

## **Breaking the spirits     Jim Smith**

In the summer of 2006, I explained to the Pastors in Koforidua, Ghana, some of the spiritual powers which were trying to oppress their churches. I have reproduced that material, after a number of requests from English Christians. I am not trying to give the ultimate guide to dealing with these issues, but I have tried to provide biblical insights which will open the ay to further thought and prayer.

### **The beginning**

“And there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon, and the dragon and his angels fought back. But he was not strong enough, and they lost their place in heaven. The great dragon was hurled down—that ancient serpent called the devil, or Satan, who leads the whole world astray. He was hurled to the earth, and his angels with him. Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Christ. For the accuser of our brothers, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down. They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death. Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short.”(Rev 12: 7-12)

The Bible teaches that Satan was thrown out of heaven, and then he dropped firmly on to our planet. Like so many defeated people, he refused to acknowledge his defeat, and began to try and re establish himself. What happened next? Apostle Paul teaches:-

**“For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”** (Ephesians 6:12)

### **“For our struggle”**

The consequence of the fall of Satan has been a struggle, between God’s kingly rule, and Satan’s diabolic rule. We, God’s people are caught up in this struggle, and as we get involved, we have to remember that it is a struggle which the Lord Jesus has already won. The enemy may be a dangerous opponent, but he is a defeated one. (The Bible does not teach dualism. “Dualism” means that two equal kingdoms are struggling for victory. The Bible teaches monotheism. “Monotheism” means that there is one kingdom - that of God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If Satan has any power, it is because God allows him power.)

## **“Against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world”**

The leaders of this world are not friends of the Christian faith. Some are, but the Bible teaches that the powers of this world are often engaged in the struggle on the enemy's side. We have seen this over and over again in history, and we still see it today in many parts of the world. As the battle gets hotter, and reaches its climax, we will find that the rulers and the authorities are positively against the things and people of God.

## **“Against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.”**

We are not just up against earthly powers, but face spiritual forces which are powerfully against us. The enemy we face is not stupid. He has methods, plans and organisation. He deceives, (2 Corinthians 11:4) and he occupies. (Mark 5:9) He has a very clear aim:- “The thief comes to steal and kill and destroy.” (John 10:10) The enemy is looking to steal - to steal our hope, to steal our faith, to steal the kingdom from the hand of God. The enemy is looking to kill - to kill all faith and knowledge of God. The enemy is looking to destroy - to destroy everything that God has planned for his creation.

One of the ways he works is to release powerful spirits against God's people. What are these spiritual powers at his disposal?

## **CONTROL**

Satan releases a spirit of control at different levels:

### **1. Over nations**

“Now Balak son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites, and Moab was terrified because there were so many people. Indeed, Moab was filled with dread because of the Israelites. The Moabites said to the elders of Midian, “This horde is going to lick up everything around us, as an ox licks up the grass of the field.” So Balak son of Zippor, who was king of Moab at that time, sent messengers to summon Balaam son of Beor, who was at Pethor, near the River, in his native land. Balak said: “A people has come out of Egypt; they cover the face of the land and have settled next to me. Now come and put a curse on these people, because they are too powerful for me. Perhaps then I will be able to defeat them and drive them out of the country. For I know that those you bless are blessed, and those you curse are cursed.” (Numbers 22: 2-6)

Satan wants to control the destiny of nations. Israel was moving at God's command, and Satan was afraid. So he tried to get control of Israel through Balaam.

## **2. Over individuals**

“Then Satan entered Judas, called Iscariot, one of the Twelve. And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and agreed to give him money.” Luke 22:3-5)

Satan wants to control people. Once he has control, he can manipulate situations to work in his favour. Once he had control of Judas, he had, he thought, control over the events leading to Calvary.

## **3. Over leaderships**

“Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.” Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men!” (Acts 5: 27-29)

The leaders of the Jewish religion attempted to control the move of the Spirit in the lives of the Apostles.

## **What is the biblical answer to the spirit of control?**

**Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.”**  
(2 Cor 3:17)

### **\* Freedom in the Spirit**

The Spirit gives life, freedom and joy. We must be sure, by prayer and constant watchfulness, that we are, as fellowships, moving in that freedom. This means that there will be an element of the unpredictable about our ministries, as the Spirit blows where he wills. (John 3:8) We must yield to the wind, and stop trying to make rules and regulations by which we seek to control the Spirit’s moving.

### **\* Freedom in the mind.**

The battle for control is fought in the mind of the Pastor. African Pastors seem to have a great desire to control their people. This stems from fear – fear that the people will leave, or that others will steal their sheep. To protect against this, Pastors erect controls over their people that the Lord never intended. We are the shepherds of the sheep, not their dictators. Pastors have to have the courage to let the children have their way. ( Luke 15 shows the father doing exactly this, so that his sons could grow.) This is the only way to maturity and growth. There have to be some rules and controls – there are necessary for

good discipline. But that's all they should be - controls to help the body function, grow and mature into the kind of people Jesus wants. (Ephesians 4:13)

### **\* Freedom to take risks, and make mistakes**

Many Pastors are frightened of making mistakes. So to avoid them, they exercise undue control. But the Bible is full of risks and mistakes. Jonathan took risks,(1 Samuel 14: 1-7) and Peter made mistakes – plenty of them! This risk and mistake process is often the way we move on in faith. As leaders, we have to have the courage to take risk, to make mistakes and so reach out goal. Those who live like this will fall over many times, but they will never be troubled by the spirit of control.

