

Check out this other video, y'. All.
The thief comes only to steal, to kill and destroy.
But I've come that you may have life and have it abundantly.
But the Lord is faithful.
He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.
Submit to God.
Resist the devil, and he will flee.
Submit to God.
Resist the devil that you are free.
Submit to God.
Assist me, devil, and heal me. Point.
I don't know where you are, devil, but I know you can hear me.
You have played with my mind and had your way long enough.
No more. You are done.
Jesus is the Lord of this house, and that means there's no place for
you here anymore. So take your lies, your schemes and your accusations
and get out. In Jesus name.
You can't have my marriage. You can't have my daughter, and you sure
can't have my man. This house is under new management, and that means
you are out.
And another thing, I am so sick of you stealing my joy. But that's
changing, too. My joy doesn't come from my friends. It doesn't come
from my job. It doesn't even come from my husband.
My joy is found in Jesus. And just in case you forgot, he has already
defeated you. So go back to hell where you belong and leave my family
alone.
Amen. Can we put our hands together? Hallelujah.
Amen. Good morning, church. So, if you're new here today, my name is
Pastor Cassandra Lavelle. I'm one of the pastors on staff here at the
church. I'm not the lead pastor.
We just saw a video from him. He is in Africa on mission. Amen. But we
are excited that you joined us this morning. And so I want to go ahead
and get ready to jump right into it.
Pastor Cornell kicked us off last week with this powerful series
called Closing the Door on Evil Influences. How many of you were
blessed last week by the sermon? Amen. I know that I was. I know that
I was.
And so, as we continue in this series, I want to make a statement
before I begin to preach. Okay? This teaching today, what we say, the
Holy Spirit, I. What we say, it's not to produce fear, because that's
not of God. Fear is not of God.
God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound
mind. So this biblical teaching is to bring awareness and conviction
that leads to repentance and positions us for forgiveness and freedom.
That's it. It's to equip us, to help us to get free and to also help
others get free. Amen.
Amen. All Right. So again, Pastor preached a phenomenal message last
week and he revealed the truth about spiritual realities, that there
is a real spiritual world that we exist in. Right. And so today I want
to talk to you on the topic of some doors must be closed.

Some doors must, must be closed. And in order to talk to you on closing doors, we need to be able to identify what doors are opened in our life. Amen. So today, in Jesus name, we are going to expose where the enemy has been operating in our lives or perhaps even influencing us in light of when we expose him because of God's word, because of what Christ has done on the cross, we can close doors and kick him out. Today, in Jesus name, Amen.

And I don't know about you, but my desire is to see people walking in true freedom, real freedom. Amen. Pastor Lexi was on it this morning as she hosts. She's all in the sermon, and I'm so thankful because that's the spirit of God keeping his people on one accord. Because the Lord has something that he wants to say.

So let me pray. And if you have a Bible, you can open up your Bible to Ephesians, chapter six. Thank you, Lord. Father, we thank you and we praise you for who you are. God.

There is no God like you. You are the most high God. I thank you, Jesus, that you have the victory. I thank you that you conquered death, hell and the grave. I thank you that you have the keys with all power and authority in your hand.

I thank you, Lord Jesus, that we are seated with you in heavenly places. And so, Father, I pray this morning that your Holy Spirit will speak and preach through me, that you would give us understanding, open our eyes spiritually to see, open our ears and help us to hear what you have to say to your church. Father, I pray that you would save the lost, that you would build up the found in you, and that you would be glorified. Lord, we love you. God, we thank you and we ask for your anointing to rest in this place in Jesus name.

Amen. Amen. All right, y'. All. Ephesians, chapter 6.

Ephesians, chapter 6. All right. Access. Closing the door on evil influences.

Metro, I want to tell you this morning that it's time to revoke the enemy's access.

It's time. We've given him too much access in our lives. And the truth of the matter is a lot of the access that we have given him. He didn't even have to work hard for it. I want to tell you that your soul is like a House with many doors.

Your soul is like a house with many doors. And the enemy of your soul is always looking for ways to come inside. Ephesians 6 tells us to be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. Our foundational passage is Ephesians 6, and it says this 12.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against spiritual forces of evil in heavenly realms. So I'm just going to stop and park right here for a second. The battle that we are facing, it is not a fleshly, natural battle. It is a spiritual battle. When you find yourself having issues with the same person over and over and over and over again, I want to tell you, stop addressing the person and start addressing the spiritual behind it.

It's a spiritual battle. Amen. First Peter 5, 8 says this. The

amplifiers, it says, be sober, well balanced in self discipline. Be alert and cautious at all times.

That enemy of yours, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, fiercely hungry, seeking someone to devour. The enemy is always on the prowl. Amen. Always on the prowl. So last June, y', all, last June, I led a team to Kenya on a missions trip.

And when I went, the team and I were so blessed by everything the Lord did on the trip. And so the last day of the trip, we took the team on safari. And whenever you go on a safari in Africa, what do you think the number one animal is that everybody wants to see? Yell it out. A lion.

