

Today, we find ourselves in a prophetic progressive countdown of the last days before the return of Jesus Christ and the Apostle Paul wrote prophetically about the very days we live in right now. (2 Timothy 3:1-5) Paul gives the characteristics of human behavior and declares it will be perilous times. Perilous means: hard to deal with; fierce, harsh; violent; dangerous times of great stress and trouble; difficult days that will hard to bear.

We see a world that is torn asunder, in confusion and chaos, wars and rumors of war, natural disasters, humanity believing and embracing lies, deceptions, which produce murders, (John 8:44 Amplified) violence, corruption, immorality, and even many Christian believers are living just as the world in sin because of their ignorance of God's Word.

Satan has declared war on the most foundational and fundamental units of human life: the home, marriage, the family, and the Church of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 12:17 (AMP)

17 So the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went off to wage war on the rest of her children (seed), those who keep and obey the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus [holding firmly to it and bearing witness to Him].

A. What we see unfolding today originates with a spiritual war and it manifests itself in the natural world. Anything you see happening in the natural realm of humanity and the nations has two spiritual origins: the Kingdom of God or the kingdom of darkness. The agendas are totally and completely opposite of each other and in fierce opposition to each other.

John 10:10 (AMP)

10 The thief comes only in order to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].

Ephesians 6:12-13 (AMP)

12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood [contending only with physical opponents], but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this [present] darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly (supernatural) places. 13 Therefore, put on the complete armor of God, so that you will

be able to [successfully] resist and stand your ground in the evil day [of danger], and having done everything [that the crisis demands], to stand firm [in your place, fully prepared, immovable, victorious].

1. How does the devil and the kingdom of darkness achieve and accomplish its agenda and purposes?

a. Through people who are not born again living under the influence of the sinful nature. (Some sources used by both kingdoms: Social Media, TV, Movies, Music, Educational Systems, Governments, etc.)

Ephesians 2:1-2 (AMP)

1 And you [He made alive when you] were [spiritually] dead and separated from Him because of your transgressions and sins, 2 in which you once walked. You were following the ways of this world [influenced by this present age], in accordance with the prince of the power of the air (Satan), the spirit who is now at work in the disobedient [the unbelieving, who fight against the purposes of God].

b. How does the devil and demonic spirits accomplish their agendas, schemes, and plans in the world today?

Step 1. Injecting thoughts into the mind of unbelievers and believers.

John 13:2 (AMP)

2 It was during supper, when the devil had already put [the thought of] betraying Jesus into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son...

Matthew 15:18-20 (AMP)

18 "But whatever [word] comes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and this is what defiles and dishonors the man. 19 For out of the heart come evil thoughts and plans, murders, adulteries, sexual immoralities, thefts, false testimonies, slanders (verbal abuse, irreverent speech, blaspheming). 20 These are the things which defile and dishonor the man...

Step 2. By deceiving one's mind and the will of a person gives consent to an action and plan that turns into a behavior and the devil or demonic spirits enters into the body, of humans, to be used as their weapon and instrument to achieve their plans of stealing, killing, and destruction.

Luke 22:3 (AMP)

3 Then Satan entered Judas, the one called Iscariot, who was one of the twelve [disciples]. (Satan cannot enter into a born again spirit filled believer but he can attack the mind to try and build negative mental strongholds, influence behavior that is the opposite of love, and promotes doubt and unbelief. (Ephesians 6:16 (AMP) 16 Above all, lift up the [protective] shield of faith with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.)

a. Peter's example:

Matthew 16:22-23 (AMP)

22 Peter took Him aside [to speak to Him privately] and began to reprimand Him, saying, "May God forbid it! This will never happen to You." 23 But Jesus turned and said to Peter, "Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on things of God, but on things of man."

Romans 8:4-5 (AMP) 4 "Who do not live our lives in the ways of the flesh [guided by worldliness and our sinful nature], but [live our lives] in the ways of the Spirit [guided by His power]. 5 For those who are living according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh [which gratify the body], but those who are living according to the Spirit, [set their minds on] the things of the Spirit [His will and purpose]."

