

1. Dealing with Satan's Strategy and Plan of Destruction

1.1. Introductory Remarks

We are living in a turbulent world today. There is fear and uncertainty about the future. On the one hand, science and technology promise a world of dazzling prosperity. Yet on the other hand, nuclear war and biological and chemical terrorism threaten the very existence of our world. A great charismatic leader will arise, responding to this crisis. He will enter into an alliance with the church and state that will offer peace, security and prosperity to a desperate world. A period of growing peace and prosperity will ensue. Later, responding to crises this leader will move with lightning speed and iron determination. The end-time manifestation of Babylon will promise what Nimrod promised the human family at the Tower of Babel: unity, security and prosperity.

The bloodlines have been carefully prepared, from the day Adam and Eve were thrown out of the Garden of Eden, for the last days when the mark of the Beast will be a reality and a decision regarding it has to be taken by every human being. He will spare no method of destruction to put a person before the choice between God and Satan. The Bible states that you can only have one master. Not accepting the mark of the Beast will result in horrifying torture, hunger etc. and will end in death. But what will Satan use to get the people to take his mark? What preparation has already been done in our bloodlines to overpower us to take the mark of the Beast?

Satan's number one goal is to separate a person from God, so that he will be ultimately destroyed. The reason for this obvious hatred for mankind is found in Genesis 1:27:

"So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them."

Since the devil hates God so intensely, it is natural that this hatred would be extended to mankind, who is created in the image of God; resulting in man becoming the object of Satan's attacks and torments. Since he can not attack God directly, he attacks His creation instead. Peter is very clear in his warning to the Christians (1 Peter 5:6-10):

"Therefore humble yourselves [demote, lower yourselves in your own estimation] under the mighty hand of God, that in due time He may exalt you, Casting the whole of your care [all your anxieties, all your worries, all your concerns, once and for all] on Him, for He cares for you affectionately and cares about you watchfully. Be well balanced (temperate, sober of mind), be vigilant and cautious at all times; for that enemy of yours, the devil, roams around like a lion roaring [in fierce hunger], seeking someone to seize upon and devour. Withstand him; be firm in faith [against his onset--rooted, established, strong, immovable, and determined], knowing that the same (identical) sufferings are appointed to your brotherhood (the whole body of Christians) throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace [Who imparts all blessing and favor], Who has called you to His [own] eternal glory in Christ Jesus, will Himself complete and make you what you ought to be, establish and ground you securely, and strengthen, and settle you."

Every one of us gravitates toward sin. Satan can not force sin upon us, but he works cunningly to get us to yield to it. He does this by temptation, enticement and deception.

1.2. The Truth shall Set You Free

The answer comes in John 8:32, 36 (New Living Translation):

“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ... So if the Son [Jesus] sets you free, you are truly free.”

1.2.1. Identifying a Victim of Satan’s work

Every person has fallen victim to this attack of the enemy through whatever means it may come. Man has fallen victim to Satan’s strategy to destroy mankind. Satan started preparing this road a long time ago, building stepping stones into every generation, irrespective of its origin. The foremost question remains: to what extent is sun worship influencing you?

There are nevertheless ways to recognize demonic activity in someone’s lives. It can be tendencies towards something or the actual practicing of sin or just falling victim to it¹:

- **Crime.** Demonic power can be seen more easily and more often in crimes against persons, property, and society than anywhere else. John 10:10 warns us that the devil came to steal, kill and destroy.
- **Moral Sins.** This according to the Bible includes adultery, fornication, homosexuality, lesbianism, pornography, obscene movies, sodomy, racial bigotry, affluent apathy toward the poor, and the list goes on and on.
- **Love of Money.** Paul equates covetousness or greed to idolatry (Colossians 3:5). Insatiable covetousness which is the love and lust for money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10). The love of money could be to blame for people to abuse their families, cheat and lie, and sell their reputations as well as their bodies and souls. In fact almost every evil in the world can be traced to the love and lust for money. It breaks up homes, corrupt officials, causes people to rob and kill, and destroys the good things of life.
- **Apostasy.** Paul writes *“BUT THE [Holy] Spirit distinctly and expressly declares that in latter times some will turn away from the faith, giving attention to deluding and seducing spirits and doctrines that demons teach”* (1 Timothy 4:1). You can not depart from something you have not had. This departure is called apostasy – the abandonment or renunciation of one’s religious faith or allegiance. Thus the questions to ask is: Where do you stand in your relationship with the Lord in comparison to yesterday? Can you still hear His voice? Do you spend time with Him? Do you long for His presence?
- **Alternative Religions.** This includes all religions not recognizing Jesus Christ as the only way. E.g. Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam. New Age, Satanism, Spiritism, Scientology etc.

