

POSSESS THE LAND

A journey through the books of
Deuteronomy and Joshua
giving us direction how we should
"Possess the Land"

This is a journey for the "older generation" (Moses)
as well as the "younger generation" (Joshua)

One good thing is that God is fighting for us!
"You must not fear...,for the Lord your God Himself fights for
you." (Deut. 3:22)

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Pastor Dan Nell

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Pastor Dan Nell

POSSESS THE LAND

POSSESS **THE** **LAND**

There are “Eight Domains”
that we as the Church should conquer.
God showed me how we should conquer them.

If we really want “To Impact our Worlds” we should walk the
journey with Israel through the books of Deuteronomy and Josua
to discover what helped them to “Possess the Land.”

We all have a “land” to “possess”

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ISBN Number: 978-0-620-80479-0 (5th July 2018)

Why a book on "Possess the Land"?

- Because we live in a time that Christians should take hold of what God wants them to have.
- Each one of us should and can live a victorious life.
- Teaching on this subject is very important and needed. We must "Possess the Land" for the Kingdom of God.

What Alan Platt (Vision Leader of Doxa Deo) saw in 1996

Alan said: “I see...”

In my spirit thousands of people across the City of Johannesburg, Tshwane, Cape Town, Port Elizabeth, Durban, Bloemfontein, London and Auckland and Cities still to come, bowing their hearts in surrender before the Lordship of Jesus Christ, welcoming His authority, opinion and rule in their lives.

Every sphere of society. EDUCATION, BUSINESS, ARTS CHURCH, GOVERNMENT, MEDIA, SOCIAL SOCIETY and SPORT all being influenced by the glory of God through kingdom agents taking the calling of being a City Changer as the primary definition of their lives. The full stature of Christ being taught and encouraged to discover these Christ followers growing into heir identity and inheritance in the Son, enjoying the grace-filled privilege of unbroken fellowship with the father and living a life as a City Changer in the power of the Holy Spirit.

The restoration of families and homes where brokenness and pain are restored by the power of love flowing between husbands and wives and children and parents. Where guilt and shame make way for unconditional acceptance and favour as experienced in the Grace of God toward us.

Restoration of broken relationships. Husbands and wives holding hands in public spaces. Dads and sons playing together in parks and on the beach, watching sport together and enjoying each others company. Moms and daughters laughing together encouraging and loving each other as they together enjoy the good things of life.

Every Church becoming **environments of grace**, where single parents and broken people that have struggled to survive are embraced in **circles of love**. Where they feel safe through support and the love of God's people sharing resources and God's grace freely, supporting them to enjoy a quality of life and an understanding of being called to be a contributor to the dream.

Small groups of people reaching out to one another, supporting people that are going through tough times. Giving of their resources, time and talents as they invest in others lives, not only the Word and the wisdom of God, but tangible expressions of grace. Restoring people to become partners in the Dream. People that are excited to give of their time, their gifts and their possessions in service of the Kingdom of God. Living to serve the purposes of God, to fulfil His plan on the earth. A serving community of Christ followers, people of Passion living with Purpose.

Churches reaching out to one another, where church leaders embrace one another and stand together in unison to make a statement and a difference for the Kingdom in our Cities! Where we support and champion other live giving expressions of Kingdom activity in our geographic space!

Children and Young people going to school, colleges and Universities with excitement at being trained in the fear of the Lord. Where students engage in a Godly environment with an education that establishes a Christian worldview, Godly beliefs and values so that they will grow and develop to take up their place in society as Kingdom CITY CHANGERS!

Artists that give expression through creativity, bringing worship to God in what they create. Where they prophetically proclaim in various artistic expressions the goodness and the grace of God. Where they inspire people to live with hope and conviction in the revelation of God's favour upon man. Where they will redeem the Arts from its depravity to be an instrument of grace!

Sportsmen who fearlessly share their testimonies, living with integrity and humility. Unashamedly loving Jesus and His church. Being role models influencing and raising up a generation who are proud to belong to the family of God. Men and woman who know they have been raised to a position of influence for a time such as this!

God fearing politicians who will govern righteously. Police men and women who love Jesus, hate injustice and will lay their lives down for truth. Righteous judges. Principled and incorruptible government officials. Men and women of stature in high and influential positions acting in alignment with the order of God. Creating a just and Godly society.

The media excited to share good news. Films, TV, Theatre productions and Newspapers, all printing, publishing and proclaiming the testimonies of the goodness of God and wholesome living. That the airwaves, social media platforms, billboards, and every creative communication space of our society celebrates Kingdom life. This without being offensive, judgemental or patronizing!

People delivered of self-centeredness and the confines of race, culture and ethnicity. People reaching out across social, cultural and racial boundaries to touch lives and share resurrection life with one another. To empower others and to create a society free from pride, prejudice and exclusiveness.

That we will move beyond our comfort zones to engage the need on the 'other side' The light of GOD going up over us and His glory becoming evident in every sphere of society

Isaiah 60:1-4

"Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the GLORY OF THE LORD has risen on you. For behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the peoples; but the LORD shall rise on you, and His glory shall be seen on you. And the nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawning."

Lift your eyes all around and see people of PASSION who live with PURPOSE, RAISING PEOPLE OF PASSION.

SURRENDER – To Know

PASSION FOR GOD
PASSION FOR INTEGRITY

SERVE – To Show

PASSION FOR PEOPLE
PASSION FOR SERVICE

SUBDUE – To Go

PASSION FOR CITIES
PASSION FOR NATIONS

Cindy Jacobs wrote a book in 1991, called:
“Possessing the gates of the Enemy”

In her fourth edition she said: “This year (2018) will be a time where we are going to possess these gates—opportunities that are before us that we haven’t been able to reach before. In other words, we’ve not been able to go through the gates of opportunity.

It’s very interesting that this promise was given to Abraham around 2018 B.C., which was 2018 years before Christ and [it’s now] 2018 years after, so it’s like a double full-circle time. We are children of Abraham, since we have been grafted into the vine, so promises given to Abraham are promises for us. Now, let’s talk about some ways to possess those gates.

Number one, you must be prepared. Sometimes people just take life day by day, like, “Well, whatever comes, I’m going to deal with it, but this is a year to possess your future. So, you need to look and say, ‘What does God want me to accomplish this year? What is it that I am supposed to possess? What are those things that have been dreams that you have longed to fulfill?’”

It’s a time to dream again. It’s a time to sit down and say, “Maybe we had a business failure, or maybe we had something happen to our family, or maybe that dream didn’t come true,” but don’t give up on your dream. Possess it. This is a special year with special promises. We need to get ready for it, but how do we do that? One way is to surrender to God. Just surrender everything to God.”

Cindy Jacobs is an author, speaker and teacher with a heart to disciple Nations in the areas of prayer and prophetic gifts. She and Mike—her husband of 43 years—co-founded Generals International in 1985.

Contents

<u>LESSON NO. 1</u>	10
IF WE WANT TO BE VICTORIOUS, YOUNG AND OLD HAVE TO JOIN HANDS TOGETHER	
<u>LESSON NO. 2</u>	18
YOU CAN ONLY TAKE HOLD OF WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE	
<u>LESSON NO. 3</u>	22
WHEN YOU “POSSESS” - LEARN TO GIVE	
<u>LESSON NO. 4</u>	25
IT IS IMPORTANT TO OBEY GOD AT ALL TIMES IF YOU WANT TO KEEP WHAT YOU RECEIVED	
<u>LESSON NO. 5</u>	29
WHAT IS “THE LAND” WE SHOULD CONQUER?	
<u>LESSON NO. 6</u>	40
TO CONQUER ANYTHING, WE MUST FIRST CONQUER OURSELVES	
<u>LESSON NO. 7</u>	41
WE WILL EXPERIENCE THE JOY IN LIVING IN GOD’S BLESSINGS IF WE ARE WILLING TO OBEY HIM	
<u>LESSON NO. 8</u>	42
SOMETIMES YOU WILL FIND THAT GOD WILL USE THE NON-CHRISTIANS TO HELP YOU OVERCOME AND PROVIDE IN ALL YOU’RE NEEDS	
<u>LESSON NO. 9</u>	45
WHEN YOU WANT TO OVERCOME ANYTHING IN LIFE, THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THINGS TO REMEMBER	
<u>SPIRITUAL WARFARE</u> (Some notes that should be of help to you)	49

LESSON NO. 1 **IF WE WANT TO BE VICTORIOUS, YOUNG AND OLD HAVE TO JOIN** **HANDS TOGETHER**

What does the word “Possess” means?

In Hebrew the word “possess” is “achuzzah” (Strongs #272) meaning: “Something obtained, seized or held.”

To possess something, you have it or own it. (Collins Dictionary)

The word “Possess” will you find 52 times in the book of Deuteronomy and 10 times in the book of Joshua.

I AM SHARING WITH YOU TODAY WHAT I FOUND, WHEN I STUDIED DEUTERONOMY AND JOSHUA CONCERNING THIS TOPIC.

I encourage you to make a study of these books yourself and pray that God will give you a lot of information and revelation concerning how we should “Possess the Land.” This study will change your life as it changed mine.

All of us have a “Promised Land” to possess!

This whole thing about possessing the land is not about “Name it and claim it” because it’s much more than that.

