

THE LAST DAYS - WHAT WE MAY EXPECT !!

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Bryce Hartin

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SCRIPTURE

1 "This know also, that in the last days, perilous times shall come.

2 For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

3 Without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good,

4 Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;

5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

2 Timothy 3.1-5

PREFACE

The Church today is in trouble - deep trouble. Many within its ranks are frightened and confused. Even many good spiritual leaders do not know what to do, so they just stoically endure the situation. The Church continues to suffer embarrassment because some of its leaders have adopted modern marketing techniques to "sell" the Lord to the world, but intelligent men in the world see through the gimmick and turn away in disgust. With others, success has become the shrine at which they now worship. Few realise that success can be a potent narcotic and it is very easy to become addicted to it.

Many Christians have been absolutely devastated by the fact that the Christian army is one of the few armies in the world that shoots its own wounded, and there are plenty of wounded about. Everywhere we look we see shattered ministries, broken marriages, hurting young people, and people who have been spiritually shipwrecked. No one will deny what I have said so far. It would accomplish nothing to deny the obvious.

DETERMINING THE CAUSE

But what is the cause of all this devastation? Many spiritually minded saints are now beginning to understand what spiritual warfare is all about-after all the Church is 'at war'! We are living on territory occupied by satan and his hosts, (Ephes.6:12) and satan is without question the most powerful of all created beings. We in the Church are being shot at, and we are being hit. We are being hit socially, morally, financially, spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally. Satan's demons are pretty straight shots and what is more, they are not using 'blanks'.

SATAN'S GREATEST WEAPON

However, the most potent weapon currently being used by the forces of darkness is DECEPTION. Deception is drifting across the Church like a poisonous gas. No assembly is immune to its deadly effects. The only individuals who will escape its paralysing effects are the few who refuse to accept things at face value, but prayerfully examine everything in the light of the Scripture.

I am well aware of the fact that the satanic deceptions exposed in this book will frighten some people. That troubles me, but the only way I can avoid that is not to write the book. However, what is now occurring on the Church scene is so devastating in its long term effects, it must be exposed. I am also aware of the fact that I will receive some 'flack'- some will say "he has gone too far" or "he is seeing demons behind every bush"- I know, I've heard it all before! People who lack spiritual maturity cannot be expected to understand because "spiritual things are spiritually discerned". But having said all this, I am confident that some who read this book will find answers to at least some of their questions and be greatly encouraged to "put on the whole armour of God" and press on in the battle

CHAPTER ONE

DECEPTION IN THE LAST DAYS

The term 'last days' or 'latter times' is used on a number of occasions in our New Testament. For instance in:

2 Tim 3.1 Paul says "in the **last days** perilous times shall come."

2 Pet 3.3 Peter warns us that "in the **last days** scoffers shall come."

Jude v.18 states that there will be "mockers in the **last time**."

Bible scholars generally agree that the term 'last days' is used by New Testament writers to describe a period of time that began with the first coming of our Lord and continues through to His Second Coming. The writer of Hebrews in 1.2 says that "God hath in these **last days** spoken unto us by His Son." So we see from this statement that the **last days** had begun back there at our Lord's first coming.

I am reasonably confident that most of my readers would agree with me when I say that we are now unquestionably in the **last** of the 'last days'.

Now, in speaking of the last days, we could comment on many things, things which characterise the last days. But I feel that it will be more beneficial to confine my remarks at this point to just one aspect of the last days and that is '**deception**'.

GREAT DECEPTION

I personally doubt whether any of us (the writer included) can really comprehend the magnitude of the deception that is now occurring. We would all profit, I am sure, if we examined closely our Lord's warnings in Mat ch 24. For instance, in v.4 He says: "Take heed that no man deceive you!" and again in v.5 "for many shall come in my name saying 'I am Christ' and shall deceive many." Also in vv 11-12 we read "And many false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." In v.24 He says "For there shall arise false christs and false prophets and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

Several things should be observed from these verses:

1 These warnings were given to the disciples, so it was possible that if the disciples were not careful, they would be deceived and they knew the Lord better than any one.

2 Note the constant use of the word 'deceive' in vv 4-5, 11, 24.

3 The magnitude of the deception is shown by the constant use of the word 'many', not 'some' - not a 'few' but 'many' as in vv 5,11,12.

THE TERM DEFINED

The word 'deceive' here is not used to describe **blatant** wickedness, but rather a **hidden or a covered** form of activity. It is the **covered** nature of this deception which makes it all the more dangerous.

BIBLICAL WARNINGS

Jessie Penn-Lewis in her book "War on the Saints" (p. 11) lists some of the ways in which people can be deceived.

The man is deceived if he is a hearer and not a doer of the Word of God. Jas 1.22

He is deceived if he says he has no sin. 1 Jn 1.8

He is deceived when he thinks himself to be 'something' when he is nothing. Gal 6.3

He is deceived when he thinks himself to be wise with the wisdom of this world. 1 Cor 3.18

He is deceived by seeming to be religious when an unbridled tongue reveals his true condition. Jas 1.26

He is deceived if he thinks he will sow and not reap what he sows. Gal 6.7

He is deceived if he thinks the unrighteous will inherit the kingdom of God. 1 Cor 6.9

He is deceived if he thinks that contact with sin will not have its effect upon him. (1 Cor 15.33)

Now when talking about deception here, I am not relating it to unsaved people, but to the Lord's people. It is of course true that all non-Christians are under deception, great deception. The arch-deceiver of men has really 'pulled the wool over their eyes'. But we need to understand the fact that there is already a lot of deception amongst the Lord's people. In fact, it would be fair to say that all of us are under some degree of deception.

Let me illustrate this point:

1 Re the time known as 'the great tribulation'. Some Christians believe the Lord will come and take His people out of the world before the tribulation. They state many passages of Scripture which they say prove their point.

2 Other Christians believe the Lord will come for His people during the tribulation. They too can quote many passages to support their line of argument.

3 Then again, large numbers of the Lord's people say "No, the Church will not be taken out until after the tribulation."

4 Still others would say the Great Tribulation occurred in 70 A.D. at the Fall of Jerusalem as described in Deuteronomy 28, reserving Revelation 19 and 20 for our own immediate situation and future.

So here we have 4 differing views. No two of these views can be reconciled, so obviously only one view can be correct. Those who espouse any one of these views can rightfully lay claim to the fact that a large number of Christians supports their view. Each can also rightly state that some very prominent scholars and Bible teachers also hold to their particular views. But having said all of this, we cannot escape the fact that three of these groups must of necessity be wrong, and therefore are deceived.

THE SECOND COMING

The same can be said regarding the Second Coming. Some Christians firmly believe there will only be one second coming, while others hold to the view just as firmly that there will be two comings. Here again, these views are distinctly different, so obviously one group is in error and therefore deceived.

Then again, many Christians believe there will be one general judgment of all mankind. Others however disagree and say "No, the Christians are to be judged separately and not at the same time as the wicked."

DICHOTOMY OR TRICHOTOMY

Many of the Lord's people hold the view that man is a dichotomy, meaning he consists of two parts, **body** and **soul**. Others again say "No, man is a trichotomy - he is made up of 3 parts - **body, soul and spirit!**" And so we could go on and on.

The point I am making here is simply that a great deal of deception already exists amongst the Lord's people. Some would obviously be under a greater degree of deception than others, but I am sure that when we finally arrive in our eternal home, we will all discover that we were deceived on some points.

It always saddens me to see some people jumping up and down and insisting that there is just no way that they could be wrong. They obviously haven't thought about the fact that in making such statements, they are actually claiming infallibility for themselves - a rather dangerous stance to adopt I would think.

What I am saying is - deception of one kind or another has always existed, but now in these last days the church is being confronted by supernatural deception - deception such as it has never faced before - deception that is reinforced with 'signs and wonders'. This deception is so subtle and so convincing that very few will see through it.

THE DEGREE OF DECEPTION

The 'spiritual darkness' brought about by this deception is spreading world-wide. It has already spread into all denominations and when it has run its course, it will probably spread into every church. The same spiritual darkness will intensify until it reaches its climax when ...

*"No man shall be able to buy or sell
save him who has the mark
of the beast." Rev 13.17*

Finally, the Lord will intervene and cast the great deceiver and all his wicked hosts into the Lake of Fire forever. (Rev 20.10)

Now I have already mentioned that Scripture teaches quite clearly the fact that great deception will spread over the entire world. We have also observed the fact that this deception will be reinforced with 'signs and wonders'. I propose to illustrate the type of deception that is now occurring. I will first illustrate it on ...

A PERSONAL LEVEL

I have in recent years had it reported to me that demons have on occasions been known to 'materialise'. In other words, they have appeared in human form or they have taken bodies similar

in many ways to ours. I have no reason whatever to doubt the men who have related these incidents to me because they are spiritual men who are held in high regard by the Christian public.

DEMONS IN HUMAN FORM

One pastor shared with me how on one occasion he went to counsel what he thought to be a married couple only to discover that the supposed couple were materialised demons. The 'husband' did not have a hair on his body. On his head was what appeared to be a toupee. His skin had an artificial look and was 'plastic' in appearance. He had no eyes, just dark black sockets. The demons didn't do a very good job at all with the 'husband' because the pastor didn't take long to understand what he was up against.

The demons however did a much better job with the 'wife', but unfortunately for them, they overdid it, because she was unusually attractive, too attractive in fact to be real. These two 'beings' were able to move around and walk and talk etc. At one stage, the 'husband' left the room leaving the pastor alone with the attractive 'wife'. This pastor, realising that he had been 'set up' beat a hasty retreat and headed for a safer location.

I relate this pastor's experience here to illustrate 'supernatural deception' in the 'last days'. At this point in time, experiences such as this pastor had, may be only isolated cases, but if our understanding of Scripture is correct, then we can expect occurrences of this nature to multiply considerably in the future.

Before showing how deception is taking place on a church level, it will be helpful if we look at a passage of Scripture. This passage will enable us to gain a better understanding of demonic activity. I would suggest to the reader that you have a close look at ...

Matthew 12.43-45

When it comes to demonic activity, many Christians are extremely gullible. I sometimes wonder if they still believe in Santa Claus! In fact, some are so naive I think I could sell them Brisbane's new Gateway Bridge! The cold facts are:

We are locked in battle with Satan and his myriads of demons.

Our very survival depends on our understanding the tactics used by the forces of darkness.

Our failure to 'search the Scriptures' and prayerfully acquire this knowledge will certainly result in our being outsmarted and brought down by our common enemy.

With this in mind, let us examine the above-mentioned verses:

v.43 A man had an unclean spirit (a demon). This demon left the man of his own free will. When a door in someone's life is open to the spirit world, demons can come and go as they please. At times, these demons may be resident; at other times, they will simply not be there. The demon moved around out in the paddock somewhere 'in dry places'.

v.44 He then decided that he was much better off residing in a human body. This shows us that demons are a distinct entity and can make intelligent decisions. This demon then said "I will return unto my house from whence I came out." (v.44) He regarded the man's body as 'his house'. When the demon returned, he found his house 'empty, swept and garnished'. The man had had a 'clean-up' during the spirit's absence.

v.45 This demon then went and found seven other spirits 'more wicked' than himself. He was wicked but the seven others were more wicked. Then all eight of these demons entered into the man

and 'dwelt there'. They took up residence! How did this man finish up? Our Lord tells us in v.45 that "the last state of that man is worse than the first."