## **DECEPTION**

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” (Gen 3: 1-5)

“And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. ( 2 Cor 11:14)

“The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.( 2 Cor 4:4)

One of the major works of the enemy is to deceive – both the world, and God's people. In the world, he finds it relatively easy. Wealth, riches, power, sex and greed are available to him, and all with little restraint. But within the kingdom, where most of us believe in God's kingly rule, and are trying to live his way, it is not quite so easy. How does he deceive in these circumstances?

### **1. Appeals to our desire for position and power**

We may be born again, but we still have traces of the old nature in us, and the enemy is quick to use these things to lead us away from the truth. Jesus taught, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Mark 8:34) But the enemy deceives us away from this hard path. We are deceived to use the ways of the world to promote Jesus. We say that we want to use position and power for him, but this is often a deception. We want to use power and position for ourselves. This has a terrible consequence. We are robbed of our most precious possession - our servant hearts.

## **2. Losing our focus**

One Pastor said to me “Prophet, look at the extension we are building to our church. All the members are working hard on this.” I asked “And what are you doing to reach souls for Jesus?” There was a long silence, and then, “We will certainly do that when we have finished the building.”

One of Satan’s favourite deceptions is to get us to look at and do the wrong things. We spend all our time and energy on the wrong things. Adding another level to our building becomes more significant than adding souls to the kingdom. It’s easy to say that it won’t happen, but it so easily can happen.

## **3. Doctrine or love?**

Look at what happened to the church in Ephesus:-

“I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken your first love.” (Revelation 2:2-4)

Ephesus had been deceived by, of all things, doctrinal purity. The enemy had deceived them, making them feel that doctrine was the foundation of the church. They had lost their first love, without even knowing it - a very successful deception.

## **4. God bless me!**

“I thank you Father, that I am not like other men!” (Luke 18:11) So spoke the Pharisee, filled with his own self importance. In his pride, he failed to see the needs of others, including “that tax collector.” We are in the world to serve, both the spiritual and physical needs of the world. When we lose sight of the needy world, and fix our eyes on our own comfort, we have been deceived.

## **5. Peace, peace.**

We are deceived by men who say “Peace, peace” when there is no peace. (Ezekiel 13:15-16)

In all these ways, the enemy is trying to slow down the progress of the Kingdom, and turn the church from its God-given task to win people for Christ, and radically change the world. The deception touches individuals, ( Eve) groups, (stoning of Stephen) leaderships ( the Sanhedrin) and even Nations. ( Israel).

## **What is the biblical answer to the spirit of deception?**

**“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.” (John 16:13)**

None of us need to be deceived. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth, and he will lead us into all truth, and away from deception. Having said this, there are a few things we can do to protect ourselves.

### **1. Know the Bible.**

God has made all things clear to us. Any deception will be revealed in the light of his revealed word.

### **2. Know the presence of the Holy Spirit.**

All issues and decisions must be made in the light of the revelation of God’s Holy Spirit. When we call on his name, we will see the true from the false.

### **3. Know the human heart.**

The Bible warns us about the deceitfulness of the human heart. (Jeremiah 17:9) Knowing the truth about ourselves will act as a protection against deceit. We are easily deceived! Knowing this is a great source of strength.

## **BONDAGE**

“Some sat in darkness and the deepest gloom, prisoners suffering in iron chains, for they had rebelled against the words of God and despised the counsel of the Most High”  
Psalm 107:10-11

“This man lived in the tombs, and no-one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No-one was strong enough to subdue him.” Mark 5: 3-4

Satan loves to bind people. How does this work out in our churches?

### **1. He binds our vision**

Elisha’s servant had seen many miraculous things, but when he finds himself and his Master surrounded by enemy troops, he is bound by fear:-

“When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. "Oh, my lord, what shall we do?" the servant asked. (2 Kings 6:15)

He had no vision of the power of God, or of the spiritual world. Bound up by the enemy, he is captured by fear and hopelessness. This is how the enemy likes to work. He is very fearful himself of people who have vision. So he binds that vision, so that it dies. In its place he brings despair, fear and hopelessness.

## **2. He binds our finances**

Ananias, (Acts 5:1) was totally bound by his money - so much so that he lost his life over it. (Achan went the same way. Joshua 7: 1-26) Malachi warns powerfully of the bondage of money, and its consequences. (Malachi 3:9) Behind it all, the enemy is binding finances, so that we cannot go forward.

## **3. He binds us in sickness**

“On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues, and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all. When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, “Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.” Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God. Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue ruler said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.” The Lord answered him, “You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water? Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?” (Luke 13:10-16)

This woman wasn’t just sick - she was “bound.” She was wrapped up in chains, and her life was ebbing away. Sickness is common to us all. Sometimes the Lord heals, and sometimes we have to wait for our healing. Either way, we must not let the enemy chain us to our sickness. We are in chains to Jesus, (Philippians 1:13) and we must not allow the bondage of sickness to destroy our faith and service.

