



UNBROKEN

CURSES

Hidden Source of Trouble in the Christian's Life

REBECCA BROWN, M.D.

with DANIEL YODER

UNBROKEN CURSES

REBECCA BROWN, M.D.
and DANIEL YODER



WHITAKER
HOUSE

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the *New King James Version* (NKJV), © 1979, 1980, 1982, 1984 by Thomas Nelson, Inc.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.

UNBROKEN CURSES: Hidden Source of Trouble in the Christian's Life

Rebecca (Brown) Yoder, M.D., D.D., and Daniel M. Yoder
Harvest Warriors
P.O. Box 65
Clinton, AR 72031
e-mail: warriors@artelco.com
website: www.harvestwarriors.com

ISBN-13: 978-0-88368-372-9

ISBN-10: 0-88368-372-5

Printed in the United States of America

© 1995 by Rebecca (Brown) and Daniel Yoder

Whitaker House
1030 Hunt Valley Circle
New Kensington, PA 15068
www.whitakerhouse.com

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Brown, Rebecca, 1948–
Unbroken curses: hidden source of trouble in the Christian's life / by Rebecca
Brown, with Daniel M. Yoder.
p. cm.
ISBN 0-88368-372-5
1. Blessing and cursing. 2. Spiritual warfare. I. Yoder, Daniel, 1951–
II. Title.
BV4509.5 .B765 2001
248.4—dc21
2001005971

No part of this book may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical—including photocopying, recording, or by any information storage and retrieval system—without permission in writing from the publisher. Please direct your inquiries to permissionseditor@whitakerhouse.com.

Table of Contents

1. <i>Unsolved Problems</i>	7
2. <i>Legal Grounds</i>	15
3. <i>Inherited Curses</i>	27
4. <i>“Do Not Touch”</i>	47
5. <i>Territorial Rights Violations</i>	73
6. <i>Ritualistic Curses</i>	95
7. <i>Situational Curses</i>	111
8. <i>Dealing with the Thief</i>	127
9. <i>The Court of Final Appeal</i>	149

Chapter One

Unsolved Problems

Many Christians attend church regularly and strive with all their hearts to lead godly lives. However, in spite of their best efforts, everything seems to fall apart. No matter how hard they try or how much counseling they receive, nothing seems to help. For example, how often have you heard someone make a comment such as this: “My life was going along pretty smoothly until I accepted Jesus Christ. Then everything that could possibly go wrong did!” Maybe you have even made such a statement yourself.

Some Christians fail to understand why, in spite of everything they do, their children turn against them and against God and walk straight into destruction. Other Christians accept the Lord gladly, grow spiritually for a while, and then find they are no longer able to maintain a close relationship with the Lord. They seem to be unable to read and study their Bibles or pray, and eventually they give up interest and fall away. Still others struggle their whole lives with an

on-again, off-again walk with the Lord, never able to establish and maintain a consistent walk with Him.

Then there are those believers who battle year after year with all sorts of illnesses and catastrophic accidents. No matter how much they pray, believe, or attend healing services, nothing changes or improves in their lives. The conflict just continues without any resolution or any revelation from the Lord as to the reason for the lack of victory.

Countless families are plagued by conditions such as mental illness, suicides, alcoholism, physical illness, divorce, incest, and poverty. Often, even those who come to the Lord are unable to break the endless cycles of devastation within their own families.

These problems affect whole churches as well as individual lives. Many churches are marked by divorce or other such problems within the ranks of their members. Many struggle for years but never prosper and grow spiritually. They never grow in spiritual depth or increase in membership. They frequently split and often change pastors. Even if they do seem to have a revival and grow, soon everything falls apart, people leave, and the church ends up where it started. Why does this destructive cycle occur?

These discouraging situations may result from a number of factors, but a frequently overlooked reason is a curse on the person's life or family that has never been broken. Many churches are also cursed. This is a much-neglected area in Christian teaching today.

We had previously been aware of curses, and we have had to deal with them in our own lives. However, we never fully realized how widespread the problem is

within the body of Christ until we started presenting this material in our teaching seminars. We have been overwhelmed by the responses of people to the information about unbroken curses in their lives. We have been privileged to see many lives change dramatically as a result of this teaching.

The weapons of our warfare are powerful through Jesus Christ—that is, if we know when and how to use them. The purpose of this book is to help you recognize the hidden battle in your own life so that you can have total victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Definition of a Curse

Exactly what is a curse? First, let's look at the dictionary definition:

curse *n.* a prayer or invocation for harm or injury to come upon one; evil or misfortune that comes as if in response to imprecation or as retribution; a cause of great harm or misfortune

curse *v.* to use profanely insolent language against, blaspheme; to call upon divine or supernatural power to send injury upon; to excrete in fervent and often profane terms; to bring great evil upon, afflict

*(Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary,
Electronic Edition © 1994, 1995)*

When a curse is placed on someone, the purpose is to cause injury and destruction—sometimes to the point of death.

The Scriptures of the Old Testament are full of references to curses. The New Testament tells us that Jesus Christ came and died on the cross, conquering Satan, so that we can be set free from curses. (See Galatians 3:13.) Jesus gave His servants the power in His name to break curses.

Ignorance Isn't Bliss

Why then are Christians still so defeated and afflicted by curses? The answer is ignorance. You can't fight a battle you don't see or know exists. You cannot defeat an enemy when you don't even know he is attacking you. God's Word says the following:

⁶ *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge.*
(Hosea 4:6)

¹³ *Therefore my people have gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge; their honorable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.*

¹⁴ *Therefore Sheol has enlarged itself and opened its mouth beyond measure.* (Isaiah 5:13–14)

¹² *For wisdom is a defense as money is a defense, But the excellence of knowledge is that wisdom gives life to those who have it.*
(Ecclesiastes 7:12)

¹¹ *Lest Satan should take advantage of us; for we are not ignorant of his devices.*
(2 Corinthians 2:11)

The Scriptures clearly state that God's people will suffer and eventually be taken into captivity if they continue in ignorance and sin. This applies in the case of curses. Far too often, Christians do not realize that curses have been placed on their lives. Thus, they cannot deal with them, but they wonder why they continually suffer afflictions as they do.

The most common argument we hear from people is: "I don't believe God would hold me responsible for something I don't know about. I don't believe He would allow a curse to come on my life when I did not know I was doing something wrong."

Dear brothers and sisters, we must warn you that God does hold you accountable for everything that is in His Word. He has given us ample information throughout the Bible. Every one of us has access to a Bible. Therefore, we are without excuse. Look at these Scriptures:

¹⁷ If a person sins, and commits any of these things which are forbidden to be done by the commandments of the LORD, though he does not know it, yet he is guilty and shall bear his iniquity.
(Leviticus 5:17)

¹¹ For it is a people of no understanding; therefore He who made them will not have mercy on them, and He who formed them will show them no favor.
(Isaiah 27:11)

¹⁹ Hear, O earth! Behold, I will certainly bring calamity on this people; the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not heeded My words, nor My law, but rejected it.
(Jeremiah 6:19)

⁶ My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children. (Hosea 4:6)

If you do not read and study God's Word, then you are rejecting knowledge. The consequences of this sin are grave indeed. However, we serve a merciful God who is quick to forgive us when we repent, and we have the Holy Spirit who dwells in us to help us.

The Source of True Knowledge

Before He ascended to His Father, our Savior and Lord promised us the great gift of the Holy Spirit. If we ask, the Holy Spirit will show us truth and bring to our minds those sins that we have forgotten so we can confess them and be cleansed from them. He will reveal to us any curses that are active in our lives—all we have to do is ask.

⁷ [Jesus said] "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

⁸ "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

⁹ "of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

¹⁰ "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

¹¹ "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹² *"I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.*

¹³ *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.* (John 16:7–13)

We have many people ask us, "How can I know about sins in my past that I have forgotten?" The answer is simple: Ask the Holy Spirit to bring them to your remembrance. Even more frequently we hear, "How can I know if there is a curse operating in my life?" Again, ask the Holy Spirit to show it to you.

Are you experiencing unsolved problems in your life, your family, or your church? Perhaps the source of these problems is an unbroken curse. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any curses that may be in operation in your life. He will be faithful to do so.

Please stop and take a moment right now to pray. Ask the Holy Spirit to enable you to understand everything you read in this book and the Scriptures quoted here. The information in this book can change your life forever.

Chapter Two

Legal Grounds

When God led the children of Israel into the promised land of Canaan, He knew that every person in the land was involved in serving and worshiping demons. Through Moses, the Lord gave careful, detailed instructions to His people so that they would neither be snared into worshiping demons nor receive harm from any curses when they went into the land.

The Old Testament contains a wealth of information we should be using in our own lives today. Curses of plagues, famine, and destruction came upon the nation of Israel when they turned away from the Lord's instructions. The same process is happening in the lives of Christians today. We are no longer under the law as given to Moses. Jesus fulfilled the law and set us free under the new covenant in His blood. (See Galatians 4:5; Matthew 5:17–18.) However, the spiritual principles laid down for the children of Israel in the Old Testament still hold true in our lives today. Demon worship and the occult are all around us, just

as they were in the land of Canaan. Satan hasn't changed. He and his servants have just put on a veneer of sophistication to try to keep us from recognizing him. We would do well to heed the following instructions which God gave to the leaders of the children of Israel:

²³ They shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.

(Ezekiel 44:23)

Sadly, we have found that very few Christians have any knowledge of those things that the Lord proclaims to be unclean. Thus, their lives and homes are cluttered with unclean things which enable curses to operate in their lives.

Moses taught the children of Israel the difference between the holy and the unholy. This knowledge enabled them to know what things would bring blessing and cursing into their lives.

¹⁵ See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil...

¹⁹ I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live.

(Deuteronomy 30:15, 19)

Clearly, whether our lives are successful and blessed, or unsuccessful and cursed, depends upon our knowledge of the teachings of the Lord.

Kinds of Curses

First, we are going to give an overview of the various kinds of curses. We will then discuss each one in detail. We will study these three types of curses:

- Curses from God
- Curses from Satan and/or his servants with the legal right to curse
- Curses from Satan and/or his servants without the legal right to curse

The first two types of curses can be broken only after repentance for the sins responsible for bringing them about. The third type can easily be broken in the name of Jesus.

Purposes of Curses

The two purposes for curses are as follows:

- Curses sent by Satan and/or his servants are always for the purpose of causing injury, loss, destruction, and (often) death.
- Curses sent by God are for the purposes of gaining the person's attention and causing him to turn from his evil ways, turn toward God, and purify his life. If the person does not respond to this, he will be destroyed and eventually put to death.

The Anatomy of Curses

What is the anatomy of a curse? Curses from Satan and/or his servants always involve demon spirits. When a curse is placed, demon spirits are sent to a specific person or family for a specific purpose. The

curse is the sending mechanism, and the demon spirits bring about the fulfillment of the curse.

Curses from God can consist of several different things. Sometimes a curse from God is direct injury and destruction through such things as catastrophic weather, disease, lack of fertility, and economic collapse. Occasionally, God gives Satan the legal right to send demons onto people to injure and destroy them. At other times, God may bring people who are Satan's servants to conquer and destroy—for example, invading armies of foreign nations.

Sources or Roots of Curses

Several sources of curses exist. We will examine the following roots of curses:

- Inheritance:
 - ◆ The sins of the forefathers
 - ◆ Broken dedications to Satan
 - ◆ Ancestors' acceptance of curses on the lives of descendants
 - ◆ Continuing in the sins of the forefathers
- Involvement with unclean and unholy things:
 - ◆ Bringing cursed objects into the home/office
 - ◆ Handling unholy things
 - ◆ Giving honor to demon gods
 - ◆ Following demonic fads
- Territorial rights violations:
 - ◆ Touching Satan's ground
 - ◆ Going into battle against Satan without being specifically commanded to by God
 - ◆ Living on unclean or cursed land
 - ◆ Living in unclean or cursed housing

- Performance of demonic rituals:
 - ◆ Through occultic drawings
 - ◆ Through the spirit realm directly
 - ◆ By the use of personal items
 - ◆ By attaching to animals and pets
 - ◆ Through cursed gifts
- Distinct situations and actions:
 - ◆ Ridiculing Satan
 - ◆ Partaking of food sacrificed to idols
 - ◆ Hatred, jealousy, and the misspoken word
 - ◆ Circumstances beyond our control
 - ◆ Breaking vows to God

Often we give Satan the legal right to attack us because we, knowingly or unknowingly, become involved in situations that open the door just enough for him to gain entrance. Most curses come from this source. It is only as that legal right is removed through repentance and cleansing that we can then break a curse.

Before we discuss exactly how to break curses, we need to show how we can give Satan the legal right to attack us and put curses on our lives.

Satan's Legal Rights

In the seventh chapter of Joshua, we find a detailed example of how Satan can gain the legal right to assault us even though we personally may be unaware of his devices. Let us bring you up-to-date on the history of the children of Israel prior to the time of this incident recorded in Joshua. Moses had led them out of Egypt. They had then wandered in the wilderness for forty years. Moses died, and the Lord placed the

leadership of the children of Israel onto Joshua. God performed a miracle and parted the Jordan River so they could cross over. God promised Joshua and the children of Israel that He would fight their battles for them and give them victory, but the promise was conditional. God's condition was their obedience to His commands.

The first city they had to conquer was Jericho. Militarily, it was one of the most powerful cities in the civilized world of that day. It was tremendously fortified. In the natural, the children of Israel didn't have a hope of defeating it. But, as you all know the story, the walls of Jericho fell down, and the city was defeated through God's miraculous power. The Lord specifically commanded the children of Israel not to take anything from Jericho for themselves. In other words, they were to take no loot.

Let's look at the seventh chapter of Joshua now:

¹ But the children of Israel committed a trespass regarding the accursed things, for Achan the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took of the accursed things; so the anger of the LORD burned against the children of Israel. (Joshua 7:1)

The other people of Israel did not know that Achan had sinned. No one knew except God—and who else? Satan, of course. We cannot hide our mental sins from God because He knows our hearts and minds (see 1 Samuel 16:7; 1 Chronicles 28:9; Romans 8:27; Hebrews 4:12), even though no one else knows about them. However, once we act on those thoughts, no matter how secretly, we cannot hide our sin from God or from Satan.

The Israelites' next battle was going to be against the small town of Ai. The leaders held a strategy-planning session. They said to each other, "Look, the men are exhausted from taking Jericho. There's no need to tire them all. Let's just take our most dedicated, godly men and go take Ai." We have to assume it was an elite, handpicked group of 3,000 men that went up to Ai. Nowhere does it say that any of those men were walking in sin. They were absolutely committed to serving the Lord wholeheartedly.

Let's read further:

⁴ So about three thousand men went up there from the people, but they fled before the men of Ai.

⁵ And the men of Ai struck down about thirty-six men, for they chased them from before the gate as far as Shebarim, and struck them down on the descent; therefore the hearts of the people melted and became like water. (Joshua 7:4–5)

Thirty-six God-fearing, God-serving, innocent men were slaughtered. Why? Had they done anything wrong? No. Nowhere does Scripture say these men had sinned. They had not sinned, and they were giving their all to serve the Lord.

Joshua and the leaders were stunned! They couldn't understand. After the wonderful victory at Jericho, they could hardly believe their ears when the battered and defeated army returned. God had promised them victory! Had He gone back on His word? Had He changed His mind? Unthinkable!

⁶ Then Joshua tore his clothes, and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until evening, he and the elders of Israel; and they put dust on their heads.

⁷ *And Joshua said, "Alas, Lord GOD, why have You brought this people over the Jordan at all; to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!"*

⁸ *"O Lord, what shall I say when Israel turns its back before its enemies?"*

⁹ *"For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear it, and surround us, and cut off our name from the earth. Then what will You do for Your great name?"* (Joshua 7:6–9)

Joshua experienced the same doubts and fears we do when some catastrophe comes into our lives. He did the same thing we do. He began to weep and wail before the Lord just like we do. Something goes wrong in our lives, and who do we blame immediately? God, that's who! "Oh, Lord, how could you let this happen to me?" we cry and moan as we ask our pastors and everybody else we can think of to pray for us. We never stop to think that the problem is with us, not with God. *"Oh, that we had been content, and dwelt on the other side of the Jordan!"* (v. 7). Doesn't that sound like us? Our first reactions are self-pity and blaming God. The human race hasn't changed a bit in all the years since Joshua.

But, notice how the Lord answers Joshua:

¹⁰ *So the LORD said to Joshua: "Get up! Why do you lie thus on your face?"*

¹¹ *"Israel has sinned, and they have also transgressed My covenant which I commanded them. For they have even taken some of the accursed things, and have both stolen and deceived; and they have also put it among their own stuff."*

¹² *“Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they have become doomed to destruction. Neither will I be with you anymore, unless you destroy the accursed from among you.”* (Joshua 7:10–12)

There was sin in the camp, which gave Satan and his servants the legal right to attack and defeat the children of Israel. When we disobey God, not only do we sin, but we also give Satan the legal right to assault us. We often don’t realize that we serve a God who is completely just. Not only is He just with us, His own people, He is also just with Satan and his servants. If we give Satan the right to assail us, God won’t interfere.

This is the reason it is so vitally important for us to know God’s Word. If we do not know the Word, we will sin and give Satan and his servants the legal right to place curses on our lives.

⁹ *How can a young man [or woman] cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word.*

¹⁰ *With my whole heart I have sought You; oh, let me not wander from Your commandments!*

¹¹ *Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.* (Psalm 119:9–11)

How to Break a Curse

Now that we know how Satan can acquire the right to curse us as well as other sources of curses, we can discuss how to break them. The specific steps we need to take depend on the kind of curse involved.

If the curse is from God, follow these steps:

- **Step 1:** Acknowledge your own sin and the sins of your forefathers. Then confess them to God and repent for them, asking for forgiveness and cleansing. Separate yourself from sin and those things which displease God. Change your life!
- **Step 2:** Ask God to remove the curse He has placed on your life.
- **Step 3:** Command any demons that came into your life through the sins to leave you at once in the name of Jesus.

If the curse is from Satan and he has the legal right to do so, these are the steps to take:

- **Step 1:** Confess and acknowledge the sin that gave Satan and/or his servants the right to place the curse on you. Repent and ask God for forgiveness and cleansing.
- **Step 2:** Speaking out loud, take authority over the curse in the name of Jesus Christ, and command it to be broken at once.

Example: "In the name of Jesus Christ, I take authority over this curse of _____, and I command it to be broken **now!**"

- **Step 3:** Command all demon spirits associated with the curse to leave you immediately in the name of Jesus.

Example: "In the name of Jesus Christ, I command all demon spirits associated with this curse to leave me **now!**"

If Satan has cursed you without the legitimate right to do so, then do the following:

- **Step 1:** Speaking out loud, take authority over the curse in the name of Jesus Christ, and command it to be broken at once.

Example: “In the name of Jesus Christ, I take authority over this curse of _____, and I command it to be broken **now!**”

- **Step 2:** Command all the demon spirits associated with the curse to leave you immediately.

Example: “In the name of Jesus Christ, I command all demon spirits associated with this curse to leave me **now!**”

These are the basic steps to breaking curses. In some of the specific examples we will be discussing, we will give more detailed procedures that pertain to the particular circumstances.

Authority and Responsibility

Unfortunately, some Christians believe that they don't have to bother with curses at all. They assume that God will handle them. However, Jesus specifically told us that He was giving us authority over Satan and his kingdom. (See Luke 10:19; Mark 16:17; and 2 Corinthians 7:1.) With authority comes responsibility. It is our responsibility to break any curses sent onto us. Jesus Christ gave us the power to do so, and He expects us to use the authority given to us in His name.

Chapter Three

Inherited Curses

Curses can be inherited. They are passed down from generation to generation. In this chapter, we are going to discuss from a biblical viewpoint how curses are inherited, what types of curses these are, and how to deal with them.

The Sins of the Forefathers

The sins of our forefathers can have a devastating effect on our own lives. People fight, they hate, and they feud. Such behavior often results in a curse being placed on a family unit or the whole family line.

Those involved in Satan's service have a good understanding of the importance of heritage. When they place a curse on a family, they are sure to include all the descendants in the curse. Their desire is to destroy the whole family line, not just an individual. In families where various forms of mental illness or specific physical illnesses have been passed down through the generations, this is often the case.

Is your family line characterized by a particular type of problem? Divorce? Incest? Poverty? Uncontrolled anger? Unbelief? Then you need to seek God about the possibility of a curse on your whole family line.

We in America have lost the concept of heritage. However, Scripture clearly shows that heritage and families are very important to God. Look at these verses:

⁹ Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren,

¹⁰ Especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, "Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children."

(Deuteronomy 4:9–10)

⁶ And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

(Deuteronomy 6:6–7)

⁵ For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me.

(Exodus 20:5)

¹⁹ *I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, **that both you and your descendants may live.*** (Deuteronomy 30:19, emphasis added)

These verses are just a few of many that clearly show the importance God places on heritage. Just because we have lost the understanding of the concept of heritage does not mean that God has forgotten it. God has not abandoned the concept. In fact, He still operates on this principle whether we realize it or not! Satan and his servants have not lost the concept of heritage either. This puts most Christians at a terrible disadvantage.

A recent survey by the Focus on the Family organization showed that in almost any church 50% of the households are single-parent homes! Many children know only one parent. Split families and multiple marriages destroy any sense of heritage or continuity of family lines.

Some of us know some things about the lives of our grandparents. Very few of us have any knowledge about our great-grandparents at all. In general, however, we know almost nothing about our family's history. If people followed God's Word, they would be diligently teaching their children the history of their own family, especially those things that God did in the lives of their ancestors—both blessings and curses.

This loss of knowledge of family history seriously affects our lives. First, we are unable to learn from the experiences of our ancestors, both good and bad. Our faith is not built by remembering incidents of God's miraculous work in their lives. Additionally, we

are unaware of the curses we have inherited through their sins. Also, we end up walking in the same sins as our forefathers and reaping the same troubles as a result.

Let's look at the Scripture in Leviticus 26 where this principle is clearly illustrated. God is telling the children of Israel all the terrible things that will happen to them when they turn away from serving Him: famine, drought, and slaughter from invading armies, with the remaining survivors carried away as captives of foreign nations. Even after all these calamities, the survivors' troubles continue.

