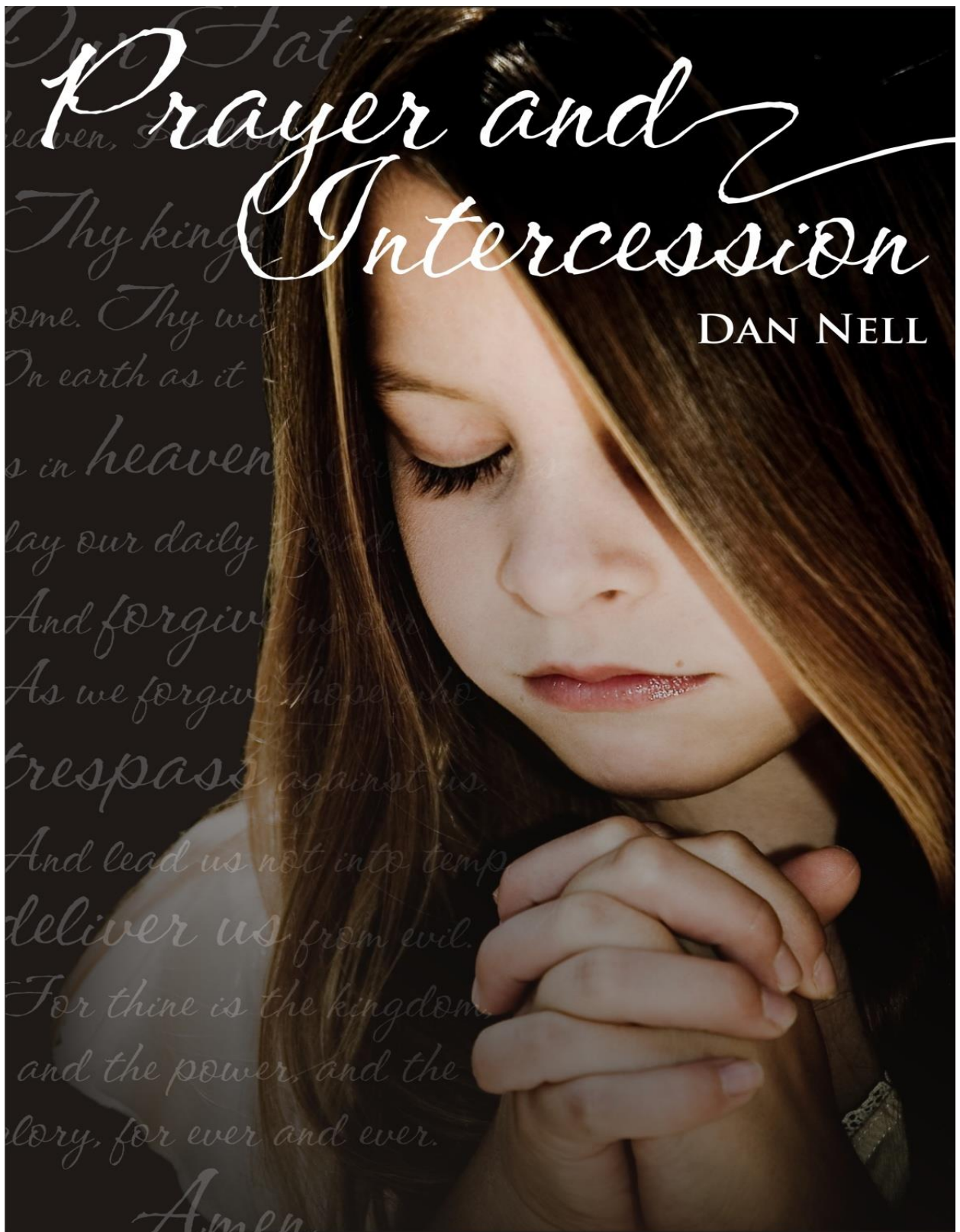




*Our Father
in heaven, Hallowed
be Thy king-
dom. Thy will
be done on earth as it
is in heaven. Give
us our daily bread.
And forgive us our
trespasses, as we forgive those who
trespass against us.
And lead us not into temp-
tation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the
glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

Prayer and Intercession

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PRAYER and INTERCESSION

Recommended textbook to study with these notes:

"Intercessory Prayer" by Dutch Sheets

Thank God for the power of prayer! Just think, what has already been attained through prayer!