## **4. He binds us with fear.**

“That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, “Let us go over to the other side.” Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.” (Mark 4: 35-39)

Fear is a bondage to all God's people, preventing us from responding to the voice of God. The enemy knows this - he has been using this chain for many years. Take a look at Israel before Goliath, (1 Samuel 17:11) and Gideon and the Midianites. (Judges 6: 1-6) It can touch individuals and churches. It is a destroyer.

## **What is the biblical answer to the spirit of bondage?**

**“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! “ (2 Cor 5:17)**

We don't have to stay in chains. The old ways of life, with all their chains, are gone forever. We are living in a time of new things. So let's be positive and throw off the bondages. How?

### **1. See the truth.**

We have to recognize what we have been bound by the enemy. This is not always as easy as it seems. The enemy is subtle in the way he chains us. Prayer, however, can expose the truth to us.

### **2. Break the chains.**

The writer to the Hebrews says this:- “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” ( Hebrews 12:1-2)

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, we have the power to throw off the chains. He broke the power of sin, sickness, evil and death. He will break every chain over us. We have to claim our freedom.

### **3. Lead the new life.**

Once we are free, we are truly free! We don't have to keep looking back to the past. Leaving everything behind, we can push on to our goal- the joy of being with Jesus forever. When the chains are broken, we have won.



## RELIGION

“Then the Pharisees went out and began to plot with the Herodians how they might kill Jesus.” (Mark 3:6)

The religious authorities were angry with Jesus. They saw him as a threat to their system of belief and practice. So they planned to destroy him, rather than accept the challenge he was offering to them. They feared for the survival of their system, if Jesus was allowed to continue unchecked in his ministry.

The spirit of religion is a very dangerous one, because it draws on spiritual powers to destroy the works of the Spirit. The Old Testament Temple is a classic example of this truth. It had its complex rules, and the religious authorities made sure that every rule was carried out. They believed that this was true religion. Then, when Jeremiah began to challenge this system, he was beaten, ridiculed and imprisoned.

For a painful lesson in the activity of this spirit, we should take careful note of the experience of Hophni and Phineas. These two sons of Eli were priests, but they were totally corrupt. They had all the outward show of religion, but inwardly they were thieves and liars. ( 1 Samuel chapters 1-4)

Yet, and this is the warning we should note, they still believed that religion could save them. When the Israelite army looked like it was facing defeat, these two whited sepulchres arrogantly hoisted the ark of the covenant on their shoulders, and marched to the battle field. They were trusting in religion. They were trusting in a God who would not be concerned with their corruption, but would act in line with religion. The result?

“So the people sent men to Shiloh, and they brought back the ark of the covenant of the Lord Almighty, who is enthroned between the cherubim. And Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phineas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God. When the ark of the Lord’s covenant came into the camp, all Israel raised such a great shout that the ground shook. Hearing the uproar, the Philistines asked, “What’s all this shouting in the Hebrew camp?” When they learned that the ark of the Lord had come into the camp the Philistines were afraid. “A god has come into the camp,” they said. “We’re in trouble! Nothing like this has happened before. Woe to us! Who will deliver us from the hand of these mighty gods? They are the gods who struck the Egyptians with all kinds of plagues in the desert.

Be strong, Philistines! Be men, or you will be subject to the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Be men, and fight!” So the Philistines fought, and the Israelites were defeated and every man fled to his tent. The slaughter was very great; Israel lost thirty thousand foot soldiers. The ark of God was captured, and Eli’s two sons, Hophni and Phineas, died.” (1 Samuel 4: 4-11)

This is the danger of the spirit of religion. It blinds us to the truth that God does not dwell in Temples, or systems made with hands. Once religion has got the upper hand, it reverses this theology, and consequently, must silence every critic. It says to Jeremiah,

for example, “Jeremiah, we have the perfect system to worship God. You are disturbing this system. You must be quiet or be destroyed.” This was very arrogant stand, and the end result was a disaster for Jerusalem and the Jewish nation.

Religious systems always work in this way. They cannot tolerate challenge, and so they destroy the challenger. The reasons are simple:

1. A religious system stops us having any serious thought for ourselves. All we have to do is obey the rules, and all will be well!
2. A religious system supports many people. They get their money and their sense of value and their position from being part of the system. Any threat to the system is a threat to them.

But there is a far deeper threat. Religious systems take the free move of the spirit of God, and set it in rules and regulations. It takes what is good in the moves of God, and imprisons those moves, so that they not only die, but prevent other moves of God from taking place.

## **What is the biblical answer to the spirit of religion?**

“Jesus entered the temple area and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money-changers and the benches of those selling doves. “It is written,” he said to them, “‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a ‘den of robbers’.” Matthew 21:12-13)

### **1. Prophets know!**

A free move of the Spirit is key to the prophetic experience. The prophets will quickly feel the prison of religion. That’s why so many spoke against them – Amos, Jeremiah, Jesus. Let the prophets speak!

### **2. Test every rule!**

As the enemy likes rules and regulations, we must carefully examine every pattern, tradition and behaviour pattern we have established in the light of the teaching of the Bible. There have to be some patterns and rules, but let’s be very careful in what we do and why we do it. The spirit of religion is ever ready to invade and destroy us. Like the spirit of deception, it is not always easy to see what is happening. Religious spirits act slowly and in the background. They set about their task over many years.