SOME INTERESTING OBSERVATIONS

Before proceeding further, I would suggest that readers look carefully through these verses again so they will grasp the 'comings and goings' of spirits. Initially, the man had only one spirit. That spirit was not always in residence in the man's body, but was free to go on 'excursions' any time he desired. He did leave on one occasion and found seven other spirits who were more wicked than he was. He brought these seven companions home to his 'house' (the man's body) and they all moved in. This man is now in a bad way. He has demonic problems. Now with these biblical principles in mind, let us take this story given by our Lord and let us super-impose it over a modern situation and in so doing, it will help us to understand what is going on in some churches. What I share now is not confined to just one church, but is occurring in an ever-increasing number of churches. I will not use real names for obvious reasons.

THE PROBLEM IN MODERN PERSPECTIVE

"Joe Blogg" is just an average sort of fellow. Joe had a normal education and then found employment. In his late teens and early twenties, he became associated with others who used to conduct seances. After some time, Joe became a medium himself and developed the ability to call up spirits. The spirit world was completely new territory to Joe and the power he developed began to frighten him, so he backed away. He found new friends and occupied himself in other ways. Eventually, he met a very nice young lady and they were married.

One wife and two children later, we find Joe a happy family man with a good job, a late model car and paying off his own home. It is at this point in time that a combined churches Crusade was being conducted not far from where the 'Bloggs' lived. Joe and his wife were invited by some friends to accompany them to some of the meetings. They were not entirely unfamiliar with the teachings of Christianity, both having attended Sunday School in their younger days.

Joe listened carefully and when the invitation was given to come forward and receive counsel, both Joe and his wife responded. They were counselled that night and showed every evidence of being born again. They began reading the Scriptures and having family devotions with their children. At the conclusion of the crusade, the Bloggs were referred to a nearby church where speaking in tongues was practised by most of the congregation.

In the months that followed, Joe often observed people going forward to have the pastor 'lay hands' on them. Most of these people then fell over backwards and some seemed to remain unconscious on the floor for several minutes. Joe felt that there was something very strange in all that he was witnessing. He was very reserved by nature and could not understand the need for such an emotional "hype" in the services. Why the need to raise the hands in the air while singing? What was he to make of the strange mutterings that went on all around? After all, he had never witnessed this in any of the churches that he had attended in his younger days. What had changed? Was this the Christianity he had previously come in contact with? If it was, it certainly had some strange additives - very strange!

As for people being 'zapped' and falling backwards to the floor unconscious, Joe found that hard to accept! It seemed to have some close affinity with what he had observed in his encounter with spirits back in those seances, but he couldn't really put his finger on it.

FURTHER DECEPTION

When Joe put his questions to the pastor, he was told that when people fell backwards, they were being 'slain in the spirit' and if these same people then spoke in tongues, that was 'the sign' that they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Joe reluctantly accepted this explanation. After all, he was the

minister of the church and surely he ought to know and his explanation appeared to be based on Scripture. However, in his heart, Joe still felt that there was something wrong - dreadfully wrong.

One Sunday morning, there was a particularly impressive service. Many people were going forward to have the pastor lay hands on them. Joe, by this time, had come under a great deal of 'peer pressure'. He had recently been accused of resisting the Holy Spirit and he certainly did not want to be guilty of that, so Joe joined the others who were making their way to the front. This move on Joe's part was probably more out of curiosity than anything else. He quietly stood with the others.

SPIRITISM IN THE CHURCH

Joe remembered being told previously that in order to receive the Holy Spirit, people must let their minds go 'blank'. This was exactly what he used to do when he was a **medium**. Oh well, too late to back out now! He would do it again and see what happened. It was soon Joe's turn. The pastor laid hands on him and prayed over him in tongues. Sure enough, Joe was 'zapped' and fell over backwards. He was out cold on the floor like a 'punch-drunk' boxer, for some time.

When he eventually came to, he felt strange. He didn't quite know how to describe his feelings. The whole experience was strange - unreal! Joe did not speak in tongues at this time, but a short while after, he found himself unconsciously uttering some unintelligible sounds while he was praying. He continued to do this in future prayer times. After all, if this 'gift' was a 'prayer language' then he felt he had better give it expression.

THE EFFECTS OF SPIRITISM

Things continued in a fairly normal way for a while, but then Joe began to notice that he was losing interest in reading the Word. He had found difficulty in praying. He also became aware that blasphemous thoughts were disturbing him. But what really startled him was the fact that he found himself being very strongly attracted to other women than his wife. He often found himself wanting to put his arm around them and kiss them. In fact, there was sometimes an overpowering urge to do more than this. He shuddered to think what might happen if he was ever left alone with some other woman, even if she were some other man's wife! Joe could not understand why the previously good relationship with his wife had 'cooled'.

The Bloggs talked things over and finally decided that they would attend another church. Next Sunday found them a short distance away in a conservative, evangelical church. This was certainly more 'traditional', very much like what he remembered in his younger days. After the service, the pastor welcomed them at the door. On being told that they had come from a tongues-speaking church, the pastor graciously explained to them that his congregation did not practise speaking in tongues. Joe was informed that if he wished to engage in this sort of activity, he could do so in the privacy of his own home, but he was asked not to promote it in this church in any way. To this Joe agreed. The Bloggs kept attending their new spiritual home and soon got to know many of the people but his ...

PERSONAL PROBLEMS REMAINED

One day Joe was talking to 'Mary Jones' (not her real name) and he made some derogatory remarks about the pastor. Mary was really troubled. Her husband advised her to confront Joe and ask him why he made such remarks. This she did, in the church aisle in fact, the next Sunday. Joe looked puzzled. He didn't make such remarks and told Mary so. It was then her turn to look puzzled. She knew she had heard Joe correctly, but it was just his word against hers, because she had no witnesses. Mary went home puzzled. She could not erase the incident from her mind. Was Joe a schizophrenic or was he just a plain liar or was there some other explanation? The whole thing was a complete puzzle.

A few weeks later, Joe was talking to 'Bill Smith' (not his real name) in the car park outside their church. Says Joe "That new deacon who was elected recently, he's not fit to be a deacon. His car was seen late one night outside of 'Mrs Widow's home'. Bill Smith was a bit shocked, but he could not deny what Joe was saying because, well, maybe it was true! Mrs Smith on being told by her husband of this conversation could hardly wait to get on the phone to tell this "juicy" bit of gossip to others. The end result was that "Mr New Deacon's" wife heard about it and that caused a somewhat strained relationship between her and her husband.

Bill Smith decided to take Joe aside and ask for an explanation, only to find that Joe strongly denied having made such a statement. Now what was Bill to do? He knew that he had heard right, but, like Mary Jones, he had no witnesses.

THE EFFECTS SPREAD

The pastor hears about all this and decides to hose down the situation before it really gets out of hand. Mr 'New Deacon' is concerned with the innuendos that had been made and decides to resign from the Diaconate.

One day, Joe is talking to Mr 'Old Member' and says "I think we should have a change of pastor; after all, it's not good for a church to have a pastor who has been divorced!" Mr 'Old Member' is stunned for he didn't know their pastor had been divorced. After all, that was not mentioned when the church had considered extending him a call.

By this time, few people were enjoying the services. The atmosphere seemed 'heavy' and no one seemed able to concentrate. Most people were totally mystified by the recent developments. No one could really understand why Joe continued to lob his verbal grenades with devastating effect on the congregation and then remain completely oblivious of all the shock waves that rolled over them. The whole fellowship had changed from a warm, caring group to a cold, untrusting congregation. A spiritual damper had been thrown over the whole congregation. Some people stopped coming on Sunday evenings. Quite a number of young people went down the road to the charismatic church - after all, there was more 'action' down there!

AN ANALYSIS

Now what has really happened in this church?

Satan has really set that church up - it is 'set-up' for destruction! The way it has been set up is really clever, too clever in fact to be 'human'. It has been set up supernaturally!

The pastor is very discouraged and is thinking of leaving, but will he find his next church any better? Or maybe worse? Perish the thought! The congregation is disillusioned. They cannot understand what has happened.

The church I have just described is just one of a growing number. What can we learn from this? The facts as we now see them are as follows - Joe Blogg has demons!

THE FIRST DOOR OPENED

They gained entry to him when he became a 'medium' in his younger days. He really didn't know he had them. But the fact is he acted as a 'medium' and calling up spirits gave them the 'open door' that they needed to gain entry into his life. In this initial involvement with the spirit world, he 'got in deeper' than he desired and what he saw frightened him and caused him to back off. But it was too late. He had opened a door to demons and now they could come and go as they chose, exactly as our Lord describes in Mat 12.43-45.

FAULTY COUNSELLING

When he professed conversion, he was counselled in a way that has unfortunately become 'normal' these days. Nothing was said about his previous involvement in the occult and Joe didn't think it was necessary to volunteer such information. So because Joe didn't renounce his former involvement, **the door remained open to the demons to come and go.**

THE DOOR OPENED EVEN WIDER

When Joe was 'slain in the spirit' the door to the spirit world was opened even wider and a whole host of evil spirits came in and took up residence. Now the battle was really on. They tried to stop him praying. They created a distaste for the Word. They put blasphemous thoughts into his mind. They caused him to doubt his salvation. They tried to break up his marriage by making other women attractive to him. Then when he tried to escape from all this by moving to another church, these same demons made him look like a liar - a schizophrenic and an absolute trouble-maker in the church. In fact, they really set out to destroy him.

JOE BECOMES A TOOL

With Joe, the demons had a good thing going for them. They were virtually able to destroy the work and witness of a good evangelical church without anyone knowing it was really them who were doing it all. They had so 'set-up' the whole situation that the 'spot-light' was never at any stage on them. It was always Joe who got the blame. No one had really 'twigged' to the fact that Joe was simply being 'used'. The real culprits engaged in this systematic work of destruction were the forces of darkness.

PROPHECY NOW BEING FULFILLED

My friend, if you haven't realised it before, we are now in the 'last days'. The lying wonders referred to in 2 Thes 2.9 are now taking place and will undoubtedly become even more mind-boggling. People will become even more amazed as they observe the spirits of devils working miracles. (Rev 16.14)

Satan is now displaying his credentials and thus demanding the worship of all this world's inhabitants. The world population is being specifically programmed for supernatural happenings which promise to be more spectacular in the future. The masses will be deceived as our Lord said (Mat 24.4-5, 11, 24). They will think that the 'signs and wonders' are performed by the true God and not realise that they have been duped by demons masquerading as 'ministers of righteousness'. (2 Cor 11.15)

Let us not be caught up in the 'ostrich' syndrome! Let us get our heads out of the sand and emulate the Bereans who 'searched the Scriptures daily to see if these things be so.' (Ac 17.11) No matter what Satan throws at us, let us never forget that it is the great God of Heaven who is going to have the last say.

"The devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever." Rev 20.10

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ?

What should pastors and people do if they find they have a Joe Blogg in the congregation? I want to make it clear that I do not profess to have all the answers, but will make some suggestions that I trust will be of help to fellow-pastors and other servants of the Lord.

