

The Journey Back to God

By Dave Roberson

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture notations are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

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Chapter 1 ***Satan's Strategy*** ***Against the Church***

From the moment Jesus triumphed over all the power of the enemy through the Cross, Satan has tried to destroy Christian marriages and families in order to separate God's family once again.

Whenever these demonic assignments go forth in the kingdom of darkness, unclean spirits begin to operate against good, moral family men and women with a vengeance. The demonic onslaught can become so great that, when the unclean spirits are finished with their dirty work, many of these normally moral people are left saying, "I knew it was wrong, but I just couldn't seem to help it. I kept flirting around with sin until it pulled me under."

The Plight of Those in Bondage

As a result of this devilish attack against the Body of Christ, hundreds of thousands of believers today feel as if they are out of control, usually in the areas of lust, pornography, adultery, and addiction. These Christians feel powerless to do anything about it.

Believers who are in bondage to sins of the flesh often feel forced to live by double standards, becoming what most would classify as hypocrites. They carry on the normal Christian activities of going to church, giving, and taking care of responsibilities towards their family and church. But

there is a dark, secret side of their lives in which they feel trapped, not knowing what to do or who to turn to. They won't talk to the people who are closest to them because they can't bear the thought of letting down those who love them the most.

We're going to look first at how the devil attempts to carry out this monumental strategy of evil and destruction against believers. Then I want to show you how those who have become ensnared by sins of the flesh can embark on a journey back to close fellowship with God.

You see, God doesn't advocate these types of sin in any way, shape, or form. But we need to understand that, whenever a believer yields to the devil's temptations, he is the victim of a well-planned, highly organized scheme. It is a demonic strategy that shows no mercy and takes people apart, one emotional thread at a time, until all resistance is gone.

God is well aware of the enemy's strategies. That's why He has provided a way for His wayward children to step back from the brink of spiritual destruction and return to a life of freedom and peace.

Tools of the Enemy

Now, it's important to understand that Satan has no favorites. Even though he may succeed in causing someone to cooperate with him in witchcraft and satanic rituals, he still hates that person as much as he does anyone else. He just wants to use the person for his own evil purposes—to

cause other people, especially Christians, to fall.

It delights the devil when he can get human beings to actually fast and pray for the destruction of ministers, the family unit, and Christian morals. So as long as it serves the purpose he is consumed with, Satan will instruct his unclean spirits and rulers of darkness to do the bidding of his human followers.

Chapter 2

Learning the Devil's Schemes

Have you ever noticed how certain types of immorality seem to come in waves, as if masterminded by someone behind the scenes? That's the devil and his cohorts at work.

An All-Out Attack, One Temptation at a Time

For example, everyone may seem to be getting a divorce, having an affair, getting caught in illicit sexual activity, or mishandling funds. No sooner does one wave of immorality subside before another wave takes its place. The new wave builds up momentum as the devil preys on a whole new set of weaknesses that human beings possess.

Satan has at his command the ability to bring the same kinds of pressure on everyone at the same time. He often chooses to concentrate his demonic pressure in one particular area until he has devastated the Christians who are susceptible to that particular temptation; then he moves on to a new temptation.

Demonic Indoctrination

This is why the Apostle Paul said what he did in Ephesians 6:10-12:

Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

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

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

If Paul were to describe Satan's operation the same way he described the operation of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 4:11), he would say something like this in Ephesians 6:12: "For Satan has placed in his body first, principalities; second, powers; third, the rulers of the darkness of this world; and fourth, spiritual wickedness in high places."

For such a long time, it seems as if the primary attack against the Body of Christ (particularly the Charismatics in the United States) has been aimed at the morality of the saints and the breakup of marriages. Satan does that by issuing orders to his chief spirits, or principalities. These principalities are in charge of indoctrinating people according to Satan's way of thinking in the geographical areas over which they preside.

That's why, in the natural, people who share a common region or culture can think so much alike. We can see this in the Western culture with its New Age cults and "modern" ways of thinking. All of these unscriptural patterns of thought, value systems, and so forth, are the result of a well-organized master plan orchestrated by Satan.

Satan's Strategies Enforced

So what happens when Satan makes the decision to attack the entire Body of Christ all at the same time with a certain type of temptation, such as the breakdown of Christian morals and families?

First, he issues orders to his principalities that sound something like this: "Use all the unclean spirits at your disposal to bring about such ungodly pressure against the morals of believers that they will swear they cannot stand up under the increasing intensity of the temptations bombarding them. Deprive them of their resistance to sin until they lose hope of finding a way out and resign themselves to the total bankruptcy of their souls."

Satan then unleashes untold millions of unclean spirits all over the world at the same time through his organization of principalities, powers, rulers of darkness of this world, and spiritual wickedness in high places. Everything seems to happen at once. Immorality rises and divorce sweeps through the Church at an alarming rate.

This isn't just a fictitious story created by my own imagination. What I have described is happening right now in the Body of Christ.