Correct. Oh, y' all good, right? So a lion, right? Everybody wants to see a lion. So we go on safari in Kenya, and our guide, his name is Jimmy, right?

Shout out to Jimmy. We love Jimmy. So this guide, his name is Jimmy. Jimmy was talking to us about the lion. As we were looking for the lion.

He said something to us that I don't even know if the team caught it. But when I heard it, I immediately pulled out my phone and. And put it in my notes. I'll never forget this. He said that what makes the lion dangerous is not how fast it is, not even how big it is, not even how strong it is.

What makes the lion dangerous is his timing.

He said the lion doesn't get tired of watching its prey and waiting for a weak moment. He said the lion comes, and when the lion comes, all the other animals scatter. The lion brings fear and division. He said the lion plays the long game. Waiting for low effort, opportunities to strike.

We just read first Peter 5. The devil is like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. And just like lions, demons look for low effort, opportunities to strike.

They don't give long chases. Lions don't give long chases. They give long watches.

Ephesians 4:26,27 says this. In your anger, do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry. And do not give the devil a foothold. See, the strategy of the enemy is to gain a foothold into our lives.

Foothold is a combat term, a secured strategic position in hostile territory that acts as a base for further operations, allowing forces to advance. He's looking for a foothold. I hope you hear what I'm saying in the spirit this morning. Footholds serve as a springboard, such as a beachhead or captured building from which troops, supplies and firepower are deployed to gain tactical advantage. Without a foothold.

Listen, without a foothold, forces cannot effectively advance, but with it, they can create a springboard for victory. And the enemy is always looking for footholds, access, open doors in our lives. Are y' all tracking with me? Y' all tracking with me? Amen.

The enemy is strategic. He's looking to gain access. And unfortunately, Pastor said it last week at the end of his sermon, some

of us have already given him access. We've given him a foothold. And because we've given him a foothold, now we battle some strongholds in our life.

Strongholds. So let's expose him this morning, church. And let's ask Jesus to drive the enemy out of our life. Amen.

We have the choice this morning to close the doors. Amen. Amen. So I said earlier that our house, our soul, is like a house with many doors. And in order to fully drive the enemy out and revoke his access and take back territory, we need to talk about the elephant in the room.

What's the elephant in the room? I'm glad you asked.

Can Christians be possessed by a demon? If we're saying the enemy has access to our lives? If our soul is like a house with many doors, can a Christian be possessed by a demon?

Some say yes. Some say no. I'm going to tell you the Bible does not explicitly say Christians can or cannot be possessed. But I'm going to tell you what I do know. Amen.

Y' all tracking. Y' all locked in. Amen. First Thessalonians 5, 23 says this. May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through.

May your Whole spirit. Somebody say spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Before we can answer the question on the table, I first need us to understand what we're made of. Amen. What he can have access to.

Does that make sense? So we are body, soul and spirit. All right? We see that in the scripture, right? So let's tackle this first.

What's the spirit? Okay, what's the spirit? The spirit is what gives us life. If your spirit leaves your body, what happens? Right?

You die. Amen. So the spirit gives us life. We understand that, right? So that's easy.

Let's get that out the way the spirit gives us life. Easy. Let's go to the body. All right? Body.

The body is our physical component, right? It's highly complex. It's made up of cells and tissues and organs and water and DNA and all these other things, right? Nervous system, digestive system, right? That's our body.

We agree. Everybody got a body. Touch a neighbor, all right? They got a body, right? We all got a body.

We all got a body in here. Amen. Okay, we on the same page, right? We all got a spirit, right? Nobody's dead in the sanctuary, right?

Amen. All right. Okay. So we understand the body, we understand the spirit. But let's look at the soul, because the soul and the spirit are not the same thing.

The soul is said to be made up of the mind, personality, emotions, intellect and will. Like your free will, your choice. That's what makes you you. Does that make sense? Y' all tracking with me?

The Bible says in Genesis, chapter two, verse seven, then the Lord God made or formed a man from the dust of the ground, some substance and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. And then the man became a living being or living soul, right? Body, soul, spirit. So we got

that, right? Let's keep going.

So check this out. Now, this is for Christians, because the question is, can a Christian be possessed by a demon? Right? Because we got closed doors. Amen.

Okay, so when someone is born again, God communicates with us by way of his Holy Spirit. Amen. Do we agree? We agree the Holy Spirit of God is who talks to us, who communicates to us. Amen.

The Holy Spirit points us to Jesus, Jesus points to the Father, right? Everybody's tracking, okay? So the scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit, when you get saved, the Holy Spirit bears witness with our human spirit, that we are God's children. So it's the. Thank you, Lord.

So it is the Spirit on the inside of us. We're body, soul, spirit. It's the spirit on us that becomes born again. Right. Because do you crawl back into your mother's womb like Nicodemus asked?

No. Your flesh is not born again. Right. But your spirit is born again. Amen.

We tracking. Okay, so your spirit is born again. So the spirit of God then unites with your human spirit, and that's how you become born again. Amen. All right, I just want to make sure we got this.

