

**KEY MENS' INVITATIONAL 2024**  
Spiritual Warfare Workshop  
Presenters: Geoff Jordan, Rev. Paul Jordan

**Introduction:**

In his commentary on the book of Jude, Bible scholar and author Dr. Warren Wiersbe wrote "The Christian life is a battleground, not a playground". Whether we are aware of it or not, all Christians have a very real enemy, in this battle, whose goal is to steal, kill and destroy.

My first real experience of spiritual warfare in Chennai, India in early 1978. Sherry and I had been married 7 months, and had been praying about going to India as missionaries and had an opportunity to go, look around and talk to leaders there. We were in bed asleep and about 2 am we both woke alarmed, sitting bolt upright in bed after feeling the bed sheets were being pulled off us. I looked around the dimly lit room and saw no-one, reached over and turned on the light, the door was still locked and there was no-one in the room. We thought we had been "visited" and prayed 1 John 1:7b against the presence "and the blood of Jesus Christ His son cleanses us from all sin." We then slept peacefully for the rest of the night. I believe Satan's goal at that time was to use fear to scare us into abandoning our mission to India. We went to India 4 years later. This short prayer has stopped nightmares, interfering attacks and cleansed many hotel rooms where the enemy runs from the power of the blood of Jesus, who destroyed the works of the devil.

When the FBI trains investigators for their counterfeit currency task force, they do not spend a lot of time on counterfeit currency bills, but by intensely study the real currency notes, then their inspectors can easily spot a fake.

In the same way, a Christian is protected by the study of God's truth so he/she can discern a deception or outright lie and deception is Satan's main weapon against believers.

The book of Ephesians puts spiritual warfare in perspective for us, about identity: Chapter 1 - "The Believer's Position", Chapter 2 - "A Saving Grace" Chapter 3 - "God's Plan", Chapter 4 - "A Christian's Walk", Chapter 5:1-20 - "Personal Conduct", Chapter 5:21 - 6:9 "Personal Relationships", Chapter 6: 10-24 - "Christian Warfare". Ephesians deals with spiritual warfare for a believer, after we have learned all that God has done to plan for us in eternity, to save us, to instruct and train us, then finally to equip us to be aware of and victorious over our infernal enemy. So we **do not focus on the enemy, but always on Jesus**, "Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ." Colossians 1:28 ESV. But we are in constant combat with Satan and we need to know who he is and how he operates ... that's good military strategy.

**Truth:** God's Word is the Word of Truth, the only source of absolute truth about God, ourselves, the physical and the spiritual environment in which we live. It is the most precious commodity in the world. Proverbs 30:5 ESV says "Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him." A promise from the **GOD of truth** in the **Word of truth**. John 16:13 "But when the **Spirit of truth** comes, he will guide you into all truth. We are led by the Spirit of Truth. John 14:6 We see that **Jesus embodies truth**. "... I am the way, the truth and the life."

The word: Greek "logos" refers to words in general, spoken, written, in John 1:1 the word "logos" is used to refer to Jesus. Every word of the "logos" is found in the dictionary, the physical book itself does not have power. Greek word "rhema" - is the Word of God empowered by the Holy Spirit. This is what has power over the enemy, as we speak the Word of God.

Acts 17:11 describes what the church in Berea did as Paul taught there, "they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." 1. Received with eagerness, 2. Checked out if it was true.

**Man is Made in God's Image:** Genesis 1:26a ESV "Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image and after our likeness.'" With capacity to know God and relate to Him.

**Man is Placed in the Garden:** Genesis 2:16 "... put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it." We have no concept of how beautiful and full of life the garden was before the fall.

**Eve joins Adam:** Genesis 2:22 "And the rib that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man."

**The Serpent in the Garden:** Genesis 3:1 "Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made". John 8:44 tells us "he is a liar and the father of lies".

**The Curse from God** Genesis 3:15 "And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise your head and you shall bruise His heel." Who is the seed of the serpent? Gen 6:12 KJV "all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth."

**Satan:** This third identity that appears in the Garden of Eden, is described in Ezekiel 28:12-19 NKJV. "Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, 'Thus says the Lord God: You were the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone was your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And shall be no more forever.'" This ending destruction of Satan is prophecy yet to be fulfilled.

#### **Description of Lucifer:**

- full of wisdom
- he was perfect in beauty
- apparently light in many colors was coming from him
- timbrels and pipes ... apparently music coming from him
- a cherub, one of highest order of angels
- "covering cherub" ... guardian, possibly of God's glory, responsible for worship of God in heaven
- perfect until iniquity was found in him (iniquity ... self-willed-ness)
- multitude of thy merchandise ... trading, lobbying, whispering to other angels to join his rebellion, convinced 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of angels to follow him and rebel against God
- a slanderer, falsely accused God, imputed wrong motives, Leviticus 19:11
- a talebearer, flatterer, Proverbs 20:19
- corrupt, Jeremiah 6:28
- carried tales to shed blood, commit lewdness, Ezekiel 22:9
- Jesus said "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven", Luke 10:18

Lucifer became Satan, was "cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him." Revelation 12:9.

**Lets go to Isaiah 14:12-15 ESV** “How you are fallen from heaven, O Day Star, son of Dawn! How you are cut down to the ground, you who laid the nations low! You said in your heart, ‘I will ascend to heaven; above the stars of God I will set my throne on high; I will sit on the mount of assembly in the far reaches of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.’ But you are brought down to Sheol, to the far reaches of the pit.”

Notice the 5 “I wills”:

- I will ascend to heaven above the stars of God
- I will set my throne on high
- I will sit on the mount of assembly
- I will ascend above the heights of the clouds
- I will make myself like the Most High.
- Lucifer’s pride caused his downfall and God’s judgment.

Revelation 12:4 tells us “His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth.” The ranking of angels is very well organized and although we don’t know the number of cherubim in heaven, we do know about archangels Michael, commander of the Lord’s army and Gabriel, God’s annunciation messenger to His people (as he did to John the Baptist’s father, Mary, Joseph). Lucifer was another named cherub, very powerful, “covering cherub” suggests original leader of all the angels.

