

## FOREIGN INFLUENCES

Last week we talked about the fact that within the “Israel of God” (*Gal. 6:16*)—which comprises all of God’s servants from all generations—there are two different kinds of priests. Israel *itself* is called to be a “kingdom of priests”. Therefore, every person who has become a part of the “Israel of God” can function as a priest in the sense that they can represent God to the people who do not know Him. But within that kingdom of priests there is another, much smaller “priesthood” that ministers to God Himself. These people will function as His Eternal Priesthood.

All those who would be part of *this* priesthood must be more sanctified than the rest of Israel. They must separate themselves from every foreign influence which defiles them spiritually, and that includes foreign relationships. The Holy Spirit is seeking to *cleanse* and *train* this priesthood today, so it will be ready to do the work God has ordained it to do in the coming ages. This is the reason the Scripture commands us to purge ourselves from anything and anyone that is defiling our garments.

One of the biggest reasons this truth is not understood, or else flatly rejected by the majority of today’s Christians, is because they have been taught, either implicitly or explicitly, that if you are born again, you have *already* been purged. They have been taught that we have *already* been cleansed, that we have *already* been sanctified, simply by virtue of becoming a Christian. In other words, they are taught that Christians, just by virtue of being “saved”, are fit and prepared to do the work God has ordained for His Eternal Priesthood in the coming ages.

Not only are they taught that we have already been cleansed and purged, they are taught that everything we need to function as one of God’s priests has been *imputed* to us. Supposedly, not only did we receive the imputed righteousness of Jesus, we also received the imputed obedience of Jesus and the imputed victory of Jesus over sin and Satan. If the obedience of Jesus and the victory of Jesus is imputed to us, then the rewards for that obedience and that victory must *also* be imputed to us. And of course, they tell us that once all these things have been imputed to us, it’s not possible to lose them. They say it’s not possible for God to *un-impute* the righteousness of Christ.

If you were to ask today’s pastors and Bible teachers if it’s possible to have our “justification” (ie, the imputed righteousness of Christ) removed from our accounts, they would say: “definitely not”!

*I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. **Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away:** and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. **Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.** Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. **If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.***

*John 15:1-6*

Well, if it's not possible for God to remove or *un-impute* the righteousness of Christ from our accounts, then no Christian could ever have any sense of security because according to the clear teaching of Jesus in this passage, there will be believers (ie, "branches") who were once part of the Vine (ie, Christ), who end up not only cut out of the Vine but "burned" (in Hell). So if the branches who were once "justified by faith" don't lose that justification; if the branches who had at one time received the "imputed" righteousness of Christ do not have that imputed righteousness removed from their accounts; then you'll have a situation where branches who remain justified and who continue to possess the imputed righteousness of Christ are cut out of Christ and cast into Hell. If a believer can be cut out of Christ and thrown into the flames while *still* being justified, while *still* possessing the imputed righteousness of Christ, then none of us can ever be certain that we are "saved".

The fact is, anything that's imputed to us is only a temporary provision, the purpose of which is to provide us the time we need to bear fruit. This is the meaning of the Lord's teaching about the Vine and the branches. The subject of His teaching is the absolute necessity of bearing spiritual fruit. Bearing fruit is *not* an option. Any Christian who does not bear fruit will eventually be cut out of Christ and burned. There is no way around what Jesus said.

The Lord is obviously talking in this passage about those who are "saved" (ie, "in" Him). You can't be "in" the Vine and *not* be saved. You can't be "in" the Vine and *not* be part of the Vine. Jesus said very clearly that the branches had been "made clean"—that is, they were redeemed. So you can't honestly spin this passage to mean that He's talking about people who only *think* they're saved. There is no way to honestly interpret His words to mean that the branches represent people who only *appear* to be saved. The branches Jesus referred to in this teaching are clearly said to be in Him. They are part of Him. If they weren't part of the Vine, they couldn't be "cut out" of the Vine.

Also, if they weren't *actually* part of the Vine, they could never bear fruit. Only a person who is *genuinely* saved has a chance to bear fruit. People who only *appear* to be saved cannot possibly bear spiritual fruit. People who only *think* they are saved cannot possibly bear spiritual fruit. Our God does not play sick little games with people! He would never demand fruit from a branch that is not actually connected to the Vine! He would never demand fruit from a branch who is not really saved. He would never demand fruit from one who is not actually clean.

Therefore, all the logic and the excuses you hear from *dishonest* OSAS preachers who try to say the branches that end up cut off from the Vine were never *really* connected to the Vine in the first place—they only thought they were connected to it; it only appeared that they were connected to it—is deliberate self-delusion. These people are dishonest liars. They want to believe a lie rather than the truth because the truth is unpleasant and the lie is beautiful. They want to believe a lie rather than the truth because the truth places responsibilities and requirements upon our lives, and if those responsibilities and requirements are not carried out, we will end up eternally lost. But the lie places no responsibilities and requirements on us whatsoever. The lie says *nothing* can ever get us cut out of the Vine because the responsibility for keeping us saved is the Vines' alone.

