short of frightening.

We see a marked increase in homosexuality, lesbianism, prostitution, pre-marital sex, inter-marital sex, extra-marital sex and almost every kind of deviation that one can imagine — some too hideous to mention here.

True Christians are astonished at the uncontrolled passions of thousands of people in today's degenerate society. Many well-informed Christians now believe without hesitation that this repulsive state of affairs is brought about by demonic activity and if I interpret the Bible correctly, this situation will worsen alarmingly before our Lord returns.

THE EROSION OF THE WILL

We have sometimes been counselling people who have said "I don't know what made me do it," indicating that a power stronger than their own will seemed to overcome them and force them to act in a certain way. Further questioning invariably reveals that demonic pressure was brought to bear on them and they did not have the **will to resist it**.

Through repeated onslaughts by evil spirits, their will-power had been eroded and they had become passive and of course, when strong pressure is brought to bear on them by these evil spirits, they just give in, almost without a fight.

4) Now the last area of demonic activity that I wish to refer to at the moment is in the spiritual realm. This form of demonic attack on the human race would have to be the most subtle of all.

On every hand we hear of an almost endless stream of sects and cults springing up, all clamouring to be heard and gain converts to their peculiar beliefs. Well taught Christians can usually pick these sects and isms because of their denial of the Deity of our Lord and the efficacy of His blood.

DISCERNMENT — BUT WHAT TYPE?

By far the most deceptive form of demonic activity is in the charismatic movement. The deception is so great in this area that it will go completely undetected except by those who have the Biblical gift known as the 'discerning of spirits'. 1 Cor. 12.10

Notice, it is not discernment in a general sense, but discernment of spirits. In other words, the God-given ability to discern whether it is the Holy Spirit at work or an evil spirit who may be impersonating the Holy Spirit. Time and time again, we come in contact with people who depart from the written Word of God and seek some new revelation or ecstatic experience that will give them an

emotional 'high' and put them on 'cloud nine'. Demons are quick to take advantage of these people who are listening for voices or seeking special messages, apart from the written Word of God.

There are of course, times when God does speak to His people in unusual ways, but we must point out here that these occasions are rare indeed. So Christians should not spend their time listening for some voice or expecting to see some vision. We have the **written Word of God** to guide us and should not be expecting some extra revelation **apart from this**. Actually I feel a strong word of warning should be given on this point. It has been our experience that if people are expecting to hear some audible voice, demons are more than happy to oblige!

WHAT DEMONS CAN DO!

Those who have experience in this field have discovered that demons can and do convey all kinds of messages to people, invariably designed to lead them astray in one way or another. When we observe all the splits and divisions and confusion amongst the Lord's people at this point in time, we cannot help but draw the conclusion that demonic powers are behind all this. As Christians, we should be alert to the fact that demons cause doubt, unbelief, criticism, jealousy, along with a whole host of other things aimed at destroying the fellowship and unity that Christians should enjoy.

Demons can often create an atmosphere in a meeting. In fact, sometimes, they can bring a whole town or community under their influence and arouse general hostility toward the Gospel. This kind of demonic activity is well known to missionaries, especially in the emerging Third-World countries.

Now to summarise what we have observed and perhaps re-phrase some things to make sure we get hold of them.

We made the point that when they fell from favour with God, the angels who sided with Lucifer lost their celestial bodies and took on the nature of demons. Rather than remain disembodied spirits, they have ever since sought to clothe themselves with the bodies of humans and even animals. We see this point brought out clearly in **Mark 5.1-17**. When the legion of demons were evicted from the human body in which they had resided, they requested permission to enter a herd of swine. They much preferred the body of an animal for a 'house' than to remain disembodied.

THE NECESSITY OF A SANCTIFIED MIND

We have also observed that demons can and do **attack the mind**, causing evil thoughts, accusations, doubt, fear, pride, unbelief, disobedience to God, depression, insanity and even suicidal tendencies. It may be helpful to point out here that the only safe way to guard against this kind of demonic attack is to make sure that we have a **sanctified mind** and a will surrendered to do all the revealed will of God. If we do not remain in this sanctified state, we shall most certainly leave ourselves open to attack and possibly even invasion by these powers of darkness. We will have much more to say later, on the way to victory and peace, but because this subject is of such immense importance to all Christians, we could not do it justice by passing quickly over it here.

MISTAKEN VIEWS LEAD TO WRONG DIAGNOSIS

Some Christians, and unfortunately even some spiritual leaders, hold the mistaken belief that once a person is born of the Holy Spirit, they automatically have immunity to demonic invasion. However, since the last World War, this mistaken belief has pretty well been discarded, certainly by highly experienced counsellors working in this field.

I am in touch with over 50 counsellors around Australia who work in the field of demonic deliverance and we have all found that demonic invasion amongst Christians is very common. In fact, if the symptoms of demonic invasion were better understood, it would be readily seen that it exists in a great many churches, even in some conservative evangelical churches. The problem is that they expect to see people being thrown on the ground or frothing at the mouth or acting in some violent manner, as they do in pagan countries. Many Christians do not realise that demonic invasion here in Australia mostly takes on a far more sophisticated form. In fact in the western world, demons go to great lengths to conceal their presence. They are aware of the fact that if their presence is detected, they may well be evicted and cast into the Pit and the very thought of this strikes terror into them.

Perhaps we could clarify this matter here by saying that we have in the past wrongly defined the word 'possession'. Scripture seems to convey the idea that possession can be in varying degrees. In other words, whatever amount of ground is given to the forces of darkness, either knowingly or unknowingly, **that ground is then theirs**. In other words, **they possess that ground legally** by virtue of the fact that it was given to them. **Whether the demon is resident in the body of a person or operating from outside the person does not seem of great importance**. The thing which is of paramount importance is the fact that **the demon has control over some part of the person's life**. The person concerned will never know real freedom in their Christian experience until this demon is driven off the ground he now occupies. This can only be done by us taking our position with Christ and **using the authority that Christ has given us** and commanding the invader in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to leave.

Now we shall make **some observations at this point from Scripture** so that those who counsel in this field will have clearer knowledge of what to look for.

For instance, in **Matt 15.22** we read of a distressed woman who said that her daughter was **"grievously vexed with a devil,"** but when we read Mark's account of the same incident, Mark says she "besought Him that He would cast the devil out of her" and afterwards our Lord said "The devil is gone out of thy daughter." You will find Mark's account of this in Mark 7.26-29. **So we need to observe that this girl who was 'grievously vexed' by a demon was in fact actually demon possessed**. This is seen by the fact that our Lord said **"The devil has gone out of thy daughter."**

WHAT TERM DO WE USE?

When dealing with the fact of demonic influence, some people use the term 'obsessed'. I personally do not feel that this is the correct word to be used here. I cannot recall any place in Scripture where this expression is used. We use the word **obsessed** correctly when we say for instance "he or she seems to be **obsessed** by this or that idea" meaning that they have a 'fixation' about something, or to use a modern expression, they 'had a hang-up' or their mind was so taken up with something that they could think of almost nothing else. Used in this sense, we could say that some people are obsessed with demons — meaning that they have a 'fixation' about demons, or they 'have a hang-up' — in other words, they can think of nothing else but demons.

However, when it comes to determining the **degree of control** that demons have over a person, there are two words that we need to keep in mind:

OPPRESSION and POSSESSION

Oppression is a biblical term. It is for instance used in Acts 10.38: "How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were **oppressed of the devil**; for God was with Him." The fact that the word **'healed'** is used here would

indicate that Satan and his demons actually afflict people with physical or emotional illnesses and these people need to be 'healed'.

To say that a person is 'under oppression' can also mean that they are troubled, or worried, or weighed down with something, so much so that in some cases, it becomes unbearable. This oppression I believe, if the facts were really known, would account for a large number of the suicides that we are witnessing in our society at this point in time.

People can be so weighed down with the problems resulting from our hectic modern way of living that they cannot see any light at the end of the tunnel and fall into a state of despair. They cannot handle their situation any longer.

A MEDICAL PROBLEM

However, there are cases when the word '**depression**' would be more appropriate because it is a medical problem and not a demonic one. **Post-natal depression** would be an example of this type of problem.

POSSESSION

Now the other term that we should consider is the word '**possessed**'. I feel that many people have a wrong understanding of the true meaning of this word. Some believe for instance that a possessed person is **totally controlled by a demon**. Scripture does not convey this idea, nor have we found this to be the case in our counselling ministry. Scripture indicates quite clearly that a demon may control only part of the mind or body. He has only a foothold or beach-head. The person may be perfectly normal in every other respect.

For instance, in **Matt 12.22** we read of a person possessed with a demon and Matthew states that he was **blind and dumb** but there is no evidence to suggest that this man was not normal in every other respect.

Matt 9.32-33 we read of a man possessed with a dumb demon. In other words, he was simply unable to talk, but again, there is no evidence to suggest that he was anything but normal in every other way. These illustrations from Scripture help us to understand that demons controlled certain organs of the body that would normally have given both sight and speech.

In these cases, the mind and personality seem perfectly normal. In other words, these demons had only limited access to a human body and were able to restrict the use of one or two organs. The degree of ignorance that exists in the church today is nothing short of staggering. In spite of all that is clearly taught in Scripture, many spiritual leaders still do not believe that demons can and do inflict people (including Christians) with all kinds of physical and emotional disorders.

A RECENT DELIVERANCE

Only today, I talked with a missionary who shared with me a recent incident which will serve to illustrate what I am saying: Some 50 years ago a 15 year old boy here in Queensland had a demonic curse put on him by a witch-doctor. This curse made him completely dumb. **He never said a word for 48 years**. He communicated solely by sign-language. Even his own wife had never heard him speak. Recently this missionary, along with some other friends, took this man aside and prayed that the Lord would break the curse. Their prayer was answered immediately, the curse was broken and the dumb man began to talk and has been talking ever since.

In this incident, as in the Scriptural incidents already cited, the organs of speech were the only ones affected. The man's mind and personality were normal. In other cases, the demons have much greater control and can inflict their victims with terrible torment. If the door is opened to them and they are given access to the life, they can program the mind and control the personality of the person. In some cases, demons can have so much control that the victim actually takes on the character of the demon. Another interesting thing about the man just referred to is that he is a Christian.

HOW DEMONIC INVASION TAKES PLACE

We must identify the source whence this influence comes and take a stand against it. If this attitude of resistance is not taken and maintained, the **will or power of resistance** will become eroded and the person concerned will eventually become completely passive and give in all the time, as a matter of course. Once the will is overpowered by demons, people become virtually slaves to them and of course invasion is in many cases the automatic outcome. In other words, demons come in **when people open doors to them**. These doors can be opened knowingly or unknowingly. **We must use our wills** and keep all doors closed to demonic invasion.

Now to better understand the various degrees of possession demons may have in a person's life, we must understand the **tripartite nature of man**. Tripartite means that man consists of 3 parts, Body, Soul and Spirit. In order to understand demonic influence and especially demon possession, it is of paramount importance that we grasp what the Scriptures teach about this. If we fail to understand this, we will never understand many of the things that are happening around us almost every day.

So it will be our purpose as we continue this study, to make a more penetrating analysis of these things in the next chapter.

Chapter Two

THE CHRISTIAN and HIS ENEMIES (cont'd)

We shall now continue our studies on demons and observe some more things revealed about them in Scripture.

In the last chapter, we noted the fact that demons are invisible spirit-beings. They are not **material beings**. In other words, they do not possess flesh and bones as we do. **They are spirit**. In Eph 6.12 Paul says "we do not wrestle against flesh and blood" and then in the same verse he proceeds to list the various levels of spirit-beings that make up Satan's hierarchy.

OUR REAL ENEMIES

These demons or spirit beings are the hated enemies of all real Christians and oppose Christians in everything they attempt to do for the Lord. Now it should again be emphasised that although demons are spirits and have no material body, **they are just as real as we are!**

The word 'spirit' in the New Testament comes from a word that can be translated 'wind'. In John chapter 3, the Holy Spirit is likened to 'wind'. Our Lord said in this chapter, verse 8 "The wind blows where it wills" and He went on to say that "we hear the sound of the wind but we cannot tell where it comes from or where it goes." So, the Holy Spirit, or also an evil spirit, can be likened to wind. We cannot see wind, but we know it is around and feel the effects of it. **Spirits**, like the wind, are invisible. When the wind is blowing at gale force, it can have terrible power and do enormous damage, particularly in a cyclone.