³⁸ *You shall perish among the nations, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up.*

³⁹ *And those of you who are left shall waste away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; also in their fathers' iniquities which are with them, they shall waste away.* (Leviticus 26:38–39)

The survivors waste away in the iniquities of their forefathers! How many people today are wasting away in the iniquities of their forefathers without realizing it? Whole nations are being destroyed because of the iniquities of the forefathers.

Let's look at a modern-day example. In the country of Rwanda in Africa, one tribe rose up against another and massacred thousands and thousands of people. The people of the oppressed tribe fled to camps in Zaire. There in the refugee camps thousands more died of cholera. The rest of the world watched in horror and amazement as CNN filmed the whole spectacle. Then the oppressed tribe came to power in Rwanda and began to massacre the first tribe. As a

result, thousands of the people of the first tribe then fled to refugee camps in Zaire.

In February, 1995, as we were flying to speak in the African nation of Ivory Coast, we were reading one of the European newspapers. A reporter who had visited the refugee camps of both tribes had written a fascinating article. When he talked to the refugees, he asked them same question repeatedly: "Now that the war in Rwanda is ended, do you think you can go back and live in peace with people of the other tribe?"

Without exception, the answer was the same: "No, we can never live in peace with the other tribe until the blood of our slain people has been avenged."

And so the vicious cycle continues! Wouldn't you think those people in the refugee camps would have learned by the terrible things they experienced that intertribal warfare has no benefits? But, they have not dealt with the sins of their fathers and forefathers, so they will continue to waste away in their iniquities. In Satan's kingdom, blood calls for blood, and the killing never stops.

While we were ministering in Ivory Coast, we visited briefly with some Christians who had just arrived there from Liberia. Intertribal warfare had broken out in Liberia. They had been forced to watch as their families were massacred by another tribe. They and their families were all Christians, but they were wasting away in the iniquities of their forefathers.

The whole continent of Africa is characterized by tribal warfare. In 1995, there have been uprisings of intertribal warfare and massacres in Kenya as well. We have all seen the same thing in Somalia as it was filmed by the news media. The people of Africa have

never broken away from the sins of their forefathers. Each tribe is consequently ruled by particular demon gods. Demons hate people and are determined to exterminate them! Thus, the whole history of Africa has been incessant warfare and massacres among tribes. Until the Christians unite as one body and cry out to God in repentance for the sins of demon worship and hatred and warfare among their tribes as well as their ancestors' tribes, the curses from the sins of their forefathers will not be removed from their lives. Christians and non-Christians alike are being killed in those massacres. They are wasting away in the iniquities of their fathers (Leviticus 26:39).

This same problem exists here in America. The biggest problem in any large city is gang warfare and violence. Most of this is black-on-black violence. Why? Because the intertribal warfare among blacks is being carried on right here in America. Each gang is the same as a tribe. It doesn't matter that these precious people are no longer in Africa. They are still wasting away in the iniquities of their forefathers.

Praise God, there is a solution! Jesus Christ died on the cross to pay the price for all of our sins. Also, God clearly explains the principles of how to break these terrible cycles in His Word.

⁴⁰ But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me,

⁴¹ And that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt;

⁴² *Then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land.* (Leviticus 26:40–42)

Will God send you to hell for the sins of your fathers and forefathers? No! However, their sins and the resultant curses will affect your life unless you deal with them through Jesus Christ. How do you separate yourself from the sins of your ancestors? By confession—clear acknowledgment of these sins as sin before God (1 John 1:9)—and then asking the Lord to separate you completely from the sins of your ancestors.

A search of the Old Testament will show you that every time there was a revival in Israel, the first thing the Hebrew nation did was confess the iniquities of their forefathers. Look at what the people did in Nehemiah's time. Nehemiah was sent by God to enable the people to rebuild the wall around Jerusalem. The people had fallen into sin and failure. In fact, they had fallen into the very same sins that had resulted in their fathers and grandfathers being taken away into captivity just seventy years before. They needed revival. They needed the curse of judgment to be lifted from their lives. Look at what these people did:

¹ *Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, in sackcloth, and with dust on their heads.*

² *Then those of Israelite lineage separated themselves from all foreigners; and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.*

³ *And they stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for one-fourth of the day; and for another fourth they confessed and worshiped the LORD their God.* (Nehemiah 9:1–3)

The prophet Daniel understood this principle. Daniel knew the time was at hand for the remnant to be returned from captivity to Jerusalem, but he also knew that the curse had to be lifted first. This could only come through repentance. Please take a few minutes to read the entire ninth chapter of Daniel and see Daniel's beautiful prayer of repentance. Here are just a few verses of that prayer:

¹⁶ *O Lord, according to all Your righteousness, I pray, let Your anger and Your fury be turned away from Your city Jerusalem, Your holy mountain; because for our sins, and for the iniquities of our fathers, Jerusalem and Your people are a reproach to all those around us.*

¹⁷ *Now therefore, our God, hear the prayer of Your servant, and his supplications, and for the Lord's sake cause Your face to shine on Your sanctuary, which is desolate.* (Daniel 9:16–17)

The ninth chapter of Ezra also demonstrates prayer by the children of Israel confessing the sins of their forefathers as well as their own sins. Ezra clearly understood the principle of the people wasting away in the iniquities of their fathers as well as their own iniquities. In Ezra's mind, the sins of the fathers and the sins of the children were very much linked together. Once again, we recommend that you take a few minutes to read that whole chapter. We will quote just one verse of the prayer:

⁷ Since the days of our fathers to this day we have been very guilty, and for our iniquities we, our kings, and our priests have been delivered into the hand of the kings of the lands, to the sword, to captivity, to plunder, and to humiliation, as it is this day. (Ezra 9:7)

The scriptural record shows that God always honored such prayers of repentance and brought revival and prosperity back to the nation and people of Israel. Through these prayers of repentance and confession of the sins of the forefathers, the curses were lifted off the people and the land.

Unfortunately, few people today know enough about their forefathers to know what their sins were. However, their lives are affected by those sins whether they know about them or not. Christians today have lost this concept. Failure to confess and deal with the sins of the forefathers often results in failure when attempts are made to break inherited curses.

Such inherited curses can affect individuals, families, churches, cities, states, geographical regions, or nations. We want to give you an example of an inherited curse on a whole family line and how it affected one of the individuals within that family.

I (Rebecca) have a friend with whom I have corresponded for some time. She is a committed Christian, who serves the Lord with her whole heart. A couple of months ago, I received a letter from Sandy telling me that she didn't know what was wrong with her physical body but that she was gravely ill. As I read her letter, my heart was grieved because the symptoms she described to me fit perfectly the symptoms of cancer of the pancreas.

I called her immediately. She told me that she had just been to see her doctor that day to get the results of an abdominal CAT scan. He told her that the scan showed what appeared to be a large tumor in her pancreas which was most likely malignant. She was scheduled to be admitted to the hospital the next day for surgery to biopsy the tumor to determine if it indeed was cancer. People with pancreatic cancer at that stage usually live only three to six months after receiving the diagnosis. There are no known effective treatments for this condition.

I asked Sandy if she knew for certain if it was God's will for her to live or die. She replied, "I have been asking the Lord this very question. But, to be honest, I have so much pain, and my emotions are so involved—especially with my husband's terrible worry and grief—that I haven't been able to hear the Lord's answer clearly. However, deep inside, I just have this feeling that my work for Him isn't finished yet."

My response was, "Sandy, the Lord knows your heart. He knows that you want to do His will. You can rest in that. If you don't have a clear answer from God that it is His will to take you home now, then I believe you should resist death with all your might."

Sandy answered, "You know, Rebecca, I have known for years that there is a curse of cancer on my family. As far back as I can trace, every member of my family has died from cancer at a fairly young age. Usually the cancer has been of the liver or pancreas. I thought I had broken the curse off of my own life, but now it looks like I have not been successful in doing so. I don't understand why. I should have the power in Christ to break it."

I asked Sandy if she knew the origin of the curse. She replied, “No, I don’t. I have tried my best to find out but haven’t been able to. I just know that the Lord showed me it is a curse and that it affects my whole family line.”

The Holy Spirit had just been teaching Daniel and me the importance of the principle of confessing the sins of the forefathers. I shared this information with Sandy, especially the passage in Leviticus 26. I felt that since the cancer curse was an inherited one, most likely Satan had the legal right to curse her family because of the sins of her forefathers.

“But what if you don’t know all the sins?” she asked. “I do know that my family has an extensive history of sexual immorality and divorce. In fact, I am the first one to remain in a marriage, and that’s because I accepted Christ. Very few in my family ever became Christians.”

I told Sandy that I thought she should get on her knees before the Lord and confess all the sins of her forefathers that she did know about and also ask Him to forgive those she didn’t know about. She needed to ask the Lord to separate her completely from all the sins of her forefathers by the precious blood of Jesus. Next, she should ask the Lord to remove the curse if it was from Him. Only then would she be ready to deal with Satan. After she confessed the sins of her forefathers, Satan would no longer have a legal right to continue the curse of cancer in her life or the lives of her descendants. She was to command the curse of cancer to be broken in the name of Jesus Christ.

I further suggested that she and her husband join together and anoint her with oil, covering her whole

epigastric area and the area of her pain with the oil. While they applied the oil, she should command all demons associated with the curse to leave her at once in the name of Jesus. I also suggested that she specifically command any demons afflicting her pancreas or causing the tumor to leave at once in Jesus' name. Finally, she needed to ask the Lord to heal all the damage that had been done.

Sandy did all of this that night. When she was taken to surgery the next day, the doctors could not find any trace of the tumor they had seen on the CAT scan! They found some enlargement of her pancreas from inflammation, but nothing else was wrong. Praise the Lord! How many Christians have not received healing because they have not dealt with the sins of their forefathers?

Although Christians have lost the concept of heritage, Satan's forces have not. Satan knows the principles of inheritance set up by God and makes use of them. This fact was forcibly drawn to my attention this past year while working in deliverance with a young woman (I'll call her Ann) who had been severely ritualistically abused from her early childhood until she left home at the age of nineteen.

Ann is from one of the royal families of Europe. She told me that just before her mother's death she was given a number of items which she was instructed to guard carefully and then pass on to her own daughter. Her mother told Ann that she would die if she lost any of the articles or allowed them to be destroyed.

When Ann asked her mother why the things she had been given were so important, she was told that they ensured the continuation of her family's power.

This power comes from the demon spirits associated with the family. Her family had worshiped and served Satan for generations. In fact, Ann had an ornate family tree drawn on an old parchment that went back to the fifteenth century. This young woman was the first member of her family to accept Christ.

Ann brought the items with her when she came to see me. She prayed over each one, breaking the lines of inheritance and any curses associated with them. As we burned each item, Ann commanded all the demons associated with the articles to leave her life forever in the name of Jesus Christ.

The most interesting article was the certificate of citizenship given to her first ancestor who immigrated to the United States. It was dated 1850. Her mother had emphasized to Ann the great importance of this document to insure the continuance of power in her branch of the family that now lived in the U.S. We wondered why it was important, so we prayed and asked the Lord to reveal the reason to us. The Lord showed both of us at the same time. That certificate of citizenship was the legal doorway that allowed all the demons associated with her family line to have clear entrance into the United States!

I had never thought of this idea before. As Ann burned the citizenship certificate of her ancestor, she not only commanded the demons out of her life, but also commanded all the demons associated with her family line to leave America forever. Then she asked the Lord to close that doorway so they could not return.

How many families have migrated to the United States over the years? As each individual became a

citizen, a legal door was opened for all of their family demons. I wonder what a difference it might make if every Christian in America severed all ungodly inheritance and kicked their family's ancestral demons out of our nation?

Broken Dedications to Satan

Satan wants the children! Every parent or grandparent who serves Satan or a demon god of any sort has dedicated their children and descendants to the service of Satan. Baby dedications are performed in every church, whether Christian or non-Christian.

Were you dedicated or baptized in a church that is not Christian? Then you have been dedicated to the service of Satan. Do you have any ancestors who served Satan or demon gods or parents who were members of satanic organizations such as the Masons or the Shriners? Then you may be sure that you were dedicated to the service of Satan or one of the demon gods, which is the same as being dedicated to Satan.

When a child, or even an unborn offspring, is dedicated to the service of Satan, demon spirits are assigned the task of insuring that the child remains in Satan's service all of his life. Such dedications may not be worded so specifically, but this fact is inherent in all such rituals. For instance, children dedicated in the Mormon church are endowed with the spiritual power of the prophets to insure that they remain good Mormons all of their lives. Oaths taken by members of various lodges contain statements which dedicate their offspring and descendants to the service of the lodge, which is the same as dedicating them to the demon gods of the lodge or to Satan. All children of

American Indians are dedicated to their gods. The same is true in African tribes and around the world.

Do you have a parent or ancestor who has been involved in any of these things? Then your own life was dedicated to the service of Satan or whatever organization, lodge, or demon god they served.

Once a person who has been dedicated in such a way accepts Jesus Christ as his Lord and Savior, he effectively breaks the dedication. To the demon spirits that were assigned to insure his fulfillment of the dedication to Satan, he has become a traitor. Immediately a curse of destruction is then activated in his life by those demons. You see, the demonic philosophy is something like this: if a person can't be held to his dedication, the demons will attempt to destroy him.

We have counseled with many Christians whose lives went along quite well until they accepted Christ. Once they were born again, just about everything that could possibly go wrong in their lives did so! They feel confused and wonder why all these terrible things are happening to them. Too often they are told that it is just the persecution that is expected in the service of Christ. We are too quick to accept this. Some persecution is inevitable, but frequently the problems are due to a curse of destruction that can be broken.

Do you think you were dedicated to Satan? Here is how you deal with both the dedication and the curse of destruction:

- **Step 1:** Confess the sins of your forefathers, asking the Lord for forgiveness and cleansing. Ask the Lord to completely separate you from the iniquities of your forefathers.

- **Step 2:** Formally renounce any dedication placed upon your life to the service of Satan or any of his demons. Proclaim that you are now a Christian in the service of Jesus Christ.
- **Step 3:** Command all demons placed into your life as a result of this dedication to leave at once in the name of Jesus Christ.
- **Step 4:** In the name of Jesus Christ, take authority over the curse of destruction that was activated through your broken dedication, and command it to be broken immediately.
- **Step 5:** Command all demons associated with that curse of destruction to leave you at once in the name of Jesus Christ.

We recently went through this teaching with a small group of Christians in leadership positions. They realized that such dedications had been made in each of their lives. After the study, each one decided that he wanted to deal with the dedications immediately. We want to emphasize that these were strong, intelligent, committed Christians. We were all amazed at what happened next!

As they started to confess the sins of their forefathers and specifically renounce the dedications placed on their lives, they suddenly found that they could not do so. They became confused. Their minds blanked out every time they started to say the words. Some found that their tongues became so twisted that they stuttered and could not say the simplest of words. All of them were unable to remember even one simple sentence renouncing their dedication in the name of Jesus. Just a few minutes previously while discussing the situation, they could easily recall whole paragraphs of information! Clearly, the demons involved

were strenuously fighting against the breaking of the dedications and curses. The battlefield was in their minds (2 Corinthians 10:3–5).

All of these Christian leaders struggled intensely. They had to command the demons involved to be bound in the name of Jesus. Step-by-step, we had to repeat the statements they needed to make, such as breaking the dedication or curse. We made them repeat each statement until they could do so freely and without difficulty. When they were able to do this, we knew the demons had been driven out. Even after commanding the demons which were creating the interference to be bound in the name of Jesus Christ, they had to pray, concentrate, and set their wills against them. It was quite a surprising experience for all of them. They had no idea of the strength of the demonic powers which were operating in their lives. Praise God, they were all set free through the power of Jesus Christ!

Ancestral Acceptance of Curses on Descendants

In some cases, people literally accept a curse upon their own lives and the lives of their descendants. The best example of this is found in Matthew's gospel:

²⁴ When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just Person. You see to it."

²⁵ And all the people answered and said, "His blood be on us and on our children."

(Matthew 27:24–25)

We believe this curse is from God. The Jews who stood there before Pilate that day willingly accepted it—not only for themselves, but also for their children and descendants. From that tragic time until today, untold suffering has resulted from this curse on the children of Israel. Any person of Jewish descent who accepts Jesus Christ needs to repent for the sins of his forefathers on that terrible day when Jesus was crucified. He also needs to humbly petition God to remove this generational curse from himself and his family.

The consequences of this one curse have affected more people than just the Jews. The aftermath has affected the whole world. Why do we say this? Because every person responsible for bringing persecution and suffering onto the children of Israel in fulfillment of this curse is himself cursed by God!

We ask every man, woman, and child reading this book: Have you or anyone in your family line ever been involved in persecuting the Jewish people? Have you or your family been guilty of looking the other way when others around you were persecuting them? If so, then you are under a curse from God! You need to repent and ask God to remove it.

¹ *Now the Lord had said to Abram:...*

² *"I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing.*

³ *"I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."*

(Genesis 12:1–3)

Continuing in the Sins of the Forefathers

Not only do the sins of the forefathers affect the lives of individuals and families, they also can have a grave influence on entire nations. Let's look again at the Scriptures in Deuteronomy and Leviticus:

¹⁹ [Moses speaking to the children of Israel] *"I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live."*
(Deuteronomy 30:19)

³⁹ *And those of you who are left shall waste away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands; also in their fathers' iniquities, which are with them, they shall waste away.*

⁴⁰ *But if they confess their iniquity and the iniquity of their fathers, with their unfaithfulness in which they were unfaithful to Me, and that they also have walked contrary to Me,*

⁴¹ *and that I also have walked contrary to them and have brought them into the land of their enemies; if their uncircumcised hearts are humbled, and they accept their guilt;*

⁴² *then I will remember My covenant with Jacob, and My covenant with Isaac and My covenant with Abraham I will remember; I will remember the land.*
(Leviticus 26:39–42)

Have you ever stopped to wonder why alcoholic parents have alcoholic children? It is not only because of learned behavior patterns, but it is also because of

inherited sins. Unless the children acknowledge the sins of their parents and repent for them, they will themselves end up committing those same transgressions and continuing under the curse imposed by God.

Many families are full of divorce. I believe this can be a curse passed down from generation to generation. In fact, secular studies have shown that any person from a divorced family has a 50% greater chance of being divorced himself, thus continuing in the curse and the sins of the forefathers.

You need to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to search your life and the lives of your family. Ask Him to reveal to you those sins that you need to confess and cleanse out of your life so that you can break the curses associated with them.

Chapter Four

“Do Not Touch”

Through our ignorance, we often bring destruction into our lives unwittingly. Curses can arise from touching, or involvement with, unclean and unholy things. We will discuss these types of curses in this chapter.

Several Scriptures warn all believers to avoid things that are unclean and to remain separate from them.

¹⁷ *“Come out from among them and be separate,” says the Lord. “Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you.”* (2 Corinthians 6:17)

²³ *And they shall teach My people the difference between the holy and the unholy, and cause them to discern between the unclean and the clean.* (Ezekiel 44:23)

²⁴ *And he spoke to the congregation, saying, “Depart now from the tents of these wicked men! Touch nothing of theirs, lest you be consumed in all their sins.”* (Numbers 16:26)

We bring so many curses on our lives and the lives of our families by disobeying these Scriptures! There is a desperate need for Christians everywhere to develop a deep desire to live holy lives, refusing to touch anything that God has declared is unclean. Here are a few examples of such curses.

Bringing Cursed Objects into Our Homes

Any object that was made for use in Satan's service is cursed and cannot be cleansed. They must be destroyed. Examples of these are idols, statues of demon gods, and jewelry with occultic symbols. About half of all the souvenirs found in any shop around the world are cursed objects. Why? Because often they are articles pertaining to the local culture which usually involves demon worship.

²⁵ You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the LORD your God.

²⁶ Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing.

(Deuteronomy 7:25–26)

Have you traveled and brought home carved images of demon gods as souvenirs? I have been in many churches where the first thing I saw as I stepped into the pastor's office was an array of souvenirs from his travels overseas and missions trips. All too frequently,

these souvenirs included statues of demon gods! These bring a curse into the pastor’s life and onto the church.

Do you have statues of Buddha, a pharaoh’s head from Egypt, or African art carvings which are usually of their demon gods? What about jewelry? Usually, local jewelry has images on it representing the gods of the local tribes or people. If you have brought any of these things into your home, then you are doomed to destruction (Deuteronomy 7:26). Let us give you some examples.

Several years ago, Daniel and I were ministering just outside Chicago, Illinois. A husband and wife and their three children talked to us during the seminar. All of them were serving the Lord with their whole hearts. They were hardworking people, and the husband was a gifted businessman. He had done very well in business until five years prior to meeting us. Suddenly, things began to go wrong. Soon, his business failed altogether. Everything he tried failed.

When we met them, both the husband and wife were working, but it seemed that they could never become stabilized financially or get ahead. They had lost their home and almost all of their material assets during those five years. They had spent much time in prayer and fasting, but it was to no avail. They felt that surely a curse was on their finances, but they could not break its power no matter how they tried.

After listening to their story, we agreed that there definitely was a curse of poverty on this family. The question was, Where did it come from? Finally, we were lead by the Holy Spirit to ask them what cursed objects they had in their home. They searched

their minds, but they could not think of anything. We advised the family to go home, prostrate themselves on the floor before the Lord, and cry out to Him in one accord, asking Him to reveal to them what unclean thing they had in their home.

The next day they came back to the meetings very excited. They told us that they had taken our advice, gone home, and together pleaded before the Lord. As they were praying, they heard a loud crash by the front door, immediately followed by another crash in the bedroom. They jumped up to see what had fallen. By the front door had been a large, beautiful figurine that had been given to them by the husband's father, who was a very wealthy man. On one of his trips through Mexico, he had come across an exquisite and expensive figurine which stood about three feet high. It had a lead-weighted base so that it could not fall over. Because of the unusual beauty of the artwork, the man purchased it and brought it home to his son. The artistic figurine of a Mexican beggar was now smashed into a thousand pieces all over the floor!

A year later, the father had once again traveled to Mexico where he had discovered another smaller figurine of the same Mexican beggar. He had bought this one and had given it to his son as well. It sat on the dresser in their bedroom. The family found this one smashed all over the bedroom floor. In His mercy, the Lord supernaturally destroyed those figurines as the family prayed. These objects had brought a curse of poverty on this family! They immediately repented and asked the Lord to forgive them for having the figurines in their home. Then the family broke the curse of poverty off their lives as they removed the broken pieces from the house.