**Where is Satan now?** In Ephesians 2:2 he is referred to as the prince of the power of the air. He operates in the air (Gk. Aer), he operates not in the “Gk. Ether” which is the upper atmosphere, but close to the ground, at work in the sons of disobedience. So, people are either serving God or serving Satan, there is no neutral or third option.

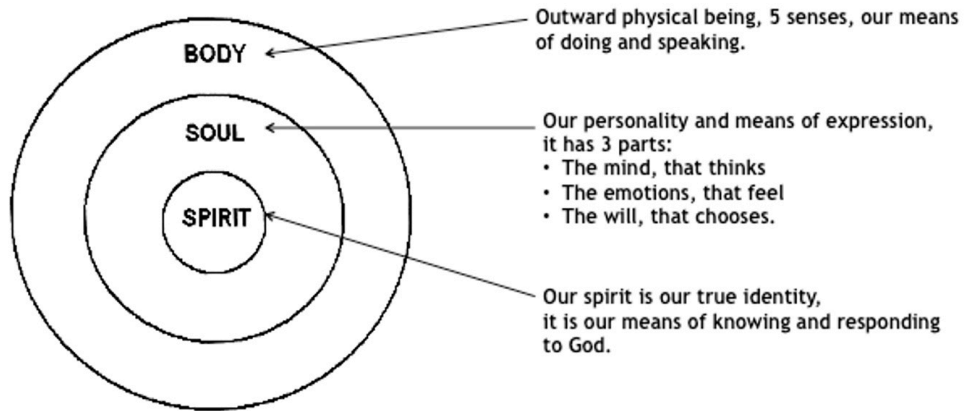
If we receive Jesus we have the right to be in God’s kingdom (John 1:12). If we reject Jesus we remain in Satan’s kingdom as sons of disobedience. Satan has legitimate authority over all those who reject Jesus ... he rules over rebels, enslaving them.

**Descriptive Names of Satan:** Some of the 50 in scripture.

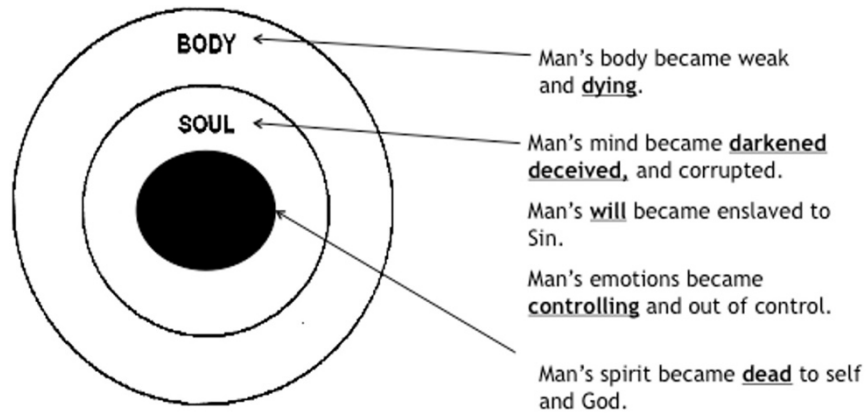
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|------------|---|---|
| POSITION:  | Prince of this world, John 12:31,16:11<br>The god of this world, 2 Corinthians 4:4  | Prince of the power of the air, Eph. 2:2<br>The ruler of demons, Matthew 12:24                    |
| CHARACTER: | Devil, Luke 4:2, defames God/believers<br>Great dragon, Revelation 12:3,7,9<br>Destroyer, Rev. 9:11, of physical & spiritual life | Serpent of old, Rev. 12:9, crafty deceiver<br>The evil one, John 17:15, influences the world      |
| ACTIVITY:  | John 10:10 steals, kills, destroys.<br>Accuser before God 24/7, Rev. 12:10.   | Tempter, Matthew 4:3<br>Murderer from the beginning, John 8:44<br>Liar, father of lies, John 8:44 |
|            | Spirit that now works in the sons of disobedience, Ephesians 2:2.   |   |

**The three parts of man:** 1 Thessalonians 5:23b “... and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Also, in Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” This verse refers to the soul, spirit and body of man.)

## THE THREE PARTS OF MAN

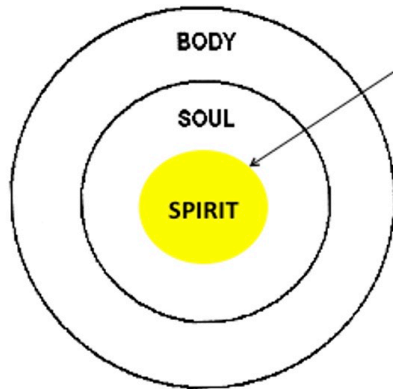


## AT THE FALL



"...and so death spread to all men because all inned -" Romans 5:12b

## JESUS CHRIST RESTORES GOD'S IMAGE IN US



Our old nature was **crucified** with Christ.  
*Galatians 2:20*

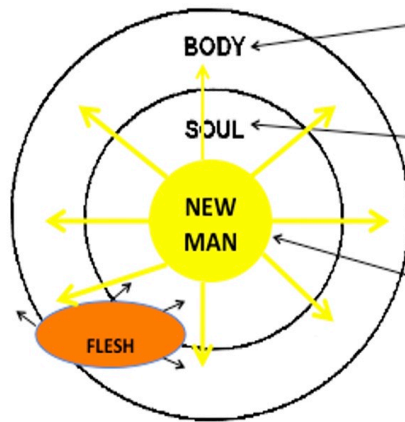
Our spirit has been **made new**.  
*Romans 8:9-10*

Christ has given us a brand new **identity**.  
*1 Peter 1:23*

Our spirit is now **indwelt in union** with God's Spirit.