Demons existed before this world began. They are all under the direction of one leader whose name is Satan. He is their Commander-in-chief.

SOME THINGS DEMONS CAN DO

- 1) The Scriptures make plain the fact that demons **can and do** afflict men and women with all kinds of mental, emotional, moral and physical disorders. We see this all through the Gospels.
- 2) They can enter into men and women and control them. We call this demon-possession. An illustration of this is in Mark 5.1-20.
- 3) They can and do spread false doctrine. We see this in 1 Tim 4.1.
- 4) They have a system of government in the super-natural world. We have already noted this in Ephes 6.12.
- 5) They encourage and propagate idolatry, immorality and wickedness of all kinds. **1 Cor 10.20 Rev 9.20-21.**
- 6) They inspire false teachers. 1 John 4.1-2.
- 7) They work for Satan and oppose God and God's people in every possible way they can.
- 8) They know all languages and arts.

9) They know all that we say and do, but they do not know our thoughts — God alone possesses this knowledge.

10) They can mimic and copy everything they wish. They are tremendous actors.

11) They are **all** deceitful. There is no such thing as a truthful demon.

WHERE DO DEMONS DESIRE TO LIVE?

Scripture reveals that they inhabit the atmosphere immediately above the earth. In Eph 2.2 Paul refers to Satan as being the prince of the spirits 'of the air'. Our Lord, on one occasion, referred to them as 'the fowls of the air'. But although they normally dwell in the atmosphere and move about quite freely all over the place, they actually prefer to dwell in a body of some kind.

This is understandable when we remember that they have no body of their own, so naturally, they desire to dwell in a body, preferably the body of a human being, but they will also dwell in animal bodies, in idols and in 'occult' objects. They are sometimes associated with snakes, cats, frogs, scorpions, owls, dragons and various other 'hideous' creatures.

MASTERS OF IMPERSONATION

They are near perfect in their ability to mimic. We have personally heard one hiss like a snake. Some counsellors have heard them meow like a cat, bark like a dog, bellow like a bull or give piercing screams. They can make a noise like someone shuffling on the floor, tapping on windows. They can also howl like the wind and so on. There seems almost no end to the things they can do in order to strike fear and terror into the minds of people. But, having said all this, we repeat the fact, that they prefer to live in a human body and in order to be undetected, most of them remain quiet.

CHILDREN NO EXCEPTION

**At what time do they enter human bodies?
Or, at what time can people become demon-possessed?**

The answer to that question would be — at any time. We have in counselling come across children who showed definite signs of demon possession. This was also the case when our Lord was on the earth. For instance, we read in **Mark 9.17-29** of an incident where a man brought his son to the Lord and said "my son has a dumb spirit." In verse 21, our Lord asked the father, "How long ago is it that this demon entered into him?" The father answered "When he was a child." I understand the correct meaning of this reply to be "when he was a little boy" or when he was an infant. So we see from this case that demon-possession can take place at a very early age. In **Mark 7.25-30** we read of a young girl who had an unclean spirit. This should help us to understand something of the hatred Satan has for human beings. He has no respect for anyone — men, women, the elderly, or even young children. He and his demons will tempt people of all ages, harass them, deceive them, and if possible possess them.

THINGS THEY WILL OFTEN ADMIT

When pressed to do so, they will however admit:

- 1) That our Lord Jesus Christ is the Son of God and that He is Lord of all.
- 2) That our Lord stripped them of their power by His finished work **on the Cross**.
- 3) That at the end of the Church Age, they will all be cast into the Lake of Fire forever.

THEY HAVE NAMES!

What names do demons go by?

We have discovered that the list of names they use is almost endless. Like human beings from around the world and from varying cultures, they can have almost any name at all. In Scripture, they are referred to as unclean spirits, wicked spirits, evil spirits, foul spirits and so on. Some go by the name of fear, lust, death, chief etc. We have found that 'Jesus' is quite a common name amongst demons. Other counsellors have found one that went by the name of 'holy spirit'.

Earlier in our ministry when counselling a young woman, we discovered that she was possessed by nearly one hundred demons. One of the counsellors began writing down the names of these demons, but when we realised that there were so many, we decided that it would be too time-consuming, and a fruitless exercise anyway. We have discarded long ago the practice of endeavouring to obtain their names.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THEIR NAME

Speaking of the names of demons, one observation we did make when the Lord first led us into this type of ministry was, that often their name indicates what they are endeavouring to do in the person whom they have invaded. For instance, a demon by the name of **fear** will strike 'fear' into the heart of the victim. We found on one occasion a young woman who was possessed by many demons, one of whom went by the name of 'lust'. When we questioned her, she admitted that lust was one of her problems.

CHANGE OF CHARACTER

It is also an established fact that people under heavy demonic influence gradually take on the character of the demons that possess them. For instance, in the charismatic movement **deceit** is very widespread. It is in fact everywhere and in every tongues-speaking church. This fact becomes very obvious to every counsellor who tests the spirits of tongues-speaking people. It is difficult to determine whether these people are completely unaware of the fact that they are lying or whether **they know** they are lying but are powerless to refrain from it. What is clear is the fact that they have taken on the character of the demon that possesses them.

Scripture brings this out very plainly in 1 Tim 4.1 where it refers to 'deceiving spirits'. These demons are virtually deception personified. They deceive their victims and it is only a matter of time until their victims begin to show this same trait.

WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING?

Now what we are saying here is that demons have personalities and they **can** and **do** project their personalities through their victims. Having said this, we must hasten to add that there are many people who are demon-possessed and as stated earlier, the average Christian would **never** recognise the fact.

HARD TO DETECT

Numbers of people can be under some form of demonic influence and if we talk to them, they appear normal in most respects. They appear calm, clean and friendly etc. It is only when you do something to arouse the resident demon that you become aware of the fact that all is not as it appears. Another personality begins to assert itself. There are definite things that can be done to arouse demons and

make them manifest their presence, such as strong, aggressive prayer against Satan and his forces. Have someone reading passages of Scripture specifically dealing with the Lord's suffering on our behalf, and His victory over Satan — verses on the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ — verses about the ultimate doom of Satan and his hosts. Sometimes hymns of praise to the Lord, or hymns about the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ can be played quietly in the background. If demons are present, these means will very often arouse them and cause them to manifest in some way. The counsellor will then know what he is dealing with.

HOW MUCH DO THEY KNOW?

Right here, it may be appropriate to say something about the knowledge possessed by demons.

We mentioned earlier the fact that they know a great deal about each one of us. They certainly do not possess all knowledge, but their knowledge is far superior to that of man. Having been around for thousands of years, they possess **an accumulation of knowledge**. The knowledge they possess would cover all subjects including history, politics, the sciences, the arts, all the various religions of the world and especially the supernatural world etc. It should be recognised that they are the instigators and propagators of all false religions. They show great hostility to God and everything Christian, but at the same time, as mentioned previously, they know who the Lord Jesus Christ is and will often admit that He is the Son of God.

LUKE 8.27 - 35

In this passage, we read of a man who lived amongst the tombs in the cemetery. This man fell down before our Lord and cried with a loud voice "what have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most High? I beseech thee, torment me not!" This was not the man talking but the demon. In verse 30, the conversation continues with our Lord asking the demon, "What is thy name?" and the demon's reply. We see from this instance that demons know only too well who our Lord is. They also **know** when they come up against spirit-filled Christians.

ACTS 19.13 - 17

Here we read of some Jews who were engaged in exorcism. But note in **verse 15** what an evil spirit said: "Jesus I know and Paul I know, but who are you?" Paul was well-known in Satan's underground — no doubt Peter and others were also. But this evil spirit was well aware of the fact that these Jews were not Christians and therefore had no real authority over him. **Verse 16** shows that this demon knew that he could take on these Jews and win and he proceeded to do so! It is interesting to note here that demons know all about our Lord and are forced to acknowledge His deity and the efficacy of His shed blood, but people like the Jehovah's Witnesses and Mormons and all those caught up in the different sects will not admit these things.

Demons also know that our Lord when He died on the cross, gained complete victory over them for all time and stripped them of their deadly power. Our Lord then gave this power and authority to the Church. The sad fact is that the Church does not use it, but just allows Satan to run amuck throughout the world, virtually unchallenged.

OUR AUTHORITY

The time is long overdue for Christians everywhere to rise up and claim as their blood-bought heritage — authority over Satan and his hordes. It is clear from **Luke 10.19** that Christians have been given this authority and ought to use it against all the forces of darkness in all situations. Some fearful Christians say "but that power is not meant for us today." My answer is "Then if our Lord did not want

me to believe that wonderful promise and act upon it, why did He get Luke to put it there where I can see it?" I just happen to be one of those trusting souls who believes that what our Lord said, He meant, and this verse is no exception.

Now before we move on from the subject of what knowledge demons possess, I must say that time does not permit me here to deal with this matter in an in-depth way. However, one thing I feel should be stressed is that demons know there is coming **that Day** when all of them will be cast into hell along with their leader, Satan. They know this with absolute certainty and are terrified at such a prospect.

SHEER BLUFF

Counsellors, when confronted with defiant demons, should remember that their defiance is sheer bluff. The counsellors should refresh the memories of the demons by reminding them of the empty tomb. They should also be reminded strongly that they are under sentence. They are to be cast into the Lake of Fire and that is only a matter of time before the sentence will be carried out.

I mentioned earlier that most demons are the silent type. I do not mean by this that they are unable to speak, but simply that they prefer not to speak. They are careful in many cases not to do anything that will give away their presence. They are aware of the fact that if their presence is detected, they could well be evicted from the body of their victim which they regard as their 'house'.

DEMONS MAY COME AND GO

Now speaking of demons regarding the body of their victim as their house, it is most enlightening to note carefully what our Lord said in **Matt 12**. I refer to **verses 43-45**. We observe here in verse 43 that an unclean spirit left a man of his own free will and wandered around in dry places seeking rest. So evil spirits do not have to **stay** in the human body they possess. If they are given entry, they will take advantage of the person's ignorance and enter, but they can leave for a time if they desire and return at will.

Because of our experience in counselling, we now feel that demons often live and work as 'shared spirits' in groups or units, or in a family. A group of them may dwell for instance in a 'bikie gang', but they do not necessarily all dwell in the one human body. It seems they can flit from one gang member to another wherever they have access. There may be times when the behaviour of the gang is near normal and acceptable to a community, but at other times, the behaviour of the gang is unacceptable by any standards of decency. Some gangs go on a rampage of violence often inflicting injury or death on innocent victims and even on each other. Some members of the gang can be drunk or on drugs and are a threat to life and property wherever they go. When the gang acts normally and sometimes even charitably, it would seem to indicate that demons are either not present **at that time**, or else lying low. But on other occasions, when drunken brawls break out and violence occurs, it would seem to indicate powerful demonic presence within the gang.

In talking with other counsellors, I find it has been their experience, as well as ours, to feel that demons can operate on a circuit basis. In other words, they may or may not be present at any given time. In the spirit world, spirits can travel at speeds unknown to man.

But to return to **Matt 12**, observe in **verse 44**, the unclean spirit said: "I will return unto **my house** from whence I came out." Note again, he regarded the man's human body as his house and also he left it of his own free will. In other words, he wasn't forced out, but **chose** to leave, and later, he chose to return. Demons don't like living out in a paddock any more than we would. They would much rather live in a body.

Then we observe in **verse 45** that he gathered seven of his mates and they all returned and entered into the man. Note in this verse that he brought 7 other spirits '**more wicked**' than himself. He was wicked, but these 7 others were **more wicked**. Then our Lord adds that the last state of that man is worse than the first.

PLEASE NOTE THESE POINTS

Some important facts should be observed here from what our Lord says in these verses:

- 1) If a demon has succeeded in gaining entry into a person, he can, if he chooses, leave of his own free will.
- 2) Demons get about in groups and can co-inhabit the same body. It is quite common to find as many as a hundred or more in one person.
- 3) The more demons present in a person, the worse the state of that person will be.