Anyone who tries to make "the branches" in this teaching anything *other* than what they truly are—which is genuine believers who have been made part of Christ—is a liar and a deceiver! The Scripture is crystal clear: if a Christian (a branch who is "in" Christ) fails to "abide" in Christ *enough* to bear fruit, he will end

up eternally lost! The Father will come along at some point and cut that fruitless branch out of Christ—which also means the Father will “*un-impute*” (remove) the righteousness of Christ from that person’s account. God is not going to cast a person who remains justified, and who possesses the imputed righteousness of Christ, into the Lake of Fire!

*Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, **The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.** Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, **if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off**. And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.*

*Romans 11:18-23*

Today’s Christians know nothing of the severity of God. They never even consider that severity because all they are taught, all they understand, is His goodness. The fact that the “tree” in this passage represents *salvation* is irrefutable. The branches who were broken off of the tree were broken off “because of unbelief”—they are lost. They are partaking of the *severity* of God. The branches who were grafted into the tree were grafted in “by faith”—they are saved. They are partaking of the *goodness* of God. Paul is very clear when he says that none of the branches are locked in to a certain destiny. If the broken branches “abide not still in unbelief” they can be grafted back into that tree—they can be redeemed. Also, the grafted-in branches must “continue in his goodness” or they “shalt be cut off”—they can be lost.

This passage is one of the clearest refutations of Eternal Security in all of Scripture. Not only does Paul say a believer (ie, a grafted-in branch) can be cut out of a tree which clearly represents salvation, he goes even further and exhorts the believers in Rome to “fear”. Fear what? Fear not “continuing in his goodness”. All those who propagate Eternal Security lie should face the truth that is revealed in this passage. The apostle Paul would never have warned Christians to *fear* not continuing in the goodness of God unless *it was possible* to not continue in the goodness of God.

He also warned the Christians in Rome to “*take heed, lest [God] also spare not thee*”. The term take heed means “beware”. There is no way an honest person can explain away this warning or spin it so it means something other than what is clearly means. Paul would never have told the Roman Christians to beware lest God not spare them, if there was no chance that God would not spare them. Neither the Holy Spirit, or the Lord Jesus, or the apostles, made vain threats or put forth meaningless warnings. When Paul says we must remain in the goodness of God or else we will be cut off of the salvation tree, just like the natural branches who failed to remain in God’s goodness were cut off of that same salvation tree, he *means* what he says. He’s not bluffing!

This one passage shows that the doctrine of Eternal Security is a monumental lie and that no *honest* Christian can defend it. The fact is, justification is not an irreversible condition. Those who do not bear spiritual fruit, those who do not continue in the goodness of God, *will* lose their justification.

I want to play the *audio portion* of a slide show that was put together by a Presbyterian pastor named Timothy Keller. Mr. Keller pastors a large church in New York. He started a Church Planting Center in Manhattan, back in 2001, which continues to grow. His slide presentation sounds very spiritual, especially in a day when people like Rick Warren and Joel Osteen have turned Christianity into an “*it’s-all-about-you*” social gospel. However, the answer to Warren and Osteen’s perversion of Christianity is not Mr. Keller’s perversion—which is Calvinism.



To give you an idea of how popular this guy is, Christianity Today magazine says he has “one of the most vital congregations” in the country. Outreach magazine recently listed Keller’s church as number one on a list of the top church-planting churches in America. Newsweek magazine calls him a “C.S. Lewis for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. The New York magazine calls him “the most successful Christian evangelist in the city”. Mr. Keller is also a New York Times best selling author and his church was recently named one of the Top 25 Most Influential Churches in America.

[Click Here](#) to view the slide show.

Please notice that in this presentation, Mr. Keller said:

- ~ The “obedience” of Jesus has been imputed to us.
- ~ The “victory” of Jesus has been imputed to us.
- ~ We *only* receive “wounds of grace” that “wake us up” and “discipline us”.

Although the Scripture does say the righteousness of Christ is imputed to us when we repent and accept Him as our Savior (*Rom. 4:21-24*), it never says this legal procedure is irreversible, or that it’s impossible to lose that righteousness. Moreover, the Bible never says the obedience of Jesus or the victory of Jesus over Satan and sin has been imputed to us. If this were true, then the rewards of that victory and that obedience would also be imputed to us. Such a notion is clearly unscriptural. Over and over again, in both the Old and the New Testaments, the Bible says each person will be rewarded according to his own works. See: *Job 34:11; Ps. 62:12; Pro. 24:12; Isa. 3:10-11; Jer. 17:10; & 32:19; Ezek. 7:27; Matt. 10:41-42; Rom. 2:6; I. Cor. 8:8; II. Cor. 5:10; Eph. 6:8; I. Pet. 1:17; Rev. 2:23 & 22:12-15.*