I pray that the Lord will help us, as His children, to really take control of every facet of this world we are living in, so that His kingdom will come on earth as it is in heaven.

Jesus prayed for this to happen in **Matt. 6:10** “Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.”

For Moses God said:

Deuteronomy 1:8 “See, I have set the land before you; go in and possess the land which the Lord swore to your fathers – to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – to give to them and their descendents after them.”

Verse 21 “Look, the Lord your God has set the land before you; go up and possess it... do not fear or be discouraged.”

For Joshua God gave these promises in Joshua chapter one:

Verse 3 “Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you as I said to Moses.”

Verse 5 “No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life.”

Verses 6,7 “Be strong and of good courage...Only be strong and very courageous.”

Verse 8 “This book of **the Law** shall not depart from your **mouth**.”

Verse 11 “Pass through the camp and command the people, saying: Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over the Jordan, **to go in to possess the land which the Lord your God is giving you to possess.**”

We were created to have authority over everything.

Genesis 1:26 “Then God said: Let Us make man in Our image, according to our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, (remember this when you go fishing again) over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

God gave us a wonderful promise in Psalm 2:8 where He said:

“Ask of Me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession.”

God is a God for the nations, and He wants his Church to also have a heart for the nations. Don't just pray for: "Us four and no more"

We should sing the following song until it grips our hearts:

"Break me for the Nations.

Let my heart become Your heart, for all the world.

Send me to the harvest.

As an ambassador to speak Your holy Name.

Send me, use me, as a vessel yielded in the Master's hand.

And please touch me with Your anointing, for a world that's broken and in need."

(Klaus Kiehn, CFNI)

One thing the "younger generation" of today must remember and that is, they will become "older"

Joshua 13:1 *"Now Joshua was old, advanced in years. And the Lord said to him: You are old, advanced in years, and there remains very much land yet to be possessed."*

To possess this land for God, young and old must work together

- It all starts with **WORSHIP**
Worship can join a church or divide it.
- But we also need **"THE CALEB ATTITUDE"**

We read in Joshua 14:10-12 *"And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old.*

As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both

for going out and for coming in. Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said."

And in Joshua 15:14 we read: *"Caleb drove out the three sons of Anak from there: Sheshai, Aliman and Talmi, the children of Anak."*

- Caleb and Joshua were the only two spies (out of twelve) that said that Israel could conquer the land. That was when he was 40 years of age.
- He did not say that he was physical as strong as when he was 40 years old. Because strength and power is not always in your body but in your spirit.
- The Anakim were giants. Their name "Anakim" meant "the long-necked men" They were the most dreaded inhabitants of Canaan. But Caleb believed in himself and in his God and knew that he had power in his tongue.
The Bible says: *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit."* (**Prov. 18:19**)

There will always be giants to conquer. Spiritual warfare will never stop until we have no more battles to fight.

In **2 Sam. 21:15-22** we read of the last four giants Israel had to overcome. What stands out is the words in verses 19, 20 *"Again there was war at Gob...Yet again there was war at Gath..."*
The one war will follow the other one. This is how life will be.

Three of these giants were called by their name. One of them was not named. We only read in verse 20: *“Yet again there was war at Gath, where there was a man of great stature, who had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot, twenty-four in number, and he also was born to the giant.”*

It is good if you can “name your giant” but some “giants” are not known by their names. It is difficult to fight your battles and you don’t know who you are fighting.

In the medical world, when doctors don’t have a name for a disease, they just say it’s a virus. That can be a problem what medicine to use against that virus.

In the spiritual it’s the same. If you can name your problem, you will know how to stand up against it.

One thing always to remember, when you’re fighting a giant, is to have the right attitude

David had the right attitude before he accepted to fight Goliath. We read about this in **1 Sam. 17**.

The morning David was sent by his father to take some food to his brothers in the army, we read that his eldest brother talked down on him.

In verse 28 we read: *“Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men, and Eliab’s anger was aroused against David, and he said: Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.”*

David answered Eliab what wrong did he do by just asking. This shows what attitude David had. He did not tell his brother that he will go and tell his father how wrongly Eliab handled him.

Because of the attitude in David's heart he could overcome the giant Goliath.

We will never overcome our giants if we do not have the right attitude. Attitude is how you think and feel.

Talking about a good attitude

Examine your own attitude by reading the **“Be-Attitudes”** of Christ in **Matthew 5 to 7**. When I talk on this wonderful teaching of Christ in these chapters I refer to them as **“attitudes to be”**

Collins Dictionary says this about “attitude”

“Your attitude to something is the way you **think** and **feel** about it, especially when this shows in the way you behave.”

In **Deut. 20** we find “The Principles Governing Warfare”

In this chapter God teaches Israel what their attitude should be **“When you go out to battle against your enemies... (Deut. 20:1)”**

Attitude No.1 Not to allow fear. (v. 1-4)

In 2 Timothy 1:7 we read: *“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.”*

- There is natural fear.

For example: When I find myself in the middle of a highway and a big 25-ton truck comes charging down on me, I will jump out of the way, because of natural fear in my heart.

- But there is a fear that causes stress.

This is the fear that even goes with me to bed at night so that I cannot have a good rest.

Stress is a killer. That's why we must thank God for His Holy Spirit that will help us with **power, love** and a **sound mind**. The main battlefield of our lives is **the mind**.

Because of too much stress in my life I had to undergo a five-by-pass heart operation on the 26th March 2006.

It was then that God told me how we could overcome stress.

- (1) The first thing for you is to do introspection.
Introspection is the examining of your own thoughts, ideas and feelings.
- (2) Then address these thoughts and feelings with the Word of God. Every negative thought and attack from the devil can be conquered through God's Word.
- (3) The next thing for you to do is to find someone you can trust to talk to. There is power in agreement (Matt. 18:19)
- (4) Listen to good music that will bring calmness to your soul.
- (5) Don't watch TV programmes before you go to bed that will disrupt God's peace inside of you.

Attitude No.2 Focus on what you should conquer and don't allow any material thing and most of all not yourself hinder you to conquer what God planned for you. (Verses 5-8)

Attitude No.3 Always be willing to fight under covering. (v. 9)
Many of us lose our battles because we want to fight by ourselves.

If we fight under covering, we will always be under protection.

Attitude No.4 Only fight the real enemy. (v. 19, 20)

Sometimes we fight our wife or husband; other family and best friends. We even destroy good things in life to conquer. This is the wrong thing to do.

The god of this world has established his strongholds in the land, but God wants us to have things in abundance.

Jesus said in John 10:10 *“The thief (the devil) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy, I have come that they (My children) may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”* The Greek word (perissos) “abundantly” means:
overflowing; surplus; over and above; more than enough; more than sufficient.

WHAT WAS ISRAEL'S “LAND” THEY HAD TO POSSESS?

It was Canaan where they would have the following:

- PEACE
- PROTECTION
- ENOUGH PROVISION
- WHERE THEY COULD MULTIPLY

Whatever you possess in your life must bring you peace, protection, provision and help you to multiply so that your growth will be a testimony for others.

Points to discuss

- How will young and old join hands together to possess?
- Decide what God wants you to possess and go for it.
- What do you think of the attitude Caleb had?
 (Joshua 14:10-12)

LESSON NO. 2 YOU CAN ONLY TAKE HOLD OF WHAT GOD WANTS YOU TO HAVE

Sometimes we think that we can just take everything as we want and when we want. It doesn't work like that.

I don't think "Name it and claim it" is the correct thing to do. Because it can be dangerous if you possess something that God did not want you to have.

Long before Israel came to Canaan, God said these words in **Exodus 23:29, 30** (This was preparing Israel when taking over the Promised Land) *"I will not drive them (the enemy) out from before you in one year, lest the land become desolate and the beasts of the field become too numerous for you. Little by little I will drive them out from before you, until you have increased, and you inherit the land."*

Only when we are ready to take over God will allow it to happen. If we do it according to our will we will not be blessed.

We must only possess what God tells us to possess.

(Read n **Acts 16:6,7** and you will find that God's Spirit hindered the apostles to even preach God's word in Galatia)

- **God told Israel not to take the land of Seir.**

God already gave it to Esau. They should buy food and water from the inhabitants when they move through this land.

Deut. 2:3-6 *"Do not meddle with them, for I will not give you any of their land, no, not so much as one footstep, because I have given Mount Seir to Esau as a*

possession. *You shall buy food from them with money, that you may eat; and you shall also buy water from them with money, that you may drink."*

- **The story of Esau (Gen. 36)** was that he traded his birthright for a bowl of stew.
- He wanted to kill Isaac, his brother, because he received the first-born blessing from his father Abraham. This blessing should have been his.
- He chose wives in direct opposition to his parent's wishes.
- But there was a time he forgave Isaac for taking his first-born blessing that belonged to him. Because of this he found favour with God. This is why God gave the land Seir to him and his offspring.

- **The same thing happened in the land of Moab.**

God had already given this land to Lot and his descendants. **Deut. 2:9** *"Then the Lord said to me: Do not harass Moab, nor contend with them in battle, for I will not give you any of their land as a possession, because I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot as a possession."*

The third land Israel came to was the Amorites.

The first king they conquered was king Sihon.