The principle that we have sought to bring out here is particularly so amongst charismatics. To the inexperienced counsellor, many tongues-speaking people **appear** as quite normal Christians most of the time, but when they are speaking in tongues and the spirit speaking through them is tested in the proper Biblical way, in a great many cases, a demon will answer. So it appears to us at this point in time that demons can flit about almost at will amongst tongues-speaking people. The frightening thing is that all this is done under the guise of the Holy Spirit!

THEIR WORKS

Now perhaps we could move on to observe what demons can cause people to do, and regarding this matter, the list is almost endless.

1. Demons can cause people to act in a whole variety of strange ways.
2. They can drive people to drink.
3. Coax them into drug-taking.
4. Lead them into homosexuality and lesbianism.
5. Drive them into prostitution.
6. Create within them suicidal tendencies.
7. Cause no end of mental and emotional disturbances.
8. Lead them into false religions, sects, cults and isms.
9. Even lead evangelical Christians into serious doctrinal error.
10. Cause divisions among the Lord's people.
11. Create misunderstanding.
12. Cause doubt, fear, hatred, jealousy and so on.
13. Arouse feelings of anger and a desire for revenge.
14. They can arouse feelings of lust.
15. They lead people into pornography.
16. They tempt people into adultery and fornication.
17. They lead people to wear the weirdest of clothes, or no clothes at all.
18. They inflict people with all manner of sickness and diseases.
19. They lead people into mistrust, deceit and lying.
20. They cause people to be proud, a thing which God detests.
21. They coax people into witchcraft and occult practices.
22. They lead people into various forms of idolatry.

23. They counterfeit the spiritual gifts.
24. They bring about Satan worship.
25. They program people through Rock Music.
26. They split churches and break up marriages.
27. They discourage Christians and shatter their self-image.
28. They cause oppression.
29. They hinder Christians in their spiritual growth.
30. They cause disunity in church business meetings.
31. They detour Christians into 'walking by sight' instead of 'walking by faith'.
32. They lead Christians astray by giving them visions.
33. They lead many Christians into backsliding and some into apostasy.
34. In thousands of cases, they give people a false assurance of salvation.
35. They are able to completely destroy the faith of many.
36. They lead some into spiritism.
37. They create situations which put Christians under great stress which in turn drastically affects them spiritually.
38. They program all the thousands of foolish Christians who persist in watching too much TV.
39. They completely demoralise thousands of other Christians who can't cope and in the end simply give up.
40. They are masters at deception of all kinds.
41. They deceive some people into thinking they have committed the unpardonable sin.
42. They disturb the peace of many Christians by putting false accusations into their minds.
43. They bring about mental instability and cause many to finish up in mental institutions.
44. They are the instigators of all the various forms of violence and terrorism.
45. They manipulate governments and create factions that then fight each other. Thus we now have Arabs fighting Arabs, Irish fighting Irish, communists fighting communists and even some Islamic groups fighting other Islamic groups.
46. They get liberal theology into Bible and Theological colleges and thus gradually lead whole denominations into apostasy.
47. They create within Christians a desire for unity and deceive them into thinking that what is needed is organic unity and not 'unity of spirit' and so we have many now devoting all their time and energy creating a monolithic structure called 'the One-world Church'.
48. They create both worldliness and materialism within the church itself on an almost unbelievable scale, so much so that the church of today can no longer be equated with the New Testament church.
49. They cause a great variety of psychic afflictions.
50. Demons can make families, Christian institutions or church groups mutually self-destructive or 'divided against itself.'

GREAT ABILITY TO DECEIVE

This list could go on and on and on almost ad infinitum, but the thing that we need to be **very conscious of** is the great power of deception that Satan possesses. That is why our Lord continually repeated His warning, "Take heed that no man deceive you!" **All the New Testament writers** give the same warning many times over. **They tell us** that "in the last days, perilous times shall come." **2 Tim 3.1. They tell us** that "in the latter times, some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." **1 Tim 4.1.** And **Paul warns us** that in the last days, there will take place a great falling away and that this falling away will occur **before** the Second Coming of our Lord. **2 Thess 2.1-3.**

All sincere students of Scripture can see that this is all now occurring right before our eyes. A Christian would not need to have very much discernment at all to see these things. So we really need to get into our Bibles and pray earnestly that God will give us understanding of what is happening around us and where we are really up to as far as biblical prophecy is concerned.

THE FEROCITY OF SATAN'S ATTACK

As a result of our cassette tape ministry, my wife and I are continually receiving phone calls and letters from all over Australia from Christians telling us of the strange phenomena that they are witnessing. Many are troubled by what they see and hear and contact us for advice. We cannot doubt the validity of what they tell us because many are pastors or heavily involved in the Lord's work in some way. Others are fine spiritual people whom we know personally.

It is now becoming increasingly obvious that Satan and his hosts of evil spirits have launched a fierce attack on the Church. It is nothing short of an all-out onslaught aimed at the complete destruction of the church, but every Spirit-taught Christian knows that **the real Church will survive** because our Lord said "I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!" Some in the 'Church militant' are being called upon to lay down their lives, particularly in Russia, Eastern Europe, China and parts of Africa and there is a great deal of evidence to support the view that this number will increase markedly in the foreseeable future (Rev 20.9).

INCREASE IN FEAR

It seems that in the meantime, Satan is using methods designed to demoralise Christians and instil fear into them. We are observing that with many, this is having the desired effect. Fear of the supernatural, fear of the future, fear of impending disaster are becoming alarmingly common, but we as Christians should recognise the source of this fear and reject it.

THE NEED FOR FAITH

Faith and **fear** cannot dwell in the same mind at one and the same time. The Christian who has strong faith will not live in fear. He will know that 'perfect love casteth out fear.' **1 John 4.18** He will also believe God when he is assured that 'the angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him and delivereth them.' **Psalm 34.7**

We have noted that fear is almost always the result of wandering into Satan's territory and dabbling in some form of occult practice. It is invariably untaught Christians that get caught because of their ignorance, and then of course, they suffer the consequences.

DEMONIC MANIFESTATIONS

We list here a few of the things that have come to our attention of late and at the same time urge all true Christians to use their God-given authority over all forms of spiritistic phenomena.

One common thing is for shadowy figures or dark shapes to appear **near people**. One lady told us of a shadowy figure that seemed to follow her through the house when she went to the toilet in the night. Another lady awoke in the night to see a dark shape hovering over her husband who was asleep at the time. A young mother saw what appeared to be a dark arm reach across her and touch her little son who was asleep beside her on the bed. A man told us that while he was having a shower, a figure like a tall dark angel appeared just outside the shower recess. A teen-age girl informed us of a mysterious figure that hovered over her while she was lying on the bed.

These should all be recognised as demonic manifestations and should be rejected and the spirits commanded in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to leave immediately. If any Christian accepts forms of spiritistic phenomena such as these **they will continue** and even become more frequent.

To **hear noises** or **voices** is also very common. Some have told us of tapping on windows, shuffling noises as though someone was walking on the floor. Noises like footsteps outside on the path have also been heard. A friend told us only recently of a man who heard a piercing scream come from his children's bedroom. When the man ran into the bedroom, he found no one there and his children fast asleep. A Pastor told us recently of a young lady from his church who heard a noise like someone rattling the windows. Spiritistic phenomena of all kinds are increasing all across the country. It takes on an endless variety of forms and it is mostly demonic in origin. We have discovered that almost all of it occurs because the people concerned have been dabbling in the occult in some form or another. So counsellors should question the person and find out if they have had their palm read, if they have attended a seance, if they have used a ouija board or whatever? One thing is certain and that is that these people have in some way given ground to Satan.

THE GROUND GIVEN WILL BE THE CAUSE FOR THE MANIFESTATIONS

The affected person should be encouraged to take some simple steps and they are as follows:

1. Confess to the Lord what they have done.
2. Totally renounce the devil and all his works.
3. Resolve before the Lord to have nothing more to do with any form of occult practice.
4. Burn or destroy all occult objects, occult jewellery, rock records and anything that has given Satan a hold.
5. Use your authority as a Christian to command all evil spirits in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ to leave the premises and never return.

More and more Christians are finding release from fear or some form of bondage **by using this God-given authority**. But as this is such an important point for Christians, we shall examine it in more careful detail later on in this book.

Chapter Three THE CHRISTIAN and DEMONIC INVASION

The possibility of a Christian being invaded by demons has been debated for a long time, some arguing that it is impossible for the Holy Spirit and a demon to dwell in the same person at one and the same time, others taking the opposite view.

ENORMOUS AMOUNT OF RESEARCH

However, since the last world war, the overwhelming weight of evidence points to the fact that **a Christian can very definitely be invaded** by demons. Much research has been done on this extremely important subject by men and women of scholarship and undisputed Christian integrity. One fine Christian who made a tremendous contribution through her research in this field was the late Mrs Jessie Penn-Lewis who wrote the book "War on the Saints." **Mrs Penn-Lewis** wrote this monumental work after years of collaboration with Evan Roberts who was the human instrument the Lord used mightily in the great Welsh Revival of 1904 and 1905.

However, after the publication of her book, some inexperienced and self-appointed censors took it upon themselves to take their doctrinal scissors and cut out whole sections with which they did not agree and then published an abridged addition. In taking this action, they destroyed the whole thrust of the Author's findings and thus kept modern-day demonic activity hidden from public view, which of course is exactly what Satan wants.

Some discerning Christians who realised what Satan had done, arranged for the book to be **republished in its full text and unabridged**. This is a masterful treatment of the subject and of tremendous help to all who wish to make an in-depth study of what demons are doing in the church today. Copies can usually be purchased through local Christian bookstores. However, I would advise those ordering the book, to **purchase only the full text or unabridged edition**.

As previously stated, I am in touch with a large number of counsellors throughout Australia, many of whom are regarded as undisputed leaders in this type of counselling and **all** of them have found indisputable evidence that Christians can be invaded by demons. My wife and I in our own deliverance ministry have found the same evidence.

EXPERIENCE VERSUS THEORY

So it now seems clear that those who are actually engaged in counselling Christians with demonic problems have all reached the same conclusions, while those who claim a Christian cannot be demonically invaded have no experience to support their claim and are just left with their theories.

This chapter is only for those who are more advanced in understanding and is designed to help them learn how to deliver people from the awful bondage into which more and more are falling.

I will refrain from using the word 'possessed' when referring to Christians with demonic problems. The reason for this is that the word 'possess' at this point in time, implies ownership. If I were to say: 'I know a man who possesses a house and 5 hectares of land,' I would convey the idea that the man owns the house and the land. It was his by virtue of the fact that he had title to it. To say that 'some people are possessed by evil spirits' can convey the idea that demons have total control of them. Probably in the vast majority of cases, this would not be so. It would be far more correct to say 'that these people **have been invaded by demons**' and these same demons **now occupy some ground** in these people's lives.' The amount of ground they occupy will depend on **how much ground** they have been given.

If the person we are referring to happens to be regenerate and at the same time shows evidence of having demonic problems, we could say that 'he has opened a door to demons and has been **invaded** by them.' They do not possess him in the sense of owning him, nor do they totally control him. The simple fact is that he either knowingly or unknowingly **opened a door** and these evil spirits came in and now they occupy certain areas in his life.

Before proceeding further, it may be helpful to mention some passages of Scripture which would seem to indicate that it is possible for Christians in certain cases to be controlled by evil spirits, but I wish to emphasize the fact that **this is not meant to be an in-depth theological study** on this point. Several other counsellors have already presented the case from a biblical perspective and have, in my estimation, done it competently.

VISITING OR RESIDENT?

1) **In Matt 12.43-45** the Lord tells us of a man who had an unclean spirit. The spirit left the man of its own free will, but later returned and brought 7 others with it. This man at first had a spirit that came and went, but later 8 spirits took up residence. This is **exactly what happens with some** (not all) tongues-speaking people. The demons **may** or **may not** be resident all the time. Often, demons visit them and utter a lot of profanities through the person while they are supposedly talking in tongues. But at other times, there is no spirit present and the person appears to live a normal spiritual life and even exhibits all the fruit of the Spirit. This is why we can only get the spirit to manifest while the person is speaking in tongues. As was the case in Matt 12.43-45, there are times when the spirit simply is not there. The point we would like to make here is that a spirit may just be **visiting** or it may be **resident**.