1 The pastor and spiritually mature members should go to prayer. The whole situation should be bathed in intercessory prayer. Those praying people should earnestly lift Joe Blogg and the church body to the Lord. They should specifically ask the Lord to give them the necessary discernment to be able to correctly diagnose the situation and wisdom to know how to handle it. Earnest prayer in a delicate and serious situation such as this, is absolutely indispensable. To attempt to solve the problem without it would be utter folly.

2 Joe should not be regarded as an enemy - he isn't. He is a victim. Both pastor and people should maintain a gracious and Christ-like spirit as they attempt to free Joe from bondage and restore the spiritual atmosphere in the church.

3 The pastor should 'bind the demons' that now control Joe Blogg. This too is essential because if this is not done, these same demons will continue to wreak havoc in the church.

4 The demons should then be specifically commanded to 'release their hold on Joe Blogg's mind.' The demons have successfully blinded Joe to the fact that he is being exploited and also to all the devastation they are causing in the church. No amount of reasoning will convince Joe until the demons release their hold on his mind. However, when the demons are bound and prevented from doing their work in Joe, then - and only then - will the pastor and some others be able to show him what is really happening.

5 Now that Joe's mind is free from demonic control, the pastor and perhaps two others should graciously explain to him what has been happening. They should also explain to him how the demons gained access to his life.

6 Joe should then be carefully instructed as to the difference between the true Biblical gift of 'languages' and the demonic counterfeit that he had embraced.

7 He should then be encouraged to pray and renounce the two occasions when he had engaged in spiritism:

a When he attended seances.

b When he submitted to evil spirits in the church and allowed them to 'slay him in the spirit'.

8 He should of course, immediately cease using his so-called 'gift of tongues'. This course of action is designed to 'reclaim the ground' that Joe had inadvertently given to the demons.

9 After having taken these steps, the way is now clear for the pastor to command the demons in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to leave Joe and take all their works with them and go to the place where the Lord Jesus Christ would have them go."

10 While the pastor is ordering the demons to leave, others present should be quietly praying and asking the Lord to enforce the commands.

11 These steps must be taken carefully and prayerfully if Joe is to be freed from bondage and harmony restored to the congregation. **Until someone deals with Joe's demons, the problems will remain.**

12 A confrontation of this nature with the forces of darkness is not to be feared. Pastor and people should unite and meet the challenge and use their God-given authority. If one of the sheep is rescued from the wolves, it will do much to boost their faith in the risen Lord Jesus and prepare them for further confrontations.

CHAPTER TWO **The NATURE and DEGREE of DECEPTION**

Some of those reading this chapter will think they have picked up a science fiction novel by mistake. Ten years ago, I would have thought the same myself, but things are changing, changing fast. I write this knowing full well that I will be misunderstood by some and openly ridiculed by others. That does not really concern me because I know also that others of my readers will find answers they have been looking for.

A growing number of pastors, teachers and laymen in all States are beginning to understand what is being done to the visible church. The situation has certainly become alarming because we are now facing facts that we simply cannot ignore. Ever-increasing numbers of Christians are becoming frightened by what they see.

THE REALITY of DEMONIC INVASION

Unfortunately, many of the Lord's people adopt a 'head in the sand' attitude when it comes to spiritual warfare. This is sad indeed because the simple fact is that all Christians are engaged in spiritual warfare with the forces of darkness whether they like it or not! We are distinctly told that "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." In Ephesians 6.10 and the following verses, we receive detailed instruction concerning how to arm ourselves. It is becoming increasingly more evident that all who shut their eyes to reality, run the risk of being outsmarted by their enemy and destroyed.

BIBLICAL WARNING

The Lord gives us clear warning in Hosea 4.6 that "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." Note **My people!** The Lord does not say His people are 'disadvantaged' through lack of knowledge. That would of course be true too, but He distinctly says "My people are destroyed" and that word 'destroyed' means exactly that ~ **destroyed**. According to the dictionary, 'destroyed' means 'to demolish, to annihilate, to render useless' and this describes exactly what is happening to large numbers of Christians today, including many talented leaders in the church.

Through our Tape Ministry, my wife and I constantly receive mail and phone-calls from all over Australia. This continual feedback has highlighted the fact that the Christian church is suffering a devastating attack from the forces of darkness. The result of this attack is that scores of leaders in all denominations are defecting to the enemy's side. In order to get a clearer picture in our minds, we both sat down one night and listed out on paper the former servants of the Lord whom we knew had deserted their calling and gone back into sin. We decided not to include laymen, because the list simply would not end. We confined the list to pastors, Bible teachers, evangelists and missionaries. In a matter of a few minutes, we had recalled the names of over 30. Now we are not talking about people retiring from the Lord's work because of ill-health or some other legitimate reason. What we are looking at is scores of the Lord's servants falling in battle and going into deep sin. Many whom we know personally now drink and smoke and have left their wives for other women.

SEARCHING FOR THE CAUSE

What has brought about this tragic state of affairs? It is undoubtedly a complex situation and to give any one answer to that question would be too simplistic. Undoubtedly there would be a variety of things that contributed to the spiritual downfall of these men and women. **Disobedience** could be cited as one reason. In many cases, disobedience would be the dominant factor. As with Adam and Eve, many of these servants of the Lord disobeyed the revealed will of God and their present tragic state has resulted from that disobedience.

However, having said this, we have noted that one common factor that contributes to the downfall of large numbers of Christians is **lack of knowledge** and this bears out what our Lord says in Hosea 4.6 "My people are destroyed through lack of knowledge." The knowledge needed to survive in spiritual warfare is not knowledge in a general sense such as knowledge of creation, bible history, bible doctrine etc, but specific knowledge of the forces of darkness and their tactics.

In any warfare one fact that always contributes to victory is knowledge of the enemy. How many troops does he have? How many planes? Will he be using conventional weapons or does he possess nuclear capability? Are his supply lines vulnerable? Knowledge of this nature is more than just an advantage - **it is an absolute necessity. Not to possess this knowledge will probably result in our being overrun by a more powerful enemy. What I am saying is that ...**

KNOWLEDGE IS VITAL

It means the difference between success and failure, the difference between victory and defeat, the difference between life and death. Knowledge is not an 'optional extra' for deluxe Christians. It is a **necessity for our spiritual survival.**

Our Lord instructs us in Luke 14.31-32 to do our homework, and if we do not take time to do this, the consequences will be disastrous. I strongly urge readers to prayerfully and carefully study the strategy currently being used by Satan and his forces in their all-out effort to overthrow the church. What we are looking at here is not just an occasional skirmish on the part of the enemy, but a concerted, well-planned attack which is now proving to be devastating in both its short term and long term consequences.

Demons are no longer content to attack the church from the **outside**, but are now infiltrating the church and masquerading as 'ministers of righteousness'. 2 Cor 11.15 The fact that the church has faced from its commencement many horrendous attacks is not disputed, but methods now being employed by Satan would have to be the most subtle ever used. These methods are not natural but supernatural. All the forces of the spirit world have been marshalled by Satan and are now being brought to bear on the church. The aim of this attack is of course the annihilation of the church.

Now, all students of the Word know that the church 'per se' cannot be destroyed. Our Lord in Mat 16.18 states this fact categorically, but what is happening is that the church is now being destroyed as an effective organisation. It is reeling under the blows. It is becoming increasingly more fragmented and disorganised. It is being systematically stripped of its effectiveness. Any who may doubt what I am saying here, need only examine the mainline denominations and they will soon be convinced. As little as 50 years ago, most of the mainline denominations had a credible witness with varying degrees of success. This can no longer be said. They may have become larger numerically, but spiritually, they have become virtually bankrupt. All who have eyes to see will acknowledge that fact that the church has become more divided, worldly, materialistic and virtually void of dynamic spiritual power.

What has happened to us? I answer that question by saying that:

WE HAVE BEEN INFILTRATED

This infiltration has been very subtle and oh, so clever! Far too clever to be **human. It is a supernatural infiltration!** **Infiltration** is the gradual, unobserved occupation of ground or territory. Those who successfully infiltrate are then in a position to be able to ...

WORK FROM WITHIN

It can be readily seen that infiltrators have a very decided advantage providing their presence goes undetected.

As I have said, Satan's forces have successfully infiltrated the church and are now posing as ministers of righteousness. "So what!" I can almost hear some readers exclaiming. "That went on in Paul's day and has been going on ever since!" Let me make myself clear. **I am not saying** that the church has been infiltrated by people, whoever they may be and for whatever reason: **what I am saying** is that it has been ...

INFILTRATED DIRECTLY BY DEMONS

To put this bluntly so all will understand: we now have demonically controlled men in some of our pulpits preaching what Paul describes as 'doctrines of demons'. 1 Tim 4.1 Some versions translate this as 'doctrines that demons teach' or 'things taught by demons'. Note that this will occur in 'the latter times' and that it is the Holy Spirit who expressly warns us that this would be so.

Thoughtful readers will ask "Why is the situation so different now to what it was, say 50 to 100 years ago?" And secondly "how can demons stand before a congregation and preach?" These are questions that naturally arise from what I have already said, so I will endeavour to answer them.

The first question is "**why is the situation so different now from what it used to be - what has changed?**" The answer is, we have now entered the 'latter times' spoken of in 1 Tim 4.1, a time when demonic activity has become so open and so blatant that demons no longer just merely deceive men and lead them astray and then leave these same deluded men to do their work for them, but now **in certain circumstances and at certain times**, demons are able to take over a person and completely subjugate the person's personality. They can then speak directly to others using that person's vocal organs. We now have many well-documented reports of occasions when pastors or counsellors were conversing with someone and then suddenly discovered to their astonishment that the person himself was no longer talking to them at all. A demon had taken over and was doing all the talking. This was later proven to be correct, because when questioned, the person concerned remembered absolutely nothing of the conversation. This is the 'Joe Blogg' story all over again.

This **substitution of personality** is also practised by high level black witches, but on their part, it is done intentionally.

My wife and I were on one occasion talking to a converted black witch. She was sharing with us how she was able to do some incredible things when she was in witchcraft. However, she pointed out that it was not actually her that was doing these things, but the demons who possessed her. For instance, if she found herself in a difficult situation, she would say to the chief spirit resident in her, "I can't handle this, you take over." She would then deliberately subjugate her own personality and allow that spirit to take over and speak through her. This was done so cleverly that the listeners were completely oblivious of the fact that a new and totally different personality was now talking to them. The person's body was still before them as before, the eyes, ears and tongue etc were still being used as before, **but not by the owner**. The owner had voluntarily relinquished the right to use these organs and had handed over the helm to a demon.

INCREDIBLE DECEPTION

"Incredible," you say, "absolutely incredible!" I agree, it is, but let us remember that demons are spirit beings with intelligence far superior to that possessed by man and what I have just described is really no problem to them **providing a human body is placed at their disposal**. The deception in this form of demonic activity is so clever that it nearly always goes undetected, even by most Christians. However, some pastors, bible teachers and counsellors now understand what is being done to them. Some of these men and women have sharp minds and good spiritual discernment and they have picked up the 'switch in personalities'. This is known by counsellors as 'substituted personality'. The personality of the person is substituted and replaced by that of a demon who then operates through the body that has been made available to him. From what we now know, this phenomenon can occur in two different ways:

1. Certain people who are open to spiritistic activity can deliberately relinquish control of their bodily organs and mental faculties and allow a spirit to assume control and use them, as in the case of the black witch previously mentioned.
2. Some Christians can gradually be deceived by an evil spirit and led into what I have described and all the time think that it is the Holy Spirit who is taking them over and working through them. Their knowledge of Scripture is not sufficient to alert them to the fact that the Holy Spirit simply does not work this way.

