

CLOSING THE DOOR ON THE CURSE

Part 2

Proverbs 26:2

² As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, So THE CURSE CAUSELESS SHALL NOT COME.

We said to you that there's no such thing as *a curse without a cause*. If we see the curse, then there's a reason for it being there. And, no, it's not enough to simply say that the devil is the reason for the curse.

1 Peter 5:8

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he MAY devour:

According to this verse, the devil cannot devour anyone without *permission*. So a better question would be, "What gives the devil the permission to devour with the curse?" Or, "What OPENS THE DOOR to the devil to devour with the curse? And, how do we CLOSE THE DOOR?"

We open the door to the curse by...

HOW WE RESPOND TO PROBLEMS OR TROUBLE

An improper response to problems or trouble can open the door to the curse.

Philippians 4:6–7

⁶ BE CAREFUL FOR NOTHING; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, SHALL KEEP YOUR HEARTS AND MINDS through Christ Jesus.

According to this passage, anyone walking in anxiety (or fear) will not be able to "keep" or *guard* their heart or mind. Moreover, anyone unable to guard their heart or mind is EXPOSED to attack from the devil! Therefore, we might say that *anxiety and fear can open the door to the curse (devil)*.

How do we close the door of anxiety and fear? We close the door on anxiety and fear by walking in the "peace of God". And this "peace" comes as a result of knowing that we are *justified* or right with God!

Romans 5:1

1 Therefore being JUSTIFIED by faith, we have PEACE WITH GOD through our Lord Jesus Christ:

Knowing that we are justified (or right with God) will cause us to experience God's peace. This peace, in turn, enables us to overcome anxiety and fear. Thus, anyone in fear is, in some way, unsure of their standing with God.

1 John 4:18

18 THERE IS NO FEAR IN LOVE; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

There is no fear in love. Instead, there is *boldness* in love.

1 John 4:17

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have BOLDNESS in the day of judgment:

Since there is no fear in love, fear must be a sign that our love is lacking. Either our knowledge of God's love for us is lacking, or our love towards God is lacking. And this is what problems come to do. They cause us to be in doubt concerning love, either God's love towards us or our love towards God! These doubts eventually open the door to fear which, in turn, opens the door to torment.

What is torment? Torment is not just what happens when we anticipate punishment or judgment. Torment is also what happens when we are oppressed by evil spirits. Therefore, fear brings torment because fear brings with it evil spirits.

2 Timothy 1:7

7 For God hath not given us the SPIRIT OF FEAR;

How do we close the door on fear? We close the door by, first of all, being *sure* of God's love towards us. When we are sure that God loves us, then we'll have boldness and confidence in any trial.

Hebrews 13:5-6

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I WILL NEVER LEAVE THEE, NOR

FORSAKE THEE. ⁶ So that we may BOLDLY say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

We also close the door on fear (anxiety) by strengthening our love towards God. How do we do this? We do this, first of all, by being obedient to God. But, we also strengthen our love towards God by being willing to sacrifice anything for Him. Therefore, the question is not do we love God enough to obey Him? The question is do we love God enough to obey Him *unto death*?

Revelation 12:11

¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; AND THEY LOVED NOT THEIR LIVES UNTO THE DEATH.

When we are willing to obey God unto death, then our love towards Him will be made perfect (**John 15:13**).

Another way we open the door to the curse is by...

HOW WE RESPOND TO PEOPLE OR TREATMENT

An improper response to people can also open the door to the curse.

Matthew 18:26–28, 32–35

²⁶ The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. ²⁷ Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and LOOSED HIM, and FORGAVE HIM THE DEBT. ²⁸ But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellow servants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he LAID HANDS ON HIM, and took *him* by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. ³² Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: ³³ Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellow servant, even as I had pity on thee? ³⁴ And his lord was WROTH, and DELIVERED HIM TO THE TORMENTORS, till he should pay all that was due unto him. ³⁵ So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts FORGIVE NOT EVERY ONE his brother their trespasses.

Jesus said that the Father would turn us over to the “tormentors” if we do not forgive EVERYONE their trespasses. Therefore, we can be exposed to the curse simply by the way we deal and respond to people!

In this parable, the wicked servant *found* someone who owed him money. We are often guilty of “finding” and remembering things people have done to us. The danger of doing this is that it will cause God to find and remember things we have done against Him!

We are all familiar with the Scripture that describes how God “casts our sins into the depths of the sea” (**Micah 7:19**). Well, apparently there’s a way to force God to “fish out” and remember those sins again!

Ezekiel 21:24

24 Therefore thus saith the Lord God; Because YE HAVE MADE YOUR INIQUITY TO BE REMEMBERED, in that your transgressions are discovered, so that in all your doings your sins do appear; because, I say, that ye are come to remembrance, ye shall be taken with the hand.

Also, there are times when we try to take a “cautious” approach with forgiving our enemies. We don’t always feel that it’s prudent to *rush* into reconciliation. We would rather *take our time* and make sure that it’s *safe* to forgive.

But, the Bible never tells us to be *cautious* when it comes to forgiving others. Instead, the Bible tells us to be *quick* to forgive and reconcile with others!

Matthew 5:23–26

23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; 24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; FIRST BE RECONCILED TO THY BROTHER, and then come and offer thy gift. 25 Agree with thine adversary QUICKLY, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, AND THOU BE CAST INTO PRISON. 26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

In fact, we are commanded not to let the sun go down on our wrath.

Ephesians 4:26–27

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: LET NOT THE SUN GO DOWN UPON YOUR WRATH: 27 Neither give PLACE TO THE DEVIL.

So, whether we are responding to *problems* or *people*, we want to act quickly and properly. Otherwise, we will give “space” or entry to the curse and the devil!