Romans 8:16 says this. The spirit himself, talking about the Holy Spirit, the Spirit himself. And listen, the Holy Spirit is not an it. It's not a force. He is a person.

The Holy Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. So the human spirit is the part of us that is born again. We good. Let's keep going. So if, again, if we're looking to close doors, we must ask again the question, can Christians be possessed?

I want to break this all down for you. We've already established we're made of body, soul and spirit. And so now I want to break down what God does to the spirit, body and soul, before we talk about the enemy. Okay? Y' all good with that?

Okay, so we said, with the Spirit. God unites with us, our human spirit by His Holy Spirit. And you can find that in First Corinthians, chapter 6, verse 17, with the body. What is our body now when we get saved? Born again.

It's the temple. Temple of who? Temple of the Holy Spirit. Right. Our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

Okay. I'm gonna give you a verse for it. Everything I say, I'm give you Scripture for First Corinthians, chapter 6, verse 19. Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you've received from God? You are not your own.

You were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body. Amen. The Holy Spirit now lives on the inside of you. When you are born again, your body is his temple.

All right? And he doesn't just come and go. He indwells forever. How do I know that? Jesus told me.

In John, chapter 14, verses 15 through 17, he says, if you love me, keep my commands, and I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate, which is the Holy Spirit, to help you and be with you forever. The Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him because

it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. Amen.

Jesus taught that to his disciples. So a Christian's spirit is born again. Our bodies are now the temple of the Holy Spirit. Y' all tracking. All right, let's keep going.

Y' all okay with me teaching this morning? Okay. It's okay if you're not, because I'm gonna do it anyway. But it's okay. It's okay.

It's okay. It's all right. All right. Okay. So thank you, Lord.

So the Spirit will be in us. The other thing that the Holy Spirit does to our bodies. All right, let's go back. The other thing that the Holy Spirit does to our bodies is that he also empowers us. Okay?

He empowers us. He gives us Holy Spirit power to be witnesses about Jesus, to overcome things that we can't do on our own strength. He empowers us. Do we agree? Have you ever received power from the Lord to overcome?

Praise the Lord for that. Right? Amen. So he gives us power, and then he also is making our bodies holy. And what I mean by that is, is that although we have a mortal body, a flesh, one day we're going to get what we call glorified bodies, new bodies.

That's what Jesus says, right? We're gonna be like him. Amen. Y' all tracking with me. So this is all Bible.

Is this good teaching? All right, stay off of YouTube, okay? They got a lot of crazy stuff out there. This is solid Bible teaching. Amen.

Okay? Okay. It's a lot of stuff out there. Amen. All right, so we got the body, we got the spirit.

Let's move to the soul. Your soul, I said, is the personality, your emotions. Raise your hand if you got a personality. Raise your hand if you got emotions, all right? Raise your hand if you have a mind, a will, a desire, right?

Okay, so we have spotty, spotty body, spirit and soul. God. Listen, God, he saves our soul, okay? He restores our soul. He sanctifies our soul and he seals our soul.

David said, the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me to lie down and green pastures. He leads me beside the still waters. He what? He do what?

He restores my soul, right? So our souls need to be restored. Our minds, our emotions, our intellect, our will, our desires. Those things need to be brought back into alignment with God when we come into fellowship with the Lord. Because before Christ, we.

We trash, right? Our minds ain't right, our attitudes ain't right, our thoughts ain't right. We have a fallen nature, right? So he has to restore. He has to make it new again.

Amen. That's why Paul said, listen, be not conformed to the ways of this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind. And our minds are renewed by studying the word of God. Because the more we know him, the more we can become like him. Amen.

We good? All right. I'm just trying to make sure we walking together. So let's keep going. So we know God's action.

We know that he possesses our spirit. He renews our spirit. He unites with our spirit in our body. He dwells in our body. He empowers our

body.

Right. He saves our soul. He restores our soul so that we know what God does. Have we established that y' all good with that? And the last thing I wanna say is that the Lord, the Holy Spirit of God, seals us until the day of redemption.

So when he seals us, when God's spirit unites with our spirit and we are born again, guess what that means? Okay. Raise your hand if you can save yourself.

Raise your hand if you think you can save yourself. Raise your hand if you are saved by grace through faith in Christ Jesus alone. Okay? So if you can't save you, you got the power to unsave you.

Do you? Because y' all know we got some wrong thinking in this place. If you can't earn your salvation and you can't save yourself, do you think you have the power to unseal what has been sealed by the spirit of God?

I hope that brings freedom for somebody. I don't want to lose my salvation when people say that, every time I hear it, I cringe.

You can't save yourself. You can't unsave yourself. You're sealed with the spirit of God. Amen. Let's break down lies with truth today.

In Jesus name, Amen. Amen. Let's keep going. All right, so now let's talk about the actions of the devil. Okay.