### **3. Remain open**

We must remain open – open to new ideas, and open to challenges about what we are doing and why we are doing it. We must be willing to accept that the Spirit moves where he wills. Our responsibility is to be ready to move with him, not to imprison him.

## DEATH

“Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those whose lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.” (Hebrews 2: 14-15)

How does the spirit of death touch us as churches? Here is a vision I once had of churches in one nation:-

I saw a church. It was full of people, but they were all corpses! Everyone was dead. They were sitting listening to a preacher, but he also was dead. The Lord said to me “ My people are dead, and they are being taught by leaders who are also dead.”

This is what the spirit of death did to a church in the book of Revelation:-

“To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God.” (Revelation 3: 1-2)

**The spirit of death makes us deaf to the voice of the Lord. ( Jeremiah 7:13)**

**It makes us dead to our sinfulness. (Ezekiel 8: 8-12)**

**It makes us dead to the truth that we have lost our way. ( Numbers 14: 40-45)**

**It makes us dead to false teaching. ( Revelation 2:20)**

Most of all, it makes us dead to the fact that we are dying. But slowly, slowly, the church withers away. It has no long term future, no capacity to fight, no ability to grow, no vision, no function, no purpose.

### **What is the biblical answer to the spirit of death?**

“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” ( 1 Corinthians 15: 55-57)

The answer to this question is very simple - almost childish! Stay close to the One who is the resurrection and the life:

**“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’” (John 11:25-26)**

If, as individuals and as fellowships, we seek with all our heart to walk with the One who is life, then we will very quickly see the attack of the spirit of death. Incidentally, the

spirit of death loves the spirit of religion. As a church becomes religious, so the spirit of death can quickly gain access.

**These spiritual powers - control, deception, bondage, religion and death - were the ones I saw trying to touch the churches of Koforidua, in Ghana. This material was first shared with them, and is primarily for them, although it has a far wider application. There are other spiritual forces, and I will briefly mention them here, but I am not going to go into so much depth with them.**

## **SEDUCTION**

**“In sociology, seduction is the process of deliberately enticing a person into an act. It can be used seriously or jokingly, frequently refers to sexual behaviour, and may refer to an act that the other may later regret and/or would normally not want to do”**

**It’s important to appreciate that seduction, which has been given an often overwhelmingly sexual characteristic is not to be seen totally as that. The heart of seduction is a deceit, appealing to the human will, which leads to doing an act which later is regretted.**

“Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” “You will not surely die,” the serpent said to the woman. “For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realised that they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree from which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

Here is probably one of the classic seductions of the Bible – certainly one of the most catastrophic. It involves the Serpent and Eve.

The “serpent” has been identified with Satan. In the Old Testament “The Satan”, the accuser of mankind. (Job 2:1-6) Biblically, Satan was a rebel, thrown out of heaven by the angels led by Michael (Rev.12:7-9). Once defeated, he refused to acknowledge defeat. Determined to revenge himself, he set out to take God’s position, and put God’s creation back in the chains which God himself broke at Calvary. (Col.2:14-15 and Rev. 13)

The significance of the serpent is to alert us to the spiritual nature of the seduction which is to follow. Powerful spiritual forces are at work in seduction. It may play itself out in the physical realm, but the forces of darkness are very much involved. (Eph 6:12)

Why Eve? Was she more susceptible to seduction, or was she a “believer” at second hand? God had given his orders to Adam, and Eve had possibly heard them at second hand. Second hand faith seldom survives the assaults of the serpent.

The Serpent was “crafty”, or we could possibly translate this as “sly.” Either way, he is acting totally in character. He is described by Jesus as “the father of lies”,(John 8:44) and by Apostle Paul as masquerading as an angel of light. (2 Cor.11:14) Eve was ill equipped to face such an adversary, yet she cannot claim this as her defence. David was a young man, yet he clearly saw through Goliath’s deceit (1 Sam. 17:26) The enemy cannot deceive those who are alert. (Mark 14:38)

## **The seduction**

### **1. Begins by undermining God’s authority and God’s word.**

“Did God say ‘you must not eat from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die?’”

No! God said, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.”

Is this just semantics? Not at all. God made his creation, and he liked what he had made. His creatures had to do no more than enjoy what God had created, and obey him in respect of one tree. This was the perfect plan of God for his people. Satan makes a subtle change of emphasis. “Here Eve, what kind of God is this that denies you food. Fancy saying that you shouldn’t eat of any tree. How can this be a blessing?”

Satan is trying to take away the power of the word of God. Apostle Paul tells us that the word of God is the sword of the Spirit. (Eph.6:17) This is the stabbing sword of the Roman soldier, used at close quarters to stab the enemy to the heart and to certain death. Satan knows God’s word will do this, and tries to blunt the sword at the outset.

The seduction has begun. Satan is trying to get Eve to see God as unfair and uncaring. She replies, “We may eat the fruit from the trees. It just that we must not eat the fruit

from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, or we will die.” (Incidentally, she adds nor touch it.” The reason for her addition is not clear.)