That was four years ago. Since then, they have once again prospered in business, and everything they lost has been replaced.

Were these figurines demon gods? We don't think so, but they had obviously been made with a curse of poverty attached to them. We have no way of knowing the history of who made them and for what purpose, but the Lord in His mercy clearly showed this family these figurines were the source of their trouble.

As we were traveling in Mexico recently, we had the opportunity to talk with a young Mexican man who is on fire for the Lord. He told us that a group of people in Mexico City who claim to be direct descendants from the original Indian inhabitants of the area make beautiful figurines and works of art to sell to tourists. They claim that they place special blessings or curses on the figurines depending on who buys them. Statues of Mexican beggars are among the figurines they sell. We do not know where the man in this case had purchased the figurines. However, we must all be careful to listen to the guidance of the Holy Spirit when we buy anything for souvenirs.

Search your home. Do you have statues of demon gods in your house? Pray over everything. Be aware that many children's toys are actually statues of demon gods. Unfortunately, most of the children's cartoons are teaching the use of occultic powers. The toys that accompany the cartoons are mostly designed to lead children into contact with demon spirits. These are all unclean.

Let's look at another example of touching the unclean thing and bringing it into your home and life. Several years ago while I (Rebecca) was ministering in

Kenya, Africa, I met a young couple who were medical missionaries to one of the native tribes. The young doctor came to talk to me about his wife. Both of them were dedicated Christians. They had lived and worked in Kenya for about three years. Not long after their arrival, his wife became ill. They could not find a cause for her infirmity, but her condition steadily grew worse. Finally, they took a furlough and returned to the United States to a large medical center to try to find the cause of her illness. After extensive testing, a diagnosis of her condition could not be established. It was clear that she was dying, but no one knew why.

Because of her love for the Lord, this young woman decided that she wanted to return to the mission field with her husband. She felt that she would rather die in Kenya with her husband than lying in a hospital bed in the United States. Shortly after their return, they heard that I was going to be speaking in Nairobi. The young man came to see me first. How my heart went out to him as he described his wife's condition! His grief was deep as he anticipated the loss of his young wife.

As we were talking, I noticed a bracelet made of colorful braided string on his arm. I asked him where he got it and why he was wearing it. He told me that it was a gift from one of the tribal witch doctors with whom he was working. He said that the people in charge of the medical clinic insisted that every new person arriving at the clinic had to meet with the witch doctors and accept their bracelets to maintain good relations. Each wore a bracelet given to them by a witch doctor as a sign of goodwill toward the witch doctors of the tribe. Otherwise, they were afraid that

the witch doctors would become jealous of the clinic and try to run them out or prevent the people from coming to receive medical care. Of course, the personnel of that clinic suffered a high incidence of problems! The bracelets were placed on all of them to bring curses into their lives. The leaders of that clinic were incredibly naïve to believe that the witch doctors (servants of demons) wouldn't try to harm Christian medical personnel who were bringing the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His healing to the people of their tribe. Each person associated with the clinic had been made to partake of an unclean thing!

There is no doubt at all in my mind that the illness of this man's wife was demonic in origin. There is also no doubt that it was directly from curses put on her life by the witch doctors. As long as she wore the bracelet as a sign of goodwill toward the witch doctors, who are priests of demon gods, the demons associated with those curses had the legal right to destroy her. When she came the next day, we removed and destroyed both her and her husband's bracelets. As we did so, they repented for partaking in an unclean thing and then broke the curses of destruction that had come on their lives through the bracelets. As the apostle Paul wrote,

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14)

A Christian cannot have fellowship or agreement with servants of darkness! It is most unfortunate that dedicated young men and women are sent out onto foreign mission fields with no training at all to enable

them to discern between the clean and unclean, the holy and unholy (Ezekiel 44:23).

The last example we will relate occurred recently in Chicago. After a meeting in which we taught about curses, a very well dressed lady asked to speak with us. She told us that she felt the Holy Spirit was drawing a curse to her attention, and she wanted our confirmation.

She works as a secretary for a high-level government official in the area, and her husband is a wealthy businessman. They had been happily married for over thirty years. Neither of them had ever been involved in sexual immorality or been tempted in this area prior to the last year. A year before, they traveled to Japan for a vacation. Since their return, they had both been plagued with lustful thoughts and temptations to engage in sexual immorality. Although neither one of them had fallen into sin through the temptations, they were deeply concerned that they could not control and eradicate the thoughts from their minds.

She told us that as we were teaching on the topic of unclean objects, she felt that the Holy Spirit was drawing her attention to one of the souvenirs they had purchased in Japan. It was an expensive, hand-painted fan which they had brought home and hung on the wall in their living room. She said that she did not see any occultic object or god on the fan, but the uneasy feeling about it persisted.

We asked her to describe the painting on the fan. She told us that it was a painting of a Japanese lady in a beautiful garden. The lady's face was painted white. That was the answer. The painting was of a geisha

girl. Geishas serve as hired entertainers, especially for men. (See *Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary*.) In plain language, they are high-class prostitutes. This couple had brought an unclean object into their home. The painting on the fan honored and glorified geisha girls. Thus, demons of sexual immorality had the legal right to be on the fan, which made it an unclean object. As long as it was in their home, the demons were there, too. That was the reason for their inability to stop the thoughts. They were being afflicted by those demons.

²⁶ Nor shall you bring an abomination into your house, lest you be doomed to destruction like it. You shall utterly detest it and utterly abhor it, for it is an accursed thing. (Deuteronomy 7:26)

Recently we talked with a Christian physician from Korea. She told us that there is a strong effort being made by people involved in the Buddhist religion to destroy Christians. These folks meditate and send spiritual powers (or curses) against Christians, especially against the marriages of those in positions of public leadership. She told me that Christians should avoid purchasing anything as souvenirs in Asian countries. Most of these objects have designs which include curses of destruction specifically aimed at Christians.

Handling Unholy Things

² If a person touches any unclean thing, whether it is the carcass of an unclean beast, or the carcass of unclean livestock, or the carcass of unclean creeping things, and he is unaware of it, he also shall be unclean and guilty.

(Leviticus 5:2)

Another area of touching the unclean thing has again been brought to our attention recently. David, a man of prayer and totally committed to God, is one of the leaders of our Bible study and fellowship group. He has been and is a great blessing to us. A short while ago, David went to the home of a woman who had just accepted Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior. She had just moved into a rented house and was being terribly tormented at night by demon spirits. At her request, David visited to help her pray through the house and drive out the demon spirits. While David was at the house, she showed him the remains of an animal in the yard that had been mutilated and killed in a manner consistent with a satanic sacrifice. She was horrified to find the animal and asked David to remove it. David picked up the carcass and disposed of it for her.

Later that night, David came under a very powerful attack by demon spirits. He was attacked again the next day while driving to work, nearly causing him to have an accident. Fortunately, David understood and used the authority given to him in the name of Jesus Christ to repel the demons. However, the attacks continued. The next night after our Bible study, David stayed to visit and shared with us the problem of the vicious attacks he was experiencing. As we were talking, David realized that the attacks had started immediately after his visit to the house to pray and drive out the demons. He told us about the animal remains in the yard and how he felt they were consistent with a satanic sacrifice. That was the key. We asked him how he had disposed of the animal. "I just picked it up, put it in a plastic sack, and threw it in the garbage can," he responded.

There was the answer. David had handled an unclean thing without ever thinking to pray afterwards to break the resultant curse that had come on his life. Anything sacrificed to Satan or demons is unclean. Scripture is very clear on this issue. The writings of the Old Testament are very clear. We are not to possess or even touch such unclean things. Under the law, anyone touching an unclean thing was pronounced unclean until they went through the proscribed procedure for cleansing. We are no longer under the law, but the principles still apply.

Satan and the demons consider those things sacrificed to them to be holy to themselves. Woe unto anyone not in their service who would dare to touch or destroy such a sacrifice! A curse is immediately placed on any such person. God views these things as unclean and unholy. When a Christian handles or possesses them, Satan still has the legal right to the object and, therefore, the legal right to curse the person involved. David had failed to take precautions not to touch the sacrificed animal, nor did he think to pray for cleansing afterwards and to break the curse. He could have picked the animal up with a shovel in order not to touch it. Afterwards, he should have commanded any curses placed on him to be broken in the name of Jesus.

As soon as he realized what had happened, David simply prayed and asked the Lord to cleanse him from touching an unclean thing, and then he commanded the curse on his life to be broken in the name of Jesus. He also commanded all the demons associated with the curse leave at once in the name of Jesus. This brought an immediate halt to the attacks he was experiencing, and he had no further trouble.

We do not need to walk in fear. We have immense power and freedom in Christ. However, we do need to walk wisely and in harmony with God's Word. When it becomes necessary for us to deal with unclean things which have been sacrificed in Satan's service, we should always pray for protection first and then be sure to break any curses Satan tries to place on us afterwards.

Giving Honor to Demon Gods

We know that we are not to worship idols and demon gods, but we rarely think about the issue of giving allegiance or honor to them.

¹⁶ I will utter My judgments against them concerning all their wickedness, because they have forsaken Me, burned incense to other gods, and worshiped the works of their own hands.

(Jeremiah 1:16)

⁴ You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth;

⁵ You shall not bow down to them nor serve them.

(Exodus 20:4–5)

Please note that there is a distinction made between serving or worshiping a demon god and giving reverence to one. The act of bowing down is an act of reverence or giving honor. There are other ways of giving reverence that many Christians do without realizing they are violating this commandment.

Have you ever visited Jerusalem in Israel? Many Christians have, and they have been thrilled to see the places where Jesus walked while He was here on earth. However, a frequent part of the trip is a visit to the Dome of the Rock, the Muslim mosque in Jerusalem. This is a major tourist attraction. Those of you who have visited this mosque, stop and think. What was the first thing you had to do as you entered the mosque? That’s right, take off your shoes. Why? Because taking off your shoes is an act of giving honor to Allah,¹ the demon god to whom the Great Mosque is dedicated.

The practice of removing one’s shoes to give honor is a very old custom. Remember Moses in the wilderness? The voice from the burning bush said,

⁵ *“Do not draw near this place. Take your sandals off your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground.”* (Exodus 3:5)

Moses removed his sandals as an act of honor and reverence to God. Being in the presence of God made

¹Allah is not the Jehovah God of the Jews. History clearly shows that he is a demon. The original Kaaba, a small stone building in the court of the Great Mosque at Mecca, was full of many idols. Allah was one of these idols. The people coming to the Kaaba worshiped many different gods. Then Mohammed came along and decided that they should worship only one god. He chose to worship the idol Allah as the one true god. After this he received the revelations that eventually were written into the book called the Koran. Scripture tells us that all idols are demons (1 Corinthians 10:19). Thus, Allah is a demon spirit, not the one true Creator God. There is a second test that shows Allah is a demon and not the true God: he does not recognize Jesus Christ as God, which identifies him as a demon (1 John 4:1–3).

the very ground on which he was standing holy. The mosques are considered holy places of Allah. This is why people are commanded to remove their shoes prior to going inside a mosque. If you have visited a mosque and removed your shoes, you have been guilty of giving honor to a demon god! This is an abomination in God's eyes and will bring a curse on you.

I (Rebecca) fell into the trap of honoring demon gods a number of years ago while visiting Hawaii for a speaking engagement. As those of you who have visited there know, the tradition is to place a lei of flowers around the neck of every person arriving on the islands. As you visit these beautiful islands, you will see many people wearing leis of flowers or leaves from the ti plant. When I arrived at the church the first night, two precious little girls (daughters of the pastor) proudly brought a lei of flowers that each had made. Each child placed her lei around my neck as a welcome to the island and the church. I gladly received their gifts, as I love flowers and thought the giving of the lei was a beautiful custom.

However, that night was one of the worst I have experienced! I became confused, my mind blanked out, and I couldn't put two sentences together to make any sense. Finally, in utter defeat and humiliation, I had to stop speaking. I realized that I was under heavy demonic attack, but I could not understand why I was unable to rebuke the demons attacking me effectively.

Later that night as I was pacing the floor in my room, weeping and seeking the Lord for the reason for my defeat, the Holy Spirit spoke to me and commanded me to spend the next morning in the central

public library in Honolulu researching the customs of the islands, their gods, and, most specifically, the lei.

Later as I studied the local history, I was horrified to find that the custom of wearing leis comes directly from the worship of the demon gods of the islands. The original people of the islands made leis and placed them around the statues of their gods to appease them, hoping to prevent their demands for human sacrifices. They also wore the leis as a symbol of honor and reverence to their gods to maintain a good relationship with them—to insure good luck, in other words. Leis are placed around the necks of visitors coming to the islands for the same purpose. In fact, the gods of the Hawaiian Islands are so powerful that even in this day of modern technology, no new buildings are constructed on the islands without first bringing a native shaman to the building site to seek the gods' approval and blessing for the project.

A part of the island customs is the use of ti plants which are believed to be a favorite of the gods. Almost every home and building in Hawaii has a ti plant growing on either side of the main entrance. This is to secure the gods' continuing favor on the occupants of the building. Many people on the islands, Christians included, wear leis made from ti leaves almost continually. This is for protection and to assure the ongoing favor of the gods. Babies are often rubbed all over with ti leaves shortly after birth to guarantee their living in the favor of the island gods.

I had unwittingly given honor to the demon gods of the Hawaiian Islands when I accepted the leis around my neck! This brought me under a curse and gave the demonic spirits the legal right to attack me.

No wonder I had been unable to repulse their attacks! Only after I had repented for my sin and had broken the curse this sin brought on my life was I able to teach and minister without demonic interference.

As I began to teach the principles I had learned from the history of the islands, some of the Christians became very angry and accused me of trying to take away their heritage. We must realize, dear brothers and sisters, that most earthly heritage involves some form of demon worship. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we give up all such heritage to become citizens of a different kingdom and to become joint-heirs with Christ. Why, then, is it so difficult for us to let go of our earthly heritage? Because of the curses and demonic bondage that heritage has brought into our lives.

Recently, we were ministering in the Virgin Islands. After the session on curses, a lady in the church talked with us briefly. She is involved in a project on the island of St. Croix which is funded by a grant from the federal government. St. Croix has been experiencing a financial slump the last few years. The answer in the Virgin Islands to such a problem is to increase the tourist business. Someone decided that they should build a large museum as a tourist attraction. They obtained a federal grant to fund the project. The museum houses artifacts of the original inhabitants of the Caribbean islands. This sister is involved in the project of excavating relics left by the Mayan Indians and other peoples of the islands. Almost all of the artifacts they are obtaining are idols, statues, and drawings of the gods those people served. These idols are being carefully cleaned, restored, and placed in positions of honor where people will pay

money to go see them. They are being placed in a temple or shrine—the museum.

Such projects of digging up and restoring the culture of ancient peoples are currently popular all around the world and especially in the Western hemisphere. Please stop and consider a moment. Just what is the centerpiece or focus of any particular culture? Its religion is. Thus, all around the world, and on St. Croix specifically, ancient demon gods are being dug up, carefully restored, and placed in positions of honor. Money is being paid in their honor as tourists go to see them. In essence, little difference exists between these tourist attractions and pagan temples.

Let’s look at a biblical example about the goddess Diana:

²³ *And about that time there arose a great commotion about the Way.*

²⁴ *For a certain man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Diana, brought no small profit to the craftsmen.*

²⁵ *He called them together with the workers of similar occupation, and said: “Men, you know that we have our prosperity by this trade.*

²⁶ *“Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands.*

²⁷ *“So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship.”*

²⁸ Now when they heard this, they were full of wrath and cried out, saying, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!"

²⁹ So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions. (Acts 19:23–29)

As you can see from reading this passage, there are several things it has in common with the museum which is being built on St. Croix. First, there are idols to gods. Next, there is a building or temple holding those statues. Also, money is paid by the people when they go into the temple to see the idols. Finally, much money is made by craftsmen who make the shrines to Diana or, in modern-day circumstances, souvenirs for people to take home with them after visiting the temple. The bottom line in it all is money. The riot in Ephesus was over the possible loss of money. In spite of our modern technology and civilization, we really haven't changed much, have we?

This current interest in preserving ancient religions is no accident or coincidence. It is all a part of the virtual explosion of the occult that we are witnessing in these last days as Satan moves to try to take over the world.

What does God's Word have to say about this current push to bring back and preserve the ancient demon gods? The best place to find the answer to this question is in God's instructions to the children of Israel as they prepared to go into Canaan. Was God interested in the preservation of the culture of the original inhabitants of Canaan? Take a look at the following Scriptures:

¹⁶ And you shall destroy all the peoples whom the LORD your God delivers over to you; your eye shall have no pity on them; nor shall you serve their gods, for that will be a snare to you.

(Deuteronomy 7:16)

⁵ But thus you shall deal with them: you shall destroy their altars, and break down their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images, and burn their carved images with fire.

(Deuteronomy 7:5)

²⁴ And He will deliver their kings into your hand, and you will destroy their name from under heaven; no one shall be able to stand against you until you have destroyed them.

²⁵ You shall burn the carved images of their gods with fire; you shall not covet the silver or gold that is on them, nor take it for yourselves, lest you be snared by it; for it is an abomination to the LORD your God. (Deuteronomy 7:24–25)

⁴ Do not think in your heart, after the LORD your God has cast them out before you, saying, “Because of my righteousness the LORD has brought me in to possess this land”; but it is because of the wickedness of these nations that the LORD is driving them out from before you.

(Deuteronomy 9:4)

Destroying their altars, breaking down their sacred pillars, cutting down their wooden images, and burning the carved images of their gods with fire does not sound like the preservation of ancient cultures to us! Quite the opposite. Please note that the Israelites

were not only commanded to destroy the kings, but they also were ordered to blot out any record of these pagan names from under heaven (Deuteronomy 7:24). This meant to wipe them out of the historical record.

Why did God command all of this? First, because of the wickedness of the people who were all involved in serving demon gods (Deuteronomy. 9:4). Second, to prevent God's people from falling into the snare of giving honor to these demon gods, which could eventually lead the Israelites into serving them.

¹⁹ Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.

²⁰ As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God.

(Deuteronomy 8:19–20)

These verses are a few of the many available which clearly show that the actions of preserving and honoring demon gods will result in the destruction of God's people. Brothers and sisters, we can assure you that God's thoughts on this subject have not changed over the years. God is a jealous God! When we anger God, we court destruction.

Please turn with us to Acts. When the apostle Paul came to the city of Ephesus, many of the people who had been deeply involved in the service of demons accepted Jesus Christ. Did they try to preserve their original religion or culture? Let's read the account:

¹⁸ And many who had believed came confessing and telling their deeds.

¹⁹ *Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver.*

²⁰ *So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed.* (Acts 19:18–20)

The Ephesians completely destroyed all the articles related to their service of demon gods. Let us be absolutely clear: God hates anything that gives honor or service to demon spirits!

While ministering on the island of St. Croix, we asked the Christians if they knew about the museum project. Most of them did. We had to tell them that if the Christians of St. Croix do not join together to vigorously protest the project and do everything possible to stop it, then they would be guilty of sinning against God by being partakers in giving honor to demon gods and directly violating every principle God has given in His Word for dealing with idols. The sister who is working in that project is faced with the decision of whether to give up her job. Will she continue to work in a position that directly involves giving honor to demon gods? We do not know what her decision will be. We pray that she makes the right one.

Another area of great difficulty is with the American Indians. I have been repeatedly challenged by people who are of American Indian heritage. They feel that the only thing that gives them a sense of worth and distinction is their heritage. Once again, a very large part of that heritage is religion—a religion of service to demon gods and interaction with demon spirits.

Recently, the U.S. government finished a multi-million dollar project in Washington state. They built a large complex called The Interpretive Center which contains the history of the American Indians of the area, with a major emphasis on Tsagalala, demon goddess of the Indians. In English her name is She-Who-Watches. This demon goddess is everywhere in the area. Every souvenir shop has her face on just about every item imaginable. She has been placed in a position of rulership over the area by the Indians and now also by the U.S. government. The Interpretive Center is her temple.

This move toward exultation of earthly heritage is now becoming a focal point among blacks. In fact, within the area of Christian literature, black-heritage books abound. There is even a pro-black Bible available now which states that Jesus and all His disciples and all the peoples of the Bible were black. The text includes much slang common to the black-heritage movement.

Once again, we must challenge you. If you are a servant of Jesus Christ, where is your citizenship? Where is your heritage? There is no color or race within the heritage of Jesus Christ. Why would any Christian try to hold onto and glorify a heritage that contains demon worship? Dear brothers and sisters, we cannot deal lightly with God! We must soberly consider everything in the light of God's Word and discern between the unclean and the clean (Ezekiel 44:23).

We believe that Satan's kingdom is carefully fostering the move to resurrect and preserve ancient religions and heritage. There are two purposes for this. First, as more and more demonic idols are dug up and

placed in positions of honor, the power being given to demons to rule increases. The people visiting these so-called tourist attractions are snared into giving honor to demons. This sin gives demons the legal right to exert a powerful influence in their lives.

In addition, we believe these projects are all a part of a long-range goal to try to show that all religions lead to God. Along with such books as the recently popular *Embracing the Light*, these projects exist for the purpose of saying that all religions lead to Christ. The Christ these people are referring to is not Jesus Christ of Nazareth, God Almighty, but a false Christ. We know from prophecy in the Scriptures that Satan will eventually bring about a one-world religion, setting himself up to be worshiped as Christ. He will falsely claim to be the one Creator God. The massive rise in occultism and the New Age movement with the concurrent worship of, and interaction with, demon spirits is evidence that Satan is rapidly moving to bring about the fulfillment of these prophecies.

Following Demonic Fads

Perhaps never before in the history of the world have fads had such an effect on the population as a whole. With today's communication systems, a fad can literally go around the world in a matter of a few weeks to a few months.

²³ *You shall not follow a crowd to do evil.*

(Exodus 23:2)

¹¹ *Beloved, do not imitate what is evil, but what is good.*

(3 John 1:11)

Christians need to be aware that most fads originate in witchcraft. Many come from rock-music stars and through Hollywood. Unfortunately, our youth, Christian and non-Christian alike, are quick to follow each new fad that comes along.