When it comes to spirit, body and soul for the spirit, the devil cannot touch your spirit. Do you know why he can't touch your spirit? Because it's sealed. It's united with God. Ephesians, chapter 1:13 through 14, it says. And you also were included in Christ Jesus when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation, when you believed you were marked in him with a. What?

A seal? The promised Holy Spirit, who was a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession. To the praise of. Of his glory. He cannot touch your spirit because your spirit is what's united with God's spirit.

And that's how you are born again. He can't do nothing with your spirit. Let's move forward, y'. All. Tracking with the body, though, that's a different story.

Let's talk about it as a Christian. He can, with our bodies, afflict us with sickness.

He tempts our physical desires. He oppresses the body through demonic influence or unexplained physical illness. And how do I know this? Because I look at the scriptures. Hebrews chapter 2, verse 14 says, since children have flesh and blood, he too, talking about Jesus Christ, shared in their humanity so that by his death he might what, break the power of him who holds the power of death.

That is the devil. The devil has the power to afflict human beings bodies. Right? And when it comes to Christians, he does have the power to afflict with sickness, but the only power that he has is what God permits him to use. Amen.

How do I know this? Job.

Job was a man of God. Righteous, right? But yet In Job chapter 2, verse 7, we see that he was afflicted in his body. Amen. Y' all tracking with me.

Okay. We know that the enemy's tactic is to bring sickness. Luke chapter 13:16 tells a story of a woman who had. So Jesus is in the synagogue, he's teaching, and he notices a woman who has an infirmity, a weakness in her body. And the scripture says she's doubled over 18 years.

She did not have the power or ability or strength to stand up straight. But it was not a physical illness. The root of it was there was a demonic oppressive spirit that had her bent over. Read it on your own time. Luke 13.

So Jesus looks at the woman, he sees the demon in her, oppressing her, and he cast it out. And there's more stories like that where it's not just a natural sickness. There's a demon oppressing or afflicting someone. Y' all got it. So again, if we are Christian, can the enemy attack our bodies?

He can, but he can only do what God allows. Amen. He causes physical suffering. He tempts through our physical desires, and we're going to talk about that. And he can bring physical death, but it's limited by God.

Amen. And we just read that in Hebrews 2:14 on the screen. Jesus broke the power of death that the devil had. What he cannot do. You ready?

What he cannot do, he can't do anything that God doesn't allow.

Period. Y' all tracking. He cannot permanently destroy a believer. He can't permanently destroy us.

He can bring destruction. He does come to kill, steal and destroy. But guess what? Our spirit is sealed. Right?

Our spirit is sealed. But we're going to talk about these doors that we open up to give him access so he can destroy, but it won't be permanent. The Bible tells us that if we are not walking in the Spirit and we continue to walk according to our fresh flesh, even if we are born again and we're not serving the Lord, what happens is in heaven. We'll lose rewards that we should have been gaining for serving the Lord. We'll lose our reward, but our salvation is still secure.

So he can destroy. He can wreak havoc in our lives if we're not walking according to the way God desires for us to. And we're not submitted to the Lord. Right? But he can't take our eternal life from the Lord.

Y' all tracking with me? All right, we gonna get into it. I just want to walk you through this first before we go. All right, let's go to the soul. I like to say this, that if our body is a playground for the devil, because he likes to tempt us with our lust, our physical desires, right?

Our temptations, if our body is a playground, I want to tell you that your soul is an amusement park to him.

He attacks and deceives the mind with lies, oppresses emotions. I can't feel. I just. I'm just numb. I can't feel anything.

Is the enemy at work? Is he influencing? Is he oppressing? He influences the will. He plants thoughts and he accuses Christians.

Amen. Everything I say, I'm telling you, I got a verse for it. The devil cannot own your soul, but he can attack your soul. If the soul is the mind, the will, the emotions, the personality, the intellect,

he can attack that. Your mind is a battlefield.
Your mind is a battlefield. Pastor Hector taught on the battlefield of the mind. It's a battlefield. So what he can do, y'? All.
He deceives the mind with lies and false thinking. Why am I taking my time? I'm taking my time teaching you so that we can expose the lies of the enemy, so that we can remove those lies out of our lives. Amen. You shall know the truth, and the truth will make you free.
He deceives the mind with false thinking. That's Second Corinthians, chapter 11, verse 3. You can find it yourself. He oppresses emotions, causing fear, depression, doubt, confusion. First Peter 5:8.
I read it earlier. He influences the will. He tempts you with the wrong decisions. James 1:14 through 15. Look at how he Tempted Jesus. The wilderness. Right? He tried to tempt Jesus with. Listen. Thank you, Holy Spirit.
Please hear me. He tried to tempt Jesus with something that rightfully belonged to Jesus, but not in that time. He will offer you things out of season to get access to your life. Amen. Oh, God said, my husband is coming.
He's coming, but he's not here. Wait. So the devil will bring someone along because you've got a word from the Lord and deceive you to get you to think that this is the person? Instead of waiting on the Lord, he offers us things that God has for us out of season or time. That's one of his tricks.
Y' all got it? Okay, let's keep going. So what else does he do? He accuses us. And what's crazy is he accuses us and he lies to us and he makes us feel worthless.
We say things like, I just can't feel God. I just can't hear God. I don't know if God really loves me. I think God is mad at me. Is God really real?
Is he for me? The enemy has been talking, accusing in your ear. Does that make sense? He's a liar. He's the father of lies.
Everything that he says is a lie. Revelation 12:10 does say, he's the accuser of the brethren. But let me tell you what he cannot do to your soul. He can't own or possess your soul. Not of a true believer. It belongs to God. He can't force your will, but he can't tempt it. He can't listen. Hear me. The devil can't read your thoughts.
He's not omniscient. He's not God. He's not all knowing. So get that lie out your head. He can't read your thoughts.
He can read your body language, but he can't read your thoughts. Amen. He's not omnipresent. He's not all around at every place all the time. He's not God.
Amen. Let's tell the truth this morning. Right?
So again, can a Christian be possessed by a demon or a devil?
Demons cannot occupy your spirit. They can't, because your spirit is united with the Holy Spirit. And do you think God, the Holy Spirit, is going to allow some demon or some devil to dwell with him?
Church, yes or no?
But he can afflict your body and your soul. So how does he gain access? You ready? This is how he gains access. If you're taking notes, demons and the devil, or as Pastor said last week, evil