In **Deut. 2:26-29** we read the message they sent to king Sihon: *"Let me pass through your land; I will keep strictly to the road, and I will turn neither to the right nor to the left. You shall sell me food for money, that I may eat, and give me water for money, that I may drink; only let me pass through on foot....But Sihon king of Heshbon would not let us pass through,* for the Lord your

God hardened his spirit and made his heart obstinate, that He might deliver him into your hand, as it is this day."

Because king Sihon did not want Israel to pass through his land, Israel took his land from him.

The second king they conquered in the land of the Amorites was king Og of Bashan where they conquered 60 cities (Deut. 3:1-11)

King Og was a big guy and was known as a giant!

We read in **Deut. 3:11** these words: "...his bedstead was an iron bedstead. Nine cubits is its length and four cubits its width."

The Living Bible translates Deut. 3:11 as follows: "Incidentally, king Og of Bashan was the last of the giant Rephiam. His iron bedstead is kept in a museum at Rabbah, one of the cities of the Amonites, and measures thirteen and a half feet long by six feet wide." (four meters long and two meters wide!)

Deut. 3:3,4 "So the Lord our God also delivered into our hands **Og king of Bashan**, with all his people, and we attacked him until he had no survivors remaining. And we took all his cities at that time; there was not a city which we did not take from them: **sixty cities**, all the region of Argob, the kingdom of Og in Bashan."

The word to businessmen and woman are:

Only possess what God tells you to possess. Don't be greedy and then later loose everything you had.

Points to discuss

- How can we as businessmen and woman “Possess” the business world for Christ?
- What can we do to write a business plan for our community?
- How can we help small businesses to flourish in a time that big malls makes it difficult for them?
- How can we help Christians to start a good business?
- What can we do to “dispossess” those businesses that hinder God’s kingdom in our community? (If you are “dispossessed” of something that you own, especially land or property, it is taken away from you. - Collins Dictionary)

Note:

In 1 Chronicles 13:8-17 we learn a great lesson from David. He asked God if he could fight against the Philistines. When God gave him permission, he conquered them. But when they came a second time to fight against David, he was humble enough to ask again if he may fight them. This should be our attitude if we want to win our battles.

LESSON NO. 3 WHEN YOU “POSSESS” - LEARN TO GIVE

This is what God told Israel to do with some of the land and cities they possessed. Deut. 3:12 – 17

Israel firstly gave some of the land to their own tribes.

When God blesses you, the first thing you must do is to give to your fellow Christians.

Galatians 6:10 *“Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, **especially to those who are of the household of God.**”*

The first church in Jerusalem did the same

Acts 4:32 *“Now the multitude of those who believed were of one heart and soul; neither did anyone say that any of the things he **possessed** was his own, but they had all things in common.”*

Then in **verses 34,35** we read: *“Nor was there anyone among them who lacked; for all who were **possessors** of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of the things that were sold, and laid them at the apostles’ feet; and they distributed to each as anyone had need.”*

Paul gives good teaching to the Corinthian church on giving.

2 Corinthians 9:6-8 *“But this I say: He who sows (give) sparingly will also reap (receive) sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So, let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.”*

Amplified Bible: “Let each one (give) as he has made up his own mind and purposed in his heart, not reluctantly or sorrowfully or under compulsion, for God loves (that is, He takes pleasure in, prizes above other things, and is unwilling to abandon or to do without) a cheerful (joyous, prompt-to-do-it) giver – whose heart is in his giving. And God is able to make all grace (every favour and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need, be self-sufficient – possessing enough to require no aid or support and furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation.”

God wants to give you enough, so that you can
give away enough!

The Living Bible translates verse 8 like this:

“God is able to make up to you by giving you everything you need and more, so that there will not only be enough for your own needs, but plenty left over to give joyfully to others.”

Testimony

I thank God when he helped my wife and me to discover this wonderful truth of “sowing and reaping”

We were in debt and really struggled to make ends meet. Then we both decided to give extra “seed” to missions. I remember that day that while we were praying over the amount we decided to give to missions that we said: “Lord, we are giving this money every month in faith, and we are giving our “seed” a name. Every time we will give this “seed” the name of this “seed” will be “**debt free**”

And in a few months, we could see how God changed our financial position. **Today we are debt free!** We give God all the praise for this.

ALWAYS REMEMBER: IT IS GOD THAT GIVES YOU POWER TO GET WEALTH

Deut. 8:18 *"And you shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth..."*

Wealth is more than riches

WHEN YOU'VE "TAKEN YOUR LAND" YOU MUST GIVE TO OTHERS, BECAUSE GOD HAS GIVEN UNTO YOU.

If you study **Deut. 26:1-15** you will find that you should:

- Bring your "first fruits" to God in the place of worship. (v.1,2,10)
- Then you should give to the Levites (fulltime spiritual workers) the fatherless and the widows. (v.12,13)

In **Deut. 14:29** we read: *"And the Levite (fulltime spiritual worker) because he has no portion nor inheritance with you, and the stranger and the fatherless and the widow who are within your gates, may come and eat and be satisfied, that the Lord your God may bless you in all the work of your hand which you do."*

Points to discuss

- What does God want to teach us in **2 Corinthians 9:6-11**?
 - Must I give in abundance?
 - What kind of attitude should I have when I give?
 - Can I expect to receive when I give?
 - When God blesses me should I bless others?

LESSON NO. 4
IT IS IMPORTANT TO OBEY GOD AT ALL TIMES
IF WE WANT TO KEEP WHAT WE RECEIVED

ALWAYS OBEY GOD IN WHATEVER YOU DO ESPECIALLY WHEN HE BLESSES YOU.

Deut. 4:1, 2 *"Now, O Israel, listen to the statutes and the judgments which I teach you to observe, that you may live, and go in and possess the land which the Lord God of your fathers is giving you. You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."*

AVOID THE WAYS OF THE WICKED, AFTER YOU POSSESSED YOUR LAND

Deut. 18:9 *"When you come into the land which the Lord your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominations of those nations."* **The Living Bible translates Deut. 18:9 as follows:** *"When you arrive in the Promised Land you must be very careful lest you be corrupted by the horrible customs of the nations now living there."*

God's Word must possess your life first before you try to possess anything else.

If you try to possess anything without obeying God's WORD you will not be able to keep your possession and glorify of God.

God gave the land of Canaan to Israel. The giving was God's part, the taking was Israel's part. The land was theirs, but they had to take it !

What is given to you by God is
not automatically yours.
You must possess it!

IT TAKES A BATTLE TO CONQUER ANYTHING!

**IN THE NEW TESTAMENT GOD GAVE US WONDERFUL WEAPONS TO
OVERCOME OUR ENEMIES**

- **The first He gave us is our position in Christ**

According to **Ephesians one** we are blessed; forgiven; heirs; sealed with His Spirit and the enemy is under our feet.

(1) BLESSED

*"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has **blessed us with every spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places in Christ." (Verse 1)*

(2) FORGIVEN

*"In Him we have redemption through His blood, **the forgiveness of sins**, according to the riches of His grace." (Verse 7)*

(3) HEIRS

*"In Him we have obtained an **inheritance...**" (Verse 11)*

(4) SEALED WITH HIS SPIRIT

*"In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, **you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise...**" (Verse 13)*

(5) THE ENEMY IS UNDER OUR FEET

According to verses 20-23 God raised Jesus from death and gave Him authority over all principalities and power and everything that has a name and put it all under His feet. Because Jesus is the head of the church and we are the body, it means that everything is also under our feet. Praise God for that!

- **According to Ephesians 6:10-18 God gave us:**
Truth; Righteousness; Faith; Salvation; His Word; Prayer
- **In 2 Corinthians 10:1-5** we read that we can cast down arguments against God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.
- **Then He gave us the Name of Jesus in Phil. 2:9,10** *“Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth. And that every tongue should confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.”*
- **Praise and Worship is a mighty weapon against the enemy.**
One of the best examples in the Bible we find in the book of **2 Chronicles 20** where a multitude came to fight against Israel and how Jehoshaphat put the singers and worshippers in front of his army (**verses 21-23**)
If we can praise and worship God in spirit and in truth, He will give us the **“land”** we should conquer.
Nehemiah 8:10 *“the joy of the Lord is your strength.”*

Start praising God today for who He is and you will see how He will fight for you !

Points to discuss

- How should we allow God's Word to possess our lives before we can think of possessing anything?
- Read Ephesians chapter one to find out what our Position in Christ is.
- In Ephesians 6:10-18 we find wonderful weapons. How do we put them on?
- What about Praise and Worship?

LESSON NO. 5

WHAT IS “THE LAND” WE SHOULD CONQUER?

God has revealed to me the following **eight domains** we as Christians should “possess” for His kingdom. Remember, it is never about us, but it is always about Him.

Martin Luther is recorded to have said that a gospel that does not deal with the issues **(or the domains)** of the day is not a gospel at all.

What is the meaning of the word “Domain”?

Collins Dictionary says: A “domain” is a particular field or thought, activity, or interest, especially one over which someone has control, influence, or rights. A territory over which rule or control is exercised. Such as: Government, Politics & Diplomacy. Or a land owned by one person, or a family.

Webster’s College Dictionary says: It is a field of action, thought or influence. The territory governed by a single ruler or government. A. land to which there is superior title and absolute ownership.