*For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, **that we lose not** those things which we have wrought, but that **we receive a full reward.***

*II John 1:7-8*

*If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, **he shall receive a reward.** If any man's work shall be burned, **he shall suffer loss** [ie, the loss of that reward]: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.*

*I. Corinthians 3:14-15*

If the victory of Christ has been imputed to us, then it would be impossible to lose our reward. If the obedience of Christ has been imputed to us, then it would be impossible to lose any of the things we have wrought in Christ. There would be no chance of us *not* receiving a “full” reward and the warnings of Paul and John would be meaningless. If the obedience and victory of Christ has been imputed to believers, then every Christian, regardless of how they live, will end up getting exactly the same reward that Jesus has received as the result of *His* obedience and victory.

Mr. Keller also tried to use the victory of David over Goliath as a picture of Jesus winning the victory for us, in the sense that we don’t have to fight. He said: “*Jesus is the true and better David, who’s victory becomes His peoples’ victory, even though they never lifted a stone to accomplish it themselves*”. This is a deliberate twisting of the Scripture in order to fit his Calvinistic view of salvation. Let’s look at the actual account, without Keller’s Calvinistic spin:

*So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled. And **the men of Israel and of Judah arose, and shouted, and pursued the Philistines, until thou come to the valley, and to the gates of Ekron.** And the wounded of the Philistines fell down by the way to Shaaraim, even unto Gath, and unto Ekron. And the children of Israel returned from chasing after the Philistines, and **they spoiled their tents.***

*I. Samuel 17:50-53*

David killed Goliath but he did not kill the rest of the Philistine army. That was done by “the children of Israel”. The “men of Judah and of Israel” are the ones who actually went after the fleeing army and destroyed them. It was the people of God who spoiled their tents. David got the initial victory for the people of Israel but if the people wouldn’t have gone into battle *themselves* and pursued the rest of the Philistine army, the outcome of the whole battle would have been different. The Philistines would have quickly re-grouped and attacked them again. If you want to see a New Testament application of this Old Testament event, you need look no further than what Jesus said in Matthew chapter twelve:

*And Jesus knew their thoughts, and said unto them, Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand: And if Satan cast out Satan, he is divided against himself; how shall then his kingdom stand? And if I by Beelzebub cast out devils, by whom do your children cast them out? therefore they shall be your judges. But if I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God is come unto you. Or else **how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house.***

*Matthew 12:25-29*

Goliath is a symbol of Satan. David is a symbol of Christ. Christ defeated Satan every single day of his life while on earth, and then, once and for all at the Cross. He didn't defeat Satan for us in the sense that we no longer have to face him or defeat him ourselves. He defeated Satan in the sense that's presented in His teaching on the "strong man". He defeated Satan so *we* could "spoil his goods"—just as David defeated Goliath so the children of Israel could spoil the tents of the Philistines (demons spirits). Without the *initial* defeat of Satan by Jesus, we would have no chance of defeating evil spirits ourselves.

The first few sentences of Mr. Keller's slide show reveals what's wrong with the whole presentation. He starts off by asking: "What is the Bible really about? Is the Bible basically about me and what I must do; or is it basically about Jesus and what He has done?" From the very beginning of the presentation, he pits two *truths* against each other. Yes, the Bible is about what Jesus has done. But it's *also* about what we must do—and anyone who thinks it isn't is blind.

I'd like to ask Mr. Keller the same question, but regarding the Old Covenant. What is the Old Testament really about? Is the Old Testament basically about God's people and what they were supposed to do; or is it basically about God and what He did for them? You don't have to look very far to find the answer to such a question because it's found pretty early in the Bible.

*And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, **if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.***

*Exodus 19:3-6*

I'd like to see Mr. Keller try to integrate Calvin's "it's-all-of-God-and-none-of-you" garbage into this passage. If this guy's view of redemption is correct, we would be reading something quite different in Exodus 19:3-6. God wouldn't have said: "If you keep my covenant, then you will be a peculiar treasure unto me". Instead, He would have said: "Regardless of whether ye keep my covenant or not, ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me". But that's not what God said. He said: if you will do this, then I will do that. Unfortunately, Mr. Keller's view of the Old Testament (and the entire Bible) has been twisted and warped by Reformed Theology. If his view weren't warped, he would never say something so unscriptural as: "...the Bible is basically about what Jesus has done".