THE REAL CAUSE!

Also within a fellowship, there can be people controlled by evil spirits. Local believers with limited knowledge attribute their problems to epilepsy, schizophrenia, heavy oppression, kleptomania, aggression, various compulsions such as eating, immorality, spending etc. In many cases, these diagnoses would be correct, but certainly not in all. Sometimes, we have tested these cases and found an evil spirit present who was the **real cause of the problem**.

2) **Mark 1.23** "And there was a man **in their synagogue** with an unclean spirit." There seems no reason to doubt that he was a believer and had gone to the synagogue to worship.

3) **Luke 13.11-16** This woman was **also in the synagogue**. She had a 'spirit of infirmity'. She is referred to as a 'daughter of Abraham' which would seem to indicate that she was a believer.

RECEIVING ANOTHER SPIRIT

4) **2 Cor 11.3-4** Paul warns the believers about the danger of receiving another spirit other than the Holy Spirit. If it were not possible for a Christian to **receive another spirit** there would be no need for the warning.

5) **1 John 4.1-3** John calls them 'beloved' and then instructs them 'not to believe every spirit but try (test) the spirits to see if they are of God.' If it wasn't possible for a believer to have another spirit, there would be no need for the test. We are even told in this passage what questions to ask the spirit.

Another point I would like to make is this: People are now being saved out of witchcraft and satanism. Some genuinely repent of all sin and then **show unmistakable signs of being born again**, but at the same time, still have resident or visiting spirits. Some may remain in this state for a long time until

they meet up with someone who can cast the spirits out of them. No one can doubt the fact that some (not necessarily all) of these people are really saved because all the evidence is there. Nor can experienced counsellors doubt the fact that demons are still there also, because they keep manifesting from time to time in various ways and it is almost certain that these same demons will remain until steps are taken to get rid of them. They will usually not vacate this territory until specifically commanded to do so.

These, along with many other passages of Scripture, seem to indicate that **in some cases** it is possible for Christians to be controlled by evil spirits. The control of course varies in degree.

I now propose to deal with this subject in 4 stages:

- 1) To give an analogy from Scripture which, when explained, seems to help many people understand the complexity of the matter before us.
- 2) Show some of the ways that demon invasion takes place.
- 3) Show at least **some of the symptoms** indicating the fact that demons are present.
- 4) Show how counsellors can help people who are troubled by demons.

1. AN ANALOGY FROM SCRIPTURE

God in His Word points out that man is a tripartite being. He ought to know, because after all, He created man. For those who would like to study some references, we could cite:

Hebrews 4.12

"For the Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." This verse clearly shows a distinction between **soul** and **spirit**. It also shows the need to divide one from the other and thirdly, it reveals the means whereby this is done. **The Word of God is the power**, and the only power I might add, capable of separating soul from spirit. Put in another way, **truth is the sharp instrument** that divides the two non-material parts of man, soul and spirit.

Another verse which could be cited is:

1 Thess 5.23

"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly and I pray God your whole **spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." In this verse, Paul is very definite in his declaration that man consists of **spirit, soul and body**. Although these 3 parts of man are distinct from each other, they are integral parts of man and when put together make up the whole. The distinction between soul and spirit is **of tremendous importance**. In fact, it is **absolutely crucial** that every sincere Christian set his mind to understand the difference between the two.

If we do not understand the difference, we will be open often to **deception** and will be misled by Satan on numerous occasions, all through our earthly pilgrimage.

There is one point however, that does make the matter a little confusing and that is, that sometimes in Scripture, the term soul and spirit are used synonymously. However, we trust that this difficulty will be cleared up as we go along.

Now it will be helpful if we try and define these terms. This is not easy to do and it will require some thought on the part of each person in order to arrive at a clearer understanding.

THE BODY

(a) **The human body is the material or physical part of man which houses both the spirit and the soul.** The body provides for us 'sense consciousness'. In other words, through the body we are able to use the '5 senses' that God has given to us. These are hearing, sight, taste, touch and smell.

Our bodies are of course mortal, that is, subject to death, but the Bible very clearly teaches that when our Lord died on the cross, He paid the price of our redemption. So when the bodily resurrection takes place, God will take possession of the **body** of each Christian. Our bodies, if we are truly regenerate, are His by right of purchase. So at the resurrection, He will completely change our bodies and they will **cease to be mortal**, and **become immortal**. **Put simply**, we will then be given a new body that will never again be subject to death. In the meantime, while we live in this body on earth, we have '**world consciousness**'. We make contact with the world in which we live. We see through our eyes and hear with our ears and so on. So it is through the various organs of the body that we are conscious of the world around us and interact with it.

THE SOUL

(b) Second, let us briefly consider the soul. **Our soul is that part of us which gives us self-consciousness.** This includes the mind, the will, the intellect and the emotions. **An emotion**, by the way, **is simply a state of mind**, but it can be perceived by our physical senses.

THE SPIRIT

(c) **Now let us turn to the third part of man — the spirit.** The spirit is that part of us which gives us God consciousness, and it is only by our spirit that we can apprehend God and worship Him. Our Lord told us quite plainly in:

JOHN 4.24

... that "God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must **worship Him in spirit** and in truth." The spirit is therefore the highest part of man. **It is immortal** — it will never die. It will never cease to exist. When the body through old age or disease becomes uninhabitable and we experience what we call death, the spirit vacates the body and will live in heaven for ever or be cast into hell for ever. When the bodily resurrection takes place, the spirits of non-Christians will be reunited with their bodies and both spirit and body will be cast into hell. However, when the bodies of Christians are raised, they will be given a completely new immortal body and will never again experience sickness or suffering of any kind, and of course, it will be an eternal body — meaning they will never die!

So to try and summarize what we have said so far:

1. **The body** is the house in which we live and gives us 'world consciousness', through our 5 senses.
2. **Our soul** gives us 'self consciousness' and includes the mind, the will, the intellect and the

emotions.

3. **The spirit** is the real me, which will live forever, either in heaven or hell. **It is the spirit that gives us contact with the spirit world.**

ANIMALS DO NOT HAVE SPIRITS

That is why you never hear of a horse that wants to go to church. You never see a cow bowing down to worship God. Animals do not have a spirit. There is no third part to them **conscious of God or heaven or hell** or anything of the spirit world. **They have no spirit.** But we have a spirit and it is of the utmost importance that we grasp the fact that these three integral parts make up the whole person.

AN ALLEGORY

Now let us turn to the Bible for an allegory to help us understand it better. Back in Israel's early history, when the people were on the move, they assembled what was called a Tabernacle. This tabernacle consisted of 3 main parts:

1. There was the 'outer court'.
2. There was a part of the Tabernacle called 'the holy place' and the only ones to enter this area were the priests.
3. There was also a **very sacred area** called '**the Holy of holies**' where no one was permitted to enter except the High Priest himself and he was only permitted to enter once a year and even then only when certain conditions were met. All this was **an object lesson** to teach the people of God some lessons which were of **tremendous importance.**

We do not have time here to examine some of the things that God was trying to impress upon Israel, but the Tabernacle was in a real sense, very much like man. Just as the Tabernacle consisted of 3 areas, so man consists of 3 parts and those 3 parts make up the whole.

THE OUTER COURT

The **Outer court of the Tabernacle** was the large area which contained within its borders, the 2 smaller areas, the 'holy place' and 'holy of holies'. In the same way, **our body is the outer court** of our being and it also houses or contains 2 other areas, our soul and our spirit.

THE HOLY PLACE

The Tabernacle had a **second area** called the 'holy place'. We too, have a **second part** of our being which we call the '**soul**' and as we explained earlier, this is made up of the mind, the will and emotions.

HOLY OF HOLIES

But the Tabernacle had a **third area** called the '**holy of holies**'. We too, have a third area that we call our spirit and if we are a true Christian, if we have been born of the Spirit, then our spirit becomes the holy of holies in our being and the Holy Spirit takes up residence in our spirit.

THE SHRINE

What we are saying here is that our spirit is the shrine in which the Spirit of God dwells.

Now, with this picture in mind, it should be much easier to understand how demons, **if we allow them**, (and I must emphasize that,) **if we allow them, or if we open the door to them**, can enter the outer court.

Whether we do so knowingly or unknowingly makes no difference. Once the door is opened to them, they will enter the outer court — **the body**. Having gained entry to the body, they will work from this ground that has now come into their possession and try to gain control of the rest of our being.

DEMONIC PIRATES

They will work ceaselessly to bring the mind and the will under their control. **Until they get at least some degree of control over the mind and the will, they have little say in the direction of a person's life**. However, if they succeed in gaining strong influence over the mind and the will, they can then change the direction of a person's life completely and set it on a disaster course! It would be like a band of pirates hi-jacking a ship. If they forced their way **on board** and took no further action, the ship could proceed on its course. But if the pirates reached the bridge and took over the helm, they would then be in a position to steer the ship wherever they wished.

In our counselling, we have many cases where demons have gotten into the outer court of a Christian's life and have had to be expelled. In other instances, they have not only gotten into the outer court, but have succeeded in gaining strong influence over the mind and the will. Or to use the other analogy, they have not only gotten on board the ship, but have succeeded in taking over the helm as well.

This latter case is of course much more serious because the ship is now on a collision course with the rocks. Once demons have taken over the mind and the will, it is thus more difficult to expel them. They have a much greater hold on the person's life. Now this brings us to the next question:

2. HOW DOES DEMON INVASION TAKE PLACE?

Some experienced counsellors now feel that it can take place in any one of hundreds of different ways. I do not intend here of course to mention all of these, but it will be helpful to many people if we draw attention to **some of the most common** methods that demons use to gain access to people's lives. Before listing these ways of access, I feel I should point out that demon invasion may take place slowly, or it may occur suddenly, in the same way that a door can be **opened slowly** or it may be swung open **quickly**.

A person may gradually begin taking part in some form of activity that is forbidden by God. It may be something that is done just occasionally. The person concerned will, in all probability, be totally unaware of the fact that they are in fact **gradually opening the door for demons** to come in!

DEMONS DO NOT RETREAT VOLUNTARILY

The person will very likely be also unaware of the fact that once demons gain ground in a person's life, they will **definitely not give up that ground** until forced to do so.

In listing some of the methods that demons can use in order to gain entry to a person's life, I must emphasize the fact that this is not meant to be an exhaustive list, nor will I attempt to arrange these methods in order of importance.

1. Dabbling with **Astrology**
2. The use of **black magic**
3. Involvement in **sects and cults**
4. Different kinds of **fortune telling**
5. Using various forms of **divination**, whether for water, oil, lost objects etc
6. Use of **rod and pendulum**
7. Using Ouija boards
8. Participating in role-playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons
9. Use of **mantras**. Mantras are secret words used to call on demonic power for assistance.
10. Engaging in counterfeit speaking in tongues
11. Having hands laid on by tongues-speaking people
12. Being 'slain in the spirit' in charismatic meetings
13. Attempting self-hypnosis or do-it-yourself psychiatry
14. Attending **seances**
15. Consulting mediums and clairvoyants
16. Persistent listening to hard-core **Rock music**
17. Involvement in **homosexuality**
18. Using horoscopes
19. Submitting to **hypnotism**
20. Engaging in transcendental meditation and eastern mysticism
21. Practising Marshal Arts, Yoga, Karate, Kung Fu etc
22. Involvement in witchcraft
23. Involvement in New Age practices such as: Self-awareness groups, mind expansion, relaxation techniques, child regression, re-birthing, positive imaging, levitation, listening to subliminal music.

I regard most of the New Age practices just listed as occult sciences. They serve Satan's purposes extremely well because they provide demonic activity with a cloak of respectability.

"LETTING GO" of the MIND

It should be stressed here that there is one common denominator with all these occult practices and that is the **opening of the mind 'to receive something'** or to have some sort of '**experience**'. If the door of the mind is opened, the person in all probability will make contact with evil spirits. These spirits will be only too happy to take possession of the ground that is given to them — even if the person gives this ground in ignorance.