Let's see what the Bible has to say about a few fads in particular:

²⁶ You shall not eat anything with the blood, nor shall you practice divination or soothsaying.

²⁷ You shall not shave around the sides of your head, nor shall you disfigure the edges of your beard.

²⁸ You shall not make any cuttings in your flesh for the dead, nor tattoo any marks on you: I am the LORD. (Leviticus 19:26–28)

These commandments—not to shave the sides of the head, cut into the flesh, or to tattoo the skin—are in a list of commandments against practices of the occult. Why? Because in that time and down through history in many different cultures since then, these practices, which are actually demonic, have been ceremonially performed to honor the satanic realm.

Through the centuries, men have shaved the sides of their heads and also sculpted designs and stripes into the hair on the sides of their heads as a mark of allegiance to the particular demon god they serve. In ancient Greece and Rome, the priests of Bacchus, their god of debauchery, left their hair a bit longer on top, cut the hair on the sides of their head very short, and then shaved stripes in the sides of their heads. They wore this hairstyle as a sign of their priesthood and a symbol of their allegiance to Bacchus.

Look around. Do you see any such hairstyles on young men today? What sort of behavior characterizes these young men?

Another popular hairstyle on men and boys is to have all of the hair fairly short, leaving one small bunch of hair long in the middle of the back. This little bit of long hair looks much like a tail, and many of today's teenagers do call it the fool's tail. That's a pretty accurate name for it. In reality, the style started in England some years ago. It was started by some rock-music performers who were also involved in a witchcraft group called Wicca. The tail is actually called the goat's tail and is a sign of allegiance to Satan, who is frequently represented by the goat.

Frequently, we speak with many Christian parents who are unable to understand why their little eight-, nine-, and ten-year-old boys have suddenly turned completely rebellious. If the child is wearing the goat's tail, we can usually trace the beginning of his rebellion back to when he started wearing this hairstyle.

Many articles of clothing and jewelry have occultic designs, pictures, and symbols on them. Demon spirits can legally attach to these items. Anyone wearing these comes under a curse. Take a look at the T-shirts on average teenagers. They wear the designs of various heavy-metal rock bands which are all occultic. It is no wonder that in many group activities, both Christian and secular, the authorities have had to ban the kids from wearing these T-shirts because of the rebellion they spawn.

In Leviticus 19:28, God specifically commands us not to have tattoos or make marks or cuttings in our

flesh. Over the years we have noticed that just about everyone involved in the occult in any way has a mark or tattoo of some sort. Demons love to have their servants marked in some way! We are frequently asked what people should do with tattoos and markings after they accept Jesus Christ. Unfortunately, the marks are permanent.

Praise God, Jesus made provision for this problem on the cross! If you have a tattoo or mark, simply repent and ask God to forgive you and cleanse you from the sin of receiving it. Then cover the tattoo with oil and command any curse associated with it to be broken at once and any demons to flee in the name of Jesus Christ.

If the tattoo is an occultic symbol or something lewd that brings you embarrassment, we suggest you find a medical tattooist who uses sterile needles and have the tattoo blocked with one solid color so that the original design is no longer discernible. This is especially important to do with occultic symbols or designs made specifically for use in the service of demon spirits.

We serve a God of great variety. He certainly doesn't require Christians to wear a uniform. But, we must be very careful about following the latest fads. Remember, Satan is the god of this world. Fads become fads only because they are popular with the world. Anything to do with Jesus Christ will never be popular with the world.

Chapter Five

Territorial Rights Violations

We often act without thinking or praying. Frequently, we get into trouble as a result. We can wander into areas where we have no legal right to be. These careless actions will sometimes bring curses on our lives. In this chapter, we are going to discuss these types of curses and how to handle them.

God's Direction Is Essential

The Scriptures warn us against coming in contact with Satan's territory. God's Word also admonishes us against going into battle with Satan without specific orders from God to do so.

³⁹ *Then Moses told these words to all the children of Israel, and the people mourned greatly.*

⁴⁰ *And they rose early in the morning and went up to the top of the mountain, saying, "Here we*

are, and we will go up to the place which the LORD has promised, for we have sinned!"

⁴¹ *And Moses said, "Now why do you transgress the command of the LORD? For this will not succeed.*

⁴² *"Do not go up, lest you be defeated by your enemies, for the LORD is not among you.*

⁴³ *"For the Amalekites and the Canaanites are there before you, and you shall fall by the sword; because you have turned away from the LORD, the LORD will not be with you."*

⁴⁴ *But they presumed to go up to the mountaintop; nevertheless, neither the ark of the covenant of the LORD nor Moses departed from the camp.*

⁴⁵ *Then the Amalekites and the Canaanites who dwelt in that mountain came down and attacked them, and drove them back as far as Hormah.*
(Numbers 14:39-45)

¹⁹ *Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, but what He sees the Father do; for whatever He does, the Son also does in like manner.*
(John 5:19)

Jesus did only what the Father commanded Him to do. We are no different. We do not have the authority to fight any battle that our Lord does not command us to fight. We cannot safely walk into Satan's territory unless the Lord has commanded us to do so. In the passage in Numbers, we see that the children of Israel tried to fight a battle the Lord had not commanded them to fight. They presumed to go up to battle, and they were defeated as a result.

We cannot become arrogant in our walk with the Lord. We must always remember that Jesus is our

Commanding Officer. We cannot do anything unless He first commands us to do it. We want to give some examples of Christians who brought curses into their lives by violating this crucial principle.

Trespassing on Satan's Territory

Scripture is very clear in commanding us not to touch anything unclean. Any area Satan can legally claim, as well as anything associated with demon spirits, is unclean. We need to be very careful where we go and what we participate in. Have you visited any place associated with the occult? Have you toured a shrine or temple dedicated to a demon god without first asking the Lord if it is His will for you to go?

I (Rebecca) fell into this trap a number of years ago. I have always been fascinated by the various materials such as the alabaster described in the Old Testament. I had never had the opportunity to see any of these things. Then, while I was in medical school in the 1970s, the King Tut exhibition came from Egypt to tour the United States. Many ancient, beautiful objects which had been excavated from the tomb of King Tutankhamen in Egypt were to be on display. Without stopping to ask the Lord, I decided to go see the display because I was so eager to see for myself alabaster and other beautiful materials from biblical times. I had no idea of the disastrous and far-reaching consequences that would enter my life as a result of that trip.

The whole exhibit was indeed beautiful and fascinating. I greatly enjoyed it. Later that year, my chronic health problem took a turn for the worse. For the next thirteen years, I struggled with one major

illness after another. No sooner did the Lord heal me of one major malady than another one would start. No matter how I prayed and fasted or who prayed for me, my health did not improve. I was ill and weak at the time Daniel and I were married.

About six months after our marriage, we were lying in bed one night discussing the Scriptures (as is our habit), when I asked Daniel if he had ever seen alabaster. He replied that he had not. I told him about how I had seen it at the King Tut exhibit. I asked him if he had ever visited the exhibition. Again, he said that he hadn't. Even though he was not a Christian at the time, he did not go to see the display because of his knowledge of Egyptian history.

Daniel explained to me that in order to protect the tombs of the pharaohs from robbers, powerful incantations had been performed over the tombs. Any person opening a tomb, going into it, or even looking on the articles within it immediately had a powerful curse of death and destruction placed on his life by the demon spirits set to guard the tomb. For many years this was sufficient to keep robbers away. But, as the years passed and new kingdoms arose, people forgot about the power of the Egyptian sorcerers. However, the demons didn't forget! Such incantations had been placed on the tomb of King Tut when it was constructed, and they are still in effect. In fact, you may remember that all of the people who were involved in the excavation of his tomb were dead within less than two years after the finishing of the excavation.

By going to see the artifacts from the King Tut tomb, I had a powerful curse of destruction placed on my life. Because I belonged to the Lord, God did not allow the demons to kill me, but they certainly made

my life miserable for many years. As soon as I realized what I had done, I sat up in bed and immediately asked the Lord's forgiveness for going to see that exhibit without ever asking Him if it was His will for me to do so. Next, I took authority over the curse and commanded it to be broken in the name of Jesus. I then commanded every demon spirit associated with that curse to leave me at once and forever in the name of Jesus.

What a difference! My health immediately began to improve, and I have not had a serious illness since. In fact, I am rarely ill now. I hardly even get colds. I am stronger and healthier now than I have ever been in my whole life. Praise the Lord!

Did you visit the King Tut display when it toured the country? If so, then you should get busy and break the curses of destruction and death off of your life.

Recently, we received phone calls from two pastors and their wives. The couples do not know one another and live in different parts of the country. For years, both couples and their families have experienced all sorts of disasters and problems which are clearly demonic and the result of curses. In tracing their histories to find the origin of their problems, we were dismayed to find that they had all been to visit a spiritualist camp in the midwestern U.S. during their days at seminary and Bible college. Their Christian college is located just a few miles from the camp.

I (Rebecca) know the area well and have worked with many people who have been involved in this particular spiritualist camp. It is an old and powerful area used for recruitment and training in the occult and Satanism. The camp was founded back in the

1800s when the state was young. It has been a few years since I have visited the area, but I doubt that it has changed much.

The camp is literally a town within a town. The name of the camp is inscribed in an archway over tall, ornate, wrought-iron gates between stone pillars that guard the entrance. Once inside, you find streets of neatly kept homes, some of which are old and very beautiful. On the front of each house is a plaque which states the occult skills of the residents—skills such as crystal-ball reading, palm reading, spiritualist mediumship, necromancy, fortune telling, and conducting seances.

There is also a museum dedicated to witchcraft and spiritualism, a spiritualist church, and an old, well-kept graveyard. One of the interesting things about the graveyard is the white, wrought-iron furniture found on many of the graves. The round, French provincial tables have matching chairs on either side of each table. The chairs have no seats because the people who come to the graveyard levitate over a chair on one side of the table while the spirit of the person in the grave supposedly rises up to levitate over the other chair as they commune.

This place is Satan's ground. The entire property belongs to him legally and totally. All the people living within those walls are deeply involved in the occult. The camp is like a magnet that draws the curious and the ignorant, recruiting many directly into the service of Satan. The demon spirits reigning within that camp are incredibly powerful. These spirits are jealous of their land and seriously guard it. Any person walking on their property who is not involved in the occult and does not give allegiance to these demons comes under

direct attack, and curses of destruction are placed on his life. Of course, this is especially true for Christians. Demons hate Christians and consider it a direct insult when a Christian trespasses on their property. Because these demon spirits own the area, they have the legal right to place curses of destruction on the lives of anyone who ventures onto their property.

To our dismay, we discovered from these two couples that students from the nearby Christian college and seminary often go to the spiritualist camp just for fun and out of curiosity. Even more to our amazement, we were told that in past years, students from a class in world religions were taken there on a field trip to see the camp and to meet with some of the people. One person told me that his class attended a lecture by one of the people at the camp on seances and how they were conducted!

Every person who has participated in one of these field trips or has gone to the camp out of curiosity or just for fun has had a curse of destruction placed on his life and the lives of his family and offspring. Are these curses effective in peoples lives? Terribly effective! Why? Because Satan and his demons have the legal right to attack these people. Over and over again in the Old Testament, God instructs the children of Israel not to have anything to do with the occultic practices of the Canaanites. They were to immediately destroy everything to do with demon worship, including the people. Nowhere does God's Word make room for curiosity about such things.

I (Rebecca) have been to this spiritualist camp only once in my life, and that was because the Lord directly commanded me to go so that I would know what I was dealing with. I went with much prayer,

and as I left, I carefully commanded all curses placed on me while I was there to be broken in the name of Jesus Christ.

Have you visited a spiritualist camp, a village or town which claims to be New Age or occultic, a psychic fair, or any other occultic activity or place without being commanded to do so by the Lord? If so, then you have had curses of destruction placed on your life and the lives of your family. You need to repent for being careless with the things of Satan. Then you must take authority over all such curses and command them to be broken in the name of Jesus Christ. Command all the demons associated with those curses to get out of your life forever in the name of Jesus.

We must walk carefully and humbly before our Lord. We must be careful not even to visit something profane and unholy. We must be careful not to become arrogant and attempt to take on any battle that our Lord has not specifically commanded us to fight.

Unauthorized Engagement of the Enemy

We cannot fight any battle that our Commander-in-Chief has not commanded us to fight. We have had Christians tell us that they can go anywhere and do anything they choose to do in safety because they are under the covering of the blood of Jesus. We do not agree with this. As Christians, we can safely go anywhere or do anything that our Lord has authorized us to do. But, we cannot go wherever or do whatever we choose of our own will with complete safety. Unless our Lord has specifically instructed us to do so, we cannot venture onto Satan's territory or engage the enemy in battle and expect to be protected from all harm.

⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.* (1 Peter 5:8)

The next example is a matter of great concern to us. One of the recent popular things for Christians to do is to take tours with other believers. A number of Christians earn their living by leading these tours. There is certainly nothing wrong in taking a trip with a group of Christians. We are sure that many people receive great blessings from these times of recreation and fellowship.

However, what we are concerned about is some of the activities on these vacations. The visits to the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem is one example which we have already mentioned. Another is some of the activities on trips taken to Asian countries.

We have had the opportunity to speak with several of the people who lead such tours, which are often advertised as evangelization trips. The participants are encouraged to share the Gospel with people on the street in the various countries they tour. However, many of these trips are also for the stated purpose of pulling down spiritual principalities and powers that rule over particular areas. As we questioned some of the tour leaders about how they actually pull down such spiritual powers, one of the common responses was, "We take the people into the various Buddhist or Hindu temples and then have them pray directly against the gods of that temple and pull them down."

Alas, how ignorant Christians seem to be! Is it possible for Christians to go into a pagan temple and pull down the gods of that temple through prayer? No! Why? Because as long as the temple remains standing,

the gods have the legal right to rule there. We have looked at numerous Scriptures where God gives specific instructions to the children of Israel on how to handle pagan gods and their temples. Always, they were commanded to destroy the temple and the idols.

Let's take a quick look at Gideon. You may remember that Gideon was the man God used to defeat an army many times the size of his little band of 300 men. But first, Gideon had to move into a position of righteousness with God. One of the first things God commanded Gideon to do was cleanse his own domain:

²⁵ Now it came to pass the same night that the LORD said to him, "Take your father's young bull, the second bull of seven years old, and tear down the altar of Baal that your father has, and cut down the wooden image that is beside it;

²⁶ "and build an altar to the LORD your God on top of this rock in the proper arrangement, and take the second bull and offer a burnt sacrifice with the wood of the image which you shall cut down."
(Judges 6:25–26)

The destruction of the altar and image of Baal destroyed the power of that demon god in Gideon's life and territory. After Gideon did this, he then had power to defeat the enemies of the children of Israel.

Now, let's return to the issue of entering temples of demon gods and praying against those gods. Such prayers will be ineffective because we serve a God who is completely just, not only with us, but with Satan's kingdom as well. Until the temple, altars, and idols are destroyed, the demon gods will have the legal right to rule and reign there.

We asked these tour leaders if they go back to the same temple again on other tours. They answered that they sometimes did. However, if the prayers of the preceding tour had effectively destroyed the power of the demon gods of a particular temple, they should return to find the temple gone. Instead, it remains. I suppose that's good for the tour business, but it's not good for the ignorant Christians who are being led into the temples to pray. They are entering Satan's legally owned ground and participating in battles with the enemy which have not been authorized by our Lord. As a result, they leave with curses of destruction on their lives and the lives of their offspring.

How much destruction has been accomplished in the lives of Christians because of these activities? God did not instruct them to take on such a battle. We can state this without any doubt. Why? Because Scripture is plain. You cannot destroy or bring down the power of a demon god unless you first remove his legal right to be in power. You must first destroy his temple, altar, and idols. Touring Christians cannot pull down the power of such demon gods unless they first physically destroy their temples and everything in them.

We Christians need to be very careful that we don't jump into a battle our Captain has not commanded us to fight. Far too often, we Christians think only about the interest and excitement of tourist attractions and not about what we are going to see. Unfortunately, most recreational areas have now been taken over by New Age groups. We need to be very discerning about what we participate in. If you have violated the enemy's legal rights, even unknowingly, by taking on an unauthorized battle, you need to repent and break every curse that might have resulted.

Living on Cursed Land

Land and property can become cursed in different ways. The first is because someone in Satan's service puts a specific curse on the land. Many areas of the United States are cursed by the American Indians. An example of this is the area of the Columbia River gorge on the border of Oregon and Washington states. Both sides of the Columbia river are dotted with a series of small towns. Within those towns are many small, defeated churches. There has never been a spiritual revival or major move of the Holy Spirit in that area.

That territory is also one of the strongest areas of occultic activity in the United States. Why? Because years ago the American Indians put a curse on the land that the white men would never prosper there. White man has financially prospered somewhat in the region, but spiritually not at all. It is also an area with an extremely high suicide and homicide rates as well as divorce and incest rates. The Indians had the legal right to curse the land in such a way because of the terrible unrighteousness of the first white settlers (supposed professing Christians) who came into the area.

We have been in contact with several pastors and their wives who have moved into church parsonages and come under terrible demonic attack. They found that the churches were deeply troubled as well. In each case, after research was done on the land on which the church and parsonage had been built, it was discovered that they were American Indian burial grounds. These burial grounds are considered to be

sacred by the American Indians and a dwelling place for spirits and their gods. We don't believe any Christian church can prosper that has been built on such unclean ground. We have yet to find one that has.

The second way properties are cursed for Christians is because the grounds have been dedicated to the service of Satan or demon spirits. Any Christian coming onto the land to live will be afflicted by the resident demon spirits and cursed by these demons.

Finally, specific properties sometimes have a curse on them because of the sins of previous owners and occupants. Demon spirits take up residence on the property because of the sin of the people who own it or live on it. The next person moving in to live there will come under affliction by those demons (through their curses) unless the property is cleansed.

We were recently talking with a friend of ours who is living on land that has been in his family for over four generations. He just finished researching some of the history of the house and the land. There have been two houses on this particular plot of land. Two couples lived in the first one before it burned down. Another was built in its place. Two more couples have lived in the second house, followed by our friend. All of the couples that had lived in either of the two houses have ended up divorcing. Our friend's wife has just left him and is starting divorce proceedings. He feels (and rightly so, we believe) that there is a curse on that land. Any couple moving onto the land comes under the curse, and their marriage ends in divorce. It will take much prayer and more research to find the source of the curse so that the land can be cleansed.

Living in Cursed Housing

Let us give you some examples of what can happen if a Christian lives in cursed housing. Several years ago, we were contacted by a lady in Ohio. She and her husband were Christians—very dedicated Christians, in fact. They had just purchased a different house about six months before she contacted us. Before moving into this particular home, she and her husband had enjoyed a fulfilling marriage and were happily raising their several children. In the six months after they moved, everything fell apart.

Both the husband and the wife had difficulties with mental confusion. They found that they were constantly fighting with each other. Strife filled the home. The children were experiencing terrible nightmares and having difficulty sleeping. The whole family suffered continuous illnesses such as colds, flu, and allergies—nothing particularly serious, but all very annoying.

The lady had read my first two books and said she felt almost certain the house had been demonically defiled, but she could not be completely sure. She and her husband had prayed through the house and anointed it with oil, commanding any demon spirits to leave in the name of Jesus. They had asked God to cleanse and sanctify the home for His service. This had not helped. “What can we do?” she asked.

The first thing we suggested was that the family leave for a minimum of a three-day weekend—a whole week if they could. They were not to go back into their house for anything during that period of time.

They took our advice and called us after they got back home. The wife described a wonderfully peaceful

weekend. The children slept well without any nightmares, and she and her husband discovered that they really loved each other after all. They did not have one disagreement the entire weekend. They were now certain that the problem was in the house. We told her that she and her husband would have to go over every inch of the house searching for anything unclean—occultic markings, objects, and the like.

We heard from them again about a week later. This couple had set aside a day for praying through their home and searching every nook and cranny. They went through the whole house from top to bottom but did not find anything. However, they kept feeling drawn to the recreation room in the basement. This was a beautifully finished, carpeted room. They realized that they felt very ill every time they walked across the center of the room. Finally, they called in some workmen and had the carpet pulled up. There in the center of the floor was a pentagram in a circle with the words "Hail, Satan" inscribed above it. The drawing and the words had been deeply etched into the poured cement before it had dried. Later, padding and the carpet had been laid over the drawing. There was no way to remove it except to bring in a jackhammer and take out the whole section of cement in which it was drawn. As long as the drawing remained, the demons had the legal right to inhabit the house.

After much prayer and discussion, the couple decided to move out of the house, taking a big financial loss. They did not cover up the drawing in the cement floor of the basement when they put the house up for sale. The people who purchased the house were delighted with it, drawing and all, because they were deeply involved in the occult.

We believe this couple made a wise decision. We doubt that the house could have ever been cleansed because it was clearly dedicated to Satan at the time it was built. Is there a scriptural precedent for this? Yes, it is found in Leviticus:

³³ *The LORD spoke to Moses and Aaron, saying:*

³⁴ *“When you have come into the land of Canaan, which I give you as a possession, and I put the leprous plague in a house in the land of your possession,*

³⁵ *“And he who owns the house comes and tells the priest, saying, ‘It seems to me that there is some plague in the house,’*

³⁶ *“Then the priest shall command that they empty the house, before the priest goes into it to examine the plague, that all that is in the house may not be made unclean; and afterward the priest shall go in to examine the house.*

³⁷ *“And he shall examine the plague; and indeed if the plague is on the walls of the house with ingrained streaks, greenish or reddish, which appear to be deep in the wall,*

³⁸ *“Then the priest shall go out of the house, to the door of the house, and shut up the house seven days.*

³⁹ *“And the priest shall come again on the seventh day and look; and indeed if the plague has spread on the walls of the house,*

⁴⁰ *“then the priest shall command that they take away the stones in which is the plague, and they shall cast them into an unclean place outside the city.*

⁴¹ *“And he shall cause the house to be scraped*

inside, all around, and the dust that they scrape off they shall pour out in an unclean place outside the city.