*Now **these things** [what the children of Israel did] **were our examples**, to the intent **we** [New Testament believers] should not lust after evil things, as **they** also lusted. Neither be ye idolaters, as were **some of them**; as it is written, The people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to play. Neither let us commit fornication, as **some of them** committed, and fell in one day three and twenty thousand. Neither let us tempt Christ, as **some of them***

*also tempted, and were destroyed of serpents. Neither murmur ye, as **some of them** also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer. Now all these things happened **unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition**, upon whom the ends of the world are come.*

*I. Corinthians 10:6-11*

Look closely at your Bible and you will see that over three-quarters of it is comprised of the Old Testament—and the Old Testament is basically about *obedience*. The emphasis of the Old Testament is not just on what God did for the children of Israel. The emphasis of the Old Testament is what the children of Israel did *in response* to what God had done for them. This is precisely why Paul said *the deeds* of the children of Israel in the Old Testament—lusting after evil things, walking in idolatry, committing fornication, tempting Christ, and murmuring—are (bad) examples for us.

The central issue of the Old Testament was not what God did for Israel. The central issue was whether or not Israel would *obey* or *disobey* God in response to what He had done for them. Indeed, the very “covenant” God made with Israel was nothing but commandments. Two whole books of the Old Testament are devoted to listing those commandments and the *rest* of the Old Testament is the record of Israel *breaking* those commandments.

It’s the same with the New Testament. The New Testament isn’t basically about what Jesus did either. It’s about what Jesus did for us, and what we must do *as a result of* what He did for us. Under the New Covenant, the Lord provides the initial victory over sin, Satan and self, but we must enter into that victory ourselves! We must fight and be victorious over all these things as well. The Lord’s victory over them is not “imputed” to us. That whole delusion comes from following John Calvin’s damnable theology. Jesus did not defeat Satan so Christians would never have to face or defeat him themselves—and any minister who teaches this lie to God’s people will never be part of God’s Eternal Priesthood.

*And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and **not be ashamed before him** at his coming.*

*I John 2:28*

Here is another passage that puts the lie to all the garbage people like Keller preaches. If the victory, the obedience, and the rewards of Christ were imputed to us in the same way His righteousness is imputed to us, then the warning John gives in this passage would be absolutely meaningless. Indeed, if what Keller is preaching is true, then the apostle John was deceived because it’s *not possible* for a Christian to “be ashamed before him at his coming”! How could any believer be ashamed before the Lord when He comes if everything concerning Jesus has been imputed to him? I mean, if already we possess the righteousness of Christ; and we already possess the obedience of Christ; and we already possess the victory of Christ; and we already possess the rewards of Christ—of what could we possibly be ashamed?

Mr. Keller also said that Jesus is the greater Jacob and the result is that we “*only*” receive the wounds of grace that wake us up and discipline us. This is just more Calvinistic trash. What he’s saying is that no Christian will ever experience the wrath of God. We will only ever experience wounds (judgments) like Jacob received in his thigh in order to “wake us up” or “discipline us”.

Oh really?

Listen to what Jesus said to lukewarm Christians in the city of Laodicea:

*And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, **that thou art neither cold nor hot**: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, **I will spue thee out of my mouth.***

*Revelation 3:14-16*

Any normal mind, when it reads these words, would realize that the Christian who ends up being spewed out of the Lord's mouth will be experiencing something *far more serious* than "only" receiving the wounds of grace that wake us up and discipline us. Those who are spewed out of Christ's mouth will experience the eternal *wrath* of God in the Lake of Fire!

*And **the great city** was divided into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell: and **great Babylon** came in remembrance before God, **to give unto her the cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath.***

*Revelation 16:19*

*And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, **my people**, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye **receive not of her plagues.***

*Revelation 18:4*

Either Mr. Keller hasn't spent too much time studying the book of Revelation, or else he is no longer capable of understanding the simplest and most obvious statements contained in that book. In chapter 16 of Revelation, it clearly says that God will give Babylon the "*cup of the wine of the fierceness of his wrath*". Do you see that? Babylon will experience God's wrath. Then, two chapters later, God calls *His* people out of Babylon, so they will not partake of *that* wrath. Drinking of the "cup of wrath" in chapter 16:19 is the same as "receiving of her plagues" in chapter 18:4. In other words, the *plagues* in chapter 18 are the *wrath* in chapter sixteen.

Now you tell me—if Christians don't come out of Babylon by the time God pours His plagues (which are His wrath) out upon that city, will they partake of His wrath or not?

You bet they will! Any Christian who refuses to come out of Babylon will experience something *far more serious* than "only" receiving the wounds of grace that wake us up and discipline us. Like those who are spewed out of Christ's mouth, they will experience the *wrath* of God. I'm not saying they will experience His *eternal* wrath. Maybe they'll just be destroyed physically and not eternally. I don't know. But I do know that according to the Scripture, they will defiantly experience God's wrath—the very same wrath He pours out on Babylon.

There are tens of thousands of Reformed theologians, college professors, pastors and Bible teachers like Mr. Keller who are promoting Calvin's "it's-all-of-God-and-none-of-you" delusion in one form or another. Every day, they come up a *new way* to inject Calvin's errors into our view of redemption—and the influence they have over today's Christians is staggering.