influence.

How does it gain Access. The truth is we open doors and we give it to him. We open the doors.

So how do we give him access? What doors do we open? What does this mean? I want to tell you this morning that the devil and his demons. Evil influence.

Guess what they love about us? They love the work of our flesh. They love the work of our flesh. The devil partners with the works of our flesh.

He loves it. So what's the works of the flesh? Let's talk about it.

Galatians 5:19. The Acts of the flesh are obvious.

Sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies and the like.

Paul says, I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. He works with the acts of our flesh. And those are not all. So what I'm going to do very quickly is break down what those things mean. Amen.

Sexual immorality. Sex outside of the marriage covenant. Same sex sex. Incest. Bestiality.

Sexual immorality. Impurity. It means to be unclean. Impure motives when your motives aren't pure. Access.

Impurity can also mean lust that turns a person into an object for personal pleasure. Debauchery. What is that? Reckless sexual lifestyle. Promiscuity accompanied with drunkenness and wild living.

Idolatry. What is that? Worship of false gods or the worshiper of mammon. Mammon is the personification of riches as an evil influence or a deity, a God.

What else? Because this is the Christians, not unbelievers, y'. All. Witchcraft. You mean to tell me you could be a Christian and be working witchcraft in the flesh?

You sure enough can access. Open door witchcraft. The use of administering of drugs, poisoning, sorcery. Magical arts often found in connection with idolatry and fostered by it. Sorcerers often use drugs with their incantations or their chantings or their songs or their words to conjure up the occult, which is knowledge of hidden supernatural spiritualism.

We do that right in the church. Hatred. Access. Open door. Stick with me, y'.

All. Don't sleep. Focus. Because this is how the enemy gets us. This is how he has access.

Hatred, discord, contention, heated disagreements and disputes. You give the enemy access, he capitalizes on those things. Jealousy, which is envy. Painful or resentful emotion towards someone else, towards their achievements. You want what they have or you wish they didn't have it.

Access. Fits of rage. Access. Selfish ambition. Access.

When you put yourself above others all the time. Guess what you're doing? Giving him access. Dissensions. What's dissension?

Someone who causes disagreements with violence and anger. You're

giving him access. Factions. That means intentionally inciting division in the church.

Uh huh. Intentionally bringing division in the church.

Access. Envy, drunkenness, impaired judgment, unrestrained, loud drinking parties, having sex clubs, clubbing, lusty pride, pornography. Access.

Unforgiveness. Access. Listen. Unforgiveness. The sinful refusal to extend grace, mercy, or pardon me, someone who has offended you.

When you refuse to pardon someone who has offended you, it hinders your relationship with God. And you're giving him access. Are y' all tracking with me this morning? Amen. He works with fear.

He works with manipulation. What is manipulation? Right. In the church, it's frequently described as an illegitimate or witchcraft spirit that seeks control, dominance, or intimidates others outside of God's will. So when you use ungodly influence, when you tell somebody God said, and God didn't say, and you say things because you know they're going to listen to you because you're in leadership and you're trying to get them to do what you want them to do.

Witchcraft. Access.

That's. I'm only preaching from this, from these scriptures. That's what it means in the original language. I'm giving you the definitions. Look it up.

Fact check me. Access.

Help us, Lord.

And let me say this. The root of deception and fear when it comes to manipulation is a sign that the person who is acting in that is under the influence of fear and insecurity because they're not relying and trusting in God. Amen. Access. And these are all doors, y', all, that we've opened to the enemy.

But I want to tell you one of the predominant doors that we've seen open in our community.

It's the acts of accessing the spiritual realm illegally.

Spiritual, illegal access.

What does that mean? Y' all still with me? I think this is the quietest I've ever seen. Metro. It's crazy.