2. Why thoughts? Because every action and behavior is always preceded by thoughts, which can affect our emotions and causes our flesh to respond or react. Wrong thoughts can produce fear, anxiety, worry, doubts, and unbelief. (2 Corinthians 10:4-5 (ESV) 4 For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. 5 We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ..)

a. One of the devil's greatest weapons against humanity and the Church of Jesus Christ are wrong beliefs deceptive lies, false ideologies, and religions.

* The world: 2 Corinthians 4:3-4 (AMP)

3 But even if our gospel is [in some sense] hidden [behind a veil], it is hidden [only] to those who are perishing; 4 among them the god of this world [Satan] has blinded the minds of the unbelieving to prevent them from seeing the illuminating light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

* The Church: 2 Corinthians 11:3 (AMP)

3 But I am afraid that, even as the serpent beguiled Eve by his cunning, your minds may be corrupted and led away from the simplicity of [your sincere and] pure devotion to Christ.

b. This brings division in our mind and heart. Why does our enemy want us to be double minded and doubt God and His Word.

James 1:5-8 (AMP)

5 "If any of you lacks wisdom [to guide him through a decision or circumstance], he is to ask of [our benevolent] God, who gives to everyone generously and without rebuke or blame, and it will be given to him. 6 But he must ask [for wisdom] in faith, without doubting [God's willingness to help], for the one who doubts is like a billowing surge of the sea that is blown about and tossed by the wind. 7 For such a person ought not to think or expect that he will receive anything [at all] from the Lord, 8 being a double-minded man, unstable and restless in all his ways [in everything he thinks, feels, or decides]."

c. A divided mind, a divided marriage, and a divided church will fail and fall.

Mark 3:24 (AMP)

24 If a kingdom is divided [split into factions and rebelling] against itself, that kingdom cannot stand.

1 Corinthians 3:1-3 (AMP)

1 However, brothers and sisters, I could not talk to you as to spiritual people, but [only] as to worldly people [dominated by human nature], mere infants [in the new life] in Christ! 2 I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Even now you are still not ready. 3 You are still worldly [controlled by ordinary impulses, the

sinful capacity]. For as long as there is jealousy and strife and discord among you, are you not unspiritual, and are you not walking like ordinary men [unchanged by faith]?

B. What is God's answer and what do we need to do to stay in God's power and blessings?

1. Stay in unity!!! Why does the kingdom of darkness fear unity?

Psalms 133

Ephesians 4:1-6 (AMP)

1 So I, the prisoner for the Lord, appeal to you to live a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called [that is, to live a life that exhibits godly character, moral courage, personal integrity, and mature behavior—a life that expresses gratitude to God for your salvation], 2 with all humility [forsaking self-righteousness], and gentleness [maintaining self-control], with patience, bearing with one another in [unselfish] love. 3 Make every effort to keep the oneness (unity) of the Spirit in the bond of peace [each individual working together to make the whole successful]. 4 There is one body [of believers] and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when called [to salvation]— 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism, 6 one God and Father of us all who is [sovereign] over all and [working] through all and [living] in all.

John 17:20-23 Amp

Romans 12:2 (AMP)

2 And do not be conformed to this world [any longer with its superficial values and customs], but be transformed and progressively changed [as you mature spiritually] by the renewing of your mind [focusing on godly values and ethical attitudes], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His plan and purpose for you].

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (AMP)

16 All Scripture is God-breathed [given by divine inspiration] and is profitable for instruction, for conviction [of sin], for correction [of error and restoration to obedience], for training in righteousness [learning to live in conformity to God's will, both publicly

and privately—behaving honorably with personal integrity and moral courage]; 17 so that the man of God may be complete and proficient, outfitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 10:23-25 (AMP)

23 Let us seize and hold tightly the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is reliable and trustworthy and faithful [to His word]; 24 and let us consider [thoughtfully] how we may encourage one another to love and to do good deeds, 25 not forsaking our meeting together [as believers for worship and instruction], as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more [faithfully] as you see the day [of Christ's return] approaching.

4. Keep praying!!!

Luke 18:1 (AMP)

1 “Now Jesus was telling the disciples a parable to make the point that at all times they ought to pray and not give up and lose heart...”