They constantly tell us that "believing" is all that's necessary to not only become a Christian but to remain a Christian. Believing is all that's necessary to be pure and clean. Believing is all that's necessary to be conformed to the image of Christ. Believing is all that's necessary to attain the fullness of Christ. Believing is all that's necessary to rule with Jesus in the coming kingdom and believing is all that's necessary to receive the rewards in Scripture. Whenever we suggest that Christians must do *more* than "simply believe" if they want to be one of God's priests in the coming ages, they cry "legalism" and immediately accuse us of teaching salvation "by works".

So, as we consider all the "foreign" influences which must be purged from our lives in these days, let's remember that one of the *first* influences that must go is the influence of "Reformed Theology". Reformed Theology is false doctrine. It is spiritually unclean. It is a *foreign* teaching—foreign to the intention and meaning of the Biblical writers. It's just as bad as the "Word of Faith" heresy or the Kingdom Now/Dominion error and those who come under its influence will *never* be part of God's Eternal Priesthood. They will never allow God to equip and train them the way He needs to because they will always *equate* the need for all such training and equipping as "adding work to grace", or trying to "establish our own righteousness".

The next, most important *foreign* influence we need to purge from our lives are the *religious* spirits that are infecting today's Christians like a plague. So many believers, both inside and outside the Church System, are coming under the influence and power of these spirits without even realizing it. The situation is so deadly, it's hard to adequately express the danger we face with mere words. Let's start out with a few basics regarding evil spirits.

The first thing we need to understand is where these demons are located. Where do they dwell (when they are not dwelling in people)? Ephesians chapter six tells us they dwell in "high" places (*Eph. 6:12*). This is the same as "heavenly" places. The term "heavenly places" is used four times in Ephesians. Paul said we have spiritual blessing in heavenly places (*Eph. 3:1*). Jesus sits at the right hand of God in heavenly places (*Eph. 1:19-21*). We also sit with Jesus in heavenly places (*Eph. 2:5-6*). Evil principalities and powers are also in heavenly places (*Eph. 3:9-11*).

Paul talks about heavenly *places* (plural) in the book of Ephesians, not about *a* place (singular) called heaven. There are "places" in the invisible realm, just as there are places in the physical realm. All the spiritual creatures God created, including the holy angels and Satan and all his demons, can move from place to place in the spirit realm.

Some of these "places" are higher than others. While God, the angels, and Satan and his demons, all dwell in heavenly places, Paul made it clear that Jesus has been raised "far above" all the evil powers in those heavenly places. So the Father, the Holy Spirit, and the Son dwell in the highest part of the heavenly places Paul talks about; while Satan and his demons dwell in the lower part of those heavenly places. This is why Jesus could say He saw Satan "fall" like lightening (*Lk. 10:18*). This is not only a reference to Satan's moral

and spiritual fall—that is, becoming evil. It’s also a reference to the fact that he literally fell from the highest part of the “heavenly places” where the throne of God is, to the lower part of those “heavenly places”.

This lower part of the heavenly places includes the air all around us. In Ephesians 2:2, when Paul was reminding Christians that in times past they walked according to the world, he said they also walked according to the “prince of the power of the air”. So demonic powers (ie, evil spirits) live and move in the very air around us. The term “heavenly places” is just a reference to the *unseen* realm. It’s not talking about a place way out in outer space. The spirit realm stretches from the air that’s around us, to the highest part of heaven where God dwells. This is why demons can always be around us.

How many demons are moving and dwelling in the air around us? No one really knows. But the writer of Hebrews informs us in a round about way there are quite a few of them because when speaking of God’s holy angels, he says there is an *innumerable company* of them (*Heb. 12:22*). How many is an “innumerable company”? I don’t really know. Maybe a billion—which is ten hundred million. Maybe a trillion—which is ten hundred billion. Beyond that my puny little brain gets lost. But this *innumerable* company of angels is what’s left after a portion of them fell.

Of course, most scholars teach that the portion of angels which fell is one-third. They get this from the passage in Revelation 12:4, where the Dragon pulls a third of the stars out of heaven. They interpret this as Lucifer causing a third of the angels to fall in the original rebellion. I don’t believe this passage really has anything to do with the original fall. But just for the sake of argument, let’s say the scholars are right. Take one third of an *innumerable* company of angels and that’s how many of them fell and became evil spirits. That’s how many are constantly living and moving through the air around you and me. That’s how many of there are to tempt, harass and deceive us.

After understanding where these evil spirits dwell, the next and most important thing we need to understand about them is how they operate. One of the most successful tricks they play on us is to plant evil thoughts and desires in our minds in such a way as to make us think those thoughts and desires are coming from us. Spirits just love it when we walk through life assuming any wrong thought or desire we experience must be coming from our own “desperately wicked hearts” because as long as we view the situation this way, the activity of these demons will remain hidden. They will remain *un-discernable* to us.