The Holy Spirit requires the **active cooperation** of the human personality, whereas evil spirits must have **passive submission**. Unless they can bring about this state of passive submission, evil spirits are not able to hijack the person and assume total control. What I have just described here is very widespread amongst charismatics. Large numbers of sincere people are passively submitting to what they think is the Holy Spirit, when in actual fact, it is evil spirits that are gaining varying degrees of control. The degree of control gained by these spirits is governed by the degree of passivity. Of course, a great deal more could be said on this point, but I think I have said sufficient to enable discerning Christians to see that the church is now in ...

A CRISIS OF GREAT MAGNITUDE

To summarise what I have said earlier in this chapter:

1. What the Holy Spirit said through Paul has now come to pass in an amazing way. (1.Tim 4.1)
2. We are in the 'latter times' referred to.
3. People are 'departing from the faith' in large numbers.
4. The cause of this departure is 'giving heed to seducing spirits.'
5. The method used by these spirits is 'doctrines'.
6. These doctrines are 'taught' by 'demons'.

In other words, these doctrines are being taught supernaturally. They are being applied to the mind with supernatural power. Let us bear in mind the fact that demons are supernatural spirit beings which possess great power and intelligence far superior to that possessed by man.

Now to illustrate what I have said in this chapter, I will share an incident that has been related to me recently.

A CASE HISTORY

The following information was conveyed to me by a minister from another State. All the details I will disclose have been carefully documented by several people, including two ordained and spiritually mature servants of the Lord. The incident concerns the destruction of a church and how its witness in the community has been totally discredited. I am not able to disclose the location of the church or names of people for obvious reasons, but the essential details are as follows:

The church is located in a populous area. It has been for a long time, a conservative evangelical church with a good witness to the local community. Some years ago, there was a change of pastors. The new pastor assumed his responsibilities and all continued well for several more years.

THE TROUBLE BEGINS

One day this pastor had an 'experience'. This is the missing piece of the puzzle. The exact nature of this 'experience' we do not know. We do not know **where** and **how** it took place. **What we do know** is that the pastor underwent a 'change of character' at that point and as a result, his ministry has 'changed direction'.

First, let us examine the 'change of character' aspect. This took place at the time of his 'experience' or certainly soon after. The more discerning people who know him have observed that he is two different people. Non-Christian psychiatrists would diagnose him as schizophrenic or '**split personality**', but Christian counsellors, experienced in demonology would be more likely to conclude that it is a case of **dual personality**. Sometimes, the personality of the pastor is being expressed, while at other times (particularly in the pulpit) another personality expresses itself.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED HERE?

We can be reasonably certain that this unfortunate pastor has unwittingly come under the influence of an evil spirit. For this to happen, he must have been 'open' to the spirit world and perhaps seeking some 'experience' such as modern day speaking-in-tongues. He would have had at some stage to allow himself to become **mentally passive**. During this state of mental passivity, the evil spirits gained the hold over him that they needed. Having deceived him in this way and gained this ground, the spirits then worked to bring him more and more under their control. The degree of deception is so clever in this matter, that this pastor would just assume that it was the Holy Spirit who gave him this 'experience'. The fact is that it was not the Holy Spirit at all, but an evil spirit imitating the Holy Spirit.

Some will say "surely the Lord would not allow one of His servants to be deceived in this way?" The simple fact is that **if any of us goes seeking an 'experience' that is outside the Will of God, God will not save us from delusion**, or put in another way: if we allow our minds to 'go blank' so the Holy Spirit can speak through us in tongues, we'll have an 'experience' all right, because demons are more than happy to oblige. They can and do give people wonderful experiences, including feelings of peace, even ecstasy.

Secondly, let us examine the 'change of direction' in this pastor's ministry. As I have already mentioned, several people have been observing the work and witness of this church over a period of several years.

OBSERVATIONS

Their combined observations are as follows:

1. The emphasis in the pastor's ministry changed from 'conservative, evangelical' to 'radical'.
2. The emphasis has been shifted from 'the written Word' to 'experience'. **Reasoning** and **knowledge** are to be avoided.
3. There has also been a shift from the 'traditional' position to the 'ecumenical'.
4. The pastor has slowly and subtly changed the government of the church from congregational government to autocratic government.
5. The emphasis has shifted from 'preaching and teaching' to 'worship'.
6. In Worship services, hymns have been replaced by the repetition of songs which contain a great emotional hype. People are encouraged in the services to cast off restraint, to hold hands, to

embrace and kiss each other. Time is also given for 'meditation' and testimonies.

7. The pastor now hears what he assumes to be the 'audible' voice of the Lord giving him certain 'prophecies'. These prophecies, when examined, make a mockery of biblical Christianity, especially when ...

NONE HAVE COME TO PASS Deut 18.21-22

8. The situation in this church has deteriorated to such an extent that some occult practices are now being promoted such as 'rebirthing'.

9. The pastor encourages the people to engage in 'mysticism' and seek 'visible signs'.

10. The pastor is now actively promoting ideas that are designed to split the church, cause friction between husband and wife and cause permanent, emotional and psychological damage to children.

11. This pastor has now adopted an attitude of 'infallibility'. In other words, he maintains that it is not possible that he could ever be wrong. It is **always the other person** who has 'got it wrong' or 'has a problem' or simply 'does not understand'.

Now what are some of the 'spin-offs' from all this? **They are as follows:**

1. Over 100 people have left the church. No! There has not been a 'split' as such. Those that have left the church did so in families or ones and twos over a long period of time.

2. Many of those who left were disillusioned and their faith had taken a real 'battering' but most, although they could not understand what had happened to them, seem to have survived the ordeal and have either settled into other churches or formed themselves into a new fellowship.

3. The credible witness to the community that the church once had, has now been totally shattered.

4. What of the remaining congregation? Well, having less knowledge of the Word and much less discernment, they have been led by the pastor down the same road as he had been led. They now see nothing wrong in all that has happened or what the Pastor is doing.

5. What can the denomination do about this situation? That's a good question! The denomination cannot remove the pastor because he has been called by the present congregation who want him as their pastor. The denomination cannot reclaim the buildings because the local congregation is autonomous and owns the buildings.

The denomination may be able to force the local congregation to call itself by some other name, but even this course of action is fraught with problems and the issue may have to be settled in a court of law. The situation that has been created certainly seems an insoluble one, at least from a human point of view.

WHAT ARE WE TO MAKE OF ALL THIS?

It surely is an incredible situation. Some of my readers may read what I have said with disbelief. Let me assure you again that this whole scenario has been carefully documented by two highly experienced pastors who have interviewed witnesses. A third person has sat in the congregation and recorded what has been said and done and in addition, my own wife has also visited this church as an independent observer. So what I have stated here has been carefully documented and can be verified.

Now I am using one particular church as an example **to illustrate demonic infiltration.**

What has been done to this church is being done to scores of churches all over Australia and churches of all denominations. My wife and I are continually meeting people who have had this done to them, not just once, but in some cases three or four times. In other words, many of these people experienced in their own church what I have described here. They then left and joined another church only to find that their new church home was worse than the one that they had left. It can easily be understood why large numbers of these people are now emotionally and spiritually devastated. Many have virtually been destroyed. It is now becoming clear what is being done to the church.

THE REAL CAUSE

1. Satan, knowing that his time is short, has launched an all-out attack on the church.
2. This attack is of course 'multi-pronged', but the most deceptive method of all is that of **infiltration**. This is what Satan has managed to do in the church referred to earlier. Demons deceived the pastor into seeking some 'experience'. This gave them some degree of control over him. Then he obviously became more passive and this allowed them to increase the amount of control. By what is now happening in that church, it seems the demons have a great degree of control. Demons are very intelligent beings. They know full well not to bring about change too quickly. They know that the best way to hijack a church is to take it over gradually. Using this method, they know most members will not even wake up to what is happening.

However, demons must have 'mediums' or 'channels' through whom they can work. In the charismatic movement, it is often the pastor who unwittingly becomes the 'medium' but in conservative churches, it is more likely to be a lay person.

Thoughtful readers are going to ask, "How can I determine when this 'take-over' bid is under way?"

I have purposely given much detail in the church I used as a 'case history sample' earlier in this chapter, so that discerning Christians would be able to interpret events as they unfold. As with many things, there are of course extremes in attitudes to demonic activity. Some people 'see demons behind every bush' while other people are so naive that they can be swept along in a virtual tidal wave of demonic activity and not recognise any of it for what it really is.

SUMMARISING WHAT HAS BEEN SAID

1. We now have concrete evidence that the church has been infiltrated by demons.
2. These demons have succeeded in gaining varying degrees of control over some people (including some pastors) and are now using these people as 'mediums'.
3. These folk have been deliberately 'blinded' by the demons so that they cannot **see** what is really happening.
4. In some cases, the degree of control is so great that the demons can actually 'blank the person out' and then speak through him or her to others. This has been proven by the fact that later when the demon submerged and the person again assumes control, **he can remember nothing** of what was said or done.
5. Twenty five years ago, we probably would have found only isolated cases of this phenomenon had we known what to look for. However, now it is very widespread and could be found in all denominations.

6. Those who have not been in this situation will very likely not understand. Others who have been, will identify with what I have said.

WHAT MUST WE DO ?

1. We must come to grips with the fact that we are in the last days. It is no good us putting our heads in the sand and hoping the problem will go away. The simple fact is, that, if my understanding of Scripture is correct, and my interpretation of events, then the whole spiritual scene is going to get worse - rapidly. This being so, we must wean ourselves from the world and its treasures and prepare ourselves for battle. This battle is over 'spoils'. The spoils in this case are souls - the souls of people we know, the souls of our children and grandchildren and remember whoever wins the 'spoils' keeps them for ever.

2. We must go to prayer both individually and collectively and ask the Lord to give us wisdom and discernment - and we will need both. James 1.5-6 We will need discernment in order to be able to interpret correctly what is happening around us, and we will need wisdom to know what to do about it.

3. We must learn to strongly and continually resist the evil that is being thrown at us from all directions. Every soldier in battle must 'hold the ground' he has, and he can only defend this ground by strongly resisting the enemy. The only alternative to this resistance is 'retreat' which is the giving of ground. Every Christian soldier is given clear instruction in James 4.7 which says ...

*"Submit yourselves therefore to God.
Resist the devil and he will flee from you."*

Note, the requirements are twofold;

a. "Submit yourselves therefore to God" which means that we are to make an unreserved and irrevocable surrender to **Christ as Lord and Master**. If we are unwilling to meet this requirement, there is no way in the world that we will be able to meet the next requirement which is ...

b. "Resist the devil and he will flee from you!" Satan will not flee from milk and water church members who have a wishbone where their backbone ought to be! He knows he can overcome them and will proceed to do so. We have an abundance of 'chocolate soldiers' in the Lord's army - they simply melt when the heat is on. Gideon found it better to fight with 300 men who did not have any reservations in their commitment, than to have an army of 32,000 chocolate soldiers (Judges 7.2-3). I think that those proportions may come pretty close to what we have on the church scene today!