*1 Corinthians 3:16 "Don't you know that you are the temple of God and that God's spirit dwells in you?"*

## WE ARE BORN AGAIN

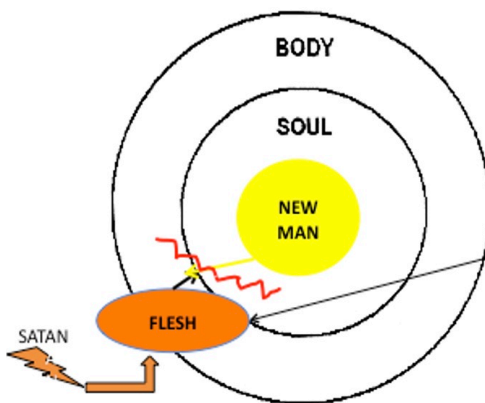


Will be replaced and even now it will carry out the directions of the renewed mind.  
*Romans 8:6*

Mind, emotions and will begin to be renewed by the truth of God's Word.  
*Romans 12:2*

Has been reborn. It is now holy, blameless, complete, perfect, unconditionally loved, righteous, kept, in union with God's Spirit.

## WE ARE NEW CREATIONS, SO WHY DO WE STILL SIN?



• We still have a **three-fold** enemy.

-Indwelling sin - flesh, its drives and habits, memories

-Satan - appeals to the memory of the old nature

-World system - tries to conform us into its way of thinking.

• We are still prone to walk according to the **flesh**. The "flesh" is the **memory** and habit patterns of how we used to get our needs met, without Christ. (*Greek: sarx*).

*Galatians 5:16.*

*"But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."*

NIV changed "sinful nature" to "flesh" (*Greek sarx*) on Nov. 11, 2011.

Spiritual Warfare is about the battle for the mind and in looking at this battle we want to understand what the battle is and who the enemies are.

**Read Matthew 16:13-17** Peter spoke a thought that he had ... who did Jesus say this thought was from? **From God.**

**Read Matthew 16:21-23**, Peter verbalized another thought that he had, who did Jesus say this thought was from? **From Satan.**

Peter apparently thought initially that these thoughts were his own, but one came from God and one came from Satan.

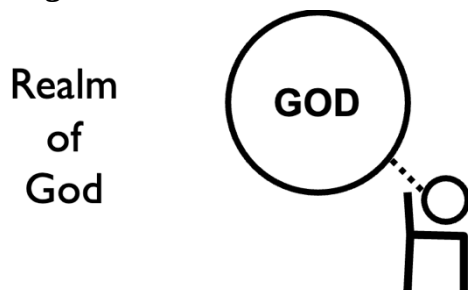
We have about 50,000 thoughts per day, some from God, some from Satan and others are from ourselves. A new and compelling thought to act or make a decision, especially if motivated by fear or a sense of urgency, can be from the enemy.

2 Corinthians 10:5 tells us to take the thought captive and make it obedient to Christ. Like calf roping at a rodeo, we chase and lasso that thought and bring it to God's Word to make it obedient to the Lord. We renounce and reject bad thoughts. There is a non-stop battle in your mind, for your mind. Demonic spirits cannot read our mind but they can inject thoughts.

1 John 4:1-3 gives us a biblical test for thoughts that may have been injected by evil spirits. We ask God "would this spirit or thought agree that Jesus came in the flesh?" God replies with a "Yes" or "No" answer every time. He gives us this test to discern the spirits and He will surely reply when we ask Him.

## **BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW - THE THREE REALMS** From Dr. Timothy Warner

### Diag. 1

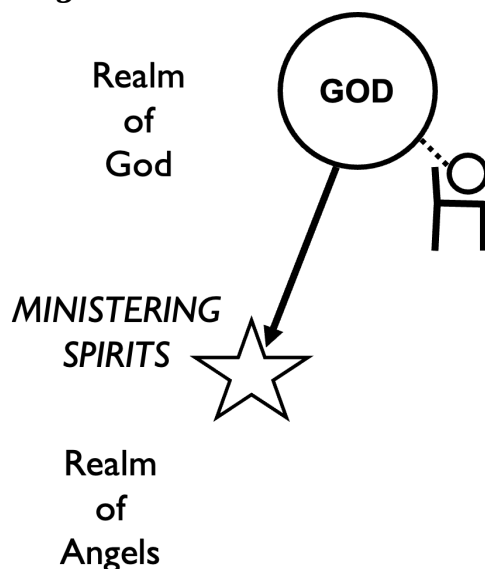


1. This worldview has 3 functional realms: The realm of God (deity), the realm of angels (holy and fallen) and the realm of people and things.

2. The God of the Bible is the only occupant of the realm of God "...who inhabits eternity" Isa. 57:15.

- a. God is sovereign, on the throne, over all of His creation.
- b. Satan apparently aspires to inhabit this realm as the equal of God (2 Thess. 2:4, Luke 4:7), but he is not in the realm of deity and will never be there.