Since the majority of today’s Christians have been taught that they can’t “have” a demon (ie, dwelling inside of them). and that Satan can’t even “touch” them because he was defeated at the Cross (for us) by the Lord Jesus; they never come to realize that they are under attack from an *external* enemy. Every time they get a wicked thought or desire, they just assume it’s coming from *their own* desperately wicked hearts. So the first thing we have to realize is that evil spirits have the ability to plant thoughts and desires in the human mind in such a way that it *feels* like those thoughts and desires are coming from *us*. As long as we do not understand (or accept) this reality, we will continue to blame ourselves (ie, our “desperately wicked hearts”) for all the wrong thoughts and desires that may come into our minds.

The next most successful tactic they employ is *other people*. It doesn’t matter how a demon spirit talks to us—the result will always be the same, if we listen to it. Demons can speak directly to our minds, or they can speak indirectly to us, through other people. One of the hardest realities we must face and live with in these days is the fact that most of time, when you are talking to other people (including other Christians)

you are interacting with demons. When an evil spirit plants a thought in a person's mind and that person accepts it and speaks it out, they have just spoken the words of a demon spirit. In reality, a demon spirit has just spoken *through* them.

If you strike up a conversation with a person who's mind is under the influence of a demon spirit (or many demons), you will be striking up a conversation with *those* demons. It's the demons who will be talking to you *through* that person's lips. When the mind of the person is being influenced by evil spirits, then those demons are the ones who are putting thoughts into the person's mind. It's the demons who give that person the answer to questions they are asked. It's the demons who give that person the wisdom to argue a point. The demons are constantly putting thoughts and answers into the mind of that person, and that person is simply speaking out those thoughts.

When we realize the very air around us is full of demons, and we realize what they are capable of doing, we will begin to understand how dangerous these invisible creatures can be. Satan and his demons are laughing at today's Christians—and I'm not just talking about the ones who are deluded and part of the great apostasy. I'm talking about us! These spirits are laughing at *us* because we live in such ignorance of them. They are laughing at us because most of us have no idea how to recognize them or war against them. Consequently, they know we are no real threat to them or their kingdom.

They aren't impressed with our religious knowledge or our human wisdom. They aren't impressed by our religious talk. They sneer and mock our stupid "theology", which says we've already defeated them because Jesus defeated them at the Cross. They know the truth. They know they have millions of Christians in absolute bondage. The only time they stop laughing at us is when we start looking *behind* the visible realm and begin to see the *invisible* realm. The only time they stop laughing at us when we begin to realize the enemy we are fighting is *not* flesh and blood, and as a result, we start fighting *them* in the spirit. They are only impressed when they see that we have become sensitive enough to the Holy Spirit to recognize them, expose them, and defeat them.

Most Christians don't think they can be affected or influenced by demons. But they do believe the *unsaved* can be affected by them and even possessed by them. So whenever you start talking about the work of evil spirits, the only framework or context the average Christian views that work is in the context of evil thoughts, desires or deeds. After all, demons are called "evil" spirits because they are evil and they tempt us to do evil—right? Therefore, it's easy for us to think of the work of evil spirits almost exclusively in the context of causing people to be evil and do evil things. Most of today's Christians would have no problem accepting the fact that demons cause the unsaved to become drunks, or that demons cause the unsaved to commit murder, rape, and many other kinds of atrocities.

But it seems that today's Christians—even those who realize it's possible to end up walking under the influence of another spirit—have a very hard time wrapping their brains around the fact that demons can also do "good" things. The motives and intentions of demons are *never* good, but they can do good things in order to get the wicked results they want. The concept that demons can give us good thoughts and desires, or cause us to do good things, is utterly foreign to the today's Christians. Therefore, one of the easiest ways for a demon to deceive a Christian is to give them a good thought and desires. Very few of us have enough spiritual discernment to realize when it's an evil spirit giving us good thoughts and desires. We just assume all good thoughts and desires come from the Holy Spirit.

What do you think happens to a Christian who accepts and acts upon a *good thought* that comes from a demon? They come under the influence of that demon! What do you think happens to a Christian who accepts and acts upon a good thought that's placed in the mind of their friend, or their wife, or their husband, or their children? They come under the influence of that spirit! The issue is not so much whether the thought is good or bad. The issue is: what's *the source* of that thought? If the source of the thought is a demon and we accept and act upon it, we have just come under the influence of that demon.

What happens to a Christian who acts upon a *good desire* that comes from a demon spirit? The same thing. They come under the influence of that demon. What happens to a Christian who acts upon a good desire that's placed into the mind of their friend, wife, husband, or children? They come under the influence of that demon. Again, the issue is not so much whether the desire is good or bad. The issue is: what is the source of that desire? If the source of the desire is an evil spirit and act upon that desire, we have just come under the influence of that spirit.