⁴² *“Then they shall take other stones and put them in the place of those stones, and he shall take other mortar and plaster the house.*

⁴³ *“Now if the plague comes back and breaks out in the house, after he has taken away the stones, after he has scraped the house, and after it is plastered,*

⁴⁴ *“Then the priest shall come and look; and indeed if the plague has spread in the house, it is an active leprosy in the house. It is unclean.*

⁴⁵ *“And he shall break down the house, its stones, its timber, and all the plaster of the house, and he shall carry them outside the city to an unclean place.”* (Leviticus 14:33–45)

Please note in the beginning of this portion of Scripture that the Lord says, *“and I put the leprous plague in a house in the land of your possession.”* Why did the Lord put the plague in the house? As a sign to the children of Israel that the house was unclean, that there was something wrong with it. If the plague could not be removed from the house, then the whole house was to be destroyed. It could not be lived in. Why? We believe these were dwellings that were made for the specific purpose of being used in the service of the Canaanite demon gods. The demon spirits had legal right to the houses. The Lord put the plague in the houses as a sign that they were unclean and not fit for the children of Israel to live in. The houses had to be destroyed just the same as all the altars and objects used in the worship of demon gods.

We know of two churches that purchased buildings that were originally constructed as Masonic lodges. Neither of these churches was ever able to prosper. In fact, both congregations were completely destroyed and disbanded within two or three years. Masonry is not a Christian organization. Their buildings are designed specifically for their organizations and dedicated to the service of the Masons. We do not believe such buildings can be cleansed because they were built for the service of demon gods.

Churches are also gravely affected by curses on the land on which they are built or on the church buildings themselves. A good example of this is a Nazarene congregation that some dear friends of ours started attending about a year ago. They became disturbed because the church had been going downhill for several years. No new converts were made, and there was a history of much illness and strife within the church. As they got to know the people in the church, they heard the story of how the church had been broken into a few years previously. A group of Satanists had apparently performed a blood sacrifice inside the church. Occultic symbols were painted on the walls in blood, and the altar was smeared with blood and excrement.

The people of the church had carefully cleaned and repainted the walls and cleansed the altar. However, no one knew that they needed to break the powerful curses placed on the church through the ritual that had been performed and to cast the demon spirits that were associated with the curses out of the church. Our friends shared with their pastor what needed to be done. They and the pastor went through the church, anointing everything with oil, praying,

and commanding the curses to be broken and the demons to leave in the name of Jesus. The church has been growing ever since.

This past year we have been in touch with the pastor of a very old church in Virginia. The church building predates the Civil War. It has a very old graveyard as part of the church grounds. This particular congregation is marked by an extremely high rate of mental breakdowns and suicides. It also is a very troubled church in that it has split repeatedly over the past thirty years. We were contacted by the new pastor who had been at the church for approximately six months. He and his family were being bothered by demonic phenomenon that they had never experienced before.

Several things were happening at this church concurrently. The pastor's personal and family problems started within a month of his move there. He told me that late one Saturday night, after studying for his sermon the next morning, he closed up the church and headed for home which was just a short walk from the church building. He looked out over the graveyard and saw a group of people dressed in hooded, black robes. They were holding hands, chanting, and walking in a circle around one of the large, ornate gravestones. Not knowing anything about the occult or witchcraft, he simply walked over to the group, interrupted their ritual, and told them that they were on private property. He ordered them to leave the property at once and threatened to call the police if they did not do so.

Since they left without incident, the new pastor went home thinking that that was the end of the matter. Not so, however! He and his family immediately

began to experience terrible nightmares, illnesses, and what they thought were hallucinations but were really demonic apparitions. Eventually, the Lord brought him across my books, and he began to understand that they were under demonic attack.

His contact with us was not only to help him deal with the curses put on him and his family by that group of occultists, but also the history and character of the congregation in the church. We advised him to study the history of the church. What had happened about thirty years before to start all the troubles that had characterized the congregation ever since? To his astonishment, he found that in the early 1960s the church had invited a nationally known and very popular psychic to speak in the church. This particular woman's predictions were published in all the popular media of the day. The church records showed that her lecture was very well attended.

This church was under a curse from God! They had sinned against the Lord by bringing in a fortune teller/psychic and giving her a position of honor and authority in the church by allowing her to give a lecture from the pulpit! The whole of the Old Testament Scriptures repeatedly condemns any interaction with such a person. As a result, Satan has free reign to attack the congregation of the church. No wonder the local witches were so comfortable coming to the church graveyard for their rituals!

We wish we could give you a happy ending in this case, but we cannot. The pastor became involved in a serious spiritual battle with the leadership of the church. He wanted the whole congregation to come together to repent for the action of bringing in the

psychic. They refused to do so. Eventually, the pressure on the pastor became so great that he left the church.

It is a very serious thing to bring an unclean thing into the house of God. Destruction is sure to follow. God was very serious when He told the children of Israel the following:

³⁴ For you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God.

(Exodus 34:14)

Remember, God is a jealous God. You cannot serve God and anything else! You cannot serve God and honor or worship anything else.

Chapter Six

Ritualistic Curses

People involved in the occult often come against Christians. They must perform various rituals to get demons to carry out what they want accomplished. If we are alert to such rituals, we can defend ourselves against curses sent against us in this way. Satan and his servants often try to put curses on us when they have no right to do so. We can break such curses very simply, but we must be aware of their existence first. In this chapter, we are going to study some examples of these types of curses.

Curses Involving Occultic Drawings

⁹ *And He said to me, “Go in, and see the wicked abominations which they are doing there.”*

¹⁰ *So I went in and saw, and there—every sort of creeping thing, abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed all around on the walls.* (Ezekiel 8:9–10)

These verses were written by Ezekiel describing his experience when God took him to Jerusalem to show him the defilement of the temple of God that was built by King Solomon. Among other things, Ezekiel saw occultic drawings on the walls of the temple. We don't really realize the significance of these verses until we understand that the purpose of all occultic drawings is to place demon spirits at the site of the drawing. Demon spirits had been brought into the temple of God and placed on the very walls of the temple through those drawings!

Because they can be used to place curses, occultic drawings can play an important role in our lives as Christians. We need to have a basic understanding of them and be alert to them. Too often we simply dismiss such drawings as graffiti and pay no attention to them.

We would like to discuss one particular class of common occultic drawings. In the jargon of those involved in the occult, they are called "watchers." Watchers are the creeping things described by Ezekiel. They are familiar spirits. They are demon spirits placed at particular sites to maintain surveillance over the immediate area. These can be placed into objects, animals, or drawings. Animals are rarely used because they move about too much. In the last case, a person places a drawing of a watcher in a strategic spot and then returns later to communicate with the demon attached to the drawing to find out what went on in that area during his absence. The drawings may take different shapes, but they always contain eyes—or at least one eye.

Watchers are frequently found in gang-related graffiti. The watchers let gang members know when people of opposing gangs have been on their turf. We

need to be alert to these because they will let us know we are in an area of occultic activity.

The drawing in the first illustration was photographed in Iowa in the spring of 1990. It is drawn on a garage door. What makes this watcher so interesting and important is the thing it is watching. This garage door is on an alleyway behind a complex of stores.

Illustration 1

The second photograph was taken standing directly in front of the watcher as we faced the same direction. As you can see, there is a symbol drawn on a door in the side of the building complex. The same spray paint was used to draw the watcher and the symbol on the door. The symbol on the door is widely misinterpreted as being a symbol for anarchy. However, when the *A* extends outside the circle, it is a symbol used to mark the site of one or more blood

sacrifices. This particular door in the photograph was the back door of a business there in Iowa that was a center for the local Satanists in town. Blood sacrifices were performed in the room behind that door, and the watcher was placed at the site to tell its human associates exactly who came and went through the door. I wonder just what it had to say after it saw us taking photographs of it and the door?

Illustration 2

The next photographs (#3 and #4) are even more interesting. We took them in Guadalajara, Mexico, in January of 1995. Guadalajara is located in central Mexico, a very long way from Iowa. Let us tell you the story behind these photographs.

When we arrived in Guadalajara for a speaking engagement, we were met at the airport by a sister in the Lord who is a strong prayer warrior in that city.

She shared with us briefly about her work for the Lord, her struggle with physical illness, and other difficulties that she was experiencing. She said she had been praying that the Lord would reveal to her the source of her problems.

Between meetings later that day, this sister graciously took us to her home for some refreshments. She lives in a spacious, beautiful home in a wealthy part of the city. In Mexico all of the properties are surrounded by high cement-block walls. As we drove up to her home and waited for the gate through her wall to be opened, I (Rebecca) glanced across the street at the wall opposite her home. To my surprise, I saw a drawing of a watcher. I was amazed that it was so very similar to the one we had photographed in Iowa. Immediately after getting out of the car, I called

Illustration 3

to Daniel and the sister to come over for a closer look at the wall. She had noticed these drawings on the wall across the street but had paid no attention to them, assuming they were common graffiti. That wall spelled out the reason for her problems!

In the third photograph, you see the drawing of the watcher. Look at how similar it is to the one from Iowa. After the watcher is the sign for a blood sacrifice. There are English words which say “We’ve eyes on you and you _____” The *A* in the word *and* was made into the symbol for a blood sacrifice. A closeup photograph of this symbol is shown in illustration #4. Again, notice the similarities to the blood sacrifice symbol from Iowa.

Illustration 4

This sister did not read English so she never paid any attention to the words or the drawings.

At the end of the words in the third photograph is the drawing shown in illustration 5. This is a drawing of a demon with a sickle in his hand. Obviously, this is the grim reaper, a demon of death.

Illustration 5

Here is the interpretation of the writing and drawings on the wall. The watcher was placed there to keep track of everything she did. The blood sacrifice was performed to place a curse on her and her household. The demon of destruction and death was placed there to fulfill the curse on her life. We believe the date there is the date the sacrifice was performed and the curse placed. In looking back, the sister realized that her problems had all started about that date. She was clearly making someone in Satan's service very angry! The words had been written in English so she would not be able to read them.

We drove all around the immediate area. Although we found some more graffiti, we did not see a single drawing that was occultic in origin. Obviously, those drawings had been carefully placed on that particular wall for a specific purpose—to keep this sister under surveillance and to place a curse of destruction on her and her household.

How should something like this be handled? Simple. We instructed her to take some anointing oil and smear it over the drawings, anointing them in the name of Jesus Christ. As she did this, she was to speak aloud, taking authority over all the demons placed on the drawings, commanding them to leave at once in the name of Jesus Christ. Then she was to take a can of spray paint and completely cover over the drawings. We recommended that she obtain a color of paint as close to the wall color as possible. The best solution would have been to have the drawings sandblasted off the wall, if it were possible. Severing the curse, destroying the drawings, and commanding the demons to leave would take care of the problem. The drawings had to be destroyed. As long as they remained, the demons had the legal right to stay.

First Peter 5:8 counsels us to be vigilant at all times because our adversary (Satan) is deadly serious about doing us harm. The Lord honored this sister's prayer and revealed to her the source of her problems. I have no doubt that is one of the reasons God sent us to Guadalajara. Do not take anything for granted. Always be alert to your surroundings.

Recently, we were teaching a seminar in Vermont just ten days after Halloween. After presenting a set of slides of occultic symbols that included the pictures shown here, we had a question-and-answer session.

One of the women attending the conference spoke up and told us that her whole household had suddenly been engulfed by chaos and disasters during the past several days. There was terrible strife among the various family members, everyone was sick all at once, and several of them had been involved in a number of strange accidents. As we were teaching, the Lord showed her the reason for all that was happening.

She said that as she left for work the morning after Halloween, she noticed that sometime during the night someone had painted a large symbol on her front door. It was the A with the circle, the symbol for a blood sacrifice. Now she understood that someone had laid a powerful curse of destruction on her house and family.

She went home that night after the meeting and destroyed the symbol off of her front door. At the same time she prayed and commanded all curses placed on her home and family to be broken at once in the name of Jesus. She then commanded all demons associated with those curses to leave at once. She went through and anointed and cleansed her home. She anointed everyone in it as well, breaking the curses off of each one of their lives individually. The next day she reported that, after doing this, immediate peace again reigned in her home.

There is one particular shop in a city near us where we have all our film developed. We have come to know the owner of the shop. We had to take the color photos in to have them converted to black-and-white for this book. When we picked up the pictures, the owner asked us about the symbol with the A in it. "What does it mean?" he asked.

Daniel asked him why he wanted to know. His answer was, "Oh, because my father-in-law pastors the big Baptist church here in town. About a month ago, someone spray-painted that symbol on the side of the church. We haven't done anything about it yet, but I have been wondering what it means."

Daniel explained the meaning to him. He told him that the symbol meant that someone had performed a blood sacrifice of some sort on the church property. The most likely reason for such a ritual is to place a curse on the church. The symbol needs to be obliterated, the curse broken, the demons driven off, and the church property cleansed. We hope this young man and his father have followed through on our advice. If they have not, many lives of the people in that church will be affected.

Recently, we saw this same symbol on the side of a church where we were speaking in London, England. The church was deeply troubled and had been unable to grow for a long time. We are sure the curse associated with this symbol wasn't the only reason for the trouble in the church, but it no doubt plays a significant role.

Churches are very often the targets of occultists. Unfortunately, too many pastors assume that they don't have to bother about such things as curses. They reason that God will take care of such things as curses. Wrong!

There is a move of the Holy Spirit in our area to get the churches together once a month for praise and worship, and the pastors meet once a week for prayer. The purpose of this is to break down barriers, promote unity, and eventually usher in revival. Recently

it came to our attention that a group of witches (who all attend various churches in the area) have been getting together in twos and threes to walk around the property edges of the churches and homes of the pastors taking the lead in trying to bring about unity among the Christian population. The purpose for their walking around the borders of the properties is to put curses on the churches, the pastors, and their families and to try to bring to a halt the work they are doing for the Lord. We called the pastors privately and told them what was going on. We are not gossips, so we did not give them any names, but since we had eyewitnesses, we felt we had to share the information with them.

The pastor of one church just shrugged off the information and advised us that we were concerned about nothing. "We believe that God takes care of all such things as curses and that we don't have to bother with them," he told us.

The second pastor reacted very differently. "Oh, thank you so much for calling!" he exclaimed. "You don't know how much my spirit bears witness with what you are saying! Our church has been under terrible attack these past couple of months. Several of our younger congregation members have had strokes and serious illnesses that don't normally affect younger people. I have known we were under attack but didn't know exactly how to pray against it as I didn't know where it was coming from. The Lord has answered my prayers by having you call me with this information." That pastor walked the grounds of both his church and his home, breaking all the curses and cleansing the properties. He also told his people and advised them to pray individually, commanding all

curses sent their direction to be broken in the name of Jesus Christ.

We have no doubt that over the next few months we will see a dramatic difference in the progress of the two churches.

Curses Sent Directly through the Spirit Realm

Some of the easiest curses to break, but some of the hardest to know about, are those sent directly through the spirit realm. Commonly, people will go to a witch or priest of some religion such as the Santeria, Voodoo, or Juju to have a spell placed on someone they know. These spells are actually curses. They are demon spirits called up through an occultic ritual and sent to a particular person for a specific purpose. Usually only the Holy Spirit can alert us to the presence of these curses in our lives. Of course, we can get hints from threats, anger, and hatred voiced by others, but we can't be certain from those things. Such curses are easily broken, and the demons associated with them can be commanded to leave in the name of Jesus.

An unscriptural teaching in some Christian circles is in the area of sending back curses onto the sender. This fairly widespread idea teaches that if you become aware of the fact that a witch has sent a curse on you, you must double it and send it back to the witch. All in the name of Jesus, of course. This is wrong, absolutely wrong! Look at what Jesus told us as recorded in Luke:

²⁷ *But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies,
do good to those who hate you,*

²⁸ *Bless those who curse you, and pray for those
who spitefully use you.* (Luke 6:27–28)

Jesus directly goes against the teaching of sending back curses. Please stop and think for a minute about this whole issue. What did we say curses were composed of? Demon spirits. If you send a curse back onto the sender, you are sending demon spirits onto someone. This is witchcraft. And, if you double the curse and send it back, you are sending back twice as many demons as were sent out in the first place. Dear brothers and sisters, Christians are not to send demon spirits onto anyone!

The Use of Personal Items

Often, a less powerful witch or person involved in an occultic religion requires some personal possession or object before they can send a curse onto someone. They use these articles in their rituals to send the curses. Common items used are photographs, pieces of hair or nail clippings, and personal articles of clothing. These are used as markers. The demon spirits involved in these types of rituals require such items to identify the person they are being sent to afflict.

When you realize that someone has taken an article belonging to you for the purpose of using it in a ritual to curse you, it is best to retrieve the object. This is usually impossible, but don't get discouraged. Our God is powerful, and He has made provision for our deliverance regardless of this difficulty. We recommend that the person being cursed pray and ask the Lord to destroy any such stolen personal articles and render them ineffective for demonic use. Then, in the name of Jesus Christ, command all the curses to be broken and the demons associated with the curses to flee forever.

Through Animals and Pets

Christians involved in heavy spiritual warfare commonly experience a problem of curses being sent onto their pets to kill them. We have often noticed that the whiskers have been cut off on just one side of our cat's face. This has also occurred with our dog, but less commonly. We are immediately alert to the fact that someone has cursed our animal. Animals are easy to clear as they have no sin and demon spirits have no legal right to be in them or to afflict them. It is a simple matter to anoint the animal with oil and pray, commanding any curses to be broken and the demons to flee in the name of Jesus Christ.

Don't forget to pray for complete healing physically and emotionally for your pet after you have broken the curses and driven off the demons. Animals often can't tell you how they are hurting. Demon spirits hurt animals physically and emotionally just as they do humans. Many farmers have been driven into bankruptcy through the loss of their livestock from illness or infertility as a result of curses placed on the animals. Our Lord is intimately involved in His creation and is more than willing to heal our animals when we pray.

*²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a copper coin?
And not one of them falls to the ground apart
from your Father's will.* (Matthew 10:29)

Through Cursed Gifts

King Solomon stated a very interesting principle in Proverbs:

¹⁴ *Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.*

(Proverbs 25:14 KJV)

One of the most common ways for an occultist to get demons into the home of a Christian is to give a gift of some sort to which they have attached demon spirits. Sometimes they will place a curse on money and then give it to someone. As the victim accepts the money, a curse of poverty or destruction is activated in his life. Curses through money are often used to place a curse of control over their prey. More and more money is given to the unsuspecting victim. Each time the person accepts the monetary gifts, additional demon spirits are placed in his life to bring him under the control of the giver.

Of course, it's best if we refuse the gifts in the first place. However, we don't always have this kind of discernment at the time a gift is given.

This shows the importance of staying humble before our Lord. The best weapon we have against these sorts of curses is humility. Accept the fact that you are not perfect and can be deceived! We must continue to rely totally on the Lord to reveal any deceptions to us. If we get proud, He may not do so. Nothing humbles our pride faster than to find out that we have been deceived. Always be alert and test everything against God's Word. If a person is placing curses on you by frequently giving you gifts, especially money, the Lord will faithfully bring to light his evil motives through his words, attitudes, or actions. If you are alert, you will find that his life doesn't completely line up with God's Word. However, because of the victim's desire to receive the gifts, he will often excuse any

such wrong words, attitudes, or actions—or ignore them completely.

Once the Lord shows us the problem, we usually choose to get rid of the gift. If the gift is not an object made specifically for use in Satan's service, it can be anointed and cleansed and the curse broken off of it in the name of Jesus. However, we feel strongly that the only solution to repeated gifts is to refuse them.

Chapter Seven

Situational Curses

Sometimes we get ourselves into situations beyond our control that result in curses on our lives. This can happen very easily when we travel. However, many times Christians violate certain biblical instructions that specify how we are to act in various circumstances. Christians can receive curses into their lives by ignoring or overstepping boundaries set by God. We will discuss a few of these types of curses in this chapter.

Ridiculing Satan

It is easy for believers to develop an arrogant attitude and think that nothing can touch or harm us. This is all too common among Christians. We sit smugly in our safe church pews and thumb our noses at Satan, believing that once we are born again he cannot touch us. However, this attitude has no scriptural basis and provides an opening for the enemy to attack.

⁸ *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

⁹ *Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.* (1 Peter 5:8–9)

⁸ *Likewise also these dreamers defile the flesh, reject authority, and speak evil of dignitaries.*

⁹ *Yet Michael the archangel, in contending with the devil, when he disputed about the body of Moses, dared not bring against him a reviling accusation, but said, “The Lord rebuke you!”*

¹⁰ *But these speak evil of whatever they do not know; and whatever they know naturally, like brute beasts, in these things they corrupt themselves.* (Jude 1:8–10)

We have a formidable foe! These are just a few of the many Scriptures that counsel us to respect and understand the power of our enemy. As soon as we treat him lightly, we are vulnerable to coming under attack and to being subject to curses from Satan and his servants. We cannot stand against Satan in our own power. Only the power of Jesus Christ enables us to stand against him. We do well to remember that!

We discussed earlier in this book the many curses that can come on Christians when they lightly walk onto Satan’s ground or attempt to take on a battle with him without first being commanded to fight by our Captain, Jesus Christ. We do these things because we are not sober and vigilant, not recognizing the power of our enemy (1 Peter 5:8–9). We want to give one more example of how our lightheartedness toward

our enemy can lead us to be careless and come under a curse.

I (Daniel) was touring the new Skamania Lodge just outside of Stevenson, Washington. Rebecca and I went there with a close friend of ours who worked there. That whole region is under the rulership of a powerful American Indian demon god called Tsagalala or “She-Who-Watches,” in English. The face of Tsagalala is everywhere. The gift shop of this lodge was no exception. Her face was on dishtowels, hot pads, T-shirts, wood carvings, and even refrigerator magnets. As we walked past a display of the magnets, I reached out and touched one of them that had the image of Tsagalala’s face on it. As I did so, I said sarcastically, “See that? She’s not as great as she thinks she is!” We went on our way without giving another thought to my comment.

Within two hours of our visit to the lodge, I became profoundly ill. I experienced severe stomach pains and began to vomit. I vomited repeatedly for hours. Rebecca and Bill (our friend and pastor) anointed me with oil and prayed for me repeatedly. They felt strongly that the cause of my illness was a curse of some sort, but we were completely unable to break the curse or stop the demons from afflicting me. Rebecca was terribly worried because I was dehydrating. She wanted me to go to the hospital, but I refused. We had a train to catch in a few hours, and I was determined not to miss it.