Chapter 3 ***How People*** ***Become Ensnared***

The Bible says that we are not to be ignorant of Satan's strategies: **Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices** (Second Corinthians 2:11). The more knowledge we have of how he operates, the more equipped we will be to help others who are in bondage and to avoid the devil's traps ourselves.

So follow closely as I explain what causes people to become ensnared in these types of sins in the first place. If you can understand that, you will also understand what can set them free.

Satan's Search For Open Avenues Into People's Minds

Satan looks for people to serve him who can be controlled by lust, such as sexual lusts and drug and alcohol addictions. Many of these people are so possessed by the devil that they will do anything for greed or pleasure, and they don't care whether they destroy other human beings in the process.

Satan also knows that in order to enslave an entire generation of Christians and sinners alike, he has to first open people's minds to unclean spirits through visual, oral, and written material that they are constantly subjected to. That's why unclean spirits, taking their orders from Satan, hide behind celebrities with flamboyant personalities, powerful heads of industries, and the

leaders of the nation's educational systems.

Satan seeks to put people who are thirsty for control and power into these key, influential positions in the media, in the educational system, in the world of music, and so on. His goal is to gain control in every arena that provides countless hours of information and entertainment to which Christians willfully submit themselves on a daily basis.

You see, when most of us think of demon possession, we think more along the lines of someone who is so far out of his mind, he can't even dress himself in the morning. But demon-possessed people who fit this category are in the minority.

The majority of those who are truly possessed by demonic powers are highly skilled, extremely talented, creative people. Yet despite their intelligence and inherent talents, these people are as possessed as they can be.

The devil uses these talented, influential people as tools to shape the minds of entire generations through the various mediums of music, entertainment, and written publications as they constantly challenge Christian morals and strong family ethics.

The Danger of Feeding On Ungodliness

For example, Satan controls many of the people who decide what kind of programs are on television. He uses

them to create programs that promote ungodly values, whether it's the "good" little witch cartoons or personality talk shows that help people with ungodly lifestyles promote the "It's-my-body-and-I'll-do-what-I-want-with-it" abortion tactics.

And too many believers fall for the devil's tactics, feeding on the garbage that the television industry provides. Besides that, many Christians watch hours and hours of worldly movies that provide the wrong type of visual stimulation.

This continual, deadly diet of ungodly visual images keeps chipping away at the believer's morals, fueling the kinds of imaginations that cause his natural attraction for the opposite sex to degenerate to lusts. Finally, he crosses the line. Leaving behind a normal, healthy relationship with the opposite sex, even in marriage, he begins to look for the kind of gratification that marks the presence of an unclean spirit.

This is why a man can be married to a beautiful, faithful woman and still lust after other women. The unclean spirit that a person yields to is more than willing to offer him up on the altar of perversion by creating an appetite that continually demands more and more compromise.

Uncaptivated Thoughts— The Seeds of Strongholds

The process that leads to bondage may begin innocently enough. It may start with a few uncaptivated thoughts—imagination fed by visual

stimulation from magazines, movies, and so on.

But if these thoughts aren't dealt with and repented of, they will lead first to private sins, then to sins involving other people, and finally to perversions, such as pornography or addictions, depending on the kind of evil spirit working against the person. And it doesn't make any difference whether the person is married or single; that spirit will continue to demand ever-greater gratification.

These sins that Satan uses to enslave a person (especially in the areas of immorality) are described by the Apostle Paul as *strongholds*. This word carries the meaning of a person who is being held in prison against his will.

Second Corinthians 10:4,5 talks about these strongholds:

(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;)

Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;

In the fourth verse, Paul says that God has given us spiritual weapons to pull down these strongholds that hold us in bondage. Then he tells us that these strongholds consist of imaginations and uncaptivated thoughts that exalt themselves against the knowledge of God.

James 1:14,15 describes the strongholds in another way:

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

The end result is destruction for anyone who is seduced by unclean spirits into becoming enslaved to sin. But, thank God, Paul said the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of EVERY stronghold that holds us in bondage!

Reversing Satan's Strategy

So we see that the way the devil succeeds in trapping a person in a stronghold of ungodly lusts and sexual immorality begins with uncaptivated thoughts. So wouldn't it stand to reason that the way to get out of that invisible prison would be to reverse the process and trade in those uncaptivated thoughts for God's thoughts?

I have counseled many people who were trapped in this kind of bondage. I was able to help some of them because they were willing to commit to seeking God diligently—worshiping Him in their private time outside of church; spending the necessary time praying in tongues each day; confessing the Word over their problems; and ministering to themselves in hymns and spiritual songs.

But some who came to me for help were so emotionally drained, they didn't want to pray or worship God. They had no motivation to do anything that could help their situation. In fact, they didn't even know why they were there talking to me. If someone had asked them whether they believed change was possible, they would have said no. But something on the inside of them wouldn't stop hoping that their lives could be different.

Well, thank God, there is hope for a person who is in that condition!