Deuteronomy 18 says this. When you enter the land which with the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to imitate the detestable things of those nations. He says, there shall not be found among you anyone who makes his son or daughter pass through the fire. So that's human sacrifice. One who uses divination or sooth.

One who interprets omens or sorcerer. Or one who casts a spell or a medium or a spiritist or one who consults the dead. For whoever does these things is detestable. To the Lord. And because of these detestable things, the Lord your God is going to drive them out before you.

He says you are to be blameless before the Lord your God for these nations which you are going to dispossess. Listen to soothsayers and diviners or diviners. But as for you, the Lord God has not allowed you to do so. Let me tell you, if God told them back then, the people of God to stay away from it. Guess what?

We. We need to too. Even now, you can't follow Christ and be searching for your identity and your ancestors.

I'm going to say it again for the people online. We love you, but you can't follow God and be searching for your identity and your ancestors practicing African spirituality. Impossible. Deceased ancestors are believed to act as intermediaries between the living and the divine, providing guidance and wisdom. That's what people who practice, that's what they're looking for.

And the Lord says, illegal access. If anyone lacks wisdom, Pastor Alexi said it. Let him ask of God, not your ancestors, in Jesus name. Not a Orisha.

Amen. Not a higher God or a lesser God from the Yoruba religion. Access.

Not pouring out offerings, food and wine to your deities, to your gods. Illegal access to honor your ancestors. We've given him access right in the church. Amen.

The enemy has lied to some of us in some of our houses are being ran over because of the access. He's lied to some of you because some of you walk around burning herbs, sacred herbs and sage. Smudging is what we call it because you think that you can purify your home from evil spirits and negative energy, but all you're doing is inviting demons in.

Access. The enemy is a deceiver. Amen. Remember, they play the long game. So when you burn and you think it works, they're hiding all things well.

They play the long game and they wait for low effort opportunities to strike. Amen. Let's keep going. Y' all with me. Hallelujah, Lord.

Thank you, Jesus. Here in our city, there are people who openly practice witchcraft. In Youngstown, I have seen with my own eyes witches in our city. Not making this up. I wish my sister, Nettie McDowell was here, who had an experience with me two weeks ago on April 10th, our son's birthday, openly practicing in our city.

Witchcraft, voodoo, ancestral worship, Santeria access. And perhaps you're here and you've opened doors unknowingly or knowingly. Perhaps you've been looking for God and you got caught up in a false Christianity. Maybe you've been a Jehovah's Witness all your life. I hate to tell you, but you gave the devil access.

I said it.

Why do I say it? Jehovah's Witnesses believe they deny the Trinity completely. First of all, they teach that Jesus is the brother of Michael the Archangel. Or that he is Michael the Archangel, should I say? And they teach also that there is no physical resurrection. They say that Jesus only rose in the Spirit. That's not true. They also created their own translation of the Bible called New World Translation. And if you know it, then you know that there's a lot of lies and deceit. They have changed the scriptures from John 1 and 1. In the beginning was the Word. The Word was with God, and the Word was. They say the Word was a God access. I'm preaching from a place of love today because love speaks the truth. Amen.

And we want to kick the enemy out. Amen. Amen.

You may come from a background of lds, the Latter Day Saints, well, their theology is wrong, too.

They don't completely deny the Trinity, but they also say that the Trinity is not united, not God in three persons.

They say that Jesus was the firstborn spirit child of the Heavenly Father and had a heavenly mother.

They also say that Lucifer, which is Satan, is Jesus spirit. Brother. Look it up. It's true. It's true.

So we come to expose the enemy this morning, y'. All. We don't want him to have access. And so there is good news. There is good news.

If you found yourself in a place where you can identify. Let's do an experiment. Everybody. Close your eyes.

Close your eyes. Don't look at me. If you're looking at me, your eyes are not closed. Close your eyes. Raise your hand if you can identify with any of these things that I've named, even if it's just one.

Close your eyes, raise your hand. Hands down. Amen. Thank you for being honest. Eyes open.

That's fine. So for those of us who were honest, there's good news.

And I thank God for the good news. The good news is that Jesus Christ, when he rose from the grave, he rose with all power and authority in his hands. And if he rose with all power and authority in his hands and you are a born again believer, then you have hope and you have authority to evict the enemy out of your life today.

Amen.

I would hope that that would give somebody some encouragement. The Bible says this. Therefore, God, highly exalted Jesus gave Jesus a name above every single name that at the name of Jesus. Every knee should bow, heaven and on earth, and that every tongue will confess that he is Lord to the glory of God the Father. The Bible also tells us that we have been made alive with Christ Jesus and that he forgave us all of our sins.

And he's canceled the charge of all of our legal debts spiritually, which stood against us and condemned us. It says that he took it all away and he nailed it to the cross. He's disarmed all powers and authorities and made a public spectacle of them triumphing over them on the cross. So I can apply the blood of Jesus and get rid of what I need to get rid of. Amen.