*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?*

*Romans 6:16*

Paul said: "...to whom ye yield yourselves servants, his servants ye are to whom ye obey". His meaning is crystal clear. Whatever (or whomever) we "yield" ourselves to, *that's* who's servants we are. We are the servants of whatever (or whomever) we "obey". This is a spiritual principle that applies to evil spirits as well as anything else. When a demon spirit gives me a thought and I yield to that thought and obey it, I have just become the servant of that spirit and I will continue to be the servant of that spirit as long as I am doing it's will.

Now maybe you can understand how it's possible for a "Christian" to actually "serve" Satan (evil spirits) all day long. If we don't know how to recognize these spirits when begin talking to us—that is, when they plant thoughts and desire in our minds—we could easily go through our day *obeying them* and never even realizing it. This is especially true if the things they are speaking to us are good things.

As hard as it is for the average Christian to understand that evil spirits can give us "good" thoughts and desires, and that if we don't learn how to recognize them we could easily end up following the thoughts and desires of those spirits instead of the Holy Spirit; it's a hundred times harder for them to understand the work of *religious* spirits. Very few Christians today even have the capacity to understand what a religious spirit is, let alone what it is capable of doing in the lives of people. The truth about these spirits and what they are capable of doing in the lives of people—including believers—is so horrible and so frightening, such an understanding can only come by supernatural revelation.

Everything that applies to the work of evil spirits in general, applies to the work of *religious* spirits as well. Also, the principle Paul laid out in Romans 6:16 applies here too. When a Christian acts upon a *religious* thoughts or desires that come from a religious spirit, they come under the influence of that spirit. When a Christian acts on a religious thought or desire that has been placed into the minds of their friends or spouse or children, they come under the influence of that spirit.

One of the things we must understand and walk the reality of every day is the fact that religious demons are very religious. They are religious! They are only concerned with *religious* things. If you are a “Christian”, they will only give you *Christian* thoughts and desires. They will sit around and talk about Jesus all day long. They love to talk about religious things!

Religious demons don’t tempt you to drink alcohol, or take drugs, or go to the race-track and gamble away your pay check. They don’t entice you to buy a new car, or a new boat, or a new home. They give us thoughts and desire about God, about religion. They give us thoughts about the Bible. They give us thoughts about doctrine and theology. Religious demons give us *spiritual* thoughts and *spiritual* desires in the hopes that we will not be able to tell the difference between their thoughts and desires and the thoughts and desires of the Holy Spirit, for if we can’t tell the difference, chances are, we will accept and act upon their spiritual thought and we will end up serving them instead of God.

The unpleasant fact is, most of today’s Christians are completely ignorant of Satan’s power and tactics. They walk around in their arrogance, thinking that he and his demons have not only been defeated *for* them by Christ, they also think Satan is stupid—when just the opposite is true. We’re the stupid ones and those spirits play us like a fiddle all the time.

As I said, it doesn’t matter how a demon talks to us—the result will be the same if we listen to it and act upon what it says. Religious demons speak directly to our minds, or they speak indirectly to us, through other people. One of the hardest things we must face is the fact that many times, when we are talking to other Christians about spiritual things, we are actually interacting with religious demons because multitudes of today’s Christians are walking under the influence of these spirits. They are under their power so thoroughly and so completely, when it comes to religious things, everything they say and everything they do, is the will of religious demons. They are constantly speaking the thoughts of those demons and carrying out the desires of those demons. When you strike up a conversation with a person who is in condition, you are having a conversation with religious demons.

This is the reason these spirits spread like wild fire from one person to another. It’s very easy to involve ourselves and come under the influence of another spirit, just by interacting with other people—and this is especially true with regards to religious spirits. We may not “feel” possessed or anything like that; but you can be sure we are being affected by those spirits to some degree.

When your average Christian hears this kind of teaching, they scoff and reject it because they think it’s absurd. If we can be affected *so easily* by the wrong spirits in other people, then practically every Christian on the planet would be infected by all kinds of wrong spirits. Nobody could ever pray for any one. You couldn’t read the Bible with anyone or talk to anyone about God. You couldn’t praise and worship with anyone. Everyone would be infecting everyone else.

Exactly!

How do you think the great apostasy has spread so fast? People who are involved with *other* spirits infect whole congregations and before you know it, the whole church has gone berserk. It becomes a “revival” church or a mega-church. Isn’t this exactly what happened to tens of thousands of churches who sent people to these various *false* revivals—like Toronto, Brownsville, Lakeland, etc.—just to check them out

and see what's happening? Half a dozen people from a local congregation will go to a "revival" church just to see if it's for real and they end up embracing the religious demons they encounter. Then they go back and infect the whole church. Pretty soon, everyone in the church has come under the spell of the revival and the whole congregation is laughing and barking and manifesting all the "signs" of the revival.