- The Red Sea was parted!
- Mouths of lions were locked!
- Hezekiah had 15 years added to his life!
- Elijah prayed and fire and rain came from above! (He prayed once for the fire, but seven times for the rain). It is clear that one can pray more than once for a request - Jesus prayed twice for a blind man in **Mark 8:22-26**

OUR PRAYERS ARE PRECIOUS TO THE LORD

Rev. 5:8 " And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having everyone of them harps and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of the saints."

David calls out in Ps. 141:2 *"Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense, and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice."*

In Ex. 30 we read of the altar of incense.

The altar of incense was square, and made of acacia wood. The length and breadth was one cubit, and the height was 2 cubits. It was covered with pure gold, and had two golden rings on both sides, with which it was to be carried.

Where did it stand? It stood before the veil, and the incense permeated the veil.

Observe what the High priest had to do here: Ex. 30: 7, 8
" And Aaron shall burn thereon (on the altar of incense) sweet incense every morning, when he dresses the lamps, he shall burn incense upon it. And when Aaron lights the lamps in the evening, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the Lord throughout your generation".

WHAT IS THE STATE OF YOUR ALTAR OF INCENSE?

No wonder, the word of the Lord tells us to pray without ceasing. **1Thess. 5:17 Luke 18:1**

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is a conversation with God. For that reason, it is a dialogue, and not a monologue. I talk to God and then listen when He speaks to me.

He speaks to me in my heart, through His Spirit and through His Word.

WHAT CAN I PRAY FOR?

1. FOR THE SALVATION OF SOULS

Romans 10:1 *"Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they might be saved."*

1Tim. 2:3,4 It is God's will that all men should be saved!

2. FOR OUR LEADERS

1 Timothy 2:1,2 says *" I exhort therefore that, first of all, supplication, prayers, intercession, and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."*

Many governments are corrupt because we do not pray for them.

3. FOR REVIVAL

Ps. 85:6 *"Wilt Thou not revive us again, that thy people may rejoice in Thee?"*

Before the Welsh revival in 1903/1904, Evan Roberts prayed continually for 15 months for revival. During the first five weeks of this revival 25 000 people were converted.

4. FOR HEALING

For physical healing, as did Hezekiah in **2 Kings 20**.

For spiritual healing. **2 Chron. 7:14** *"If my people, which are called by my name, humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sins and will heal their land."*

5. WE CAN EVEN ASK THE LORD TO GIVE US CHILDREN

1 Sam. 1:27 Hannah prayed for Samuel to be born.

Luke 1:13 Zacharias, the priest, prayed for John the Baptist. (He was frightened by the angel who stood on the right side of the altar of incense). *"But the angel said to him: Fear not, Zacharias, because your prayers are answered, and your wife shall bear a son, and you must call him John."*

6. WE CAN PRAY TO BE RESCUED IN TIMES OF CRISES

Think of King Jehoshaphat, (disguised) where he went out in alliance with his brother-in-law, Ahab, to fight against the Syrians. **2 Chron. 18:31**

Dr Paul Y Cho, the pastor of the largest church on earth, in Seoul, Korea, said his church was in crises from 1969 till 1973.

They were building their church to seat 10 000 people, as well as a block of flats.

The value of the currency declined and there was an oil embargo. Church members lost their jobs, and the church was faced with bankruptcy. The devil told him to commit suicide by jumping down from the block of flats.

He then went and prayed in the stuffy basement of their prayer mountain. The assembly prayed and fasted with him. God provided. The heavens are now open above Korea, with thousands of people being saved!

WHAT IS AN INTERCESSOR?

An intercessor is someone who stands between man and God in prayer. An intercessor pleads on behalf of someone else; he stands in the gap and prays for others.

Christians should be intercessors. Read **1Tim. 2:1-8** prayerfully.

1. JESUS IS AN INTERCESSOR

John 17:20 Rom. 8: 34 Heb. 7:25; 9:24

1 Tim.2:5: *"For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus".*

Also read: 1John 2:1.

