

**Opening:** The Good News of the Gospel is that we lack nothing we need to please God and fulfill His plans for our life. Every blessing and provision promised to us is through Jesus Christ. Things we once thought impossible are now within our reach. Our mindsets must change to reflect the reality of what is written in the scriptures. As a Church we must rise and believe to confront the needs of our world. Let us remove our unbelief that leads to delay, so we can reveal the Kingdom of Heaven.

1. **The Oppressor:**

**a. Satan hurls Condemnation & Accusations**

**Revelation 12:10** And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of His Christ. For the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, he who accuses them day and night before our God.

**b. Satan seeks to Destroy lives to 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:8** Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

**c. Captives of Darkness Isaiah 61:1** The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, **to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness** for the prisoners,

**d. Question?** What form of captivity is the scripture referring to? What is the Prison of darkness? \*\* The darkness here represents those who are deceived. Manipulated and bound by Satanic lies. They are not free because they do not understand what freedom is.

- e. **Blind to the Truth 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 4:4** Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who do not believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They do not understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.
- f. **Destroyed in ignorance Hosea 4:6** “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.” . . .
- g. **Life Lesson:** Satan is able to Oppress those that walk-in darkness until the truth of God’s word pierces the darkness and awakens them to the truth! \*\* Every area of your life must meet the light of God truth. **Question:** Have you allowed each area of your life to be examined by the light of God’s truth seeking to surrender completely to God’s will?

## 2. **The Christ:**

- a. **1<sup>st</sup> John 3:8** Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason **the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.**
- b. **Remover of Burdens Matthew 11:28-30** Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. **Take My yoke upon you** and learn from Me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”
- c. **What is a Yoke?** A heavy wooden object meant to bring strong animals into subjection for control. The heavy Yoke is what our oppressor uses to bring bondage and control. **Question:** What heavy oppressive thing has Satan used to control your life?
- d. **Life Lesson: Jesus indeed has a yoke to give us, meaning He is needing you to surrender control of your life so He can lead you.** \*\*His Yoke is not a burden but is liberating. It does not bring us into bondage, but it keeps us from danger and evil.

- e. **Life Lesson:** Rebellion against God does not bring freedom, but submission to Jesus Christ will set you free!
- f. **Galatians 5:1** It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not be encumbered **once more** by a **yoke of slavery**. God's burden is for His own people who though they have heard the truth that sets men free, have not walked in it or followed its instructions into true and lasting freedom.
3. **Nothing feels more impossible than a prolonged addiction.**
- a. **Proverbs 25:28** *Like a city that is broken into and without walls So is a person who has no self-control over his spirit.*
- b. A prolonged struggle, fight, battle, enslavement, or thorn in the flesh can feel like it is never going to change and that we are powerless to overcome them. However, God wants you to break out of that cycle in 2024. Believe that He desires that nothing should overcome your life except the Holy Spirit.
- c. What was once impossible humanly speaking is now possible with God. Your mindset and expectation must change.
4. **How you think determines much about you**
- a. **Proverbs 23:7:** **As a man thinks in his heart so is he**, *Eat and drink, he says to you; but his heart is not with thee.*
- b. **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 10:4-5** 4The weapons of our warfare are not the weapons of the world. Instead, they have divine power to demolish strongholds. 5We tear down arguments and every presumption set up against the knowledge of God; and **we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.**
- c. **Life Lesson: Every action begins first as a thought in the mind, every habit is a result of repeated actions. Our ability to breakthrough strongholds within our life must begin in the heart and mind.**

- d. The heart is the core storage and decision maker of the soul, while the mind is the temporary holding of information and processor of what a person actually believes. The mind has the ability through the leadership of the Holy Spirit to rewrite the tablets of the heart.
5. **Words that often reveal a stronghold has been built by the enemy.**
- a. Using phrases like “I can’t, I never, this won’t change, I’m such a failure, you’re so stupid, often reveal that we are defeated in an area of our lives.
- b. Changing the way, you talk is one step in changing the way you think. You are eating your words when you speak negative “death” words over your life.
- c. **Proverbs 18:20-21** 20From the fruit of his mouth a man’s belly is filled; with the harvest from his lips, he is satisfied. 21Life and death are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
- d. Do not get trapped by your tongue, it may be a small thing in the body, but the bible says our tongue steers the ship of our lives. It is time to change the way you talk about your circumstances!
- e. Have you ever noticed how when you are having a difficult day your mouth will get you into trouble, and will often begin to unwind what you know God has said about your future? Why? Words have power, and the heart when it is discouraged will cause you to say things that are not true. Just because you said it does not make it true.
- f. Sometimes it would be better to say nothing at all than to speak words based on frustration and discouragement.
- g. **Try this instead:** Grab your bible or even a bible promise book and simply read the text aloud.