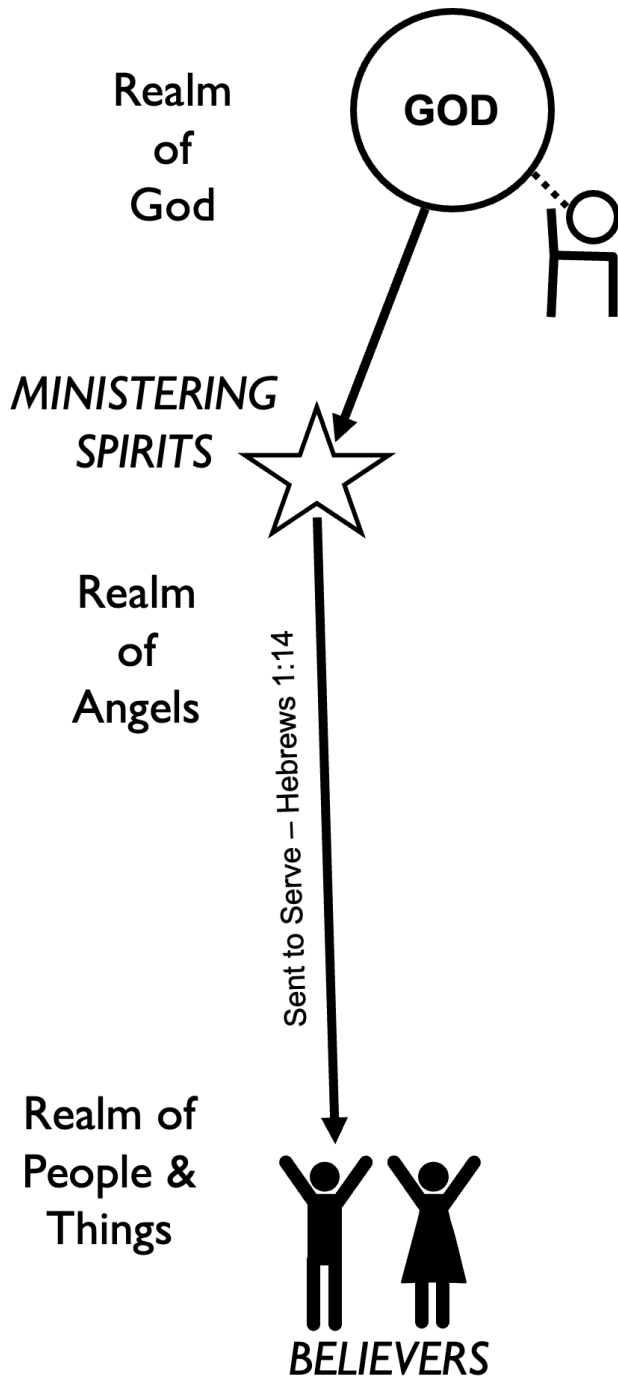
### Diag. 2



3. The realm of angels is fully populated and fully functioning just as it is pictured in the Scriptures (over 300 references to angels in the Bible).

- a. Number of angels is limitless (Ps. 68:17, Dan. 7:10, Heb.12:22).
- b. There are many types of angels: cherubim, seraphim, archangels, etc.
- c. Their character as created by God is holy (Matt. 25:31).
- d. Their role is that of servants (Heb. 2:14 "ministering spirits").
- e. Their functions include:
  - 1. Ministering to God in worship (Ps.103:20, 148, Rev.3:17)
  - 2. Ministering to Jesus (Matt. 4:6, Luke 22:43)
  - 3. Ministering to the saints (Heb. 1:4) by:
    - Protecting (2 Kings 6:17)
    - Conveying God's guidance (Gen. 24:7; 31:3; Dan.8:15,16; 9:3; 9:20f, 10:12f)

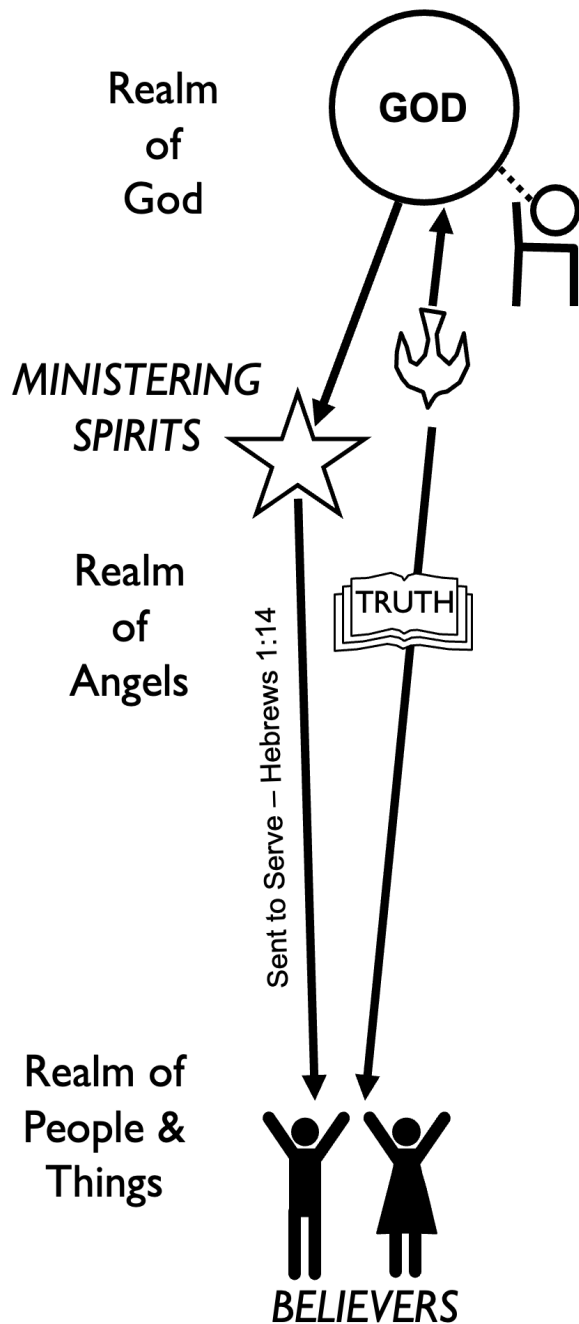
Diag. 3



- Delivering from enemies (Gen.19, Dan 3:28, Acts 5:19, 12:7)
- Serving as personal guardian angels (Psalm 34:7, 91:11, Matt. 18:10, Acts 12:23)
- Destroying enemies (Gen. 19:13, Ps. 78:49, 2 Chr. 32:1, Is. 37:36, Acts 12:25)
- Controlling the forces of nature (2 Sam. 24:15; Matt. 28:2; Rev. 7:1,2,16)

4. The believer's relation to God must have a solid foundation in biblical truth and must be a functional relationship, not just theological information, for all other relationships to be what they ought to be.