I vomited without letup until we got on the train. As it pulled out of the station and took us out of the area, the Holy Spirit was then able to speak to me and show me that I had, through my sarcasm and lack of respect, given Tsagalala the legal right to curse me. I

had violated the Scriptures in Jude and First Peter. When I confessed my sin of reviling Tsagalala and asked the Lord's forgiveness, I was able to command Tsagalala's curse on me to be broken in the name of Jesus. Then, I commanded all the demons associated with the curse that were afflicting me to leave me at once in the name of Jesus. I stopped vomiting immediately. I was weak and dehydrated, but I rapidly recovered as soon as the curse was broken.

Partaking of Food Sacrificed to Idols

Partaking of food that has been sacrificed to idols is not an issue that many of us in America have to face, but it is a matter of grave importance for Christians in other countries, especially Asian nations. In discussing this, we first must deal with some Scriptures that confuse many Christians. In the book of Revelation, Jesus said the following when He addressed certain churches:

¹⁴ [To the church at Pergamos] *"But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality...."*

¹⁶ *Repent...* (Revelation 2:14, 16)

²⁰ [To the church at Thyatira] *"Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols."* (Revelation 2:20)

Why did Jesus Himself so severely rebuke these Christians for eating things sacrificed to idols? In a puzzling contrast, the apostle Paul wrote,

²⁵ *Eat whatever is sold in the meat market, asking no questions for conscience' sake;*

²⁶ *For "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."*

²⁷ *If any of those who do not believe invites you to dinner, and you desire to go, eat whatever is set before you, asking no question for conscience' sake.*

²⁸ *But if anyone says to you, "This was offered to idols," do not eat it for the sake of the one who told you, and for conscience' sake; for "the earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness."*

²⁹ *"Conscience" I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience?*

³⁰ *But if I partake with thanks, why am I evil spoken of for the food over which I give thanks?*

³¹ *Therefore, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.*

³² *Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God.*

(1 Corinthians 10:25–32)

How do we reconcile the apparent differences between these Scriptures? We must also look at what Paul wrote to Timothy on the subject:

¹ *Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons,*

² *Speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron,*

³ *Forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from foods which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth.*

⁴ *For every creature of God is good, and nothing is to be refused if it is received with thanksgiving;*

⁵ *For it is sanctified [made holy] by the word of God and prayer.* (1 Timothy 4:1–5)

At first reading, these Scriptures may seem to contradict each other. However, this is not so. God does not lie or contradict Himself. (See Numbers 23:19; Psalm 89:34.) We must look into the Old Testament to gain a clear understanding of God's intent:

¹² *Take heed to yourself, lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land where you are going, lest it be a snare in your midst.*

¹³ *But you shall destroy their altars, break their sacred pillars, and cut down their wooden images*

¹⁴ *(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),*

¹⁵ *Lest you make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they play the harlot with their gods and make sacrifice to their gods, and one of them invites you and you eat of his sacrifice.*

(Exodus 34:12–15)

There are two different ways to eat food sacrificed to idols. One way is to actually partake of the sacrifice ritual in which the diner is giving honor and worship

to the god. The second way is to eat food of which a portion was first sacrificed to an idol, but the eating is separate from the sacrifice and not a part of the worship or giving of honor to the god. In Paul's day, most of the meat sold in the marketplace came from animals that were sacrificed to various idols. Only part of the meat of the animal was given to the god. The rest was sold in the marketplace. People who bought and ate this meat were not participating in the ritual sacrifice in any way.

The problem gets more complex in the case of a guest eating in someone's home. In many religions, the first portion of the food each day, sometimes even of each meal, is laid before a statue of their particular god as a form of sacrifice to that god. In his writings, the apostle Paul shows that he makes a clear distinction that he is not partaking of that sacrifice when he enters into such a home. He does this by first giving thanks for his food and acknowledging that the food and everything in the earth comes from his God, the one true Creator God. That is why he writes in First Timothy that all food is sanctified by thanksgiving and the Word of God.

When Jesus chastised those Christians who partook of sacrificed food, He was addressing their sin of compromise as is described in the quoted passage from Exodus 34. In this case, God warned the children of Israel not to actually participate in the sacrifice ritual that gave honor and worship to any demon gods. God warned them that such acts would ensnare them into actually making covenants with the pagans who were practicing the rituals and with their demon gods. Today, this activity still brings a curse into the participant's life.

Too many Christians think they can compromise. They think they can serve Jesus and partake of pagan rituals at the same time. Not so! These folks are afraid to make a clear declaration of their service and allegiance to Christ. They are trying to avoid the inevitable persecution and rejection such declarations bring.

This is a significant problem in such places as Asia and Africa. Unless they receive clear teaching, the people who come to Christ in these places will try to live as Christians and keep their families and tribes happy at the same time. They still wear the fetishes and drink the various herbal mixtures concocted by the tribal witch doctors. They go to their families' homes and partake of food that has been sacrificed to the demon gods of the family. They make no clear distinction that they are not taking part in the sacrifice. They bring themselves under a curse by compromising in such a manner.

Hatred, Jealousy, and an Unruly Tongue

Often curses can be sent simply by speaking the curse. When this is done intentionally, it is usually done by someone involved in the occult. However, Christians many times fall into sin and speak curses without realizing what they are doing.

³⁶ *But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment.*

³⁷ *For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.*

(Matthew 12:36–37)

¹⁵ *Whoever hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.* (1 John 3:15)

⁶ *Set me as a seal upon your heart, as a seal upon your arm; for love is as strong as death, jealousy as cruel as the grave; its flames are flames of fire, a most vehement flame.*
(Song of Solomon 8:6)

⁶ *And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.*

⁷ *For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind.*

⁸ *But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.*

⁹ *With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the similitude of God.*

¹⁰ *Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.* (James 3:6–10)

In the first Scripture passage, we see that God holds us directly responsible for every word we say. Our words are important! In the next, we see that if we hate someone, we are the same as a murderer in God's eyes. Our hatred literally allows demons to afflict the person we hate. Our hatred becomes a curse. I have seen people who have been afflicted with all sorts of disasters and physical illnesses because of the intense hatred of others. Often, the way to victory in

these cases is for the person being hated simply to forgive the one hating him and then to command all curses sent by the hatred to be broken. Finally, he should ask the Lord for special shielding against any hatred in the future.

In the Song of Solomon, we see that jealousy is just as destructive as hatred. Jealousy certainly leads to hatred. The vehement fire of jealousy can certainly lead to curses on the life of the person who is the object of the jealousy. This is why the Scriptures are so firm that we must forgive others. If we allow hatred and jealousy in our hearts, we do not have the fruit of eternal life in us. Further, we are probably guilty of inflicting a curse on the person we hate.

You must also be aware that if you allow jealousy, bitterness, or hatred to dwell in your heart, you will come under a curse of destruction from God. We must be quick to repent for such sins and forgive those who have hurt us.

The Scripture quoted from James emphasizes to us how much evil can be sent through spoken words. If someone says to you, "I wish you were dead!" you should immediately break that curse in the name of Jesus. Such a declaration opens the door for the demons to place a curse on the recipient of the statement to try to bring about that person's literal death. Be very careful about making negative and hurtful statements, dear brothers and sisters. Also, be quick to break the curse of any such statement made against you. Don't accept it.

¹⁴ *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:*

¹⁵ *Looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled.*
(Hebrews 12:14–15)

Bitterness brings defilement into our lives. It opens us up to attack from Satan, and it also brings attack from Satan on those around us. Bitterness in a person's life can be responsible for the destruction of whole churches and many people around them. It brings a curse not only on the person himself, but also on those who are the object of his bitterness.

Let us walk humbly before our Lord in meekness and wisdom, being careful of all our words. Remember, we will have to stand before the throne of Christ and give an account of every word we have spoken.

Circumstances Beyond Our Control

Those of us who travel or enter situations such as the workplace where we cannot regulate the environment must be especially alert to curses that may be placed on us through circumstances which are beyond our control. I (Rebecca) recently learned this lesson during a trip to Ivory Coast, Africa. The Christians who brought us there had arranged for us to stay in a beautiful hotel on the beach. We traveled 36 hours to reach Abidjan, the capital city. We were so tired from our trip that, when we arrived, we barely managed to stagger to our hotel room, and we fell into bed to sleep.

The next morning while I was taking a shower, Daniel was lying on the bed half-asleep. He thought I sat down on the edge of the bed. He opened his eyes to say something to me, but I wasn't there. He assumed

the incident was a figment of his imagination because of his fatigue. We had to dress and leave our room in a hurry as we had a full schedule that day.

That evening when we returned to our room, we began to look at our surroundings more carefully. A large, woven tapestry was hanging on the wall at the head of our bed. It had African figures woven into it. We quickly recognized that the figures were representations of demon gods. A painting on the opposite wall was a watercolor of an African tribe holding a ritual ceremony. Both were legal ground for demons. Immediately, I went to our luggage looking for the small bottle of oil I normally carry with us when we travel. Somehow in the rush to leave home, I had neglected to pack it. Thus, we could not anoint the room. We prayed and commanded the demons to be bound for the night in the name of Jesus.

Later as we were sitting on the bed studying for the next day, I distinctly felt something sit down near my feet, yet there was nothing that could be seen. I told Daniel what I felt, and he remembered the incident earlier that morning. We had no doubt that the intruder was a demon spirit. I immediately rebuked it in the name of Jesus and commanded it to leave. No way was I going to have a demon sitting on the end of our bed! However, it didn't leave. You see, it didn't have to leave. It had the legal right to be in that room.

That was a terrible night. The demons bothered us and kept us awake the whole night. The Lord graciously did not allow them to hurt us, but they certainly bothered us and kept us awake. The next day, the first thing I did was to ask the pastor who was hosting us to let me have some oil. We anointed our room, especially the tapestry and the painting, and

commanded the demon spirits associated with them to be bound. We obviously couldn't remove either one from the room or destroy them. The best we could do is anoint them, ask the Lord to seal them, and command the demons to be bound. That solved the problem—or so I thought.

During our stay, I developed a physical problem. I realized that I was under heavy demonic attack, but I was unable to gain the victory. I began praying and asking the Lord to show me why I was unable to deal with the situation.

Later that week, our hostess came to our hotel room briefly. I had talked to her about the tapestry, and she was interested in seeing it. As soon as she looked at it, she said, "Oh, that is the god, Poro. He is a powerful god of the tribes in northern Ivory Coast."

I asked her to tell me about him. She didn't know a lot except that he was well known for his hatred of women. In fact, he hated women so much that any woman who dared to look at him or at a depiction of him immediately had a curse of death placed on her. There are no images of Poro among those northern tribes because the women who look at them die. How interesting it is that his image is used as art in the southern part of the nation and placed in hotel rooms for all to see.

When I first looked at the tapestry, I knew at once that the figures woven in it were of demon gods, but I never thought about being cursed just because I looked at it! By the Lord's divine guidance, this sister came to our room to tell us about Poro. This curse was the source of my physical problems. When I left that room for the last time, I immediately took authority

over Poro's death curse and commanded it to be broken in the name of Jesus Christ. Then I commanded all the demon spirits associated with that curse to leave me forever in the name of Jesus. Immediately, I began to feel better and was well by the time we reached home.

I would never have thought about a curse being associated with just looking at an image of a demon god. From now on as we travel, I will be careful to survey our surroundings immediately for the presence of figures of demons. I will also remember to break any curses which may be placed on our lives through the representations or from looking at them.

Especially as we Christians travel, we must remain alert. The religions of other countries are all demonic. We have power over those demons in the name of Jesus Christ, but we must be alert to their presence and their tactics in order for us to live victoriously. Obviously, as in my case in Africa, those demons had no legal right to curse me or afflict me, but they tried to do so anyway. It is a simple matter to break such curses, but we must **do** so.

As we were teaching these principles of breaking curses during a seminar recently, some of the audience members brought up another interesting situation in which the source of destructive curses that were placed on people was completely outside of their control. These folks were Christian Vietnam veterans. They drew to my attention the statistics that since the end of the Vietnam war, more veterans have committed suicide than all the soldiers killed in action. The Vietnam war was peculiar in that almost all of the veterans returned home with a strong inclination toward self-destruction. Why?

These Christian veterans told me that as every plane landed on the air strips in Vietnam bringing more troops to the war, groups of Buddhist monks stood at the end of the runways performing incantations to place curses of destruction on each arriving soldier. Since that meeting, I have talked to a number of other Vietnam veterans. Each one of them remembered seeing the monks. The gruesome statistics give testimony to the power of those curses.

Are you a Vietnam veteran? If so, then you need to break all the curses of destruction off your life that were placed by those monks. You need to assert your authority in Christ and command all of the demons associated with the curses to flee from your life forever in the name of Jesus. Alert your veteran friends that they need to do the same.

Breaking Vows to God

We Christians take the matter of making vows too lightly. In God's eyes, a vow is very serious. Look at the following Scripture:

² *Do not be rash with your mouth, and let not your heart utter anything hastily before God. For God is in heaven, and you on earth; therefore let your words be few.*

³ *For a dream comes through much activity, and a fool's voice is known by his many words.*

⁴ *When you make a vow to God, do not delay to pay it; for He has no pleasure in fools. Pay what you have vowed;*

⁵ *Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.*

(Ecclesiastes 5:2-5)

Have you made a vow to God and not fulfilled it? Often, this is a source of great difficulties in a Christian's life. You cannot go forward in your walk with the Lord until you have fulfilled the vows you made to God. Broken vows give Satan the legal right to attack.

Many people vow to God that if He will heal them, they will serve Him the rest of their lives. Then, when they are well, they forget about God. This sort of sin brings the person under a curse from God.

Ask the Holy Spirit to search your life and show you if you have unpaid vows to God. Then make haste to fulfill them!

Chapter Eight

Dealing with the Thief

Whether we like it or not, the fact is that when we accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are plunged into warfare against Satan. We can't avoid being drafted into God's army. God's Word proclaims,

⁹ But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.
(1 Peter 2:9)

God has called every one of us out of darkness. However, Satan is the ruler of the darkness. He is not pleased when we leave his kingdom to serve our wonderful Lord Jesus Christ! Thus, God cautions and instructs us as follows:

⁸ Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.

⁹ *Resist him, steadfast in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are experienced by your brotherhood in the world.* (1 Peter 5:8–9)

⁷ *Submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.* (James 4:7)

No Christian is exempt from this war. Unfortunately, many think they can evade involvement in this battle if they are careful not to learn or talk about it. God's Word shows this line of thinking is false. Therefore, since we have no choice but to fight the enemy, let us learn from the Lord how to conquer him.

In the last two years, the Lord has taught us about some extraordinarily powerful weapons we have. When we learned about these weapons and used them, we experienced remarkable victory in our lives. We want to share these lessons with you. I (Daniel) will share the first lesson in this chapter. Then Rebecca will share the second one in the last chapter.

In November, 1994, Rebecca and I were ministering in Costa Rica. The Lord woke me early one morning about four A.M. The Holy Spirit told me to get up, get my Bible, and read John 10:10. "Lord, I don't need to get my Bible," I complained. "I can quote that verse from memory." The bed was comfortable, and Rebecca was asleep. Still sleepy myself, I had no desire to get up.

"O.K., hot shot, then quote it!" the Lord replied. Of course, I couldn't remember a word. I got up in a hurry then. Opening my Bible, I read:

¹⁰ [Jesus speaking] *"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."* (John 10:10)

“Who is the thief?” the Lord asked me.

“Satan,” I responded.

“That’s correct. Now turn to Luke 10:19,” was His reply. This time I complied with His instructions without grumbling.

¹⁹ [Jesus speaking] *“Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”* (Luke 10:19)

“Who is the enemy?” the Lord asked me.

“Satan,” I responded once again.

“Correct,” He replied. “To whom did I give authority over Satan?”

“To your disciples,” I answered.

“And who are My disciples?” He queried.

“Well, the original twelve were your disciples, but all true Christians today are your disciples as well,” I answered.

“Exactly!” Then the Lord told me to turn to Romans 8.

¹⁶ *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

¹⁷ *And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.*

(Romans 8:16–17)

The Lord told me that He is tired of His children acting like whipped puppies. We Christians are joint heirs with Christ! It is time we started acting like it.

God has given us all authority over Satan and his kingdom through Jesus Christ. The trouble is, most Christians do not ever exert that authority and continue to live in defeat. Thus the churches are weak and the Gospel is not spread as it should be.

Next, the Lord had me turn to Proverbs.

³⁰ *People do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving.* (Proverbs 6:30)

“Who is the thief?” the Lord asked me once again.

“Satan,” I replied.

“Is Satan starving?” He asked.

“No, certainly not!”

“Then read the next verse,” He commanded.

³¹ *Yet when he is found, he must restore seven-fold; he may have to give up all the substance of his house.* (Proverbs 6:31)

“Who is the thief?” the Lord asked.

“Satan!” I answered. “Lord, you have asked me so many times. I know Satan is the thief!” I replied in some exasperation.

“Then why don’t you start acting like you know it?” the Lord asked. “This is the trouble with My people. Satan steals from them, and they come crying to Me. They want Me to replace what Satan stole. I didn’t steal from them, I never steal from anybody, but I get all the blame, and worse, My people expect Me to replace what Satan took.”

“O.K.,” I answered slowly, still not completely sure what the Lord wanted me to do.

“Daniel,” the Lord said, “I sent my Son to earth to die so that you would have authority over Satan. Jesus told you that He gave you all authority over Satan. My servants who wrote the Bible repeatedly told you that you are a joint heir with My Son. You are in a position of rulership over Satan. You keep telling Me that you know that Satan is the thief. Now the thief has been found out—or so you say. Now, I am telling you, rise up and command the thief to return to you sevenfold everything he has stolen from you!”

Suddenly, I understood. Of course, it’s so simple, but we often do not realize our position in Christ. Jesus gave us, His servants, all authority over Satan and his kingdom.

With authority comes responsibility. Our time here on earth is to be used by us not only to spread the Gospel, but it is also a time for us to learn how to reign with Christ as His joint heirs. It is our responsibility to rule over Satan in our lives here on earth! It is our responsibility to command the thief to return to us what he has stolen from us. The Lord did not steal from us: Satan did. God’s people spend their time crying to God, asking Him to return to them what has been stolen, when it is their own responsibility to take authority over the thief in the name of Jesus and force him to return what he stole—sevenfold!

Rebecca awoke that morning to the sound of my voice as I was commanding Satan in no uncertain terms to return sevenfold everything he had stolen from me.

Let’s look at this principle in more depth. To do so, we need to start at the beginning, back in Genesis at the time of Creation.

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."*

²⁷ *So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.*

²⁸ *Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth."*

(Genesis 1:26–28)

As we know, Adam and Eve sinned and thus gave dominion over themselves to Satan. But God did not give up on mankind. Instead, even as He spoke judgment on Adam and Eve, He also gave the promise of a Messiah who would one day come and reestablish the dominion of men over Satan (Genesis 3:14–16). God later raised up a chosen people through whom He sent the Messiah, Jesus Christ. These people, the descendants of Abraham, were given promises by God that if they obeyed Him, they would be given dominion over Satan and the land. Ultimately, God led them into the promised land of Canaan and gave them possession of it.

David summed up man's God-given authority as follows:

⁴ *What is man that You are mindful of him, and the son of man that You visit him?*

⁵ *For You have made him a little lower than the*

angels, and You have crowned him with glory and honor.

⁶ *You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all things under his feet.* (Psalms 8:4–6)

Satan was created by God. He is part of the works of His hands. Therefore, we are to have dominion over him.

In the fullness of time, Jesus Christ came to earth. Jesus is referred to as the second or last Adam in 1 Corinthians 15:45–49. This is because He came as the second sinless man to walk the earth. Remember, Adam was without sin prior to the fall. He walked the earth for a period of time without sin, and then he fell. Jesus never fell! He was completely sinless. He went to the cross to pay the price for our sin and to win the final victory over Satan for us. After His death and resurrection, Jesus told His disciples,

¹⁸ *All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.* (Matthew 28:18)

Hallelujah! What man could never do, God did for us. Jesus Christ regained what was lost in the Garden of Eden. In turn, He then gave us the authority in His name. Look at what Jesus said in the following verses:

¹⁹ *Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

²⁰ *Nevertheless do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven.*

(Luke 10:19–20)

*¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe:
In My name they will cast out demons...*

(Mark 16:17)

Clearly, Satan and the demons are subject to us through the name of Jesus Christ. However, this is not all. God has given us so much more. Literally, we are now joint-heirs with Jesus! We are to be rulers.

¹⁶ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

¹⁷ And if children, then heirs; heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

(Romans 8:16–17)

How are we glorified together in Christ? This is a wonder and a mystery, the plan God has had from the beginning. Paul explains it to us further:

⁸ To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

⁹ And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ;

¹⁰ to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places.

(Ephesians 3:8–10)

Please note that the wisdom of God and His eternal plan is to be made known to Satan's kingdom

through us, the church. What is this plan exactly? It is that we, the servants of Jesus Christ, should become not only servants, but also joint-heirs with Christ. We are royalty!

⁹ *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.* (1 Peter 2:9)

¹¹ *This is a faithful saying: For if we died with Him, we shall also live with Him.*

¹² *If we endure, we shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.*

¹³ *If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.* (2 Timothy 2:11–13)

⁵ *...To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,*

⁶ *And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.* (Revelation 1:5–6)

¹⁶ *And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.* (Revelation 19:16)

Who are the kings and lords? We are! In Christ Jesus, we have been made kings in God's kingdom. God has chosen to impart to us the victory Jesus won on the cross. What does a king do? He reigns. Scripture is clear that the purpose of God-ordained government is to control evil. That is the purpose of a king. Look at the following Scripture:

¹ *For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

² *Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves.*

³ *For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.* (Romans 13:1–3)

A king is a very poor king who cannot control the thief in his land! This is why Jesus told his disciples and us that He was giving us all power over the enemy through His name. We are part of Christ, His body. Jesus Christ is the head, and we make up the rest of His body (1 Corinthians 12:12–31). As the head, Jesus gives His body the authority in His name to rule over Satan and his kingdom. Thus, it is our responsibility to take up that authority and deal with the thief, Satan. This is what the Lord showed me that night in Costa Rica. We, God's people, are to force the thief to return what he has stolen from us. We are in training here on earth to be kings and rulers. If we don't rule over the thief, then we are not kings.