¹ Sumrall. 1979, p. 61- 72

- Demon Oppression and Possession. Some people are tormented by evil spirits and it seems impossible to find any reason for it. This could result in sickness (whatever the kind), mental illness (whatever the kind), unable to cope with society, accidents, divorce, addictions, suicide, even early death.

Satan torments man a little at a time, step by step, increasing his hold on man, unnoticeable at first. He uses the following progression (the order might differ from person to person) in his evil workings²:

- Regression. A battle against a person's God-given abilities of release and expression. To regress in the human personality is to go backward in spiritual force and power. Man is built for progress, advancement and understanding. When this goes into reverse it is the first warning that something is wrong.
- Repression. God desires exuberant expression from us. He wants our eyes to talk and our faces to light up. He made us to express something. It is a bad sign when a person becomes silent and his eyes gaze in a fixed stare. It is a sign of bondage. To repress a person is to destroy the natural expression God gave him at birth.
- Suppression. To suppress is to abnormally squeeze down, to crush, to conceal, as to suppress information. It represents another step toward deterioration of emotions and the destruction of complete personal happiness. Suppression comes from without. Suppressed people are not energetic or enthusiastic about anything, they become listless and inactive or passive.
- Depression. A person is pressed down until his spirit is crushed. A process of sinking. The devil takes advantage of those people and moves in with conflict and confusion that will destroy their happiness, homes, businesses and maybe even their lives through suicide. Traditions can contribute to depression. Depression can bring about an abnormal state of inactivity.
- Oppression. To oppress someone is to weigh him down with something he is not able to carry. The Israelites were oppressed in Egypt. They were treated cruelly, beaten unmercifully and crushed down until they could carry their burdens no longer. Millions of people are oppressed by fear; some worry about going out of their minds; some are trampled through disaster and woes; some are hurt from all sides until they feel helpless.
- Obsession. Obsession is the act of an evil spirit in besetting a person or impelling him to unreasonable action. It destroys the human personality and changes the mind. Black becomes white and white seems black. A straight thing is now crooked and the lie becomes truth. It is a persistent and inescapable preoccupation with an idea or emotion. This preoccupation usually has no relationship with reality. Obsession can come through believing a lie, through jealousy, hatred or sins. An obsessed person eventually has no willpower, no strength to resist and becomes a slave.

² Sumrall. 1979, p. 75-96

- Possession. A demon possessed person is under the absolute, total, complete jurisdiction of the devil. At this point he has no mind of his own. Satan is now the master of all that person's thinking and doing. He has full control of that life. The person is helpless. Demon possession sometimes reveals itself in forms of insanity, both temporary and complete.

Spirit-filled, re-born Christians can be found in all of the exceeding stages except for being possessed. A Christian can be oppressed, even in few cases obsessed, but no Holy-Spirit-filled Christian can be possessed by a demon as the Holy Spirit is already in control of the vessel.

1.2.2. The Right to be Free

Dominion over Satan is every Christian's right as a result of the Blood of Jesus Christ. A Christian who exercises dominion knows how to appropriate the fullness of God's provision for discipleship. He lives a victorious life above and beyond fear and phobias, superstitions and evil curses. He is radiant and forceful in Christ. Jesus says in John 10:10 that He came so that His children can have and enjoy life and have it in abundance - till it overflows.

The blood of Jesus Christ of Nazareth provides the following:³

- Remission or forgiveness of sins (Matthew 26:28);
- Complete washing of sins (Revelation 1:5);
- Redemption (Ephesians 1:7 and Colossians 1:14);
- Justification (to be regarded as innocent) (Romans 5:9);
- Being brought closer to God (Ephesians 2:13);
- Having peace with God (Colossians 1:20);
- Being cleansed in conscience (Hebrew 9:14);
- Made holy and set apart for God (Hebrew 13:12);
- Having new boldness to approach God and ask for His help (Hebrew 10:19);
- Having ongoing cleansing from sin (1 John 1:7);
- Overcoming the enemy (Revelation 12:11).