Hallelujah. Ephesians, chapter 1, verse 19 says, I also pray that you will understand the incredible greatness of God's power for us who believe in Him. This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in heavenly realms. Listen, it says now he is far above any ruler or any authority or any power or any leader, above anything else, not only in this world, but in the world to come. God has put all things under the authority of Christ.

And it also says he's made him the head over the church. Amen. And the church is his body. It is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things with himself. So what does that mean when the Bible says that I am seated in heavenly places with Christ Jesus?

Some of us have not really taken our rightful place in the spirit with

the Lord because we allowed the enemy to come in. But today we have the opportunity to make a conscious decision to close the doors on the enemy in our lives and no longer give him access. Amen.

It's time to revoke his access church.

Revelations 1:17 18 says it this way. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, don't be afraid. I am the first and the last. I am the living one. I died, but look, I am alive forever and ever. And I hold the keys of death and the grave. We do not have to fear the enemy. Amen. We don't have to live from a place of fear.

Amen. We don't have to live from a place of anxiety. Amen. We don't have to live from a place of lack and a place of struggle because of what Jesus has done for us. Hallelujah.

Tell your neighbor, close the door. It's time to close the door. I want to ask the worship team to come up. I just believe that somebody's going to get free today. Free today.

Somebody's in this room. And you've been experiencing torment in your mind. The enemy has been tormenting you, taunting you, and the devil is a liar. And God has come to set you free.

So I'm going to give you eight ways because we've exposed the enemy. And I may not have even named the door that you've opened. Those are just a few. So I want you to ask God to show you where you've opened the door and given the enemy access in your life. Amen.

Going to give you eight ways on how to close the door on the devil.

Amen. Eight ways on how to close the door.

Eight ways. And before I give you the eight, I want to tell you I started off the sermon reading in Ephesians.

Ephesians 6, 10. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Our strength comes from Jesus. Our help comes from Jesus. The whole armor of God that we are to put on comes from Jesus.

The whole armor of God. Not ourselves. I told my team this Friday night, not ourselves, not our strength, not our spouse's strength, not our pastor's strength. We need the strength of the Lord. Amen.

Because he has all power and authority. Right?

So our victory comes from Christ alone. And let me tell you what I know. The Lord said to me that we are in a spiritual battle. We know this, but we are losing battles that Jesus died and rose for us to win. We should not be losing these battles.

We're losing the battles because we're in agreement with the enemy. He agrees with our flesh. We're losing the battles because we're fighting in our own strength and we can't do it. We're losing the battles because we refuse to forgive. We're losing the battles because we don't know God's word.

And his word is the sword of the Spirit. We're losing the battles because we get up every day and we leave our house and we don't put on the full armor of God.

We come to church on Sunday and we put on our best and we leave the most important piece of clothing at home. The armor of God.

Put on the whole armor of God that you might be able to withstand the schemes of the enemy. Amen. First Peter 4 James 4, 7. Thank you. Says,

Submit therefore unto God.

Resist the devil and he will flee from you. To submit there means to obey actively the Lord. And then to resist means to oppose him. Not run from him. Submit Obey Jesus.

Oppose the enemy. Because when you obey Jesus, he has something to work with. Amen. And the enemy has to flee eight ways. Remember, first and foremost, Jesus is our strength.

Okay? You got that? Jesus has done what we needed him to do, y'. All. He died and he rose again.

So the victory is there. It's there for the taking. Amen. He's done his part. That's why I preach a lot about what he's done.

He's done his part. We know that. We got to do our part. Amen. He did his part.

We have to do our part. Here we go. Number one, Close the door to evil influence by recognizing where the evil has gained access. You can't close a door you don't know is open. Amen.

That's why I said, ask the Lord. Lord, show me where I've given him access. Show me. Help me to see. You know where I've allowed the enemy to come in, where I've given him a foothold.

Right. Recognize first, recognize the doors. And you can be praying that now, Lord. Show me. Okay.

Recognize where evil has gained access or a foothold or even built a stronghold. Okay. When you recognize it, the second thing to close the door is to repent. Repentance is turning away from sin. Turn away from the sin that gave him access and submit to God.

Right. I just said it. James 4. 7. Submit yourself, therefore to God.

Resist the devil and he will flee. Okay, some of us. Hold on. Thank you, Lord. God, you so real.

Lord, some of us have been resisting and opposing the devil. But you know why? We're losing somebody in this room. You've been resisting. Resisting.

Resisting. I've been resisting. It don't work. It's not working because you haven't submitted to God.

Submit first to God, then you resist, then he will flee. Amen. That is your answer.

Submit to God. Three, Renounce. I'm going to ask that you guys stand with me, please. Number three, Renounce.

Close the door to evil influence by renouncing all agreements with the enemy.

We have opened some doors, y', all, and we've allowed the enemy to get comfortable in our lives, and it's time for him to go. And just like the video that we watched before I came up, we have to renounce all agreements with the enemy. If you live in a place of fear, you need to renounce that fear.

Renounce means to break all agreements known and unknown with evil.