- h. Husbands and wives, be careful to speak life to your spouse and do not curse or condemn them as your words have power to harm and tear down.
6. **Breaking through Shame: Shame is Satan’s primary weapon for keeping us bound.**
- a. **Shame and guilt are two different emotions. Satan uses shame and denies grace and God’s power to help us when we stumble. God allows us to feel guilt to help us acknowledge where we have been. Shame attacks the whole of the person denying the work of Christ within that person’s life while guilt is meant to drive a person to remember who they belong to and for what they were made for. Shame and condemnation are tied together as guilt and conviction are tied together.**
- b. **Hebrews 10:22 let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water.**
- i. Our identity is in Christ as Christians, even when we stumble God’s mercy is still strong, his grace is ready to forgive, and His love can restore the one who is broken over their sin. We are who Christ says we are even after we have stumbled in sin.
- ii. Shame is Satan reminding someone of the sins of the past which have already been forgiven to drag them back through the failure to get them to carry the identity they used to possess which Christ destroyed at Calvary when He gave up His blood. We are not who we have been.
- c. **We all have sinned:** We are not accountable to the judgments of others but of God who judges all. Since this is true, we all must appear at the altar from time to time in order to die to our out-of-control flesh.

- d. In the Kingdom, Humility does not = humiliation but instead exaltation** \*\* Our humility ensures growth, but pride ensures destruction.
- e. Proverbs 29:23** A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor. \*\* God is not wanting to shame, or dishonor anyone. **Question:** Is our heart the same as God's ?
- f. Life Lesson:** Determine in your heart to care more about what God thinks and less about what others may think. Remember your ego was crucified with Christ at Calvary.
- g. Luke 14:11** For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and the one who humbles himself will be exalted." \*\* One way or another we will be humbled. Either we willfully humble ourselves or God will do it.
- h. Shame Binds us to the Past: 1 Corinthians 13:5** It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.
- i. Break shame off of your life by humbling your heart before God in worship, in seeking forgiveness, in believing you really are a new creation in Jesus Christ.**
7. **The difference between Godly Conviction and Demonic Shame**
- a. **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 7:10-11** 10 Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation without regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. 11 Consider what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what zeal, what vindication! In every way you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter.
- b. Worldly sorrow: Leads to death by bringing shame but not desire or strength to turn away. Worldly sorrow does not change the mind, it is a sorrow of getting caught but not remorse that leads to change of action.

- c. True and false repentance, deception is thinking we have repented when we have not.
- d. Pride comes before a great fall. Worldly sorrow leads to reliance on self, and in the end will lead to death. Grace is our enabler to never go back to a life of sin. Instead, God's grace shows us a way of escape and a new life free from sin.
- e. Is it possible to receive grace and forgiveness without desiring repentance? No and only God knows the motives of the heart. By faith you may ask for forgiveness after sinning and God will forgive you as you work out your salvation with Him.
- f. Esau cried with tears because he allowed his flesh to sell his birthright for food. He had sorrow but he did not have a changed heart. Esau was consumed by fleshly hunger and gave up spiritual destiny. Genesis 27:34
- g. Keep in mind that it is by grace you are saved and not by work. We want to understand how Godly sorrow works within the heart of the believer to bring about change.
- h. Worldly sorrow leads to demonic shame which leads to condemnation and hopelessness. Godly sorrow produces humility, faith, and a yearning for righteousness, taking hold of God's restoration available in Christ.
- i. Worldly wisdom is connected to worldly sorrow. Godly wisdom is connected to Godly sorrow. Worldly wisdom seeks to accomplish man's desires with man's ways of thinking. For example, if I sinned and did not get caught, I will continue to sin without fear of judgement even delayed judgement. Godly wisdom is to fear the Lord and turn away completely from even the appearance of evil.
- j. **Life Lesson: Biblical Christianity is not seeing how close we can get to sinning and living worldly lives and still be Christian it is living as pure and unstained from the world as we can.**

- k. **2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 13:5 Examine yourselves to see if you are in the faith. Is your trust complete?**
- i. Do you trust God enough to give him your earthly craving that is leading you to worldly pleasures?