The domains we should conquer are:

- (1) **Marriage and Family Life**
- (2) **Business and Economics**
- (3) **Arts and Culture**
- (4) **Social and Spiritual**
- (5) **Media and Entertainment**
- (6) **Politics**
- (7) **Sport**
- (8) **Education**

The gospel should influence our marriages and family life; the business and economics; arts and culture; the social way and spiritual way people live; the media and entertainment world; politics; sports and education. Yes, all walks of life!

The first “domain” I want to talk about is:

MARRIAGE and FAMILY LIFE

I want to highlight “**Marriage and Family Life**” because that is where everything starts in this earth.

If the devil can attack our marriages and our families, and be successful, he will disrupt God’s plan in many domains of life.

You will conquer this “land” of yours (Marriage and Family life) if you are willing to build on the **four pillars**, we find in **Eph. 5:22-33**, namely: **Submission**; **Love**; **Unity**; and **Respect**.

Husband, wife and family is the smallest entity of our community, but very powerful. That’s why the enemy attacks are focused on this entity.

I use the word “**entity**” because the family exists separately from anything else and has a clear identity of its own.

If we are not able to be victorious against any attack on our marriages and our family, how will we be able to possess any land?

To understand what the 4 Pillars in marriage are, let us study Ephesians 5:22-33

(1) SUBMISSION

v. 22 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

Paul gives advice to the church concerning marriage and his first words are addressed to the woman, because they want to know first.

Paul touches the most difficult subject for anyone to hear, and that is: **“submit”**

The Collins Dictionary says this about submission:

“If you are submissive, you obey someone without arguing.”
You can disagree without arguing.

v. 23 “For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He (Christ) is the Saviour of the body.”

According to this the wife should not be the head in the home. (I am referring to a “normal” household of a married couple that’s healthy and blessed by the Lord)

It is therefore the husband’s responsibility to look after and care for his wife, because she submits to him. By doing this she deserves to be protected by her husband.

v. 24 “Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”

Wives must accept the word “everything” knowing it can never include doing sin or anything that does not please God.

(2) LOVE

v. 25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

For the husband it is a command to love his wife, if he feels like doing that or not. He should love his wife in such a manner that he will be willing to even die for her, as Christ died for the church.

v. 28, 29 “So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church.”

A husband should love his wife as he loves his own body. If you love your own body you won't harm it or disrespect it.

If you do not love yourself how will you ever love others, including your wife?

(3) UNITY

v. 31, 32 “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.”

To “leave” the family means not to allow your family to rule your house. And to be “joined” to your wife means “to stick to her like glue” Nothing must be able to pull you apart.

(4) RESPECT

v. 33 “Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.”

In conclusion Paul wanted to let the husband know that he should really love his wife and that there should always be respect in the marriage for each other.

Husbands must respect their wives as well if they want God to answer their prayers! **1 Peter 3:7** *"Husbands, likewise, dwell with them (your wife) with understanding, giving honour to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, **that your prayers may not be hindered.**"*

To sum up: The 4 Pillars in Marriage in Ephesians 5 are:

Submission; Love; Unity; Respect

God's order for the family are:

Husband; wife; children and then anybody or anything else.

Testimony

After being in fulltime in the ministry for 14 years, God sent a pastor from America to teach all our pastors of a region about God's order. Until that time God's order for me was: God first, then the "work of the Lord" and then my family.

When the American pastor left my wife wanted an appointment with me, by writing it in my diary for the next Wednesday.

I never expected what is waiting for me until 14h00 that Wednesday when Helen told me that she loved me and respected my ministry, but her problem was that I gave all my time to the church members and public and neglected to give time for her and our four sons.

This whole conversation took three hours and a lot of tears flowed. I felt so bad and realised that I failed in many ways.

I wanted to resign from the ministry. But Helen said I shouldn't do that, and we cried together before God and I made a decision to correct God's order in our family life.

After this we called the sons together and told them what happened in my study. There we together decided to start with a family evening for us and the whole congregation, every Tuesday evening. This helped us as well as our members to get back to God's order.

BUSINESS and ECONOMICS

The church used to leave the business and economics of this world to non-Christian business men and women.

But God wants the believers to conquer this "land" and He wants the wealth of the world to come to the church, so that it could be used to the glory of His name.

As farming is also a business, we must trust God to send a move through His Spirit on all farmers and their labourers.

We thank God what He is doing in our country through the ministry of "Mighty Men" We remember how 60,000 men (the most was farmers) came together on a farm in Grey town, South Africa in 2008 seeking God with their whole heart. From there God start moving all over our country when 50,000 and more came together in stadiums seeking God with repentance. Let us pray that this wave will touch the whole earth!

Do good in God's sight so that **Ecclesiastes 2:26** will be fulfilled as a promise of God to you, namely: "For God gives wisdom and knowledge and joy to a man who is good in His sight; but to a

sinner He gives the work of gathering and collecting, that He may give to him who is good before God."

Once a Christian car dealer told me that he could not be successful in his job, selling cars, if he had to be honest. How in the world did he think I had to believe this?

I pray that in each town and city Christian men and women will stand up and draw up a **business plan** for their communities. Down town areas are hit hard when the shift is to move the main shops to malls away from the centre of our towns and cities. Small shops close and crime increase in these "down town" areas. You in the business world must bring a change to this. Create jobs; get the non-Christians saved and help them to be successful business men and women, by teaching them God's principles in His word.

ARTS and CULTURE

The church should take this "land" for Christ. Talents God has given to people should be utilized for His kingdom.

In the past the church wasn't very positive in our thinking concerning those that had a gifting in arts and culture, especially when it came to drama and dancing. We should change our negative way of dealing with this and rather direct these gifting in the way it can be used to glorify God. We should thank God for the singers, musicians, writers and artists that are born again Christians. Those Christians in our churches that are blessed to have any of these talents must be encouraged to go to the highest level

possible. Write songs and books and paint as God inspires you to do it. Create a movie that will shake the world for Christ. Dr. Myles Munroe once said that many songs, books and paintings are buried in our cemeteries. This should not be the case concerning your life.

SOCIAL and SPIRITUAL

“Social” means relating to society or the way society is organized. Putting it into other words it means that if we are “Social” we relate to the need of our society.

To do social work is not just to give food to the poor or to clean up their streets. You can do this, but we as Christians should influence our society with the principles of God’s Word and teach them spiritual values. We should teach our society that “cleanliness” is close to “godliness” and therefore they should clean up where they live and should be willing to work for their daily needs. By doing this, we will “possess this land” for the Lord.

Concerning the spiritual

The Church should give direction to all spiritual matters in our society and not leave it for those that don’t believe and obey God’s word. God’s word must always have the final say in everything. For this reason, we should address all moral issues in our society.

MEDIA and ENTERTAINMENT

The TV and Radio world must be penetrated with people serving God. Actors can play a major role in conquering this world for Christ. You get good actors but the language they use and the moral standards they live by is a stumbling block to many well-behaved people in society.

Even if you are a comedian, you can have success without swear words. Some actors think that swearing and to blaspheme makes their presentation more powerful.

I pray that **Christian reporters** will stand up to give the correct report in newspapers and magazines. There are enough good things happening in our world that can be shared via the media.

POLITICS

If God could use Joseph as Prime Ministers in their time, God can use you as a Christian, in politics.

In this time of economic crisis, the world is in, God want to raise a Joseph to take us through these difficult times.

Someone once said: "You don't need to have ownership, but you need to be a good steward if you want to govern."

Joseph did not own Egypt or any part of it, but he was a good steward by looking after the king's property. By being a good steward, he governed the whole land, and in many ways he "possessed the land" for God.

Joseph protected his character by running away from sin when a married woman desired to have sex with him.

We know that he landed in prison because of the lies she told her husband Potiphar, but **Joseph eventually became prime minister of Egypt**. Protect your character as he did, so that God can use you in the political arena.

The politics of our country need men and woman with backbone to stand up for what is right!

SPORTS

When I became a Christian more than 50 years ago, it was sin to do any kind of sport.

I remember that some of my friends, who played rugby with me, became Springboks. This was also my dream, because I had potential. But because I became a Christian, I quit.

Today God is telling us to get believers in all kinds of sport to make a difference for His kingdom.

It was good news when I heard the other day that 18 rugby players out of 22 that played in our Curry Cup final in October 2008, were born again children of God.

Be the best for Christ in your sports and be a witness on and off the field of play. Train hard and be fit to give your best. Practise to be the best ball player in your team.

When someone asked Gary Player if you need luck as a golfer, he said: *"The more a practice, the luckier I get."*

If you do want to "dispossess" someone that plays in the position you desire, you must become the best in what you are doing in your game. No couch or country can keep a good player out of the team (or position) if he/she is the best.

EDUCATION

We need Christians in education, not just to bring the Bible back in the classroom to be read before the day starts, but to teach our learners to live a life of integrity.

It will be of no avail if the Bible is only read in the classroom before the day starts and then the teacher goes on with his/her bad behaviour or allow bad behaviour in class.

You must equip yourself to be an outstanding Christian teacher that God can use to help form the lives of our new generation.