Now before proceeding, I feel that I must again make it understood that this is not intended to be a complete list. These **are only some of the means** used by demons to gain a foothold in a person's life. Once they gain that foothold, they will try at all costs to maintain it, because when a person, whether Christian or not, gives ground to demons, the demons then have the right to stay there. **The ground is theirs. After all, that ground was given to them!** Again, I must stress the fact that they will not relinquish that ground until the person concerned renounces all previous involvement in occult practices and by an act of the will **reclaims the ground**. They not only retain the ground given, but **work out from that ground** in an effort to secure more ground. Their aim is to **gain increasingly greater degrees of control over the person** until they have sufficient access to the mind to enable them to actually program the person.

3. SYMPTOMS OF DEMONIC INFLUENCE

If this 'take over' bid is not detected and stopped at some stage, **some of the following symptoms may appear:**

1. A change of character
2. Varying degrees of oppression
3. Development of mediumistic ability
4. Dual personality
5. A distaste for spiritual things
6. Resistance to truth
7. Avoiding deeply spiritual Christians
8. Avoiding church meetings or places where they may receive help
9. Rushing out of meetings whilst they are in progress
10. Great difficulty in sitting still and listening while certain truths are being preached
11. Emotional problems
12. Suicidal tendencies
13. Increasing degrees of spiritual blindness
14. Addiction to a variety of bad habits
15. Addiction to rock music
16. Various forms of compulsion such as eating, spending, immorality, lying etc
17. Passivity of mind and difficulty in making decisions
18. Passivity of will, in other words, wanting to do, or not to do, certain things, but lacking the will power to carry out the decision
19. Sexual lust
20. Unprovoked outbursts of anger
21. Uncontrollable thoughts
22. Unexplained marital discord
23. Seeing apparitions
24. Prolonged periods of depression
25. Voices in the head; fear, mental disturbances, self-pity, psychic disturbances, continually falling asleep when truth is presented to them; unwillingness to part with certain items of jewellery that may have occult significance.

AND SO THE LIST GOES ON AND ON.

There is no bottom line ...

RELIANCE ON THE LORD

It should be obvious by now that counsellors must ask the Lord to give them the discernment necessary to recognise problems in their early stages in order that they may be dealt with **then, before they develop** and become more serious.

If parents suspect that their children or young people have a problem, it should be reported to a spiritual counsellor and help should be sought. Quite often, things can be 'nipped in the bud' and both parents and young people saved from a lot of heartache that would have been experienced further down the track.

There will be a tendency on the part of some to brush aside much of what we have shared here and treat it lightly. I'm well aware of this fact. How much of this is accepted and understood will be in

exact proportion to each person's spiritual capacity. Naturally, some will be further advanced than others in spiritual matters. A few will be way ahead and grasp these things immediately.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

I propose at this stage to continue with the symptoms of demonic invasion but to put them in **Biblical perspective**. In other words, we will consider an incident that occurred when our Lord was on earth and observe as we go, some of the details that have been carefully recorded for our benefit. I suggest now that you put this book down for a while and:

READ CAREFULLY MARK 5.1-20

Now let us go slowly through this passage and observe some things about the man referred to:

1. **In verses 2-3 Abnormal behaviour.** This man lived in the cemetery. Now that doesn't mean that all demon-possessed people will act in the same way, but it does mean that demon-possessed people will often act in ways that are anything but normal.
2. **Verses 3-4 He possessed enormous strength.** He could **not** be bound even with chains. This was not the man's strength, but was a display of the strength of the demons that possessed him.
3. **v.4 He was unresponsive to help offered by others.** "No man could tame him." The demons that controlled him prevented him from receiving help.
4. **v.5 He was emotionally disturbed.** 'Night and day' he was 'crying', also in verse 5, we notice more abnormal behaviour. 'He was cutting himself with stones.' This of course was the demons tormenting him.
5. **v.6 Dual personality.** "He ran and worshipped the Lord." No demon would do this. This is the man acting.
6. **v.7 Clairvoyance.** Clairvoyance is the ability to see and know things not normally known to the senses. He knew immediately who our Lord was and that He was the Son of God. We also observe here the '**dual**' personality again. In v.7 it appears to be the demon speaking, saying "don't torment me!" whereas in v.6 it was the man himself acting and worshipping the Lord. In v.8 the man was definitely demon-possessed because our Lord spoke to the demon.
7. **In verse 9** we see that demons can and do live in groups and are headed up by one or more powerful demons. You can pick this up by observing the change from singular to plural. "**My** name is Legion, for **we** are many," and again in v.10 "and **HE** asked the Lord not to send **THEM** away." Here, one **chief demon** is speaking for the group.
8. **Also in verse 10** they seem to prefer to remain in localised geographical areas. They desired to be allowed to stay in that part of the country.
9. **Verse 12** reveals that they definitely prefer to dwell in a body rather than remain disembodied. They knew that they had to leave the man in whose body they dwelt, so they requested that the Lord allow them to enter into the pigs nearby.
10. **In verse 13** we observe transference from the man to the pigs. Now in the Gospels and the Book of Acts, there are many such incidents that reveal a great deal about demons and their activities, but our main purpose here is to **identify certain symptoms** which indicate that demons are present.

OTHER SYMPTOMS

Now I will add to the list some symptoms that we are recognising in our own counselling ministry:

1. Abnormal behaviour
2. Super-human strength

3. Dual personality — not split personality
4. Emotional disturbances
5. Clairvoyance
6. In torment
7. Lapsing into a state of 'trance' when being counselled
8. A twitching of the eyes
9. Eyes roll upwards so that only the whites are showing
10. Outbursts of anger, even when unprovoked
11. Straggly hair, resembling an 'explosion in a mattress factory!' (This indicates an attitude of rebellion against decency and the established 'norm'.)
12. Clutching at the throat as if the person were choking. (Usually only seen when the demons feel threatened.)
13. Hideous expression coming over the face
14. Eyes changing from normal to a 'leering defiant' look
15. Hands and nails resembling claws
16. Cringing like a frightened animal
17. Shouting and spitting at the Bible
18. **Always** avoiding situations where they may come into contact with strong spirit-filled Christians
19. When in the presence of spirit-filled Christians, they become weak in the knees, or sick in the stomach and sometimes faint
20. Mocking the Counsellor

Now I repeat here that all counsellors should ask the Lord to help them develop their powers of discernment. But I would also advise Christians **not** to enter this field of demonic counselling unless definitely called of the Lord to do so. It is highly dangerous. Demons are very real beings. They are highly intelligent and far superior to man in both knowledge and power. To oppose them, or try to dislodge them without first being equipped by the Lord is the height of folly. No Christian will be able to help people under demonic influence without first getting a reasonable knowledge of the Scriptures, and they will also need to spend a good deal of time in prayer to allow the Lord to teach them.

4. HOW TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE TROUBLED BY DEMONS

I would stress the fact that the information given here will only be of an elementary nature. A more in-depth study will have to be reserved for another occasion.

In talking recently with other counsellors, I discovered that all of us have noticed an alarming increase in demonic activity. This marked increase in activity has taken on various forms and is affecting the lives of literally thousands of Christians. The effects vary from 'mild' to 'devastating' and are so widespread that there are now large numbers of people crying out for help. In fact, the number is now so great that even with many counsellors engaged in a deliverance-type ministry, it is impossible to help them all. It is, to say the least, heart-rending to have people come to you or phone you and say "I need help; can I talk to you?" and have to answer "I'm sorry, I just don't have the time!"

There is a tremendous field of ministry opening up to all spiritual leaders who are willing to take the time to study this matter of demonic bondage and learn to use the authority that our Lord has given to them.

Now assuming that you feel called of the Lord to help those afflicted and oppressed by Satan, what are some of the things you will need to know? I make **no pretence whatsoever** that this book contains all the answers — **it doesn't!** The subject is one of such magnitude that it would need a very large book to give even an elementary knowledge. But what we will attempt to do here is to give some key pointers that we trust will lead many folk to a successful ministry in this field.

SOME POINTERS

1. First, those entering this field of ministry will need a **great deal of PATIENCE**. Head-on confrontations with the powers of darkness can sometimes lead a counsellor into great deception. He will have to be patient and learn by his mistakes and allow the Lord to teach him as he goes.
2. Counsellors must show **GENUINE CONCERN** for victims and always adopt a caring attitude. These people are hurting badly and many of them have had a tremendous battering from Satan. Some have reached the point of despairing whether they can ever be delivered. Some have terrible fear, oppression, emotional disturbances etc and do not see even a glimmer of light at the end of their tunnel. So this form of counselling must be undertaken with great tenderness.
3. We must **BUILD CONFIDENCE** to gain the trust of the afflicted person. They will not open up and confide in us if there is distrust.
4. We must **INSPIRE HOPE** within them that the mighty power of the risen Lord is more than adequate to free people from all types of bondage.
5. We must make them see that, in order to be free, they must be **STRICTLY HONEST** with us. **If they are not prepared to be frank and open and honest, then we can't help them!**

DISCOVERING THE CAUSE

6. Having taken these preliminary steps, we should now set out to **discover what it was that brought them into bondage**. In other words, they have given ground in some way to Satan and it is of the utmost importance that we, and they, find out what that ground was, because that ground must be taken back, or reclaimed, or the victim will never be really free. So an essential part of their being set free is to **discover what ground they have given** and then show them how to reclaim that ground. While ever demons have any ground in a person's life, they **have the legal right** to remain there. When the ground is reclaimed by the victim, demons can then be commanded to go, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and they have no option but to obey because they then have no ground on which to stand.
7. Now in order to discover what ground has knowingly or unknowingly been given to the powers of darkness, it will be **absolutely essential** for counsellors to **make a thorough investigation** of the life of the victim. This investigation should cover both the past and present life.

Questions should be listed out on paper and the counsellor should go through them systematically. It should be stressed here that the reason for questioning the person is to establish just how ground was given to Satan and his demons.

BE THOROUGH

It may be necessary to ask a great many questions, but the counsellor **must leave no stone unturned** in his effort to find out what ground has been given.

In order that all may grasp this point, let me put it in another way. The victim is in bondage. That bondage could be brought about by some connection with the Occult. The connection **must be found and broken** or the person will never be really set free! The connection with the occult or supernatural may not exist in their life **at this point in time**. In other words, it could easily be something they have dabbled in **at some previous time** that has brought them into bondage. **Again**, counsellors should not just assume that ground has been given to demons **on only one issue**. It is highly probable that ground has been given **in several areas and at different times**. All this 'giving of ground' must be carefully noted, so that the deceived person can later pray a prayer of renunciation and **by a definite act of the will reclaim the ground that demons now possess**.

THE NEED FOR CLEAR INSTRUCTION

Assuming now that the counsellors have discovered what ground has been given, the person concerned must have it pointed out to them that **they have sinned!** Whatever **ground we give is sin** and should be treated as a serious matter. The person should be shown that they have:

- a) **Disobeyed the Lord** on some issue and every act of disobedience to a Holy God is extremely serious.
- b) **Had contact with demons** through some form of occult practice. This is spiritism and the punishment spelt out by God for this offence is devastating. Such a passage as Deut 18.9-13 should be read out to the person. The reason for showing from Scripture how God condemns all these practices, is to give the person clear views of the holiness of God and the seriousness of disobedience to His laws.

Having done this, the person should then be encouraged to make a full confession of their sins and ask the Lord for His forgiveness. They should then pray a prayer of renunciation. This should be a comprehensive prayer and the counsellor should have a typed copy and go through it beforehand with the person concerned. It must be offered as a prayer **to the Lord, from the heart, by the person**.

Now in many cases, it will be found that the steps taken, up to this point, will be all that are needed. In other words, the person takes 5 simple steps:

1. **They confess their sins, specifically naming them and asking forgiveness.**
2. By a definite act of the Will, **they reclaim the ground** that had been given to Satan.
3. They command the demons to leave them and take all their works with them and never return!
4. They can then claim 'by faith' freedom from their bondage. Counsellors should give the person one or two promises from the Lord and urge them **to stand firm on those promises**. We have found the following promises a great encouragement to many: James 4.7-8 1 Peter 5.8-10 John 8.36 1 John 5.14-15.
5. Now that evil spirits have had the ground cut from under them and must leave the person, this is going to leave a vacuum in that person's life. The person should then ask the **Holy Spirit** to come in, in all His fulness, and fill that vacuum. Then, there will be no room for any evil spirits, should they seek to gain entry at some future time.