She fails to see the trap, because she doesn't really know the heart of God, nor does she know the danger of the self. God has forbidden any involvement with this one tree, because he knows that, in his divine providence, this is not good for his creatures. We may like to consider why God banned this particular tree, and many answers have been given. At the same time we might like to face an additional question. Has a knowledge of good and evil made much difference to our behaviour as a race? Has it blessed us, or cursed us? When our children are born, we need to spend a lot of time teaching them not to do wrong! May be in the perfect created order, there would be no need of the ability to tell good from evil, as everyone would do the things which God desired. The things God desired for us would naturally be good.

How should she have responded? Jesus has led the way here:- “Get behind me, Satan!” he said. “You do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” ( Mark 8:33)

Unfortunately, she decided to trade words with the enemy.

## **2. Continues with a new way of thinking. “You will not surely die!”**

Satan challenges the word of God, but he does it in a very cunning way. Instead of the straight on attack, he tries to plant a different way of thinking into Eve's mind. He wants to drag her away from the security of God's word, and fight the battle on ground of his own choosing. That ground is, and always will be, the human desire of self.

He knows that fallen human nature will desire power, influence and position. He also knows that the human heart is full of deceit, and easily deceived. He wants Eve to feel like this:- “I'm a woman. I'm a person. I have the right to do what I want. Why should anyone hinder me?” He is inflaming her heart, so that her thought processes can be changed. No longer is she content to be a handmaid of the Lord, walking in humility and peace within his covering. She is asserting herself, her rights and her ways.

And Satan? He has dragged her out from under the safe covering of God, but in the process he has inadvertently revealed his strategy: “you will be like God.” That's exactly what he wants to be. And he will achieve this aim by first manipulating and destroying the creation God had made.

Now, uncovered, Eve is open to move from thinking to action. The seduction, as such is complete.

### **3. The outworking of seduction.**

\* “When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye.”

Desire and anticipated pleasure were the first step. David had exactly the same problem:- One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful,” (2 Samuel 11:2)

\* “she took some”

Desire moves on to initial action. David again:- and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "Isn't this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

\* “and ate it.”

Up to this point, it was still possible for her to turn back. But Satan had changed her way of thinking. Eating this fruit would not put her in the wrong. In her new way of thinking, this would fulfil her destiny. This would make her the person God intended her to be. David came to the same decision:- “Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her.”

\* “She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.”

Of course she did! Surely Adam also needed to grow up into his full position? Seduction is like a virus - it spreads. Was Adam without sin? It's easy to point the finger at Eve, but he was far more culpable. He had received God's command first hand. He should have quickly spotted the danger, and pulled Eve back under the covering of God.

#### **Consequences.**

Seduction carries a very high price tag indeed. Not only does it foul up our value systems and our judgment, but it leaves us standing in the wreckage of what once was so secure. David paid highly for being seduced. He became first an adulterous father, then a deceiver, then a murderer, and finally a grieving parent. Some price for a few hours of sensual pleasure.

For Adam and Eve, the cost was a life of toil, with a fractured relationship with God.

For humanity, it has meant a struggle to find that relationship again, and hold on to it in a sinful and fallen world.

For God, it has meant grief beyond words, and the ultimate sacrifice of his Son.

For God's people, it has meant battle from beginning to end. We're still struggling with the powers in the heavenly places, and the arrogance of Satan, who believes he can still succeed in his plan.

## **What is the biblical answer to the spirit of seduction?**

This is a very difficult spirit to deal with, because it tends to work over long periods, and it works with the natural temptations of our humanity. We could consider these approaches:-

### **1. The servant heart**

**Mark 8:34** "Then he called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me."

If we walk with Jesus, and seek after the nature of a servant, then our humanity, especially the parts of it which are open to seduction – will be under his authority. A servant does not want his or her own way, but wants only to serve. The more I get to know Jesus, the more certain I become that my greatest protection is my servant heart.

### **2. Know the Bible**

**2 Tim 3:16** "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness,"

We need to be clear about what the Bible teaches, so that we can see the seduction, and break it. A detailed knowledge of the story of Adam and Eve is vital, as is a good understanding of God's plan of salvation, from Genesis onwards.

We also need to know our authority in Christ to break every strong man (Matthew 12:29) and every authority against us ( Eph 6:10-18; 2 Cor 10:4)

We need to know how to exercise that authority so that God is able to move in power. We must beware of trying to break this spirit in our own strength. The seven sons of Sceva stand as a warning. ( Acts 19: 13-16). The authority belongs to God, who invests it in us for victory ( Rom 8:37) It is not by our own strength that we break this dangerous spirit, but by the power of God. (Zechariah 4:6)



## CONFUSION

Confusion is a subtle spirit. It works in the day to day of our lives, and it is not always easy to tell which events and happenings are just part of life, and which are the world of the enemy.

In the end, it comes down to timing. I might miss the bus or the trou trou, and be late for work. That happens to all of us. But supposing in running for the bus, I drop my money, and can't find it. By the time I have returned home and got some more, I'm very late indeed.. That annoys my employer, and consequently, he is unwilling to give me a few hours off later on in the week to attend a Christian ministry. I miss the ministry, and it turns out that it was a meeting at which the Lord was going to speak powerfully, and encourage my life. This sounds more like a spirit of confusion in operation.

I know that this is a simplistic example, but it alerts us to how this spirit works. It wants to spoil, to muddle, to bring uncertainty and anxiety.

Let's take a look at the Bible, to see if we can discover enough to be able to break this spirit.