Laziness, an Open Door for the Thief

Unfortunately, we kings all too often give Satan the legal right to steal from us. We do this through sin. One of the biggest areas where we give the thief the right to steal from us is through the desires of our sin nature, especially our laziness. Let us once again go back to Genesis—to the time of the fall of Adam and Eve—and look at the judgment God placed on

them as a result. Part of God's judgment on man was that he should work to survive from that day on.

¹⁷ Then to Adam He said...“Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life.” (Genesis 3:17)

Man has rebelled against this judgment of God to this very day. In so doing, he has repeatedly given Satan the right to steal from him. He has brought himself under a curse. How? By refusing to toil, which in plain terms means work. Are you on welfare? Do you live on government handouts or subsidies? Then you are under a curse because you are walking in direct disobedience to God!

⁶ But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to follow us, for we were not disorderly among you;

⁸ Nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you

⁹ Not because we do not have authority, but to make ourselves an example of how you should follow us.

¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat. (2 Thessalonians 3:6–10)

Paul certainly had much to say about this subject, didn't he? Remember, one of the curses on the Roman

Empire in Paul's day also came from welfare. Historians have repeatedly stated that welfare was one of the major forces that brought about the destruction of the Roman Empire. If we allow it to continue, the welfare system will also bring about the downfall of the United States. It is already largely responsible for America's slide into bankruptcy.

God directly commands us to work and earn our living. If you are not doing this, you are sinning! Even those who are handicapped can work if they so choose. There are a few people who are too ill to work, but this is a very few compared to the number of people who are on welfare or some sort of disability. According to God's Word, it is the church who should be caring for those who are truly unable to work, not the government. (See Mark 14:7; 1 Timothy 5:3, 16.)

Welfare is a curse handed down from one generation to the next. The desire to keep from working is as old as Adam. It is a part of the sin nature of every human being. Nothing is so addicting so quickly as receiving something for nothing! The most common argument of people not wanting to get off welfare is that they can't find a job. Nonsense! The truth is that they can't find a job for as much money as they can get from welfare. The answer is to work two jobs. Please note what the apostle Paul said, *"...nor did we eat anyone's bread free of charge, but worked with labor and toil night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you"* (2 Thessalonians 3:8).

Jesus clearly stated the principle that, in God's kingdom, a person must first demonstrate faithfulness and trustworthiness in little before he will be given more.

¹⁰ *He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much.*

¹¹ *Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, how will you commit to your trust the true riches?*

¹² *And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, how will you give you what is your own?*
(Luke 16:10–12)

²⁰ *So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, "Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them."*

²¹ *His lord said to him, "Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord."*

(Matthew 25:20–21)

Later in the same parable, Jesus condemned one of the servants for being lazy.

²⁶ *But his lord answered and said to him, "You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed."*

²⁷ *"So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest."*

²⁸ *"Therefore take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents."*

²⁹ *"For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who*

does not have, even what he has will be taken away.

³⁰ *“And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”* (Matthew 25:26–30)

⁶ *Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time,*

⁷ *Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.* (1 Peter 5:6–7)

You must take the first step in faith. Go out and work, no matter how small or humble the job. As you do this, ask God to forgive you for your laziness and dependence on welfare and the government instead of Him. Ask the Lord to lift the curse away from your life. Then, God will be free to bless you with a better job and better finances.

²⁵ *The desire of the lazy man kills him, For his hands refuse to labor.*

²⁶ *He covets greedily all day long, but the righteous gives and does not spare.*

(Proverbs 21:25–26)

What is the mark of those areas of our cities where much of the population is on welfare? Violence and crime.

Have you been lazy, shown up late repeatedly for work, done only half the job you should have done? Have you frequently quit jobs because you always wanted something better with better pay? This shows any prospective employer that you are not to be trusted. Do you fight with your coworkers? Engage in

gossip and jealousy? Then, you are giving the thief the right to steal from you! God's Word is clear about this:

¹⁶ *For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.*

¹⁷ *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.*

¹⁸ *Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.* (James 3:16–18)

²² *Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.*

²³ *And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men.* (Colossians 3:22–23)

There is no room for jealousy, strife, or laziness in God's kingdom! Anyone the Lord uses mightily in His service and blesses is first of all a hard worker.

¹⁰ *Because of laziness the building decays, and through idleness of hands the house leaks.*

(Ecclesiastes 10:18)

We are the building of God. We are part of the house of God (1 Peter 2:4–5). If we are lazy and idle, we give Satan the legal right to set up a stronghold in our lives. We lose the right to command the thief to return what he has stolen from us through all of these things.

We can be lazy in more than just work. We can be lazy in refusing to discipline ourselves and to use the talents and gifts the Lord has given us. Many a person

has failed in the ministry God has given him or her to do because of laziness and lack of self-discipline. The Holy Spirit gives us gifts, but we must be careful to maintain them. This takes work!

⁶ Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
(2 Timothy 1:6)

After we have confessed our sins and changed our lives, then we have the right to command Satan to return what he has stolen from us through our sins. Jesus has given us power and authority over the thief through His name, but, we must first put our own lives in order—diligently and quickly—because the time is short.

What has Satan stolen from you? Your joy? Your job? Your husband, wife, or children? Did he steal it, or did you give him the legal right to take it through your own sin? If Satan stole it, then get busy and take authority over this thief and command him to return to you what he has stolen in the name of Jesus Christ! Let me give you a practical example of one such instance in our own lives.

In January, 1995, Rebecca and I were scheduled to fly to Mexico City early on a Monday morning. The previous Thursday we had one of the severe ice storms for which Arkansas is famous. It literally rained ice for 48 hours. Every twig on the trees was encased with ice. It was beautiful but also very destructive. Friday morning our electricity went out. Since we live far out in the country, our closest neighbor is about a mile away. We get our water from a well; without electricity we are not only without lights and heat, we are also without water. That night it

turned very cold. Saturday morning we still had no electricity, but we had to leave in just two days.

We were beginning to get concerned, so I went out to see if I could find the break in the wires to help the electric company locate the problem. As I walked out toward the end of our twenty-five acres of land, I discovered that a large branch had broken off one of our pine trees and fallen across the main electric wire coming onto our property. Instead of just snapping the wire, the whole electric pole had been broken and lay smashed in many pieces on the ground. It looked as if it had been made of glass instead of wood. All of our electrical equipment including our meter loop and electric panel box had been on that pole. Now, pieces of everything lay scattered over the ground. However, the wire was still intact, attached to the downed pole.

I drove the 25 miles into our nearest town to the electric company to tell them what had happened. When I spoke to the manager, he just shook his head. "I'm sorry, Daniel," he said, "we have over 9,000 homes out of electricity. Since you have a pole down that is a bigger job to fix. We won't be able to fix your pole for at least a week." He also told me that all of the equipment on the pole belonged to me and was my responsibility to replace. They would not come fix the pole until I had replaced it, and they would charge me for the pole. All of that would come to more than \$1,000 which we did not have.

I returned home discouraged. We have two older ladies, Frieda and Nancy, living on our property who help us by looking after everything while we are gone. I could not go out of the country and leave them without electricity. I was also afraid that all of our water

pipes would freeze and burst. I didn't see how we were going to come up with the money for the electrical equipment either. When I got home, I explained the situation to Rebecca and told her that it looked as if she would just have to go to Mexico without me.

"Oh no, I'm sure that's not God's will," was her firm reply.

"But I don't see any other way, I can't just leave without solving the problem of our electricity, and we don't have the money for all that equipment," I said.

"I don't know what the answer is right now, but I'm sure God's will is for both of us to go to Mexico!"

Women! I thought as I threw myself down on the couch in disgust. They just refuse to see sense! I was angry and frustrated and discouraged. I didn't know that Rebecca and Frieda had already been praying for me. As I sat there fuming, suddenly the Lord spoke to me. "Who stole your electricity?"

I sat up with a jerk. Of course! It is not normal for a wooden electric pole in good condition to shear off at the bottom and smash into pieces on the ground. The pole was in good condition, and wood just doesn't smash like glass. Normally, the wire would have broken, not the pole. I had been assuming that the ice on the pole had caused it to break and bring about all the damage. Satan had stolen our electricity in an effort to prevent us from going to Mexico.

I jumped up, went back outside, and walked down to the pole. I stood over that smashed electric pole and equipment and ordered, "Satan! In the name of Jesus Christ my Lord, I command you to return our electricity and our electrical equipment to us today! You

stole it, so you return it! I am not going to pay for all of this because you stole it. I am commanding you to return it, and you will do so this very day!”

Two hours later, not one, but two electric trucks drove down our road, pulling behind them a brand new electric pole. Two crews of men came to repair our electric service. I went out and worked with them. Not only did they put up a new pole, they helped me repair all the electrical equipment that had been damaged. Everything was repaired and our electricity turned back on within an hour.

After we were done, I asked the foreman of the crews, “How is it that you came today to put up our pole? I thought you couldn’t come until next week sometime.”

“I really don’t know,” he replied. “We had no plans to come over this way at all—and certainly not to replace a pole. But, I got a call on my truck radio telling me that a truck and crew were on their way with a new pole to your place and that I was to stop what I was doing and get over here to help them get your service restored. So, here we are.”

Praise the Lord! Do you see? Satan stole our electricity. I am a joint-heir with Jesus Christ. Through Christ I have authority over the thief to force him to restore what he has stolen.

We went to Mexico, and the Lord greatly blessed the meetings. On a Friday night, I had the privilege of sharing the Gospel at a youth rally where over 350 teenagers gave their hearts to Christ. That’s why Satan had tried so hard to keep us from going.

Interestingly, after we returned from Mexico, I went to the electric company to talk to the manager

and thank him for sending the men out to our place so quickly to repair the damage. He shook his head in puzzlement. "You know," he said, "that's a strange thing. I never made that call to tell the men to come out to your place. I have never been able to find out just who did make the call."

I know who made that call—Satan!

A year later we were once again traveling in Central America. We taught this principle in Costa Rica and then traveled down into Panama by chartered bus. We were traveling with a number of people from the church in which we had spoken in Costa Rica. As we returned from Panama to Costa Rica, a couple of the young people had the opportunity to put this principle to work.

There are two sets of customs between the two countries—one for Panama and one for Costa Rica. There is a space of about one city block between the two customs offices. This is filled with all sorts of little stores. As we waited at the first customs office in Panama, everyone else climbed out of the bus and shopped in the stores between the borders because the items are cheaper. Then they came back to the bus, and we drove the short distance to the next customs office. On this occasion, two of the young people got back on the bus talking to each other in Spanish. When we reached the Costa Rica customs and were sitting waiting, a woman came running down the street and up into the bus. She handed some money to the two youths, said something breathlessly, and quickly left. They started laughing and praising the Lord. We asked what had happened. Our interpreter told us that when these two had gone into a particular

shop, the owner cheated them out of ten dollars. They confronted him about it, but he refused to listen to them and kicked them out of the shop. As they stood out on the sidewalk in front of the shop discussing the situation, they remembered what we had taught them about dealing with the thief. They took authority over Satan, the thief, and, in the name of Jesus, commanded him to return to them what he had stolen from them through that shop owner. Then, they returned to the bus. The woman who had come running down the street to the bus was the wife of the shop owner. She returned the ten dollars to the two with an apology. The thief had been forced to return what he had stolen!

Since we have been teaching this powerful tool of spiritual warfare, we have been privileged to hear many such stories of how people are learning to be kings through Christ Jesus and have been obtaining victory over the thief.

Chapter Nine

The Court of Final Appeal

For you to understand this last lesson, I (Rebecca) need to share a bit about Daniel's background and then of our life and circumstances together in marriage. First, however, we must begin with the realization that God allows seasons in our lives.

¹ *To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven:*

² *A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted;*

³ *A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;*

⁴ *A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

⁵ *A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;*

⁶ *A time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;*

⁷ *A time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;*

⁸ *A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.* (Ecclesiastes 3:1–8)

Daniel and I have experienced various seasons in our lives, just as every man, woman, and child on this earth does, whether Christian or non-Christian. The questions for each of us to consider are: How am I going to go through these seasons, and, What will I learn from them? There will be times of suffering and grief in all of our lives, but Satan will try to prolong those seasons and keep us in perpetual suffering and defeat. It is God's will that we come once again into times of joy and prosperity. It is through these seasons that God teaches us many valuable lessons.

Five-and-a-half years ago (from the time of this writing), the Lord brought a miracle and a tremendous blessing into my life—my husband Daniel. I need to tell you a bit about his personal history and then about our adventures together after our marriage so you can understand the important lessons we have learned together.

Daniel was born into a very wealthy Jewish family of international bankers. His family were not orthodox Jews, they were Jews who lived by the Cabala,¹ an esoteric system of Jewish mysticism and

¹The Cabala is a collection of writings first amassed shortly after 70 A.D. by the rabbis who fled Jerusalem just before it was conquered by Tiberius. The Cabala has been added to and revised over the generations. Today, it is sold among wealthy Jews, and many books about the Cabalistic beliefs

thaumaturgy (magic). Daniel was born in the U.S., but at the age of six he was sent overseas to an exclusive boarding school. He never saw his parents again after he entered the school. Throughout his adulthood, their only contact has been through their attorneys. He remained at the school until the age of nineteen. Later, he completed his graduate studies in Switzerland.

The boarding school of his childhood was a center of Cabalistic practices. Daniel was subjected to severe ritualistic abuse all through his years at school. Down through the evil, dark passages where he lived and walked for the those thirteen years, in spite of the hatred and bitterness that consumed him, God still reached down to touch him. One Father, the real Father of all mankind, let His love and His light touch and protect Daniel from an early age throughout all of his life. Jesus Christ was there for him, even though he did not know who Jesus was.

Because of God's hand on his life, a spark of good remained deep down amid all the evil that grew inside of him. A hint of knowledge of what was right and what was wrong persisted—a deep inward cry, of which he often was not even consciously aware, for all

are best-sellers in those elite societies. Cabalism is a religion of power—spiritual power, that is—a continuation of the old forms of worship of Baal and Molech which God so severely condemned throughout the Old Testament. It is really a form of Satan worship, but the people involved in it never use the term “Satan.” They teach and serve “the Master.” Many simply call the Cabala a set of spiritual beliefs or a philosophy, which is deceptive. Followers of Cabalism do not teach their children the Ten Commandments or the writings of Moses except in a most perverted form.

the wrongs in his life to be righted. God chooses His servants regardless of their state in our eyes—evil or good. The Bible shows us that many of God’s chosen servants from Moses to Paul grew up practicing the most evil of ways until, one day, illumination from the one true God touched them.

God first touched Daniel shortly after he arrived at the boarding school. Daniel was picked up at his childhood palatial home by two men he had never seen before. Although he was raised by nannies, he was no different than any other small child—desiring the love and care of parents and the stability of home. His mother did not bother to say good-bye to him but coldly ordered him to go with the two men. After the long trip overseas, Daniel was taken down into the subterranean levels of the school and placed in a small windowless room. No one talked to him or explained to him what was happening. The room was furnished only with a bed, a table, one chair, a large candle, and a bucket in the corner for a toilet. The door locked from the outside keeping him a prisoner in the room. All his cries and fear were ignored. His only contact with humans were with the men who came to feed him and tutor him.

In those first terrible weeks, the desire to escape consumed him. One day, Daniel found an opportunity. One of the men who brought him his meal neglected to fully shut the door. In an instant Daniel was out the door and down the hall. In his haste to leave, he pulled the door shut after himself, thus delaying the chase by the man inside. Daniel ran down first one hall and then another. To his dismay, he found that the doors to the stairways leading to the ground floor and freedom were all locked. Finally, he crept into a

small, dark room that was unlocked. He thought he would be safe there and finally fell asleep. However, his peace was short lived. The room he had thought would be a haven was actually a discipline chamber used to torture the children who displeased the teachers. It was a small round room, just a few feet in diameter. The top lifted off the room from the floor above.

When the rabbis found him, they locked him into the chamber, removed the lid from the top, and dumped thousands of spiders down on top of him, many of them poisonous. As the spiders began to crawl all over Daniel, biting him mercilessly, he cried out in agony, "Doesn't anyone care about me? Is there anyone in the whole world who wants me?" Immediately, a brilliant shaft of light pierced down through that building, down into the cold little room where Daniel was cowering, shivering, and crying on the floor. Daniel had no idea what or who the light was, but he remembers two arms reaching out of the light and a wonderful voice saying to him, "Yes, I love you and I want you." Those arms took Daniel and cradled him. Comforted, he slept in the arms of Jesus. When he awoke, all of his spider bites were healed. From that point on, the spiders refused to bite him.

For a child who loved the outdoors and the countryside with all of his heart, life cooped up in one small room was terribly hard. Day after endless day, the rabbis came to tutor him. Daniel rebelled constantly and was always in trouble. Punishment was immediate and terribly severe. He was forced to attend and participate in rituals of indescribable cruelty in their worship of the Master. He never experienced love or compassion or kindness. His heart grew cold

and emptied of all emotions except anger, hatred, and bitterness. This made the little boy grow stronger. Being extremely intelligent, he threw himself into his studies, determined to gain all knowledge so that one day he could get revenge on his tormentors. Even as a child, Daniel knew that knowledge was power.

When Daniel reached the age of twelve, he faced a very important ritual and stage in his life. He was declared to be coming of age. This particular ceremony required a special sacrifice. Daniel was to give over his free will to the Master and swear his allegiance to him forever. As Daniel came to the part of the ceremony where he lifted a silver goblet containing his own blood toward the Master's throne to say his vows, a shaft of light suddenly pierced the room. It shattered the goblet before Daniel could drink from it or finish his vows. A voice spoke from the light telling him that his actions were not pleasing to I AM. Daniel was told by that voice that he was not to serve the Master, that he was called to serve the one true God. As the goblet shattered, shards of the silver were driven through his hands. He still bears those scars today. Needless to say, that particular ritual came to an abrupt halt as everyone fled the room! Daniel was left with a lot of questions but no answers.

The light appeared to Daniel once again on the day he left the hated school forever. God challenged Daniel on that day, telling him that He had called him into His service to be a voice to His people. Daniel told the Lord in no uncertain terms to get lost. Daniel had no intentions of serving anyone but himself! The next years of his life were spent running from God. Little did he know just how relentless the Hound of Heaven (as Francis Thompson called the Lord) would be.

Throughout his years at the school, Daniel trained intensively in the martial arts. Shortly after his release, he traveled to Tibet to expand and perfect his knowledge. With the intense anger and hatred burning inside him and his skills in martial arts, Daniel literally became a fight going somewhere to happen.

Shortly after leaving the boarding school, Daniel inherited a fortune. As he finished graduate school in Switzerland, he entered his grandfather's business and quickly rose to power there and then in his family's business as well. He also formed corporations of his own. He was empty, unhappy, and driven.

The only things that ever gave him any pleasure were fighting, making money, and excelling at every possible dangerous activity. Driving racecars and skiing were two of his passions. Wealth became a play toy; power was his god. Nightspots were his home. He traveled the world incessantly, always looking for something—he didn't know what—but never finding it.

As is usual in such wealthy families as Daniel's, his parents arranged a marriage for him to further the family fortune. Daniel was fifteen and Kai was twelve when they were put through their betrothal ceremony. Daniel hated his parents so much that he vowed at the time he would never fulfill their wishes and marry Kai.

Eventually, when Daniel turned thirty, his parents exerted their power and pulled Daniel's fortune out from under him. He had a choice to make: face life without a penny or marry Kai. He capitulated and married Kai, but now all of his anger and hatred were directed toward her because of the forced marriage.

Kai was a beautiful, talented, wealthy young woman. She, too, had been terribly abused because of being raised in Cabalism. However, in spite of the abuse, Kai had a loving and seeking heart. Daniel well remembers one day about four years after they were married. They were driving up the coastline highway in California, when Kai asked him to stop the car to watch a beautiful sunset over the Pacific Ocean. Suddenly she turned to Daniel and said, "Do you see all that beauty? I know the god we serve could not have created such beauty! He is a god who wants only destruction, pain, and suffering. I am going to search for the God who created all this. I'm going to search until I find Him, and then I'm going to serve Him."

Daniel brushed off her remarks, but less than a year later, Kai found Jesus Christ and gladly accepted Him as her Lord and Messiah. Shortly afterward, Daniel's life was turned upside down! Kai completely changed. She became peaceful, confident, and full of joy. She shared the good news of her Savior with everyone. Daniel's business associates became upset. His family and Kai's family became upset. Daniel was upset! But nothing stopped Kai. Soon, Daniel was getting threatening phone calls from both sets of parents. "Shut Kai up!" they commanded.

"You shut her up!" was his retort. "You forced her onto me. I didn't want to marry her. You see if you can shut her up. Kill her if you want to. I don't care." Kai was nothing but a source of anger in Daniel's life. However, at the same time, he found himself longing for something else, but he didn't know what.

One day, Kai walked into his office in Switzerland and said, "Daniel, please tell me, just what will it take

for you to accept Jesus Christ as the true Messiah and God?"

For once in his life, instead of beating her or yelling at her, Daniel stopped to think. Finally, he said, "If your God is so real, then have Him make me love someone."

"No problem," Kai responded. "Just ask Him."

"What do you mean?"

"Just what I said, stupid. Just ask Him. Ask Him to make you love someone."

Daniel shook his head, already regretting his response. Shrugging his shoulders he said sarcastically, "O.K., if there's some hot shot God out there who I am not serving, then I'm asking You to make me love someone." He turned on his heel and left the room, putting it out of his mind.

Daniel quickly forgot the whole incident. But God did not forget! About two weeks later, Daniel received another call from his parents' attorney telling him to make Kai shut up. Instead of giving his usual reply, Daniel said, "Hey, leave her alone! She's my wife, and she can do whatever she wants to do. You leave her alone, or you'll have to answer to me." He slammed down the phone and then sat staring at it. Did I really say that? he wondered.

Steadily over the next several weeks, his feelings for Kai grew. His attitude toward her underwent a radical change. He found himself wanting to protect her and spend time in her company. For the first time he realized just how beautiful she was. Kai also noticed the change.

Finally, Kai approached Daniel again. “You love me, don’t you?” she asked.

Daniel was startled. “I really don’t know,” he said. “I don’t know what love is. I can’t say I love you.”