The first step to freedom is to take responsibility for one's life, generation and forefathers - no matter what the condition it is in. Everyone has to have a starting point. Rome was not built in one day. Once the problem areas have been identified and Satan's strategy in one's life and bloodline has been exposed, one can seek God's guidance and direction in resolving the issues at hand.

1.2.3. It is a War

It is primarily a war for souls. People's lives and salvation are at stake. It is concerning life and death. It is no child's play but serious business. The battlegrounds are the mind, the Church and the heavenly places. Satan

³ Baxter, 2005, p. 19.

wants to destroy God's people – man – Gentile or Jew. God already put this question to the Israelites in the Old Testament and it is still pertinent today for man (Deuteronomy 30:19):

"I call heaven and earth to witness this day against you that I have set before you life and death, the blessings and the curses; therefore choose life that you and your descendants may live."

It is a war: Ephesians paints the war scene in chapter 6 (Ephesians 6:10-13 (New Living Translation)):

"...For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm."

1.2.3.1. Count the Cost

In Luke 14:26-32 Jesus is speaking to His disciples regarding the cost of following Him, a serious consideration for any potential convert:

"If you want to be my disciple, you must hate everyone else by comparison—your father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple. And if you do not carry your own cross and follow me, you cannot be my disciple. But don't begin until you count the cost. For who would begin construction of a building without first calculating the cost to see if there is enough money to finish it? Otherwise, you might complete only the foundation before running out of money, and then everyone would laugh at you. They would say, 'There's the person who started that building and couldn't afford to finish it!' "Or what king would go to war against another king without first sitting down with his counsellors to discuss whether his army of 10,000 could defeat the 20,000 soldiers marching against him? And if he can't, he will send a delegation to discuss terms of peace while the enemy is still far away. So you can not become my disciple without giving up everything you own."

Everyone is invited to come and be a disciple of Jesus. He invites all to come to Him, all who are weary and heavy burdened and to take His yoke and learn from Him (Matthew 11:28). There is no condition or price for enrolling to begin in this school. But once man does, the choice of participation in all He has depends entirely on the person. If there is no desire to grow in the spiritual walk with the Lord, man will end up living his everyday life without breakthrough or seeing the Lord's promises unfold. But if there is a desire to grow, the Lord will open up a new world but man will have to engage in a war to seize and take dominion of what the enemy has stolen from him – whether Satan took or received it from man or his forefathers. It is at this point that mankind will experience God's provision and promises and receive breakthrough and victory through the cross of Jesus.

As disciples of Jesus man is called to love others. And when one loves, hurt is inevitable. Parents are hurt by their children, children are hurt by their family, husbands and wives very easily hurt each other, and church congregations have the potential to hurt deeply. It could be said that the more man loves, the more man is likely to get hurt. When the Son of God came to love man, He was hurt more than anyone and ended up crucified. That is why the cross is at the heart of God's kind of loving.

No one who ever took up the cross has ever regretted it. As Paul said, *"May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ"* (Galatians 6:14). For each disciple the cost and the cross of loving will be different.

1.2.3.2. The Armour

God is not sending His children into battle empty handed. He has strategically given mankind what is necessary for protection. In Ephesians 6:13-18 (New Living Translation) it is written:

“Therefore, put on every piece of God’s armor ... Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God’s righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

This life in Christ begins with learning, affirming, and trusting in each part of the armour. The first part is truth: God's revelation of all that He is to mankind, all that He has done for man, and all that He promises to do for mankind in the days ahead. This enduring truth is written in the Bible, revealed by the Holy Spirit, and realized through Jesus Christ. It cuts through all the world's distortions, deceptions, and compromises. When studying, memorizing, living, and following the truth, it enables man to see the world from God's high vantage point. Putting on the first piece of the armour means feeding on truth through daily Bible reading and making it part of yourself.