Now if it has become evident **prior** to the counselling or **during** the counselling session that demons are resident in the person and have gained a strong hold, the preceding steps may not be sufficient. The counsellor should then proceed along different lines and use his God-given Authority and "In the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ command the demons to leave the person immediately and take all their works with them." Demons can be commanded "to go to the place where the Lord Jesus Christ would have you go."

Chapter Four

THE CHRISTIAN and SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Some General Information about Warfare

Every Christian is a soldier in Christ's army. The New Testament knows nothing of 'conscientious objectors'. If we are true Christians, then Christ is the '**Captain of our salvation**' — we are soldiers in His army and Satan and his hosts of wicked spirits are our common enemies. This thought is clearly expressed many times in our New Testament. For example, in 2 Tim 2.3 Paul urges young Timothy to 'endure hardness as a good soldier ...' and in the next verse (v.4) Timothy is instructed to so live 'that he may please Him who has chosen him to be a soldier.' The same thought is expressed in many of our hymns, such as:

*"Soldiers of Christ,
arise and put your armour on!"*

*"Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
ye soldiers of the cross!"*

*"Onward Christian soldiers,
marching as to war."*

Every Christian is at war. The biblical picture is not one of a long-range artillery duel, but fierce hand-to-hand combat. Paul describes it as 'wrestling with hosts of wicked spirits.' **Eph 6.12** Wrestling conveys the idea of close body contact and an intense struggle. Many Christians seem to have the mistaken idea that only full-time workers are engaged in spiritual warfare, all others are free to relax and enjoy the world and all the pleasures it can offer. Instead of putting on the whole armour of God, they feel that they can put on their 'bathers' and get a spiritual suntan!

NUMBER OF CASUALTIES INCREASING

In war, people get killed. As we approach the Second Coming of our Lord and the spiritual warfare intensifies, ever-increasing numbers of Christians are falling in battle. By this I do not mean that they are physically dying, but that they are being spiritually wiped out. There can only be one winner in a war — either we defeat Satan or he will defeat us. It is **not a physical war**, but spiritual conflict with spiritual foes. It is direct conflict with a highly organised army of evil spirits under Satan's command.

NO TRUCE

There is no leave for Christian soldiers. The fight continues every waking hour. This warfare will take place in every area of your life. Battles will rage in the moral realm, the social and economic realms, the workplace, in leisure time, in worship, in relationships. All wars are made up of a series of battles. Major battles are crucial to the winning of a war, so Christians can expect the spiritual battles to be waged constantly on all fronts — some conflicts will be prolonged and particularly vicious.

In order to hope to win this war, we need to carefully study our foe and his tactics. This we have endeavoured to do in previous chapters, noting that they are spirit beings, invisible, but nevertheless distinct personal entities, with intense hatred for God and bent on the destruction of all Christians. They are not merely an influence, but distinct personalities, strategically placed and under orders to **carry out Satan's diabolical plans**. Their work includes opposing every move made by Christians.

This opposing army, as we have already noted, occupies the atmosphere immediately above the earth and its battalions can move from one geographical location to another and can be deployed at speeds yet unknown to man.

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE SATAN'S POWER

Satan's power should not be under-estimated. He is described as 'the god of this world' and 'prince of the power of the air.' Evil spirits under his control are described as princes, sovereigns and rulers in the world of darkness. Many Christians have the mistaken belief that spiritual warfare is to fight against sin. The Bible does not teach this. Our fight is with temptation and this temptation is brought to bear on us by these evil beings under consideration. If we yield to their tempting, then of course we are guilty of sin.

It should be stressed here that every Christian soldier should remain constantly alert or he is certain to **be ambushed!** Many spiritual giants are falling in battle because of some unguarded moment in their lives. The Christian's foes will attack with unwearied persistence, so Christians no matter how experienced, can't afford to be distracted.

HAVE WE REALLY ENLISTED?

The sad fact today is that thousands of people who profess to be Christians are not really in the Lord's army at all. Christ is not the Captain of their salvation, they have no armour on. They seem to feel that they have some God-given right to enjoy the world and many seem oblivious of the fact that there is even a war on! Spiritual battles are not won by soldiers lazing on the beach munching muesli bars and holding a transistor to their ear. Only those set free by Christ can fight this war. Those still in bondage will be fighting with their hands tied behind their back and will be continually overthrown.

NEED FOR BALANCE

We must never regard the Christian life as made up totally of intense self-effort. It isn't! There is to be discipline and of course even aggressive activity on occasions, but at other times, the Christian can adopt an attitude of simple trust in Christ which does not require any complicated intellectual struggles or exhausting self-effort.

THE ORIGIN OF THOUGHTS!

Christians should endeavour to **cultivate spiritual discernment.** They should not just assume that all thoughts that are suggested to their mind are from their own spirit. Suggestions can come from the Holy Spirit, from evil spirits, or from their own spirit. Christians should 'bring every thought into captivity' and carefully weigh it. If a thought is found to be from evil spirits, it should of course be resisted and put out of the mind. If it comes from the Holy Spirit, then it should be followed through and obeyed.

On the other hand, if suggestions are found to be products of our own spirit, they should be carefully examined on the basis of **whether they are right or wrong!** Our Lord would never require us to do anything that is wrong.

If Christians do not learn to make the distinctions just mentioned, they will often be found accepting suggestions which they assume are their own thoughts when in actual fact, they are thoughts shot into their mind by evil spirits. Examination of thoughts should be a constant process undertaken by all Christians to determine the source of the thoughts. A careful study of **Phil 4.8** will help every Christian on toward maturity and aid in the constant battle against the powers of darkness.

THE USE OF COMMON SENSE

Many Christians make the mistake of adopting a 'passive attitude' to spiritual warfare and expect God to make decisions for them. God does not do this. He created us as free moral agents and He expects us to use our common sense and distinguish between the gracious influence of the Holy Spirit and temptation from evil spirits. Every day, and often throughout the day, we will be required to determine the origin of various thoughts and suggestions and then follow through with the Biblical injunction 'whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, do all to the glory of God.' **1 Cor 10.31** Christians must be constantly making intelligent choices to take their stand on the Lord's side. There should be a keen desire on our part to submerge our wills and joyfully accept the Lord's will as soon as we are sure of it.

DON'T BECOME A STATISTIC

In all wars, there are casualties. This fact is especially true in spiritual warfare. During 40 years of full-time work for the Lord, I have observed a great many casualties on the battle field and early in my Christian walk, very nearly became a statistic myself. Let us always bear in mind the fact that as long as we live in a mortal body, we are in enemy territory for we are clearly told in **1 John 5.19** that 'the whole world lieth in wickedness.'

The fact that Christians have joined the company of the redeemed does not make them immune to the deceptions used by the forces of darkness. Christians must develop their powers of discernment in order to recognise this deception because it can come in exceedingly subtle forms. Christians who are deceived can finish up spiritually incapacitated.

ARE YOU A P.O.W.?

As well as the Lord's army suffering many casualties, other Christian soldiers are taken as prisoners-of-war. A prisoner of war is of no further use to his country. He has lost both his liberty and his weapons and can therefore no longer fight.

Thousands of Christians are in this sad state. Satan has succeeded in keeping them in some form of bondage or other. The Christian life to them is nothing but drudgery and a long weary struggle. Joy and peace are only things read about in Scripture, not experienced personally and as for triumph over Satan and his hosts — well! Many hope for it, but the quest to attain it is endless.

All I have said so far in this chapter is by way of general remarks, I wish now to bring to the attention of readers one specific point that we would all be wise to carefully consider and it is this:

A SOLDIER MUST HAVE THE WILL TO FIGHT

Many timid Christians have been greatly encouraged by meditating on the story of David and Goliath.

Goliath stood daily berating Saul and his army and shouting insults at Israel's God. Saul sits in his tent paralysed with fear. His armour and his weapons are spread out on the ground. The situation between Israel and the Philistines had reached an impasse. Victory could only be gained if Saul would accept Goliath's challenge and:

CHOOSE TO USE HIS WEAPONS

... but he lacked the will to do so. The situation remained at a stalemate until David appeared on the scene. Then, the whole situation changed immediately. The Lord now has a man who has **the will to fight**. David did not possess the elaborate armour that Saul had, but he did have something that Israel's king did not possess and that was an **unshakable FAITH in Israel's GOD!** David knew there was a certain amount of risk involved. He may lose his life. If God allowed that to happen, then so be it! There is always an element of risk in real war — **spiritual warfare is no exception!**

In this case, we all know the outcome. The Lord honoured David's faith and enabled him to win. Saul could have had a great victory that day. After all, he had good armour and weapons and a great God to stand by him, but he lacked two essential elements:

1. The **will** to take up his armour and fight.
2. A strong **Faith in God** to stand by him.

Reader, if we aim to win this spiritual war, the lessons are clear. We must '**put on the whole armour of God**' and go forth trusting the Captain of our salvation. The hymn-writer had it straight when he wrote:

*"Each victory will help you
some other to win,
Fight manfully onward, dark
passions subdue;
Look ever to Jesus, He will
carry you through."*

It is my prayer that what has just been said in this chapter will help readers to understand that a mental apprehension of what spiritual warfare is all about is simply not good enough. Every Christian should carefully study his foes and become familiar with the strategy they use. He should then '**put on the WHOLE ARMOUR of God**' and go to war. In **Eph 6** Paul gives very careful instruction on the armour, using the imagery of a Roman soldier.

In our next chapter, we shall consider this armour in more detail ...

Chapter Five

THE CHRISTIAN and HIS ARMOUR

The Christian Church in the 1980s appears to be losing the battle on most fronts. It is a sad fact that many soldiers within its ranks, as we have already noted, are completely oblivious of the fact that there is a fierce spiritual conflict raging all around them. Others in the Lord's army have become battle casualties and are now just limping through life as spiritual cripples. Others still have become so demoralized that they have lost the will to fight. They have retired from active service and have succumbed to the temptation to live a life of worldly pleasure and ease.

AN ARMY IN DISARRAY

This is indeed a sad picture, especially when contrasted with the Church during the 18th and 19th centuries. During that 200 year span under the leadership of Edwards, Whitefield, Wesley, Finney, Moody and a host of other spiritual giants, the Church advanced both on the home front as well as on the mission field. Units of the Lord's army penetrated deep into enemy territory and captured millions for Christ. Now we appear to be in retreat and, incredible as it may seem, many Christian soldiers instead of fighting the real enemy, are now fighting each other! I'm certain Satan and his chief demons are roaring with laughter as they observe the church and its almost total state of disarray.

Almost all wars are made up of a series of battles. The loss of a battle here and there may, or may not, determine the outcome of the war. In the spiritual war in which the Church is engaged, we appear to be winning the occasional battle but more discerning minds agree that we are losing the war. Many Christians seem to have forgotten the fact that whilst ever we live in a mortal body, we are in enemy territory. The only possible way to remain unscathed in this conflict is **'to put on the WHOLE ARMOUR of GOD.'** 1 Eph 6.11f Failing to follow the Lord's instructions in this matter will most certainly end in tragedy of one kind or another.

Some time ago whilst engaged in fierce spiritual conflict myself, I felt the need to make a closer study of the Christian's armour. I found 3 references that were especially helpful at that time and have continued to be ever since. I noted that the Christian has:

ONLY ONE SUIT OF ARMOUR — but!

... this suit of armour is **described in three different ways:**

The first description I will refer to is in **2 Cor 6.7**. Here, Paul calls it the:

1. "ARMOUR OF RIGHTEOUSNESS"

This is a very apt description but just what does Paul mean? In **1 Cor 1.30** we are told that

Christ is made FOUR things to the believer, one of which is 'righteousness'.