Points to discuss

- Discuss the FOUR PILLARS in marriage.
- Discuss “God's order” for us as a family.
- Discuss all the domains mentioned above and trust God to give you His revelation to bring a change in all of these.
- In what “domain” can you be an instrument to make a difference in your community and even in your country?

LESSON NO. 6

TO CONQUER ANYTHING, WE MUST FIRST CONQUER OURSELVES

We find the story of David (going to the battlefield) when he brought bread and cheese to his brothers sent from his mom and dad. David's elder brother criticised him for being in the war zone and not attending to his sheep. In **1 Samuel 17:28** we read these words: *"Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he (David) spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said: Why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle."*

David did not react in a way that he would have complained as the youngest son to his father of Eliab's attitude.

What David said show his character. "What have I done now? I was only asking a question." (1 Samuel 17:29 – The Living Bible)

David kept his peace and because of this attitude he could conquer Goliath. You will be able to conquer your "Goliath" if you can conquer yourself.

If you read Romans 6 to 8 you will understand that Paul first conquered himself before he could shout it out in Galatians 2:20

"I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me."

Points to discuss

- How can we overcome ourselves?
- What is the real meaning of Galatians 2:20?

LESSON NO. 7
WE WILL EXPERIENCE THE JOY IN LIVING IN GOD'S BLESSINGS
IF WE ARE WILLING TO OBEY HIM

Deut. 28:1-14 tells us of all the blessings we can enjoy:

- You shall be blessed in the city and in the country (v. 3)
Wherever you may go, you will experience God's blessing.
- The fruit of your body and the produce of your land, including your flock will be blessed (v. 4,11)
Your body will be to God's glory, that's why you will have a healthy body and would be able to produce whatever is needed. What you sow or plant will be blessed by God.
- The food you eat will be blessed (v. 5)
It is true that what we eat and drink affects our whole life. Sanctify what you eat and believe nothing will harm you.
- When you are at home or when you travel (v. 6)
It is wonderful that **Psalms 91** promises us protection wherever we might find ourselves. In a car, in an airplane, on a boat, where we live and where we walk.
- Your enemies will be scattered (v. 7)
For this reason, the Bible says in **Isaiah 54:17** *"No weapon formed against you shall prosper. And every tongue which rises against you in judgment, you shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord."*
- *"You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow."* (v. 12) To borrow enslaves you but to lend gives you power.
- You will be the head and not the tail (v. 13)
You can be in front all the time and live a life of authority.

LESSON NO. 8
SOMETIMES YOU WILL FIND THAT GOD WILL USE THE
NON-CHRISTIANS TO HELP YOU OVERCOME
AND PROVIDE IN ALL YOU'RE NEEDS

Just like God used king Cyrus (as a heathen) to provide for Israel in the days that they were in captivity, so He will do for you. (Isaiah 45 and Ezra 1)

MANY TIMES YOUR PROVISION WILL COME FROM A NON-CHRISTIAN SOURCE

For Joshua it all started at "Acacia Grove"

According to **Numbers 25:1-3** this was the place where Israel committed harlotry with the woman of Moab, and where they worshipped their gods.

- Because of this, God sent a plague and 24,000 died.
- Through what Phinehas did, God stopped the plague and brought atonement between Him and Israel.

We read this story in **Numbers 25:7-13**

Now we find Israel again in Acacia Grove from where Joshua sent two spies to Jericho, and they lodged at the house of Rahab, the harlot.

The king of Jericho was told about these spies, and tried to capture them, but Rahab hid them in her roof.

She knew what God did for Israel, and said: "I know that the Lord has given you the land,...For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who

were on the other side of the Jordan, Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed...

And as soon as we heard these things, our hearts melted...for the Lord your God, He is God in heaven above and on earth beneath" (**Jos. 2:9-11**)

Then she asked the spies to spare her life and those of her family when they came to conquer Jericho.

The scarlet cord of Rahab (Jos. 2:1-17)

This "scarlet cord" saved everyone in the house of Rahab when Israel attacked Jericho. This "scarlet cord" is a type of the blood of Jesus. If God can see the blood (the scarlet cord) attached to you and your house, you will be protected.

Always sanctify yourself before you try to take any land

Jos. 3:5 "And Joshua said to the people: Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you."

The Scriptures commands us to live a Sanctified life

1 Thessalonians 4:3 "For this is the will of God, your sanctification."

John 17:17 "Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth."

Sanctification is to separate you from anything that does not please God, and to commit your **spirit, soul and body** to God.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 "Now may the God of peace Himself **sanctify** you **completely**; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Points to discuss

- How God used King Cyrus to provide in the needs of Israel. Study Isaiah 45 and Ezra 1
 - King Cyrus was a heathen, but God's Spirit came on him in such a way that he helped Israel to build the temple.
 - But God's Spirit came on him and told him that he should send Israel back to their country and even gave them money to rebuild their temple.
- What about Rahab? She became a part of the Genealogy of Jesus Christ. (Matthew 1:5,6)

LESSON NO. 9
WHEN YOU WANT TO OVERCOME ANYTHING IN LIFE,
THERE WILL ALWAYS BE THINGS TO REMEMBER

You must move in Faith.

The priests moved first with the Ark of the Covenant and had to put their feet in the water of the Jordan river, before God gave Israel a passage to go through the river into Canaan.

(Joshua 3:11-17)

Be watchful for those that will mislead you by disguising themselves in being your friends.

SATAN WILL TRY TO COMBINE FORCES AGAINST US, BUT GOD WILL ALWAYS STEP INTO THE BATTLE FOR US.

God even used hailstones from heaven and killed more of the enemy than Israel could kill with the sword.

Joshua 19:11 *"And it happened, as they fled before Israel and were on the descent of Beth Horon, that the Lord cast down large hailstones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword."*

Beware if there is someone in your group that allow greed to rule their lives!

Be alert that when you possess the land that there is no Achan that want to enrich himself with those things that belong to God. What I am saying is: Watch yourself that you don't find a greed in your heart to take for yourself what belongs to God.

Sometimes God can use “a funny way” to help us to conquer

To walk around Jericho in the way Israel did, is something “funny” to do. (Joshua 6) But whatever God tells you to do to possess anything in your life, be obedient and do it!

Erect Memories

Israel erected memorial stones in the Jordan as a testimony how God helped them to get through on dry ground. **(Jos. 4)**
You must always remember what God has done for you in the past.

Allow God to change your heart

Just as Israel had to circumcise their hearts **(Jos. 5:12)**
As **Romans 12:2** says: *“be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”*

Always know that your “Commander” is with you

You must always be aware of the presence of the Lord that is with you during each battle **(Jos. 5:13-16)**

We must always bless those working fulltime for the Lord

Read what God said concerning the Levites

Joshua 13:33 *“But to the tribe of Levi Moses had given no inheritance; the Lord God of Israel was their inheritance, as He had said to them.”* **Also read Joshua 21**

Points to discuss

- How the enemy comes in a disguise.
- The unnatural ways God can use to give us the victory.
- The importance of obeying God's instructions when He gives us the opportunity to conquer.

CONCLUSION

Moses conquered two kings (Sihon and Og) on the left side of the Jordan river (Joshua 12:1-6)

Joshua first conquered 31 kings on the right side of the Jordan River (Joshua 12:7-24) and later conquered more (Joshua 13:1)

God fulfilled His Promise to Israel concerning their Land.

Joshua 21:43 and 45 *"So the Lord gave to Israel all the land of which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they took possession of it and dwelt in it...Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass."*

God will do the same for us, because His promises to us are

"Yes" and "Amen" 2 Corinthians 1:20 *"For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us."*

MAKE A CLEAR DECISION IN YOUR HEART WHAT “LAND” YOU SHOULD POSSESS, AND GO FOR IT IN THE NAME OF THE LORD!

THIS MAY BE:

- Your spiritual life.
- Your health.
- Your personal finances.
- Your business.
- Your family life.
- Your community.
- Your city

A special word to the “Joshua Generation”

You need the authority of the “Moses Generation” to be placed on you by the laying on of hands!

This happened to Joshua. Deut. 34:8 *“Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and he did as the Lord commanded Moses.”*

In Numbers 27:18-20 we read these words: *“And the Lord said to Moses: ‘Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him; set him before Eleazar the priest and before the congregation and inaugurate him in their sight. And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.’”*

God will help you and me “to possess the land”

SPIRITUAL WARFARE

According to Ephesians 6, we are in a Spiritual Warfare

If we want to "Possess the Land" we must understand that our warfare is not against flesh and blood, but against the powers of darkness.

Secondly: We also need to understand who we are as spirit, soul and body.

Thirdly: We need to understand what God promised us what we can possess and how we can walk according what God promised in **Gen. 1:26** *"Then God said: Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle; over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

The church occupied a rather passive role as if it has a defeated attitude in the face of the enemy that rules the world. God wants His church to stand UP and "Possess the Land." The main reason is because Jesus Christ died for this whole earth and want to set everyone free that lived under the bondage of die devil. Believe that even the smallest town or village where you live, belongs to God.

The god of this world has established strongholds and authorities in the land. The word that came to Israel in the time of Moses is also the word for the Church of today.

Deut. 1:8 *"See, I have set the land before you, go in and possess the land..."*

God wants His people to be victorious and strong that they can rule, rather being ruled by circumstances. He wants a people that will magnify His Name and make God their refuge, their shield and their conqueror.