This is how Jesus interceded for Peter. **Luke 22:31, 32:**
"And the Lord said: Simon, Simon, behold Satan has desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat, but I have prayed for you, that your faith may not fail, and when you are converted strengthen your brothers."

Jesus prayed for Peter before he was sifted as wheat. We should not wait until negative things effect us, but rather pray and intercede beforehand, in order to prevent it.

2. AN INTERCESSOR CAN PREVENT GOD'S WRATH

Abraham prayed for Sodom (**Gen. 18:20-32**)

- Num. 16:1-50** Korah, Datan and Abiram gathered themselves against Moses. The Lord condemned them, and they were swallowed up by the earth. The people were angry with Moses because of what happened to these men and their families (verses 41-45) That day 14 700 people died (verses 46-48).
3. **AN INTERCESSOR DOES NOT SEEK HIS OWN INTEREST**
Listen to how you pray, and you will know if you are a true intercessor.
Make a study of **Exodus 32 and Numbers 12.**
 4. **A TRUE INTERCESSOR IS SOMEONE WHO FORGIVES.** If you want to move mountains, you must be able to forgive.
Mark 11:25,26.
 5. **THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE INTERCESSOR CHANGES WHEN HE STARTS INTERCEDING FOR OTHERS.**
Job 42:10 "And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends; also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before". God increased his possessions, his family brought him money (v11), and he was blessed with a long life (verses 12,16,17).
 6. **AN INTERCESSOR CHANGES A DEFEAT INTO A VICTORY**
Hezekiah and Sennacherib - 2 Kings 18 & 19.
In the fourteenth year of Hezekiah's reign, Sennacherib (king of Syria) conquers Judah.
He removed the silver and the gold from the temple. He even broke the gold from the doors and door frames.
His men challenged the Israelites in their own language, and humiliated God.
Hezekiah tore his clothes and took Sennacherib's letter to the temple and placed it before God.
(2 Kings 19:1, 14-19 and 35-37)

A second example we find in Acts 12

Because of the intercession in Acts 12:

- Peter was set free. (This is what people need today).
- The judgement of God struck Herod Agrippa¹, and worms devoured him (verses 21-23).
- The Word of God spread and increased (verse 24).

7. THE POWER OF AGREEMENT IN PRAYER

Make a study of Matthew 18:19 *“Again I say to you that if two of you **agree**(harmonize together, together make a symphony) on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven.”*

Thank God for His Spirit that will help us in our prayers!

Romans 8:26 *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.”*

MAN’S ROLE ON THE EARTH

Few Christians understand the magnitude of God’s decision to make Himself dependent on man. The implications of this decision must be understood if we are ever to take prayer seriously enough. The plans and purposes of Jesus Christ on the earth are greatly hindered by wrong notions of the sovereignty of God.

Man must represent God.

Man by nature is an intercessor.

Man is the link between God and this earth. That is why God decided to enter into a covenant with man.

Some may ask: “Is prayer really necessary? Doesn’t God know what we need?”

Wesley once said: “God does nothing on the earth but in answer to believing prayer.”

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT SCRIPTURES WE WANT TO STUDY IS: **Gen.1:26-28**

Man was given a job and that was to “have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” (**Gen.1:26**)

“ADAM” means “man, human being, people or mankind. Many times in the Old Testament, when you see the word “man” it is the Hebrew word “Adam” that is used.

WHAT JOINS GOD AND MAN TOGETHER? The answer is, only **COVENANT**.

What is covenant? (Hebrew:”Bereth”) It is an agreement between two parties binding them together.

GEN.2:15; “Then the Lord God took the man (ADAM) and put him in the garden of Eden to **TEND** and **KEEP** it.”

The word “**TEND**” also means to “cultivate” The dictionary says to cultivate is to:

Prepare; to raise or foster the growth of; to civilize; to devote time to; to cherish.

MAN’S NUMBER ONE GOAL IS TO BE A CULTIVATOR. He should also help others to discover their potential.

The word “**KEEP**” comes from the word in Hebrew “Shamar” (“Hedging in” or “Protect”) Shamar means that someone outside should not get in.

In **PSALM 8** the Bible says that God crowned us with GLORY and HONOR.

The word “glory” in Hebrew is “kabowd” The opposite of “Ichkabod” The meaning of “Ichkabod” is that the glory of God has departed.