Now what Paul is saying in both of these instances is that **apart from a right relationship with Christ, there is no righteousness.** So if we are to be Christians at all, we are to 'put off the old man with his deeds' **Col 3.9** and 'put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ' **Rom 13.14** who becomes our righteousness. In using the term **armour**, Paul is using the imagery of the Roman soldier with which he was all too familiar. The thought he is endeavouring to convey is that the Christian life is to be a **life of militant holy living.** It is obvious that the vast majority of Christians today are passively

submissive to their circumstances whatever those circumstances may be.

Note also in 2 Cor 6.7 that Paul says this armour of righteousness is to be:

"ON THE RIGHT HAND and ON THE LEFT"

Ancient soldiers carried a spear in their right hand and a shield in their left. With the shield, they could defend themselves and with the spear (or sword) they could attack their enemies. Paul here is conveying the idea that the Christian soldier must be well armed. Whether we like it or not, we are engaged in a spiritual conflict of great intensity and much is at stake. We will face strong opposition and sometimes fierce persecution, so it is imperative that we have on '**the Armour of Righteousness.**' Put in another way, we are to **live a holy life** at all times and in all situations. By this means, and this means alone, the Christian can confidently expect to be victorious in the conquest.

Secondly, the Christian's armour is described as:

2. "THE ARMOUR OF LIGHT"

This description is found in **Rom 13.12**. In order to understand what Paul is saying here, we need to look at the whole verse. 'The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness and let us put on the armour of light.' Note the contrasts in the verse:

Night is contrasted with **day** and
darkness is in contrast with **light**.

We are instructed here to do two things, both of which require thought, effort, and an act of the will. The first instruction is to 'cast off the works of darkness'. We are to do this in the same way in which a man would cast off an old coat which he never intends using again. The 'works of darkness' mean sin in all its many and varied forms. These **works** are to be 'put off' by a definite **act of the will**. This act of putting off should be both total and continual.

This first act leads us to the second, that of 'putting on the armour of light.' This too is to be regarded as a definite act of the will. It is called the armour of light because it is not to accommodate any deeds of darkness.

In order to understand what Paul means here, we must bear in mind **THREE** facts brought out in Scripture:

1. Christians are all 'children of light'. 1 Thess 5.5
2. Christ is 'the Light of the world.' Jn 8.12
3. We are to 'walk in the light.' 1 Jn 1.7

So if our Lord is the **light of the world** and we 'put Him on' or become encased in Him, we then have on the armour of light. The second step, namely, 'putting on the armour of light' **is not possible until we have taken the first, namely 'casting off the works of darkness'**. The Biblical order must be followed exactly. A man who has on an old work coat would never attempt to put his good suit coat over the top of it. He first removes the old work coat; then the good suit coat will fit.

DELIBERATE ACTION

These steps are to be taken deliberately and **in faith**. They are to be regarded as definite transactions.

We have observed in our counselling that when people who are under heavy demonic oppression are brought into the presence of Christians who are 'clothed with the armour of light' they sometimes find it extremely difficult to look at those Christians. Demons love darkness and to look at such light tends to blind them. This can be easily understood when we remember that Christ is the Light of the world. So when a highly spiritual Christian has on the 'Armour of Light', he is in actual fact '**clothed with Christ**' or encased in Christ. When demons find themselves in close contact with such a Christian, this strikes fear into them and immediately causes them to feel threatened. We all know how the headlights of an approaching car tend to blind us. Paul repeats the instruction again two verses further on. **Rom 13.14** The wording is different, but the meaning is the same. Here he says "but put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ and make not provision for the flesh to fulfil the lusts thereof."

Let us patiently pray over these verses until we have a clear apprehension of their meaning. Then let us make sure we move on and appropriate these truths so that they become part of our experience.

The third reference to the Christian's armour to which I would now like to draw attention is found in **Eph 6.10-20**. In this passage, the Christian's armour is referred to as:

3. "THE ARMOUR OF GOD"

As the subject of the Christian's armour is of such vital importance to every redeemed person, let us take the time to prayerfully read these verses before we consider them in detail.

EPHESIANS 6.10 – 20

- 10 - Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.
- 11 - Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.
- 12 - For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world against spiritual wickedness in high places.
- 13 - Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.
- 14 - Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness;
- 15 - And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;
- 16 - Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.
- 17 - And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God:
- 18 - Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;
- 19 - And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel,
- 20 - For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.

*v.10 "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord,
and in the power of His might."*

The instruction to the Christian here is in the form of a command. We are commanded by the Captain of our Salvation to **be strong!** But note wherein that strength lies: **in the Lord**. We are NOT

commanded to be strong in our own strength but **in the Lord**. This is the secret of spiritual power. Chas Wesley expressed it well in his wonderful hymn:

*Soldiers of Christ, arise and put your armour on,
Strong in the strength which God supplies through His eternal Son.
Strong in the Lord of hosts, and in His mighty power,
Who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.
Stand then in His great might, with all His strength endued;
But take, to arm you for the fight, the panoply of God.*

Weak Christians have no excuse, because the Lord Himself has made available limitless resources to build us up and make us strong. The Bible is full of lessons to be learnt, truths to be appropriated, and promises to be applied. It is true that in this 'pressure cooker' type society in which we live, there is little time for 'in-depth' Bible study when every Christian must therefore exercise self-discipline and:

MAKE THE TIME!

All who fail to do this will remain weak and vulnerable and will probably be spiritually destroyed as Satan steps up his campaign against the Church. In **Heb 11.34** we read of former saints who 'out of weakness were made strong' and they went on to 'wax valiant in fight and put to flight opposing armies.' It is true that we live in a frail earthen vessel, but let us allow our Lord Jesus Christ to glorify Himself by demonstrating His power in and through us.

HOW TO GAIN STRENGTH

The way to become strong is to literally soak up the Word of God. To saturate our minds with it, so that when we are in any conceivable situation, we can take hold of an appropriate promise and apply it. When our Lord was being tempted in the wilderness, Satan put THREE propositions to Him and on all three occasions, our Lord rebuffed him with Scripture by saying:

"IT IS WRITTEN" Mat 4. 4, 7. 10

There are no short cuts to becoming a strong Christian. We must go from 'strength to strength' by getting to know the Word of God and learning how to use it. It is obvious that many of the Lord's people have a **sincere desire** to do the Lord's will, but desire must always be **accompanied by the will to act**. We must become unashamed in our use of the Word of God. We must develop the ability to apply truth in all direct confrontations with Satan. As believers, we must learn to thrust truth at Satan in the power of the Spirit. As we develop the ability to do this, we pass from the **stage of desiring** to that of **exercising the will** in direct combat.

v.11 "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

In this verse, we are instructed to put on the **whole armour of God**. Battles are won only by soldiers who fight and, as we observed with King Saul, **to fight effectively, we must use weapons**. The Lord in His great wisdom has provided weapons for His soldiers, but battles are won only when soldiers choose to use their weapons. There is no neutrality in the spiritual warfare. Our Lord made this crystal clear when He said "he that is not for me is against me!" **Mat 12.30**

The only Christians who have any hope of winning this warfare with Satan are those who shake off their lethargy and adopt an aggressive attitude toward Satan and his hierarchy. Are we not told to

'stand firm' ... to 'put on the whole armour' ... to 'take the sword of the Spirit' ... to 'resist the devil' ... to 'fight the good fight' ... to 'endure hardship as a good soldier.' These instructions need to be translated from theory into practice. George Duffield states it very clearly in his hymn:

*Stand up, stand up for Jesus,
Stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you,
ye dare not trust your own:
Put on the gospel armour,
each piece put on with prayer;
Where duty calls or danger,
be never wanting there.*

v.12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

The struggle referred to in this verse is not a **physical struggle** with **material beings**, but a **spiritual struggle** with **invisible spirits** from Satan's hierarchy. It is true of course that Christians always have had opposition from human beings (and always will) but the main source of attack will come from unseen beings in the spirit realm. We must learn to look beyond our earthly foes to the wicked spirits who direct them. Most of the assaults on Christians are not directed at their physical bodies, but their spiritual life. The aim of course is to wound them badly enough to force them out of the battle.

WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST

This verse helps us to understand what we are up against. We have in view here a pyramid of power in the realms of darkness. Satan is the undisputed leader. Under him are princes (who govern a principality;) then sovereigns and rulers (who rule over certain localities;) down to myriads of wicked spirits who constantly harass the Lord's people in every conceivable way.

OUR AUTHORITY IN CHRIST

Most Christians grossly underestimate the awesome power possessed by this hierarchy of spirit beings. We must always remember that they are fallen angels and far superior to man in knowledge and power. We are not to admire their power, but we certainly should respect it. Having said this, I would also make it clear that Christians should not fear Satan and his hordes of wicked spirits, because we are distinctly told that we have '**authority over ALL the power of the enemy.**' **Luke 10.19** The problem with many Christians is the fact that even though they have authority over the enemy, unfortunately they choose not to use it. The traffic policeman has the authority to bring all traffic to a halt, but if he chooses not to use that authority, then motorists can virtually do what they like. We are to take up our position 'in Christ' — we are to 'sit with Christ in heavenly places.' We are to use the authority delegated to us by Christ for all combat situations.

***v.13 "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God,
that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand."***

Preparedness is the secret of victory in battle. We are to remain in a constant state of alert. There is no leave for soldiers in the Lord's army. At no time can we remove our armour. That is a luxury that Christians cannot afford. We are not only to remain alert and armed, but we are to 'resist' all assaults that come against us. Chas Wesley writes again:

*Leave no unguarded place,
no weakness of the soul;
Take ev'ry virtue, ev'ry grace
and fortify the whole.
To keep your armour bright,
attend with constant care;
Still walking in your Captain's sight
and watching unto prayer:
From strength to strength go on;
wrestle and fight and pray;
Tread all the pow'rs of darkness down
and win the well-fought day.*

NEVER BE PASSIVE

There are only TWO attitudes we can adopt in spiritual warfare:

1. We can 'passively accept' all that comes our way.
2. We can, if we choose, resist all that is not to the glory of God.

There are varying degrees of **passivity** and also varying degrees of **resistance**. The Christian soldier should never under any circumstances allow any degree of passivity. He should carefully examine everything that comes his way and all that is not of God should be resisted. This should not be merely 'token' resistance but **strong resistance!** In other words, if he expects to win in combat situations, he is to really put up a fight. If he has 'put on Christ' then he has put on the armour — they are one and the same. If he has put on the armour, then he can confidently expect victory.

v.14 "Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth."

By now, you will have realised that the Christian life is a battleground, not a playground. It is not surprising that Paul uses the imagery of a soldier. After all, he was himself chained to a Roman soldier (v.20). The Apostle would have most certainly known a great deal about the army, soldiers and their equipment, so it would be quite natural for him to draw on these sources to illustrate spiritual truth.

Paul knew the necessity for adequate training and good equipment. Roman soldiers used a girdle. This girdle encircled the body and was of great importance., This piece of spiritual armour that is to be tightened around us is TRUTH.

Truth here is not something abstract, but is something that is alive and active. It flows ceaselessly like a stream to and from the mind. Satan makes sure that as truth flows to the mind, it is mixed with highly toxic doses of poison. The Mind must decipher this mixture — retain what is right and discard what is error. We must discipline ourselves to walk constantly in truth, before God and in relationship with our fellowman. We must never wilfully give wrong impressions or exaggerate facts. We must always allow truth to prevail everywhere and in everything regardless of the cost.

Jessie Penn-Lewis in her book "The Warfare with Satan" points out that 'truth is LIGHT, and untruth in any degree is darkness.' Satan spreads error of every kind, but specialises in doctrinal error. Many Christians today are weak and make little headway in their spiritual pilgrimage because they spend their time blowing intellectual soap-bubbles. We must use God's heavy artillery of Truth if we hope to batter down the gates of hell.

Truth must be understood in the mind and lived out daily in the life. We must discipline ourselves and get down to serious study of the Word. This will take time, effort and concentration. If we fail to make the time to do this, then our loins will never be 'girdled up with truth'.

v.14 "And having on the breastplate of righteousness."

The old breastplate covered the body from the neck to the thighs. It consisted of TWO parts, one covering the front of the body and the other the back. It was composed of layers of metal plates which were all fastened together layer upon layer like the scales of a fish. They were flexible enough to provide freedom of movement, but at the same time, provided protection from swords, spears and arrows.