Diag. 4



**A. It must be based on truth.**

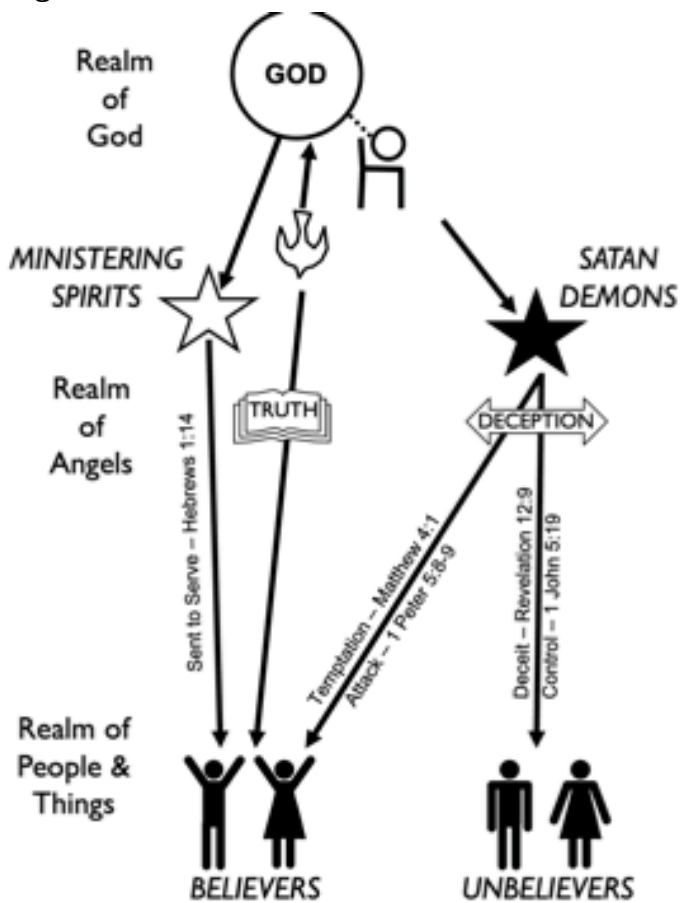
- a. Our life needs to comply with what God says about it in His Word, especially about sin and our identity in Christ.
- b. We must be totally honest with Him, putting on the armor of the belt of truth.

**B. It must involve the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

- a. The Holy Spirit must be a functioning part of our worldview.
- b. The Holy Spirit must be "the Spirit of wisdom and revelation" for us in order that we may have the full and correct knowledge of God (Eph. 1:17).
- c. He is the One on whom we depend for guidance (Jn. 14:16,17; 16:13)



**Diag. 5**

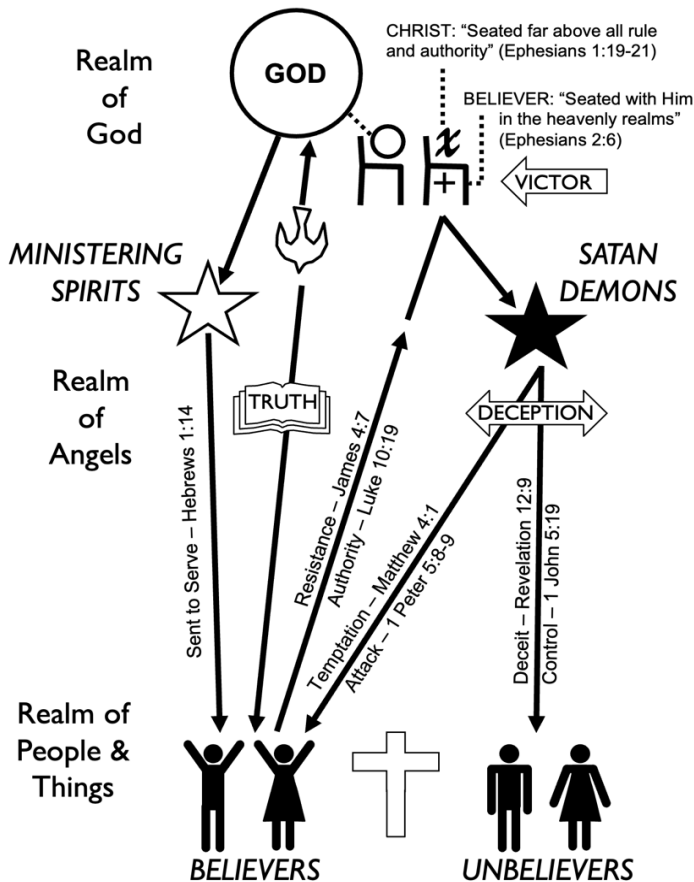


The original harmony of creation was destroyed when one of the highest angels rebelled (Gen. 3:5, Luke 4:7,2, 2 Thess. 2:4, Isa.14:12-15, Eze. 28:12-15).

**C. Satan holds the unsaved in his control:**

1. His primary tactic is deception (Rev. 12:9, Jn. 8:44)
  - a. It is a clever tactic because when you are deceived, you do not know it.
  - b. Deception is the “trap” by which he controls us. (2 Tim. 2:24,25)
  - c. He needs to tell unbelievers only one lie, i.e. there is a way other than the cross to find meaning and fulfillment in life (Jn.14:6, Acts 4:12).