God gave the land Canaan to Israel. The giving was God's part; the taking was Israel's part. The land was theirs, but they had to possess it. What is given is not automatically yours. No land will be possessed without a battle.

To fight any battle, we need to have weapons!

God has given us enough weapons to take possession over any stronghold in life.

2 Cor. 10:4,5 *"For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."*

Eph. 6:10-18 gives us a list of weapons we need for our battles.

Take note it is called "The Whole Armour of God."

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles (plans and methods) of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, (The Living Bible says: "For we are not fighting against people made of flesh and blood, but against persons without bodies...") against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having

done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked ones. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God: praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints..."

The following is called "The Whole Armour of God"

The Belt is God's Truth. **(John 8:44)**

The Breastplate is God's Righteousness. This means to be in right standing with God. **(Rom. 8:1)**

The Shoes on our feet is to be able to preach the Word.

The Shield of Faith is to protect us from the arrows of the devil.

The Helmet is to protect the mind. **(Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23)**

The Sword is God's Word. This is our offensive weapon against the enemy.

Praying in the Spirit is a part of God's Armour.

One thing we should (Possess) take control of is our "Mind"

Mark 12:30 *"You shall love the Lord your God...with all your mind..."*

Greek: "Dianoia" meaning: understanding, insight, meditation, reflection, perception and the faculty of thought. When our mind is renewed by the Holy Spirit, the whole mind-set changes from the negative and carnal mind to positive thinking.

We read in **Rom. 12:2** “...be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

You will renew your mind:

(1) If you are willing to examine the source of your thoughts.

(2) If you can bring every thought into obedience of Christ.

(2 Cor. 10:5)

(3) If you can train yourself to be “spiritually minded”

(Rom. 8:6; Phil. 4:6-8)

(4) If you can fill your mind with the Word of God. **(Heb. 8:10)**

The devil wants to blind our minds so that we will not be able to believe the truth of the Gospel van Jesus Christ.

(2 Cor. 3:14; 2 Cor.4:3,4; Col. 1:21)

Rom. 8:6,7 “For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.”

Watchman Nee said: “If a man will not use his intelligence, neither will God, but evil spirits will do so. They require a blank brain and a passive will. The thoughts evil spirits bring is to confuse and paralyze man’s mind so that it can no longer think clearly.”

We should also (Possess) take control of our “Will”

Man's will is his organ for decision-making. God made us with the capacity to make decisions, because He gave us the freedom of choice.

Exercise your will to make the correct decisions:

- (1) Don't be passive.
- (2) Stand by your decision and break double-mindedness.

(James 1:6-8)

- (3) Be willing to make wrong decisions.
- (4) Do not let circumstances guide you.

Proverbs 25:28 *“Whoever has no rule over his own spirit, is like a city broken down, without walls.”*

We should (Possess) take control of our “Emotions”

Our mind tells us what we think, our will communicates what we want, our emotions expresses how we feel. (Watchman Nee)
Our Attitude is what we think and what we feel.

May I get angry with someone? Yes, you may, because anger is a normal emotion. But the question is: How do you manage it? Don't allow your motions to control you. You must be able to control your emotions.

If your emotions get out of control so that you hurt someone, then your emotions control you.

Satan wants to bruise every person born in this world. Therefore, Jesus was sent to this world: *“To set at liberty those who are oppressed...”* **(Luke 4:18)**

The Body of Christ is suffering from the bruises of the devil. Bruises divide Christians. Bruises come through misunderstandings, false accusations, rejection and fear.

One big thing that bruises our emotions is bitterness.

Bitterness is poison for the soul. The deepest hurts come from those closest to us. Bitterness breaks relationships.

The moment bitterness knocks at your door, forgive as quickly as you can, because forgiveness releases God's forgiveness for you. **(Matt. 6:14,15)**

That's why we read in **Heb. 12:1,2** *"...let us lay aside every weight (every burden), and the sin which easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus..."*

- Realise that you are in Spiritual warfare and not fighting against flesh and blood. Not fighting against any person, for the Bible says:
- You must identify your enemy and know God's strategy to win your battles.
- Our battle is against "evil spirits" and not against man.
- What weapons should we use?
- What should I do when temptation and trouble come?
- Why is it important to understand why I am created as spirit, soul and body? Will this help me to conquer?

Let's have a closer look at Ephsians 6

The Greek word translated as "schemes" (Metodeia) means "methods of the devil" Thank God we are not ignorant of the plans and methods of the devil.

In **2 Corinthians 2: 11** Paul says "...we are not ignorant of his (the devil) devices."

EPHESIANS IS A WONDERFUL BOOK:

Chapters 1 to 3 tell us what our POSITION is in Christ.

- * God has blessed us with every spiritual blessing (**Eph.1:3**)
- * He gave us forgiveness of our sin (**Eph.1:7**)
- * In Him we have obtained an inheritance (**Eph.1:11**)
- * In Him we were sealed with the Holy Spirit (**Eph.1:13**)
- * Everything with a name is under our feet. (**Eph.1:20-23**)
- * Jesus made us alive who were dead in sin (**Eph.2:1**)
- * For us He is able to do more than we can think. (**Eph.3:20**)

Chapters 4, 5 and 6: 1 to 9 tells us how we should WALK in Christ. Read **Ephesians 4: 1, 17** "**walk** worthy of the calling with which you were called, you should no longer **walk** as the rest of the gentiles **walk**, in the futility of their mind."

Building on the foundation of the truths above you must take your stand against the devil with the full armour of God!

Your problem is not your husband, wife, employer, neighbour, church or minister, but the devil. While we're fighting against our fellow believers the devil watches and laughs. When people disappoint you, or hurt you, you must firstly realise that the battle is a spiritual one and not against people.

Battle's must first be won in prayer before you confront anybody.

IDENTIFY YOUR ENEMY

- The devil is the father of lies. **John 8:44**
- The devil is a thief. **John 10:10**. "The thief (the devil) does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy " He steals our health; character and joy in the Lord.
- The devil comes as an angel of light. **2 Corinthians 11:14** "For satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light."
- The devil is an opponent. **1 Peter 5:8**; "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary (someone you are fighting with) the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." Also read: **1 Thessalonians 2:18** and **2 Cor. 4:3,4**
- The devil is a tempter. **1 Thessalonians 3:5** (Paul writes to the church) "For this reason, when I could no longer endure it, I sent to know your faith, lest by some means **the tempter** had tempted you, and our labour might be in vain."
- The devil is a deceiver. **2 Corinthians 11:3** "But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."
- The devil is called the god of this world. **2 Corinthians 4:4** No wonder that godless people possess such amounts of earthly riches.
- The devil is an accuser.
He accuses God in **Genesis 3:1**
He accuses us before God.
Job 1:6 to 12; Job 2:1 to 5; Revelations 12:9,10
(Verse 10: "the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night.")

QUESTION: WHERE DID THE DEVIL COME FROM?

He was a beautiful angel by the name of Lucifer that wanted to exalt himself above God and was expelled from heaven by God.

Isaiah 14:11-15; Ezekiel 28:12-19; Revelations 12:3-9

THANK GOD FOR THE FOLLOWING

Demons are hateful and jealous of one another -- this is to our advantage. The devil is not present everywhere all at once and the devil cannot kill as he pleases.

When Jesus rose from the grave, he took Satan's power away from him. **(Ephesians 4:8-10; Colossians 2:13-15; Matthew 28:18)**

Therefore, Jesus could call out in Revelations 1: 17, 18: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

Take note: Jesus will never give His keys to the devil.

THE WORLD DOES NOT CONSIST ONLY OF THOSE THINGS THAT YOU CAN SEE WITH YOUR EYES AND TOUCH WITH YOUR HANDS

WE ARE SURROUNDED BY AN INVISIBLE WORLD

The air is full of TV and radio programmes. With the right type of equipment, you can see them and hear them.

Have you ever looked through a microscope at the water that you drink – What do you see?

Angels are around us! There are a tremendous number of them.

Daniel 7:10; Matthew 26:53; Luke 2:13; Hebrews 12:22.

From your birth until now an angel has been next to you.

Matthew 18:10 "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven."

God's angels are there to help us in Spiritual Warfare

2 Kings 6:17 "And Elisha prayed, "O LORD, open his eyes so that he may see." Then the LORD opened the servant's eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha."

Michael is the head of the angelic armies.

Daniel 10:12,13; Daniel 12:11; Jude Verse 9

DID YOU KNOW THAT DEMONIC POWERS ARE SET OVER TOWNS AND CITIES?

Daniel 10:10 to 21. In verse 12 and 13 the angel Gabriel tells Daniel that his prayer was heard 21 days previously, but the demonic power appointed by satan over the kingdom of Persia had opposed him! Michael, the chief angel, helped Gabriel to get the message through to Daniel.

Gabriel said that he would have to fight against the Prince of Persia again. After that he would have to fight against the Prince of Greece. **Verse 20**

Satan ruled over Tyre as well

Ezekiel 28:1 to 19; This Scripture portion and **Isaiah 14:11 to 15** are clear descriptions of satan who wanted to exalt himself above God and who was expelled from heaven.