The other parts of the armour found in Ephesians are:

God's Armour	Know the Truth about...	Supporting Scriptures
Belt of Truth	God	Deuteronomy 4:39; Psalm 23:1; 18:1-3
Breastplate of Righteousness	The Righteousness of Jesus in you.	Psalm 100:3; Romans 3:23-24, 6:23; Galatians 2:20-21; Philippians 3:8-10.
Shoes of Peace	Inner peace and readiness.	Romans 5:1; Ephesians. 2:14; John 14:27, 16:33, 20:21.
Shield of Faith	Living by faith.	Romans 4:18-21; Heb. 11:1; 1 Pet. 1:6-7
Helmet of Salvation	Salvation through Jesus Christ today and forever.	Each day: Psalm 16, 23; Hebrews 1:3-6 For eternity: 2 Corinthians 4:16-18; 1 Thessalonians 4:17; 1 John 3:1-3

1.2.3.3. The Weapons

Although this war is already won, each Christian still has to battle for what is rightfully theirs and to receive the victory in all areas obtained by Jesus; therefore the need for weapons. The weapons are spiritual, not physical or material. They are divinely powered with God's omnipresence behind them (2 Corinthians 10:3-5):

“For though we walk (live) in the flesh, we are not carrying on our warfare according to the flesh and using mere human weapons. For the weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood], but they are mighty before God for the overthrow and destruction of strongholds, [Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasoning and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)”

Spiritual forces cannot be defeated by carnal means. The weapons used in faith are:

- Submission to God: *“So be subject to God. Resist the devil [stand firm against him], and he will flee from you.”* (James 4:7)
- The Name of Jesus. The only way to use the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth as a weapon is to address the enemy in His name: *“For it is written, As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall confess to God [acknowledge Him to His honour and to His praise].”* (Romans 14:11)
- The Blood of Jesus and our testimony: *“And they have overcome (conquered) him by means of the blood of the Lamb and by the utterance of their testimony, for they did not love and cling to life even when faced with death [holding their lives cheap till they had to die for their witnessing].”* (Revelation 12:11)
- The Word of God. Ephesians 6:17 commands us to *“... take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”*. God's Word countering spiritual deception and accusations. (See also Hebrews 4:12; Matthew 4:2-11; 1 Peter 3:15; Psalm 119:110-112)
- Love. Without love for one another, why would you want to war on behalf of others? 1 John 4:18 (New Living Translation) comments that *“Such love has no fear, because perfect love expels all fear. If we are afraid, it is for fear of punishment, and this shows that we have not fully experienced his perfect love.”*; and 1 Peter 4:8 encourages with: *“Most important of all, continue to show deep love for each other, for love covers a multitude of sins”*.
- Praise. This should be part of any believer's life and warfare – it is an expression of faith. It is an outward expression of an inward admiration. Praise glorifies God and keeps our focus on Him; it encourages the believer as he proclaims the victory in the spiritual realm before it manifest in the natural realm. Psalm 149 calls out *“Let the high praises of God be in their throats and a two-edged sword in their hands.”* (Psalm 146:9)
- Agreement with other believers release spiritual power: *“Again I tell you, if two of you on earth agree (harmonize together, make a symphony together) about whatever [anything and everything] they may ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in heaven.”* (Matthew 18:19)
- Fasting. This humbles the person before God. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit fasting should be used when and how as directed by God. It can bring spiritual release when needed. (See Psalm 35:13 and Isaiah 58:6-7.)
- Weeping. This plays a unique role in spiritual breakthrough. Brokenness before the Lord will lead to rejoicing. (See Isaiah 61:3)
- Laughter and joy and dancing. Joy is an effective weapon and should be rooted in your salvation. (See Philippians 4:4 and Psalm 149:3)
- Music. Anointed music will break the yoke of bondage. (See 1 Samuel 16:14-23)
- Prayer and intercession. God promise in Isaiah 55 that *“So shall My word be that goes forth out of My mouth: it shall not return to Me void [without producing any effect, useless], but it shall accomplish that which I please and purpose, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.”*(Isaiah 55:11. See 1 Thessalonians 5:17)
- Anointing oil. Anointing break the yoke according to Isaiah 10: *“And it shall be in that day that the burden of [the Assyrian] shall depart from your shoulders, and his yoke from your neck. The yoke shall be destroyed because of fatness [which prevents it from going around your neck].”* (Isaiah 10:27)

1.2.3.4. The Authority

The legal basis of our authority was established by Jesus Christ of Nazareth as recorded in Colossians 2:15:

“[God] disarmed the principalities and powers that were ranged against us and made a bold display and public example of them, in triumphing over them in Him and in it [the cross].”