I have observed that some Bible scholars regard the various parts of the armour as spiritual graces. They are provided by the Lord but must be appropriated by us. Righteousness is no exception. Righteousness means that we are ...

RIGHT WITH GOD

... in every area of our life. Having a righteous character will ensure defence against many of Satan's assaults. Every soldier in olden days would be a 'sitting duck' without a breastplate. It would only be a matter of time when either a spear or an arrow would get him. Likewise, in the spiritual warfare. Every professing Christian who does not take the time to put on the breastplate of righteousness will sooner or later be brought down by Satan. It is a case of survival. Have on the breastplate and survive — neglect to put it on and be destroyed, and the awesome responsibility rests with us!

v.15 "And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace."

It is of the utmost importance that every soldier take good care of his feet. If he receives blisters or infection, or if they are injured in any way, it virtually puts him out of action. I believe there is a vital connection between 'the feet' and 'standing firm against' all the assaults of Satan. We must have a strong foothold. If our feet are firmly settled in the Faith, then our spirit will be restful. Many Christians seem to live their lives in a state of spiritual agitation. Confusion, worry and perplexity seem to be the order of the day — this ought not to be. We must take the time to carefully plant our spiritual feet on solid truth and then stand firm in a restful state of mind. We are to 'stand' and 'walk' in peace, undisturbed by the turbulence that takes place around us.

AT PEACE IN THE STORM

During the great Revivals of the 18th and 19th centuries, this experience was referred to as 'the rest of Faith'. It is the lot of every Christian to find storms of one kind or another raging about him. He must learn to remain in an attitude of peace and always bear in mind the fact that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose." Rom 8.28

v.16 "Above all, taking the shield of faith."

The shield is basically a defensive weapon. Paul says 'above all' meaning, more important than all, take the shield of faith. Every Christian should be aware of the prominent place given to **faith** in the Scriptures.

Hebrews 11 has been called "the roll-call of Faith" and lists many past heroes and what they accomplished through faith.

Rom 1.17 - The just shall live by faith.
Acts 15.9 - Our hearts are purified by faith.
Acts 26.18 - We are sanctified by faith.
Rom 3.28 - We are justified by faith.
2 Cor 5.7 - We walk by faith.
Eph 3.17 - Christ dwells in our hearts by faith.

And so we could go on!

FAITH IS NOT AN OPTIONAL EXTRA

In **Hebrews 11.6** we are also told that **without Faith it is impossible to please God**. As faith is of such great importance, we should make sure that we understand what it is. Chas. Finney says "Faith is anchoring down on the promises of God and believing them as fact." In other words, believing them as though they had already been fulfilled. This is why some Christians zoom ahead in their spiritual life. They believe God. **Whatever He says, they believe Him.**

Abraham believed God, even though the odds were stacked against him. God had said it and that was sufficient. **Faith** and **expectation** are one and the same. To have faith is to confidently expect God to do what He says He will do. Not to believe God is to cast a slur on His character. Here faith is depicted as a shield. As long as the soldier had his shield, he felt secure. As long as a Christian has his faith, he is safe. If ever he loses it, he is immediately in trouble. Our faith should come to our aid in every attack, no matter from what quarter. Our faith is the guardian of all other Christian graces.

Encamped along the hills of light, ye
Christian soldiers, rise,
And press the battle ere the night shall
veil the glowing skies;
Against the foe in vales below let all
our strength be hurled;
Faith is the victory we know that
overcomes the world!

His banner over us is Love, our sword,
the Word of God;
We tread the road the saints above
with shouts of triumph trod;
By faith they, like a whirlwind's breath,
swept on o'er every field;
The faith by which they conquered
Death is still our shining shield.

On every hand the foe we find drawn
up in dread array;
Let tents of ease be left behind and
— onward to the fray!
Salvation's helmet on each head, with
truth all girt about,
The earth shall tremble 'neath our
tread and echo with our shout!

v.16 "Wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked."

It was the custom at one stage in history to shoot burning arrows that had been previously dipped in inflammable liquid. These, as can be imagined, were highly dangerous missiles indeed, but a good shield could be relied upon, not only to blunt the arrow, but also to extinguish the burning tip. Every Christian will have 'fiery darts' shot at him, particularly into his mind. We must all develop a strong faith that will make us resistant to temptation, unbelief, blasphemous thoughts and everything Satan hurls at us.

The word 'quench' means to extinguish, in the same manner in which a small fire is extinguished by a bucket of water being thrown over it. Speaking of these 'fiery darts', Albert Barnes in his commentary on Ephesians says:

1. They **come suddenly** like arrows from a bow.
2. They come **from unexpected quarters**.
3. They can **pierce the soul** and set it on fire with all kinds of passions.
4. **Faith** is the only safeguard against them. In other words, strong faith in God and in the promises of His Word! If we do not have faith, we are totally defenceless.

"This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." **1 John 5.4**

HOW DO WE DEVELOP FAITH?

Paul answers that question for us in **Rom 10.17**. "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." In other words, faith develops in exact proportion to our studying, understanding and obeying the Word of God. If, in the past, we have been negligent in this duty, let us make up our mind that with the Lord's help, we will not squander any more time, but apply ourselves to the task of becoming strong in faith.

v.17 "And take the helmet of salvation."

The helmet worn by the Roman soldier was made of brass and was designed to protect the head from blows of clubs or swords or any other weapon. Without doubt, it would have often saved the lives of those who wore it, so its importance cannot be over-emphasised. The helmet was to protect the head. Its equivalent, the spiritual helmet, is to protect the mind. Satan and his hosts are continually **attacking the mind**. The kind of protection referred to here is for a mind filled with and controlled by Christ. We are distinctly told to "gird up the loins of your mind." **1 Pet 1.13**

If we have on the helmet of salvation, or have girded up our minds with truth, our life is like a well-guarded fortress. Satan finds it well nigh impossible to make any impression on us. Reader, have you been fitted with the helmet of salvation? This helmet is the only protection we have for the mind and we should always **remember that the whole body takes its direction from the head**. Whilst ever we remain in the body, we shall be in Satan's territory and from time to time, find ourselves engaged in spiritual combat. The person who has not obeyed the command to 'take the helmet of salvation' will most assuredly succumb under Satan's onslaughts.

v.17 "And the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

The sword is both an offensive and a defensive weapon. In other words, the one using the sword is also going to have a sword used against him. The sword referred to here is, of course, the Word of God. The meaning appears to be not **truth revealed** to the Christian, but **truth spoken** by him. It is a

weapon to be used by Christians to destroy falsehood and evil and preserve that which is right and good. This sword, if used skilfully, is able to pierce the conscience in the same way that a steel sword pierces the body. Many times in counselling rooms, I have observed tears flowing copiously from people who had been 'pierced to the heart' by the Sword of the Spirit.

LEARN TO USE THE SWORD

A blow or thrust from a material sword can maim or even kill. Likewise, the believer is to use the Sword against Satan to injure him and force him to retreat from us and thus prevent him from hindering our progress.

It is helpful to note how our Lord used the Sword against Satan in **Matt 4**. Three times in this chapter, Satan tempted Him, and on all three occasions, our Lord stabbed him to the heart (vs. 4, 7, & 10) with the **Word of God**. It is interesting to observe that in this conflict, Satan also used the same sword, for in verse 6 he said "It is written" and then proceeded to quote Scripture. Satan will still resort to the use of Scripture but only when it suits his diabolical aims. Satan is still afraid of that sword when it is used by a Spirit-filled Christian. I repeat, **when the Sword is used**, it is indeed a formidable weapon, but while it is left in its scabbard or hung up and allowed to go rusty, it is of no use.

*v.18 "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,
and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints."*

Paul has concluded his instruction to the Christian concerning the armour and its importance. He has spelled out the composition of the armour, piece by piece, and dramatically described its use. Now he proceeds to talk of the soldier's vigilance. Satan is a spirit being. He never goes on holidays, nor does he ever sleep.

THE NEED FOR WATCHFULNESS

The Christian therefore must adopt an attitude of continual vigilance. Paul strongly emphasizes this thought in verse 18 by his instruction '**praying always**'. At no stage in our earthly pilgrimage do we outgrow the need to pray. We are instructed to 'pray without ceasing' — 'men ought always to pray and not to faint'. The picture in this verse appears to be one of a **sentinel** — always vigilant, always through prayer and supplication maintaining communication with his Lord. When Paul uttered these words, he was a prisoner. He describes himself in verse 20 as 'an ambassador in bonds'. He was by now an old warrior, but still, as ever, praying for himself and others and urging others to pray for him (v.19). Many a Christian today is like a 'punch-drunk' boxer, slumped over the ropes, or out cold on the floor.

THE NEED TO UNDERSTAND

There seem to be just a few here and there who have read Ephesians 6 very carefully. They have prayed over it — they have meditated much on it. They have not rested until they understood what is meant by **the armour of God**. Then they have proceeded to put on this armour, not just some of it, but ALL of it. These Christians are still 'standing' today. They are **standing tall**, at a time when large numbers of their fellow soldiers are falling in battle.

In closing this chapter, my advice to you, the reader, is:

"Go thou and do likewise!"

Go and do what other victorious Christian soldiers have had to do. Study carefully the **armour of God**. Ask the Lord to help you understand it! Take it, piece by piece, and put it on! When you have put it on, **never — never take it off!**

If for any reason you cease to be vigilant and happen to remove some of your armour, be assured you are going to be shot at by the forces of darkness. Believe me, these enemies can be deadly accurate — after all, they have had thousands of years' practice!

My prayer for all who read this book is that they will be wise enough to follow carefully the advice given here. Those who do not will, I fear, finish up as a statistic in the growing list of casualties in the Lord's army.

**"FINALLY, MY BRETHREN,
BE STRONG IN THE LORD,
AND IN THE POWER OF HIS MIGHT!"**

Bryce Hartin

.....ooo0ooo.....

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The Calvary Road, by Roy Hession, very simply outlines personal revival (sanctification) through being filled with the Holy Spirit. The 'how to' of Christian Surrender is revealed for all who would seek the Lord with all their heart. This is not another self help book but a most humbling revelation of the sin we fail (or refuse) to see and which keeps us from an intimate walk with Jesus. Go to the download page at <http://www.christianissues.biz/revival.html>

We Would See Jesus, also by Roy Hession, is a wonderful follow-up to The Calvary Road. For this book and **Be Filled Now!**, Go to the download page at <http://www.christianissues.biz/revival.html>

Tongues

Today's Tongues, by Bryce Hartin, is a small booklet which gives a counsellor's eye-opening insight into today's tongues phenomena. It takes very little time to read yet gives a clear and convincing Biblical argument. Please take the time to study this material, with an open mind and in the light of Scripture.

Go to the download page at <http://www.christianissues.biz/tongues.html>

All About Speaking In Tongues, by Fernand Legrand, reveals how Pentecostals 'created' Charismatic Catholics. This book is well written, by someone in the know, and deals with much Scripture.

Go to the download page at <http://www.christianissues.biz/tongues.html>

Bryce Hartin

Riding The Waves is a booklet, by the same author, in which the background of today's religious trends and the formation of the Pentecostal/Charismatic Movement is discussed.

Go to the download page at <http://www.christianissues.biz/thechristian.html>

Living In A Shattered Society is another booklet, by Bryce Hartin, which tells of a Christian's need not to be conformed to world.

Go to the download page at <http://www.christianissues.biz/thechristian.html>

The Last Days, exposes the great deception of these last days. The church is in trouble - deep trouble and many within its ranks are confused and frightened.

Go to the download page at <http://www.christianissues.biz/thechristian.html>

Dennis Hartin

God's Conditions For Revival, by Dennis Hartin. "The Church is in an incredible dilemma." That was the comment of a young sales executive ... One prominent minister went so far as to say that the church as an institution was dead. This book outlines God's conditions which were previously met and led to revival.

To download this book, click on

<http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/dennishartin/godsconditionsforrevival.pdf>

Perseverance Of The Saints

Perseverance Of The Saints is a clear Biblical argument against the Once Saved Always Saved doctrine, otherwise called Unconditional Security.

To download this small article, click on

<http://www.christianissues.biz/pdf-bin/perseverance/perseveranceofthesaints.pdf>