### The Bible

**1 Kings 22: 21-22** “Finally, a spirit came forward, stood before the Lord and said, ‘I will entice him. “By what means?’ the Lord asked. “I will go out and be a lying spirit in the mouths of all his prophets,’ he said.

**Matthew 24:23** At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘There he is!’ do not believe it.

**Matthew 24: 26** “So if anyone tells you, ‘There he is, out in the desert,’ do not go out; or, ‘Here he is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it.”

**Galatians 1: 6-7** “I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion.”

**1 Corinthians 1:11-12** My brothers, some from Chloe's household have informed me that there are quarrels among you. What I mean is this: One of you says, “I follow Paul”; another, “I follow Apollos”; another, “I follow Cephas”; still another, “I follow Christ.”

From these verses, we can get an idea of this spirit:-

1. It can function by bringing confusion through the ministries of the Church. Prophets, Pastors and teachers can fail to teach clearly, teach contradictory things, or even teach against each other. The result of this is that God's people are confused. Both the writer of 1 Kings, and the Apostle Paul are warning us against this danger. Apostle Paul is right when he speaks about being "thrown into confusion." This Greek word (tarasso) means "to stir up trouble". This is what confusion does. It shakes people, worries them, confused them. The result is that the body is not settled, not at peace, and not in harmony with God. The enemy loves such conditions. Then he can use other spirits against us without us seeing what is happening.

2. Confusion is very much part of the end times. I am not saying that every time of confusion should be seen as a mark of the end times. but if there is repeated confusion, which doesn't seem to go away, we might have to consider that this is a mark of the progress of the end times experience.

## **What is the biblical answer to the spirit of confusion?**

This is not a difficult question to answer. The Holy Spirit is the spirit of truth, and leads us into all truth. (John 14: 16-17) If we do what He says, and submit everything we hear, see and do to the appropriate testing, then we will be secure. The Bible says:-

"Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." 1 John 4:1

If we do this, then the spirit of confusion will have no room to work. By keeping close to the Spirit of God, we deny this spirit any life. We choke its life out of it. That is why it is so essential to have a clear understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and the life of the people of God. He is our defence against all confusion.

## **VIOLENCE**

"When Herod realised that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled. "A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more." (Matt 2: 16-18)

Herod's violence was out in the open, for all to see. Not many of God's churches want to be identified with this kind of action. Yet violence is never far from us. In personal relationships, and in inter group relationships, strong words and strong feelings can so quickly lead to violence, even if not physical. Jesus made it clear that violence is no

different from murder. (Matt 5:22) These things can divide churches, and weaken their power.

## **PRIDE**

“The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector.’” (Luke 18:11)

This Pharisee looks so arrogant, that we are tempted to laugh at him. What a pompous person! But he is reflecting a very deep truth to us - pride is death to our relationship with God. Nebuchadnezzar found this out. Daniel warned him of the danger of pride, but he didn't listen. Then:-

“Just twelve months later, he was walking on the balcony of the royal palace in Babylon and boasted, ‘Look at this, Babylon the great! And I built it all by myself, a royal palace adequate to display my honour and glory!’” The words were no sooner out of his mouth than a voice out of heaven spoke, ‘This is the verdict on you, King Nebuchadnezzar: Your kingdom is taken from you.’” (Daniel 4:29-31)

Pride is basically an attempt by God's creatures to take his position from him. God alone is great, ( Luke 18:19) but pride makes a man great in his own eyes. There is only one result of pride:-

**“He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts. He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble.” (Luke 1:51-52)**

**The solution:-**

**“Suppose one of you had a servant ploughing or looking after the sheep. Would he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? Would he not rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? Would he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’” (Luke 17: 7-10)**

## **JEALOUSY and ENVY**

“And because the Lord had closed her womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. This went on year after year. Whenever Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, her rival provoked her till she wept and would not eat.” ( 1 Samuel 1:6-7)

."Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. Ahab said to Naboth, "Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth." But Naboth replied, "The LORD forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers." So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, "I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers." He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat." (1 Kings 21: 1-4)

Jealousy is a very destructive spirit. It not only brings out the worst of our human nature, but it destroys reputations, marriages, families, and even, in extreme cases, leads to physical violence and murder. Envy opens the way to similar emotions to jealousy, with similar consequences. Both these spiritual powers destroy our humanity, our compassion and our mercy. They rob us of our servant hearts.

## **How do these spirits gain access to our churches?**

I once preached at a church, and when I stood up I saw a vision of a lion coming into the assembly. I told the Pastor about this afterwards, but he dismissed it as irrelevant. Six months later, that church suffered a very serious split, and many members left. How had the lion gained access to the church, and how had it been able to cause such damage? There have to be unguarded gateways to allow such access. Here are four of these gateways.

### **1. There is something wrong in people of God**

Peter was quick to see the great danger in the behaviour of Ananias and Sapphira. (Acts 5:1-11). He wasn't so much concerned with their greed or lack of financial sense. This kind of sin afflicts us all. What worried Peter was the effect of the deceit of Ananias – unconfessed and deliberate – on the whole body.