**Diag.6**



**D. Christ is seated far above rule and authority (Ephesians 1:19-21)**

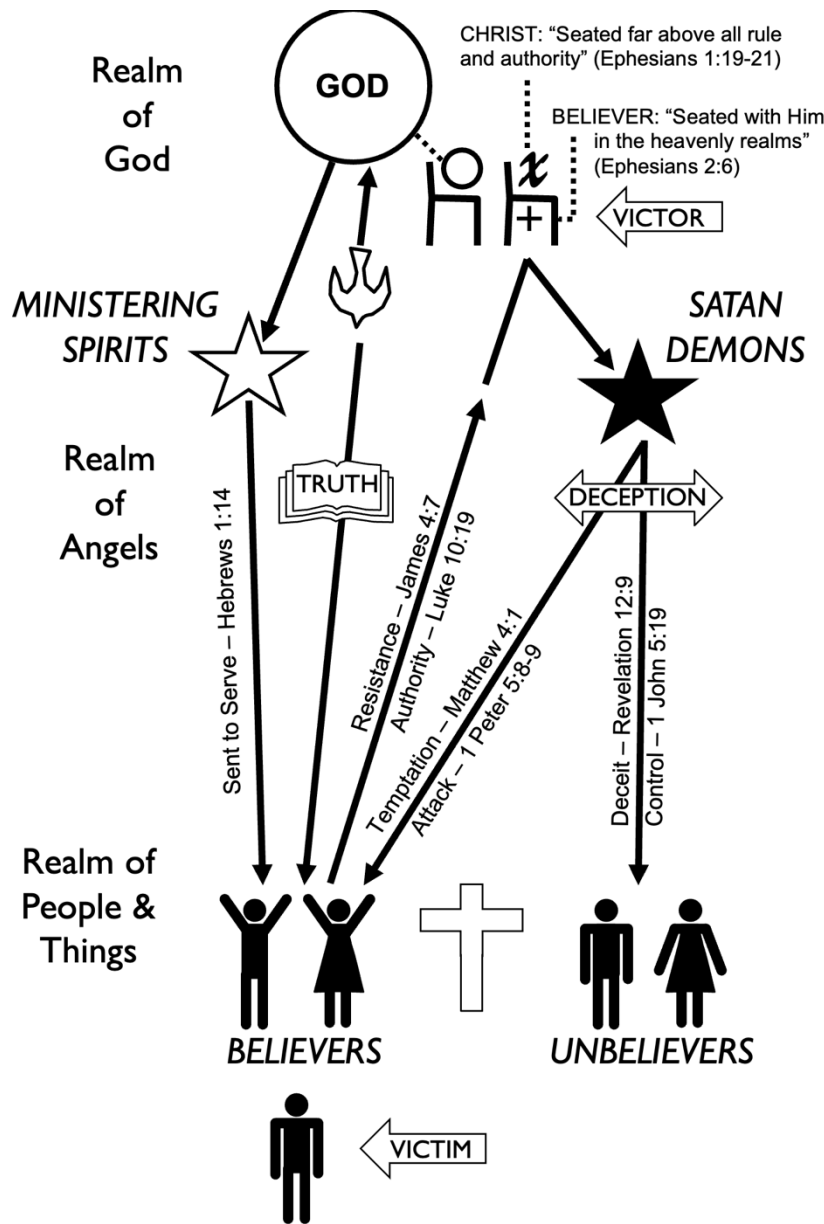
The believer is “raised (us) up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:6)

We are to “reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ” Romans 6:17.

The victory of the cross:

1. Matt.1:21 Jesus came to save His people from their sins.
2. Col.2:13, 14 All of our sins were nailed to the cross and cancelled (forgiven).
3. 1 John 3:8 Jesus came to destroy the works of the devil.
4. John 19:30 The last words of Jesus on the cross before He gave up His Spirit were “it is finished”. His purpose was fully accomplished.
5. 1 Cor. 2:7,8 Regarding the “hidden wisdom of God”, “none of the rulers of this age understood this, if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

Diag. 7



**E. Satan is constantly on the attack against the believers. (1 Pet. 5:8,9)**

1. We must anticipate temptation just as Jesus did (Heb. 4:15)
2. We must expect other kinds of attacks (1 Pet. 5:8,9, 1 Thess. 2:18)
3. Deception is still his primary tactic (2 Cor. 11:3)
4. His principal aim is to cause us to be spiritually ineffective by living at a level that is not "to the glory of God" (Ex. 20:7, 1 Cor.10:31)

**F. Unbelievers through the cross of Jesus become born again believers.**

**G. The believer who does not appropriate his authority in Christ will live as though he is a victim and will see himself as a victim. He needs to repent, put on the whole armor of God and assume his position of authority in the Lord Jesus Christ, "seated with Him in the heavenly realms".**

Dr. Howard Hendricks of DTS asked a pastor friend "how are your doing? He replied, "not bad under the circumstances", after which Dr. Hendricks asked him "what are you doing under there?". Our true position is seated with Christ in the heavenly realms, He has given us His authority. Matt. 28:18.

We have perfect acceptability to God, full access to God and complete authority from God. The "triple A club".

## PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

**Stand Strong:** Read Ephesians 6:10-18. NKJV

Therefore, take up the whole armor, of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day and having done all, to stand firm. We need to put on the armor daily.

**1. Belt of Truth** – the Roman belt was 6-8” wide and gave freedom to move because the other items hung from it. If we are tempted or attacked, we know it, but if we are deceived, we don’t know it. We live in an age of deceit; we get lies from all directions when inputs don’t agree with God’s Word. Our cultural background, entertainment, the media, advertising, government, just living life, constantly confronts us with wrong information. It is foundational to put on the belt of truth, don’t be deceived.

### 2. Breastplate of Righteousness

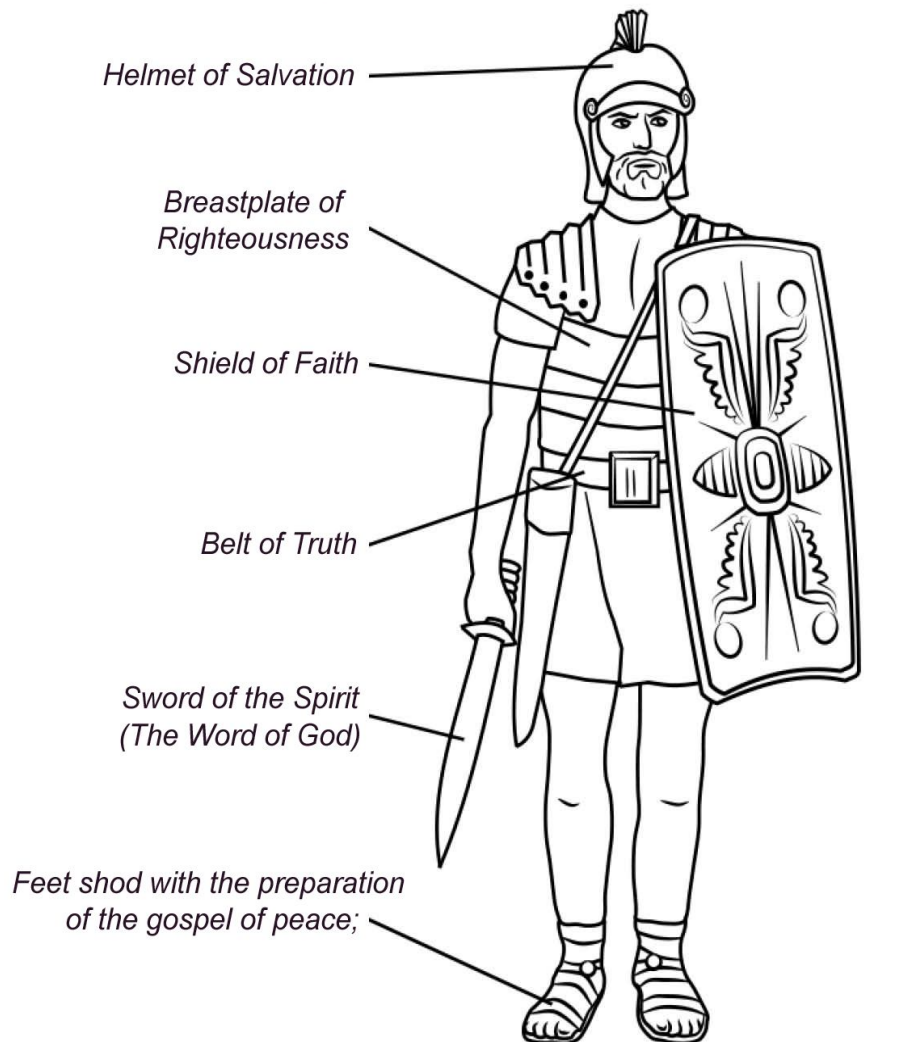
– it covered the vitals of heart and lungs, penetration of the breastplate was usually fatal. The righteousness that will protect you is not yours, it’s Christ’s. Phil.3:9 “...the righteousness from God that depends on faith”. Prov. 28:1 “The wicked flees when no one pursues.”  
Face the enemy; it’s dangerous to retreat.