Revelations 12:7 to 9 “And war broke out in heaven: Michael and his angels fought with the dragon; and the dragon (the devil) and his angels fought, but they did not prevail, nor was a place found for them in heaven any longer. So, the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the devil and satan, who deceives the whole earth, and his angels were cast out with him. “

WHY DO WE NOT WIN SOME OF OUR SPIRITUAL BATTLES?

Because there is sin in our lives

The devil laughs at us when we want to fight against him with sin in our lives! If we want to be victorious, we must strive for sanctification.

OUR BATTLE IS AGAINST "EVIL SPIRITS" AND NOT PEOPLE

SOME SICKNESS IS CAUSED BY "EVIL SPIRITS"

Not every sickness is caused by "evil spirits"

But we read in **Luke 13:10 to 17**

"Now He was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And behold, there was a woman who had **a spirit of infirmity** (sickness) eighteen years, and was bent over and could in no way raise herself up. But when Jesus saw her,

He called her to Him and said to her, 'Woman, you are loosed from your infirmity' And He laid His hands on her, and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God."

The ruler of the synagogue was upset because this took place on the Sabbath. But in verses 15 and 16 we read: "The Lord then answered him and said, 'Hypocrite! Does not each one of you on the Sabbath lose his ox or donkey from the stall, and lead it away to water it? So, ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom satan has bound — think of it — for eighteen years be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath?'"

Other translations of this story:

The Living Bible Translation: "... He saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for 18 years and was unable to stand up straight."

The Amplified Bible: "And there was a woman there who for 18 years had had an infirmity caused by a spirit (a demon of sickness). She was bent completely forward and utterly unable to straighten herself or to look upward".

It is striking to see that this woman was in the church for all those years and still bound.

Today we also have people in our churches bound by satan, and we don't help them.

Let us set them free in Jesus name!

FEAR CAN BE A SPIRIT

2 Timothy 1:7 "For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."

How do we overcome fear?

Thank God for **1 John 4:18**: "There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love."

LYING IS A SPIRIT

1 Kings 22:19 to 23. A lying spirit is mentioned six times in the Bible. Are you surprised that people believe in lies nowadays?

Read 2 Thessalonians 2:9 to 12

John 8:44 "You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies."

IMPURITY IS A SPIRIT

Luke 4:33 to 35. All demons are unclean. However, the reason why we refer to this spirit as an unclean spirit is because it was perverse. This man was also in church as the woman we read of in **Luke 13**.

To think that there are people in the church that have perverse spirits, and nobody helps them, it's heart breaking.

The devil is against marriage because God instituted it. There are so many divorces and so much "free love" these days. (living together)

Lesbianism and homosexuality increase every day. The first is women having sex with each other and the second is men doing it. No wonder God's judgment has struck mankind so heavily through AIDS.

AIDS stands for "Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome"

It destroys the immunity of one's body to disease. It is definitely a perverse spirit that drives people to this condition as described in **Romans 1:26, 27**.

We feel very sorry for those that contracted AIDS without the cause as mentioned above and we trust God to touch those that trust Him for healing!

Where does this sin, also called sodomy come from?

In **Gen. 19:4 to 11** we read that the men of Sodom wanted to sexually assault two angels. Lot wanted to protect the angels and offered them his two daughters. The men didn't want the women but wanted these men, namely God's angels. No wonder God's anger and judgment came on them.

OTHER SCRIPTURES ABOUT THIS SIN

**Leviticus 20:13; Deuteronomy 23:17; 1 Kings 14:24;
1 Kings 22:46, 47; 2 Kings 23:7**

Is there deliverance? Yes definitely! The Corinthians were slaves to this sin but were freed by Jesus' blood. **1 Corinthians 6:9 to 11**

FORTUNE TELLING (WIZARD) IS A SPIRIT

Leviticus 20:27; Acts 16:16 to 18.

Notice that Paul did not address the woman but rather the spirit. Our battle is not against people, but against the evil spirits.

WE READ IN THE BIBLE OF A DUMB SPIRIT

Mark 9:17,18 " A man in the crowd answered, "Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of **speech**. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not."

Matthew 9:32,33 "While they were going out, a man who was demon-possessed **and could not talk** was brought to Jesus. And when the demon was driven out, the man who had been mute spoke. The crowd was amazed and said, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel."

Remember: Not everyone that cannot speak has a demon spirit!

REBELLION IS A SPIRIT

Hear what the Bible says about rebellion:

1 Samuel 15:23 "for rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft"

PRIDE IS A SPIRIT

This is the greatest door that we can leave open for demonic influence in our lives!

If we do not get rid of pride in our lives we will never be able to live in total victory over the enemy. This is what brought Lucifer down.

Isaiah 14:12 to 15 "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the 'Most High'** Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit." (meaning Hell)

WHAT ARE OUR WEAPONS?

Because we are in a spiritual warfare, we must use spiritual weapons. Read what the Bible says about our weapons:

2 Corinthians 10:3 to 5 "For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. **For our weapons of our warfare** are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ."

WITH THESE WEAPONS WE CAN DO THE FOLLOWING:

“casting down (to get rid of) arguments” or plans. A plan is something that has not taken place yet.

We must not wait until the devil causes things to happen but if we know of his plan, we must destroy it immediately.

2 Corinthians 2:10,11

“bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”

This doesn't mean that we control people's minds but those thoughts that are not to the glory of God; we take into captivity and make it obedient to Christ.

People do not come to repentance because the truth of salvation does not reach them. This is also true concerning any other truth. We must break down all wrong pretensions.

The Living Bible Translation says in 2 Corinthians 10:5

“With these arguments we break down every proud argument that keeps people from knowing God. With these weapons we conquer their rebellious ideas, and we teach them to obey Christ.”

Ephesians 6:10 to 18 tells us more about our spiritual weapons:

In verses 11,12 it says: “Put on the whole armour of God that you may be able to stand against the wiles (clever tricks) of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.”

PAUL GIVES A LIST OF OUR WEAPONS

Our “Girdle” he calls it **Truth**

Truth is a powerful weapon. It will set you as well as others free.

(John 8:32)

Our “Breastplate” is our **Righteousness**

Righteousness is to stand in the right relationship with God.

“Shoes for our feet” Paul says this is **to preach the Gospel**.

The more we preach the Gospel the more we defeat the enemy.

He talks of a “Shield” and calls it our Faith.

A shield is used to protect you so that the enemy’s weapon does not harm you.

This is what our faith in God does in our lives.

You see without faith we cannot please God. **Hebrews 11:6**

The “Helmet” he calls our **Salvation**

The battlefield is the mind. If your mind is really “protected” you will overcome.

God’s Word.

The Word is like a **sword! Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17**

When Jesus was tempted by the devil, He used the Word as a weapon to overcome. **Read what happened in Matthew 4**

WE ALSO HAVE OTHER WEAPONS:

Praise

King Jehoshaphat had to fight a few nations that joined together against Judah. **We read this story in 2 Chronicles 20:21 to 26**

In verse 21 and 22 we read: "And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed ***those who should sing to the Lord, and who should praise the beauty of holiness***, as they went out before the army and were saying: 'Praise the Lord, for His mercy endures forever. Now when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; **and they were defeated.**"

Remember that these worshippers went out **before the army** and kept praising their God. The result was that the enemy destroyed one another. We read this from verse 23 and further.

King Jehoshaphat won the battle against his enemies long before he came to the valley of Beracah (Praise Valley).

His spiritual warfare consisted of the following:

He destroyed the idols.

He taught the people God's ways. **(2 Chronicles 17)**

He put those praising God in the front as they went into war.

Fasting (Matthew 17:15 to 21)

A man came to Jesus and said: "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and suffers severely; for he often falls into the fire and often into the water. So, I brought him to Your disciples, but they could not cure him." (verse 15,16)

Jesus explained why His disciples could not cure this son. He said in verse 21: “However, **this kind** does not go out except by prayer and fasting.”

Fasting is a great weapon against attacks from our spiritual enemy

Jesus' Name (John 14:13,14)

“And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask anything in My name, I will do it.”

Also read the following scriptures and you will find that the Name of Jesus is a “weapon” to give us breakthrough's in our lives.

Acts 3:6-8; Philippians 2:4-11

David overcame Goliath in the Name of the Lord. **(1 Sam.17:45)**
We will overcome our enemies in the NAME OF OUR GOD!

Our witness and Jesus' Blood. Revelations 12:9 and 11

“So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the devil and satan, who deceives the whole world: he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him...And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

Keep on being a witness for the Lord. Never stop telling others what God has done for you. The people out there are in great need and under a lot of pressure. We as God's children can give them hope for the future by our testimony and by sharing the word of the Lord with them.

The Gospel is like a lifeline and it will save the lost

A QUESTION: WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I AM TEMPTED?

How many well-meaning Christians have asked this question? Many of them are under the impression that the devil loses your address when you become a Christian. Oh no, the closer you live to the Lord the more the devil shoots his arrows at you.

Thankfully we have received the full armour of God to defeat the devil. **(Ephesians 6:10 to 18)**

If the devil could tempt Jesus, he will also tempt you. (Luke 4)

"So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!" **(1 Corinthians 10:12)**

Praise God, we can resist the devil!