We read about God’s glory in the story of Phinehas’ wife. She gave birth to her child when she heard that her husband died in the war and the ark of the covenant was taken. It is all in **1 Sam.4:19-21**

“kabowd” is “glory” and “ich” means “no glory”
 Glory in the Bible also means “weighty or heavy”

The Greek counterpart is “Doxa” (**1 Cor.11:7 2 Cor.3:18**)
 It means an appearance, which attracts attention that causes recognition.

We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But we can arise because the glory of the Lord has risen upon us! Don’t just read Romans 3:23. Also read verse 24!

REMEMBER: ADAM WAS THE GOVERNER AND STEWARD,
 AND NOT THE OWNER.

Ps.115:16 says “The heaven, even the heavens, are the Lord’s; but the earth He has given to the children of men.”

The word used in **Ps.115:16** “given” in Hebrew is “nathan” its meaning is “to commit or put under the charge of”

HOW DOES THIS ALL RELATE TO PRAYER?

- Man delegated as God’s representative over the earth.
- Man is given a place of incredible privilege and honor (Because he carried the glory and breath of God.)

- Man is given authority (stewardship) and is in charge for God and under God.
- So complete and final was man's authority over the earth that he had the right to give it away.
- Prayer is one of the ways we exercise stewardship.

HOW DID SATAN OBTAIN AUTHORITY IN THE EARTH?

- Satan obtained access to the earth through man. Man gave him authority.
- He gained access to the earth through Adam's first place of authority, the garden. Adam was to cultivate it. Adam did not gain ownership.
- The authority mentioned in Luke 4:6 satan obtained through Adam.
- Biologically the woman does not have the seed but has the eggs.
- What God was saying is that His child would be born without the natural way.
 "He shall bruise your HEAD, and you shall bruise his heel." The word "head" is "rosh" Jesus is THE HEAD of the Church.

That is why satan inspired the people to build the tower of Babel. They wanted to get to the "top" revering to THE HEAD (ROSH) Gen.11:4 "And they said, 'come, let us build ourselves a city, and a tower whose TOP (rosh) is in the heavens;"

Jesus refer to satan as the ruler of this world. John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11 Ruler (arckon) means first in rank or power (authority is the issue)

GOD LINK'S WITH MAN TO HAVE AUTHORITY OVER THE EARTH.

SCRIPTURE EXAMPLES:

ELIJAH (1 Kings 18; James 5:17)

- (a) Through a prayer he stopped the rain for more than 3 years
- (b) After praying seven times the rain came back again. (v.44)

DANIEL 9

Daniel is living in captivity in Babylon. He prophesied the length of the captivity and then realizes that it's time for liberty (v.2)

He began to seek God (v.3-19)

EZEKIEL 22:30,31

God searches for a man, to stand in the "gap" (between God and the people) He could find no one. Then judgment came.

ABRAHAM and MOSES were two intercessors that could hold back the judgment of God. (Ps.106:23)

- **Matt.16:19** God has given us His keys to bind and to loose; to lock and to open !
- **Amos 3:7** "Surely the Lord God does nothing, unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets." "REVEALS" (galah) means to uncover, open, lay bare, expose, unveil. `

WE MUST ESTABLISH IN OUR THINKING THAT JESUS IS THE INTERCESSOR and MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN!

John 14:6 *"Jesus said: I am the way, the truth and the life. No man comes to the Father except through Me."*

Rom.8:34 “...It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

1 Tim.2:5 “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.”

Heb.7:25 “Therefore He (Christ) is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always live to make intercession (‘pleading on behave of’) for them.”

1 John 2:1 “...We have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.”

JESUS REALLY NEEDS ME! BUT I NEED HIM TO GET TO GOD!
HE NEEDS ME TO GET TO MAN! He represents me in heaven and I represent Him on earth.

REPRESENTING JESUS

The pattern for our representation of Jesus is exactly the same as His when He represented the Father on earth. We relate to Him in exactly the same way He related to the Father. An understanding of this pattern is crucial, for our intercession is but an extension of the life and ministry of Jesus, as His was of the Father.