**3. Shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;** with securely strapped sandals (greaves). Those gave protection against sharp spikes and obstructions. A strong, no-slip stance in battle through the victory that has already been won. The first 3 armor items are positional, i.e. God given. The next 3 are to be taken up by us.

**4. Shield of Faith** – the shield was 4 x 2.5ft, overlaid with linen and leather to absorb fiery arrows. Faith is simply believing God and that will do what He has said. The shield was to be totally protecting with no damage or holes. Any unrepaired holes could cause the soldier to lose the battle. Holes are unresolved issues in our mind: e.g. evolution/creation, lack of assurance, doubts about our total forgiveness ... fix the holes by studying the sufficient Word of Truth to be strong by believing the Bible.

## PUT ON THE FULL ARMOR OF GOD

*Ephesians 6:10-18*



*“Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”*



The integrity of the shield was essential in group battle and 27 soldiers could use the shield together, in the Tortoise Formation.

One formation had 6 soldiers in front then 3 rows of 7 each, covering the sides and top with interlocked shields. Testing involved running chariots over the formed tortoise. This weaponry is how the Roman Empire conquered such a vast area militarily.

**5. Helmet of Salvation** – has nothing to do with salvation since Paul is writing to saved people. It is the guarantee of salvation and the hope of God’s promised deliverance. It provides protection for the head and protects the brain and the mind against wounds that could mostly prove fatal for the soldier. (Pro. 3:5,6)

**6. Sword of the Spirit** – the Roman machira was 24” long and sharpened on both sides. With this revolutionary innovation they returned legendary battle victories. Soldiers had to be specially trained and well-practiced to use this close-in weapon.

**7. The All-ness of Prayer** – V18 NKJV “praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints.” Prayer is “The heavy artillery”, long range weapon.

Paul was likely chained at times to a Roman soldier while imprisoned in Rome and drew spiritual insights from both the armor and its description in the Old Testament writings (Isaiah 59:17).

How do we put on the Armor of God? By prayer through the items daily. Examples: Warren Weirsbe, Charles Stanley.

**Part 2: Rev. Paul Jordan**, on blessings and curses:

**Closing Prayer:** Colossians 1:9 JB Phillips puts it this way, “We are asking God that you may see things, as it were, from his point of view by being given spiritual insight and understanding”.

## Greek Words for Curse

### Nouns:

Ara Used only once in Rom. 3:14 - Cursing a malediction.

### Katara

Found in almost all religious history, are utterances that are designed to bring harm by supernatural operation. Self-cursing for breaches of oaths. Jesus forbids His disciples to curse in Luke 6:28. Gal. 3:10, 13 curse is used concretely of Christ as having "become a curse" for us, I.e. by voluntarily undergoing on the cross the appointed penalty of the curse, He thus identified, on our behalf, with the doom of sin.

### Anathema

Handing over to God's judicial wrath in I Cor. 16:22, Gal. 1:8, Rom. 9:3.

### Katathema

Put something under divine curse. Rev. 22:3

### Verbs:

#### Anathematizo

Devoted to destruction, accursed, to curse (Mark 14:71) or to bind by a curse (Acts 23:12, 14, 21).

#### Katanathematizo

Denotes to utter curses against. Peter puts himself under a curse if he is lying, or puts the people under a curse if they discern that he is a disciple. Matt. 26:74

#### Kataraomi

To pray against, to wish evil against a person or thing. Matt. 25:41, Mk. 11:21, Lk. 6:28, Rom. 12:14, Jas. 3:9

#### Kakologeo

To speak evil. Matt. 15:4, Mk. 7:10 (of father and mother.)

### Adjectives:

#### Epekataratos

Cursed, accursed (epi upon) Gal. 3:10, 13

#### Eparator

Accursed in John 7:49

Taken from Vine, W.E., Expository Dictionary of N.T. Words, and Bromiley, Geoffrey W., Theological Dictionary of the N.T.