1 Peter 5:6-8 "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your **care** (the word denotes anxieties, burdens and worries) Be sober, be vigilant, because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. **Resist him, steadfast in the faith.** "

JESUS WAS TEMPTED:

It was just after Jesus was baptised and the Holy Spirit had come on him in the Jordan River! Isn't that also your experience? The moment that we obey God and are baptised, the devil comes with his attacks.

As a child of God, we should not be ignorant of the devil's plans.

2 Corinthians 2:11 "we are not ignorant of his (the devil's) devices.

According to the Bible there are three types of temptations

To confirm this statement, we read in:

1 John 2:16: " For everything in the world, the **cravings** of sinful man, the **lust of his eyes** and the **boasting** of what he has and does-- comes not from the Father but from the world."

According to **Luke 4:13**, the devil tried all three of these types of temptations on Jesus and then left Him for a while.

These words "a while" suggest that the devil did not leave Him totally alone and never tempted Him again.

LET US LOOK AT THESE LEVELS OF TEMPTATION:

The lust of the flesh ("the cravings of sinful man")

Jesus was also tempted in His flesh

Luke 4:1 to 4 "Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, being tempted for forty days by the devil. And in those days ate nothing, and afterward, when they had ended, He was hungry. And the devil said to Him, 'If You are the Son of God, command this stone to become bread.' But Jesus answered him, saying, 'It is written: Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

The devil usually attacks the weakest place in your life.

Jesus was hungry after 40 days and the devil tempted Him to change the stones into bread. Normally we would consider this to be a great miracle that is if Jesus made bread from the stones. But if Jesus had done this at the devil's command, He would be submitting to the devil.

The devil tempts our flesh. It is not a sin to be hungry but the issue is how we satisfy our hunger

To have any fleshy desires is not a sin but if these desires are satisfied in the wrong way it can be a sin.

We are reminded of Esau. It was not wrong that he wanted the lentil soup but to sell his birth right to get the soup was totally wrong. **(Gen.25:29-34)**

The lust of the eyes. The devil tempts us through what we see

Luke 4:5 to 8 "Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the Kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, 'All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish. Therefore, if You will worship before me, all will be Yours.' And Jesus answered and said to him, '*Get behind me, satan! For it is written: You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.*'"

Jesus was tempted through His eyes. It is not a sin to see, but it is sin to desire what you see if it is not God's will for you.

This is what happened in **Genesis 3:6** "So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, **that it was pleasant to the eyes**, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate."

The Pride of Life

In **Luke 4:9-12** the devil uses God's word to tempt Jesus.

“Then he (the devil) brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, ‘If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. For it is written: He shall give His angels charge over you, to keep you, and, in their hands, they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone. And Jesus answered and said to him: *It has been said, ‘You shall not tempt the Lord your God’* “

The devil used an Old Testament scripture in **Psalm 91:11,12** to tempt Jesus. Don't think the devil doesn't know the Bible!

Learn rather to follow Jesus' example and defeat the devil by saying "it is also written"

Know God's word so that you can overcome the devil.

(Jesus quotes Deuteronomy 6:16)

HOW CAN I OVERCOME TEMPTATION?

Be full of the Holy Spirit

In Luke chapter 4:1 and 14 we read these words: “Then Jesus, **being filled with the Holy Spirit**, returned from the Jordan and **was led by the Spirit** into the wilderness...Then Jesus returned in **the power of the Spirit.**”

Jesus' power to overcome was in the Holy Spirit. You will experience the same.

Make sure that you find yourself in the place where God's Spirit has led you.

Remember that Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the wilderness.

I would rather be led by God's Spirit into the wilderness than being in the most beautiful place, without the Spirit of God.

Often we move out of God's will and lose our protection.

Know God's Word so that you can use it against the devil

Don't look at what is directly in front of you, but keep your eyes on the goal far ahead of you

Think what happened to Moses **Hebrews 11:24 to 26** "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt; for he **looked** to the reward."

The word "**looked**" (Greek: "apoblepo") that is used here literally means "**to look away from everything else in order to look intently on one object.**"

Joseph is another example

When he was tempted by the wife of Potiphar to have sex with her, he ran away from this temptation, because his eyes were fixed on God's calling in his life. Although he was falsely accused and was put in jail, he kept his faith in God. **(Gen.39 and 40)**

Always have a long-range vision of the glory waiting for you.

THERE IS ONE THING WE MUST CLEARLY UNDERSTAND AND THAT IS THAT JESUS WAS TEMPTED JUST LIKE US, BUT THAT HE DID NOT SIN.

In Hebrews 4:15 we read: "For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are--yet was without sin."

If temptation was sin then Jesus sinned. He was actually tempted just like any of us but did not allow the temptation to overwhelm Him. Therefore, Jesus did not sin.

There is an old saying: "you cannot stop crows flying over your head, but you can stop them from building a nest in your hair"

GOD TEMPTS NO ONE AND HE WILL NOT ALLOW US TO BE TEMPTED ABOVE OUR ABILITY TO ENDURE!

1 Corinthians 10:13 "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

THE QUESTION: "IF I AM TEMPTED, WHAT THEN?" IS CLEARLY ANSWERED BY JAMES IN HIS FIRST CHAPTER:

James 1:2,3,4,13,14 "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials (temptations) knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God' for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed."

James wants to teach us not to be discouraged and when temptation comes to count it pure joy!

LET US MAKE A SPECIAL STUDY OF JAMES CHAPTER 1

There is a crown for everyone who succeeds over temptation.

Verse 12: "Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him."

God does not tempt anyone.

Verse 13: "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am tempted by God' for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone."

This is how temptation works:

Verses 14,15: *"But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full -grown, brings forth death."*

Temptation tries to drag you away or capture you. If you are not prepared to be drawn away or captured, you have not sinned.

Achan only sinned when he desired and took. (**Joshua 7:21**)

OTHER SCRIPTURES ABOUT TEMPTATION:

Galatians 6:1,2 "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted."

2 Peter 2:9 "the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations."

SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY

It will be good if we know how God made us, so that we can understand the devil's tactics he uses when he attacks us.

You are a Spirit, with a Soul, and live in a Body

Your "Body" is your bones, flesh, and blood.

Your "Soul" is your mind, will and emotions.

Your "Spirit" is your inner part of you as a person.

(This is where your conscience is (the alarm system))

We consist of a spiritual part (soul and spirit) and a body part.

When you die your spiritual component leaves your body.

When Rachel died with the birth of her son, we read these words in **Genesis 35:18** "And so it was, as her soul was departing (for she died) that she called his name (her son) Ben-Oni; but his father called him Benjamin."

If the spiritual and physical can be reunited, then that person can live again on earth. Read: **1 Kings 17:17 to 23**

There is constant conflict between the flesh and the spirit.

Even Paul was honest enough to admit it in **Romans 7:18 to 25**.

He said that he found that two laws were working in him. The one was to do good and the other law was working against this.

It is as if there are two people in us: One is "the fleshly person" and the other is "the spiritual person". **The one that you feed the most and give "exercise" to is the one that will rule!**

THE "FLESHLY" MAN'S SINS ARE DIVIDED UP AS FOLLOWS:

Gal. 5:19-21 "Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, idolatry, sorcery, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

The Living Bible translation: "When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasures..."

To the extent that these characteristics are present in someone's life, the "fleshly man" is in control.

In contrast to this: If someone walks in the Spirit the desires of the flesh will not dominate him. Walking in the Spirit means that the Holy Spirit controls our lives totally.

If the "spiritual man" rules in us the characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit will be clearly visible in our lives: " But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control." (Gal.5:22)

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LIKE A BUNCH OF GRAPES

Love is the stem that keeps everything together

Joy is love that rejoices

Peace is love that rests

Patience is love that tolerates

Kindness is love that serves

Meekness is love that is victorious

Goodness is love's character

Self-control is love that rules

Faithfulness is love that perseveres

HOW CAN YOU BE DELIVERED FROM THE WORKS OF THE FLESH?

By an act of your will.

Anyone that is passive in relation to his or her situation cannot be delivered very easily. We have a part to play in ensuring that we are cleansed.

2 Corinthians 7:1 "Since we have these promises, dear friends, **let us purify ourselves** from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God"

James 4:7 "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." If we want the devil to flee from us we must make a decision to submit to God and resist the devil.

In **Colossians 3:8** Paul says " But now you must rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander and filthy language from your lips"

You will be delivered from sin if you confess it with your whole heart and forsake it

Proverbs 28:13 "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy."

One conceals his/her sins by hiding them from others or trying to excuse them. There is only one way to get rid of sin and that is:
Confess it and forsake it.

1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

But you must confess it. Tell God that you are sorry that you have sinned, and He will forgive you of everything!

If you can walk in the Spirit

Galatians 5:16 "Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh."

To "walk in the Spirit" means to listen to God's Spirit that will guide you to stay away from sin.

The Living Bible translates this scripture as follows: "So I advise you to live according to your new life in the Holy Spirit. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves"

Jesus walked in the Spirit; therefore, He could overcome the devil when He was tempted. (Read it in Luk.4:1)

Fix your eyes on things above

Colossians 3:1,2 "If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth."

Romans 12:2 "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God".

May the Lord help you to win your battles against your spiritual enemies and be more than a conqueror so that you can grow as a spiritual man and woman!