Through the cross and resurrection, Jesus possess the keys of death (Revelation 1:18). In this capacity Jesus gave mankind authority over Satan and his Kingdom confirmed by the following scriptures:

- Luke 10:19:

“Behold! I have given you authority and power to trample upon serpents and scorpions, and [physical and mental strength and ability] over all the power that the enemy [possesses]; and nothing shall in any way harm you.”

- Mark 16:17-18:

“And these attesting signs will accompany those who believe: in My name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new languages; They will pick up serpents; and [even] if they drink anything deadly, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will get well.”

However with this authority comes responsibility to use it for God’s purposes. The call comes to cleanse oneself from everything that contaminates and defiles the body and spirit (2 Corinthians 7:1). Man has to lay down sin, bearing in mind that sin cause division and separation from God. In assisting man with this process, when Jesus ascended to the Father, He promised the great gift of the Holy Spirit. He will convict and convince man of sin. He will guide man into the truth and will be the Comforter, Counsellor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengthenener and Standby when and where needed (John 16:7-13).

The following are five methods for exercising our authority⁴:

- The Name of Jesus is a powerful weapon. It is the only Name that gives authority. No other name but the Name of Jesus before which every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess that He is God (Romans 14:11).
- The Word of God is your sword: a two-edged sword (Ephesians 6:17 and Hebrews 4:12). There is nothing as powerful as the spoken Word of God.
- The power of the Holy Spirit. The battle is not by power or by might but by the Spirit of God (Zechariah 4:6).
- The Blood of Jesus. Revelation states that a person will overcome the enemy by the blood of the Lamb and by the person’s testimony (Revelation 12:11). Only by His Blood a person can be justified (Roman 5:9).
- Proclaiming the truth. The truth shall set you free (John 8:32).

The enemy must be dealt with. He is a defeated foe, but will successfully hold his ground until the God-given authority is exercised against him and the legal ground taken back from him.

⁴ Sherman, 1990, pp. 14-31

1.2.4. The Fear of the Lord⁵

Proverbs 1:7 defines the Fear of the Lord as:

“The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and the principal and choice part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence]; but fools despise skillful and godly Wisdom, instruction, and discipline.”

Holy fear is the key to God's sure foundation, unlocking the treasures of salvation, wisdom and knowledge. Along with the love of God, it comprises the very foundation of life. A person who fears God trembles at His Word and in His presence.

God defines the man to whom He has regard in Isaiah 66:2:

“For all these things My hand has made, and so all these things have come into being [by and for Me], says the Lord. But this is the man to whom I will look and have regard: he who is humble and of a broken or wounded spirit, and who trembles at My word and reveres My commands.”

Jeremiah advises in chapter 5 why man should have reverence for the Lord (Jeremiah 5:22):

“Do you not fear and reverence Me? says the Lord. Do you not tremble before Me? I placed the sand for the boundary of the sea, a perpetual barrier beyond which it cannot pass and by an everlasting ordinance beyond which it cannot go? And though the waves of the sea toss and shake themselves, yet they cannot prevail [against the feeble grains of sand which God has ordained by nature to be sufficient for His purpose]; though [the billows] roar, yet they cannot pass over that [barrier]. [Is not such a God to be reverently feared and worshiped?]”

To tremble at God's Word means to willingly obey God even when it appears more advantageous to compromise or not to obey His Word. Man's heart must be firmly established in the fact that God is good. Any difficulty encountered at God's hand will ultimately bring forth good in the end (See Romans 8:28). The fear of God keeps a person from the destructive path of deception. Moses said that the fear of God in the hearts of His people is the strength to walk free from sin (Exodus 20:20 and also see Proverb 16:6):

“And Moses said to the people, Fear not; for God has come to prove you, so that the [reverential] fear of Him may be before you, that you may not sin.”

The fear of the Lord will make man more concerned with what God thinks, than what mankind thinks. Man will be more concerned with God's desires, than with own temporary comfort. His Word will be esteemed more valuable than mankind's: and hearts will be turned to the Lord. The fear of the Lord will keep man from compromising God's truth from the pursuit of personal gain (See Philippians 2:12-14). The fear of the Lord will open the door of God's heart (Psalm 25:14):

“The secret [of the sweet, satisfying companionship] of the Lord have they who fear (revere and worship) Him, and He will show them His covenant and reveal to them its [deep, inner] meaning.”