What is that but a *transference* of spirits?

Half a dozen people end up infecting a *whole* church!

If the people of that congregation accept what those six people say about the revival, after they have been deceived and have accepted religious spirits into their lives, they will *all* come under the influence of those same demons. When you accept the testimony of a religious demon, you open yourself up to its influence. If the people in that congregation pray with those six people, or worship with them, they will come under the power of those religious demons even more.

Just fellow shipping with them is enough to contaminate the whole church. The ones who received those religious demons don't have to go around and lay hands of everyone in order to bring them under their influence. They just have to involve everyone with them through speaking about it and that's enough. Anyone who doesn't reject the testimony of those spirits and speak out against them will eventually come under their influence.

The problem of transference of spirits is not confined to the apostasy that's taking place in the Church System. Today, many (if not most) Christian homes are in a situation where one spouse is genuinely saved, but the other one is walking under the power of a *religious* spirits and is serving a *false* Christ. This is one of the hardest situations there is to deal with. First of all, most people don't want to know the truth regarding their spouses true spiritual condition. They usually choose to believe their husband or their wife is saved, regardless of any evidence to the contrary. So right off the bat, you have a problem because it's almost impossible for God to show them their spouse not really saved when they don't want to know the truth. But the whole situation becomes a hundred times more difficult when the spouse is very "religious" because they are involved with a religious demon.

There are so few believers right now who have the ability to tell the difference between the Holy Spirit and these religious spirits because they look, sound and feel so much alike. Religious demons have the power to *perfectly* counterfeit the voice of God, the presence of God, the love, joy and peace of God, the gifts of the Spirit, and so on. Just like the Holy Spirit, religious spirits give us a desire to read and study the Scripture; and they also give us great revelations and insight as we study it. Like the Holy Spirit, religious spirits give us a desire to pray; and then they have the ability to answer many of the prayers they cause us to pray. Like the Holy Spirit, religious spirits give us spiritual discernment so that we can discern what's wrong with everyone in the world. . .except ourselves, of course.

Everything the Holy Spirit does in a real Christian's life, these religious spirits can counterfeit in a person's life. Indeed, the counterfeit is so perfect right now, if God doesn't supernaturally give you the ability to discern them, you will NEVER be able to discern them. Unfortunately, we can't teach anyone how to recognize religious spirits. Only God can do that. All we can do is warn people about what's really going on and encourage them to earnestly seek the Lord for the ability to recognize them.

This isn't a game, my friends. We are in a life and death struggle. Satan knows he has but a short time and he is determined to do as much damage to as many believers as he possibly can. But before we can recognize them, we first have to take this thing very seriously. We have to know what kind of creatures we are dealing with and what they are capable of doing. We have to realize that they aren't playing games. They are going for the jugular vein. They are going for the kill. They want to drive the Holy Spirit right out of our lives and in many cases that's exactly what they have done.

#### Listening

Tens of thousands of Christians are being overcome by these spirits right now and they have no idea what is happening. We need to realize that these religious demons are not after the Todd Bentleys or the Rick Joyners or the Rick Warrens of this world—they already *have* them. These people have already been completely devoured. The ones these demons have their eyes on are the ones who have not yet been deceived. We are the ones they are desperately trying to seduce and destroy!

Anyone who desires to be part of God's Eternal Priesthood must purge themselves of any influence these religious spirits might have over them—and that includes separating from *other people* who are walking under their influence. As I said last week, God called the Corinthians saints to “come out” from among the unbelievers of that city and “be separate”. He said that if they would “touch not the unclean thing”, He would “receive” them and be a Father to them (*II. Cor. 6:18*). Touching not the unclean thing certainly includes demon spirits.

The reason the Holy Spirit said we had to separate from unbelievers is because they are having union with demon spirits and God will never have union with Satan. If we want to be received by the Father, if we want to experience full spiritual union with Him, then we must *stop* having union with His enemies. We must stop acting upon the thoughts and desires these spirits give us. We can no longer yield to them and hope to have union with the Father. Not only must we stop having direct union with these spirits by listening to, and acting upon, the thoughts and desires they give us directly; we must also stop having *indirect* union with them by having union with *other people* who are having union with them.

As I said, in order to stay free from the influence of these religious spirits, we first have to learn how to recognize them and resist them. This can only come by way of supernatural revelation. So I encourage everyone who is hearing this message to get serious with God about this matter because it *is* a deadly serious issue, whether we realize it or not. Multitudes of believers are being overcome right now by an enemy they have *no capacity* to recognize or resist. They wouldn't know the difference between the work of the Holy Spirit and the work of religious spirits, even if you explained it to them. They are blind, they are totally unprepared for the battle we are facing right now, and they are being destroyed in droves.