4. If readers are convinced that their church is in the process of being hijacked by the forces of darkness, they should actively resist the 'take-over'. It may be possible to deliver the 'person' or 'persons' concerned from the enemy's clutches. If this does not appear possible, then you may have to consider going elsewhere for fellowship and study. Those with children must consider their spiritual welfare. Better to accept the idea of change than run the risk of our children 'going down with the ship'.

WHERE DO OUR LOYALTIES LIE?

One pastor summed it up well recently when he said "Loyalty to the **Lord and truth** must come before loyalty to a denomination."

5. I strongly urge readers to make a careful study of occult practices and how they affect people. If we do not acquire this type of knowledge, we virtually leave ourselves as 'sitting ducks' and it will only be a matter of time and we will be 'shot down'. I have included at the end of this book a list of books that many Christians are finding helpful. I must add however, that I do not necessarily agree

with everything in each book. The reader must carefully consider everything in the light of Scripture. **Knowledge** is not something that falls on us like rain. We must apply ourselves to diligent study in order to acquire it. As our **knowledge** increases, so will our **discernment**. Then we can confidently look to the Lord to give us the **wisdom** we need in order that we may know how to act in any given situation.

HOW TO PRAY

Spiritual leaders everywhere are now finding that the whole church scene is changing. The forces of darkness are on the attack as never before. Demonic activity is not only more widespread, but also more intensive. Many of the Lord's people have now seen the need to become more militant in protecting their families and assemblies and the Lord is certainly honouring their stand.

One area of this spiritual warfare to which we need to give careful thought is **prayer**. Both personal prayer and collective prayer needs to be:

1. **Knowledgable** - Really coming to grips with problems.
2. **Led by the Holy Spirit** - It is just as important to have the assistance of the Holy Spirit in prayer, as it is to have His help in preaching.
3. **Specific** - Reasoned petitions similar to those of Abraham in Genesis 18.
4. **In faith** - We need to pray with a strong confidence in God - that He hears and answers prayer - that He will answer the very petition that we are presenting to Him on this occasion.

PRAYER BEFORE SERVICES

Because of the dramatic increase in demonic activity in recent times, it is essential that pastors, elders and deacons set aside time for intercessory prayer before each meeting.

1. They should ask the Lord to cleanse the building so it will be a fit place for the risen Lord to meet with His people.
2. They should bind all evil spirits that are resident in people who attend the service, so that these people will be free to hear and understand the Word as it is preached.
3. They should ask the Lord to remove everything that hinders the free flow of the Holy Spirit in the congregation.
4. They should ask the Lord to reveal anything in the lives of the leaders that is hindering the movement of the Holy Spirit.
5. They should pray for the covering of the blood of Christ to be over the congregation.
6. They should petition the Lord to place angels around their meeting place to protect them from invasion by evil spirits and astral-travelling satanists and witches.

In concluding this chapter, I remind readers again that we are now facing incredible deception, the very deception that we have been warned about by our Lord, by Paul and other New Testament writers.

There is no way that we can give this deception the 'magic wand' treatment and expect it to disappear. It won't! This is the reason why 'warfare-type' praying is absolutely essential.

CHAPTER THREE

APOSTACY IN THE LAST DAYS

The Bible teaches quite clearly that just before the Second Coming of our Lord there will be a time of great apostacy - when millions of people will 'fall away' from the faith and that is what 'apostacy' is - 'a falling away'. This apostacy will be of great magnitude and there is mounting evidence that ...

IT HAS ALREADY BEGUN

I propose in this chapter to do two things:

1. To show just how great this falling away will be.
2. To show some of the components that will contribute to it.

In order that we may understand something of the magnitude of this apostacy, it will be necessary to examine some passages of Scripture.

First - Matt 24.37 Here we read "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the Coming of the Son of Man be." Here our Lord draws a comparison between the time just prior to the great flood and the period just prior to His Second Coming. When we think of the time just before the flood, most people will call to mind Genesis 6.5 which reads "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." Also in Genesis 6.11-12 we read "The earth also was corrupt before God and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth and behold it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." So we see in these verses some of the conditions that prevailed just prior to the flood, namely:

1. Great wickedness
2. Evil intent
3. Widespread corruption
4. Rampant violence

Now many readers will say, "Well, we have all these things now!" True! In society today, we have great wickedness, much evil, widespread corruption and an increasing amount of violence. The comparison between our times and the time just before the flood is very striking, but we should not stop there. There is at least one other comparison we should observe and that is the fact that ...

Only 8 People Were Saved in the Ark

The world had been going on for 1656 years up to the flood. Some scholars feel that there could have been as many as 30 million people living on the earth when the Lord sent the flood. Even if the total population was much smaller than some estimate, it is still staggering that the Lord could only find eight righteous people out of a population of multiplied millions. The percentage of righteous was exceedingly small.

Now what I am saying here is simply this - we must not overlook this comparison. Just as there was only an exceedingly small percentage of the population saved in Noah's day "so shall it be in the days of the coming of the Son of Man." In other words, just as there was a very small percentage of the population saved in Noah's day, **so it will be when our Lord returns!** The eight people that the

Lord spared in Noah's day were saved because they were **righteous**. Gen 7.1 Likewise, when our Lord returns, the only ones that will escape His wrath will be the righteous Mat 5.20. Another important fact should be noted here and it is this - all those whose claim to righteousness is not valid will be disqualified.

Now let us read Luke 17.28-32. "Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot ... even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed ... remember Lot's wife!"

When we draw a comparison between our present society and Sodom, again we naturally think of the wickedness, the corruption and especially the immorality. Again, the comparison is very striking, but allow me to draw attention to the fact that only three people survived the destruction of Sodom, Lot and his two daughters. Even Lot's own wife perished through disobedience. So to have only three people saved out of such a large city is certainly striking. Again we should not overlook the reason why these three were spared. Gen 18.23-33 reveals the fact that God considered them to be **righteous**.

So what the Lord is saying to us here is: as it was in the days of Lot (when only a very small percentage of the population was acceptable to God) so shall it be in the days of the Coming of the Son of Man (again only a very small percentage of the total population will be saved.)

Let us consider Luke 18.8. "I tell you that he will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, **shall He find faith on the earth?**" - implying that true faith will exist when He returns, but it will be hard to find! In other words, conditions at the time of His Second Coming will be identical to those just prior to the flood and just before the destruction of Sodom. There will be plenty of religion but true spirituality will be a rare commodity - and very difficult to find.

Now let us turn to 2 Thes 2.3 which reads "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come except there come a falling away first and that 'man of sin' be revealed, the son of perdition." When Paul uses the term 'that day' he is of course referring to the Second Coming of our Lord. Here Paul links three things together - deception, apostasy and our Lord's Second Coming. They will occur in that order. The first two are already underway. Deception is already very widespread and will obviously become even greater - much greater. To such an extent that even the elect will be in danger of being deceived. Mat 24.24 The great apostasy (or falling away) is also well underway, the deception that Paul warns of is **actually causing the apostasy**, and when the apostasy has run its course, there will be very little true faith left on the earth.

So the stage is now being set for the Second Coming of our Lord. We have great wickedness, open rebellion against God, blatant hostility toward Biblical principles, a dramatic upsurge in violence, increasing immorality and perversion and the Apostasy Paul warns of is now underway.

Let us consider one more passage which further reinforces the fact that there is to be a period of great apostasy in the 'last days' just prior to the Second Coming.

REVELATION 13.6-9

Note in verse 7 that 'it was given' to the beast 'to make war with the saints'.

In other words, power was given to the beast 'by divine decree' - power to do what? "To make war with the saints" and what is the outcome of this war? The beast overcomes them. I can only interpret this one way and that is that there will be a great war between the forces of darkness and the church and that Satan and his forces will 'overcome the saints'.

In other words, the forces of Satan will be victorious. It would appear from this passage of Scripture that a great number of Christians are going to lose their lives. But even though Satan's forces appear to gain the victory, what a hollow victory it will be, because in fact, all those who die for their faith have in reality become the victors.

So all of these passages of Scripture appear to be teaching the same thing: namely, that there is to be a great 'falling away' - apostasy - before our Lord's Second Coming and this apostasy will be caused by Satanic deception - supernatural deception. This deception will be of such magnitude that it will virtually destroy faith from the earth.

IS SATAN DEFEATED ??

There will be those who read this chapter and say "Wait, hold on a minute, what you describe here just cannot be because Satan is a defeated foe. He was defeated by Christ at Calvary!" True, our Lord did defeat Satan at Calvary and Satan was sentenced, but let us never lose sight of the fact that **that sentence has not yet been carried out!** In the meantime, Satan is very much alive on planet Earth. Are we not told that "he walks about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." 1 Pet 5.8 Peter wrote this warning to Christians! We are not to admire Satan's power, but we should certainly have a healthy respect for it.

I have mentioned the fact that this great apostasy that Paul refers to in 2 Thes 2.3 is already under way. If any readers doubt this, all they need do is examine the various denominations. Half a century ago, many of these denominations were a strong spiritual force. They enjoyed well-attended prayer meetings. There was much effective evangelism which resulted in many souls being saved. It could have been correctly said that in those days, the Christians were the 'salt of the earth' because their influence was felt in politics, in industry, in commerce, in sport, in fact, the Christian influence pervaded the whole of society.

CHANGE IS UNDER WAY

However, all this is changing. We now have apostasy in the church and wickedness and violence rapidly increasing in society and this is exactly what the Scriptures teach would happen.

What should be our attitude when we observe everything going to pieces all around us? The ever-present danger of ceasing to resist the encroachment of evil can allow us to 'drift with the current!' But this is not what the Lord would have us do. There is much at stake and the Scriptures abound with instructions concerning what our attitude should be. Are we not told to 'occupy till I come .. stand firm ... hold fast ... endure to the end ... put on the whole armour of God ... watch and pray.' These instructions are crystal clear and we must obey them regardless of the cost.

BASIC CAUSES OF THIS APOSTACY

I propose now to show some of these, keeping in mind the law of 'cause and effect'. So far in this chapter, we have been observing the 'effect'. Now we shall look behind the **effect** and try to understand the **cause** of what is bringing about the apostacy. I propose here to list several components, all of which contribute to the apostacy we are now witnessing. More observant readers will note that all of them are aimed at the mind:

To confuse the mind,

To deceive the mind and if possible,

To control the mind, in that order.

The first component is:

(1) THE MODERN TONGUES MOVEMENT

Here we should point out the difference between the true Biblical gift of 'languages' and the

'tongues' which is spreading in our churches today.

The true Biblical gift was the God-given ability to speak **another language** that the speaker had not learnt. The Lord gave some of His servants this ability also that the Gospel **could cross language barriers** and bring salvation to those in other cultures. Biblical tongues was also a form of 'divine credential' to the Early Church, thus stamping God's seal of approval on it right from its commencement.

The 'tongues' being used today is nothing but an unintelligible gabble, although there are occasions when a known language is used.

Whenever tests are made on present day tongues, they are mostly found to be demonic in origin. However, some can be psychosomatic. What I am saying here is that when the biblical test of 1 John 4.1-3 is applied, in most cases, a demon will answer. Another form of strong evidence that exposes the modern tongues movement for the fraud that it is, is the fact that forty years ago, there was ...