As I mentioned before, many people have become ensnared in these strongholds of sin as a result of a well-organized plan carried out against them by the devil. But now we're going to look at one of the most powerful weapons of God that any believer can use to free himself from the traps of the enemy. This weapon can eventually turn around even the most hopeless person's emotions until he wants to pray, worship God, and live free from sin's bondage once more.

Chapter 4 ***From Bondage*** ***To Freedom in God***

In our journey from spiritual bondage to a life of freedom and victory in God, we must begin to turn our emotions around. We will only break free of the devil's strongholds after we first change the way we think.

Fill Your Mind With the Word

The best way to change the way you think is by filling your mind with God's thoughts. And there's no better way to accomplish that goal than by simply reading the Word of God—one of the most powerful spiritual weapons at your disposal.

You can begin by reading the New Testament and the Old Testament every day for a certain amount of time each. Then after you've established that daily habit, increase your reading time.

By the time you have read the entire Word of God through from cover to cover just once, you will have flowing through your mind everything God has ever said to you concerning your salvation. Just think what it will mean to your spiritual, emotional, and mental health to have thousands of God's life-giving thoughts filling your mind and heart every day!

As the believer continues to diligently read the Word, allowing God's thoughts to flow through his mind, he will eventually experience something wonderful. Even his

emotions will begin to turn around. For instance, a person who once felt out of control with seemingly no hope will develop a calm willingness to serve God and to let Him have His way in his life.

Receive the Engrafted Word

If uncaptivated thoughts got a person **IN** trouble, it will be God's thoughts that get him **OUT**.

This is why after James explains that giving in to the temptations of lust leads to sin and death, he goes on to say we need to receive the engrafted Word of God, which is able to save our souls (James 1:21). Let's take a look at this progression in the book of James:

**But every man is tempted,
when he is drawn away of his
own lust, and enticed.**

**Then when lust hath
conceived, it bringeth forth sin:
and sin, when it is finished,
bringeth forth death. . . .**

**Wherefore lay apart all
filthiness and superfluity of
naughtiness, and receive with
meekness the engrafted word,
which is able to save your
souls. . . .**

**But whoso looketh into the
perfect law of liberty, and
continueth therein, he being not
a forgetful hearer, but a doer of
the work, this man shall be
blessed in his deed.**

James 1:14-15, 21, 25

The phrase "superfluity of naughtiness" refers to a person's behavior that is beyond the acceptable limits of God's Word.

For example, “superfluity of naughtiness” could include a person subjecting himself to the kind of literature or entertainment that pulls his morals across the line of what is acceptable into the realm of immorality. People who subject themselves to this type of ungodly entertainment allow themselves to be enticed until lust conceives and brings forth sin.

If uncaptivated thoughts result in our downfall, then reversing the process will result in our restoration to freedom and victory. Therefore, we are to fill our minds with God’s thoughts by receiving the engrafted Word, which is able to save our souls—our mind, will, intellect, and emotions. Only God’s eternal Word can point us in the right direction in our journey back to God!

Chapter 5

Present-Day Speaking

For many have convinced you of this doctrine that anything and everything is okay, says the Spirit of the Lord. But know this: Those things in your flesh that oppose what I have said—those very things have kept you from change and from discerning light rather than darkness. They have kept much of your walk in the weakness of the flesh. And yet you kept searching out new places that would justify and excuse your walk.

But I say to you this day, says the Lord, be not opposed to this message, neither be angry. But walk out of your problems, for I have peace and everything that you've been looking for.

As of yet, you do not know what you're searching for because you've never tasted of My Presence and My peace, such as I am offering to you this day. You've only tasted of a walk of fellowship with Me that's been broken and then overshadowed by the flesh and the lusts.

But as you take My inner witness and walk by it from this day forward, you'll see that I have things for you to taste that you've not tasted of yet, and they are glorious things. For I am the Lord your God who has set you free.

You've made it harder than it is, says the Spirit of the Lord, for many times you've opposed yourself. You've made it harder than it is because you know that, according to My glory and the revelation knowledge you've

walked in, on the other side of your anger and your shortcomings and on the other side of what seems to be impossible to you, I dwell there.

You are without excuse, for I give you everything you need to break that barrier and come across to where I am living in that higher realm, waiting for you.

For you spoke much victory. And the victory that you've dictated, I have desired to give to you. I am waiting for you just on the other side of that barrier that you've become accountable for.

Therefore, put aside your emotions and your senses, put **EVERYTHING** that opposes aside, for you know I am over here waiting for you, yet you still succumb to the weaknesses of the flesh.

Make your decision, says the Lord, and you'll save months of time. For I, the Lord your God, am your Glory, and I am waiting for you to come across and begin to fellowship with Me in this new realm of victory.

From Spiritual Bondage To Freedom in God

Thousands of believers who have fallen prey to the enemy's strategies are now locked up in an invisible prison of sin and compromise. In *The Journey Back to God*, Dave Roberson provides a vital spiritual weapon that every believer can employ to break free from the devil's strongholds.

So take the first step—and start your own journey from spiritual bondage to a life of freedom and victory in God!

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