SCRIPTURAL REFERENCES RE: CURSES

**Genesis:**

3:14, 3:17, 4:11, 5:29, 8:21, 9:25, 12:3, 27:12,13, & 29, 49:7

**Exodus:**

21:17, 22:28

**Leviticus:**

19:4, 20:9, 24:11,14,15, & 23

**Numbers:**

5:18, 21, 22, 23, 24 & 27, 22:6, 11, 13, 25, & 27, 23:28, 24:9  
& 10

**Deuteronomy:**

7:26, 11:26, 28 & 29, 13:17, 23:4, 5 & 21, 26:16-19, 27:13,  
16-26, 28:15, 19 & 20, 29:20,21, & 27, 30:1, 7 & 19

**Joshua:**

6:17 & 18, & 26, 7:11 -13 & 15, 9:23, 22:20, 24:9

**Judges:**

5:23, 9:27 & 57, 17:2, 21:28

**I Samuel:**

14:24, 17:43, 26:19

**II Samuel:**

16:5,7,9 & 11-13, 19:21

**I Kings:**

2:8

**II Kings:**

2:24, 9:34, 22:19

**I Chronicles:**

2:7

**II Chronicles:**

34:24

**Nehemiah:**

10:29, 13:2 & 25

**Job:**

1:5 & 11, 2:5 & 9, 3:1 & 8, 5:3, 24:18, 31:30

**Psalms:**

10:7, 37:22, 52:12, 62:4, 109:17, 18 & 25, 119:21

**Proverbs:**

3:33, 11:26, 20:20, 24:24, 26:2, 27:14, 28:27, 29:24, 30:10 & 11,

**Ecclesiastes:**

7:21 & 22, 10:20

**Isaiah:**

8:21, 24:6, 34:5, 43:28, 65:15 & 20

**Jeremiah:**

11:3, 15:10, 17:5, 20:14 & 15, 24:9, 25:18, 26:6, 29:18 & 22, 42:18, 44:8, 12, & 22, 48:10, 49:13

**Lamentations:**

3:65

**Daniel:**

9:11

**Zechariah:**

5:3, 8:13

**Malachi:**

1:14, 2:2, 3:9, 4:6

**Matthew:**

5:44, 15:4, 25:41, 26:74

**Mark:**

7:10, 11:22, 14:7

**Luke:**  
6:28

**John:**  
7:49

**Acts:**  
22:12 & 14

**Romans:**  
3:14, 9:3, 12:14

**I Corinthians:**  
12:3, 16:22

**Galatians:**  
1:8 & 9, 3:10 & 13

**Hebrews:**  
6:8

**James:**  
3:9 & 10

**II Peter:**  
2:14

**Revelation:**  
22:3



## THE DANGER OF A "HARMLESS" SOUVENIR

Have you ever wondered why God told Israel; "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me."? (Exo.20:3) There is far more at stake than just the idea that God only is to be worshipped. Man is an incurable worshipper. He was made in the image of God, and therefore by design, man was made to worship God only. Rom. 1:23 teaches us that if we fail to worship the true God, we will fashion a god of our own imagination and worship it - the creature, more than the Creator! God is so concerned about worshipping Him, that He even instructed Israel; "...and make no mention of the name of other gods, neither let it be heard out of thy mouth." (Exo.23:13) God doesn't even want us to talk about other deities, that's how serious a matter it is.

God further instructed Israel in Exodus 34, that when they came into the promised land, they were to break down the pagan altars, and destroy their gods. Note God's purpose for this instruction...so that Israel would not go to worshipping them instead of Jehovah, and be drawn away from Him.

I Corinthians 10 adds even another dimension. The Corinthians were partaking at pagan altars to pagan deities, and then would come to the assembly of saints, and worship there. Paul came down very hard with them instructing that to partake at the altar of a pagan god was to actually partake at the altar of Satan! Therefore God also had the PROTECTION of His people in mind - protection from the power of Satan which can reside in an idol. This principle was forcefully driven home to a pastor recently.

A pastor and his wife were given a vacation in a rented condominium. Upon awaking the very first morning there, the pastor was having his quiet time with God. A battle began to rage! He began having a flood of sensual thoughts that were in conflict with his purpose of meeting with God. The man tried to pray and ask God for their removal. Alas, the prayers seemed to be ineffective. The man tried reviewing Scripture he had memorized, and this failed to clear away the disturbing thought pattern. In desperation the man tried to think back to some unconfessed sin which may have needed attention, but even this proved ineffective.

As the Pastor sat there in the quiet of that condominium, he began to sense that maybe the place needed cleansing from whatever had taken place there in the past. So again, prayer was made, asking the Lord to cleanse the building by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son. The distracting thought pattern persisted.

About this time, the Lord seemed to impress the pastor with the idea that maybe there was some object in the room through which Satan was able to exert some evil influence. Again he prayed and asked God to direct him to whatever object might be the source of the trouble.

As he continued to sit there reflecting on this unique problem, he began to look around the room, when all of a sudden, his attention was directed to a small black statue - handcarved, - the kind you would pick up in a novelty store. It sat harmlessly on the top shelf of a bookcase, about 5 inches high. The man cautiously went over and picked it up and turned it around. To his utter amazement was a little sticker on the back which read; "THE GOD OF SUCCESS". Then there followed a little prayer which one was to pray if one needed success in business or whatever.

The man called to his wife in the other room, and showing her the idol, related the problem which he had just been experiencing. Reminding her that this was not their apartment, and that the idol was not theirs

to dispose of, he asked her what they should do? Pausing to think the matter through, she finally suggested they put the idol face down in an unused closet, as far back as possible so as not to give it any honour. Then she recommended they pray and ask God to break whatever Satanic power may be attached to it for the duration of their stay there.

The pastor did with the idol as his wife had suggested. They then prayed that the Lord would indeed break Satan's influence there through that "harmless" little novelty idol. God did indeed hear their prayer, and the barrage of sensual thoughts disappeared, and they finished out there vacation without further incident.

There is a most interesting sidelight to the story. The condominium is owned by one of the pastor's church people who had graciously offered it to the pastoral couple for a much needed rest. When the pastor and his wife returned, one of the first things they did was contact the owners of the condominium. Their contact went something like this: The Pastor said, "You'll never guess what we experienced at your condominium!" To which the owner replied; "Don't tell me, let me guess...was it something related to that little black idol on the bookshelf?" The pastor was utterly amazed that he should think that. Well, the incident was related to the owner of the building. He responded that the idol had been received at a Christmas party where all were to exchange \$2.00 gifts. This "harmless" idol had been a gift to them. He admitted he had felt uncomfortable for some time about it, and had planned to destroy it upon his next trip. The idol was ultimately destroyed!

This illustrates why God never wanted His people make idols, to get them from others, or even to speak their name. Satan's power can very definitely be attached to them. Remember, Satan will rob the Christian of his victory and power any way he can. "Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God." -2 Cor. 7:1 Let us be motivated to cleanse our homes of all that Satan would use to make our lives powerless, and victory-less!

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