NO SPEAKING IN TONGUES AT ALL

IN ANY OF THE MAINLINE Protestant denominations. It simply did not exist. I know because I worked in all the mainline denominations as an evangelist and Bible teacher. The only groups that used 'tongues' in those days were the Pentecostal churches, the Mormons, some heretical sects and some pagan tribes and one interesting fact here is that **all these groups** used the same 'gift of tongues' - exactly. It can be readily seen from this that they are all under the influence of the same spirit! 'Tongues' was simply not allowed expression in any of the mainline denominations because it was seen to be unbiblical and even dangerous. Today, however, the tongues movement has spread its so-called 'gift' into all mainline protestant denominations, the Roman Catholic church and many of the cults as well. The question I would pose here is this: If the modern type of speaking in tongues was wrong and even dangerous forty years ago, how come it is now acceptable and allowed expression in thousands of churches? What has changed? Some say "Oh, now we have a return of the original gift - an outpouring of the Holy Spirit." Well, my friend, that argument simply would not stand up in court because all the tests prove it to be demonic in origin and no amount of jumping up and down can refute evidence as conclusive as that. No, what we are now witnessing is a very potent form of 'spiritism' which has invaded the evangelical church. This can be verified by examining 'the fruit' of this movement and when we do, this is what we see:

1. Split churches
2. Marital problems
3. Moral problems, even with many Elders and Pastors
4. Change of character in many people
5. Confusion on a large scale
6. A frightening 'turn-over' in congregations
7. An ever-increasing number of 'dropouts'
8. Emotional problems
9. A dramatic increase in demonic problems

If the present trends continue and there is every sign that they will, the present day Tongues Movement will be sufficient on its own to devastate the evangelical churches. However, Satan has more strings to his bow, the next one being ...

(2) THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

The New Age Movement is not one single organisation, but is an 'umbrella' type structure that shelters thousands of small, groups. The aim of the New Age Movement is the establishment of a New World Order. Christians prefer to call it a One World Government. New Agers intend introducing:

A world-wide credit card system
A world food authority
A universal tax system

They say they will achieve their goal by using sophisticated forms of mind control. These methods have already been in operation for many years and no one doubts that the methods used are successful. They are bringing large numbers of people into a passive state of mind and programming them so that they will 'renounce their outdated Christian principles' and become obedient little puppets in the New World Order! Most of the organisations under the New Age umbrella have ...

ONE COMMON DENOMINATOR

and that is that somewhere in their program they will attempt to bring everyone into a 'trance-like' state. In other words, a crucial part of their program is to persuade everyone by whatever means, to allow their minds to 'go blank' and passive. Instructors in the various New Age organisations have to use this sophisticated method of mind control to achieve their goals. What they are doing is advising people in their classes to relinquish control of their own minds so that they, the instructors, can control and manipulate the minds of the people concerned. Thoughtful readers will of course recognise the fact that this, like the modern Tongues Movement, is simply another form of spiritism. Very large numbers of instructors in the New Age Movement are under the control of a 'spirit guide' which is an occultish way of describing a demon. I will now list some of the ...

NEW AGE TECHNIQUES

WHICH CHRISTIANS SHOULD AVOID

All forms of the Marshal Arts
Sensitivity training
Mind expansion programs
Self-awareness classes
Relaxation techniques
Hypnosis
Self hypnosis
Child Regression
Rebirthing
The human potential movement
Positive imaging
All forms of subliminal communication
Subliminal music - including all Rock music
Bio feed-back
Levitation
All role-playing games such as Dungeons and Dragons

The above list will be sufficient to alert Christians to the great danger that they face if they become involved in any of the above programs. As previously mentioned, the method used is very subtle and what makes it even more dangerous is its progressive nature. Its initial design is **to confuse the mind**, then **deceive the mind**, and finally **to control the mind**. This amounts to an extremely subtle attempt by Satan to hijack the minds of people - take them over - and from there on, program them. This is one of Satan's strategies in these last days and is proving to be one of the underlying causes of the Apostasy that we are now witnessing.

A third component that is contributing to apostasy is ...

(3) INCREASED MATERIALISM

The church is probably wealthier now than at any time in its 2000 year history. What our Lord said to the Laodicean church in Rev 3.17 seems to be especially appropriate at this point in time **"Because thou sayest, I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked:"** Christians in the Western World have never had it so good. Most are materially well off, but what price wealth?

Many discerning Christians would conclude that the church has all too willingly sacrificed spiritual power in order to gain material wealth. The sad fact is that current and future generations are going to accept the present state of the church as 'the norm'! People are far more likely to judge things by present standards rather than what is laid down in the Word of God. It almost goes without saying that this course of action will leave them spiritually devastated. Our instructions on this point are clear **"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth where thieves break through and steal"** Matt 6:19. Let us make up our minds to follow these instructions to the letter lest we come under the Lord's condemnation.

Another factor that is certain to contribute to apostasy is ...

(4) PERSECUTION

Christians in the free world have for many years been praying for their brothers and sisters in Christ behind the Iron and Bamboo curtains. We constantly receive news of their being imprisoned, beaten, losing their jobs, having their children taken from them and some being killed. Throughout some African countries, large numbers of churches are being burned down. Some pastors have been killed and many Christians have had to flee into the forest or to another country in order to escape death. We do not read much about it in the secular press because it is not considered 'newsworthy' but it is going on just the same. Many Christians in the free world, when confronted with such news, greet it with a yawn or an "Oh, how sad" and then continue with their endless pursuit of enjoyment. Well, there are now unmistakable signs that persecution, strong persecution, is about to overtake the free world.

Many Christians have clung to the vain hope that this kind of situation would not arise, but now very strong evidence points to the fact that a storm of great magnitude is about to be unleashed on the Western world. If I interpret Scripture correctly, it will be accompanied by strong persecution that will cause many to defect to the enemy side. Many of these will probably join with the world in persecuting the few who remain faithful. My word to all who read these lines is - no matter what the future holds - "be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life!" Rev 2.10 What a wonderful promise from our Lord and Master!

I originally intended including two other components here that will feature prominently in the great final apostasy, namely: **The use of witchcraft and a vast increase in demonic activity** but as these are dealt with in separate chapters in this book, I will not comment further on them here.

Now, I feel that I should not conclude this chapter without a word of encouragement to readers. If you happen to be a member of a quiet church in a nice suburb or country town and none of the trends I have mentioned is discernable yet, then you are fortunate indeed. I just ask you to bear in mind the fact that one day, further down the track, some of these are going to overtake you and when they do, you need to be ready for them.

HOW TO PREPARE

In order to prepare yourself for the approaching storm, I would suggest that you take the following steps:

1. Spend as much time as possible carefully studying the Scriptures because there could well come a time when the Bible is taken from you. In the event of that happening, you will need to possess sufficient grasp of truth to assure your spiritual survival.
2. Study in careful detail, the spiritual Armour that Paul speaks of in Eph 6.10-18. Don't stop until you understand clearly what is meant by each piece of this armour; then proceed to put it on and wear it constantly.
3. Study the **authority** that the Lord has made available to his people. Luke 10.19 In this verse, the Lord states quite clearly that He has given us 'authority over all the power of the enemy'. This being the case, we need to take up this authority and use it in all situations where we find ourselves under attack. The use of this authority is not the exclusive right of missionaries or others in front-line warfare. Even the most inconspicuous of the Lord's people can learn to take authority over all that Satan throws at them. If we fail to do this, our spiritual survival will be short-lived.
4. Live a disciplined life with much time devoted to prayer. All who fail in this are certain to go under!

My prayer for all readers is that they will '**war a good warfare**' (1 Tim 1.18) and keep in view the fact that '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 also that **love His appearing.**' 2 Tim 4.8

CHAPTER FOUR Witches have Infiltrated our Churches

In recent months I have been deeply concerned by reading a number of books and articles in Christian magazines on witchcraft. Most of what has been written even denies the very existence of witchcraft at this point in time. To say that the authors and editors are naive would be a gross understatement. They are obviously passing judgment on something they have not researched. This concerns me greatly because it gives the wrong impression to Christians and thus greatly assists Satan's cause.

Several high-profile pastors have urged me to put into print what we now know, in order to alert the church to some of the dangers we are now facing. The facts disclosed in this chapter have been verified over a period of several years. The information gleaned has been carefully documented after much research and close consultation with others of the Lord's servants. The sole purpose for placing this information on record is to inform Christians as to what is really going on, so that they will 'not be ignorant of Satan's devices.'

When thinking of a witch, many people immediately conjure up an old lady dressed in black, with a wart on her nose, a peaked hat on her head and riding on a broomstick! This is about as far from the truth as it is possible to be. What we could be looking at is a young woman, well spoken, tastefully dressed and sitting on a pew in an evangelical church. It is highly probable that her true identity will go completely undetected. That this type of situation can exist is due to centuries of rumours and misinformation.

General Information About Witchcraft

Before talking about witches, I would like to make two things clear:

- 1. I am not talking** about 'white' witches. It is true that white witches are both confused and deceived and it is also true that white witches know little of the spirit world and satanic power. To them witchcraft is no more than a 'spooky' game.
- 2. I am not talking** about witchcraft in the 15th century in Europe. I am talking about **black witchcraft** in Australia in the 1980s.

Perhaps we should begin by pointing out that **witchcraft differs from satanism**. Satanists have their own churches. They have a structured form of service where they worship Satan. They also have their own satanic bible written by Anton LaVey, who is head of the First Church of Satan in San Francisco. Witches usually meet in **covens**. Several different orders of witches occur, the most common order having **seven levels**. Witches pass from one level to another and then become a priestess and finally a high priestess. Females are referred to as witches, males being called 'warlocks'.

In order to graduate from one level to another, witches have to pass exams, both oral and written. They also must demonstrate their power by doing such things as "zapping" a bird in flight, lighting a candle without a match, walking barefoot through hot coals, successfully casting both curses and spells on people and so on.

All Black Witches Are Demon Possessed

They have to be because it is demonic power that they use. They do not call them demons, but 'spirit guides'. Black witches meet as a coven on the full moon. The grass is burnt where they meet and the ground sanctified or dedicated to Satan. Witches then prepare themselves for the ritual which lasts for several hours. They have a blood sacrifice. The power available to them is equal to the value of the sacrifice.

Astrology is the basis of all witchcraft. Spells are based on astrology. Witches relate closely to the spirit world and despise Christians for being so naive about it. When they meet for their ritual on the full moon, they 'hum' certain tunes to summon the presence of demons. The demons in turn confirm their presence by blowing out the candles. Black witches increase in power by inviting more powerful demons into themselves. As their power increases, they graduate to a higher level.

Another way they increase in power is through the continual fighting with one another. The winner then takes some of the demons from the loser. As they penetrate deeper into witchcraft, demons control their minds to such an extent that they are no longer able to think for themselves. All their thoughts pass through a 'demonic filter'. (When they reach this stage, demons are able to use them to greater advantage). When certain things happen, outside observers, including most Christians, will almost always blame the person, not understanding the fact that she **may**, though not always, be a witch and secondly, not realising that she is forced to do certain things by the demons who control her.

Many well documented cases exist where people inherited demons from either parents or grandparents at the time of their death. Most rock stars are tied into witchcraft in some way and that is why those who listen to rock music have a distorted view of spiritual things. Many who listen to rock music for long periods of time have their spiritual life completely destroyed. We have counselled some young people who have come under demonic influence as a direct result of listening to rock music. So-called 'Christian rock' is just as dangerous because it is **not the words** that are used; **it is the beat** that has a hypnotic effect and disorients the mind.