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of an intimate relationship with God. Intimacy is a two-way relationship. Mankind can not begin to know Him on intimate terms until He is feared for who He is. The reverent fear and worship of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and skill (See Psalm 111:10). To fear God is to obey Him, even when it does not seem to be to one's advantage. When He is feared by man, He calls man His friend and reveals the intentions and desires of His heart. Holy fear gives God the place of glory, honour, reverence, thanksgiving, praise and pre-eminence He deserves. Man will serve whom man fears. If one fears God you will serve Him whole-heartedly.

⁵ Bevere, 1997, pp. 133-188

1.2.5. Music⁶

Music is the language of the spirit. Those who know this language and can use it effectively have been entrusted with a potent weapon in the battle for the hearts of men. Anointed music will be one of the biggest guns in the battle of the last days. Jesus noted the importance of acceptable worship in John 4:23:

“A time will come, however, indeed it is already here, when the true (genuine) worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth (reality); for the Father is seeking just such people as these as His worshipers.”

The Lord is raising up a host of warriors who are now fighting to seize this music battleground from the enemy and use it for the kingdom. The Lord is about to anoint prophetic minstrels who will capture the world's attention and communicate powerful truths through song that will help set the course for the last day ministry. The ultimate position of the prophetic minstrels is to capture the music that the Father loves which is played in heaven and transfer it to earth.

Music has had a significant place in both heaven and in hell. It has been one of the great spiritual battlegrounds of this century and the battle is increasing in intensity. Music was created as a medium for expressing mankind's worship to God. Worship can be motivated by either adoration or fear, but all worship is a focus of attention upon the object of worship.

The coming anointing on music will cause an increase in fully abiding in the Lord. It will take man into the higher realms of worship. It will result in increased focus and a power that releases extraordinary spiritual advances. The visions and strategies that the Lord is now giving through powerful anointing will be put into songs that will help to seal the hearts of the people with those visions to grip the innermost being of His people.

1.2.6. Satan's Snares

1.2.6.1. Unforgiveness

God commands man to love his neighbours and even his enemies. Love is greater than faith. Love is greater than hope. Love bears all things (1 Corinthians 13:7). Unforgiveness is proof of a lack of genuine love in man's heart; and the problem with the sin of unforgiveness is that it is an on-going condition of a person's heart. Forgiveness is an essential key to setting captives free. Unforgiveness is a hated sin in God's eyes and a strong legal ground for Satan. If you do not forgive others God will not forgive you (Matthew 18:35). Unforgiveness is never stagnant; it will grow into bitterness and resentment if not eradicated in the inception phase. Jesus told Peter that one should forgive as many as seventy times seven (Matthew 18:21-22).

⁶ Joyner, 1994, pp. 88-92

1.2.6.2. Self

Mankind's biggest enemy in the spiritual war for receiving total freedom (healing, deliverance, restoration) is the self. A primary description of the man of sin's character is given by Paul in 2 Thessalonians 2:4: "...he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God". Self in the church represents rebellion against authority, pride, stubbornness and lack of submission. The desire of self on the throne will lead men back to the world of sin. Mankind has to die to self if he wants to grow in relationship with God and in authority in His kingdom.

1.2.6.3. Passivity

A passive mind can be defined as receiving impression from external agents - not acting - being the objective of the action rather than the subject. The passive mind does not accept completely the Word of God as truth therefore it is always questioning and wondering. This questioning and wondering weakens the will, causing the person to be slow in obedience to God. This is the cause of most of the instability seen in Christians today. It causes unsettled minds. God's purpose within is to establish and settle man (1 Peter 5:6-11).

The active mind studies and tests God's word, sees it work, believes it, accepts it, trusts it, and relies on it. It is continually learning more of God's will and obeying His precepts. How is a Christian identified? By watching someone do what God has told him in the Bible to do. God warned man in the following scriptures:

- Romans 6:16:
"Don't you realize that you become the slave of whatever you choose to obey? You can be a slave to sin, which leads to death, or you can choose to obey God, which leads to righteous living. "
- Romans 12:2:
"Don't copy the behaviour and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect."

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