“Well, I can tell you that you love me,” she smiled. “You said you would believe in Jesus if He made you love someone. Now, will you accept Him as your Lord and Messiah?”

“No!” was Daniel’s reply, and he flatly refused to discuss the issue any further.

A few more weeks passed, and Kai approached him once again. “Daniel, I’m really serious,” she said. “What will it take to convince you that Jesus Christ is the Messiah?” Daniel was frustrated by her persistence, but because of his feelings for her, he was unable to respond with his normal abusive anger. Still, he looked for a way to get her off his back.

Because of the abuse Kai had suffered as a child and young woman, she had had a partial hysterectomy shortly after they were married. She was unable to bear children. In his heart, Daniel had always had a secret desire to have a child—a desire he had never voiced, even to himself. Finally, he told Kai, “If your God is real, then get pregnant.”

“No problem” was her immediate response. She dropped to her knees right there in the middle of his office and simply and sweetly asked the Lord to give her a new uterus and a child. They had no further conversation about the subject. In the pressure of business and his continual travel, Daniel quickly forgot.

Three months later, Kai bounced into his office, radiant. In her hand she held the ultra-sound showing

a perfectly formed fetus in a perfectly formed uterus! Still, Daniel refused to accept Jesus. However, Kai's pregnancy was the last straw for both families. It was bad enough that Kai had chosen to serve a Gentile God, but now she was pregnant because of that God!

Daniel was notified by a friend that their families had hired men to capture them and to force Kai to renounce Christ or kill her. For the first time in his life, Daniel was overcome with fear. Suddenly, all his powers were of no help to him. He and Kai fled.

For three months they ran. However, in God's permissive will, they were caught. Daniel found that all his powers deserted him when he needed them most. With his expertise in the martial arts, he would normally have easily defeated the five thugs. This time he found himself helpless and afraid which was a totally new experience for him. They were flown to Israel where Daniel was chained to a wall and forced to watch as Kai, his first and only love, was tortured to death!

Kai's death, terrible as it was, was a complete victory. Never had Daniel seen such power. Kai kept telling her captors that she forgave them, that Jesus Christ is the true God and Messiah, and that Jesus is a God of love while their Master is a god of hate. She told them, "My God, Jesus, is inside of me. He is a God of love. No matter what you do to me, you cannot hurt me because Jesus is right here inside of me." She felt no pain, no matter what they did. Until her death, she sang songs of praise and testified to the glories of her God. At last Daniel was face-to-face with the awesome power of Jesus Christ. There was no escape. Daniel's own Master had completely deserted him in

his time of need. There simply are no words to describe the horror and grief of that terrible time in Daniel's life.

After Kai's death, his family thought Daniel would settle back into business and marry again. Instead, he fled to the United States where he hid in a cabin in the mountains and studied Kai's Bible for a whole year. Overwhelmed with grief, he was desperate to find out about Kai's God. At first he studied in rage, trying to prove that the God Kai served and who had taken her away from him was a fraud. Instead, he found truth. A year after Kai's death, Daniel fell to his knees, repented, and accepted Jesus Christ as his own Lord and Savior and Messiah. He left his family and his wealth and set his face to walk the path to which God had first called him so many years before.

Nearly four years after Kai's death, through a series of miracles, the Lord brought Daniel and me together. We met on November 7, 1989, and we were married on December 10, 1989. The wonderful thing about a marriage such as ours—a marriage literally put together by God and centered in Jesus Christ—is the complete supernatural unity and love given by God. God made us one! The flowing of the Holy Spirit in our lives is a joy to us. When the Lord shows one of us something, He is also showing the other the same thing. In this way He brings continual confirmation to us that we are hearing from the Holy Spirit.

Daniel's family was outraged that he had accepted Christ. I think it is an understatement to say that they were not pleased when he married me. They are very powerful both financially and politically and have been responsible for giving us a number of adventures since we have been married.

After our marriage, we moved from California to Iowa. Daniel pastored a small but rapidly growing church, and our ministry was growing. One year after our marriage, Daniel's family united against us to try to destroy us. They used corrupt law enforcement officials and professing Christians in our area. A number of false accusations were trumped up against Daniel.

One night in February of 1991, we were out of town unexpectedly. Our secretary was housesitting for us. Close to midnight, ten men came to the house and violently broke down the door. Three were law enforcement officers; the others weren't. They grabbed our secretary and handled her very roughly. They held her at shotgun-point for hours while they ransacked our home. They backed up a truck to the door and carried out most of our belongings. In that one night, we lost everything we owned except the vehicles we were driving and the clothes we had with us!

A short while later, they arrested Daniel and threw him in prison. I have no words to describe the nightmare our life became! For forty days, Daniel was flown all over the United States. He was taken from one prison to another, from the West Coast to the eastern seaboard, from North to South. I drove all over the country chasing after him, desperately trying to obtain an attorney to bring some kind of sanity into the situation. A number of assassins were sent in to try to kill Daniel, but each time the Lord supernaturally protected him. He had the privilege of leading a number of men to Jesus Christ during those awful days. The stress and agony was so severe that each of us lost forty pounds of weight in those forty days.

Because of a large lawsuit that is still pending, I am not at liberty to give any of the details of the case. Let me just summarize by saying that Daniel spent a total of eighty days in various prisons, and then we had a three-year court battle. We were wiped out financially, since every penny we had went to lawyers. Believe me, there is **no** justice in the court system of America if you do not have money!

Since we had lost all the equity in the house we had owned, we could not afford another home. For over three years, we lived first in a motor home and then in several fifth-wheels, a special type of recreational vehicle. At last, the Lord led us to settle here in Arkansas. We were both working and beginning to stabilize when the Lord spoke to us and commanded us to give up our jobs and go back into full-time ministry. We obeyed the Lord, and in August of 1993 we were on the road. By the following February, we were completely bankrupt.

We discovered that there is little honesty among Christian leadership. At most of the places where we spoke, love-offerings were collected for us, but the pastor would give us a check for \$200 or \$300 and keep the rest of the offerings for the church. This amount would not even meet our travel expenses, let alone give us anything to live on.

We realized that we were at the point that if we didn't go back to work we would lose our home on wheels (such as it was) and end up out on the streets. We were completely discouraged and defeated.

That week as we were trying to decide what to do, Daniel was offered a wonderful job. The only problem was that if he took it, we would not be able to travel

and minister, and he would have to sign a five-year contract. Daniel told the man that he would give him his answer concerning the job in two weeks. We decided that if the Lord didn't do something very definite to give us direction or change our circumstances within those two weeks, we would totally drop out of the ministry and go back to work.

I am sure that some of you reading this book are even now at just such a point of discouragement and defeat in your own lives. You have done everything you know to do and have tried with all of your heart to obey the Lord and please Him. Still you are defeated. That's exactly where we were at that dark time in our lives. We cried and prayed and fasted and sought the Lord, asking Him to reveal to us if there was any hidden sin in our lives of which we were not aware. There was none. We rebuked Satan and commanded every possible curse against us to be broken in the name of Jesus Christ. All of this was to no avail.

During that two-week period, we had a commitment to travel to Denver, Colorado, for a speaking engagement. We arrived to find that the gentleman who had scheduled us had lied to us and there was no speaking engagement. We were stuck without the money to get back to our fifth-wheel in Arizona. It seemed as if we were at the end. However, when we reach the end, then the Lord is ready to teach us some of the most profound lessons we will ever learn!

³³ [Jesus said] *In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*
(John 16:33)

We had a friend in Denver who found a home where we could stay for several nights. Another

Christian brother befriended us and, through the Lord's guidance, put me in touch with a sister in the area by phone. I didn't know her, and she didn't know me, but the Lord had spoken to this brother telling him that we must make contact. There we sat on the phone, not having the slightest idea what to say to one another. I was not about to tell this complete stranger our tangled circumstances. She finally said, "I really don't have anything to say to you except this: For some reason the Lord is laying on my heart that you need to realize that occasionally we come to a point in our lives where we need to make use of the fact that God the Father is our heavenly Father, but He is also the Judge of the Universe. Sometimes, we have to go into His courtroom and ask Him to judge our case." That's all she said. I thanked her and hung up.

Later that evening, I shared with Daniel what she had said. Please let me remind you that at this point we had had nothing but terrible experiences in courtrooms, often with unjust judges and false accusations. Going into any courtroom was the last thing either of us wanted to do! As I shared the idea with Daniel, his response was, "You're crazy! I don't need God to judge me! I need His mercy. Forget it!"

However, the Holy Spirit kept bringing the concept to my mind over and over again. I knew that Satan was the one defeating us, and I knew that only God could stop him. I was afraid to go into any courtroom, but the Holy Spirit kept nudging me. Finally, that night about three o'clock in the morning, I crept out of bed and went into the dark living room to try to act on God's word to us. I had done a great deal of soul-searching and praying but could find no sin that either Daniel or I had not dealt with. We were not

walking in any active sin that we knew about. I also realized that one does not go into a courtroom before a judge in an unorganized manner. I felt that God's courtroom was even more serious than the ones here on earth, so I carefully organized my petitions. I am going to share with you exactly how I prayed that night so you can better understand the concept.

The first issue was my right to go before the Judge of the Universe. I obviously could not go based on anything that Daniel or I had done. Scripture tells us that men's righteousness is as filthy rags in God's sight (Isaiah 64:6). I could go only under the covering of the precious blood of Jesus Christ. I had only His righteousness, none of my own. Secondly, because the Lord had made Daniel and I one, I felt that I could go before the Lord on his behalf as well as my own. So, I prostrated myself on my face before the Lord and prayed as follows:

Father,

In the name of Jesus Christ your Son, I humbly come into your presence. In the name of Jesus, I petition you to allow me to come before your throne as Judge of the Universe. I petition you to allow me a court hearing. I am asking you to judge between my husband and myself and Satan. Therefore, I petition that you make Satan come and be present for this hearing.

I do not know if Satan were there or not, but I assume he was. I was suddenly overwhelmed with the Lord's presence and aware that I was indeed in heaven's courtroom. I continued,

Father, I want to make it very clear that I dare to come before You only under the covering of the

precious blood of Jesus Christ. Daniel and I have no righteousness of our own, we have only the righteousness of your Son. Now, I have several petitions I want to present to you in the name of Jesus.

1. First, I ask that You judge once and for all: have You, or have You not, called Daniel and me into a full-time ministry for You? My husband and I believe with all of our hearts that You have. If you judge that You have, then I humbly submit to You that it is Your responsibility to enable us to carry out the work You have commanded us to do.
2. I ask that You look into my heart and Daniel's heart and judge—are we truly willing to do Your will no matter what the cost? If your judgment is that we have proven our willingness to do Your will, then I submit to You that You know, we know, and Satan knows that he (Satan) has prevented us from being able to perform Your will. I am asking You to put a restraining order on Satan and his hosts and make them stop preventing us from doing Your will.
3. Father, I know from your Word that You do allow Satan to sift us. But, I also know from your Word that the sifting does come to an end. Jesus told Peter that He had prayed for him that after Peter was sifted he would be strengthened and comfort the brethren (Luke 22:31–32). Father, I humbly dare to tell You that I believe this sifting process has gone on in our lives long enough. I am asking You to bring it to a complete stop. Lord, if You have judged that You have called us into a ministry and that our hearts are completely willing to obey You, then I ask you to stop Satan from testing and sifting us so that we can get on with the work You have called us to do. We are unable to

fully perform all that you have called us to do while we are being sifted.

My next petition had to do with Daniel. Since the beginning of our marriage, he had been tormented with nightmares and flashbacks both of Kai's torture and death and of the abuse he suffered as a child. These occurred in spite of his full deliverance and our fasting and prayer and rebuking Satan. Nothing we did had made any difference.

4. Lord, I petition you to force Satan and his demon spirits to stop tormenting my husband with nightmares and flashbacks! Enough is enough! I feel that they have no right to continue doing this, and therefore I petition you to bring this torment to a halt forever.

Ever since Daniel's arrest, we had both lived under a cloud of fear. We were acutely aware of its presence. We prayed against it, fasted, rebuked, and did everything we knew to do—without relief. Many nights, I would wake suddenly in a cold sweat and total terror, thinking that I heard someone smashing down our door to come get Daniel again. We had functioned for over two years in spite of fear, but I knew it hindered us from entering into the fullness of what God wanted to do in our lives.

5. Father as You well know, ever since Daniel was arrested, we have been under a yoke of fear. I am asking You to break this yoke off our lives once and for all.
6. Father, I am asking You to review our finances. I am asking You to judge if we have been righteous in the area of our finances. If Your judgment is that we have, then I am petitioning You to make

Satan remove his hands from our finances. Lord, it is our desire to go forward in the work we feel you have called us to do, but we cannot do this if we have to stop and work secular jobs just to support ourselves. Therefore, I am asking that You bind Satan and his servants away from our finances and bless us in this area.

7. Lastly, Lord, I am asking You to force Satan to stop interfering with Your communication to us. If You have judged that our hearts are willing to serve You, then You know that all You have to do is tell us Your commands clearly and we will obey them. I am requesting that You give us completely clear guidance and direction.

Father, I just commit our lives into Your care. I know that You are a completely just Judge, and I trust You to judge our case honestly. I suppose You are going to hear Satan's arguments now, so with Your leave I am going to go back to bed. I thank You most sincerely in the precious name of Jesus Christ for hearing me. Amen.

I went to bed, but the next morning, I was afraid to tell Daniel what I had done. You see, our lives were in a mess. I did not know what God would do with my petitions. I was well aware of the fact that He could render judgment against us. In that case, we would be in an even worse mess than we were already! I kept silent and waited to see what the Lord would do.

Later that day, we went to visit the pastor of a tiny church where our friend had arranged for us to speak that evening. He was a precious eighty-four-year-old man. He knew nothing of our circumstances, but he was a true man of God. As we sat listening to him share with us some of the things God had done in

his life, we could all feel the presence of the Lord. Suddenly, in mid-sentence he stopped and said, "Let's pray." As we bowed our heads, the Holy Spirit began to speak to Daniel with great clarity. As is Daniel's habit, when the Lord speaks to him in this way, he just opens his mouth and says whatever the Lord is speaking. Daniel said, "Honey, the Lord is speaking to me so clearly. He says that, as of this hour, I am breaking the yoke of fear off your lives!"

I began to cry because I knew that the Lord was answering my petitions. Daniel did not know anything about the events of the night before. He continued, "The Lord says that He has called us into a full-time work for Him and that He will make a way for us. I am not to take that job. He says that we are to go back to Arkansas immediately and that He will provide a house for us there." One by one, I heard through Daniel that the Lord answered every one of my petitions. Finally, Daniel paused and looked puzzled. He said slowly, "And the Lord says that He has rendered judgment in our favor. Rebecca, **did you pray last night?!**"

By then, I was laughing and crying at the same time. Hallelujah! The Lord had answered my petitions and rendered judgment in our favor! Our case had been won. The Judge of the Universe had decided against Satan in our lives! I explained to Daniel and the others how I had prayed in the wee hours of that morning. We all rejoiced and praised the Lord together.

We traveled to Arizona, packed up our fifth-wheel, and returned to Arkansas. The Lord worked swiftly. Through miracle after miracle, He provided a

brand new house for us within one month. He also reversed the course of our finances.

The next month, the Lord commanded us to trade our truck for a car. He told us it was not appropriate for us to meet people at the airport in a truck or to transport people in our truck. He said that our ministry would be rapidly expanding and that we would be needing to transport other people. Daniel set out to trade our older truck for a car. Every deal he tried to make fell through. Finally, two weeks later, he came home in utter frustration and said, "I give up. If God wants us to have a car, I guess He'll just have to drop one in our laps!" I am sure the Lord probably said, "I've just been waiting for you to say that."

The following week, a gentleman who was not a Christian approached Daniel. He told him that he had heard we were trying to trade for a car for our ministry. He told Daniel that we needed a real car for our ministry. Daniel asked him just what he considered to be a real car. He said, "A Cadillac." Daniel started to laugh and told him that we most certainly couldn't afford one. The man rather abruptly told Daniel that he could and then offered to trade his brand new Cadillac for our truck. Not only was it a Cadillac, it was the most expensive one available! Praise the Lord!

I did not want the car at first because I thought it would be too ostentatious. However, I have to say, the Lord knows what He is doing. That car has proven to be an incredible blessing to us in the year since. We have had to drive so many people different places in the car. We can all ride in comfort, which frees us to be able to fellowship. By the way, the man who gave the car to us has since received Christ as his Savior and Lord.

Since that night, more than a year ago, Daniel has not had one nightmare or flashback. Hallelujah!

Best of all, three months after the Lord had rendered judgment in our favor, the judge here on earth who was in charge of our court case suddenly signed off the whole case and brought our three-year nightmare court battle to an end. This set us completely free!

There just isn't enough time or space for me to tell you all the wonderful things the Lord has performed in our lives since the night I visited the courtroom of the Judge of the Universe. Daniel 7:21–22 has truly been fulfilled in our lives. (In this chapter, Daniel was given a vision of the nations and rulers to come. The rulers were represented by horns. The last ruler was represented by a little horn, which is Satan.)

²¹ *I was watching; and the same horn [Satan] was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,*

²² *Until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.* (Daniel 7:21–22)

Dear reader, are you struggling just as we were? Do you know that God has called you to do a specific task for Him, but Satan has been blocking you from doing it? If you have no legal grounds in your life for Satan to attack you, then I would suggest that you consider going before the Judge of the Universe. We serve a God who loves us and is a merciful and just Judge. Ask Him to judge your case and issue a restraining order against Satan. God has given us powerful weapons. Do not neglect to use them.

¹⁴ *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.*

¹⁵ *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.*

(Hebrews 4:14–15)

³⁶ *For the LORD will judge His people and have compassion on His servants, when He sees that their power is gone, and there is no one remaining, bond or free.*

(Deuteronomy 32:36)

A few months ago, we met with some friends whom we have not seen for almost five years. Dennis and Mary have given us permission to retell their story. Dennis was once a very wealthy businessman. He dealt in multi-million-dollar contracts. Then, he entered into a contract with the U.S. Air Force. The Air Force cheated on the contract; as a result Dennis lost his business and nearly everything they had. Yet, they served the Lord. They went to court to try to straighten out the mess. For ten long years, the battle dragged on in court. Hundreds of thousands of dollars went to attorneys without any results. When we met them again, they were facing yet another financial crisis. They were worn and discouraged. We shared with them the powerful lesson we had learned about the Judge of the Universe.

Dennis and Mary went home and carefully and prayerfully searched and cleansed their lives. Then, they sat down and drew up their case and petitions to take before the Lord. Together, they went before the Judge of the Universe with their case. They asked the

Lord to render judgment in their case and then bring His judgment to pass in the courts here on earth.

Exactly one month after they had prayed in this manner, they received a call. They were summoned to fly back to Washington D.C. immediately for a court hearing. They were not scheduled for another hearing on the case for over a year. This hearing was unexpected and sudden. The attorneys on both sides of the case did not even have the time to fully review the case and refresh their memories.

They appeared before a panel of four judges. Dennis and Mary said they have never experienced anything like it. The judges obviously knew all about the case. They grilled the lawyers on both sides, often correcting them when they tried to give inaccurate information about the case. It was obvious that their minds were made up even before they came into the courtroom. That very day, those four judges rendered judgment in favor of Dennis and Mary and brought the ten-year ordeal to an end! Praise the Lord! Satan had been prolonging their season of suffering. The merciful and righteous Judge brought it to an end.

In the time since we have learned this very powerful tool of spiritual warfare, we have met a number of people who have been in the same position of discouragement as we were. God does not want His people to live a life of defeat and discouragement! He placed us here on planet earth to possess and control it. We are to be owners, not renters! When God sent the children of Israel into the land of Canaan, He sent them in to possess the land, not live there in defeat!

When you, the reader, have done everything you know to do, and when you have prayerfully searched

your life for sin or legal ground for Satan to defeat you and have found none, then remember that we have a final court of appeals before a Judge who is completely just—the Judge of the Universe!

²¹ *I was watching; and the same horn [Satan] was making war against the saints, and prevailing against them,*

²² *Until the Ancient of Days came, and a judgment was made in favor of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom.* (Daniel 7:21–22)

⁶ *And He said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.*

⁷ *“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”*

(Revelation 21:6–7)

Hallelujah! Come quickly, Lord Jesus! In the meantime, let us, together with all of God’s people, become overcomers. Let us defeat our enemy and possess our land so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ may go forth victoriously.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we want to close with this thought. Ecclesiastes says that there is a season for everything. There will be seasons of suffering and trials in our lives. We grow in the Lord in the hard times. Nevertheless, God does not want us to remain in hardship all our lives. He wants us to be victorious over Satan. Jesus suffered and died on the cross so that we could be victorious. Please don’t just

accept your current situation as something you must remain in for the rest of your life. Seek the Lord, and cleanse your life. Then, stand up, and take authority over the thief!

Perhaps you need to go before the Judge of the Universe and ask for a hearing. Remember, we serve a just and merciful God who loves us very much. He has made provision for us so that we can walk in victory and bring the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost and dying world.

We pray earnestly that our wonderful God will open your spiritual eyes that you may see how these truths apply to your own life. May our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and keep you and guide you.

May we all be profitable servants whom our Lord will find hard at work in His kingdom at the time of His return. Amen.

THE ANSWER

Why Many Bad Things Happen to Good People

THE PROBLEM

Are you one of the many victims of an unbroken curse? Today, countless Christians throughout the world are plagued by unexplained poverty, calamities, and a variety of adverse circumstances. Their lives are tragically filled with heartache and desperation as they continuously struggle against overpowering temptation, physical and mental illness, and a myriad of catastrophic events. Usually they are unaware that their plight is the result of an unbroken curse which has been placed upon them and perhaps upon their families.

SOME OF THE CAUSES

- ◆ Hatred and jealousy
- ◆ Trespassing on the Devil's territory
- ◆ Handling unholy things
- ◆ Inherited curses
- ◆ Breaking vows to God

THE SOLUTION

The Bible specifically instructs every believer to avoid curses and to recognize and break them. Yet, an astonishing number of Bible-believing Christians have either not read or do not remember these essential spiritual principles. Thus, many believers live under the affliction of unbroken curses. This book will show you the necessary biblical steps to recognize, prevent, and break every type of curse.




WHITAKER
HOUSE

ISBN 0-88368-372-5