When black witches get deep into the craft, there is, humanly speaking ...

NO WAY OUT

If they convert to Christianity, they are likely to be killed because they 'know too much'. Milder forms of demonic activity can be seen in the use of ouija boards, seances, fortune telling and card reading etc. For instance, when a card reader lays down a tarot card, she does not read the card, she receives a message from demons.

SATAN'S PLAN EXPOSED

Witches hold business meetings just as do church members. Only the higher level witches are allowed to attend. Attendance is compulsory and if any of those eligible absent themselves without good reason, they are punished. The punishment is emotional in nature and inflicted by the demons that possess them. The business meetings are conducted by the high priestess. Satan gives orders concerning what should be done and these orders are passed down a chain of command. In business meetings, the decision is made as to which churches will be targeted and which of their number is appointed to infiltrate.

We now know of a large number of churches that have been successfully infiltrated by witches. In fact, in one town in south-east Queensland, witches boast that they have infiltrated every church in the town and judging by the devastation caused in some of the churches in this town, their claim is probably correct.

THE AIM OF THIS ATTACK ...

IS THE DESTRUCTION OF THE CHURCH.

Anyone knowing the facts cannot deny that their plan is meeting with amazing success. One church that we have been told of, originally had a membership of well over 100. The membership is now down to 30 and the remaining members are almost totally demoralised. This is now happening to an increasing number of churches and many promising young pastors are now leaving the ministry because of it.

WHY THE INFILTRATION?

What I share here will sound almost too incredible to be believed. May I suggest that readers do not draw conclusions hastily. Without a great deal of prayer and research into the occult, you are certain to be deceived. If what you read here sounds like science fiction, I suggest that you put it on the 'back burner' for a year or two until you have had time to check it out.

We now have concrete evidence that **black witches are infiltrating** evangelical churches. This evidence has been carefully documented by high-profile pastors and bible teachers whose integrity is beyond question.

These witches are working to a carefully laid out plan which has been operating for many years, right under our noses without our even suspecting it. Some profess to be fine Christians. They dress well, speak well, are usually well educated and in some cases are knowledgeable in spiritual matters. They infiltrate our churches, then become members and begin to take an active part, singing in the choir or joining the diaconate etc. They then work to a highly effective plan which is aimed at destroying the Pastor's reputation (seducing him or spreading rumours about him).

They also create factions within the church and pit one group against another and thus create division. They may lay charges against the pastor and put these charges in writing and send them to the diaconate. This ploy often divides members of the diaconate against each other or sometimes turns the diaconate against the pastor.

The results stemming from these methods are obvious and manifold - confusion, suspicion, loss of confidence in the pastor, emotional problems, tension, disunity - the list is almost endless. We now have irrefutable evidence that many churches in south-east Queensland have come under attack by witches and we are certain that this is only the tip of the iceberg.

WHAT WE ARE UP AGAINST

The Christian church is now facing a head-on confrontation with the powers of darkness. The spiritual battle in which we are now engaged has sharply increased in intensity during the last few years. The sad fact is that most sleepy Christians are so busy enjoying the world, they are almost completely oblivious of what is going on.

We must understand that Satan is a master Strategist. Until fairly recent times, his tactics seem to have been more of a 'diversionary' nature. However, they have now changed to that of 'infiltration'. The enemy is ...

NOW IN OUR MIDST

and often appears as an 'angel of light' and even some of his servants are appearing as 'ministers of righteousness'. Had we understood the Scriptures better, we surely would have expected this in these last days. After all, we really should not expect him to carry a banner, or blow a trumpet to announce his presence!

Large numbers of Christians have lost their biblical balance and do not see demons as being responsible for anything. They see corruption, crime, violence, immorality and all kinds of perversion and just accredit it all to human nature. The stark fact is that the forces of darkness are now clothing themselves in human form and sitting in our congregations, singing in choirs and working in various departments of our churches.

Some witches appear content to just sit in congregations and mumble their incantations while others go out of their way to gain acceptance in a church and then carefully work their way into positions of influence. In fact, one practising satanist high priest had successfully got himself elected as Secretary of a Baptist church. Unfortunately the church in these last days has become so worldly

and materialistic, that it is no longer any real threat to its enemies. I constantly hear Christians talk about 'spiritual warfare' and 'putting on the armour of God' etc, but it would appear that with most, their knowledge of these things is theoretical rather than experimental. They are familiar with the 'jargon' but that is as far as it goes.

WHAT WITCHES CAN DO

Black witches have varying degrees of Extra Sensory Perception. E.S.P. is a satanic gift and has to be developed. This ability enables them to see into the spirit world. A black witch with well developed ESP can walk into any church and immediately sum up the situation. In other words, she has the satanically given ability to diagnose where people are at spiritually. If any Christians are 'clothed with the armour of God' they are in effect clothed with Christ. She is immediately aware of this because it hurts her eyes to look at them. She is in effect looking at Christ. I have personally seen a witch in this situation and observed her cover her eyes. She could not stand the 'glare' from the armour of light (Rom 13.12). It would not be possible to pass a 'phoney' Christian off onto an experienced black witch. Her clairvoyant abilities would enable her to discern whether or not the Spirit of God resided in the person. A black witch is usually quicker to pick if a person is a Christian, than a Christian is to discern the fact that she is a witch. A witch with well developed clairvoyance can discern 'lustful relationships' in a church without being told and then exploit them for Satan.

I will now mention briefly a number of things that have been directly traced to black witchcraft:

They can kill a bird in flight by using demonic power.

They can light a candle without a match.

They can walk barefoot through hot coals.

They can reduce people to poverty.

This is done by putting spells on the minds of people so that the people are always 'tired' and cannot think properly. They cannot then cope with their work and finish up losing their jobs.

They can afflict Christians with a whole variety of illnesses. This is done by a curse. When this is done by a witch, the afflicted person may have many medical tests, including x-rays and blood tests, but on most occasions, the tests are negative and show absolutely nothing. However, in some cases, tests can prove positive. Lumps and even growths have been detected. Some go on to be treated by medical science while others are removed through intercessory prayer. I personally have had several afflictions which have been demonically put on me. Each time, doctors (and specialists) were well aware of the fact that **there was a problem** but they could not diagnose it and therefore were completely baffled as to how to treat it.

THE LORD'S POWER IS GREATER

On each occasion, the Lord removed the affliction in answer to prayer.

Powerful witches can sometimes fix their gaze on a person and 'charm' that person in a way similar to that of an Indian snake-charmer handling a cobra. In these cases, the witch is actually putting a spell on the person in order to bring that person under her control. If she succeeds in doing this, she will then proceed further and get the person to do her bidding.

A witch will buy the loyalty of people by giving them presents, sometimes very expensive presents. By this method, witches gain a 'hold' over people. Having done this, they will then work to increase that hold. When these gifts are placed in the home of Christians, they become 'familiar objects' and

demons use them as doorways. This is one method used by demons to gain access to Christian homes.

Witches can afflict people with deep oppression. This oppression can be so severe that the person concerned loses all desire to live - death is preferable.

Witches can cause a 'heavy, oppressive atmosphere' in a meeting, so that people feel 'tired' and cannot concentrate on the message. This 'oppression' can only be removed by the Lord's people praying against it. If they do not have sufficient knowledge of how it was done, or how to remove it, then the 'heavy' atmosphere will remain.

Witches can send demons into churches to disrupt worship services and prayer meetings.

They can set Christians against each other by gossip and slander.

They can break up Christian marriages by seducing the husband, or manoeuvring him into a compromising situation.

They can easily demoralise weak Christians and cause them to fall away.

They can display psychic abilities and deceive some Christians into thinking that their powers are God-given.

A powerful witch is able to create irrational fear in a person and also to increase pain. The witch does not have to be present to do these things. They can be done from a distance.

THE DANGER OF DECEPTION

Now if all this information is 'mind boggling' and some readers find it almost too incredible to be believed, I simply remind them that things are changing - rapidly. Everything is changing! The whole structure of our society is in a state of upheaval and nowhere is this change more apparent than on the spiritual scene.

We have been warned many times in Scripture to expect deception in the last days. All I am trying to do here is to show the nature of demonic deception and expose some of the forms in which it may appear. If I succeed in alerting at least some of my fellow believers, then I will be gratified because I know that they in turn will help others.

Bearing in mind what I said about deception, we should be very careful not to jump to the conclusion that some person in your church is a witch - because you could be wrong! She (or he) may appear to be engaging in witchcraft, but demons often use people whom they control in this way to increase the deception.

HOW TO IDENTIFY A WITCH

True witches can sometimes be identified by the fact that:

1. They do not possess the fruits of the Spirit.
2. They sometimes, though not always, wear occult jewellery.
3. They 'eyeball' people by maintaining a fixed gaze.
4. At times their eyes take on a noticeable 'glassy' appearance as though another being is looking

out through the eyes - and in fact another being **IS LOOKING OUT** through the eyes - the chief resident demon is summing up the situation and deciding what to do next.

5. Some witches practise 'charming' and may do this by an almost continual smile. The smile disarms people and has a hypnotic effect on them. The design of this charming is to bring people under their control. Bear in mind the fact that this is done supernaturally and can often be very effective.

6. They will invariably **avoid the Spirit-filled Christians** because such Christians are a threat to them.

7. A true witch will have occult objects in her house.

8. As mentioned earlier in this chapter, witches will attempt to buy loyalty by giving people gifts, often very expensive gifts - these gifts are sometimes given for no apparent reason.

9. Witches go out of their way to cultivate a wide circle of friends in all walks of life. This is done deliberately so that in the event of '**anything going wrong**' they will have a lot of people who will stand by them and defend them - and remember the fact that many of these people are already under the witch's control or at least obligated to her in some way.

10. Witches are liars. This is only natural because of their constant association with demons. However, they are very hard 'to catch out' because invariably ...

THERE ARE NO WITNESSES

and it is just one person's word against another.

11. Many witches are wealthy. It seems that Satan has plenty of funds with which to support his servants.

12. Christians with well developed discernment will often observe a 'change of character'. If so, the personality of the witch has been subjugated by the chief demon. The witch will then be in a 'trance-like' state.

13. Witches are very secretive - they have to be in order to conceal their true identity.

Now, having said all this, I must say again, don't be pressured into forming hasty conclusions. The person you suspect may not be a witch at all. They may be a 'plant', demonically controlled and deliberately placed in your church to help destroy it, **but not necessarily a witch**. Christians should be very cautious about accusing someone of being a witch, because they could be 'had up' on a defamation charge and because "spiritual things are spiritually discerned" it is highly likely that the judge and jury will not understand the case and therefore will rule in favour of the said person.

WHAT TO DO

Before giving some suggestions here, I would like to once again emphasize the fact that I **do not profess to have all the answers**. I work with a growing number of pastors and bible teachers throughout Australia. We are constantly in touch with each other and we all agree that the church is now faced with incredible deception. Situations are now occurring that are, humanly speaking, impossible to analyse and even if these events are correctly interpreted, it is often extremely difficult to know what course of action to take. However, I will make some suggestions here which I trust will prove helpful.

1. Do not underestimate the power of prayer.

All throughout history, Christian people have found themselves passing through times of great crisis. It is during such times that the people of God have stormed heaven and pressed their petitions. Numerous have been the occasions when the Lord, in answer to prayer, has risen up and scattered his enemies. So let us never forget the fact that He has lost none of his ancient power. It could well be that He is just waiting for us to confide in Him and seek his help.