Ananias was, in effect, opening a doorway for the enemy to enter. Let's be clear here. The Lord is not saying that unless we are sinless, we are exposed to spiritual danger. We all sin, and knowing this and confessing it is part of our daily experience. (1 John 1:8-9) It is the deliberate sin which opens the door to trouble for the whole body. Joshua had the same experience with Achan (Joshua 7: 1-26) and Psalm 66:128 says "If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;"

If a spiritual power had gained some authority or presence within or over the body, do we have an Achan or a Ananias among us?

### **2. There is something wrong in the character of the church**

Take a good look at the churches which are mentioned in Revelation 2 and 3. The Lord challenges their character, and says in effect, “if you don’t put this right, your light will be taken from you.”

Every church has its character, formed in the likeness of Jesus, and refined by the character of the Pastor and leadership. If there is a flaw in the character of the church—loss of first love, deafness to the voice of God, failure to commit to the works which the Lord is calling for, unwillingness to model our lives on that of Jesus collectively, then the enemy will find a gateway to attack and even overcome. The seven churches of Revelation were all in danger (except Philippi) of either overcoming or being overcome.

### **3. There is something wrong in the leadership**

Those who lead God’s people have an unenviable task at so many levels, but especially at the level of imitation. Apostle Paul says “Even though you have ten thousand guardians in Christ, you do not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. Therefore I urge you to imitate me.” ( 1 Corinthians 4: 15-16) Leaders have to say the same to those they lead - “follow us as we follow Jesus.” So if there is lack of character in the leadership, lack of commitment, division, pride, laziness, lack of faith, then the enemy will quickly find a means of access. It was the fatal flaws in the character of Saul which destroyed his leadership (1 Samuel 14) and almost his nation. Flaws in leadership are acutely dangerous for the people of God. The enemy is very familiar with this technique – strike the shepherd and the sheep will flee.

### **4. There is something wrong in the practice of theology**

We have to be pure in our doctrine and theology. This purity must not be at the expense of our first love, yet it has to be there, otherwise we will be judged as Thyatira was judged for tolerating the teaching of Jezebel.

Once there is misunderstanding, weak theology and poor doctrine, faith is weakened, and the enemy can find access.

## **What can we do to break these spirits?**

There is no short cut here. As Jesus said, some things only come out after much prayer. ( Mark 9:29) But there are a few principles that we should know.

### **“Open his eyes”**

“The man of God sent word to the king of Israel: “Beware of passing that place, because the Arameans are going down there.” So the king of Israel checked on the place indicated by the man of God. Time and again Elisha warned the king, so that he was on his guard in such places. This enraged the king of Aram. He summoned his officers and demanded of them, “Will you not tell me which of us is on the side of the king of Israel?” “None of

us, my lord the king,” said one of his officers, “but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom.” “Go, find out where he is,” the king ordered, “so that I can send men and capture him.” The report came back: “He is in Dothan.” Then he sent horses and chariots and a strong force there. They went by night and surrounded the city. When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh, my lord, what shall we do?” the servant asked. “Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” And Elisha prayed, “O Lord, open his eyes so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all round Elisha.” (2 Kings 6: 9-17)

Elisha’s servant was not looking with his spiritual eyes, so he did not see what was happening in the heavenly places. The beginning of the process of destroying these spiritual powers is to recognise that they are there. We have to have our spiritual eyes open. This means we need to do a lot of thinking, studying and praying. In this way, the Lord will open our eyes.

This is not going to be easy. These spiritual powers are cunning, and easily deceive us. But they cannot hide from the light of Jesus.

## **Much prayer**

“A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.” “O unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.” So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the boy’s father, “How long has he been like this?” “From childhood,” he answered. “It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.” “If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for him who believes.” Immediately the boy’s father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the evil spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.” The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, “He’s dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up. After Jesus had gone indoors, his disciples asked him privately, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?” He replied, “This kind can come out only by prayer.” (Mark 9:17-29)

Some things don’t break easily. I know that looks like a contradiction. After all, we have the power, so why can’t we just do it! We should learn from history. Generals don’t want to win a battle, they want to win a war! So they prepare hard, and plan for a long

campaign in which they expect to suffer a few setbacks, but ultimately they expect to win. Father spent thousands of years preparing the ground for the return of Jesus. Jesus took 3 years to prepare for battle. We have to recognise that our enemy has method, cunning and experience. Before we break the spirits, we need to prepare our hearts, and set ourselves for a long struggle. The key to that preparation is prayer, prayer and more prayer.

## **The blood**

**For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers” ( 1 Peter 1:18)**

There is power in the blood of Jesus.

\* His blood is the sacrifice which set us free. (“The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!” John 1:36)

\* His blood keeps us safe within the covenant.( “This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them.” Mark 14:24)

\* We are made holy by his blood. (“And so Jesus also suffered outside the city gate to make the people holy through his own blood.” (Hebrews 13:12)

The enemy hates the blood of Jesus. It’s a sacrifice he cannot match, which has the power to free us and bind him. As we come to deal with these spirits, we must learn to plead the blood of Jesus.

## **Break**

So we come at last to the key question - how do we break these spirits? The first steps are simple - we have to recognise their presence, and want to get rid of them. We have to know the Bible and we have to pray. And then?