CHRIST AND THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- (1) Jesus was FILLED with the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1)
- (2) Jesus was LED by the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:1)
- (3) Jesus was EMPOWERED by the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:14; Acts 10:38; Mark 5:30; Matt.12:28)
- (4) Jesus was ANOINTED by the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38)

THE HOLY SPIRIT and PRAYER

MAN WAS CREATED SPIRIT, SOUL and BODY. 1 Thes.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.”

SPIRIT: Through the spirit of man he would relate to the spiritual realm and primarily to God. The spirit distinguishes us from the animal world.

SOUL: This is our mind, will and emotions.

Through the soul we relate to the natural realm.

BODY: Through the body we relate to the physical realm.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- (1) The Holy Spirit is a “HE” and not an “IT”
- (2) The Holy Spirit is not an influence.
- (3) The Holy Spirit is God, co-equal with the Father and the Son, yet a distinct person in the eternal Godhead.
- (4) The Holy Spirit performs personal acts and is spoken of as having personal feelings such as: being grieved, insulted, lied to, blasphemed, resisted and quenched.
- (5) The Holy Spirit is called God and He is eternal, omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and the source of life.
- (6) The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth, Love and Holiness.
- (7) The Holy Spirit was active in the Creation of the world, inspired the writers of the Scriptures, regenerated fallen man, formed the Church and gave gifts to the members of the Church.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

- Brings the new birth in our lives.
- Indwells the believer's spirit.
- Enables the believer to speak in unknown languages.
- Speaks to the believer.
- Helps us to understand the things of God (1 Cor.2:12)
- Guides us into all truth.
- Imparts life and brings about renewal.
- Strengthens the inner being.
- Enables the believer to pray with power.
- Leads the believer.
- Produces Christ likeness in character and fruit in us.
- Empowers us to witness.

THE HOLY SPIRIT WANTS TO HELP US IN OUR PRAYER LIFE

Romans 8:26 *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.”*

The word “weaknesses” comes from the Greek word “asthenia” meaning “without strength”

The Holy Spirit wants to help us in our inabilities to produce results in our prayer life.

The word “groaning” (to travail) Greek: “stegnagmos” as one who is distressed.

Don't make what's happening in the physical the focal point; the emphasis must always be on what the Holy Spirit is doing. In the spirit we are birthing something. This is our focus!

Travailing: Isa.66:8; Gal.4:19;
Elijah travailed and rain came (James 6:16-18)

In **1 Kings 18** we read how Elijah travailed for the rain. (his position v.42) and he persisted (v.43)
Jesus also travailed in Gethsemane for the lost world!

The Sword of the Spirit (Eph.6:17,18) “take....the Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,”

Just as the Living Word (Jesus) defeated satan, so now the spoken Word enforces that victory.

DEMON POWERS ARE ALREADY DEFEATED!

Why do we then have to “wrestle” against the enemy according to **Eph.6:12?**

Because in **Col. 2:15** we read “Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

***We should never get into a defensive position!
An attitude of offensive action will cause us to operate from a place of strength.***

We have the authority not to allow the devil to do something. **Col.1:13; Luke 10:19**

Technically speaking, Jesus didn’t destroy satan’s power. Satan still has power, but he has no legal right (authority) to use it on those who make Jesus their Lord.

As somebody that want to be an intercessor you should know that we are involved in a spiritual warfare!

Ephesians 6:11-12: "Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. "

The Greek word translated as "schemes"(Metodeia) meaning "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 "in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes."

EPHESIANS IS A WONDERFUL BOOK:

- Chapters 1 to 3 tell us what our position in Christ is!
- Chapters 4 and 5 and chapters 6: 1 to 9 tell us how we should live in Christ. Read Ephesians 4: 1, 17.
- Building on the foundation of the truths above I must take my stand against the devil with the full armour of God! Because I am involved in a spiritual warfare -- Ephesians 6: 10 to 20

Remember one thing: Our fight is not against flesh and blood! The 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 "in the air" and not in the flesh. The battle must first be won in prayer before you confront the person!