2. Use your God-given Authority.

If you have on the whole armour of God you have a power at your disposal that is far greater than the power possessed by any witch. You need to learn to use this power. After all, the witch uses the power which is at her disposal. Christians have the power to bind the demons in a witch so that they are unable to operate through her - this binding is only temporary. If the power given to us by our Lord is not to be used in actual combat, then for what reason has it been given to us?

3. Constantly search the Scriptures.

People who do not arm themselves with truth will be no match for a crafty foe such as Satan. Do not be content with an elementary knowledge of Bible doctrine - this is simply not good enough. Carefully study your Bible and pray over it - ask the Lord to help you understand the spirit world - who demons are and what they can and cannot do to Christians. Study the armour that God provides for his servants and proceed to put it on.

4. Practise self-discipline.

What we have on the church scene today is Christian soldiers wandering around half dazed shooting up their own men. They seem to feel that Satan isn't doing a good enough job so they have decided to help him! Little wonder that the church is losing ground on most fronts.

WHAT THE LORD NEEDS MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE AT THIS POINT IN TIME, IS WELL DISCIPLINED SOLDIERS WHO HAVE ON THEIR ARMOUR AND KNOW NOTHING BUT CHRIST CRUCIFIED AND WHO ARE PREPARED TO LAY DOWN THEIR LIVES FOR THE CAPTAIN OF THEIR SALVATION.

5. Hang on to your faith.

We will all be under strong pressure from here on to simply 'throw in the towel'. The Scriptures abound with instructions to "resist the devil ... be strong in the Lord ... be thou faithful unto death ... put on the whole armour of God ... be ye steadfast, unmovable ... submit yourself therefore unto God ... continue in my Word ... reckon ye yourselves to be dead indeed to sin." We must end the charade and take our commitment to Christ seriously. Remember, we are fighting for our spiritual survival and we neglect Biblical instructions at our own peril.

Peter warns us that "Satan goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour." It is a well-known fact that it is the lioness who catches the prey. It is also well-known that just before they spring, they let out a 'roar'. This roar paralyses the prey with fear and thus makes them fall victim more easily. Satan knows full well that his time is short and his anger toward the people of God is about to break forth in all its fury. If ever there was a time for "the people that do know their God to be strong and do exploits" (Dan 11.32) that time is surely now!

CHAPTER FIVE

TRUE FAITH IN THE LAST DAYS

I have already mentioned in this book that I believe a storm of great magnitude is about to break upon the church. This storm will be satanically inspired and will be devastating in its effects. If I interpret Scripture correctly, Satan will hurl everything he has at the church in one last all-out effort to destroy it. The whole structure of the church will be under tremendous stress and casualties in the Lord's army will be very high.

In an earlier chapter, I pointed out that our Lord in Luke 18.8 draws attention to the fact that true faith, though still existing, will be hard to find on the earth. In a previous chapter I have outlined several of the components that Satan will use to bring about this situation, namely the introduction of spiritism through the Tongues Movement and the New Age Movement, Witchcraft and severe persecution etc. Undoubtedly these will not be the only things Satan will use.

Before proceeding further, I would like readers to look again at the verse referred to (Luke 18.8) where our Lord says in part "**when the Son of man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth?**" I believe our Lord is here giving prior warning of what we may expect as time runs out. My main purpose in this chapter will be to:

1. Define faith
2. Give some general information about faith
3. Show how personal faith may be increased
4. Show the essential link between faith and knowledge

1. WE ARE TO DEFINE FAITH

I cannot think of a better definition than the one used in Heb 11:1 which says "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." **Historical faith** is belief in the accuracy of the biblical narrative. **Saving faith** is the wholehearted acceptance by the intellect, affections and will, of the **promises of God** extended to man through the written Word. Man must first **know** at least some of the basic promises, then **understand** them, then **believe** them - in that order. As Chas. Finney has said "Man cannot **believe** the promises if he doesn't **understand** them, and he cannot understand them if he doesn't **know** them".

2. GENERAL Information On FAITH

The importance of faith cannot be over-estimated because our whole eternal destiny hangs on it. Whether we go to heaven or hell will be decided by whether we understand what real faith is and whether or not we exercise it.

I will now list just a few of the many verses that indicate some of the things that are accomplished by faith.

We are justified by faith. Rom 5.1
We are sanctified by faith. Ac 26.18
We please God by faith. Heb 11.6
We overcome the world by faith. 1 Jn 5.4
The sick are healed through faith. Jas 5.15
We are united to the body of Christ by faith. Eph 4.13
Our hearts are purified by faith. Ac 15.9
We are to take the shield of faith. Eph 6.16
We walk by faith. 2 Cor 5.7
We are to contend for the faith. Jude 3

The whole Bible from beginning to end is literally crammed with teaching on the subject of faith. So it is of the utmost importance that we set to work and study it thoroughly. Hebrews 11 is referred to by Bible students as the 'Roll-call of Faith'. In this chapter, the writer lists a large number of believers and shows what they accomplished through faith. I would urge readers to read this chapter carefully several times, because to do so will result in great spiritual profit.

3. I AM TO SHOW HOW OUR PERSONAL FAITH MAY BE INCREASED

The Bible is very specific about this: "Faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God." Rom 10.17 There are no short cuts that we can take in order to increase our faith. It simply does not work that way. Careful study of the Scriptures is what is needed. Without this, our faith will at best be extremely weak, if in fact it exists at all. Many people these days want some evidence beyond the written word before they will believe. They seek some 'sign' or 'wonder' or visible manifestation from the Lord. These people are no better than the Jews of old to whom our Lord said "**Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe!**" Jn 4.48 The simple word of the living God should be sufficient on which to rest our faith.

TRUE FAITH IN ACTION

It is interesting to read in Mat 8.5-13 the story of the centurion. This man was in charge of a large number of men. One of his servants became seriously ill. The man goes to see our Lord and inform Him of his servant's illness. Our Lord replies "I will come and heal him," (v.7) to which the centurion replied "It is not necessary for you to come - just **speak the word only** and my servant shall be healed!" In other words, 'you do not have to be there in person, you do not have to see the servant or touch him, **just speak the word!**' The centurion did not require any evidence or manifestation, he was prepared to simply **trust the word of Christ**. It is interesting to observe that our Lord was not only willing to respond to the man's request, but also publicly commended him for his faith, (v.10).

We see from this that we too, must learn to develop complete faith in the written Word. We are to pay heed to the written Word, as though it were God speaking to us in person, because that is what it is. **The written Word is the Voice of God to us**. The centurion placed great emphasis on the **Word of Christ**. To him ...

NOTHING ELSE WAS NEEDED

It is still the same in these last days. We have nothing to commend us to God - our learning, our social standing, the dignity of our position in the church. The only thing that will hold up in these difficult times is unshakable faith in Christ and His Word. The time is fast approaching when all else will be shattered around us. Let us make sure at all costs that we "**hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; for He is faithful that promised.**" Heb 10.23 We are not to expect God to speak to us in a voice like thunder as He did on Sinai. Nor are we to expect God to write things in letters of fire across the heavens. We are to take the written Word and regard it as the Voice of God and render implicit obedience to all its instructions ...

WITHOUT ANY OTHER EVIDENCE

This is faith, and this only. My friend, seeing "**faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God**" let us discipline ourselves to spend much time in the Word of God. Let us carefully carry out its instructions, heed its warnings and believe its promises.

4. I AM TO SHOW THE ESSENTIAL LINK BETWEEN FAITH AND KNOWLEDGE

An ever-increasing number of people in these last days are professing to have faith in Christ. But it is also an established fact that a very high percentage of them throw in the towel. Their 'faith', if indeed it could be called that, is melting in the face of peer pressure and the stress caused by modern social pressures.

I propose here to list some general Biblical information concerning faith, which I trust will be of help to readers and save them from being shipwrecked.

1. Before we can really exercise faith in God, we must have some knowledge of, and confidence in, the character of God.
2. Faith is more - much more than just an intellectual assent to truth. **True faith** is opening up the heart's door to Christ and allowing Him to reign as Lord and Master.
3. **True faith** is believing what God says, not just because He said it, but because of who He is! He is God and He cannot lie and He means exactly what He says.
4. The spiritual life of a large majority of professing Christians is extremely superficial and will, without doubt, be blown away altogether as the winds of adversity increase. The only way to guard against this happening to us is a diligent attempt on our part to **carefully study the promises of God**. To understand their meaning and feel their power.
5. **True faith** settles down on the promises of God and understands them to mean exactly what they say - accepts their meaning as a matter of fact.
6. **True faith** continues undeterred regardless of changing circumstances.
7. **True faith** is not content to remain on a low spiritual plain but goes from promise to promise ever gaining height like an eagle soaring on a thermal current.
8. **True faith** lays hold of the promises of Scripture for 'the last days' and proceeds to claim them personally.
9. **True faith** understands that all the promises of God are conditional and proceeds to comply with those conditions in order that these promises may be personally fulfilled.
10. **True faith** rests in a state of sweet repose and confidence in God and remains undisturbed by the turbulence all around.
11. **True faith** passes through trials and afflictions with a quiet composure.
12. **True faith** is not unduly concerned by criticism or even open hostility, but remains calm under pressure.
13. **True faith** disperses anxiety and waits with quiet confidence in God.
14. **True faith** will not allow known sin to remain in the life. "He that covereth his sin shall not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes his sin shall find mercy." Prov 28.13 Large numbers of people **confess** their sins; few **forsake** them. Only those who forsake (or give up) their sins will find mercy.
15. **True faith** is not content with an initial decision for Christ, but presses on to higher ground and does not rest until holy living is a way of life. It knows only too well that "without holiness, no man shall see the Lord." Heb 12.14

This is by no means all that could be said about true faith. The Bible on this matter, as on many others, is a mine of unlimited wealth. Let us work this mine, so that our knowledge of God and all His promises to us will increase. Let us always remember that **true faith will pass through trials.**

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THAT IT CAN DEVELOP

Peter prays that “the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ” 1 Pet 1:7.

In the light of all this, it is easy to understand why **God regards unbelief as one of the greatest of all sins.** Let us make certain that we are not guilty of this one!

It is the sincere prayer of the writer that all who read these pages will set to work to **develop a faith in our risen Lord that will ride out all the coming storms.**

SUGGESTED READING

“The Adversary” by Mark Bubeck (Moody Press)

“Overcoming the Adversary” by Mark Bubeck (Moody Press)

“War on the Saints” (unabridged edition) by Jessie Penn Lewis (Thomas Lowe Ltd, N.Y.)

“Occult A.B.C.” by Dr Kurt Koch

“Occult Bondage and Deliverance” by Dr Kurt Koch

“Today's Tongues” by Bryce Hartin

“The Christian – his enemies and his armour” by Bryce Hartin

“Tongues” by Spiros Zodhiates (A. M. G. Publications)

OTHER FREE BOOKS

Roy Hession

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

The Christian, His Enemies And His Armour, was written by Bryce Hartin as an aid to the spiritual warfare in which all Christians are 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.

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

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>

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. Go to

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

to download this book.

Perseverance Of The Saints

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

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

Miscellaneous

The Downloads Page at Christian Issues has a lot of other material that is also free to download.

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