Let’s take courage from the fall of Jericho - a very powerful “spirit indeed:-“

### **1. The spirits are afraid of us.**

When the spies went into Rahab’s house, she said to them - “ When we heard of it, our hearts sank and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” ( Joshua 2:11)

Jericho gave an outward appearance of strength, but inwardly, the people were afraid. That is true of all the spirits which oppose us. They may give the appearance of strength,

but inwardly, they know that their day is done. The stronger one has come, and they are going to be bound. (Luke 11:22)

## **2. The Lord has his plans.**

There was a way to defeat Jericho, and God knew it. He was willing to release this plan to Joshua:-

“Then the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Make seven priests carry trumpets of rams’ horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, make all the people give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the people will go up, every man straight in.” (Joshua 6: 2-5)

Every spirit can be broken, when we seek God’s way.

## **3. We are part of the plan.**

The Lord is committed to working with us to bring victory.

“Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the Lord. The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the Lord and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the Lord, while the trumpets kept sounding. So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days. On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the people, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city! The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the Lord. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the Lord and must go into his treasury.” When the trumpets sounded, the people shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the people gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so every man charged straight in, and they took the city.” (Joshua 6: 12-20)

## **4 Faith will be victorious.**

The people believed the Lord. They shouted, and the walls fell down. Every stronghold will fall to us, if we put our faith in the Lord, the victor of Calvary.



## **NEW EDIT & NEW MATERIAL:**

### **Seduction:**

**Eve  
Joseph and P's wife  
Playing the harlot. ( Hosea)**

**Eve: The enemy used deception and cunning. But she had to desire it.**

**Joseph saw clearly what was hap[ening].**

**Both had consequences.**

**The spirit of seduction – it's functionj  
To pollute  
To weaken integrity  
To uindermine truth  
To destroy trust.**

**Honolulu:**

**I placed you as a strong tree,  
To stand against the storm  
You were to be a stronghold of my righteousness**

**But your roots sought out different streams than mine.  
So the tree was full of pollution.  
It could not be my righteousness,  
And nor could you.**

**The spirit of seduction drew you away from me.  
I am left childless and alone.**

**How deep is my sorrow.**

**How I long for your return.**

**“In sociology, seduction is the process of deliberately enticing a person into an act. It can be used seriously or jokingly, frequently refers to sexual behaviour, and may refer to an act that the other may later regret and/or would normally not want to do**

**Seduction most commonly refers to the use of sexual desire in order to persuade someone to change their behaviour to meet the desires of the seducer. It is usually implied that the seducer is acting out of a motive other than love for the seducee, and that the object of the seduction would not ordinarily have engaged in such behaviour.**

**There are many strategies that can be used for seduction, depending on sex, personality and circumstances. Many social behaviour theorists classify seduction as a specialized form of persuasion. Seduction can also be viewed as a form of power that relies on psychological mastery rather than the use of coercive power, money, or intellectual appeals.”**

Fear

Our enemy has had thousands of years to plan his attacks on the prophetic ministry. By God’s grace he hasn’t succeeded, and now we know his plans well. In the teaching which follows, I have outlined passages which you need to study for yourself, as you sort out the attacks you can expect, and the defence you need.

## **1. The spirit of fear**

This is a very typical means of attack. In these passages, we can see the spirit of fear in action:-

<b>Saul &amp; Israel</b>	<b>(1 Samuel 17)</b>
<b>Gideon</b>	<b>(Judges 6)</b>
<b>Nehemiah</b>	<b>(Neh. 4:1)</b>
<b>Elijah</b>	<b>(1 Kings 19)</b>
<b>Disciples</b>	<b>(Mark 4:38 )</b>

**Jesus knew how to deal with the spirit of fear.**

When the disciples had been completely overcome by the spirit of fear, they woke him up in panic. (Mark 4:38) Jesus taught them the main defence against to the spirit of fear:- ***“He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves ‘Quiet! Be still!’” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm.” (4:39)*** This spirit has to be recognised and rebuked.

**Know the methods of the spirit of fear.**

They are:-

To overwhelm faith. (Mark 4: 35-41)

To destroy our will. (Mark 5: 35-41)

To rule. (Revelation 13: 14-17)

### **How do we fight this spirit?**

Rebuke it. (Mark 4:39)

Recognise that defilement is not allowed. (1 Sam 17:36)

The Lord delivers. (1 Samuel 17:37)

The battle is the Lord's. (1 Samuel 17: 47)

### **Rebuking prayer**

Here is a simple prayer which can be used to rebuke the spirit of fear. Not only does it rebuke the spirit, but it sends it away, and fills the empty space with something positive. This is vital, or else the spirit may return with other more powerful spirits to fill the empty space.

**“Spirit of fear, we rebuke you in Jesus’ name. The Bible says that all authority in heaven and earth belongs to Jesus. So we command you to go from this place, and we commit you to the spiritual prison. There you will remain until Jesus comes to judge you.”**

Every prophet must know the danger of the spirit of fear. Any prophet who says “I am not afraid” is in great danger. Better to say “I have known what it is to be afraid, but I am conquering that fear.”

### **Confusion**

**Micaiah ben Imlah - a spirit of confusion.**

### **More materials**

This material can be found on our website, along with a lot of other relevant material, particularly “Windows into the heavenly places.

Simply go to our site, enter and click on the various BOOKS pages.

All downloads are free.

**[www.serving-africa.org](http://www.serving-africa.org)**

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