IDENTIFY YOUR ENEMY

- The devil is the father of lies. **John 8:44**
- The devil is a thief! **John 10: 10** He steals our health; character; joy in the Lord.
- The devil comes as an angel of light.
2 Corinthians 11: 14
- The devil is an opponent.
1 Peter 5: 8; 1 Thessalonians 2: 18; 2 Cor. 4:3,4
- The devil is a tempter. **1 Thessalonians 3: 5**
- The devil is a deceiver. **2 Corinthians 11: 3; 1 Corinthians 21: 1 to 8**
- The devil is called the God of this world.
2 Corinthians 4:4
- The devil is the prince of the air. **Ephesians 4: 27**
- The devil is an accuser.
He accuses God -- **Genesis 3: 1**
He accuses us before God -- **Job 1: 6 to 12;**
Job 2: 1 to 5;
Revelations 12: 9 to 10

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 to 15; Ezekiel 28: 12 to 19;

Revelations 12: 3 to 9

THANK GOD FOR THE FOLLOWING

1. Demons are hateful and jealous of one another -- this is to our advantage.
2. The devil is not present everywhere at all time
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 22: 18

Therefore Jesus could call out in: Rev.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 for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."

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; Heb.12: 22.

From your birth until now an angel has been keeping watch over 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 used 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."

The angel Michael is the head of the angelic armies.

Daniel 10: 12, 13; Daniel 12: 11; Jude v. 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. **Daniel 10: 20**

It seems as though 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. Also read **Revelations 12: 7 to 9**.

WHY DO WE NOT WIN ALL OF OUR BATTLES?

Because as Israel had an Achan in the camp. **Joshua 6 and 7** We have sin among us or 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 to serve God with a clean heart.

OUR BATTLE IS AGAINST "EVIL SPIRITS" AND NOT PEOPLE

- **Most sickness is caused by spirits.** **Luke 13: 10 to 17**
How often we treat our bodies when it's our spirit that needs healing.

Verse 11 in The Living Bible is translated:

"... 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. Are there not many these days in the church, yes amongst us, and yet they are still bound?

Let us set them free in Jesus name!

- **Fear can be a spirit.**

2 Tim. 1:7 "For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but a spirit of power, of love and of a sound mind."

HOW DO WE OVERCOME IT?

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 actually unclean. However the reason why we refer to it as an unclean spirit is because it was perverse. This man was also in the church like the woman in Luke 13. To think that there are people in the church that have perverse spirits, and nobody helps them.

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 everyday. 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**.

Where does this sin, also called sodomy come from?
Read **Gen. 19: 4 to 11** 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**

- **Fortunetelling 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."

- **Rebellion is a spirit.**

This is 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: 13 to 15**

WHAT ARE OUR WEAPONS?

Because we are in a spiritual warfare, we must use spiritual weapons. Look at what the Bible says about this: **2 Corinthians 10: 3 to 6**

WITH THESE WEAPONS WE CAN:

- **“Demolish 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 10:5 "and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God," People do not come to repentance because the truth of salvation does not reach them. This is true of any other truth. We must break down these pretensions.

The Living Bible Translation translates this as:

“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.”

The NIV translates this text: “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.”

AND NOW MORE ABOUT OUR SPIRITUAL WEAPONS.

Ephesians 6: 10 to 18 tells us what these weapons are:

- Truth
- Righteousness
- Being prepared to preach the Gospel
- Faith **Hebrews 11: 1 to 6**
- Salvation.
- The Word of God.

The Word is like a sword! **Heb.4: 12; Eph. 6:17**

Jesus used the Word when He was tempted. Matt.4

WE HAVE OTHER WEAPONS:

- **Praise -- 2 Chronicles 20: 21 to 26**
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. Praise is a strong weapon against the enemy.
- **Fasting -- Matthew 17: 19 to 21**
- **Speaking in tongues -- 1 Corinthians 14: 2**
- **Jesus' Name -- John 14: 13, 14;**
Acts 3: 5 to 8,16; 4: 10; Philippians 2: 4 to 11
David overcome Goliath in the NAME OF THE LORD.
- **Our witness and Jesus' Blood. Revelations 12: 9 to 11**

THE 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)

OUR STUDY OF TEMPTATION TAKES US FIRSTLY TO LUKE 4 WHERE JESUS WAS TEMPTED

If the devil found it necessary to tempt Jesus he will also tempt you.

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

Thankfully we can resist the devil (1 Peter 5: 7,8)

LOOK WHEN 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.