Renounce means to formally and publicly or voluntarily give up, abandon and disclaim a right, claim belief, possession, or connection So I asked you this morning, what do you need to break ties with? What do you need to renounce?

Some of you are going home and God is going to lead you to throw some

things away in your house. Hear me? He's going to lead you to throw some things away in your house. He's going to lead you to burn some things up. He's going to lead you to this altar today to lay some things on the altar, literally, because he wants to see you free. Now, am I being super spiritual? No. Let me tell you something. Acts, chapter 19, 19 through 20. It says also many of those who have believed kept coming, confessing and disclosing their practices. And many of those who practice magic brought their books together and began burning them in the sight of everyone. And they added up the prices of the books and all the paraphernalia that was found. And it ended up being 50,000 pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord was growing and prevailing mightily. You need to get bold. Revoke access. Put down what you need to put down. Lay it down here and don't take it back. Because some of you gonna take it home and you're gonna go right back to it. Close the door. Revoke access. Amen. 4. Release. Say release.

We have to release unforgiveness. We have to release unforgiveness. Anger, grief, church, hurt, offense. Release means to set free, liberate. Let go of confinement, let go of restraint. You are not obligated to hold on to unforgiveness. Amen. Jesus forgave us. We need to forgive people. Amen. And I'm not trying to belittle what people may have done to you and the harm and the damage they have caused. I don't minimize that at all. And Jesus empathizes and sympathizes with you, but he also, again, he came to identify with us, but also to give us freedom. Amen. 5.

Recommit. Recommit to Christ's lordship and authority. It's not enough to say you're a Christian. That don't mean nothing. Commit to his lordship. Follow him. Be a real disciple. Amen. Learn his ways. Learn his word. Start putting it into practice. He's not listen.

Thank you, God. Jesus says he's not looking for perfection. He just wants your effort, your obedience. He'll meet you in it. He'll give you strength.

He'll give you power. You have the Holy Spirit. Amen. Six. Replace. Say replace. So for some of us, the things that we're going to lay down today or the things that we're going to throw away, the things that we're going to burn.

A lot of these things we run to when we're stressed, when we're feeling pressure, stressed out, smoke, stressed out, drink, stressed out, masturbate, stressed out, watch porn, stressed out, gossip, stressed out. Whatever it is, you fill in the blank. I left it on the slide. Close the door to evil influence by replacing whatever you're replacing. You fill in the blank and replace it with spiritual disciplines.

So when you're stressed out, pray when you're stressed out, worship when you're stressed out, fast when you're stressed out, read the Word when you're stressed out, get with the body of Christ when you're stressed out, bless the Lord and give him thanksgiving. When you see

what I'm saying, replace it with spiritual disciplines. Amen. Amen.
Hallelujah.

Replace it by learning scripture, memorization. Learn God's word.
Renew that mind. Because when your mind get renewed, then you're not
going to go back as easily, at least to those things. Amen.

Thank you, Lord. 7.

Resist. Close the door to evil influence by resisting the devil and
obeying God. Again, to resist means to oppose. Stand against. Okay.
Submit to God and oppose the enemy. The Bible says the name of the
Lord is a strong tower. The righteous can run to it and be safe. And
if you're not good at praying and that's how you feel, call on the
name of Jesus. Call on the name of Jesus.

There is power. There is something about the name of Jesus. Amen. When
you don't know what to say. Jesus.

Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus.

Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus.

Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Touch my mind. Jesus.

Help my heart. Jesus.

There's power in the name.

He is our refuge and our strength. A very present help in trouble.

Amen.

Number eight.

Remain in community with accountability. The devil would like to lie
to you and tell you that you don't need to be connected to the body of
Christ. He will tell you that it's okay to come to church on Sunday,
but just don't let them in your business. He will tell you it's okay
to come to church on Sunday but don't have real fellowship with
people. It's okay to come to church on Sunday, but you can't trust
them.

It's okay to come to church on Sunday and you don't need to serve the
Lord. They're asking for too much. It's okay to come to church on
Sunday, but just don't be committed.

That's a lie of the enemy. And when we live from that place, we are
giving him access. There is safety in community. Two is better than
one. Amen.

He's a liar. So, Metro, we got work to do.

We got business to handle. Amen.

And we gotta start linking arms with one another.

Surface level Christianity. Timeout for that.

It's time out for it.

As the prayer team comes the saints of God in the Bible, who were real
Christians, who were really disciples, followers of the way of Jesus.
They did life together, y'. All. It wasn't a once a week type thing.
They did life together.

And when one was lacking and the other had, they helped. And guess
what? They helped without criticism and judgment and gossiping and
self righteousness. Amen. They loved each other and they encouraged
each other and they lift each other up and they broke bread together
and they went to each other's houses.

How many people do you know where they live? And you've been in their

house in this church.

And we're community.

They carried each other's burdens.

They were a family. The family of God.

Amen. It's time out for factions access, right?

So if you're in the room today, I want to tell those online, thank you for watching. God bless you. We pray you have a beautiful week. Close the door. Jesus reigns.

We'll see you next week.