The devil is definitely our enemy, but as a child of God we should not be ignorant of his plans. **(2 Corinthians 2: 11)**

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 like this -- Luke 4: 2 to 4**

The devil usually attacks the weakest place in you 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. But if Jesus had done this at the devil's command, He would be submitting to the devil.

The devil's attacks often come on the flesh. It is not a sin to be hungry but the issue is how we satisfy our hunger

To have fleshy desires is not a sin but if these are satisfied in the wrong way it can be sin. Here we think of Esau. It was not wrong to want the lentil soup but to sell his birth right to get the soup was totally wrong.

- **The lust of the eyes -- the devil tempts us through what we see Luke 4: 5 to 8**

Jesus was tempted by what he saw. 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**

- **The pride of life.**

In verse 9 to 12 the devil uses God's word to tempt Jesus (Psalm 91: 11, 12). 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)

THE QUESTION IS NOW: HOW CAN I OVERCOME TEMPTATION?

1. Be full of the Holy Spirit
(Look again at Luke chapter 4: 1 and 14 -- here was Jesus' power)
2. Make sure that you find yourself in the place where God's Spirit has led you. (v. 1)
Often we move out of God's will and lose our protection.
3. Know God's Word so that you can use it against the devil.
4. Don't look at what is directly in front of you, but keep your eyes on the goal far ahead of you.

Think here of Moses (Hebrews 11: 24 to 26).
Joseph's another example (even though he ran away and later landed up in jail) (Genesis 39, 40)

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

THERE IS ONE THING WE MUST CLEARLY UNDERSTAND:

Hebrews 4: 15 "For we do not have a High Priest who is unable to sympathize 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 give in to the temptation and therefore 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?" THIS IS ANSWERED CLEARLY BY JAMES IN HIS FIRST CHAPTER:

Look carefully at James 1: 2 to 4: it is clear that James wants to teach us not to be discouraged if temptation comes but to count it pure joy!

LET US MAKE A SPECIAL STUDY OF JAMES 1: 2 to 4:

- There is a crown for everyone who succeeds over temptation. (V. 12)
- God does not tempt anyone (v. 13)
- v. 14, 15: Temptation tries to drag you away or capture you. If you are not prepared to be drawn away or captured, you have not sinned yet.
Achan only sinned when he desired and took...
(Joshua 7: 21)

Now we understand James 1:15 Then when lust (desires) hath conceived, it brings forth sin; and sin, when it is finished, brings forth death.”

OTHER TEXTS ABOUT TEMPTATION:

**Matthew 16: 41; Luke 22: 42; Galatians 6: 1;
2 Peter 2: 9**

SPIRIT, SOUL, AND BODY

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

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

Body: Bones, flesh, and blood.

Soul: Thoughts, reasoning (the "computer" of the brain)

Spirit: Your real self -- the inner part of you as a person.

This is where your conscience is (the alarm system)

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

When you die your spiritual component leaves your body (**Genesis 35: 18**) If the spiritual and physical components can be reunited then one can live again on earth! **1 Kings 17: 17 to 23**

We find that there is constant conflict between the flesh and the spirit. Even Paul was honest enough to admit it in **Romans 7: 18 to 25**

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:

1. Gal. 5:19. "Now the works of the flesh are plain fornication, impurity,"
The Living Bible expresses it as follows: "When you follow the desires of your sinful nature, your lives will produce these evil results: sexual immorality, impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasures..."
2. Gal. 5:20 "idolatry and witchcraft"
 - Anything that comes between God and me is an idol.
 - If you are involved in idolatry you sacrifice to demons

1 Corinthians 10: 19 to 21
3. Gal. 5:20, 21 "hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissension, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like"

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 according to Galatians 5: 6, 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, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."

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 I BE DELIVERED FROM THE WORKS OF THE FLESH?

- By means of an act of your will.

Anyone that is passive in relation to his or her situation cannot be delivered very easily. It is clear that 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 "

- **By confessing your sin with your whole heart and forsaking it.**

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

One conceals one's sins by hiding them from others or trying to excuse them. There is only one way to get rid of sin and that is:

I must confess it and forsake it. 1 John 1: 9

- **Walk in the Spirit Galatians 5: 16**

The Living Bible: "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. We read in **Luke 4: 1**: "Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,"

- **Fix your eyes on things above. Colossians 3: 1,2**
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".